

CORRIGENDUM

Janitor workload and occupational injuries

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The authors correct the following errors in the publication cited below¹:

Table 1 should read:

Table 2 should read:

Section 3.2, Workload Characteristics, should now read:

Most janitors reported five or more days of moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) per week (69%) (Table 1). An increase in workload, over the study period (both surveys), was reported by 32% of janitors; several reasons were identified for

this increase (Table 2). The most common reasons included more job duties (52%), fewer staff (37%), and change in intensity of work (29%).

Section 3.3, Sleep Characteristics, should now read:

Many janitors reported a difference in sleep between survey 1 and survey 2; however, across both surveys, approximately half (53%) of janitors reported sleeping between 6 and 7.99 hours per night, followed by 25% of janitors sleeping less than 6 hours (Table 1). Sleep disturbances ranged from none to severe, with most (79%) reporting none to slight sleep disturbances at night over the study period.

TABLE 1 Workload and sleep characteristics among participants: Janitor Workload and Occupational Injury Study

Workload and sleep	Survey 1		Survey 2		Overall	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Change in workload (self-report)						
No change	156	59.3	118	71.5	274	64.0
Increased	99	37.6	36	21.8	135	31.5
Decreased	8	3.0	11	6.7	19	4.4
Moderate/vigorous physical activity						
None	35	16.4	9	8.4	44	13.7
1-2	23	10.8	8	7.5	31	9.7
3-4	14	6.6	7	6.5	21	6.6
5-7	141	66.2	83	77.6	224	70.0
Sleep hours						
<6 h	59	21.0	52	30.4	111	24.6
6-8 h	153	54.4	87	50.9	240	53.1
≥8 h	69	24.6	32	18.7	101	22.3
Sleep disturbance						
None to slight	224	77.0	137	81.5	361	78.6
Mild	50	17.2	22	13.1	72	15.7
Moderate	17	5.8	9	5.4	26	5.7

TABLE 2 Reasons for increase in workload: Janitor Workload and Occupational Injury Study

Reason	Increased	
	n	%
Fewer staff	50	37.0
More job duties	70	51.8
Training other employees	8	5.9
Less funding	7	5.2
Lack of supplies or equipment	13	9.6
New equipment	8	5.9
Intensity of work	39	28.9
Complaints from customers, coworkers, and management	19	14.1
Other	14	10.4

Section 4.1, Workload characteristics and exposures, paragraph 1, should now read:

The current study measured changes in workload over a 1-year period; 32% of janitors over both surveys reported an increase in workload, attributable mostly to more job duties, a change in intensity of work, and fewer staff. Due to different study methods and populations, it is difficult to compare these results to other studies. However, a previous study of janitors in Washington State assessed a change in work intensity, and found that among union janitors, reported work intensity increased by 8.6% over the 3-year period between 2010 and 2013². The current study did not measure the percent increase in workload, but did conclude that, among those who reported an increase in workload, 29% was attributable to intensity of work. Additionally, those who reported an increase, compared to no change, in workload had a nearly two-fold increase in risk of injury; those who reported a decrease in workload also had a higher risk of injury. This increased risk of injury for those with an increase in workload may be attributable to having more job duties or a change in work intensity and, thus, more opportunity for injury occurrence. The increased risk of injury for those with a decrease in workload may be attributable to changes in physical characteristics, health conditions, or the workplace that may have resulted in both a decrease in workload and an increased risk of injury. For example, a janitor with recent back surgery may be assigned to reduced job duties but may be at higher risk for injuries caused by slips, falls, or lifting. Additionally, a change in workplace, such as the addition of machinery, may minimize the cleaning workload of the janitors, but introduce new hazards associated with the machinery that may lead to injury.

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