Asbestos Exposure and Malignant Mesothelioma in ConstructionWorkers—Epidemiological Remarks by the Italian National Mesothelioma Registry (ReNaM)

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Binazzi A, DiMarzio D, Verardo M, Migliore E, Benfatto L, Malacarne D, Mensi C, Consonni D, Eccher S, Mazzoleni G, Comiati V, Negro C, Romanelli A, Chellini E, Angelini A, Grappasonni I, Madeo G, Romeo E, Di Giammarco A, Carrozza F, Angelillo IF, Cavone D, Vimercati L, Labianca M, Tallarigo F, Tumino R, Melis M, Bonafede M, Scarselli A, Marinaccio A - on behalf of the ReNaMWorking Group

OBJECTIVES
Notwithstanding the ban in 1992, asbestos exposure for workers in the construction sector in Italy remains a concern. The purpose of this study is to describe the characteristics of malignant mesothelioma (MM) cases recorded by the Italian registry (ReNaM) among construction workers.

METHODS
Incident mesothelioma cases with a definite asbestos exposure have been analyzed. Characteristics of cases and territorial clusters of crude rates of MM in construction workers have been described, as well as the relation between asbestos use before the ban and the historical trend of workforce in the construction sector in Italy.

RESULTS
ReNaM has collected 31,572 incident MM cases in the period from 1993 to 2018 and asbestos exposure has been assessed for 24,864 (78.2%) cases. An occupational exposure has been reported for 17,191 MM cases (69.1% of subjects with a definite asbestos exposure). Among them, 3574 had worked in the construction sector, with an increasing trend from 15.8% in the 1993-98 period to 23.9% in 2014-2018 and a ubiquitous territorial distribution.

CONCLUSIONS
The large use of asbestos in construction sector before the ban makes probability of exposure for workers a real concern still today, particularly for those working in maintenance and removal of old buildings. There is a clear need to assess, inform, and prevent asbestos exposure in this sector.

FULL TEXT PER GLI UTENTI REGISTRATI ALLA RIVISTA
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8744912/