

In exposure reconstruction for occupational epidemiologic studies, methods based on professional judgment are often used to augment available quantitative exposure data or to provide quantitative adjustments that are applied to existing data. In judgmental methods, workers, managers, and/or industrial hygienists use their knowledge of processes to assign levels or measures of exposures to subgroups of a cohort, or to variations in processes or to changes in the environment. Any simple mixing of quantitative and essentially qualitative estimates will produce a set of numbers with the appropriate units of exposure. However, it is not always clear how these exposure estimates or ordinal ranking of exposures should be interpreted. In addition, there are inherent limitations to the applicability of the methods used to combine judgmental and quantitative estimates.

The mathematical processes used in exposure reconstruction are dependent on the characteristics of the measurement scale used to classify exposures. In exposure reconstruction, by considering only the empirically meaningful relationships, we show that the four measurement scales, absolute, additive, ratio and power, are sufficient to fully describe all judgmental and quantitative combination processes. For example, an absolute scale may be illustrated by the assignment of exposure to ordinal classes. Similarly, the gauging of control measure effectiveness an example of a ratio scale.

By the discussion of measurement scales and extensive examples of their use in exposure reconstruction, the theoretical issues involved and the limitations imposed on the use of each scale are illustrated. We show that forbidden scale mixtures in combining judgmental and quantitative data exist such that their use will make interpretation difficult. In addition, the results of the theoretical analyses presented suggest that there are some tractable resolutions for some of the problems discovered.

182

VOLUNTARY SURVEILLANCE SCHEMES AS A SOURCE OF DATA FOR RISK EVALUATION. N. Cherry, J. McDonald, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom. In the United Kingdom, voluntary confidential reporting by more than 2000 specialist physicians of new cases of occupational disease provides a unique source of information about the distribution of occupational disease and its causes. Since 1989, when specialist chest physicians began reporting cases of occupational lung disease, the reporting schemes have been extended to include occupational physicians, dermatologists, rheumatologists, auditory physicians, communicable disease specialists and, most recently, psychiatrists. Physicians are asked to report every new case arising from work with, for example, 1500 new cases of contact dermatitis and urticaria reported each year by dermatologists, and a further 1600 by occupational physicians.

The information from these schemes is important for regulators, industry groups, and occupational health professionals. In the United Kingdom, if a "no effect" level cannot be established, or if there are economic reasons why such a level cannot be observed, a "maximum exposure limit" may, after full debate, be introduced. A cost benefit analysis is required as part of these deliberations and, in the absence

of formal epidemiological investigations, voluntary reporting schemes may be the only source of information on human costs at existing exposures. Analysis by industry and occupation identifies groups in which intervention is most strongly indicated and where changes in exposure may have the greatest benefit. More sophisticated analyses, for example, of disability or exposure/response, may be possible with the collaboration of the reporting physicians.

The surveillance schemes also contribute importantly to continuing vocational development. Monthly case reports are circulated, quarterly statistical reports compiled, and full reports published annually. Adaptations of the schemes have been put in place in Quebec, Norway, and South Africa. The role of hygienists in such reporting remains to be explored but their contribution would be considerable.

183

URINARY FLUORIDE AS A SURROGATE FOR IRRITANT EXPOSURES IN AN ALUMINUM REDUCTION PLANT. N.S. Seixas, S. Carter, J. Kaufman, University of Washington, Seattle, WA; M. Cohen, M. Cotey, Washington Department of Labor and Industries, Olympia, WA; B. Zevenbergen, Palo Alto, CA.

During the electrolytic reduction of alumina to form aluminum, high concentrations of respiratory irritants including hydrogen fluoride, other fluoride compounds, and sulfur dioxide may be released into the work atmosphere. Workers in this industry are at increased risk of developing occupational asthma (OA), and the irritants are commonly suspected etiologic agents. As part of a prospective cohort study of OA in aluminum potroom workers, we examined urinary fluoride as a marker of irritant exposure. Thirty-two subjects were monitored for air total and fluoride particulate and hydrogen fluoride on days 1 and 3 of their 3-day workweek. On each day subjects also provided pre- and postshift urine samples that were analyzed for fluoride and creatinine. In addition, postshift urine samples were obtained on a majority of the cohort during the winter and again during the summer. Airborne exposures were generally high (total particulate: 15.7 ± 8.9 mg/m³; total fluoride: 4.1 ± 2.2 ; hydrogen fluoride: 0.74 ± 0.33 mg/m³). Preshift urinary fluoride was significantly increased between days 1 and 3, whereas no significant change was observed in postshift urinary concentrations, indicating an average increase in preshift concentrations over the workweek. Among those individuals with lower average air fluoride exposures who did not wear respiratory protection, a larger pre- to postshift increase in urinary concentrations was observed, and a strong linear relationship ($R^2=0.74$) between air concentrations and urinary concentrations was seen. Postshift urinary fluoride concentration was thus adopted as the primary indicator of exposure for the asthma study. In the larger cohort (winter $n=91$, summer $n=72$), average postshift urinary concentrations were 2.4 ± 1.8 mg fluoride per gram creatinine. Models were developed to express the difference in exposure between season, jobs, shift, and crew assignment. These results are used to design a strategy for ongoing prospective exposure assessment for the OA study.

184

SILICA EXPOSURE AND SILICOSIS AMONG TIN MINERS IN CHINA: EXPOSURE-RESPONSE ANALYSES AND RISK ASSESSMENT. Z. Zhuang, M. Atfield, B. Chen, P. Gao, W. Wallace, NIOSH, Morgantown, WV; W. Chen, J. Chen, Tongji Medical University, Wuhan, People's Republic of China.

A cohort study of 3010 miners employed at least 1 year during 1960 to 1965 in four Chinese tin mines was conducted to investigate the risk of silicosis and cumulative exposure to silica-containing dust. Historical Chinese total dust data, which were collected differently from American total dust sampling method, were used to create a facility/job title/calendar year exposure matrix. Each worker's work history was abstracted from the complete employment records in mine files. Silicosis diagnoses were based on 1963 Chinese pneumoconiosis Roentgen diagnostic criteria, which classified silicosis as suspected or stages I-III. Suspected cases were not counted as silicosis cases in this study. There were 1015 (33.7%) miners who developed silicosis at an average age of 48.3 years, with an average duration of 21.3 years after first exposure. The risk of silicosis was found to be strongly related to cumulative total dust (CTD) exposure, and it can be well fitted by the Weibull distribution, with the risk of silicosis less than 1% when CTD exposure was under 10 mg/m³-years, and the risk increasing to 68.7% when CTD exposure was 150 mg/m³-years. This study predicts approximately a 30% cumulative risk of silicosis of a 40-year lifetime exposure to these tin mine dusts at the Chinese total dust exposure standard of 2 mg/m³. Total dust exposure data also were converted to respirable free silica exposure estimates (which introduces additional uncertainty into the exposure estimates) for comparison with findings from other epidemiologic studies of silicosis. This showed that the results were similar to most, but not all, findings from other large-scale exposure-response studies.

185

A SYNTHESIS OF EPIDEMIOLOGIC RESEARCH ON CANCER RISKS FROM POWER-FREQUENCY MAGNETIC FIELDS AT WORK. J.D. Bowman, R.J. Smith, L. Stayner, NIOSH, Cincinnati, OH.

Nearly 100 epidemiologic studies have examined cancer risks from occupational exposures to power-frequency electric and magnetic fields (EMF). Some have reported significant associations with brain cancer and leukemia, but these findings have been inconsistent. One explanation for these results is that EMF interact with biological structures through unproven physical mechanisms to increase the risks of some adult cancers during later stages of carcinogenesis. An alternative hypothesis is that most workplace EMF are too weak to affect biological tissues so the epidemiologic associations are artifacts. To assess the strength of the epidemiologic evidence on occupational EMF and cancer, we conducted a meta-analysis of the studies with personal measurements for the TWA magnitude of power-frequency magnetic fields. These eight studies all used sound epidemiologic methods, but differed in the size of the study population, work environments (electric utilities vs. other industries), outcomes (cancer incidence vs. mortality), and specificity of links

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