EVALUATING PESTICIDE USE AND SAFETY PRACTICES AMONG FARMWORKERS IN GALLIPOLI PENINSULA, TURKEY

Sibel Cevizci¹, Ulken Tunga Babaoglu² and Coskun Bakar¹

¹Department of Public Health, School of Medicine, Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Canakkale; ²Health High School, Ahi Evran University, Kirsehir, Turkey

Abstract. Unsafe pesticide use among farmworkers is a major public health problem in Turkey. This study aimed to investigate pesticide use and safety practices of farmers in a village of Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey. This cross sectional study was conducted with 117 farmers. The questionnaire included questions on demographic data, knowledge, attitudes, and safety practices concerning pesticides. The mean age of participants was 42.8 years, and 38.5% was female participants. Of the total 177 respondents, 77.8% reported that they prepared the chemical mixture at a public fountain, whereas 22.2% prepared it in their houses. Almost half (44.4%) reported that they experienced at least one health problem after pesticide application in the previous one year. Total scores for pesticide safety practices of the subjects, who declared that they experienced at least one health problem after the application in the previous one year, were statistically significantly lower (p<0.001). Their responses about safe use of pesticides and storage conditions were very striking. Our findings indicated that there is a need to increase health promotion activities through training, and the local administrations should promote safe use of pesticides by farm workers.

Keywords: farmworkers, pesticides, public health, safety practices, Turkey

Correspondence: Sibel Cevizci, Department of Public Health, Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, School of Medicine, Terzioglu campus, 17100, Canakkale, Turkey.
Tel: +90 554 866 7932; Fax: +90 286 218 0393
E-mail: cevizci.sibel@gmail.com