

BAGATIN – ABSTRACT

Asbestos chrysotile has been mined and milled in Brazil since 1940. Brazil is currently the 4th leading asbestos producer in the world. A single company has been in charge of asbestos exploration in the country from 1940 to 2006. In the past six decades few studies were conducted on the health effects of asbestos exposure in Brazil: most of the extant data relate to case reports. The first large epidemiological study about the risk associated with asbestos mining and milling was performed in 1996. Data from this study indicate that decreasing asbestos exposure over time due to improved industrial hygiene standards has resulted on a significant reduction on asbestos- related morbidity. Additional longitudinal studies, however, are warranted to evaluate the consequences of working under low levels of asbestos chrysotile inhalation in these settings.