



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



MONASH University

WHO/MONASH MORTUARY BASED INJURY SURVEILLANCE

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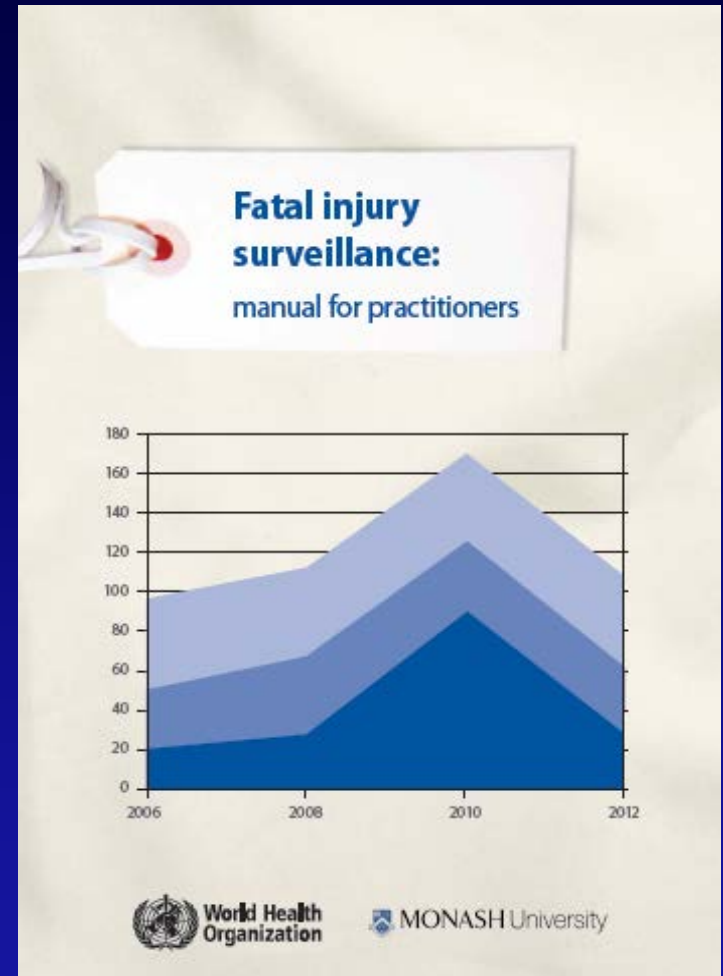
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Fatal injury surveillance: manual for practitioners

A WHO/Monash University
Department of Forensic
Medicine collaboration





Acknowledgements

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- Bloomberg Philanthropies



Context

- Only 34 countries (18% of WHO Member States) produce high-quality cause of death data including information on external causes of death
- Countries with good vital registration data often lack the detailed information on fatal injuries necessary to inform injury and violence prevention strategies
- Important gaps in data result in poor reliability in global estimates



Context (cont)

- In-country data is lacking to drive and monitor prevention
- Global approach is needed to ensure data is
 - of high quality
 - consistent with international classifications
- Such systems already operate in a few countries
- No international guideline exists for standardized mortuary based injury surveillance



Rationale

- Manual is specifically for use in mortuaries and hospitals: practitioners (forensic pathologists and clinical doctors) certify deaths in these locations
- These practitioners are well placed to collect, or to support collection of, detailed injury surveillance data, prospectively
- Current world-wide effort to provide training to forensic pathologists particularly through networks in developing countries
- Training includes a public health role in the prevention of death and injury



Process

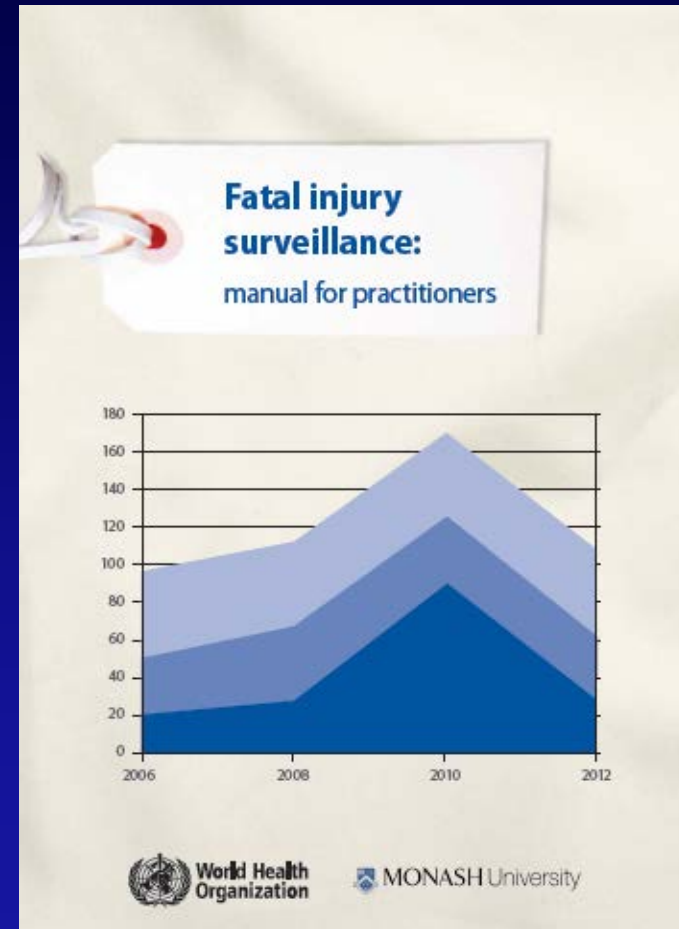
- Literature review on the feasibility and utility of mortuary based systems
- Manual drafted
- Data collection process pre-tested
- 6 LMICs conducted pilot studies using preliminary version of the manual
- Revised manual reviewed by a range of experts
- Finalized and published September 2012



Global level: New injury surveillance manual

Who is the manual for?

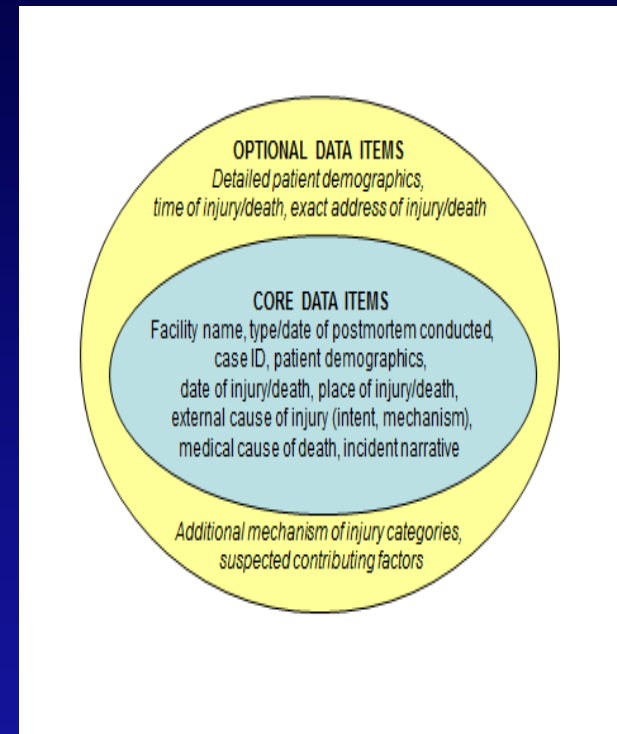
- Professionals working in mortuaries or hospitals who certify/investigate deaths
- Secondary users:
 - Ministries
 - Researchers, scientists
 - Professional organizations
 - NGOs





What the manual includes

- Ch1 summarizes **current practice** in mortality data collection and the use of data from such systems for violence and injury prevention.
- Ch2 outlines the **steps** that need to be taken in planning and developing a fatal injury data system.
- Ch3 lists **recommended core and optional data elements** for a fatal injury surveillance system.
- Ch4 summarizes the importance of **linking surveillance with public health action**.





Data chapter (Chapter 3)

- System is based on ICD10 and ICECI
- Recognizes range of potential settings and possible limitations
- All data elements are defined and coding guidance is provided
- Sample data collection forms included for core data items only and for expanded data collection



Limitations of fatal injury surveillance

- Incomplete COD information due to lack of training
- Difficulties certifying some types of injuries
- Sampling biases and inability to generalize
- Delays (criminal court proceedings)
- Difficult to define catchment area (denominators)



Fatal injury surveillance utility

Tool to augment other injury data sources by:

- Describing frequency, rate and nature of injury
- Describing circumstances of injury
- Identifying emerging issues
- Assisting with:
 - priority setting
 - targeting interventions
 - evaluating interventions
 - informing national policy



Next steps

- Launch of the Manual
- Free access on-line, CDs and limited hard copies
- Likely translations
- Promotion through journals
- Publication of pilot studies
- Encouragement of broad uptake
- ?other possibilities



Reference

- Bartolomeos K, Kipsaina C, Grills N, Ozanne-Smith J, Peden M (eds). *Fatal injury surveillance in mortuaries and hospitals: a manual for practitioners*. Geneva, Switzerland, World Health Organization, 2012.
- http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/en/