

Babylon University – College Of Medicine
Department of Community Medicine

*Lectures in Community Medicine
For 4th Stage Students
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Lecture 25

Epidemiology of Accidents

It is a sad situation that life saved through the application of spectacular advances made in health and health related sciences is now being wasted on road, playgrounds, industries and even in homes through sheer violence and negligence.

An estimated 3.5 million people die annually in the world because of accidents.

Definition: it is unexpected unplanned occurrence may lead to health , social or economic problems so (injuries are not accidents) . Accidents and injuries are high priority public health problems , accidents is the fourth killer in developed countries nowadays and it is an increasing problem in developing countries (including Iraq)due to heavy traffic , congested roads , with mixed pedestrians with animals and automobile traffic ,two wheeled and three wheeled vehicles , unpredictable behavior of pedestrians especially children .

Problem in the world:

- Major modern epidemic of non communicable diseases.
- 8% of deaths allover the world are due to accidents (7.9% in developing and 7.5% in developed countries).
- Account for two thirds of mortality in developing countries.
- Age group most prone is 10-24 years.

Types of accidents:

- 1- Road Traffic Accidents (RTA).
- 2- Domestic (Home) accidents.
- 3- Industrial accidents.