

A national representative and
comprehensive health-based injury
monitoring system will be launched
in Norway from 2022

Johan Lund, PhD

National Institute of Public Health

Introduction

- After piloting from 1977, a national health based injury monitoring system (NISS) existed during 1990-2002 in Norway (population now ab. 5.400.000).
- However, closed down in 2003 due to economic restraints.
- From 2009, it became mandatory for all hospitals to register an injury Minimum Data Set (MDS) on all in- and out-patients, together with the unique birth number, from about 310.000 injuries annually.
- Due to lack of registration resources, and also little use of data, the coverage rate is low, now ab. 50 % in average, and lower for in-patients.
- In addition, about 350.000 injuries are treated annually solely by the GPs and municipal AEDs. No MDS are reported from them.¹⁾
- This means that in Norway, there is annually a total of 660.000 medically treated injuries, an incidence of 12,5 %.¹⁾

1) Ohm E, Holvik K, Madsen C, Alver K, Lund J (2020). Incidence of injuries in Norway: Linking primary and secondary care data. Scandinavian Journal of Public Health, 48: 323-330. (NISS)O

Traffic safety authorities understand they need more valid data than in the police register

- Police register on traffic accident is the main data source for traffic safety authorities.
- A study²⁾ made in 2019 found that in the health system, almost 3 times more severe traffic injuries are registered than in the police register.
- Hence, it is not possible to use police register to monitor the development towards the zero vision: No fatalities or **severe** traffic injuries on the roads.

2) Lund J (2019): Health-based injury registration as a tool for prevention of traffic injuries (in Norwegian). Safe Traffic Norway

Proposal to build a «light-house» injury monitoring system in Norway

- Traffic and health authorities decided to investigate if a valid and representative injury monitoring system could be built in Norway.
- A new study was made (april 2021) which proposed a «light-house» injury monitoring system, in collaboration the Norwegian Trauma Register (which has high completeness and quality – 9.000 traumas annually).³⁾
- Ministry of Transport decided (september 2021) to pay 700.000 Euro annually in 3-5 years to build a health-based injury monitoring system from 2022, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, to get valid traffic injury data.

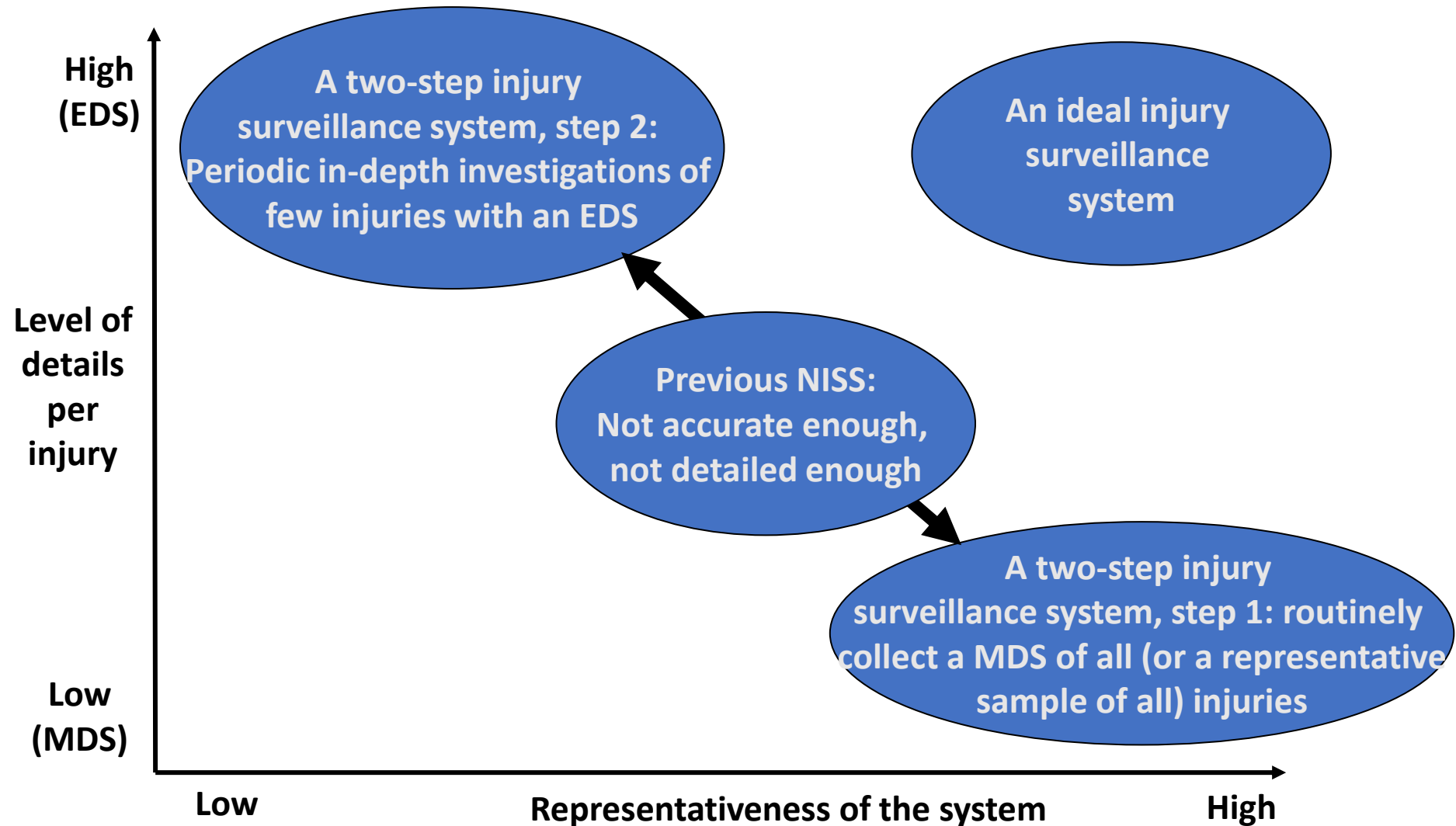
3) Lund J (2021). The light-house project. Based on health data, improve the statistics of traffic accidents. (In Norwegian). Safe Traffic Norway.

An ideal and a two-step injury surveillance system

EDS: Expanded data set, MDS: Minimum data set, NISS: Norwegian Injury Surveillance System

Lund J et al (2004). A two-step medically based injury surveillance system – experiences from the Oslo injury register.

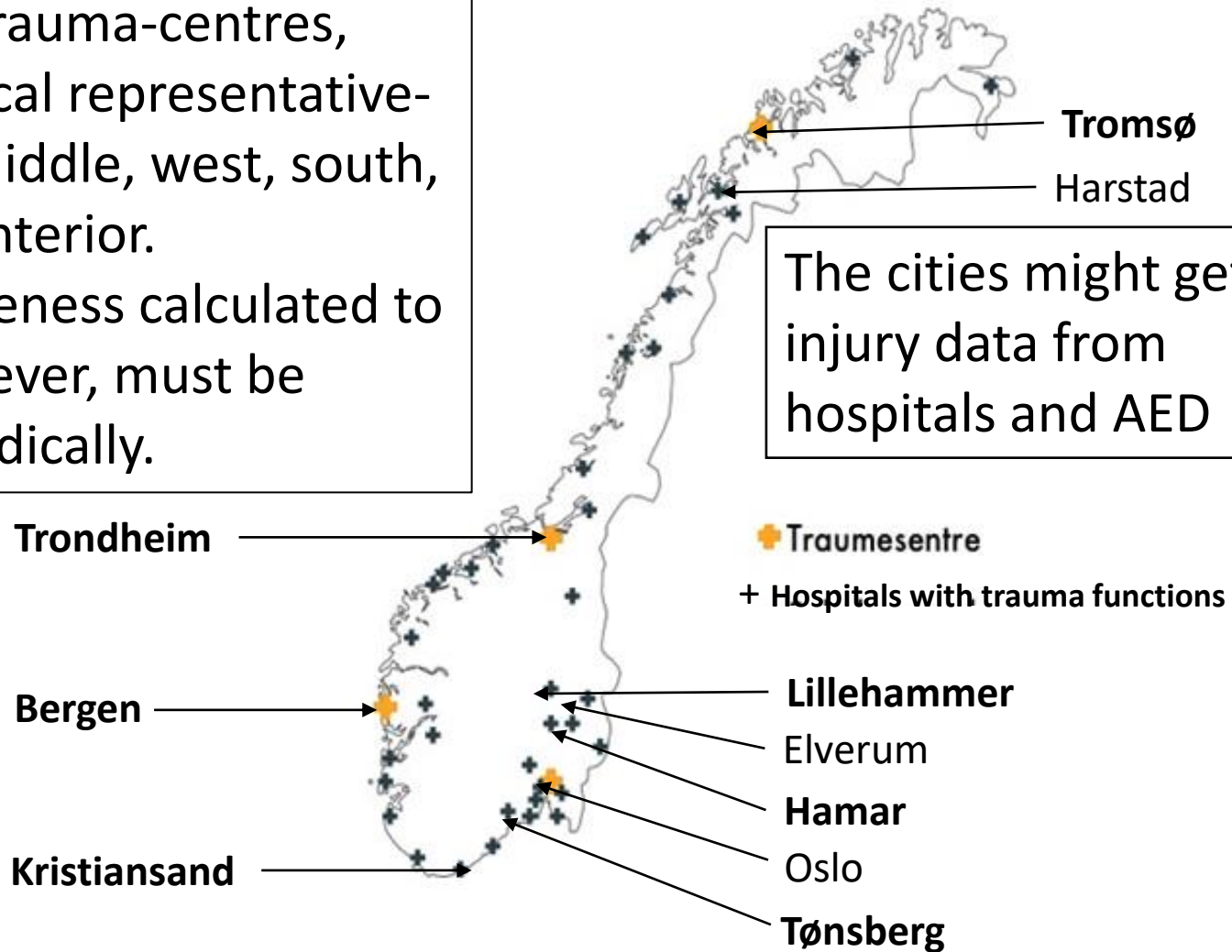
Accident Analysis and Prevention, 36:1003-1007



A representative injury monitoring system in Norway

Complete registration of a MDS from 10 hospitals and 7 municipality AIDs (cities in bold)

Four biggest trauma-centres,
good geographical representative-
ness: north, middle, west, south,
east and the interior.
Representativeness calculated to
be good, however, must be
checked periodically.



The cities might get
injury data from
hospitals and AED

Every hospital og AED
get a 20 % injury
registration coordinator
who organise, supervise
and control the quality
of the registration.

System manager:
Norwegian patient regis-
ter: One full time person

Center for analysing –
Public health institute:
One full time person

Development of the system by June 2022

- A detailed commission is made by the ministries of transport and health.
- All hospitals and AEDs are willing to participate, contact-persons are established.
- Half of the injury registration coordinators are employed, the rest will come during summer/autumn.
- System manager and analysing person are employed.
- A working group established: system manager, analysing person, representatives from Trauma register, traffic authorities, injury registration coordinators, and from municipality public health authorities.
- A steering group under development, representatives from the two ministries, directorates of traffic safety and health, Institute of Public Health, hospitals and municipality AEDs.
- A reference group will be established, consisting of possible users of injury data: other ministries, NGOs, local public health authorities, research institutions etc.
- First meeting (two days) with the employed injury registration coordinators is carried out, together with the trauma registrars the hospitals. Two such meetings will be held annually, in order to create a good team of the injury registration coordinators- a crucial group.

Conclusion

- A promising national injury monitoring system is now under development in Norway, for the next 3-5 years.
- If successful, this system might be permanent.
- Traffic safety authorities is now the driving force in Norway for getting a valid and comprehensive national injury monitoring system in the health system.
- It could be that we now will succeed after more than 40 years of experiences, proposals, various national health based action plans, documents etc. , and with the help from the traffic safety authorities.