

The relationship between sound annoyance and general health in hospital personnel in Shiraz in 2014-15

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Received: 27/5/2015

Accepted: 23/8/2015

Abstract

Introduction: As a healthcare providing establishment, hospitals can be affected by sources of noise pollution which then impose negative effects on the health and comfort of patients and personnel. The present study was conducted to determine the relationship between sound annoyance and general health in the personnel of university affiliated and non-university affiliated hospitals in Shiraz.

Materials and Methods: The present descriptive analytical study was conducted in four university affiliated and non-university affiliated hospitals in Shiraz with a sample size of 300 using a predetermined equation and according to the results of previous studies. The instruments used in the study included the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ), the Noise Annoyance Scale (NAS) and an audiometer (CEL-440 model).

Findings: The present study found a small inverse relationship between the total general health score in the hospital personnel and the sound pressure level at university-affiliated hospitals ($r=-0.103$) and a direct positive relationship at non-university affiliated hospitals ($r=0.274$), which were not statistically significant ($P\leq 0.05$). The relationship of somatic symptoms, anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction and depression to sound pressure was inverse and small ($r=-0.195$ and $P\geq 0.05$). However, there was a direct positive relationship between general health and sound annoyance ($r=0.266$ and $P\leq 0.05$).
Conclusion: According to the results obtained, noise levels are higher than the acceptable exposure limit in university-affiliated hospitals, which affect both the patients' and the personnel's general health, necessitating the adoption of control measures.

Keywords: Sound annoyance, General health, Hospital

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