Quality of data on health and safety at work in the EU27

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TNO Work and Health
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Statistical Analysis and Publication

of the 2007 Labour Force Survey

Ad hoc Module Health and Safety at Work
Background

Community strategy 2007-2012 on Health and Safety at Work

To improve the quality of work by reducing the number of work accidents and illnesses
2007 Labour Force Survey ad hoc module

Aims of this module

- Harmonised statistical data on those work-related health problems (including exposures) which are not covered by ESAW and EODS
- Analyses of health and safety at work data according to Labour Market related variables available in the LFS but not included in ESAW and EODS
- Assess reporting levels of ESAW
2007 Labour Force Survey ad hoc module

11 variables

› Occupational accidents

› Work-related diseases

› Harmful exposures
Activities

1. Quality assessment
2. Descriptive analysis
3. Multivariate analysis
4. Reporting
Deliverables of the project

- Statistical report Health and Safety at Work
- Statistics in Focus publication on the key findings
- Multidimensional tables and predefined tables for Eurostat’s website
- Health and Safety at Work (1999-2007)
  - LFS 2007 ad hoc module results
  - other key statistical EU level data on Health and Safety at Work
Quality assessment

- Non response
- Interview methods
- Questionnaire wording
Non-response

Module non-response EU-27:

Accidents 1.5%
Work-related health problems 3.4%
Exposure in relation to mental health 2.4%
Exposure in relation to physical health 2.5%
Interview methods

› Number of questions used varied between 11 and 83

  > Exclusion of FR from analyses on work related health problems

› Percentage of proxies varied between 0% and 59%

  > Proxies reported less accidents, work related health problems and hazardous exposure affecting mental health
Wording evaluation

Inventory

- quality reports of MS
- English translation of MS questionnaire(s) by MS
- comparison of English Eurostat version with MS questionnaire in all languages by native speaker
Accidents at work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>‘able to start work again’</th>
<th>‘accidental injury’</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- days of absence</td>
<td>- accident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- time unavailable to work</td>
<td>- accident resulting in injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- time off</td>
<td>- accident or injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- days needed to recover</td>
<td>- accident resulting in treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- start work again</td>
<td>- injury</td>
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<tr>
<td>- return to work</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Work-related health problems

Illness(es), disabilities or other physical or psychic health problem(s)

› In 8 languages mental health problems were not mentioned

› Cultural difference to address this issue?
Recognition versus recollection

- The proposed question was:

  Have you suffered from any illness, disability or other physical or mental problem? How would you describe this illness?

- In France, 20 different health problems were described one by one, including examples. For each health problem, respondents were asked to indicate whether or not they had the illness.
Work-related health problems by Member State
Hazardous exposure

‘particular exposure’ = more frequent or more intensive than in general daily life

› Several countries did not ask for particular exposure but for the factor most exposed to

› Several countries described the types of exposure differently:

Harassment or bullying
- sexual harrassment
- verbal aggression and harassment
- harassment and discrimination
- psychological pressure
## Differences between countries in occurrence of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>mean</th>
<th>minimum</th>
<th>maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accidents</strong></td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health problems</strong></td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>48.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exposure to mental hazards</strong></td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exposure to physical hazards</strong></td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
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</table>
Recommendations to Eurostat

- No comparisons between countries
- More strict guidance to Member States
- Review effect of proxy use
Thank you!

For more information:

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