Poster Presentation

The Hazardous Workplace and Its Effects on Pregnancy

Krystina Le, Kiara Holbrook, and Marhonda Torry

Faculty Mentor: Fetene Gebrewold
Health Sciences

Women are resilient and perform many of the same tasks as their male counterparts, but when pregnant, it can become difficult for women to perform some of the duties required of her. There are some jobs that can be too physically strenuous, thus hazardous and toxic for a woman to continue throughout her pregnancy. Data was collected using research from internet sources such as CDC.GOV and the OSHA website, books, journals, and a personal interview from a former manager of a fast food restaurant, a factory worker who has been pregnant while working at Bowers, and a breast feeding consultant at the McDonough Public Health department. The research concludes that working in hazardous places such as factories, hospitals, and many others can disrupt the flow of blood, cause the mother to develop high blood pressure, increase the risk of miscarriage late in pregnancy, as well as increase the risk of premature birth. Studies also show that jobs that involve exposure to toxic chemicals and can have the ability to cause harm to the fetus and the mother through inhalation of fumes from pesticides, paint, and many other substances. Skin contact with hazardous waste and ingestion of any harmful chemicals or toxic waste can also be detrimental for a women and the fetus. The purpose of this study is to inform the general public about the unknown dangers of working while pregnant in a hazardous work environment, the occupational health problems that it can cause the mother and fetus, and provide prevention methods to minimize the exposure levels.