Pedestrians treated at Dutch Emergency Departments
an overview of road traffic injuries and fall injuries on public roads

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Background

Pedestrian:
A person walking along a public road

Road traffic injuries:
● Occurred or originated on a way or street open to public traffic
● At least one moving vehicle involved
● Do not include pedestrians who fall while walking on a public road (no collision with a moving vehicle)

Why this study?
We suspect that there is a large group of pedestrians with fall injuries, where policy makers are not aware of
Research questions & Methods

Two research questions:
- What are the prevalences of fall injuries and road traffic injuries among pedestrians?
- Are there differences in:
  - Characteristics of patients
  - Causes of injuries
  - Type and severity of injuries?

Dutch Injury Surveillance System (DISS)
- Registration of injuries at EDs
- Representative, 14 of 87 EDs, 11% of visits
- Extrapolation to national figures
- Injuries/intoxications:
  - cause (home and leisure, work, sport, traffic, violence, self-harm) + reasons
- Annual upload to European Injury Database (IDB)
Results: prevalence (2017)

Pedestrians with road traffic injuries:
- 3,600 ED treatments (95% CI 2,600 – 4,700)
- 3% of all injuries treated for road safety accidents

Pedestrians with fall injuries:
- 24,000 ED treatments (95% CI 21,400 – 26,900)
- Outnumber more than six times pedestrians with road traffic injuries
- 10% of all fall injuries treated at Emergency Departments
Results: age

- Fall accidents pedestrians
- Road traffic accidents pedestrians

outnumber in every age group

mean age: 42 y
mean age: 55 y

Source: Dutch Injury Surveillance System 2017, VeiligheidNL
Results: cause of accident

Source: Dutch Injury Surveillance System 2017, VeiligheidNL
Results: type of injury

Severe (MAIS2+) injuries: 51%

Severe (MAIS2+) injuries: 61%

Source: Dutch Injury Surveillance System 2017, VeiligheidNL
Conclusion

Pedestrians with fall injuries:
- Outnumber (more than 6 times!) pedestrians with road traffic injuries
- Outnumber car passengers with road traffic injuries
- Are mostly elderly
- More often have severe (MAIS2+) injuries than pedestrians with road traffic injuries
- Are not included in road traffic injury statistics
- Often lack attention of road safety policy makers

Missed opportunity for the safety of pedestrians!
Questions / remarks:

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