

## COLON AND STOMACH CANCER MORTALITY AMONG AUTOMOTIVE WOOD MODEL MAKERS

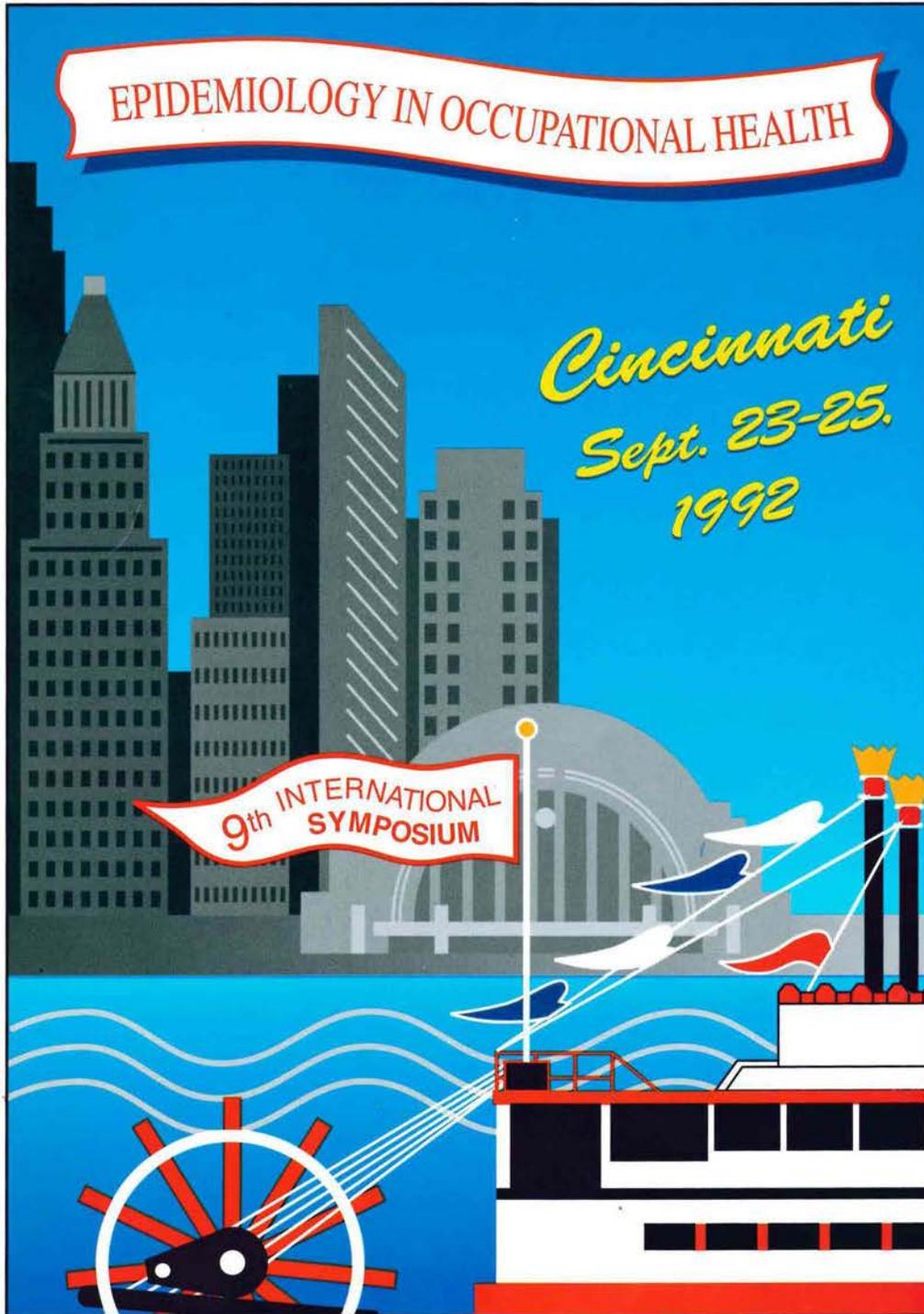
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Automotive wood model makers have been reported to be at excess risk for colon and other cancers in recent epidemiologic studies. To further explore these risks, we conducted a retrospective cohort mortality study, with follow-up from 1940 through 1984, of 2294 white male wood model makers employed at any time until 1980 by three U.S. auto makers. Using U.S. mortality rates for comparison, we found elevated standardized mortality ratios (SMR) of 1.2 (95% C.I., 0.8-1.9) for colon cancer and 1.6 (95% C.I., 0.9-2.6) for stomach cancer. Neither SMR was statistically significant nor was any other cause of death significantly elevated. However, the SMR for stomach cancer approached significance and remained elevated even when we controlled for ethnicity. To examine possible relationships between colon and stomach cancer mortality and plant exposures from wood model making, we conducted nested case-control studies for 20 colon and 17 stomach cancer cases and 543 age-matched controls. To determine the plant exposures from wood model making, we coded detailed work histories for all jobs held by the cases and controls from company records. This allowed us to remove time spent laid off, on leave or working in jobs with exposures other than wood model making. We used duration employed in jobs with exposure to wood model making (years) as one of our exposure variables. To determine the specific exposures from wood dust, we multiplied the geometric means for wood dust exposure, which had been assigned to each job, by the duration employed in that job. The geometric means for wood dust exposure were assigned to each job based on industrial hygiene surveys of the three study plants. We used weighted wood dust exposure ( $\text{mg}/\text{m}^3\text{-years}$ ) as our other exposure variable. We used logistic regression to model mortality on the plant exposures while adjusting for prior employment in wood model making and other possible confounders. We found no trend of increased risk for colon or stomach cancer mortality with increased exposure to wood dust or to duration employed in wood model making.

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***BOOK OF ABSTRACTS***