

Table 3 Mean hair lead concentrations of occupationally exposed and non-exposed individuals in parts per million (ppm)

Characteristic	Non-exposed		P-value	Exposed		P-value	P-value ^a
	Mean lead level (ppm)	SD		Mean lead level (ppm)	SD		
Sex			< 0.001			0.34	
Male	5.85	2.90		23.62	7.16		< 0.001
Female	2.80	1.84		16.70	0		< 0.001
Age (years)			< 0.001			0.25	
≤ 18	1.52	0.91		21.80	8.12		< 0.001
19–40	3.91	2.52		24.24	7.59		< 0.001
> 40	5.65	2.93		21.96	5.16		< 0.001
Residence region			< 0.001			0.05	
Beirut	5.29	2.40		23.73	7.46		< 0.001
Mount Lebanon	3.28	1.92		26.32	8.26		< 0.001
North Lebanon	6.31	3.65		23.22	6.05		< 0.001
Bekaa	5.17	3.19		22.37	5.98		< 0.001
South Lebanon	3.16	1.98		20.90	5.92		< 0.001
Work region			< 0.001			0.08	
Beirut	6.52	0.57		23.97	6.48		< 0.001
Mount Lebanon	3.52	2.30		25.37	8.80		< 0.001
North Lebanon	6.09	3.65		23.44	6.12		< 0.001
Bekaa	4.82	3.45		21.89	6.80		< 0.001
South Lebanon	3.16	1.98		19.94	5.69		< 0.001
Smoking (packs/day)			0.001			0.45	
Non-smoker	3.66	2.90		23.69	7.21		< 0.001
< 1	5.32	2.34		24.22	7.10		< 0.001
1–2	5.64	3.35		21.57	6.74		< 0.001
> 2	3.21	1.39		23.92	8.46		< 0.001
Fish consumption (times/month)			0.07			< 0.001	
1	4.72	2.48		20.67	6.58		< 0.001
2	4.18	2.96		23.72	6.74		< 0.001
3	3.26	3.02		28.08	7.59		< 0.001
> 3	4.90	2.97		21.31	5.24		< 0.001
Nationality			< 0.001			0.02	
Non-Lebanese	7.25	2.58		25.64	7.79		< 0.001
Lebanese	4.12	2.78		22.71	6.72		< 0.001
Residence			< 0.001			0.15	
Urban	4.95	2.91		24.23	7.51		< 0.001
Rural	3.23	2.46		22.48	6.44		< 0.001
Worksite			< 0.001			0.20	
Urban	5.08	2.87		23.97	7.08		< 0.001
Rural	3.12	2.43		22.16	7.33		< 0.001
Total	4.33	2.87		23.60	7.15		< 0.001

^aExposed vs non-exposed.

SD = standard deviation.