substantially higher occupational exposure risk for IT workers compared to all other employed participants (OR=5.14, 95% CI:4.91–5.39) and their specific SOC group counterparts (managers: OR=1.83, 95% CI:1.68–1.99, professionals: OR=7.18, 95% CI:6.58–7.82, technicians: OR=4.48, 95% CI:3.87–5.17). IT workers were also more likely to engage in computer screen-time outside work than all other employed participants (OR=1.42, 95% CI:1.35–1.51).

Conclusions Improved understanding of health, lifestyle and occupational risk factors from this, the largest to date study of IT worker health, can help inform workplace interventions to mitigate risk, improve health and increase the work participation of this increasingly important and rapidly growing occupational group.

Work Organization

WORK ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERISTICS AMONG MARGINAL PART-TIME WORKERS IN DENMARK

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Introduction In 2015, around 15% of the Danish workforce had marginal part-time work (<15 hours/week). Yet, not much is known about marginal part-time worker’s work environment.

Objectives This study assessed characteristics of the work environment among marginal part-time workers (8.00–14.99 hours/week) compared with full-time workers (32.00–40.00 hours/week).

Methods Employees between 18–65 years old, who responded to the survey Work Environment and Health in Denmark (WEHD) in 2012, 2014, or 2016 were included in the study (n = 34,960). Average working hours per week, based on register information obtained from the Labour Market Account (LMA), in the three months prior to responding to the WEHD survey, was linked at an individual level with work environment characteristics obtained from the WEHD survey. Logistic regression models, adjusted for age, gender, and socio-economic status, were used to analyse the associations between marginal part-time work and the work environment characteristics.

Results Compared with full-time workers, marginal part-time workers less often reported too little time for their work tasks (OR 0.81, 95% CI 0.67–0.97) and struggling to keep deadlines (OR 0.79, 95% CI 0.69–0.91). However, marginal part-time workers more often reported lower influence on how and when to solve work tasks and lower authority. Furthermore, they reported less help and acknowledgement from colleagues, and less interesting and inspiring work tasks, and low job satisfaction. In addition, marginal part-time workers more frequently reported having an occupational accident in the past year (OR 1.31, 95% CI 1.03–1.68) and poor guidance and instructions to work safely (OR 1.32, 95% CI 1.10–1.59). Results on negative social relations in the workplace and physical workload were ambiguous.

Conclusions Marginal part-time workers report less quantitative job demands, but also less influence at work, less support from colleagues, less job satisfaction, and poorer safety. Future studies with prospective designs are needed to determine the direction of these associations.

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CHANGES IN WEEKLY WORKING HOURS AND TIME SPENT ON DIRECT PATIENT CARE FOR DOCTORS IN NORWAY FROM 2016 TO 2019: A STUDY BASED ON REPEATED SURVEYS

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Introduction The balance between adequate time spent on patient care and maintaining work-home balance is challenging for doctors. Both for treatment outcomes and for doctors’ wellbeing we need longitudinal studies of total work hours and of time spent on direct patient care.

Objectives To compare the weekly working hours and time spent on direct patient care in 2016 and 2019 for doctors working in different job positions in Norway.

Methods Repeated postal surveys (2016 and 2019) based on representative samples of approximately 2,200 doctors in Norway. Main outcome measures were self-reported weekly working hours and time spent on direct patient care. Analyses included linear mixed models and proportions with 95% CI. Response rates were 73% both years.

Results From 2016 to 2019, the weekly working hours increased significantly for male GPs (48.7 h to 50.9 h) and male doctors in hospital management (48.2 h to 50.5 h). It remained significantly unchanged for female GPs (48.3 h to 49.3 h), female doctors in hospital management (45.8 h to 49.3), female senior consultants (45.4 h to 45.6 h), and for female (44.4 h to 43.6 h) and male (44.9 h to 46.6 h) specialist registrars. The proportion of the total work time spent on direct patient care were similar between genders and did not change significantly from 2016 to 2019. In 2019 it was highest for GPs (63.5%) followed by senior hospital consultants (43.5%), specialty registrars (39.8%) and doctors in hospital management (34.3%).

Conclusion Compared to stipulated work hours in Norway (37.5 h/week), doctors of both genders work long hours, and length has increased significantly for some groups from 2016 to 2019. In 2019 it was highest for GPs (63.5%) followed by senior hospital consultants (43.5%), specialty registrars (39.8%) and doctors in hospital management (34.3%).