

# **Morbidity ranking of US workers employed in 206 occupations: The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) 1986-1994**

David J. Lee PhD<sup>1</sup>, Lora E. Fleming MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Orlando Gómez-Marín MSc, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>,  
William G. LeBlanc PhD<sup>1</sup>, Kristopher L. Arheart, EdD<sup>1</sup>, Alberto J. Caban MPH<sup>1</sup>, Sharon L. Christ  
MS<sup>4</sup>, Katherine Chung-Bridges MD MPH<sup>1,3</sup>, Terry Pitman BS<sup>1</sup>.

University of Miami School of Medicine, Departments of <sup>1</sup>Epidemiology & Public Health,  
<sup>2</sup>Pediatrics and <sup>3</sup>Family Medicine, Miami, FL 33136

<sup>4</sup>Odum Institute for Research in Social Science, University of North Carolina at  
Chapel Hill Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3355

Correspondence can be sent to:

David J. Lee, Ph.D.

Department of Epidemiology & Public Health

University of Miami School of Medicine

P.O. Box 016069 (R-699)

Miami, FL 33101

Tel: 305-243-6980

Fax: 305-243-5544

E-Mail: dlee@med.miami.edu

## **Objective:**

To rank US occupations by worker morbidity.

## **Methods:**

From 1986-1994, morbidity information was collected on over 410,000 US workers who participated in the National Health Interview Survey, an annual household survey representative of the US civilian non-institutionalized population. A multivariate adjusted logistic regression morbidity summary score was created for each worker group based on seven indicators: days of restricted activity, bed rest, and missed work in the previous two weeks; doctor visits and hospitalizations in the previous 12 months; reported health conditions and health status.

## **Results:**

Worker groups reporting the greatest morbidity included social workers, inspectors, postal clerks, psychologists, and grinding machine operators; worker groups reporting the least morbidity included dentists, pilots, physicians, pharmacists, and dieticians.

**Conclusions:**

These findings aid in the identification of worker groups that require increased attention for morbidity research and prevention.

**Key Words:** Occupational Health, morbidity, health, disability