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Changes in household use of disinfectant and cleaning products during the first lockdown period in France

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND - Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, health measures have been introduced to limit the risks of contamination, including recommendations for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces at home. The use of Household Disinfectant and Cleaning Products (HDCP) has only been evaluated during this pandemic from national poison centers or cross-sectional surveys, but has never been compared before and after its beginning based on longitudinal data from a large population-based cohort. **AIM** - To study changes in the use of HDCP during the first lockdown period based on longitudinal data from the large French population-based Constances cohort. **METHODS** - Analyses were carried on 49,491 participants (mean age: 47 years, 51% women, 13% current smoker) who completed standardized questionnaires on household cleaning tasks in 2019 and during the first lockdown period in France (17th March to 3rd May 2020). We compared the household help (yes/no) and the duration of weekly use of HDCP (<10 minutes/week; 10-30 minutes/week; >30 minutes/week) at these two surveys by a McNemar's and a Bhapkar test, respectively. Moreover, we assessed self-reported changes in the frequency of HDCP use specifically since the beginning of the lockdown period (unchanged/increased). **RESULTS** - Compared to 2019, the household help decreased (56% versus 3%; $p < 0.0001$) and the duration of HDCP use increased (>30 minutes: 16% vs. 63%; $p < 0.0001$) during the lockdown period, especially for women compared to men (>30 minutes: 71% vs. 54%, respectively; $p < 0.0001$). Regarding the frequency of HDCP use, 83% of participants (86% of women vs. 81% of men; $p < 0.0001$) reported an increased use since the beginning of the lockdown period. **CONCLUSIONS** - The frequency and the duration of HDCP use have significantly increased. Further studies are now needed to evaluate the potential impact of these changes in respiratory health.

KEYWORDS: Lockdown period; COVID-19; Household disinfectant and cleaning products

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