

ABSTRACT

This study was done at a printing press company in Jamaica to determine the noise levels that were present and possible associations with the hearing levels of the workers. Noise levels were taken at various sites of the company and workers were categorized according to their noise exposure levels.

A random sample of 30 workers exposed to loud noise was taken and a control group matched by age and sex was selected. A questionnaire was administered followed by an otological examination as well as audiometric testing.

The results revealed an association between length of present employment and hearing loss for air conduction. Of the workers with 20 years and over period of employment 80% suffered hearing loss. The mean hearing levels of all the workers was found to be within normal limits. There was mild hearing loss detected among the workers exposed to high noise levels at only one frequency (6000 Hz). The pattern of hearing for all workers however, mimics that of early noise induced hearing loss.