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Abstract #: 352

**Presented by: Mohammed Al Hajji, MSPH,
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Workplace Injury among Waste Management Workers: Emphasis on Heat Stress

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Keywords: Occupational Injury, Heat Stress

Objective: Waste management includes the pick up and dumping of household garbage and trash. The employees are occupationally exposed to chemical and physical agents that might cause an injury requiring first aid to time away from work. A special consideration is the effects of heat stress on injury risk.

Methods: The injury and illness data for 6 years was examined for type of injury, severity, location (on-route or yard), and the average heat stress level. The number of labor-hours was used to calculate incident rates.

Results: Most of the injuries occurred on the routes and were dominated by musculoskeletal disorders followed by acute injuries. Most injuries were treated as first aid with less than a day of work lost. If a musculoskeletal disorder or acute injury result in more than a day away, it was more likely to be more than a week away. The rate of musculoskeletal disorders and acute injuries increased with heat stress level with a reference level at 24 °C-WBGT.

Conclusion: There was little surprise that most of the injuries were related to musculoskeletal disorders due to the manual nature of the work. The increase in musculoskeletal disorders and acute injuries due to heat stress was suspected and confirmed. The rate ratio was 1.67 just above the occupational exposure limit.

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**Presented by: Stephanie Andel, BS, Graduate
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Extraversion as a Predictor of Workplace Accidents

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Keywords: Occupational Safety Accidents Personality Extraversion

Objective: The prevalence of occupational accidents and injuries is high, and therefore much work has gone into examining potential antecedents to such incidences. However, while some research has examined personality as a potential antecedent, work has mostly centered upon personality at the factor level. This study takes a finer grained approach by examining extraversion at the FACET level in order to investigate extraversion facets as predictors of occupational safety.

Methods: I surveyed 114 employees taking classes at a large southeastern university. All employees worked at least 20 hours per week. Most of the sample was female (N = 101) and the average age of participants was 22.8. Each employee completed a battery of self-report scales that measured extraversion (at both the factor and facet level) and workplace accidents.

Results: Factor level extraversion was not significantly related to occupational accidents. However, the extraversion facets of warmth ($r = -.20, p < .05$) and positive emotions ($r = -.23, p < .05$) were each significantly and negatively related to occupational accidents. The remaining extraversion facets (i.e., gregariousness, assertiveness, activity, excitement seeking) were not significantly related to occupational accidents.

Conclusion: Overall, these results suggest that taking a facet-level approach when studying the relationships between personality and occupational safety may be beneficial. Specifically, results demonstrated that extraversion at the factor level was not a significant predictor of workplace accidents. However, when analyzed at the facet level, results demonstrated that a couple of the extraversion facets (i.e., positive emotions and warmth) were in fact significantly related to workplace accidents.

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