Bullying/Stress/Violence

O-177 PREVALENCE AND OUTCOMES OF EXPOSURE TO CLIENT-PERPETRATED VIOLENCE IN THE CHILD WELFARE SERVICE: COMPARISON OF TWO DIFFERENT MEASUREMENT METHODS

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10.1136/OEM-2023-EPICOH.35

Introduction Client-perpetrated violence is a detrimental workplace hazard among child-welfare workers. As an important first step in providing them a healthy and safe work environment, it is essential to ensure that implemented procedures are based on a proper assessment of what this exposure entails, and how prominent the exposure is.

Material and Methods Utilizing a probability sample of 660 Norwegian public sector child welfare workers, this study investigates how two different measurement methods of client-perpetrated violence influence findings on both prevalence rates and mental health related outcomes (e.g., anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress (PTS)).

Results Using a single-item self-labeling approach, 15.4% reported exposure to physical violence, while 19.3% reported exposure to threats. In contrast, utilizing a 15-item behavioral inventory revealed prevalence rates ranging from 4.4% to 65.7%. Comparing these methods uncovered a high number of false negatives whereby 62.2% of those who indicated that they had not experienced any workplace violence when answering the single-item questions reported being exposed 1 to 2 times when responding to the behavioral inventory. Furthermore, the behavioral inventory revealed that the most frequently occurring actions were direct and indirect forms of threats (24.5%–65.7%), while the least reported behaviors were threats and violence including objects (4.4%–9.1%). Although client-perpetrated violence was significantly associated with mental health problems for both assessment methods, the magnitude of the effect sizes differed substantially from $\eta^2 = .000$ to $\eta^2 = .121$.

Conclusion These findings emphasize how the decision of which measurement methods to use in studies of workplace violence will have significant consequences both on the overall assessment of prevalence rates, as well as on results of associated outcomes. Consequently, the choice of measurement method has practical implications for uncovering how prominent the phenomenon is, as well as the way in which this negative workplace exposure is subsequently addressed.

Carcinogens/Cancer

O-180 CAREX CANADA: PREVALENCE AND LEVEL OF OCCUPATIONAL ASBESTOS EXPOSURE IN CANADA IN 2016

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10.1136/OEM-2023-EPICOH.36

Introduction Despite a federal asbestos ban, occupational asbestos exposure persists in Canada due to asbestos in older buildings and other legacy products or lingering imported materials. We updated CAREX Canada’s prevalence of exposure estimate from 2006 to 2016, and assessed the level of occupational exposure by industry, occupation, province/territory, and sex.

Material and Methods Labour force data from the 2016 Census of Population and proportions of workers exposed by occupation and industry, which were previously developed for 2006 and updated here to reflect new knowledge and changes in exposures, were combined to estimate exposure by occupation (4-digit 2016 NOC), industry (4-digit 2012 NAICS), province/territory, and sex. Changes between the 2006 and 2016 job and industry coding systems were accounted for using Statistics Canada concordance tables. Levels of exposure (low, moderate, high), were qualitatively assigned for each occupation and industry intersection using expert assessment, considering workers’ proximity and access to asbestos-containing material, and the condition and content of asbestos.

Results Approximately 235,000 workers (1.5%) are occupationally exposed to asbestos in Canada in 2016. Most are male (89%) and in the low (49%) or moderate (46%) exposure categories. The construction sector and associated jobs (e.g. carpenters, trades helpers and laborers) account for the majority; an estimated 137,000 workers are exposed in the industry, followed by public administration (29,000) and health care and social assistance (19,000). Other occupations with exposed workers include janitors, caretakers, and building super intendants (19,000) and light duty cleaners (12,000). The estimated prevalence of workers exposed increased from 2006 to 2016 due to increases in the labour force and the addition of some previously unrecognized groups.

Conclusions Workers continue to be exposed to asbestos in Canada. Our results illustrate the shift from high exposures to lower-level exposures, which are associated with remaining asbestos-containing materials in the built environment.