RELATIONS BETWEEN WORK-RELATED FACTORS AND DEPRESSION AND INJURY AMONG JANITORS

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Introduction While there is a body of literature that identifies relations between injury occurrence and resulting depression, literature relevant to a relation between work factors and depression and injury occurrence is limited.

Objectives To identify the potential relations between: 1) work-related factors and depression diagnosis and 2) depression diagnosis and injury outcome and consequences in a high-risk, understudied population.

Methods Specially designed questionnaires were disseminated to 1,200 full-time janitors in the SEIU Local 26 union to collect information on their injury occurrences, personal characteristics, health history, and work-related exposures, for two sequential six-month periods. Risk ratios (RRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated using multivariable Poisson regression with robust error variances, and included bias adjustment for non-response and adjustment for within-person correlation using general estimating equations (GEEs).

Results A total of 527 observations among 390 janitors identified associations between work environment factors (range = 1, terrible/unhappy/mostly dissatisfied; 2, mixed feelings; 3, mostly satisfied/please delighted) and diagnosed depression (n=48): how they felt about people they worked with (1 versus [vs] 3 - RR 3.86; CI 1.31, 11.36); how they felt about the work itself (2 vs 3 - RR 2.54; CI 1.36, 4.77); resources available for their job (1 vs 3 - RR 2.93; CI 1.27, 6.75). Associations were also identified between high (4,5 very much, often) vs low (1–3 sometimes, very little, not at all) frequency of stress and depression (RR 4.79; CI 2.22, 10.36) and between depression diagnosis and risk of injury-related persistent problems (RR 5.19; CI 1.40, 19.24).

Conclusions This analysis enabled identification of work-related factors associated with diagnosed depression, the relation between stress and depression, and the risk of injury and consequences among those with depression. These findings serve as a basis for future research and relevant interventions to facilitate optimal working environments.

LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT STATUS AMONG PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED WORK-RELATED MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS: A 5-YEAR FOLLOW-UP STUDY

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Objective Little is known about the long-term prognosis for employees with suspected work-related mental health problems. Are they employed 5 years after consulting a department of occupational medicine in Denmark, or do they have no or low labor-market attachment? The aim of the study was to examine long-term employment status among patients referred to Danish departments of occupational medicine in the period 2000–2013 due to suspected work-related mental health problems.

IT’S LIKE JUGGLING, CONSTANTLY TRYING TO KEEP ALL BALLS IN THE AIR: A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF THE SUPPORT NEEDS OF WORKING CAREGIVERS TAKING CARE OF AN OLDER ADULT

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Introduction Many informal caregivers of older adults combine their caregiving tasks with a paid job. Adequate support is important to enable them to combine paid work with caregiving, while maintaining their health and wellbeing. To date, however, knowledge about working caregivers’ support needs is fragmented.

Objectives This study therefore aimed to obtain more insight into support needs of working caregivers of older adults.

Methods We conducted six online semi-structured focus group interviews with in total 25 working caregivers of older adults living at home. Data were complemented with information from seven working caregivers participating in the study’s advisory board. Data were analyzed using inductive and deductive thematic analysis.

Results Six themes related to working caregivers’ needs were identified: 1) Recognition of caregivers including the challenges they face; 2) Attention for caregivers’ health, wellbeing and ability to cope; 3) Opportunities to share care responsibilities; 4) Help with finding and arranging care and support; 5) Understanding and support from the work environment; and 6) Technological support tailored to the needs and capacities of caregivers and older adults. To address these needs, working caregivers’ suggested several options in multiple domains of life (i.e. work, home life, personal health and wellbeing).

Conclusion To successfully support working caregivers, a multi-faceted approach including actors from multiple settings, is needed.

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Introduction As occupational medicine continues its evolution, it is important for physicians to recognize the importance of understanding the work environment. This is especially true for older adults, who may have more work-related injuries due to increased physical demands. The focus of this study was to examine the work-related factors contributing to injury occurrence.

Objectives To identify the potential relations between: 1) work-related factors and depression diagnosis and 2) depression diagnosis and injury outcome and consequences in a high-risk, understudied population.

Methods Specially designed questionnaires were disseminated to 1,200 full-time janitors in the SEIU Local 26 union to collect information on their injury occurrences, personal characteristics, health history, and work-related exposures, for two sequential six-month periods. Risk ratios (RRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated using multivariable Poisson regression with robust error variances, and included bias adjustment for non-response and adjustment for within-person correlation using general estimating equations (GEEs).

Results A total of 527 observations among 390 janitors identified associations between work environment factors (range = 1, terrible/unhappy/mostly dissatisfied; 2, mixed feelings; 3, mostly satisfied/please delighted) and diagnosed depression (n=48): how they felt about people they worked with (1 versus [vs] 3 - RR 3.86; CI 1.31, 11.36); how they felt about the work itself (2 vs 3 - RR 2.54; CI 1.36, 4.77); resources available for their job (1 vs 3 - RR 2.93; CI 1.27, 6.75). Associations were also identified between high (4,5 very much, often) vs low (1–3 sometimes, very little, not at all) frequency of stress and depression (RR 4.79; CI 2.22, 10.36) and between depression diagnosis and risk of injury-related persistent problems (RR 5.19; CI 1.40, 19.24).

Conclusions This analysis enabled identification of work-related factors associated with diagnosed depression, the relation between stress and depression, and the risk of injury and consequences among those with depression. These findings serve as a basis for future research and relevant interventions to facilitate optimal working environments.

It's like juggling, constantly trying to keep all balls in the air: A qualitative study of the support needs of working caregivers taking care of an older adult

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Introduction Many informal caregivers of older adults combine their caregiving tasks with a paid job. Adequate support is important to enable them to combine paid work with caregiving, while maintaining their health and wellbeing. To date, however, knowledge about working caregivers’ support needs is fragmented.

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Conclusion To successfully support working caregivers, a multi-faceted approach including actors from multiple settings, is needed.

Methods The study includes data from the Danish Occupational Medicine Cohort. 17,900 patients aged 16–67 were included. All patients were referred to a department of occupational medicine in Denmark from 2000–2013 due to suspected work-related mental health problems. Register data was extracted 5 years prior to study inclusion and until 5 years after study inclusion. Information on 13 potential risk factors for negative labor market attachment was included. The primary outcome of this study was positive work status, defined as being at work or at education, maternity or parental leave.

Results Preliminary results showed that approximately 85% of all patients from 2–5 years prior to study inclusion had positive work status. The proportion declined to 30% at the year of study inclusion and increased to approximately 50% of the patients 1 year after inclusion after which practically no further increase was seen. Within the subgroups of patients diagnosed with depression or PTSD only 40% and 30% had positive work status 5 years after study inclusion respectively. Besides, preliminary results indicated that diagnosis, sick leave status at inclusion time and previous work participation, were strong independent prognostic markers of work participation at 5-years of follow up.

Conclusion We found a profoundly reduced long-term employment status among patients referred to departments of occupational medicine in Denmark due to suspected work-related mental health problems, particularly among patients diagnosed with PTSD or depression.

WORK FUNCTIONING AMONG YOUNG ADULTS: THE ROLE OF MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS FROM CHILDHOOD TO YOUNG ADULTHOOD

Introduction Mental health problems during childhood and adolescence are negatively associated with employment status (having a paid job or not) in young adulthood. Yet, little is known about how young adults function at work, i.e., do they experience difficulties in meeting job demands given their physical or mental health state.

Objective This longitudinal study aims to examine whether the history of mental health problems from childhood to young adulthood is associated with work functioning in young adulthood.

Methods Data were used from 1,004 young adults in the TRacking Adolescents’ Individual Lives Survey (TRAILS), a Dutch prospective cohort study with 18-year follow-up and seven measurement waves. Mental health problem trajectories including 11, 13, 16, 19, 22 and 26 age points were identified using growth mixture models. Work functioning was assessed at age 29 with the Work Role Functioning Questionnaire, with scores ranging from 0 to 100. Regression analyses were conducted to examine the associations between mental health problems trajectories and work functioning.

Results Young adults with high-stable trajectories of internalising or externalising problems reported lower work functioning (respectively 74.6 and 76.2) compared to participants with low-stable trajectories (respectively 83.3 and 83.2). These scores correspond with reduced work functioning for more than one working day per week in a fulltime job. Young adults with moderate-stable trajectories of externalising problems reported lower work functioning compared to participants with low-stable trajectories.

O-340 JOB STRAIN, LOW SOCIAL SUPPORT FROM SUPERVISORS AND MATERIAL HANDLING AMONG BRAZILIAN WORKERS: A STUDY ON ETHNICITY AND WORK

Introduction The study was conducted to analyze the association between job strain, the social support from supervisor and material handling at work according to the self-reported race/color.

Methods This cross-sectional study involved 1032 workers from urban cleaning service and footwear manufacturers located in the state of Bahia, Brazil. The interview included the Job Content Questionnaire to measure psychosocial exposure and questions about lifting, pushing and pulling to investigate material handling in the workplace. Cox Regression provided crude and adjusted prevalence ratios (PRadj) by sex, age and education.

Results Black workers presented higher proportion of lower education and were more represented in operational positions, followed by brown, both compared with white workers. There was a greater exposure of blacks to job strain (PRadj = 1.6), a combination of high psychological demand and low job control, and low social support from supervisors (PRadj = 1.3). Concomitantly, blacks were more subjected to activities with pushing, pulling and lifting materials, presenting PRadj at least 50% higher compared to white workers. Brown were slightly more exposed to job strain (PRadj = 1.1), and to the low social support from supervisors (PRadj = 1.1), and were also more subjected to lifting (PRadj = 1.2), pushing (PRadj = 1.3) and pulling (PRadj = 1.2) materials compared to whites. The complete results of this epidemiological research are available in the brazilian periodic Cience & Coletivo Health (online first).

Conclusion The study evidenced an overlap of disadvantageous exposures among black and brown brazilian workers, accentuated among blacks, that can indicate the repercussions of structural racism in the world of work and should be the target of interventions focusing on improving working conditions and racial equity.