

Peer Review

Review of: "Human Health Risks from Textile Chemicals: A Critical Review of Recent Evidence (2019-2025)"

Marlene Amorim¹

1. GOVCOPP & DEGEIT, Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal

The authors present a manuscript that offers a synthesis of the literature (between 2019–2025) concerning hazardous substances in textiles, including dyes, plasticizers, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and metals, and links them to their human health risks.

The topic of the paper is timely and relevant, given the volume and impact of the textile sector and the current concerns with sustainability. However, some suggestions can improve the work:

- Although the authors link the hazardous substances to health risks, it is not accurate to mention that they “evaluate” these human risks, because the paper does not offer a solid methodology to support a consistent evaluation of the extent and the degree of risks. So it is advised that the authors go through the text and replace the idea of evaluating with something that describes the nature of the work, which is to identify and categorize the type of health risks.
- The description of the literature search process should be further clarified. The authors mention that their “search terms included combinations of keywords such as: “textiles,” “clothing,” “human exposure,” “toxic chemicals,” “textile additives,” “dyes,” “allergic contact dermatitis,” and “risk assessment.””, but no other details are provided that allow us to understand how these terms were used and combined, how many papers came from each combination, and how they were merged and purged. Further detail would be useful for the sake of transparency and to allow for future replications of the work.
- The focus of the paper seems to be on the health risks for the user/customer of textiles. An interesting avenue is to explore the same risks for employees of manufacturing firms working with textiles (their exposure is even bigger). The advice is for the authors to clarify if there are any insights or distinctions about these two targets of health hazards and offer insights about that.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.