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Epidemiology of Intentional Self-Poisoning in rural Sri Lanka; JArticle;  
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Abstract : We investigated the epidemiology of intentional self-poisoning in rural Sri Lanka by prospectively recording 2189 admissions to two secondary hospitals. Many patients were young (median age 25yrs), male (57%), and used pesticides (49%). 198 died, 156 men (case fatality 12.4%) and 42 women (4.5%). 52% of female deaths were in those <25yrs; male deaths were spread more evenly across age groups. Oleander and paraquat caused 74% of deaths in people <25yrs; thereafter organophosphorus pesticides caused many deaths. Although the age-pattern of self-poisoning was similar to industrialised countries, case-fatality was >15 times higher and the pattern of fatal self poisoning quite different.