Self Reported Health Problems after Oil Spillage from Tasman Spirit

Tahseen Kazmi, Jawed Usman Ziauddin Medical University

TASMAN SPIRIT



Introduction

The accidental spillage of oil in the sea poses a serious environmental hazard to both marine and human life. Oil spills often occur through accidents such as *Exxon Valdez* in Alaska¹ in 1992, Sea Empress² oil spill in 1996 and Tasman Spirit in 2003³⁻⁴

Image © 2005 DigitalGlobe

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METHODOLOGY

A cross-sectional survey was conducted at three campuses of Ziauddin Medical University

The participants were divided into three groups according to average number of hours spent near site of the oil spill.

Self administrated questionnaires seeking information about adverse health effects

RESULTS

- A total of 369 subjects participated in the survey Response rate :
 - 88.5% (263 out of 297) for medical students
 - 57.6% (106 out of 184) for faculty and staff members

Common health problem:

- Headache (56%)
- Sore throat
- Nasal irritation

(44%)

(43%)

RESULTS

Other symptoms

(19.5 %)

- fever
- vomiting
- body ache reported by 72 of 369 respondents

RESULTS

These adverse health problems showed some

increase with the duration of time spent in the

Clifton area but none of them were found to be

statistically significant



Reassessment of the impact of oil spill at various levels:

- shore line
- water column
- atmosphere
- marine life
- human beings

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sampling of

- water
- soil
- sediments
- marine life to assess the impact of oil spill

Long term health surveillance for the people living near the site of the spill as Benzene and other hydrocarbons are known carcinogenic

THANK YOU