Abstracts

for the referent group (p=0.015 and 0.003). For CPTN and LA scores, the adjusted odds ratio for acid mist exposed group were 2.80 (95% CI: 1.00 to 7.88; p=0.05) and 2.85 (95% CI: 1.54 to 5.28; p=0.001). However, DMFT scores and dental erosion were not associated with the exposure to acid mist, even after control for age, duration of work, smoking habits, drinking habits and betel nut chewing habits.

Discussion The findings suggest that the workers exposed to acid mist from electroplating would increase the risk of periodontal disease. Further work environmental design or equipment reform are still needed to protect from acid mist exposure.

532 SHEDDING A LIGHT ON GREY LITERATURE SEARCHES FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH TOPICS: A BELGIAN CASE STUDY ON CHEMICALS EXPOSURE

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Introduction For occupational health topics with hardly any published white literature available, grey literature can be a generous information source. This abstract describes the search strategy of grey literature databases with exposure data and chemicals selection and iterative approach. Nevertheless we succeeded in tapping valuable information from this source. Further initiative is needed to improve grey information availability and retrieval.

568 AN ASSESSMENT OF PERCEPTIONS AND KNOWLEDGE OF CHEMICAL HAZARDS IN THE MOTOR SPRAY PAINTING INDUSTRY IN BULAWAYO

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Introduction The motor vehicle repair industry with particular focus on spray painting in Bulawayo has grown especially after dollarization in 2009, owing to the increasing number of vehicles in the city. The industry is made up of both the formal and informal repairers with the informal sector registering the largest growth compared to their formal counterparts due to the low prices they charge. This industry has not been spared either from the occupational safety and health scourge that continues to haunt the Zimbabwean economy.

Methods A descriptive and cross sectional study of companies in both the formal and informal sector was carried out. Twenty five factories were visited and twenty five spray painters were interviewed. The research combined the use of observations guided by a checklist and a questionnaire administered to employees in this sector to collect data.

Result 96% of the employees interviewed are in the 21–40 age groups, were predominantly male, with very few females found in the workshops. There is generally a high exposure to chemicals which the employees are fully aware of but PPE/C use was low during the spraying process. The spraying process in the informal sector is done in the open while in the formal sector, booths maybe available ventilation and chemical exposure design are a cause of concern. The majority of workers have general awareness on the manifestation of health effects stemming from their work but do not have an understanding of how these could affect their health.

Conclusion Lack of chemical safety education in these organisations is a major factor contributing to the continued exposure to chemicals in the workplace. Mandatory training for initial certification to operate and work a spray painting workshop and refresher training after a certain period of time for example every two years by the government is therefore recommended.

679 SEIRICH: A TOOL FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICALS IN OCCUPATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

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Uses of Chemicals placed on the European market within the framework of the REACH regulation require in the end a field assessment according to the provisions of the French Labour Code. Numerous methods exist for assessing chemical risks in the work environment in France, taking into account risks to health, fire, explosion and environment.