Table 1 **Characteristics of groups occupationally and environmentally exposed to asbestos**

Characteristic	Occupationally exposed (n = 487)		Environmentally exposed (n = 2913)		Test	P-value
Mean (SD) age (years)	46.5 (3.9)		57.5 (8.9)		t = 740.07	< 0.001
Sex	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**		
Male	487	100.0	1616	55.5	χ^2 = 350.56	< 0.001
Female	0	0.0	1297	45.5		
Mean (SD) intensity of exposure to asbestos (f/mL)	0.59 (0.76)		0.38 (0.87)		Mann–Whitney test = 1.56	< 0.001
Duration of residence in area or employment in factory (years)	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**		
0–10	47	10.0	307	10.5		
11–20	107	22.0	616	21.2		
21–30	88	18.0	837	28.7	χ^2 = 33.50	< 0.001
31–40	47	30.0	618	21.2		
> 40	98	20.0	535	18.4		
Malignant pleural mesothelioma						
+ve	4	0.8	83	2.8	χ^2 = 6.88	< 0.001
−ve	483	99.2	2830	97.2		

n = total number of people examined.