

Author's response to reviews

Title: Leukaemia Incidence among Workers in the Shoe and Boot Manufacturing Industry: A Case-Control Study

Authors:

Steven P Forand (spf02@health.state.ny.us)

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Author's response to reviews: see over

Response to additional comments from editors

Leukemia Incidence among Workers in the Shoe and Boot Manufacturing Industry: A Case-Control Study

Steven P. Forand

Minor formatting issues

- Table titles have been shortened to 15 words or less.
- Extraneous word on page 5 removed

More substantive issues

- 1) The editors felt that the fact that there has not yet been a positive study showing an association between leukaemia and the shoe industry should be highlighted in the abstract.

Reply: Added a sentence in the background section of the abstract stating that:
“... researchers have not found a positive association between leukaemia and employment in the shoe industry among workers in the United States.”

- 2) The editors felt that it was important to note in the conclusions that a positive association was observed however the power limitations from the small population size did not allow us to eliminate chance alone as an explanation.

Reply: The third sentence of the conclusion was restated to read:
“In the current, study a positive association between the risk of leukaemia and working at Endicott Johnson was observed, however, the small population size prevented us from determining whether the results could be due to chance alone.”

- 3) The editors felt it was unnecessary to eliminate the crude ORs as suggested by one reviewer.

Reply: Crude ORs were added back in to the Results and to the appropriate tables.