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Investigation of indoor mould area in French dwellings: the Constances cohort

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ABSTRACT

We aimed to assess dwellings' mould contamination, its determinants and associations with asthma among 85 827 adults from the French population-based CONSTANCES cohort. Associations between dwelling characteristics and the presence of visible mould or mouldy areas (0m2; spots; <0.2m2; [0.2m2-1m2[; [1m2-3m2]; >3m2) in the bathroom, kitchen, living room or bedroom were studied using logistic models. Visible mould and mouldy areas ≥0.2 m2 were respectively reported in 22.0% and 2.7% of dwellings. Heating difficulties, water damage, condensation and occupancy-rate were all significantly and positively associated with mouldy areas (OR from 1.19 to 8.44), whereas presence of ventilation systems showed inverse associations. Presence of visible mould (OR=1.24) and mouldy areas (p-trend<0.001) were positively associated with current asthma (last 12 months). This is the first large-scale study investigating the burden and determinants of mould contamination in French dwellings.

KEYWORDS: Indoor air; Mould; Asthma; Dwelling; Epidemiology

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