

A study on knowledge and practices of first aid and cpr among police officers in colombo and gampaha

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Introduction: Around 85% of deaths in developing countries have found to be due to road traffic accidents (RTAs), which cost the country around 1-2% of its gross national product (GNP). In Sri Lanka there were 2436 deaths reported from 36,045 RTAs in 2014.

Objectives: To assess first aid and CPR knowledge among police officers and to identify its relationship to their first aid and CPR practices.

Methodology: A study was done on 493 police officers from Colombo and Gampaha whom were selected using convenience sampling through a self-administered questionnaire.

Results: 85.8% officers reported being trained in first aid. However 50% of officers less than 30 years would not use first aid for RTA because of legal implications. 40-50 year officers (37.5%) reported lack of knowledge. 66.9% identified left lateral as the recovery position. 22.9% stated that a victim with external bleeding should be taken to the hospital immediately, of which 42.3% would not apply pressure on bleeding site while 54% are incompetent at checking pulse. 79.7% have transported casualties of which 42.6% did not know log rolling technique. 20.3% and 14.5% disagreed on supporting and splinting a fractured limb respectively. From those who were trained in CPR (30.4%), 67.3% were incompetent, while those less than 30 years were most competent (60.4%) in comparison with other groups.

Conclusion: The police officers had unsatisfactory knowledge and practices of CPR and interventions for bleeding and fractures. These should therefore be focused in their further training.

Key words: First aid, CPR, Police Officer