

# **An Assessment of Healthcare Workers' exposure to Health Hazards in the Accident and Emergency Unit at Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation**

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Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation is Guyana's national referral hospital. Research indicates that one of the main factors affecting the delivery of health care in Guyana is inadequate staff at all levels of the system. This research aimed to assess the health hazard exposure of health care workers at the Accident and Emergency Department. A quantitative cross-sectional study was conducted among fifty doctors, nurses, and technicians. The findings indicated that approximately 50% of respondents experienced a hazard (85% experienced non-biological hazards; 78% experienced biological hazards). Stress (76%) and sharp injuries (52%) were reported as the highest non-biological and biological hazards experienced, respectively. A chi-square test indicated no association between working overtime and experiencing a health hazard ( $p$ -value=0.853). There was no primary hazard correction measure in place at the Department, and the occupational safety and health conditions were rated as unsatisfactory. Barriers to quality improvement in healthcare were identified as insufficient monitoring, lack of training in occupational safety and health, and poor hazard corrective measures. Factors associated with the health hazards experienced included lack of monitoring, lack of training in occupational safety and health, and poor hazard corrective measures. Interventions should include frequent monitoring by health and safety officers; training in occupational safety and health for healthcare workers; and the implementation of hazard corrective measures according to international standards.

**Keywords:** Healthcare workers; health hazards; occupational safety and health