<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Re-analysis of workplace datasets to examine co-occurrence of lung and skin symptoms</th>
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<td>Year</td>
<td>2009</td>
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**CREOD Investigators**  
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**CREOD Research Program**  
Occupational Skin and Respiratory Disease

**Research Theme**  
Occupational Skin and Respiratory Disease, Burden

**Funder**  
Ontario Ministry of Labour (original studies)

**Product Type**  
Research study – reanalysis

**Background**  
Both skin and lung disease may result from exposure to particular chemicals. Most research examines disease outcomes by system. There is some animal evidence and case report to suggest that in some instances, workers may develop both lung and skin problems related to common exposures.

**Study Focus (Research Question/Goals/Methods)**  
Four workplace based studies conducted previously were combined and reanalyzed to determine the occurrence of skin and lung symptoms in several populations of workers and determine how common it is to have co-existing lung and skin symptoms. The studies were of embalmer, soda ash workers (ammonia), softwood workers and cabinet makers.

**Key Findings**

- 46% reported lung symptoms.
- 27% reported skin rash.
- 11% reported both lung and skin symptoms, however the percentage varied across the different exposure groups.
- Only 2% reported both work-related lung and work-related skin symptoms.

**Implications for Health/Labour Policy and Practice**  
Both lung and skin symptoms were common in these groups. The group with the highest percentage of co-occurrence of symptoms was embalmers. Further research is needed to further define this problem. Attention to both respiratory and dermal protection is required.

**Publication Information**

- **Publications**

- **Presentations**