

Descriptive Study on pattern of occupational health status of Sri Lanka Navy in 1995-2015

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Introduction:

Sri Lanka Navy had faced significant military confrontations of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam terrorist movement. Asymmetric warfare led to different pattern of morbidity and mortality prevalence compare with conventional warfare. Service persons are important human resource of any nation considering national security. Chronic morbidity and mortality are regarded as a key indicator of occupational health, social, physical and mental health. Study on occupational health data/research important to design preventive public health strategies. Morbidity and mortality of Sri Lanka navy are changing in post conflict after year 2009.

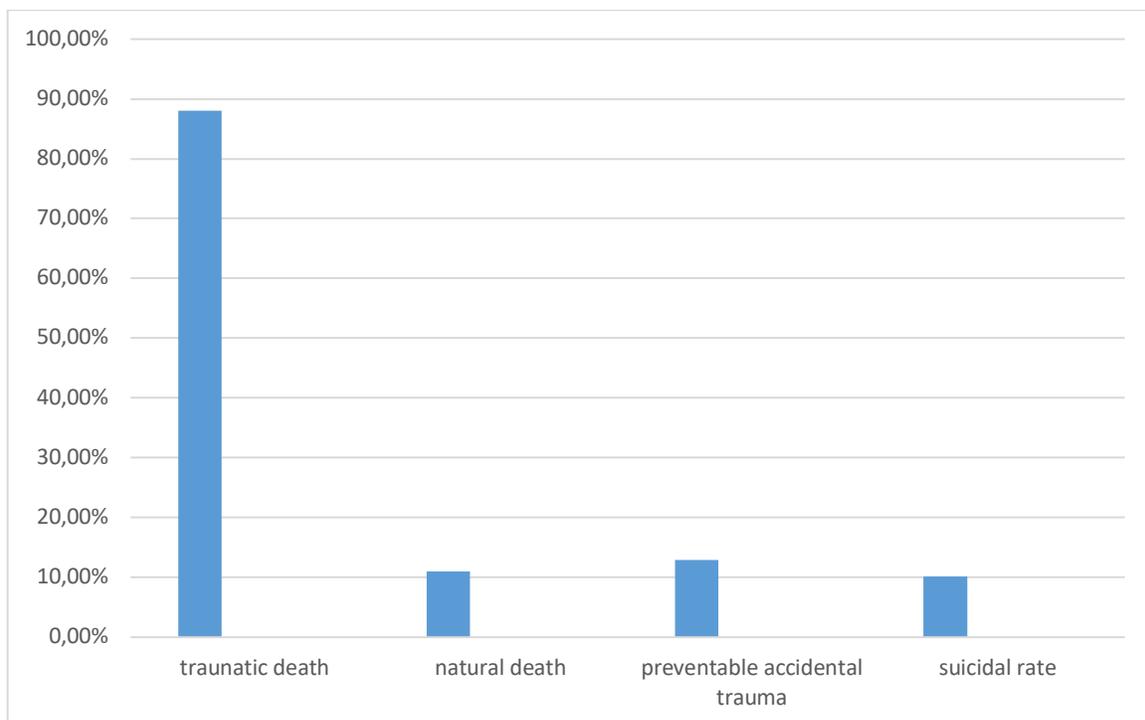
Methods:

The descriptive secondary data of mortality and permanent debilities/morbidity of in service naval personnel during 1995 to 2015 was analyzed.

Result

The purposive study sample [age 18-55years] included 1401 death incidents and 303 permanent disability cases. 71.14% mortality rate and 28.86% permanent disability rate. 88.08% of mortality due to fatal traumatic injuries in year 1995 to 2009. Natural death rate was only 11.92% in conflict era. Accidental traumatic injury rate of 12.91% with a high incident proportion [65.74%] reported during armed conflict. 10.2% suicidal rates and high incident proportion [76.92%] in period of conflict. This observation may be connected to war related adverse psychological conditions including post-traumatic stress disorder and adjustment disorder result of non-conventional war situations. 66.43% of suicide incidents in unmarried group.

Hazardous psychological and emotional traumas were resulted from witnessed killings, handling human remains, exposing to life and death situations. Moreover explosion of suicide attacks engaging, secondary risk of drowning with severe injuries and witnessing atrocities and numerous other battle stresses. This is a form of invisible trauma in the military



[Summary column chart, Mortality pattern in purposive study sample of naval population 1995 -2015]

Conclusion:

Addressing the potential modifiable risk factors through enhancing occupational health, psychological counseling, training, health awareness and road safety may effect on mortality and chronic disability among in-service naval community.

KEY WORDS

Occupational health, NCD, traumatic injuries,