Asthma from Isocyanates

Prevention guidance for isocyanate-induced asthma using occupational surveillance data
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Carolyn Reeb-Whitaker, MS, CIH; NJ Anderson, MPH; and DK Bonauto, MD, MPH

**Key Findings**

- 27 isocyanate-induced asthma cases were identified from 1999-2010 with 81% classified as new-onset asthma.
- Isocyanate-induced asthma was responsible for 14% of total claim costs for all claims in the asthma surveillance system, totaling $1.7 million for the study period.
- Most cases (48%) occurred from paint processes, followed by foam application or foam manufacturing (22%).
- Nine of the asthma cases associated with spray application occurred during application to large or awkward-shaped objects.
- Six workers who did not directly handle isocyanates (indirect exposure) developed new-onset asthma.
- Two cases suggest that skin contact and processes secondary to the isocyanate spray application, such as clean-up, contributed to immune sensitization.

**Impact**

Occupational disease surveillance data provides insight for the prevention of isocyanate-induced respiratory disease.

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