

GOOD PRACTICES FOR FORMALDEHYDE MANIPULATION Closed Management Systems

HEALTH WORKERS EXPOSURE TO
FORMALDEHYDE
→ **FORMALCAT** STUDY

Salut/Institut Català de la Salut



Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament de Salut

■ Press release ■

13 Catalan hospitals work together to minimize the health risks of a substance called formaldehyde used in pathological anatomy services

The FormalCat project is the result of a collaboration between Catalanian Government (through the Department of Business and Employment and the Catalan Institute of Health), National Institute for Safety and Hygiene at Work and MC MUTUAL.

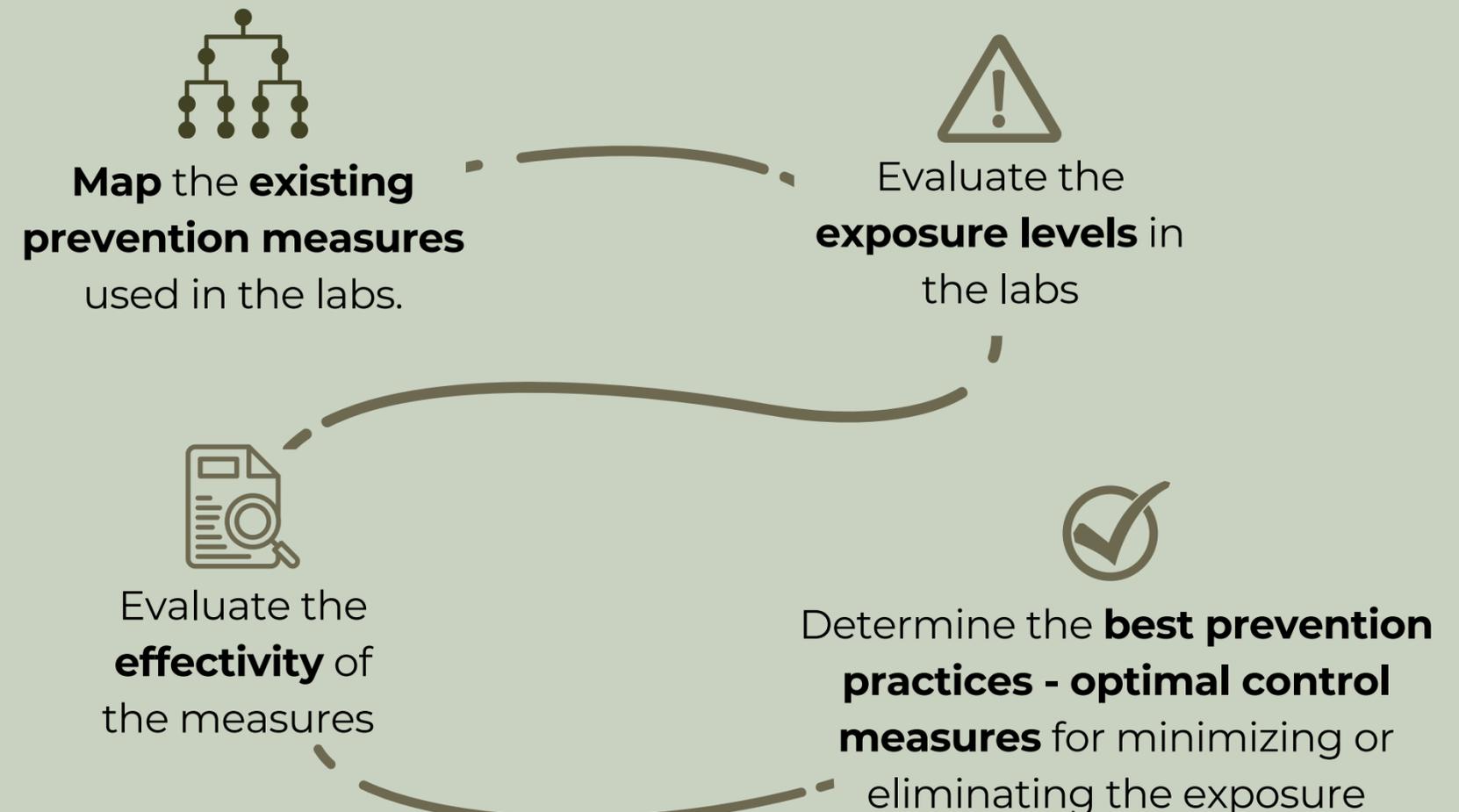
AIM

Evaluate existing prevention measures, their effectivity and the level of formaldehyde exposure in different Pathological Anatomy laboratories.



13
Catalan
hospitals

EVALUATION Methodology



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CONCLUSIONS

Given the **carcinogenic status** of the formaldehyde and the fact that for certain tasks the **limit values are exceeded**, immediate action for **better management practices** is required.

" Formaldehyde contamination can have several **causes** [...] tasks undertaken under **uncontrolled conditions** [...] such as formaldehyde **splashes on tables** [...]"

Sources of contamination identified

- **Poorly sealed containers**
- Existence of **small spills from the containers** [...]

RECOMENDATIONS

"Corrective measures that **avoid spillings...**"

"In order to eliminate the source of contamination it is crucial to implement good working practices such as **keeping the surfaces free from splashes, keep the containers closed as much as possible** [...]"

"[...] it is necessary to undertake these tasks under **controlled conditions such as CLOSED SYSTEMS** [...]"

SAFETY HANDLING OF BIOPSIES

"Addressing the challenge in the healthcare sector for safety handling biopsies by avoiding exposure to toxic formaldehyde vapours and spills"

vapours and spills"



Endoscopy nurses easily perform **500.000 biopsies** in their career

→ GENDER-RESPONSIVE RESEARCH

SEX DIFFERENCES in FORMALDEHYDE EXPOSURE

Need for representing
life stages as well as
reproductive status for
both men and women

