Objectives To examine the relationship between occupation and blood lead levels in pregnant women of Durango, Mexico. Information on occupation, risk factors and sociodemographic data was collected by means of a structured questionnaire. Blood lead concentration was tested by graphite furnace spectrometry. Women were divided into three groups according to occupation: working in places with potential source of lead exposure (exposed group), working in places without lead exposure (control group I), and non-working women (control group II). The X² test was used to assess statistical differences between the groups, and one way ANOVA was applied for comparisons. Logistic regression was performed using blood lead ≥ 5 µg/dL as dependent variable, and adjusted for jurisdiction, income, gestational age, and abortions.

Results Only 24(8%) women worked in places with potential source of lead exposure, 47(15.7%) worked in other places, and 228(76.3%) did not have a remunerated job. Mean blood lead concentration in the study sample was 2.79 µg/dL. However, blood lead ≥ 5 µg/dL accounted for 25% of exposed women, 2.1% of control group I, and 6% of control group II (X² = 13.04; p < 0.001). Mean blood lead level was 4.24 µg/dL in the exposed group, 2.31 µg/dL in the control group I, and 2.74 µg/dL in the control group II; those differences were statistically significant (0.001). Logistic regression confirmed that blood lead ≥ 5 µg/dL is associated with occupational exposure (p = 0.036).

Conclusions Our findings suggest that surveillance for occupational exposure to prevent health damages during pregnancy is needed.

Objectives To identify association between weekend work and psychosocial well-being in a representative sample of Korean workers.

Method We analysed the associations between weekend work and psychosocial well-being in 29,711 workers using data from the 2011 Korean Working Conditions Survey. Weekend work was defined by working one or more day on Saturday or on Sunday over the last month. Psychosocial well-being was measured by WHO well-being index. Multiple logistic regression analysis was performed adjusting age, income, regular/non-regular work, working time with stratifying sex and shift-work.

Results The prevalence of weekend work was higher in male (62.4%) than in female (54.8%). The longer working time per week, the more employees worked weekend [<40 (42.6%), 40–48 (45.3%), 49–60 (80.6%), ≥61 (94.9%)]. Shift workers (87.3%) worked more than non-shift workers (56.2%) on weekend. In non-shift workers, weekend work group (≤4 days) [OR=1.34 (95% CI 1.22–1.48), OR=1.17 (95% CI 1.05–1.31)] and weekend work group (>4 days) [OR=1.19 (95% CI 1.03–1.38), OR=1.30 (95% CI 1.10–1.52)] were significant risk factors associated with lesser psychosocial well-being in male and female respectively.

Conclusions Weekend work is associated with a significant increase in lesser psychosocial well-being among Korean non-shift workers.