

Distribution of Asthma by Occupation in Washington State, 2006-2009. Supplemental Material.

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BRFSS Questions: For respondents who are self-employed or currently employed, Washington State BRFSS collects the respondent's occupation by including the following question:

- "What is your job title?" If no job title was given, the respondent was then asked "What kind of work do you do?"
- Responses were autocoded using the Standardized Occupation and Industry Coding (SOIC) software developed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).^{1,2} The SOIC program codes match a 1990 Census Bureau occupation code to the narrative text.³
- The majority of the occupational responses were successfully coded using the SOIC software. The remaining responses were manually coded by NIOSH-trained coders, who categorized the responses into one 3-digit occupational classification based on the National Center for Health Statistics Instruction Manuals⁴ and SOIC.³ Those coded as "blank/unknown", or those who reported military industries and occupations were excluded from analysis.

ACBS Questions: 'Current' and 'lifetime' asthma were defined by using the calculated variables for ACBS which combine BRFSS interview and ACBS responses. Due to small numbers, several questions were combined for our analyses of work related exposures, awareness, and impact:

- *"Asthma symptoms caused or worsened by any current or past job"* – Comprised of respondents who answered positively to one or more of these four ACBS questions:
 - "Was your asthma CAUSED by chemicals, smoke, fumes or dust in your CURRENT job?"
 - "Is your asthma MADE WORSE by chemicals, smoke, fumes, or dust in your CURRENT job?"
 - "Was your asthma CAUSED by chemicals, smoke, fumes, or dust in any PREVIOUS job you ever had?"
 - "Was your asthma MADE WORSE by chemicals, smoke, fumes, or dust in any PREVIOUS you ever had?"
- *"Ever discussed asthma being work-related with a health-care professional"* - Comprised of respondents who answered positively to one or more of these two ACBS questions:
 - "Were you ever told by a doctor or other medical person that your asthma was related to any job you ever had?"
 - "Did you ever tell a doctor or other medical person that your asthma was related to any job you ever had?"
- *"Ever changed or quit job because chemicals, smoke, fumes, or dust caused or worsened asthma"* - was based on a positive response to:
 - "Did you ever change or quit a job because chemicals, smoke, fumes, or dust caused your asthma or made your asthma worse?"
- *"Missed ≥1 day of work and/or couldn't do usual activities due to asthma, in past 12 months"* - was based on a positive response to:
 - "During the past 12 months, how many days were you unable to work or carry out your usual activities because of your asthma?"
 - Response in number of days (0-365)

References:

1. Standardized Occupation and Industry Coding [computer program]. Version 1.5. Morgantown, WV: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). 2001.
2. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Standardized Occupation and Industry Coding Web site. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/soic/>. Accessed May 25, 2012.
3. US Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. 1990 Census Bureau Alphabetical Index of Industries and Occupations. <http://www.bls.gov/nls/quex/r1/y97r1cbka1.pdf>. Washington, DC.
4. Instruction Manuals Parts 19 and 19B. Industry and Occupation Coding for Death Certificates. Public Health Service, National Center for Health Statistics. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Hyattsville, MD, USA. October 1999.

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