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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTIC OF FATAL DOMESTIC INJURIES, SOUTH PROVINCES (BASRA, MISAN, MUTHANA, THI-QAR), IRAQ, 2010-2015

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Background: Fatal injuries within the home are a leading cause of death and permanent disability worldwide and are globally recognized as a public health priority. About 16,000 people die from injuries every day worldwide. One third of all injuries happen within home and it is environment. This study is conducted to describe the epidemiological characteristics of fatal domestic injuries (FDI), identify the mechanism and estimate the incidence, South provinces (Basra, Misan, Muthana, Thi-qar), Iraq, 2010-2015.

Methods: A cross sectional study was conducted on all fatalities reported from the coroner offices in four south provinces for the period of 2010-2015 as part of Iraqi Injury Surveillance System. The surveillance form included detailed data on the demographics, injury circumstances and injury mechanisms. Populations' data were obtained from Ministry of Planning.

Results: The number of FDI during this period was 3,920 with an average annual incidence of 13.2/100,000P. FDI represented 22.7% of total FDI. The incidence of FDI has decreased from

16.7/100,000P in 2010 to 12.6/100,000P in 2015. The female to male ratio was 1.1:1 and 44.4% occurred at the age group 10-29 years. The highest incidence 32.1/100,000P was recorded at the age group 30-49 years. About 57.7% were unintentional with average annual incidence 7.5/100,000P and 52.9% occurred during 7 am-2 pm. The main causes of FDI were: burn (30.9%), electric injury (19.8%), gun fire (10.5%), and fall (4.3%) with average annual incidence 3.9, 2.2, 1.3, 0.4/100,000P respectively. The highest average annual incidence was reported in Misan (19.4/100,000P) governorate, while the lowest was in Basra (11/100,000P). About 89.5% arrived by other vehicle rather than ambulance and 62.4% reached within 24 hours.

Conclusions: Injuries should receive similar importance as communicable and non-communicable diseases. A multi-disciplinary prevention programs for FDI should be established in order to prevent and control injuries particularly and Creating safer and supervised home environments.

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