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Title: A review of pediatric injuries and poisonings in Thailand

Injuries and poisonings are common causes of mortality, morbidity, and disability in children who are at risk because of their curiosity, limited abilities and knowledge in certain ages and situations. Adult supervision and unsafe environment are contributing factors especially in childhood periods.

In children 0-14 years of age, during 1999 to 2005, there were 6716 boys and 3655 girls suffered from near drowning, 3266 boys and 1738 girls had traffic injuries 437 boys and 154 girls were injured by electric accident, 396 boys and 203 girls were admitted because of suffocation, 164 boys and 134 girls suffered from natural disaster, 107 boys and 125 girls had been admitted because of poisoning and 106 boys and 98 girls got burn injuries. In 2010, 514 children or 12.83/100,000 died from drowning with peak incidence at 5 to 6 years of age. Traffic injury is the principal cause of death and injuries in children of all ages except preschool group. In Bangkok motor vehicle accident is accounted for an average of 300 childhood and adolescent death. Poisonings are relatively high in children less than 4 years old, drugs, hydrocarbon, insecticides, and corrosive substances were leading agents. For injuries caused by animals, dog bite and snakebite were the major causes.

Lead poisoning was an emerging problem in children in some specific areas such as Burmese refugee camp in Umpang Distric, Tak province (Year 2012) and Karen people living in lower Clitty Creek, Kanchanaburi Province (Year 2002). The Ministry of Public Health, together with the Ministry of Science, the Ministry of Industry has worked together to assess about the exposure and health risks of these population.

Regarding pediatric intentional injuries, there were about 7000 cases each year sent to One Stop Crisis Center all over the country with suspected of child abuse. Early detection and concern from health personnel together with collaboration from multidisciplinary teams will be the appropriate ways to deal with these problems.

As shown in the above review, injuries and poisonings in children mostly result in poor outcome. Additional public health measures to prevent and ameliorate the problems should be emphasized.

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