

Factors associated with Occupational injuries amongst solid waste handlers in Mbale City.

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2023

Background: Universally, occupational injuries are responsible for 15% of the deaths associated to occupational accidents. The work done by solid waste handlers exposes them to frequent occupational hazards which results in several injuries among them. The increase of work-related injuries from 43.7% to 63.9% among solid waste handlers in sub-Saharan Africa calls for more studies to be carried out. The objectives of this study was to assess the level of occupational injuries and associated factors amongst solid waste Handlers in Mbale City.

Study methods: This was a cross-sectional design which employed mixed methods. Raw data was collected using semi-structured questionnaires. Quantitative data was captured, cleaned and analyzed using SPSS version 20.0 at Univariate, Bivariate & Multivariate levels.

Results: Occupational injuries level amongst solid waste handlers was 70.83% (85/120).

Factors that were associated to this injury level included; No education (AOR 1.42; 95% CI=1.04-1.93), primary education (AOR: 1.49; 95% cI: 1.00-2.24) and sharing protective clothing (AOR 1.58% CI=1.17-2.14).

Findings: The study finding showed that the level of occupational injuries amongst solid waste handlers in Mbale City was greater as likened to that found by comparable research conducted in Tanzania, Ghana, Ethiopia and Egypt. The factors associated to occupational injuries level in this study includes; education, and sharing protective clothing. City Medical Officer of Health and policy makers should ensure provision of PPES to solid waste handlers, pre-employment screening and ensure waste handlers completed post primary education

Conclusion: Occupational; injuries level amongst solid waste handlers at Mbale city was high at 70.83%

Keywords: *Occupational Injuries, solid waste, solid waste handlers*

