

A-39: Mortality due to poisoning in the Kandy district: trends over 25 years

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Cause of death as recorded in 37,125 death certificates issued in the Kandy District (Kandy town: 12,887, Peripheries: 13,068, Estates: 11,170) over 25 years at 5-year intervals beginning 1967 were analysed.

Poisoning accounted for 718 (19.3 per 1,000) deaths, Kandy town recording the highest (371, 28.8 per 1,000) and the estates the lowest (46, 4.1 per 1,000). The highest number of deaths due to poisoning were in the third decades of life (41.9%); the second decade recorded 25.1% deaths. Male;female ratio was 3:1. Insecticides were responsible for 77% of the deaths. Acids and chemicals accounted for 6.9% of the deaths. Other poisons each contributing to less than 1% of the deaths were: plant poisons, food items, drugs, kerosine oil and alcohol. An increasing trend in the mortality due to poisoning was observed during the 25 years (from 11.8 to 43/1000 deaths).

This study, for the first time, shows the trends in mortality due to poisoning in the Kandy District.