

of 2 scales were compared in 4 groups of occupational and 3 groups of leisure time PhA. The differences in means were tested by significance level ($p < .05$). The statistical software SPSS 13.0 for Windows was used in the statistical analysis.

Results The prevalence of PD among seafarers was 9.3%, weak SOC 24.2%. Spearman's correlation between SOC and PD was 0.211 ($p < 0.01$). SOC was correlated with occupational (Spearman's correlation 0.108 ($p < 0.05$)) and leisure time (Spearman's correlation 0.114 ($p < 0.05$)) PhA. SOC was weaker in the heavy occupational PhA group and showed no difference between leisure time PhA groups. The mean values of the GHQ-12 scale showed no differences in the occupational and leisure time PhA groups.

Conclusions Psychological distress was not more prevalent among seafarers as compared to the investigations among other occupations in Italy, UK, the Netherlands and Sweden. Sense of coherence among seafarers was weaker in the heavy occupational physical activity group, confirming the findings in the other investigations (weaker SOC in lower socioeconomic status groups).

0338 ABSENTEEISM FOR MEDICAL REASON IN HOSPITAL SURROUNDINGS

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Objectives Our work aims to:

- assess occupational disability for medical reasons in hospitals across the entire work stoppages substantiated by a medical certificate,

- to identify the reasons
- and describe the causes and medical certificates responsible for this phenomenon.

Method It is a descriptive epidemiological study on the whole of the medical absences reported by employees between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 in two hospitals: CHU and EHS Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Sidi-Bel-Abbes.

Support for the survey is a questionnaire completed by the doctor, it collects informations about: individual characteristics, socio-professional characteristics, and information on the declared absence (place of occurrence, the date of delivery to the employer, the type of certificate...)

- Medical causes listed according to the International Classification of Diseases (CIM 10).

Results The study population represents a workforce of 2884 employees and includes the entire staff of the CHU and EHS Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Sidi-Bel-Abbes.

We recorded 331 medical certificates off work reported by our study population. However we objectified about 3/4 of the certificates are initial certificates and 72% that are issued by the public sector.

The rate of medical absenteeism in the hospital surroundings is estimated at 7,68% with a predominance of medical absences related to illness (98%) against only 2% for those related to accidents with a male predominance (5%) containing 1% for females.

Conclusions Our results can be used in a preventive perspective to improve the professional environment and therefore reduce the incidence of medical absenteeism.

0339 EVALUATING TEMPORAL TRENDS IN OCCUPATIONAL LEAD EXPOSURE USING META-REGRESSION OF DATA IN THE PUBLISHED LITERATURE

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Objectives The published literature provides useful data for examining exposure differences across industries, jobs and time periods, but the analysis is challenging because the data is usually in summary form. We used mixed-effects meta-analysis regression models, which are commonly used to summarise health risks from multiple studies, to predict temporal trends of lead blood and air concentrations in multiple US industries from the published data.

Method We extracted the geometric mean (GM) and geometric standard deviation (GSD) of blood and personal air measurements from US worksites from the literature. When not reported, we derived the GM and GSD from other summary measures. Industries with measurements in ≥ 2 years and spanning ≥ 10 years were included. Models were developed separately by industry and sample type. Each model used the log-transformed GM as the dependent variable and calendar year as the independent variable. It also incorporated a random intercept that weighted each study by the inverse of the sum of the between- and within-study variances. Within-study variances consisted of the squared log-transformed GSD divided by the number of measurements. Maximum likelihood estimation was used to obtain the regression parameters and between-study variances.

Results The blood measurement models predicted statistically significant declining trends (2–11% per year) in 5 of the 13 industries. The air measurement models predicted statistically significant declining trends (1–3%) in 2 of the 10 industries; increasing trends (7–10%) were observed for 2 industries.

Conclusions Meta-analysis provides a useful tool for synthesising occupational exposure data that can aid future retrospective exposure assessment.

0342 LUNG CANCER RISK ATTRIBUTABLE TO OCCUPATION: IN A CASE CONTROL STUDY IN BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS, 2001–2008

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Objectives Lung cancer is the 4th most common malignancy in South Africa. Although smoking is a well established risk factor, the role of occupational exposures in the local setting is not clear. We estimated the lung cancer risk attributable to occupations.

Method Data from on-going Johannesburg Cancer Case-Control Study of black African adult cancer patients (2001–2008) was used. Information from 579 lung cancer cases and 1120 frequency matched controls was analysed. Controls were randomly selected from cancers not known to be associated with the effects of tobacco, matched by sex and age (± 5 years). Usual

occupation stated at interview were used as an indicator of occupational exposure. Odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) were estimated using unconditional logistic regression and attributable fraction (AF) by Miettinen's formula, adjusted for smoking pack years, HIV status and domestic fuel type use.

Results The mean age of cases and controls was 56.0 and 57.1. Among men, adjusted OR for lung cancer was 3.0 (95% CI 1.4–6.4) in miners and 1.7 (95% CI 1.3–3.2) in transport occupations. In women, the adjusted OR in domestic workers was 7.3 (95% CI 1.7–11.3) whereas working in the food and beverage industry was 4.9 (95% CI 1.4–26.8). Occupation resulted in an AF of 14% in men and 26% in women.

Conclusions Occupational risk factors for lung cancer in South Africa are gender-specific, having more impact in women than in men. Further studies are needed to assess possible specific exposures in the mining and transport industries for men, and food industry and private homes for women.

0343 MESOTHELIOMA RATES IN SOUTH AFRICA: TRENDS 1995–2008

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Objectives Mesothelioma is a rare neoplasm which is caused by asbestos exposure. South Africa has mined and refined all three types of asbestos since 19th century with the peak of production in 1940–1980s. At present asbestos use and production is banned in South Africa. Trend 1995–2008 in mesothelioma rate was assessed to determine burden of asbestos related deaths due to mesothelioma by year and gender.

Method Death certificates with underlying cause of death stated as C45 were selected for the study in 1995–2008. For each year of study, age and gender distribution was obtained from the national statistical releases. Mesothelioma rates, 95% confidence interval were calculated for each year and sex, and for age groups and sex. Poisson regression was used to test for trend.

Results In total 2497 cases were identified of deaths due to mesothelioma, 1919 in men and 578 in women in the study period. There was 3:1 male to female ratio. The trend was stable and constant over time for both men and women cases. Mortality rate in men was 8–16 per million and in women 2–5 per million.

Conclusions If mortality rate remains at current estimates we can expect 2134 cases until 2020. However, it is authors opinion that mortality rate is underestimated due to the competing causes of death, and shortened longevity. Just looking at other countries and their diagnosed cases, such as Great Britain, major consumer of asbestos from South Africa, it becomes apparent how little mesothelioma cases are diagnosed in our country.

0370 OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS AND DISEASES AMONG COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENTS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARAGUATATUBA/SP

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Objectives Identify and analyse of the occupational accidents and diseases occurred with the community health agents in the municipality of Caraguatatuba/SP.

Method This descriptive, exploratory, cross-sectional field study with a quantitative approach had the purposes of identifying and analysing of the occupational accidents and diseases occurred with the community health agents in the municipality of Caraguatatuba/SP. The data were collected from 137 workers by means of a questionnaire and an interview.

Results The data related to occupational accidents reveal that less than half (59; 43.07%) of the workers had occupational accidents, most of them (44; 74.59%) having reported one; the total of accidents reported was 80, and the most frequent were biker trauma in traffic accidents (43; 53.75%), followed by dog bites (13; 16.25%) and falls (12; 15.00%); the most frequent type of occupational accident was the typical (64; 80.00%), followed by road accidents (13; 16.25%) and occupational disease (3; 3.75%). Besides, 22.63% reported diseases as osteomuscular system and of the connective tissue (13; 30.96%), diseases of the circulatory system (7; 16.68%), the respiratory system, mental and behavioural disorders, skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases (4; 9.52%, respectively).

Conclusions The data point to the importance for an investment in the health community health agents in the municipality of Caraguatatuba/SP with training program.

0372 PATIENTS' VIEWS AND EXPECTATIONS ON SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN THE OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE CLINIC IN THE MACCABI HEALTH SERVICE ORGANISATION

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Objectives To explore patients' expectations regarding the social work service and to determine their satisfaction level with the care provided to them so far by the social worker in the framework of the occupational clinic.

Method This is a cross-sectional study which consists of Maccabi members of working age that visited occupational medicine departments between September 2011 and July 2012 for the purpose of fitness-for-work evaluation who were referred to and met with a social worker. These members filled out an expectation and satisfaction questionnaire after meeting with the social worker.

Results A total of 203 questionnaire were filled out. Most of the patients were interested in receiving information about their benefits (85%). A smaller number of patients (39.2%) were interested in receiving help dealing with a family members' distress due to the loss of work ability of the patient. A very high percentage of the patients (97%) were satisfied with the social worker session. A correlation was found between the patients' expectations and their satisfaction with the amount of information they received ($p > 0.01$).

Conclusions This is a first study of this kind addressing social work services in a public occupational medicine services. The study shows the positive advantage of this service and a high patient satisfaction level with the social work service. The satisfaction level was high even though the patients' health status