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Non-fatal injuries in rural Burkina Faso, disease burden and health system responsiveness, a household survey.

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5 **Title: Non-fatal injuries in rural Burkina Faso, disease burden and health system**
6 **responsiveness, a household survey.**
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Abstract:**Introduction**

Injury is an important cause of avoidable death and disability with sparse research in low-income countries. This study aimed to evaluate injury epidemiology and patient-reported health system responsiveness in older individuals in rural Burkina Faso.

Methods

A cross-sectional household survey of adults over 40 from the Nouna Health and Demographic Surveillance System collected data on experience of injury in past 12 months. This included mechanism and associated disability, reasons for last health facility visit, health system responsiveness, anxiety and depression, quality of life and frailty. Multivariable analyses determined associated factors and consequences of injury and related disability. Univariable comparison determined differences in health system responsiveness for those seeking care following injury and another reason.

Results

7.7% (232/3028) reported injury in the preceding 12 months. In multivariable analyses, younger age, male sex, highest wealth quintile, an abnormal Generalised Anxiety Disorder score and lower WHO QOL score were all associated with injury. The most common mechanism of injury was being struck or hit by an object, 32.8%. In multivariable analysis only education was significantly negatively associated with odds of disability (OR 0.407, 95%CI 0.17–0.997). Across all survey participants 3.9% reported seeking care last following injury. Positive experience and satisfaction with care were reported following injury. Injury care had shorter median wait times (10 vs 20 minutes, $P=0.002$) and longer consultation times (20 vs 15 minutes $P=0.002$) than care for another reason. Injured patients were also asked to return to health facilities more often, 81.4% (95%CI 73.1%–87.9%) vs. 54.8% (95%CI 49.9%–53.6%).

Conclusion

Injury is an important disease burden in this older adult rural LMIC population. Further research could inform preventative strategies including safer rural farming methods, explore the association between adverse mental health and injury, and strengthen health system readiness to provide quality care.

Key words

Wounds and injuries, developing countries, health services research, epidemiology, surveys and questionnaires.

Word count

4073

Article Summary**Strengths and limitations of this study**

- We were able to establish the size of non-fatal injury burden in rural Burkina Faso, where little empirical data on injury exists.
- We were able to explore associations with psychological morbidity and quality of life for those reporting injuries, and understudied aspect of LIC injury burden.
- Reporting the most recent reason for accessing care allowed us to compare health system responsiveness following injury with other conditions.
- The survey lacked clear definitions of injury and disability which may have led to overestimation of burden.

Author Contributions

TB, AS and GH conceived and designed the overall CSRN CHAS study.

MB and GH co-ordinated baseline data collection and preparation.

JID, JM-G and LRH contributed to the design of the CSRN CHAS household survey.

JW and JID designed the current study.

JW conducted the analysis, wrote and revised the manuscript.

JID supervised the analysis, write up and development of the manuscript.

All authors substantively reviewed manuscripts, inputted into revisions and approved the final manuscript.

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Patient and public involvement: - Patients and/or the public were not involved in the design, or conduct, or reporting or dissemination plans of this research.

Patient consent for publication: - Not required.

Ethics approval: - Ethical approval was obtained from Ethics Commission I of the medical faculty Heidelberg (S-120/2018), the Burkina Faso Comité d’Ethique pour la Recherche en Santé (CERS) in Ouagadougou (2018-4-045) and the Institutional Ethics Committee (CIE) of the CSRN (2018-04). Oral assent was sought from all village elders. Written informed consent was obtained from each participant and a literate witness assisted in cases of illiteracy

Data availability statement: - Data may be obtained from a third party and are not publicly available. Data are not publicly available as consent was not given by participants for this to take place. This is in part because entire age cohorts of some villages are included in the data set, potentially allowing for deductive disclosure with sufficient local information. For this reason, anonymised data are available from CHAS study data controllers only following signature of a data use agreement restricting onward transmission. Anyone wishing to replicate the analyses presented or conduct further collaborative analyses using CHAS (which are welcomed and considered based on a letter of intent), should contact Dr Guy Harling (g.harling@ucl.ac.uk) in the first instance.

Introduction

Injury is a neglected but important cause of avoidable disability and causes more than five million deaths globally every year¹, more than tuberculosis, malaria and HIV combined. Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) disproportionately bear this burden with 90% of global injury related deaths². However injury related deaths are only the tip of the iceberg with an estimated one billion people sustaining injuries that require healthcare annually¹.

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country of 19 million people in sub-Saharan Africa. It is a low-income country (LIC) ranked 183 of 189 countries on the Human Development Index³ with limited natural resources³. 2017 GBD estimates across all age groups that injuries are responsible for 7.32% of deaths and 6.48% of DALYs in Burkina Faso, similar to sub-Saharan Africa rates⁴.

In common with the least developed countries, research investigating injuries in Burkina Faso has been sparse⁵. Studies that have been conducted tend to be referral facility based often with small case numbers and limited to a single mechanism of injury pattern⁶⁻¹⁰. Road traffic collisions (RTCs) have been investigated specifically and the World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated that in 2016 there were 30.5 per 100,000 road traffic fatalities in Burkina Faso, above the average for Africa (26.6) which is the continent with the highest death rate globally¹¹. RTC victim data from the tertiary referral hospital in the capital Ouagadougou identified that 87% of road traffic victims attending for tertiary care emergency department were from two wheel motor vehicles; a quarter of these experienced disability beyond 30 days¹².

Broader injury epidemiology studies from Burkina Faso have primarily studied cause of death data obtained through Verbal Autopsy. In the capital, Ouagadougou, a survey within an urban Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) identified 4.1% of deaths were due to injury¹³. From the rural Nouna HDSSs Verbal Autopsy data, age and sex standardised mortality for external causes of death (the category containing injuries) was almost twice that of the urban comparator in Ouagadougou, with the main cause being transport related. Unfortunately, these Verbal Autopsy based surveys do not capture all mechanisms of injury, and they do not allow assessment of non-fatal injury occurrence¹⁴. Injury has also been characterised as a disease affecting the young, and some population studies of injury in sub-Saharan Africa have even excluded adults over 70¹⁵. However older people represent an important and growing population in LMICs. How and why older people are injured and the consequences associated with these injuries require further exploration.

Injuries can have a lasting impact on the victims through physical disability, previously shown beyond 30 days in over a quarter of RTC victims in Ouagadougou,¹² but also psychological morbidity. From High-income country (HIC) settings depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress are commonly associated with physical injury^{16 17}. This includes older populations with worse quality of life, psychological and social health status seen following hip fractures and osteoporotic vertebral fractures^{18 19}. Poor mental health is also a risk factor for non-accidental injuries^{20 21}. The impact of mental health following injury within Burkina Faso amongst general older adult population has not been studied, with mental health studies limited to vulnerable populations such as sex workers and children exposed to physical violence in Burkina Faso^{22 23}.

It has been estimated that if LMIC injury care quality could match that of HIC then 1/3 of all trauma deaths could be avoided²⁴. It is thus necessary to improve injury epidemiology data from Burkina Faso to inform preventative measures and treatment services. However, provision of care alone may not be associated with improved outcomes. Such care needs to be responsive to patients needs beyond providing good clinical outcomes in order to engender trust leading to compliance with treatment and encouragement of future injured persons to attend services²⁵⁻²⁷. However very few studies on responsiveness of injury care have been done in LMICs²⁸.

This study aimed to evaluate the epidemiology of injury as well as patient-reported health system responsiveness following injury and how this compares with non-injured patient experience, in a population of older individuals in rural Burkina Faso.

Methods

We used the STROBE cross-sectional reporting guidelines²⁹.

Study setting

The study was set in the Nouna HDSS area, in the Boucle du Mouhoun region, north-western Burkina Faso. The HDSS collects annual birth, death and migration data in a well-enumerated population. The HDSS area consists of the market town Nouna and 59 surrounding villages with a total population of around 107,000³⁰. Residents come from multiple ethnic groups and the major economic activities are farming and animal husbandry. Life expectancy from birth is 58.0 years for men and 61.5 years for women³¹. There is one tarred road running through the area. There are no formal ambulances with emergency transport usually informal via private or taxi motorbike. In rainy season travel can be very difficult.

Study design

This study is an analysis of the CRSN Heidelberg Aging Study dataset (CHAS). The study methodology has been described in detail elsewhere^{32,33}. Briefly, this cross-sectional study consists of a population-representative sample of adults ≥ 40 years of age. 3000 older adults were randomly sampled from the 2015 Nouna HDSS census. In all villages ($n=6$) with fewer than 50 adults aged over 40, all adults were selected to take part. In all other villages, a random sample of households with at least one person over 40 years old was drawn, and then within each selected household one age-eligible adult was randomly selected to complete the survey. Data collection was performed using Open Data Kit (ODK) software on tablet computers at the participants' residence between May and July 2018³⁴. Interviews were conducted either in French or translated into Dioula by the interviewers.

Variables

The household survey contained questions on age, sex, education, marital status, household assets, experience of injury in past 12 months including mechanism and associated disability, reasons for last health facility visit, and questions covering the WHO health system responsiveness domains²⁵ derived from other surveys used in sub-Saharan Africa³⁵⁻³⁷. Anxiety was assessed using the Generalised Anxiety Disorder question (GAD-2) score,³⁸ and depression using Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)^{39,40}. Quality of life was measured using the validated EuroHIS 8-item version of WHOQOL^{41,42}. Disability was measured using the 12 item WHO Disability Assessment Schedule, version 2 (WHODAS-II) disability score^{42,43}. The Fried frailty score was constructed from questions on weight loss in the past year, self-reported activity and levels of exhaustion, combined with measures of walking speed and grip strength^{44,45}.

Outcome variables

The main outcome variables were whether injured or not in the preceding 12 months, or if injured, whether disabled as a result of the injury. Participants reported whether they had any event where they suffered from bodily injury in the last 12 months. For those reporting yes, the cause of injury was reported along with the question "did you suffer a physical disability as a result of being injured?".

Mechanism of injury

Mechanism of injury was captured as either fall, struck/hit by object, cut/stabbed, gunshot, fire/heat burn, drowning/near-drowning, poisoning, animal bite, electric shock or other specified by free text. Injury mechanisms with fewer than 8 or cases were combined as "other" for analyses. Those who fell reported whether this was at or higher than ground level.

Demographic characteristics

Marital status was categorized as married/cohabiting or single/widowed/divorced. Educational level was categorized as no education or any education. Participants were asked 37 questions on household assets and dwelling characteristics; from these, wealth quintiles were derived from the Filmer and Pritchett first principal component method⁴⁶.

Definitions of disease states

Participants were defined as having symptoms of anxiety based on a GAD-2 score ≥ 3 ³⁸. Participants scoring 10 or more on PHQ-9 were categorized as having depressive symptoms in this analysis⁴⁰. The calculation of the Fried score used in this study has been described previously³². For this analysis participants were dichotomised as robust or prefrail/frail. WHODAS-II disability score was

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3 normalised to a 0-100 scale, where 0 equates to no disability and 100 the worst disability. Quality of
4 life^{41 42} was similarly normalised to a 0-100 scale, with 100 denoting best quality of life.
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7 *Health system experience and responsiveness*

8 Regardless of when it occurred, the reason for the most recent episode of health seeking was
9 recorded and classified as either accident/injury or another reason. Participants answering this
10 question were not necessarily the same as those injured in the previous 12 months who may have
11 sought care for another reason subsequent to their injury. Those who had sought care were asked
12 health system responsiveness questions, including: (i) confidence in receiving effective treatment if
13 very sick tomorrow, dichotomised as very/somewhat vs. not very/not at all; (ii) the overall view of
14 the health system, dichotomised as needs to be rebuilt/major changes needed vs. only minor
15 changes needed; (iii) trust in the skills and abilities of the healthcare worker at the facility
16 dichotomised as 1. very much, quite a bit or some and 2. very little or not at all; (iv) ease or
17 difficulty in following provider's advice dichotomised as 1. very easy, easy or fair and 2. hard or
18 very hard; and (v) opinion of care provider's knowledge and skills, experience of being involved in
19 making decisions for treatment, ability of provider to explain things in a way they could understand
20 and how well the received care met health needs were all dichotomised into positive responses 1.
21 excellent, very good, or good and negative responses 2. fair or poor. These variables were
22 dichotomised for ease of interpretation.

23 **Patient and public involvement statement**

24 Participants were not directly involved in planning the study; results of this and other HDSS studies
25 are regularly fed back to participants in the HDSS site.

26 **Statistical analysis**

27 All analyses were done using SPSS v26 (IBM, New York, USA). We first described all variables
28 using mean and standard deviation (SD), or median and interquartile range (IQR), for normally and
29 non-normally distributed continuous variables, and count and proportion (95% CI) for categorical
30 variables.

31 We used multivariable logistic regression to explore the associations between the main outcome
32 variables and demographic characteristics or disease states. Odds ratios and 95% confidence
33 intervals are presented. All variables were included in the model. Figures were produced using the
34 R package ggplot2⁴⁷.

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36 Associations between seeking care for an accident/injury or another reason and healthcare
37 experience and health system responsiveness were tested using Mann-Whitney U test for the non-
38 normally distributed continuous variables. Sample sizes are stated for each analysis.
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Results:

The median age of respondents was 52 years (IQR 45 – 62), females made up 50.7% (1534/3028) of the population, educational attainment was low, with only 15.6% (472/3028) having any schooling at all (Table 1).

Of those completing the survey, 7.7% (232/3028) reported suffering an injury in the preceding 12 months (Table 1). In multivariable analyses, younger age, male sex, highest wealth quintile, an abnormal GAD score and lower WHO QOL score were all associated with injury (Table 2).

The most common mechanism of injury was being struck or hit by an object, 32.8% (76/232) (Figure 1). Of those who suffered a fall, 34.6% (9/26) fell from higher than ground level. Exploratory analysis of the association between mechanism of injury and wealth (appendix tables 1 and 2) suggested that the greater odds of being injured in the higher wealth quintile is related to a greater number of falls from a motorcycle or bicycle in this group; 35.8% (19/53) of those falling from a motorcycle or bicycle were from wealth quintile 5 compared to 5.7% (3/53) in quintile 1 (Odds ratio 5.83, 95% CI 1.58 - 21.43).

Falling from a motorcycle or bicycle was the mechanism which most frequently resulted in a disability 27.6% (29/105) (Figure 1). In multivariable analysis (Table 3) only education was significantly negatively associated with odds of disability (Odds ratio 0.407, 95% CI 0.17 – 1.00). Compared to being struck or hit by an object, disability was more common amongst those falling (odds ratio 6.4, 95% CI 1.896 – 21.602, $p=0.003$), falling from a motorbike (odds ratio 3.335, 95% CI 1.429 – 7.78, $p=0.005$), and other (odds ratio 10.755, 95% CI 3.471 – 33.323, $p<0.001$).

Across all survey participants 3.9% (119/3028) of people reported their last reason for seeking care was for an injury or accident. These 119 respondents reported high levels of satisfaction with care following injury (Figure 2). Ninety-six percent reported being somewhat or very confident of receiving effective treatment if sick tomorrow, 95% reported a good or better opinion of care provider's skills and knowledge and 90% reported that their needs were met well or better. There were no significant differences in these measures between people seeking care for injuries and those seeking care for other reasons (Figure 2 and appendix Table 3).

Those seeking care following injury reported shorter median wait times (10 minutes vs 20 minutes, $P=0.002$) before consultation and longer consultation times (20 minutes vs 15 minutes $P=0.002$) than those seeking care for another reason. Those seeking care for injury were also more likely to be asked to return to the health facility at a later date, 81.4% (95% CI 73.1% – 87.9%) vs. 54.8% (95% CI 49.9% – 53.6%) (Figure 2). There was a non-significant trend for those seeking injury care to be more likely to borrow or sell to pay for the care episode, compared to those seeking care for other reasons, 21.2% (95% CI 14.7% - 29.7%) vs. 14.3% (95% CI 13.0% - 15.6%).

Discussion:

This study demonstrates that injuries are prevalent in this older adult rural LMIC population. In this cross sectional study we cannot show causation, however, injuries were more prevalent in those who were male, or of younger age, or wealthier socio-economic status. Those with injuries were more likely to suffer from anxiety or depression, or report a worse quality of life. Almost half of those reporting an injury reported disability as a consequence, which was more common in males and those with lower educational attainment, but not associated with frailty. Patient satisfaction with the health system for treatment of an injury was generally high. Having to sell or borrow to pay for care was more common than for non-traumatic health care visits although this did not reach significance. There is little empirical data published on injury prevalence and care within Burkina Faso, particularly in older people. This study can aid researchers and policy makers in understanding the burden to address prevention and avenues for further research.

Although in an older population, this study found the incidence of injury, 7.7%, was comparable to other sub-Saharan African settings such as in rural Tanzania, rural Rwanda, rural Nigeria, Sudan, Sierra Leone and Kenya where studies have shown prevalence ranges from 4.3 – 15.2%^{15 48-52}. Other studies from Sub-Saharan Africa have also found injuries to be more common in younger^{15 52} or male^{15 48 50 51} members of the population. Indeed, male sex is consistently associated with injury globally, with multiple possible contributing factors including alcohol use, dangerous occupations, or risk taking behaviour⁵³ – unfortunately none of these were evaluated in CHAS.

Globally, poorer populations bear increased injury burden⁵⁴ including amongst urban populations⁵¹ and those sustaining accidental injury¹⁵ perhaps due to those of lower SES being exposed to less safe working conditions. We found SES to be positively associated with injury occurrence; potentially, in this rural context, it is likely that relative wealth provided access to motorcycles or bicycles that may have been unaffordable for poorer groups.

Anxiety and reduced quality of life were associated with occurrence of injury although no association was seen with depression. Others have shown adverse mental health outcomes to be sequelae of physical injury and include post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety^{16 17 55}. Whilst research exists in high income settings, further research into the adverse mental health associations with injury in this and other LMIC contexts is warranted to establish burden and direction of causality. Development of culturally specific tools for evaluating post physical trauma mental health in African populations is also justified⁵⁶.

Almost half those injured reported disability (although not defined) as a consequence of their injury, and reporting disability after injury was associated with lower educational status. Other sub-Saharan African studies have reported varying levels of disability after injury, for example, 31.7% in Rwanda⁴⁹, and 11% in Sudan⁵⁷. Disability can be more prevalent in rural compared to urban settings⁵⁸, amongst the uneducated⁵⁷, and in adults over 60⁵⁸. The different questions employed in these studies makes direct comparison difficult although the high incidence of disability we found may be due to studying an older population with less physical reserve.

In our study, no association between disability and frailty was seen in the population who had been injured. A lower baseline physical function may affect the threshold for self-reported disability. The non-frail population, with low educational attainment, may also have been more dependent on physical labour than other studies and thus more sensitive to limitations to physical function. The association between disability and lower levels of education seen in our study supports this.

The most common injury mechanisms were being struck or hit by an object, falling from a motorcycle or bicycle, being cut or stabbed, or falling. In rural environments injuries can commonly be a consequence of agricultural activity. This was the leading contributor to injuries in rural Ghana⁵⁸. In Tanzania cuts or stabs were the most common mechanisms in the rural population studied and two-thirds of cuts were due to agricultural activity⁴⁸. Transport or road traffic accidents were not a distinct category within our study given that cars are rarely used in Nouna.

Interestingly, despite the older age of the CHAS population relative to most previous studies, falls were relatively uncommon, unlike has been reported in Kenya¹⁵, Nigeria⁵⁰, and Sierra Leone⁵² and especially in older persons in Tanzania (aged over 60)⁴⁸ Ghana (aged over 60)⁵⁸ and Sudan (aged over 45)⁵¹. The prevalence of frailty in this population is similar to that seen in other sub-

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3 Saharan African populations where this has been studied, so the relatively low prevalence of falls
4 (which are associated with frailty) need further investigation ³².

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6 Patients reported a positive experience and high satisfaction with care for both injury and non-
7 injury related consultations. Injured patients experienced shorter wait times and longer
8 consultation time with more frequent requests to return to care than those presenting to healthcare
9 facilities for other reasons. This possibly reflects the urgency of injury care and the need for
10 procedural management such as suturing needing follow-up. Patient satisfaction is influenced by
11 factors such as accessibility, cost, expectation, immediate outcomes and gratitude ²⁸. However, in
12 LMICs, patient reported satisfaction may not correspond well with other measures of care input,
13 process, or clinical outcome and has even been associated with poor technical quality care ²⁸.

14 We didn't study care quality dimensions such as facility human and physical resource availability
15 or trauma specific diagnostic and management processes. Other studies from sub-Saharan Africa
16 have shown limitations in basic care delivery for injuries including analgesia and fracture splinting
17 ⁵⁹. Trauma mortality in LICs is worse than middle and high income countries ²⁴ likely reflecting
18 available care quality. Many facilities lack minimum essential resources ⁶⁰⁻⁶³ and post-graduate
19 injury care training is uncommon ⁶⁴. Care quality for other conditions has been assessed in Nouna.
20 Video vignettes have been used to measure health care worker knowledge ⁶⁵ and primary
21 maternal and child health care quality has been assessed using facility surveys, direct observation
22 of care, exit interviews, patient record review and maternal and child health registers ⁶⁶
23 demonstrating care quality gaps even after intervention. Similar methods could be used in future to
24 assess injury care quality further in this population.

25 As a time critical condition in an economically poor population there is a risk of injury causing
26 impoverishment. Out-of-pocket expenditure for healthcare is commonplace in Burkina Faso ⁶⁷. The
27 economic burden of trauma and injuries in LMICs is high through direct medical costs such as
28 medicines, non-medical costs such as transport and indirect costs such as loss of income ⁶⁸.
29 Significant economic benefit could derive from reducing injury burden ⁶⁹. In Burkina Faso, CT scan
30 access in Ouagadougou was limited by lack of funding when indicated in 20% of cases¹⁰. Indeed,
31 perceived and actual costs of care are a well noted factor in delaying access to quality care after
32 injury ^{26 27 49 57 70}. In CHAS, we found a non-significant trend that patients more commonly needed
33 to borrow or sell following injury than other conditions. This could be compounded by the effect of
34 injury related disability on economic productivity. While CHAS did not capture costs directly, others
35 have found spending on injuries in Nouna HDSS to be higher than other conditions such as
36 malaria and chronic disease ⁷¹. For conditions such as injury, which are unpredictable and high
37 cost, community insurance schemes have been mooted as a way of limiting catastrophic
38 expenditure⁷². Attempts to introduce such schemes in Nouna have suffered high dropout rates,
39 possibly driven by fears around high cost and poor quality of health services⁷³. There is evidence
40 from Nouna that individuals enrolled on health insurance schemes received poorer quality
41 healthcare services ⁷⁴. Such schemes, limited by low enrolment and selection bias, have failed to
42 make a difference to overall population health including mortality ^{75 76}.

43 **Limitations:**

44 This study has several limitations. CHAS injury data was self-reported and injuries were not
45 independently verified. Nor was injury severity assessed or a clear definition of injury or disability
46 provided. No minimum severity or clear definition can lead to inclusion of trivial injuries,
47 overestimation of burden, and a lack of comparability across studies.

48 The time of injury was not reported. Recall loss is well established for community injury household
49 surveys, particularly with respect of less severe injuries (causing less than 30 days disability)^{48 77 78}.
50 Some studies therefore use shorter recall time frames for their survey ⁵⁰, or extrapolate minor
51 injuries from the last 30 days reported incidence to calculate annual incidence for minor injuries ⁵⁸.
52 Observing, confirming or correcting for recall was not possible in this study and we therefore may
53 have underestimated the true incidence. As some injuries are known to be seasonal in Burkina
54 Faso, this known recall bias may mean such injuries could have been misrepresented ⁸.

55 There were two injury cohorts described in this study, one reporting annual injury incidence and
56 characteristics, the other reporting last health care visit for treatment following injury. This limited
57 interpretation about health seeking behaviour for all respondents reporting recent injury.

58 Intentional injuries and domestic violence were not specifically differentiated from being struck or
59 cut. Similarly road traffic was not a separate category, limited to falling from a motorcycle or
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3 bicycle, perhaps justified by the low development status of rural Nouna. As RTCs are the main
4 cause for Urban referral facility trauma care in Burkina Faso^{9 10} and the only injury related SDG
5 (SDG 3.6)⁷⁹ distinguishing these categories could allow future studies to compare within and
6 across countries to inform preventative lessons and strategies.

7
8 This study was limited to a rural population. Urban and rural populations in sub-Saharan Africa
9 experience differing burdens of injury^{48 51}. Future urban comparisons could add perspective to
10 inform national preventative and research strategies. This study was also confined to older adults
11 and the injury burden for children and young adults is unknown. Fatal injuries were also not
12 captured.

13 To build on these findings future research focussed on injuries could include fatal injuries, across
14 the full population, with rural and urban comparison, capturing the time of injury relative to
15 interview, with specific definitions for injury, disability and mechanism of injury categories, and
16 matched to health system utilisation. This would help further understand the burden in Burkina
17 Faso to inform preventative lessons and strategies as well as plan health system response.
18 Nevertheless this study adds valuable insight into a relatively under researched topic in a country
19 where little about injury burden or health care experience is known.

20
21 **Conclusion:**

22 This study has demonstrated the importance of injury burden in this older adult rural LMIC
23 population contributing to the limited available published literature on this subject. Further research
24 could inform preventative strategies including safer farming methods and the role of road traffic
25 collisions, enable better understanding the association between adverse mental health and injury
26 in this population, and strengthen health system readiness to provide quality care.
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Table 1 Demographic information and disease states for those injured or not in preceding 12 months, and for those with or without a disability following injury.

Variable and statistical test for comparisons		All % Sample size= 3028, apart from age and marital status (both N=3026), WHO DAS (N=3027) and frailty (N=2806)	Not injured in past 12months (%) Sample size=2796, apart from age, marital status (both N=2794), WHO DAS (N=2795) and frailty (N=2607)	Injured in past 12months (%) Sample size=232, apart from frailty (N=199)	Injured in past 12 months – No disability (%) Sample size=127, apart from frailty (N=108)	Injured in past 12 months and suffered a disability (%) Sample size=105, apart from frailty (N=91)
Median age (years) (IQR)		52 (45 – 62)	52 (45 – 62)	50 (45 – 60)	49 (44 – 61)	51 (45 – 58.5)
Female Sex (95% CI)		50.3 (48.6 – 52.1)	51.5 (49.7 – 53.4)	36.2 (30.3 – 42.6)	40.9 (32.8 – 49.6)	30.5 (22.5 – 39.8)
Marital status (95% CI)	Married/cohabiting	75.7 (74.1 – 77.2)	75.4 (73.8 – 77.0)	78.4 (72.7 – 83.3)	73.2 (64.9 – 80.2)	84.8 (76.7 – 90.4)
	Other	24.3 (22.8 – 25.9)	24.5 (23.0 – 26.2)	21.6 (16.8 – 27.3)	25.2 (19.8 – 35.1)	15.2 (9.6 – 23.3)
Socio-Economic Status	Quintile 1	19.9	20.2	16.4	17.3	15.2
	Quintile 2	19.8	20.1	15.9	19.7	11.4
	Quintile 3	20.0	19.8	22.4	19.7	25.7
	Quintile 4	20.3	20.2	20.7	17.3	24.8
	Quintile 5	20.0	19.6	24.6	26.0	22.9
What is the highest level of education you have completed? (95% CI)	No Formal Schooling	84.4 (83.1 – 85.7)	84.9 (83.5 – 86.2)	78.4 (72.7 – 83.3)	72.4 (64.1 – 79.5)	85.7 (77.8 – 91.2)
	Any schooling	15.6 (14.3 – 16.9)	15.1 (13.8 – 16.5)	21.6 (16.8 – 27.3)	27.6 (20.5 – 35.9)	14.3 (8.9 – 22.2)
PHQ-9 depression score (95% CI)	Normal or mild	91.9 (90.9 – 92.9)	92.0 (91.0 – 93.0)	91.0 (86.6 – 94.0)	90.6 (84.2 – 94.5)	90.5 (84.5 – 95.4)
	Moderate – severe*	8.1 (7.1 – 9.1)	8.0 (7.0 – 9.0)	9.0 (6.0 – 13.4)	9.4 (5.5 – 15.8)	8.5 (4.6 – 15.5)
Normalised WHO Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0 (median score IQR)		8.3 (2.1 – 22.9)	8.3 (2.1 – 22.9)	8.3 (2.1 – 25)	8.3 (2.1 – 22.9)	10.4 (2.1 – 27.1)
Normalised WHO Quality of Life (median and IQR)		59.4 (46.9 – 65.6)	59.4 (46.9 – 59.4)	56.3 (43.8 – 56.3)	56.3 (46.9 – 62.5)	56.3 (40.6 – 65.6)
Generalised Anxiety Disorder score (95% CI)	Abnormal	11.6 (10.5 – 12.8)	10.6 (9.5 – 11.8)	23.3 (18.3 – 29.1)	22.0 (15.7 – 30.0)	24.8 (17.5 – 33.8)
	Normal	88.4 (87.3 – 89.5)	89.4 (88.2 – 90.5)	76.7 (70.9 – 81.7)	78.0 (70.7 – 84.3)	75.2 (66.2 – 82.5)
Fried frailty score (95% CI)	Robust	45.3 (43.4 – 47.1)	45.3 (43.4 – 47.2)	44.7 (38.0 – 51.7)	38.0 (29.4 – 47.4)	52.7 (42.6 – 62.7)
	Pre-frail / Frail	54.7 (52.9 – 56.6)	54.7 (52.8 – 56.6)	55.3 (48.3 – 62.0)	62.0 (52.6 – 70.6)	47.3 (37.3 – 57.4)
*Score of 10 or more						

Table 2 - Logistic regression model for dependent variable of injury in last 12 months

		Odds Ratio	95% CI	P
Age		0.973	0.956 - 0.991	0.003
Sex	Male (ref)			
	Female	0.436	0.310 - 0.613	<0.001
Marital status	Married or cohabiting (ref)			
	Not married or cohabiting	1.247	0.812 - 1.917	0.313
Wealth Quintile	Quintile 1 (ref)			
	Quintile 2	1.011	0.597 - 1.712	0.967
	Quintile 3	1.453	0.886 - 2.382	0.138
	Quintile 4	1.367	0.823 - 2.272	0.227
	Quintile 5	1.795	1.079 - 2.985	0.024
Educational level	No Formal Schooling (ref)			
	Any Schooling	1.107	0.749 - 1.636	0.609
PHQ9	Normal or Mild (ref)			
	Moderate or Severe	0.559	0.295 - 1.059	0.075
GAD	Normal (ref)			
	abnormal	2.921	1.963 - 4.347	<0.001
Normalized WHO QOL score		0.981	0.97 - 0.993	0.002
Normalized WHO DAS 2.0 score (0-100)		1.004	0.992 - 1.016	0.512
Frailty	Robust (ref)			
	Pre-frail / Frail	0.967	0.704 - 1.327	0.834
N = 2803				

Table 3 - Multivariable logistic regression model for dependent variable of disability following injury in last 12 months including mechanism of injury

		Odds Ratio	95% CI	P
Age		1.016	0.977 – 1.057	0.426
Sex	Male (ref)			
	Female	0.471	0.215 – 1.033	0.06
Marital status	Married or cohabiting (ref)			
	Not married or cohabiting	0.433	0.15 – 1.25	0.122
Wealth Quintile	Quintile 1 (ref)			
	Quintile 2	0.636	0.187 – 2.167	0.469
	Quintile 3	1.09	0.368 – 3.226	0.876
	Quintile 4	2.05	0.666 – 6.306	0.211
	Quintile 5	1.521	0.503 – 4.596	0.457
Educational level	No Formal Schooling (ref)			
	Any Schooling	0.407	0.166 – 0.997	0.049
PHQ9	Normal or Mild (ref)			
	Moderate or Severe	0.426	0.107 – 1.689	0.225
GAD	Normal (ref)			
	abnormal	0.823	0.36 – 1.882	0.644
Normalized WHO QOL score		1.012	0.985 – 1.039	0.387
Normalized WHO DAS 2.0 score (0-100)		1.023	0.997 – 1.05	0.084
Frailty	Robust (ref)			
	Pre-frail / Frail	0.562	0.284 – 1.112	0.098
Mechanism of injury –	struck or hit by object (ref)			
	Fall	6.4	1.896 – 21.602	0.003
	Fall from motorbike	3.335	1.429 – 7.78	0.005
	Cut or stabbed	2.426	0.949 – 6.201	0.064
	Other	10.755	3.471 – 33.323	<0.001
N = 199				

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Figure legends

Figure 1 – Mechanism of injury according to sex and associated disability

Figure 2 - Opinion and experience of healthcare received by those seeking care following an injury and those seeking care for another reason at last visit.

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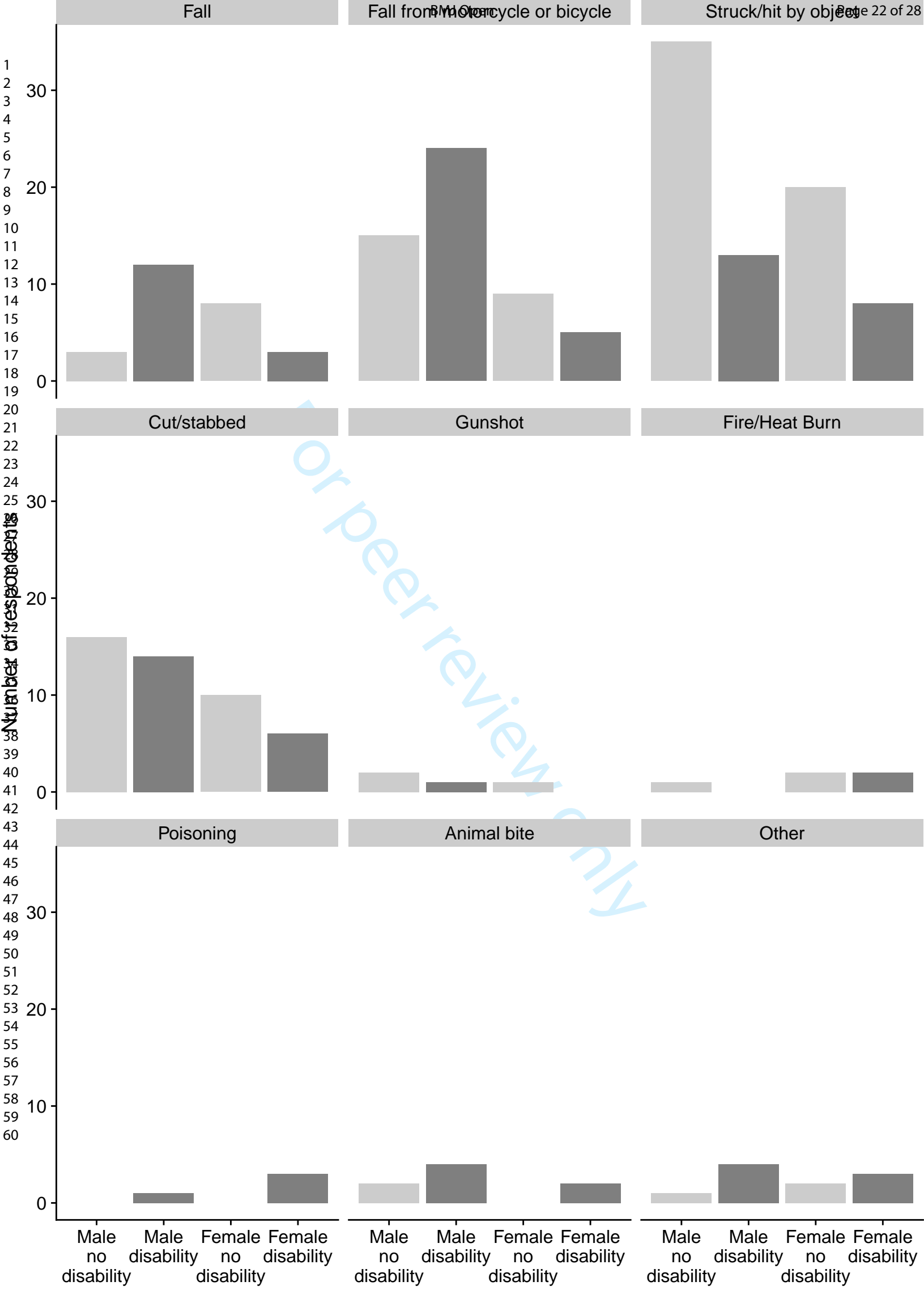
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Trust in the skills of the facility HCW – very much, quite a bit or some

Referred to another facility – yes

Received care met health needs at last visit – excellent, very good or good

Opinion of the HCW's knowledge and skills – excellent, very good or good

National healthcare system – needs to be rebuilt or major changes needed

HCWs ability to explain things in a way that you could understand – excellent, very good or good

Had to borrow or sell to pay for health care – yes

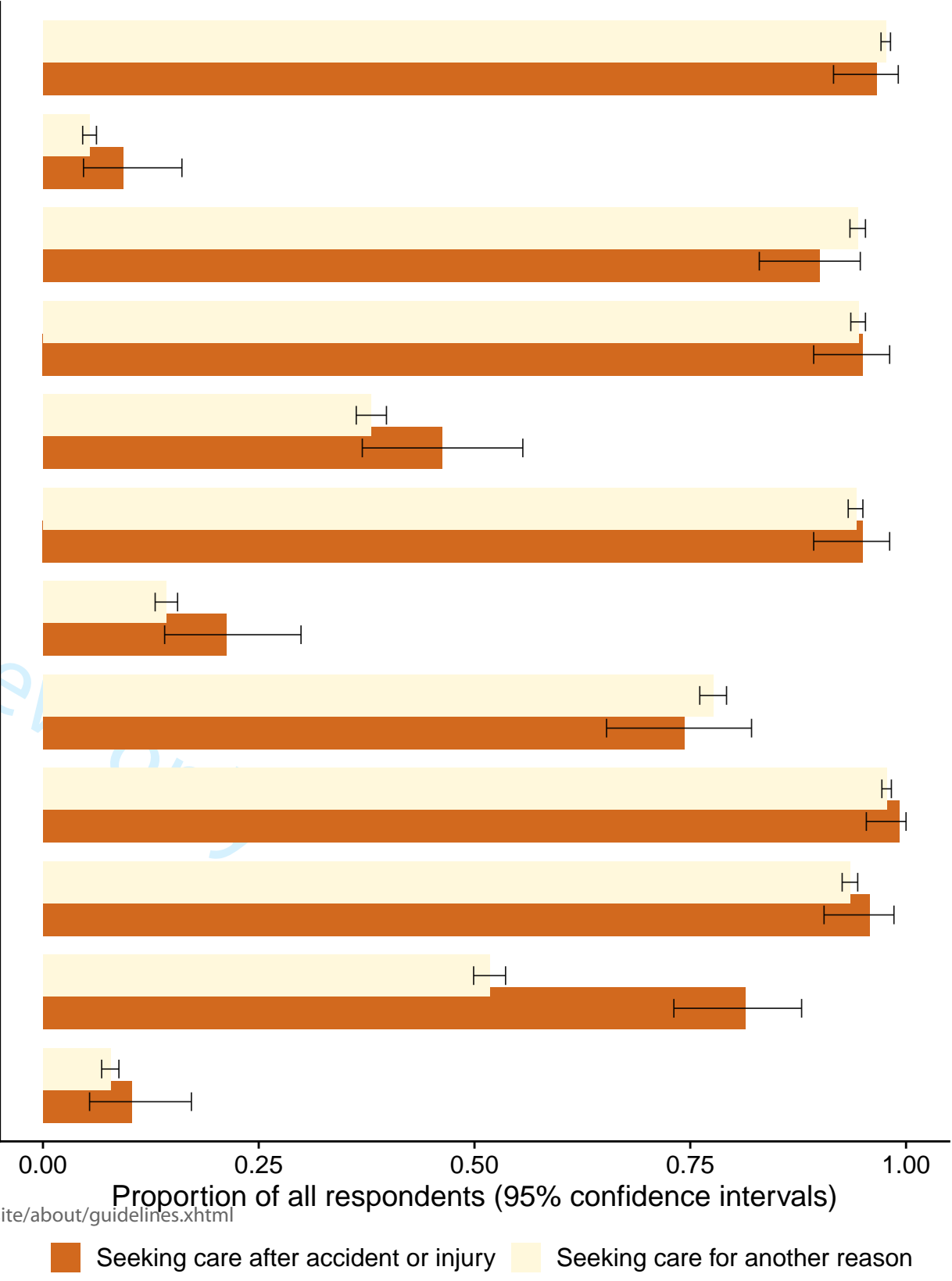
Experience of being involved in making decisions for your treatment – excellent, very good or good

Easy of following HCW...s advice – very easy, easy or fair

Confident that would receive effective treatment if very sick tomorrow – very or somewhat

Asked to return – yes

Asked for further tests – yes



Proportion of all respondents (95% confidence intervals)

Seeking care after accident or injury Seeking care for another reason

Appendices

Appendix table 1 - Mechanism of injury according to wealth quintile, for all those injured in past 12 months with number of males in brackets.

Wealth Quintile	Fall N (n of males)	Fall from motorcycle or bicycle N (n of males)	Struck / hit by object N (n of males)	Cut / stabbed N (n of males)	Gunshot N (n of males)	Fire / Heat Burn N (n of males)	Poisoning N (n of males)	Animal bite N (n of males)	Other N (n of males)
1	6 (4)	3 (3)	10 (7)	11 (5)	1 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	2 (1)	4 (2)
2	5 (1)	6 (5)	17 (13)	2 (1)	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)
3	9 (5)	12 (6)	12 (8)	15 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	3 (2)
4	3 (3)	13 (10)	20 (11)	5 (5)	0 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	2 (2)	3 (1)
5	3 (2)	19 (15)	17 (9)	13 (8)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	3 (2)	0 (0)
Total	26 (15)	53 (39)	76 (48)	46 (30)	4 (3)	5 (1)	4 (1)	8 (6)	10 (5)

Appendix table 2 - Binary logistic regression for falling from a motorcycle or bicycle and wealth quintile.

	Odds Ratio	95% C.I.	P Value
Quintile 1 (ref)			
Quintile 2	2.26	0.52 - 9.80	0.277
Quintile 3	3.50	0.91 - 13.42	0.068
Quintile 4	4.33	1.14 - 16.55	0.032
Quintile 5	5.83	1.59 - 21.43	0.008

Appendix table 3 Opinion and experience of healthcare received by those seeking care following an injury and those seeking care for another reason at last visit.

	Seeking care after an accident or injury % (95% CI) Number responders (N) = 119 unless otherwise stated	Seeking care for another reason n % (95% CI) Number responders (N) = 2882 unless otherwise stated
Opinion of care received		
Confident that would receive effective treatment if very sick tomorrow		
Very or somewhat confident	95.8 (90.5 – 98.2)	93.5 (92.6 – 94.4)
Not very or not at all confident	4.2 (1.8 – 9.5)	6.5 (5.6 – 7.4)
Overall view of national healthcare system		
Needs to be rebuilt or major changes needed	46.2 (37.5 – 55.2)	38.0 (36.3 – 39.8) (N=2909)
Only minor changes needed	53.8 (44.9 – 62.5)	62.0 (60.2 – 63.7) (N=2909)
Overall how well did received care meet health needs at last visit?		
Excellent, very good or good	90.0 (83.2 – 94.1)	94.4 (93.5 – 95.2)
Fair or poor	10.0 (5.9 – 16.8)	5.5 (4.8 – 6.5)
Do you trust in the skills and abilities of the HCW at the facility?		
Very much, quite a bit or some.	96.6 (91.7 – 98.7)	97.7 (97.1 – 98.2) (N=2879)
Very little or not at all	3.4 (1.3 – 8.3)	2.3 (1.8 – 2.9) (N=2879)
What is your opinion of the care provider's knowledge and skills?		
Excellent, very good or good	95.0 (89.4 – 97.7)	94.5 (93.3 – 95.0) (N=2873)
Fair or poor	5.0 (2.3 – 10.6)	5.5 (5.0 – 6.7) (N=2873)
What do you think about the provider's ability to explain things in a way that you could understand?		

	Excellent, very good or good	95.0 (89.4 – 97.7)	94.2 (93.3 – 95.0) (N=2864)
	Fair or poor	5.0 (2.3 – 10.6)	5.8 (5.0 – 6.7) (N=2864)
How easy or difficult was it for you to follow the provider's advice?			
	Very Easy, easy or fair	99.2 (95.4 – 99.9)	97.8 (97.3 – 98.3) (N=2877)
	Hard or very hard	0.8 (0.2 – 4.6)	2.2 (1.7 – 2.8) (N=2877)
What do you think about your experience of being involved in making decisions for your treatment?			
	Excellent, very good or good	74.3 (65.6 – 81.5) (N=113)	77.7 (76.1 – 79.2) (N=2748)
	Fair or poor	25.7 (18.5 – 34.4) (N=113)	22.3 (20.8 – 23.9) (N=2748)
Experience of care processes			
	Did care provider refer to another facility? - Yes	9.3 (5.2 – 15.8)	5.4 (4.6 – 6.3) (N=2872)
	Did care provider ask for further tests? - Yes	10.3 (6.0 – 17.1) (N=117)	7.8 (6.9 – 8.8) (N=2859)
	Did the care provider ask you to come back? - Yes	81.4 (72.7 – 86.8)	51.8 (50.0 – 53.6) (N=2881)
	Had to borrow or sell to pay for health care episode? - Yes	21.2 (14.7 – 29.7) (N=113)	14.3 (13.0 – 15.6) (N=2881)
	How long did you wait before your consultation (minutes)? (Median and IQR) (Mann-Witney U)	10 (5-15) (N=118)	20 (10-30) (N=2885) P = 0.002
	How much time did you spend with the care provider (minutes)? (Median and IQR) (Mann-Witney U)	20 (15-30) (N=118)	15 (20-25) (N=2885) P = 0.002

Reporting checklist for cross sectional study.

Based on the STROBE cross sectional guidelines.

	Reporting Item	Page Number
Title and abstract		
Title	#1a Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1
Abstract	#1b Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	2
Introduction		
Background / rationale	#2 Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	4
Objectives	#3 State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	4
Methods		
Study design	#4 Present key elements of study design early in the paper	5
Setting	#5 Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	5
Eligibility criteria	#6a Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants.	5
	#7 Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	5-6
Data sources / measurement	#8 For each variable of interest give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group. Give information separately for for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable.	5

1	Bias	#9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	5
2				
3	Study size	#10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	5
4				
5	Quantitative	#11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the	5-6
6	variables		analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were	
7			chosen, and why	
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10				
11	Statistical	#12a	Describe all statistical methods, including those used to	6
12	methods		control for confounding	
13				
14	Statistical	#12b	Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and	6
15	methods		interactions	
16				
17				
18	Statistical	#12c	Explain how missing data were addressed	6
19	methods			
20				
21				
22	Statistical	#12d	If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account	NA
23	methods		of sampling strategy	
24				
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26	Statistical	#12e	Describe any sensitivity analyses	6
27	methods			
28				
29				
30	Results			
31				
32	Participants	#13a	Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg	7
33			numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility,	
34			confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing	
35			follow-up, and analysed. Give information separately for	
36			for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable.	
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40	Participants	#13b	Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	NA
41				
42	Participants	#13c	Consider use of a flow diagram	NA
43				
44	Descriptive data	#14a	Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic,	7, 11
45			clinical, social) and information on exposures and	
46			potential confounders. Give information separately for	
47			exposed and unexposed groups if applicable.	
48				
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50	Descriptive data	#14b	Indicate number of participants with missing data for each	11, 12, 13,
51			variable of interest	Supplementary
52				appendix tables
53				p1&2
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1	Outcome data	#15	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures. Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable.	7, 11, 12, 13, Supplementary appendix tables p1&2
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8	Main results	#16a	Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder- adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	7, 11, 12, 13
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14	Main results	#16b	Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	5
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18	Main results	#16c	If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	NA
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22	Other analyses	#17	Report other analyses done—e.g., analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	7
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26	Discussion			
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28	Key results	#18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	8, 9
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31	Limitations	#19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias.	9, 10
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36	Interpretation	#20	Give a cautious overall interpretation considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence.	8-10
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41	Generalisability	#21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	9-10
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45	Other			
46	Information			
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49	Funding	#22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	3
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Notes:

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2 This checklist was completed on 06. October 2020 using <https://www.goodreports.org/>, a tool made by the
3 [EQUATOR Network](#) in collaboration with [Penelope.ai](#)
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For peer review only

BMJ Open

Non-fatal injuries in rural Burkina Faso amongst older adults, disease burden and health system responsiveness, a cross-sectional household survey.

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Primary Subject Heading:	Epidemiology
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Keywords:	Trauma management < ORTHOPAEDIC & TRAUMA SURGERY, HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT, EPIDEMIOLOGY, TROPICAL MEDICINE

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5 **Title: Non-fatal injuries in rural Burkina Faso amongst older adults, disease burden and health system**
6 **responsiveness, a cross-sectional household survey.**
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Abstract:

Objectives: This study aimed to evaluate the epidemiology of injury as well as patient-reported health system responsiveness following injury and how this compares with non-injured patient experience, in older individuals in rural Burkina Faso.

Design: Cross sectional household survey. Secondary analysis of the CRSN Heidelberg Aging Study dataset (CHAS).

Setting: Rural Burkina Faso

Participants: 3028 adults, over 40, from multiple ethnic groups, were randomly sampled from the 2015 Nouna Health and Demographic Surveillance Site census.

Primary and secondary outcome measures: Primary outcome was incidence of injury. Secondary outcomes were incidence of injury related disability and patient reported health system responsiveness following injury.

Results: 7.7% (232/3028) of the population reported injury in the preceding 12 months. In multivariable analyses, younger age, male sex, highest wealth quintile, an abnormal Generalised Anxiety Disorder score, and lower Quality of Life score were all associated with injury. The most common mechanism of injury was being struck or hit by an object, 32.8%. In multivariable analysis, only education was significantly negatively associated with odds of disability (OR 0.407, 95%CI 0.17–0.997). Across all survey participants, 3.9% (119/3028) reported their most recent care seeking episode was following injury, rather than for another condition. Positive experience and satisfaction with care were reported following injury, with shorter median wait times (10 vs 20 minutes, $P=0.002$) and longer consultation times (20 vs 15 minutes $P=0.002$) than care for another reason. Injured patients were also asked to return to health facilities more often than those seeking care for another reason, 81.4% (95%CI 73.1%–87.9%) vs 54.8% (95%CI 49.9%–53.6%).

Conclusions: Injury is an important disease burden in this older adult rural LMIC population. Further research could inform preventative strategies, including safer rural farming methods, explore the association between adverse mental health and injury, and strengthen health system readiness to provide quality care.

Keywords

Wounds and injuries, developing countries, health services research, epidemiology, surveys and questionnaires.

Word count

4076

Article Summary**Strengths and limitations of this study**

- Through a random sampling strategy, our household survey was able to establish the incidence of non-fatal injury in rural Burkina Faso, where little empirical data on injury exists.
- By including variables of psychological morbidity and quality of life, we were able to explore associations with those reporting injuries, an understudied aspect of injury burden on low-income settings.
- By establishing the most recent reason for accessing care, we were able to compare the health system responsiveness following injury with other conditions.
- The study was cross sectional, which limits the causal interpretation of our findings.
- The survey lacked clear definitions of injury and disability, which may have led to an overestimation of burden.

Author Contributions

TB, AS and GH conceived and designed the overall CSRN CHAS study.

MB and GH co-ordinated baseline data collection and preparation.

JD, JM-G and LRH contributed to the design of the CSRN CHAS household survey.

JW and JD designed the current study.

JW conducted the analysis, wrote and revised the manuscript.

JD supervised the analysis, write up and development of the manuscript.

All authors substantively reviewed manuscripts, inputted into revisions and approved the final manuscript.

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Competing interests: - None declared.

Patient consent for publication: - Not required.

Ethics approval: - Ethical approval was obtained from Ethics Commission I of the medical faculty Heidelberg (S-120/2018), the Burkina Faso Comité d'Ethique pour la Recherche en Santé (CERS) in Ouagadougou (2018-4-045) and the Institutional Ethics Committee (CIE) of the CSRN (2018-04). Oral assent was sought from all village elders. Written informed consent was obtained from each participant, and a literate witness assisted in cases of illiteracy

Data availability statement: - Data may be obtained from a third party and are not publicly available. Data are not publicly available as consent was not given by participants for this to take place. This is in part because entire age cohorts of some villages are included in the data set, potentially allowing for deductive disclosure with sufficient local information. For this reason, anonymised data are available from CHAS study data controllers only following signature of a data use agreement restricting onward transmission. Anyone wishing to replicate the analyses presented or conduct further collaborative analyses using CHAS (which are welcomed and considered based on a letter of intent), should contact Dr Guy Harling (g.harling@ucl.ac.uk) in the first instance.

Introduction

Injury is a neglected but important cause of avoidable disability and causes more than five million deaths globally every year¹, more than tuberculosis, malaria and HIV combined. Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) disproportionately bear this burden with 90% of global injury related deaths². However, injury related deaths are only the tip of the iceberg with an estimated one billion people sustaining injuries that require healthcare annually¹.

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country of 19 million people in sub-Saharan Africa. It is a low-income country (LIC) ranked 183 of 189 countries on the Human Development Index³ with limited natural resources³. 2017 GBD estimates across all age groups that injuries are responsible for 7.32% of deaths and 6.48% of disability adjusted life years (DALYs) in Burkina Faso, similar to sub-Saharan Africa rates⁴.

In common with the least developed countries, research investigating injuries in Burkina Faso has been sparse⁵. Studies that have been conducted tend to be referral facility based often with small case numbers and limited to a single mechanism of injury pattern⁶⁻¹⁰. Road traffic collisions (RTCs) have been investigated specifically, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) has estimated that in 2016 there were 30.5 per 100,000 road traffic fatalities in Burkina Faso, above the average for Africa (26.6) which is the continent with the highest death rate globally¹¹. RTC victim data from the tertiary referral hospital in the capital Ouagadougou identified that 87% of road traffic victims attending for tertiary care emergency department were from two wheel motor vehicles; a quarter of these experienced disability beyond 30 days¹².

Broader injury epidemiology studies from Burkina Faso have primarily studied cause of death data obtained through Verbal Autopsy. In the capital, Ouagadougou, a survey within an urban Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) identified 4.1% of deaths were due to injury¹³. From the rural Nouna HDSSs Verbal Autopsy data, age and sex standardised mortality for external causes of death (the category containing injuries) was almost twice that of the urban comparator in Ouagadougou, with the main cause being transport related. Unfortunately, these Verbal Autopsy based surveys do not capture all mechanisms of injury, and they do not allow assessment of non-fatal injury occurrence¹⁴. Injury has also been characterised as a disease affecting the young, and some population studies of injury in sub-Saharan Africa have even excluded adults over 70¹⁵. However, older people represent an important and growing population in LMICs. How and why older people are injured, and the consequences associated with these injuries require further exploration.

Injuries can have a lasting impact on the victims through physical disability, previously shown beyond 30 days in over a quarter of RTC victims in Ouagadougou,¹² but also psychological morbidity. From High-income country (HIC) settings, depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress are commonly associated with physical injury¹⁶⁻¹⁷. This includes older populations with worse quality of life, psychological and social health status seen following hip fractures and osteoporotic vertebral fractures¹⁸⁻¹⁹. Poor mental health is also a risk factor for non-accidental injuries²⁰⁻²¹. The impact of mental health following injury within Burkina Faso amongst general older adult population has not been studied, with mental health studies limited to vulnerable populations such as sex workers and children exposed to physical violence in Burkina Faso²²⁻²³.

It has been estimated that if LMIC injury care quality could match that of HIC, then 1/3 of all trauma deaths could be avoided²⁴. It is thus necessary to improve injury epidemiology data from Burkina Faso to inform preventative measures and treatment services. However, the provision of care alone may not be associated with improved outcomes. Such care needs to be responsive to patients needs beyond providing good clinical outcomes in order to engender trust leading to compliance with treatment and encouragement of future injured persons to attend services²⁵⁻²⁷. However, very few studies on the responsiveness of injury care have been done in LMICs²⁸.

This analysis primarily aimed to assess the incidence of non-fatal injury and variables associated with this amongst older people in rural Burkina Faso, for which little is currently known. Secondary aims were first to describe the incidence of and variables associated with injury related disability, and second, describe patient reported health system responsiveness following injury.

Methods

We used the STROBE cross-sectional reporting guidelines ²⁹.

Study setting

The study was set in the Nouna HDSS area, in the Boucle du Mouhoun region, north-western Burkina Faso. The HDSS collects annual birth, death and migration data in a well-enumerated population. The HDSS area consists of the market town Nouna and 59 surrounding villages with a total population of around 107,000 ³⁰. Residents come from multiple ethnic groups, and the major economic activities are farming and animal husbandry. Life expectancy from birth is 58.0 years for men and 61.5 years for women ³¹. There is one tarred road running through the area. There are no formal ambulances with emergency transport usually informal via private or taxi motorbike. In rainy season travel can be very difficult.

Study design

This study is an analysis of the CRSN Heidelberg Aging Study dataset (CHAS). The study methodology has been described in detail elsewhere ^{32,33}. Briefly, this cross-sectional study consists of a population-representative sample of adults ≥ 40 years of age. Three thousand older adults were randomly sampled from the 2015 Nouna HDSS census. In all villages ($n=6$) with fewer than 50 adults aged over 40, all adults were selected to take part. In all other villages, a random sample of households with at least one person over 40 years old was drawn. Then within each selected household, one age-eligible adult was randomly selected to complete the survey, which was administered to them by trained data collectors. Data collection was performed using Open Data Kit (ODK) software on tablet computers at the participants' residence between May and July 2018 ³⁴. Interviews were conducted either in French or translated into Dioula by the interviewers.

Variables

The household survey contained questions on age, sex, education, marital status, household assets, experience of injury in past 12 months including mechanism and associated disability, reasons for last health facility visit, and questions covering the WHO health system responsiveness domains ²⁵ derived from other surveys used in sub-Saharan Africa ³⁵⁻³⁷. Injury data was self-reported and injuries were not independently verified. Anxiety was assessed using the Generalised Anxiety Disorder question (GAD-2) score, ³⁸ and depression using Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) ^{39,40}. Quality of life was measured using the validated EuroHIS 8-item version of WHOQOL ^{41,42}. Disability was measured using the 12 item WHO Disability Assessment Schedule, version 2 (WHODAS-II) disability score ^{42,43}. The Fried frailty score was constructed from questions on weight loss in the past year, self-reported activity and levels of exhaustion, combined with measures of walking speed and grip strength ^{44,45}.

Outcome variables

The main outcome variables were whether injured or not in the preceding 12 months, or if injured, whether disabled as a result of the injury. Participants reported whether they had any event where they suffered from bodily injury in the last 12 months. For those reporting yes, the cause of injury was reported along with the question "did you suffer a physical disability as a result of being injured?".

Mechanism of injury

Mechanism of injury was captured as either fall, struck/hit by an object, cut/stabbed, gunshot, fire/heat burn, drowning/near-drowning, poisoning, animal bite, electric shock or other specified by free text. Injury mechanisms with fewer than eight or cases were combined as "other" for analyses. Those who fell reported whether this was at or higher than ground level.

Demographic characteristics

Marital status was categorised as married/cohabiting or single/widowed/divorced. Educational level was categorised as no education or any education. Participants were asked 37 questions on household assets and dwelling characteristics; from these, wealth quintiles were derived from the Filmer and Pritchett first principal component method ⁴⁶.

Definitions of disease states

Participants were defined as having symptoms of anxiety based on a GAD-2 score ≥ 3 ³⁸. Participants scoring ten or more on PHQ-9 were categorised as having depressive symptoms in this analysis ⁴⁰. The calculation of the Fried score used in this study has been described previously ³². For this analysis participants were dichotomised as robust or prefrail/frail. WHODAS-II disability score was

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3 normalised to a 0-100 scale, where 0 equates to no disability and 100 the worst disability. Quality of
4 life ^{41 42} was similarly normalised to a 0-100 scale, with 100 denoting the best quality of life.
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6 *Health system experience and responsiveness*

7 Regardless of when it occurred, the reason for the most recent episode of health seeking was
8 recorded and classified as either injury or another reason. Participants answering this question
9 were not necessarily the same as those injured in the previous 12 months who may have sought
10 care for another reason subsequent to their injury. There were, therefore, two injury question
11 groups in this study. The first to determine annual injury incidence and characteristics, the second
12 to determine those for whom the last health care visit followed an injury. Appendix Figure 1
13 illustrates how these overlapping but distinct question groups are reported. Those who had sought
14 care were asked health system responsiveness questions, including: (i) confidence in receiving
15 effective treatment if very sick tomorrow, dichotomised as very/somewhat vs. not very/not at all; (ii)
16 the overall view of the health system, dichotomised as needs to be rebuilt/major changes needed
17 vs. only minor changes needed; (iii) trust in the skills and abilities of the healthcare worker at the
18 facility dichotomised as 1. very much, quite a bit or some and 2. very little or not at all; (iv) ease or
19 difficulty in following provider's advice dichotomised as 1. very easy, easy or fair and 2. hard or
20 very hard; and (v) opinion of care provider's knowledge and skills, experience of being involved in
21 making decisions for treatment, ability of provider to explain things in a way they could understand
22 and how well the received care met health needs were all dichotomised into positive responses 1.
23 excellent, very good, or good and negative responses 2. fair or poor. These variables were
24 dichotomised for ease of interpretation.

24 **Patient and public involvement statement**

25 Participants were not directly involved in planning the study; results of this and other HDSS studies
26 are regularly fed back to participants in the HDSS site.
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28 **Statistical analysis**

29 All analyses were done using SPSS v26 (IBM, New York, USA). We first described all variables
30 using mean and standard deviation (SD), or median and interquartile range (IQR), for normally and
31 non-normally distributed continuous variables, and count and proportion (95% CI) for categorical
32 variables.
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34 We used multivariable logistic regression to explore the associations between the main outcome
35 variables and demographic characteristics or disease states. Odds ratios and 95% confidence
36 intervals are presented. All variables were included in the model. Figures were produced using the
37 R package ggplot2 ⁴⁷.

38 Associations between seeking care for an injury or another reason and healthcare experience and
39 health system responsiveness were tested using the Mann-Whitney U test for the non-normally
40 distributed continuous variables. Sample sizes are stated for each analysis.
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Results:

The median age of respondents was 52 years (IQR 45 – 62), females made up 50.7% (1534/3028) of the population, educational attainment was low, with only 15.6% (472/3028) having any schooling at all (Table 1).

Of those completing the survey, 7.7% (232/3028) reported suffering an injury in the preceding 12 months (Table 1). Of 232 injured in the past 12 months, 105 (45.3%) suffered a disability. In multivariable analyses, younger age, male sex, highest wealth quintile, an abnormal GAD score and lower WHO QOL score were all associated with injury (Table 2).

The most common mechanism of injury was being struck or hit by an object, 32.8% (76/232) (Figure 1). Of those who suffered a fall, 34.6% (9/26) fell from higher than ground level. Exploratory analysis of the association between the mechanism of injury and wealth (Appendix Tables 1 and 2) suggested that the greater odds of being injured in the higher wealth quintile is related to a greater number of falls from a motorcycle or bicycle in this group; 35.8% (19/53) of those falling from a motorcycle or bicycle were from wealth quintile 5 compared to 5.7% (3/53) in quintile 1 (Odds ratio 5.83, 95% CI 1.58 - 21.43).

Falling from a motorcycle or bicycle was the mechanism which most frequently resulted in a disability 27.6% (29/105) (Figure 1). In multivariable analysis (Table 3) only education was significantly negatively associated with odds of disability (Odds Ratio 0.407, 95%CI 0.17–0.997). Compared to being struck or hit by an object, disability was more common amongst those falling (odds ratio 6.4, 95% CI 1.896 – 21.602, $p=0.003$), falling from a motorbike (odds ratio 3.335, 95% CI 1.429 – 7.78, $p=0.005$), and other (odds ratio 10.755, 95% CI 3.471 – 33.323, $p<0.001$).

Across all survey participants, 3.9% (119/3028) of people reported their last reason for seeking care was for an injury. These 119 respondents reported high levels of satisfaction with care following injury (Figure 2). Ninety-six per cent reported being somewhat or very confident of receiving effective treatment if sick tomorrow, 95% reported a good or better opinion of care provider's skills and knowledge and 90% reported that their needs were met well or better. There were no significant differences in these measures between people seeking care for injuries and those seeking care for other reasons (Figure 2 and Appendix Table 3).

Those seeking care following injury reported shorter median wait times (10 minutes vs 20 minutes, $P=0.002$) before consultation and longer consultation times (20 minutes vs 15 minutes $P=0.002$) than those seeking care for another reason. Those seeking care for injury were also more likely to be asked to return to the health facility at a later date, 81.4% (95% CI 73.1% – 87.9%) vs. 54.8% (95% CI 49.9% – 53.6%) (Figure 2). There was a non-significant trend for those seeking injury care to be more likely to borrow or sell to pay for the care episode, compared to those seeking care for other reasons, 21.2% (95% CI 14.7% - 29.7%) vs. 14.3% (95% CI 13.0% - 15.6%).

Discussion:

This study demonstrates that injuries are prevalent in this older adult rural LMIC population. In this cross sectional study injuries were more prevalent in those who were male, or of younger age, or wealthier socioeconomic status; the latter is possibly linked to motorcycle ownership. Those with injuries were more likely to suffer from anxiety, or report a worse quality of life. Almost half of those reporting an injury reported disability as a consequence, which was more common in males and those with lower educational attainment, but not associated with frailty. However, in this cross sectional survey, we are unable to demonstrate causality. Patient satisfaction with the health system for treatment of an injury was generally high. Having to sell or borrow to pay for care was more common than for non-traumatic health care visits, although this did not reach significance. There is little empirical data published on injury prevalence and care within Burkina Faso, particularly in older people. This study can aid researchers and policymakers in understanding the burden to address prevention and avenues for further research.

Globally, poorer populations bear increased injury burden,⁴⁸ including amongst urban populations⁴⁹ and those sustaining unintentional injury¹⁵. This findings is perhaps due to those of lower SES being exposed to less safe working conditions. Interestingly, we found SES to be positively associated with injury occurrence; potentially, in this rural context, it is likely that relative wealth provided access to motorcycles or bicycles that may have been unaffordable for poorer groups. Further research to prove this hypothesis could have implications for road safety initiatives, particularly if access to motorised transport increases.

Although in an older population, this study found the incidence of injury, 7.7%, was comparable to other sub-Saharan African settings such as in rural Tanzania, rural Rwanda, rural Nigeria, Sudan, Sierra Leone and Kenya where studies have shown prevalence ranges from 4.3 – 15.2%^{15 49-53}. Other studies from Sub-Saharan Africa have also found injuries to be more common in younger^{15 53} or male^{15 49 50 52} members of the population. Indeed, male sex is consistently associated with injury globally, with multiple possible contributing factors including alcohol use, dangerous occupations, or risk taking behaviour⁵⁴ – unfortunately, none of these were evaluated in CHAS.

Anxiety and reduced quality of life were associated with the occurrence of injury although no association was seen with depression. Whilst this cross sectional survey could not demonstrate causality, others have shown adverse mental health outcomes to be sequelae of physical injury and include post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety^{16 17 55}. Whilst research exists in high-income settings, further research into the adverse mental health associations with injury in this and other LMIC contexts is warranted. Studies are needed to both establish the scale of burden, whether associations are causal and the direction of the relationship. Development of culturally specific tools for evaluating post physical trauma mental health in African populations is also required⁵⁶.

Almost half those injured reported disability (although not defined) as a consequence of their injury, and reporting disability after injury was associated with lower educational status. Other sub-Saharan African studies have reported varying levels of disability after injury, for example, 31.7% in Rwanda⁵¹, and 11% in Sudan⁵⁷. Disability can be more prevalent in rural compared to urban settings⁵⁸, amongst the uneducated⁵⁷, and in adults over 60⁵⁸. The different questions employed in these studies makes direct comparison difficult although the high incidence of disability we found may be due to studying an older population with less physical reserve.

In our study, no association between disability and frailty was seen in the population who had been injured. A lower baseline physical function may affect the threshold for self-reported disability. The non-frail population, with low educational attainment, may also have been more dependent on physical labour than other studies and thus more sensitive to limitations to physical function. The association between disability and lower levels of education seen in our study supports this.

The most common injury mechanisms were being struck or hit by an object, falling from a motorcycle or bicycle, being cut or stabbed, or falling. In rural environments, injuries can commonly be a consequence of agricultural activity. This was the leading contributor to injuries in rural Ghana⁵⁸. In Tanzania, cuts or stabs were the most common mechanisms in the rural population studied, and two-thirds of cuts were due to agricultural activity⁵⁰. Transport or road traffic collisions were not a distinct category within our study, given that cars are rarely used in Nouna.

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3 Interestingly, despite the older age of the CHAS population relative to most previous studies, falls
4 were relatively uncommon, unlike in Kenya¹⁵, Nigeria⁵², and Sierra Leone⁵³ and especially in
5 older persons in Tanzania (aged over 60)⁵⁰ Ghana (aged over 60)⁵⁸ and Sudan (aged over 45)⁴⁹.
6 The prevalence of frailty in this population is similar to that seen in other sub-Saharan African
7 populations where this has been studied, so the relatively low prevalence of falls (which are
8 associated with frailty) need further investigation³².

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10 Patients reported a positive experience and high satisfaction with care for both injury and non-
11 injury related consultations. Injured patients experienced shorter wait times and longer
12 consultation time with more frequent requests to return to care than those presenting to healthcare
13 facilities for other reasons. This possibly reflects the urgency of injury care and the need for
14 procedural management such as suturing needing follow-up. Patient satisfaction is influenced by
15 factors such as accessibility, cost, expectation, immediate outcomes and gratitude²⁸. However, in
16 LMICs, patient reported satisfaction may not correspond well with other measures of care quality
17 like safe clinical practice or clinical outcomes. For example, high rates of care satisfaction have
18 been reported, across multiple LMICs, with consultations in which most essential clinical actions
19 were not performed²⁸.

20 As a time critical condition in an economically poor population there is a risk of injury causing
21 impoverishment. Out-of-pocket expenditure for healthcare is commonplace in Burkina Faso⁵⁹. The
22 economic burden of trauma and injuries in LMICs is high through direct medical costs such as
23 medicines, non-medical costs such as transport and indirect costs such as loss of income⁶⁰.
24 Significant economic benefit could derive from reducing injury burden⁶¹. In Burkina Faso, CT scan
25 access in Ouagadougou was limited by lack of funding when indicated in 20% of cases¹⁰. Indeed,
26 perceived and actual costs of care are a well noted factor in delaying access to quality care after
27 injury^{26 27 51 57 62}. In CHAS, we found a non-significant trend that patients more commonly needed
28 to borrow or sell following injury than other conditions. This could be compounded by the effect of
29 injury related disability on economic productivity. While CHAS did not capture costs directly, others
30 have found spending on injuries in Nouna HDSS to be higher than other conditions such as
31 malaria and chronic disease⁶³. For conditions such as injury, which are unpredictable and high
32 cost, community insurance schemes have been mooted as a way of limiting catastrophic
33 expenditure⁶⁴. Attempts to introduce such schemes in Nouna have suffered high dropout rates,
34 possibly driven by fears around high cost and poor quality of health services⁶⁵. There is evidence
35 from Nouna that individuals enrolled on health insurance schemes received poorer quality
36 healthcare services⁶⁶. Such schemes, limited by low enrolment and selection bias, have failed to
37 make a difference to overall population health including mortality^{67 68}.

38 **Limitations:**

39 This study has several limitations. The study was cross sectional, which limits the causal
40 interpretation of our findings. Injury severity was not assessed, nor was a clear definition of injury
41 or disability provided. No minimum severity or clear definition can lead to inclusion of trivial
42 injuries, overestimation of burden, and a lack of comparability across studies.

43 The time of injury was not reported. Recall loss is well established for community injury household
44 surveys, particularly with respect of less severe injuries (causing less than 30 days disability)^{50 69 70}.
45 Some studies, therefore, use shorter recall time frames for their survey⁵², or extrapolate minor
46 injuries from the last 30 days reported incidence to calculate annual incidence for minor injuries⁵⁸.
47 Observing, confirming or correcting for recall was not possible in this study and we, therefore, may
48 have underestimated the true incidence. As some injuries are known to be seasonal in Burkina
49 Faso, this known recall bias may mean such injuries could have been misrepresented⁸.

50 Intentional injuries and domestic violence were not specifically differentiated from being struck or
51 cut. Similarly, road traffic collision was not a separate category, limited to falling from a motorcycle
52 or bicycle, perhaps justified by the low development status of rural Nouna. As RTCs are the main
53 cause for Urban referral facility trauma care in Burkina Faso^{9 10} and the only injury related SDG
54 (SDG 3.6)⁷¹ distinguishing these categories could allow future studies to compare within and
55 across countries to inform preventative lessons and strategies.

56 This study was limited to a rural population. Urban and rural populations in sub-Saharan Africa
57 experience differing burdens of injury^{49 50}. Future urban comparisons could add perspective to
58 inform national preventative and research strategies. This study was also confined to older adults
59 and the injury burden for children and young adults is unknown. Fatal injuries were also not
60 captured.

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4 To build on these findings future research focussed on injuries could include fatal injuries, across
5 the full population, with rural and urban comparison, capturing the time of injury relative to
6 interview, with specific definitions for injury, disability and mechanism of injury categories, and
7 matched to health system utilisation. This would help further understand the burden in Burkina
8 Faso to inform preventative lessons and strategies as well as plan health system response.
9 Nevertheless, this study adds valuable insight into a relatively under researched topic in a country
10 where little about injury burden or health care experience is known.

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12 **Conclusion:**

13 This study has demonstrated the importance of injury burden in this older adult rural LMIC
14 population contributing to the limited available published literature on this subject. Further research
15 could inform preventative strategies including safer farming methods and the role of road traffic
16 collisions, enable better understanding the association between adverse mental health and injury
17 in this population, and strengthen health system readiness to provide quality care.
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Table 1 Demographic information and disease states for those injured or not in preceding 12 months, and for those with or without a disability following injury.

Variable and statistical test for comparisons		All % Sample size= 3028, apart from age and marital status (both N=3026), WHO DAS (N=3027) and frailty (N=2806)	Not injured in past 12 months (%) Sample size=2796, apart from age, marital status (both N=2794), WHO DAS (N=2795) and frailty (N=2607)	Injured in past 12 months (%) Sample size=232, apart from frailty (N=199)	Injured in past 12 months – No disability (%) Sample size=127, apart from frailty (N=108)	Injured in past 12 months and suffered a disability (%) Sample size=105, apart from frailty (N=91)
Median age (years) (IQR)		52 (45 – 62)	52 (45 – 62)	50 (45 – 60)	49 (44 – 61)	51 (45 – 58.5)
Female Sex (95% CI)		50.3 (48.6 - 52.1)	51.5 (49.7 – 53.4)	36.2 (30.3 – 42.6)	40.9 (32.8 – 49.6)	30.5 (22.5 – 39.8)
Marital status (95% CI)	Married/cohabiting	75.7 (74.1 – 77.2)	75.4 (73.8 – 77.0)	78.4 (72.7 – 83.3)	73.2 (64.9 – 80.2)	84.8 (76.7 – 90.4)
	Other	24.3 (22.8 – 25.9)	24.5 (23.0 – 26.2)	21.6 (16.8 – 27.3)	25.2 (19.8 – 35.1)	15.2 (9.6 – 23.3)
Socio-Economic Status	Quintile 1	19.9	20.2	16.4	17.3	15.2
	Quintile 2	19.8	20.1	15.9	19.7	11.4
	Quintile 3	20.0	19.8	22.4	19.7	25.7
	Quintile 4	20.3	20.2	20.7	17.3	24.8
	Quintile 5	20.0	19.6	24.6	26.0	22.9
What is the highest level of education you have completed? (95% CI)	No Formal Schooling	84.4 (83.1 – 85.7)	84.9 (83.5 – 86.2)	78.4 (72.7 – 83.3)	72.4 (64.1 – 79.5)	85.7 (77.8 – 91.2)
	Any schooling	15.6 (14.3 – 16.9)	15.1 (13.8 – 16.5)	21.6 (16.8 – 27.3)	27.6 (20.5 – 35.9)	14.3 (8.9 – 22.2)
Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ- 9) depression score (95% CI)	Normal or mild	91.9 (90.9 – 92.9)	92.0 (91.0 – 93.0)	91.0 (86.6 – 94.0)	90.6 (84.2 – 94.5)	90.5 (84.5 – 95.4)
	Moderate – severe*	8.1 (7.1 – 9.1)	8.0 (7.0 – 9.0)	9.0 (6.0 – 13.4)	9.4 (5.5 – 15.8)	8.5 (4.6 – 15.5)
Normalised WHO Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0 (median score IQR)		8.3 (2.1 – 22.9)	8.3 (2.1 – 22.9)	8.3 (2.1 – 25)	8.3 (2.1 – 22.9)	10.4 (2.1 – 27.1)
Normalised WHO Quality of Life (median and IQR)		59.4 (46.9 – 65.6)	59.4 (46.9 – 59.4)	56.3 (43.8 – 56.3)	56.3 (46.9 – 62.5)	56.3 (40.6 – 65.6)
Generalised Anxiety Disorder score (95% CI)	Abnormal	11.6 (10.5 – 12.8)	10.6 (9.5 – 11.8)	23.3 (18.3 – 29.1)	22.0 (15.7 – 30.0)	24.8 (17.5 – 33.8)
	Normal	88.4 (87.3 – 89.5)	89.4 (88.2 – 90.5)	76.7 (70.9 – 81.7)	78.0 (70.7 – 84.3)	75.2 (66.2 – 82.5)
Fried frailty score (95% CI)	Robust	45.3 (43.4 – 47.1)	45.3 (43.4 – 47.2)	44.7 (38.0 – 51.7)	38.0 (29.4 – 47.4)	52.7 (42.6 – 62.7)
	Pre-frail / Frail	54.7 (52.9 – 56.6)	54.7 (52.8 – 56.6)	55.3 (48.3 – 62.0)	62.0 (52.6 – 70.6)	47.3 (37.3 – 57.4)
*Score of 10 or more						

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Table 2 - Logistic regression model for dependent variable of injury in last 12 months

		Odds Ratio	95% CI	P
Age		0.973	0.956 - 0.991	0.003
Sex	Male (ref)			
	Female	0.436	0.310 - 0.613	<0.001
Marital status	Married or cohabiting (ref)			
	Not married or cohabiting	1.247	0.812 - 1.917	0.313
Wealth Quintile	Quintile 1 (ref)			
	Quintile 2	1.011	0.597 - 1.712	0.967
	Quintile 3	1.453	0.886 - 2.382	0.138
	Quintile 4	1.367	0.823 - 2.272	0.227
	Quintile 5	1.795	1.079 - 2.985	0.024
Educational level	No Formal Schooling (ref)			
	Any Schooling	1.107	0.749 - 1.636	0.609
Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ- 9) depression score	Normal or Mild (ref)			
	Moderate or Severe	0.559	0.295 - 1.059	0.075
Generalised Anxiety Disorder score	Normal (ref)			
	abnormal	2.921	1.963 - 4.347	<0.001
Normalised WHO Quality of Life score		0.981	0.97 - 0.993	0.002
Normalised WHO Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0 (0-100)		1.004	0.992 - 1.016	0.512
Frailty	Robust (ref)			
	Pre-frail / Frail	0.967	0.704 - 1.327	0.834
N = 2803				

Table 3 - Multivariable logistic regression model for dependent variable of disability following injury in last 12 months including mechanism of injury

		Odds Ratio	95% CI	P
Age		1.016	0.977 – 1.057	0.426
Sex	Male (ref)			
	Female	0.471	0.215 – 1.033	0.06
Marital status	Married or cohabiting (ref)			
	Not married or cohabiting	0.433	0.15 – 1.25	0.122
Wealth Quintile	Quintile 1 (ref)			
	Quintile 2	0.636	0.187 – 2.167	0.469
	Quintile 3	1.09	0.368 – 3.226	0.876
	Quintile 4	2.05	0.666 – 6.306	0.211
	Quintile 5	1.521	0.503 – 4.596	0.457
Educational level	No Formal Schooling (ref)			
	Any Schooling	0.407	0.166 – 0.997	0.049
Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ- 9) depression score	Normal or Mild (ref)			
	Moderate or Severe	0.426	0.107 – 1.689	0.225
Generalised Anxiety Disorder 2.0 score (0-100)	Normal (ref)			
	Abnormal	0.823	0.36 – 1.882	0.644
Normalised WHO Quality of Life score		1.012	0.985 – 1.039	0.387
Normalised WHO DAS 2.0 score (0-100)		1.023	0.997 – 1.05	0.084
Frailty	Robust (ref)			
	Pre-frail / Frail	0.562	0.284 – 1.112	0.098
Mechanism of injury –	Struck or hit by object (ref)			
	Fall	6.4	1.896 – 21.602	0.003
	Fall from motorbike	3.335	1.429 – 7.78	0.005
	Cut or stabbed	2.426	0.949 – 6.201	0.064
	Other	10.755	3.471 – 33.323	<0.001
N = 199				

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Figure legends

Figure 1 – Mechanism of injury according to sex and associated disability

Figure 2 - Opinion and experience of healthcare received by those seeking care following an injury and those seeking care for another reason at last visit.

Appendix Figure 1 - The survey questions determining primary and secondary outcomes.

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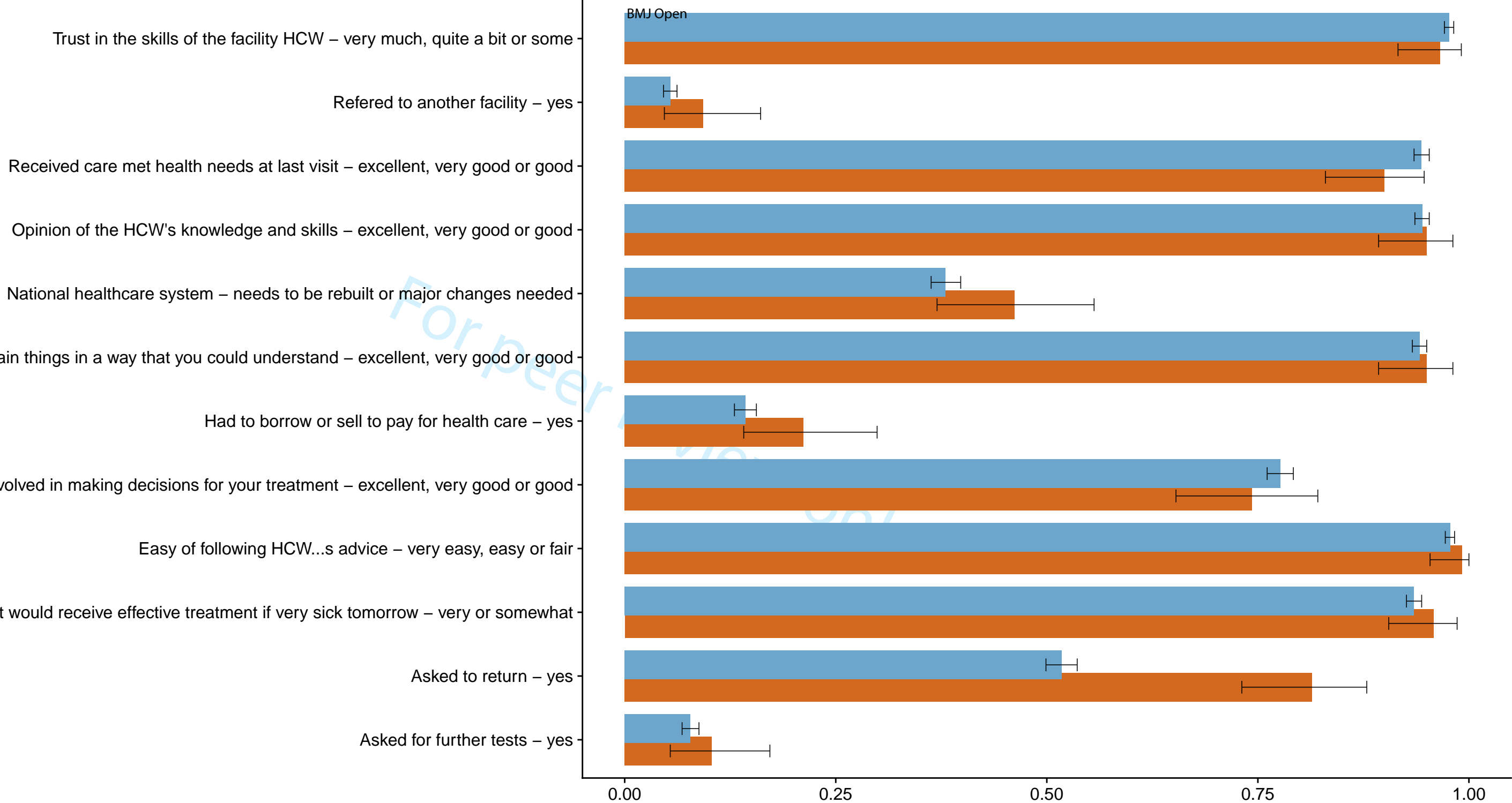
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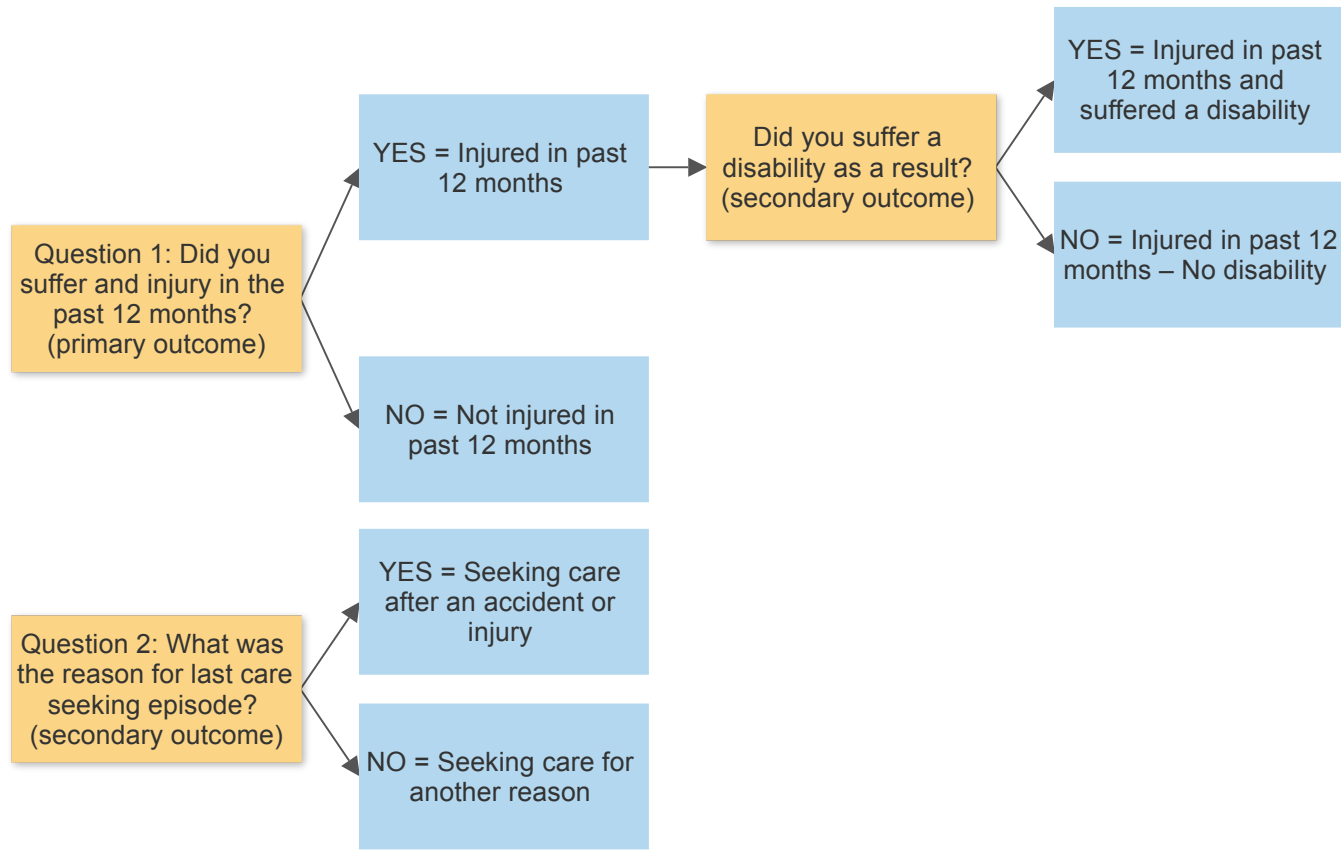


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Proportion of all respondents (95% confidence intervals)
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Seeking care after accident or injury Seeking care for another reason



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Appendices

Appendix table 1 - Mechanism of injury according to wealth quintile, for all those injured in past 12 months with number of males in brackets.

Wealth Quintile	Fall N (n of males)	Fall from motorcycle or bicycle N (n of males)	Struck / hit by object N (n of males)	Cut / stabbed N (n of males)	Gunshot N (n of males)	Fire / Heat Burn N (n of males)	Poisoning N (n of males)	Animal bite N (n of males)	Other N (n of males)
1	6 (4)	3 (3)	10 (7)	11 (5)	1 (1)	1 (0)	0 (0)	2 (1)	4 (2)
2	5 (1)	6 (5)	17 (13)	2 (1)	2 (2)	1 (1)	3 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)
3	9 (5)	12 (6)	12 (8)	15 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	3 (2)
4	3 (3)	13 (10)	20 (11)	5 (5)	0 (0)	2 (0)	0 (0)	2 (2)	3 (1)
5	3 (2)	19 (15)	17 (9)	13 (8)	1 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	3 (2)	0 (0)
Total	26 (15)	53 (39)	76 (48)	46 (30)	4 (3)	5 (1)	4 (1)	8 (6)	10 (5)

Appendix table 2 - Binary logistic regression for falling from a motorcycle or bicycle and wealth quintile.

	Odds Ratio	95% C.I.	P Value
Quintile 1 (ref)			
Quintile 2	2.26	0.52 - 9.80	0.277
Quintile 3	3.50	0.91 - 13.42	0.068
Quintile 4	4.33	1.14 - 16.55	0.032
Quintile 5	5.83	1.59 - 21.43	0.008

Appendix table 3 - Opinion and experience of healthcare received by those seeking care following an injury and those seeking care for another reason at last visit.

	Seeking care after an accident or injury % (95% CI) Number responders (N) = 119 unless otherwise stated	Seeking care for another reason n % (95% CI) Number responders (N) = 2882 unless otherwise stated
Opinion of care received		
Confident that would receive effective treatment if very sick tomorrow		
Very or somewhat confident	95.8 (90.5 – 98.2)	93.5 (92.6 – 94.4)
Not very or not at all confident	4.2 (1.8 – 9.5)	6.5 (5.6 – 7.4)
Overall view of national healthcare system		
Needs to be rebuilt or major changes needed	46.2 (37.5 – 55.2)	38.0 (36.3 – 39.8) (N=2909)
Only minor changes needed	53.8 (44.9 – 62.5)	62.0 (60.2 – 63.7) (N=2909)
Overall how well did received care meet health needs at last visit?		
Excellent, very good or good	90.0 (83.2 – 94.1)	94.4 (93.5 – 95.2)
Fair or poor	10.0 (5.9 – 16.8)	5.5 (4.8 – 6.5)
Do you trust in the skills and abilities of the HCW at the facility?		
Very much, quite a bit or some.	96.6 (91.7 – 98.7)	97.7 (97.1 – 98.2) (N=2879)
Very little or not at all	3.4 (1.3 – 8.3)	2.3 (1.8 – 2.9) (N=2879)
What is your opinion of the care provider's knowledge and skills?		
Excellent, very good or good	95.0 (89.4 – 97.7)	94.5 (93.3 – 95.0) (N=2873)
Fair or poor	5.0 (2.3 – 10.6)	5.5 (5.0 – 6.7) (N=2873)
What do you think about the provider's ability to explain things in a way that you could understand?		

	Excellent, very good or good	95.0 (89.4 – 97.7)	94.2 (93.3 – 95.0) (N=2864)
	Fair or poor	5.0 (2.3 – 10.6)	5.8 (5.0 – 6.7) (N=2864)
How easy or difficult was it for you to follow the provider's advice?			
	Very Easy, easy or fair	99.2 (95.4 – 99.9)	97.8 (97.3 – 98.3) (N=2877)
	Hard or very hard	0.8 (0.2 – 4.6)	2.2 (1.7 – 2.8) (N=2877)
What do you think about your experience of being involved in making decisions for your treatment?			
	Excellent, very good or good	74.3 (65.6 – 81.5) (N=113)	77.7 (76.1 – 79.2) (N=2748)
	Fair or poor	25.7 (18.5 – 34.4) (N=113)	22.3 (20.8 – 23.9) (N=2748)
Experience of care processes			
	Did care provider refer to another facility? - Yes	9.3 (5.2 – 15.8)	5.4 (4.6 – 6.3) (N=2872)
	Did care provider ask for further tests? - Yes	10.3 (6.0 – 17.1) (N=117)	7.8 (6.9 – 8.8) (N=2859)
	Did the care provider ask you to come back? - Yes	81.4 (72.7 – 86.8)	51.8 (50.0 – 53.6) (N=2881)
	Had to borrow or sell to pay for health care episode? - Yes	21.2 (14.7 – 29.7) (N=113)	14.3 (13.0 – 15.6) (N=2881)
	How long did you wait before your consultation (minutes)? (Median and IQR) (Mann-Witney U)	10 (5-15) (N=118)	20 (10-30) (N=2885) P = 0.002
	How much time did you spend with the care provider (minutes)? (Median and IQR) (Mann-Witney U)	20 (15-30) (N=118)	15 (20-25) (N=2885) P = 0.002

Reporting checklist for cross sectional study.

Based on the STROBE cross sectional guidelines.

	Reporting Item	Page Number
Title and abstract		
Title	#1a Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1
Abstract	#1b Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	2
Introduction		
Background / rationale	#2 Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	4
Objectives	#3 State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	4
Methods		
Study design	#4 Present key elements of study design early in the paper	5
Setting	#5 Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	5
Eligibility criteria	#6a Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants.	5
	#7 Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	5-6
Data sources / measurement	#8 For each variable of interest give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one	5

1		group. Give information separately for for exposed	
2		and unexposed groups if applicable.	
3			
4	Bias	#9 Describe any efforts to address potential sources	5
5		of bias	
6			
7			
8	Study size	#10 Explain how the study size was arrived at	5
9			
10	Quantitative	#11 Explain how quantitative variables were handled in	5-6
11	variables	the analyses. If applicable, describe which	
12		groupings were chosen, and why	
13			
14			
15	Statistical	#12a Describe all statistical methods, including those	6
16	methods	used to control for confounding	
17			
18			
19	Statistical	#12b Describe any methods used to examine subgroups	6
20	methods	and interactions	
21			
22			
23	Statistical	#12c Explain how missing data were addressed	6
24	methods		
25			
26			
27	Statistical	#12d If applicable, describe analytical methods taking	NA
28	methods	account of sampling strategy	
29			
30			
31	Statistical	#12e Describe any sensitivity analyses	6
32	methods		
33			
34	Results		
35			
36			
37	Participants	#13a Report numbers of individuals at each stage of	7
38		study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined	
39		for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the	
40		study, completing follow-up, and analysed. Give	
41		information separately for for exposed and	
42		unexposed groups if applicable.	
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46	Participants	#13b Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	NA
47			
48			
49	Participants	#13c Consider use of a flow diagram	NA
50			
51	Descriptive data	#14a Give characteristics of study participants (eg	7, 11
52		demographic, clinical, social) and information on	
53		exposures and potential confounders. Give	
54		information separately for exposed and unexposed	
55		groups if applicable.	
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1	Descriptive data	#14b	Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	11, 12, 13, Supplementary appendix tables p1&2
2				
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8	Outcome data	#15	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures. Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups if applicable.	7, 11, 12, 13, Supplementary appendix tables p1&2
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14	Main results	#16a	Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	7, 11, 12, 13
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22				
23	Main results	#16b	Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	5
24				
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27	Main results	#16c	If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	NA
28				
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32	Other analyses	#17	Report other analyses done—e.g., analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	7
33				
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36				
37	Discussion			
38				
39				
40	Key results	#18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	8, 9
41				
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44	Limitations	#19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias.	9, 10
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50	Interpretation	#20	Give a cautious overall interpretation considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence.	8-10
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57	Generalisability	#21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	9-10
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60				

1 **Other**
2 **Information**
3

4 Funding [#22](#) Give the source of funding and the role of the 3
5 funders for the present study and, if applicable, for
6 the original study on which the present article is
7 based
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11 Notes:
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16 made by the [EQUATOR Network](#) in collaboration with [Penelope.ai](#)
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