Profile of Electronic Waste Workers in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire

Georgia Green
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Global Health & Environment | School of Public Health | University of California, Berkeley

Global Health & Environment
Environmental Health Sciences
50 University Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720-7360
Tel: 510.643.5160
Email: ehs_div@berkeley.edu
Website: http://ehs.sph.berkeley.edu/ghe/

This study provides a description of the e-waste disposal community in Abidjan and the final stages of the e-waste lifecycle there. Data were collected via worksite observation, interviews with local union leaders, and conduction of a cross-sectional health assessment survey. Survey data was used to categorize workers into the following five groups based on their occupational activities: traders, comprehensive repairmen, repairmen, parts distributors, and scrappers. Data are reported here for demographic characteristics, including age, ethnicity, immigrant-status, income, education, literacy, household technology ownership, and household water source. Occupational exposures are reported as working with chemicals, fumes, dust, or smoke, and known sources of these exposures are listed. Study participants reported on multiple health indicators, such as the frequency of 39 health symptoms, having experienced sickness or injury at work within the previous month, and ever having experienced certain injuries and reproductive health problems. Workers in the five job categories were found to have different distributions of demographic and SES indicators, occupational exposures, and health outcomes. Logical inferences were made that supported the observed distributions and validated the study findings. The results were used to discuss potential interventions and policies that may improve occupational and environmental health in this community.