



## Injury Survey in Hong Kong

Based on the estimations of the World Health Organization (WHO), 5 million people died from accidental injuries in 2000 (i.e. a mortality rate of 83.7 per 100,000 population) worldwide. This mortality figure accounted for 9% of the global deaths in 2000.

Injuries have also emerged as an important public health problem in China. According to China's National Center for Health Information and Statistics, injuries are the leading cause of death for children and adults ages 1-44 years and the fifth leading cause of overall deaths. It is estimated that each year in China, injuries claim about 750,000 lives and result in 3.5 million hospitalizations [65].

To initiate appropriate injury control programmes, it is essential to obtain local data about the types of injuries as the main sources of morbidity and mortality. The definition of injury causes and identification of the high risk groups are also critical elements of a successful programme.

Community-based surveys are a way of obtaining data on injury occurrence. Generally speaking, community-based surveys provide useful baseline information on injuries, and in many cases, the data collected may be more comprehensive than that collected through hospital-based surveillance systems. As a result, these surveys can be an important supplement to hospital surveillance.

The Injury Survey, conducted by MVA for the Department of Health, intends to successfully enumerate at least 9,000 persons from about 3,000 households through face-to-face interviews to achieve the following objectives:

- ▶ Characterise the pattern of

unintentional injury and its associated disabilities and to assess the size of the problem;

- ▶ Collect data on the risk factors of unintentional injury;
- ▶ Identify high risk groups in relation to unintentional injury;
- ▶ Gather information on the utilization of health services in relation to unintentional injury;
- ▶ Identify the burden of unintentional injury at individual, household and societal level;
- ▶ Gather information on safety measures taken to prevent unintentional injury.



The tasks to be carried out by MVA include the following:

- ▶ To design a questionnaire which is well-crafted, appropriate and easy-to-understand;
- ▶ To ensure the validity and integrity of the collected information through a properly designed Survey procedure;
- ▶ To provide confidentiality in data collection for the respondents;
- ▶ To achieve a high response rate which, at a minimum, meets the targets stipulated in the Research Brief;
- ▶ To implement sound quality control and auditing measures to monitor, verify and enhance the completeness, accuracy and confidentiality of the data being collected.



### Injury Survey

- ▶ Enumerated at least 9,000 persons from about 3,000 households for face-to-face interviews
- ▶ Employed over 1,000 temporary staff for the survey

**Note :**

The above quoted figures are indicative only.

### MVA Head Office in Asia

26/F China Resources Building  
26 Harbour Road  
Wanchai Hong Kong

Tel : (852) 2529 7037  
Fax : (852) 2527 8490  
mva@mva.com.hk  
www.mvaconsultancy.com



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