Incidence of ill-health related job loss and related social and occupational factors. The "unfit for the job" study: a one-year follow-up study of 51,132 workers

Francois-Xavier Lesage Corresp., 1, 2 , **Frederic Dutheil** 3, 4 , **Godderis Lode** 5 , **Choron Guillaume** 1

1 University Hospital, Preventive and Occupational Medicine, Université de Montpellier I, Montpellier, France

2 Epsylon Research Unit EA 4556 Laboratory Dynamics of Human Abilities & Health Behaviors, Université Paul Valéry (Montpellier III), Montpellier, France

3 CNRS, LaPSCo, Physiological and Psychosocial Stress, University Hospital of Clermont-Ferrand, CHU Clermont-Ferrand, Preventive and Occupational Medicine, WittyFit,, Université Clermont Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France

4 Faculty of Health, School of Exercise Science, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, Victoria 3065, Australia

5 Department of Public Health and Primary Care, Environment and Health, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

Corresponding Author: Francois-Xavier Lesage
Email address: fx-lesage@chu-montpellier.fr

Objective: The analysis of ill-health related job loss may be a relevant indicator for the prioritization of actions in the workplaces or in the field of public health, and a target for health promotion. The aim of this study was to analyse the medical causes, the incidence, and the characteristics of employees medically unfit to their job.

Methods: This one-year prospective study included all workers followed by occupational physicians in an occupational health service in the South of the France. Our study design allowed two data frames to be merged (followed up workers and "unfit" patients who lost their jobs due to ill-health). We performed a multivariate analysis in order to adjust the Odds ratio for the age groups, sex, occupation and the activity sectors which are strongly associated with job loss.

Results: Seventeen occupational physicians followed 51,132 workers. The all-cause incidence of being unfit to return to one's job was 0.778%. The two main causes of being unfit for one's job were musculoskeletal disorders (47.2%) and psychopathology (38.4%). Being over 50 years old [Odds ratio (OR) 2.63, 95% confidence interval (95% CI) [2.13-3.25] and being a woman [OR 1.52, 95% CI 1.21-1.91] were associated with the all-cause unfitness, independent of occupations and activity sectors.

Conclusions: Identification of occupational and demographic determinants independently associated with ill-health related job loss may provide significant and cost-effective arguments for health promotion and job loss prevention.

1 **Incidence of ill-health related job loss and related social and**

2 **occupational factors. The « unfit for the job » study: a one-year**

3 **follow-up study of 51,132 workers**

4 **Lesage François-Xavier**
5 fx-lesage@chu-montpellier.fr
6 affiliation :
7 *Epsylon Research Unit* EA 4556 Laboratory Dynamics of Human Abilities & Health Behaviors,
8 University Hospital of Montpellier, CHU Montpellier, Preventive and Occupational Medicine, F-
9 34000 Montpellier, France

10 **Dutheil Frederic**   fred_dutheil@yahoo.fr
11 [1] Université Clermont Auvergne, CNRS, LaPSCo, Physiological and Psychosocial Stress, University Hospital of
12 Clermont-Ferrand, CHU Clermont-Ferrand, Preventive and Occupational Medicine, WittyFit, F-63000 Clermont-
13 Ferrand, France
14 [2] Australian Catholic University, Faculty of Health, School of Exercise Science, Melbourne, Victoria 3065 Australia

15 **Lode Godderis**   lode.godderis@kuleuven.be
16 KU Leuven, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, Environment and Health,
17 Kapucijnenvoer 35 Blok D, Box 7001, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

18 **Choron guillaume** -   c_guillaume@live.fr
19 University Hospital of Montpellier, CHU Montpellier, Preventive and Occupational Medicine, F-
20 34000 Montpellier, France

21 **Incidence of ill-health related job loss and related social and**
22 **occupational factors. The « unfit for the job » study: a one-year**
23 **follow-up study of 51,132 workers**

24 **Objective** The analysis of ill-health related job loss may be a relevant indicator for
25 the prioritization of actions in the workplaces or in the field of public health, and a
26 target for health promotion. The aim of this study was to analyse the medical
27 causes, the incidence, and the characteristics of employees medically unfit to their
28 job.

29 **Methods** This one-year prospective study included all workers followed by
30 occupational physicians in an occupational health service in the South of the
31 France. Our study design allowed two data frames to be merged (followed up
32 workers and "unfit" patients who lost their jobs due to ill-health). We performed a
33 multivariate analysis in order to adjust the Odds ratio for the age groups, sex,
34 occupation and the activity sectors which are strongly associated with job loss.

35 **Results** Seventeen occupational physicians followed 51,132 workers. The all-
36 cause incidence of being unfit to return to one's job was 0.778%. The two main
37 causes of being unfit for one's job were musculoskeletal disorders (47.2%) and
38 psychopathology (38.4%). Being over 50 years old [Odds ratio (OR) 2.63, 95%
39 confidence interval (95% CI) 2.13-3.25] and being a woman [OR 1.52, 95% CI
40 1.21-1.91] were associated with the all-cause unfitness, independent of occupations
41 and activity sectors.

42 **Conclusions** Identification of occupational and demographic determinants
43 independently associated with ill-health related job loss may provide significant
44 and cost-effective arguments for health promotion and job loss prevention.

45 **Key terms:** Occupational medicine; Employment; Workplace; Job loss

46   The assessment of occupational diseases and their impact are a difficult issue. However, it is an

47   important to set the priority actions concerning health and safety at work. Most data about these

48   pathologies indirectly assesses their incidence or impact.   The findings of The Health and

49   Occupation Reporting network (THOR) highlighted the gap between the epidemiological

50   assessment by a specialist network (i.e., psychiatrist) and a direct assessment by an occupational

51   physician (1).

52   The difficulties are (i) the comprehensive identification of the cases, (ii) the reliable

53   notification of work related accountability concerning multi factorial diseases, and (iii) the

54   knowledge about the population from which these cases are identified. Over recent years, several

55   occupational disease networks have been developed and data collected concerning occupational

56   diseases. Several nationwide networks of clinical specialists have been developed in Europe (2),

57   such as THOR in the UK (3), or the French National Occupational Disease Surveillance and

58   Prevention Network (RNV3P) in France (4, 5). Another way to assess occupational diseases is to

59   match different data sources. Mustard et al. (2015) matched different and independent data

60   sources: (i) emergency department encounter records, (ii) lost-time workers compensation claims

61   and (iii) representative samples of workers in a national health interview survey (6).

62   Numerous countries may also have a compensation system for occupational diseases. The data

63   concerning the recognition of occupational diseases are fairly easy to collect by the organizations

64   which pay the compensation. These systems, however, may provide compensation to workers for

65   benign illnesses, such as occupational contact eczema, and, conversely, compensation may never

66   be claimed for some frequent and fairly serious diseases, such as work-related depression or

67   burnout syndrome. Consequently, this kind of indicator is a poor representation of the main

68   occupational health problems in a country or a region. Likewise, the analyses of the causes of

69   disability pensions or disability retirements are probably not very suitable for the assessment of

70   the incidence of occupational diseases. So, one of the main difficulties is the use of relevant and

71   reliable indicators and the ability to collect them.

72   Unfitness ("inaptitude" in French), is the recognition by the occupational physician that a
73   worker's health status is no longer fit for his current job and will require a job change. This does
74   not mean that the worker cannot work anymore, but that he can no longer work in his current
75   work position. In France, the assessment of the fitness or the unfitness to perform the job is
76   exclusively carried out by the occupational physicians (OP) during a medical examination. All
77   paid workers are systematically followed, either yearly or every two years, by the OP. Additional
78   specific medical examinations are carried out when a medical problem appears. Moreover, when
79   a paid worker is on sick leave for one month or more, fitness is systematically assessed by the OP
80   (during a medical examination named "the reinstatement visit") at the end of the sick leave, when
81   the worker returns to work. An "unfit for the job" outcome may be pronounced for several
82   reasons which include, but are not limited to: (i) there is a change in an employee's health status
83   (e.g., returning to work after recovery from a serious illness or injury), (ii) a medical condition
84   that may limit, reduce or prevent the person from effectively performing a new or current job
85   (e.g., musculoskeletal conditions that limit mobility), (iii) a medical condition that is likely to
86   make it unsafe both for the employee, their co-workers or the public (e.g., driving is essential to
87   the job but the employee is subject to unpredictable and sudden unconsciousness). Each OP
88   follows roughly 3,000 workers (7). There are currently 5,600 OPs in France. They report one of
89   three conditions back to the employer: fit, fit subject to work modifications, or unfit for the job.
90   Unfit for the job may lead to being assigned to a new suitable job in the same company, or the
91   termination of the employment contract due to a medical issues. The termination of the
92   employment contract is the main conclusion of an unfitness notification (more than 97% of cases)
93   according to a recent study performed in one French region by the General Labour Department of
94   the Ministry of Work (8) .
95   A previous study explored the analysis of the "unfit for the job" among 55,026 workers using a
96   direct collection of data from the medical records of an occupational health service in France (9).
97   The main limitation of this study was that only a univariate analysis was performed. Indeed, the
98   data concerning the followed up workers were basic statistical data (e.g. sex ratio occupations,
99   average age), not a data frame extracted from the information system. Consequently, the socio

100   demographics cannot be merged with the data frame of unfitness. However, to our knowledge,

101   this is the only study analysing ill-health related job loss.

102   The current study aimed to estimate the one-year incidence of unfitness for the job in an

103   occupational health service, and to describe their aetiology and the characteristics of the unfit

104   employees.

105   ***Methods***

106   Study design and setting

107   This case-control study took place between January 1st 2014 and December 31st 2014, in the

108   occupational health service in Montpellier (France). Seventeen OPs followed up employees of

109   this employment area (except the farming area and the employees in public services).

110   Procedure and participants

111   All the workers followed in 2014 in this occupational health service were eligible to participate in

112   the study. General data concerning the followed workers were extracted from the information

113   system: age, sex, length of service, occupation and industry, fitness or unfitness. Occupation was

114   coded to four digits using the French Occupational Classification (socio professional categories

115   PCS-2003) and the industries were coded using the European NACE-2008 nomenclature and

116   aggregated A10 international classification. When an OP reported an "unfit for the job", they

117   collected the age, sex, socio-professional group, activity sector, the diagnostic cause of the

118   unfitness and their judgment on the professional accountability. These diagnostics were supported

119   by an expert medical opinion (e.g., by a psychiatrist, orthopedic specialist, or a rheumatologist

120   depending on the disease). The duration of the sick leave, the accident at work or the

121   occupational disease recognition procedure, and what became of the employee (occupational

122   reclassification, discharge for unfitness) were also collected.

123   Fitness of the subject for modified work, or the unfitness with occupational reclassification

124   were not collected as an outcome. Each OP checked the cases of "unfit for the job" using an

125   informatics query at the end of the year and completed the data collection if necessary. All data

126   were anonymously collected. Participants were recruited during annual work medical

127   examinations. No consent was given because anonymous data was used from usual daily clinical

128   practices extracted from medical records. The ethics committee from the university hospital of

129   Clermont-Ferrand, France, was questioned about a similar previous study design (9). The

130   committee confirmed that there was no need for ethics approval for such a study design.

131   Statistical analysis

132   The incidence of unfitness to work was calculated (numerator = number of unfitness;

133   denominator = number of followed up employees). The statistical analyses were conducted for all

134   causes of unfitness together, and for the two main groups of pathologies. The relationship

135   between the unfitness and the other characteristics was calculated using the Odds Ratio (OR) and

136   its 95% Confidence Interval (95% CI). Multivariate analyses were computerized, adjusting for

137   age, sex, occupation and industry using logistic regression models. Statistical analyses were

138   conducted using the R and epicalc packages.

139   ***Results***

140   Overall, 51,132 employees were followed up by the 17 OPs in 2014 and were included in this

141   study. Among them, 398 cases of "unfit for the job" were reported. The overall incidence of

142   "unfit for the job" was 7.78‰.

143   Demographics and company characteristics for employees both fit and unfit for the job are

144   presented in Table 1.

145   Women [ORa 1.52, 95% CI 1.21-1.91] and workers over 50 years [ORa 2.63, 95% CI 2.13-

146   3.25] were more frequently unfit to the job, considering all causes together (Table 2).

147   Two groups of pathologies caused 85.7% of the cases of unfitness: the musculoskeletal

148   disorders (MSD) (47.2%) and the psychopathology (38.4%) (Table 2).

149   Most of the cases of unfitness were caused by a MSD. Among the 188 cases of unfitness caused

150   by a MSD, 32.4% were recognized as an occupational injury/disease, whereas the OP estimated

151   that 64.0% of these pathologies were work related. The average length of sick leave was

152   significant (13.1 months SD 12.3).   After adjustment, the unfitness caused by a MSD was

153   associated with gender [women ORa 1.89, 95% CI 1.35-2.66] and the odds ratio increased with

154   the age groups, notably that of over 50 years old (Table 2). Concerning the associations with

155   industry, the activity sector for which the number of cases of unfitness was below 10

156   (manufacturing, construction, and Information & communication) were excluded from the

157   analysis. Moreover, the financial and insurance sectors were aggregated with real estate activities.

158   This aggregated sector was considered as the reference group. All the other sectors were

159   significantly associated with unfitness, but after adjustment, only one sector (trade, repair,

160   transportation, accommodation and food services) remained statistically significant [ORa 3.65,

161   95% CI 1.32-10.1] (Table 2). The higher grade white collar workers' group was less concerned

162   [ORa 0.12, 95% CI 0.02-0.88] by unfitness than the reference group (intermediate occupations

163   and lower supervisors). By contrast, the blue collar workers were highly concerned by unfitness

164   resulting from a MSD [ORa 8.13, 95% CI 4.52-14.62] (Table 2).

165   One hundred and fifty three declarations of unfitness caused by a psychopathology were

166   delivered. Eight cases (5.2%) were recognized as an occupational injury or an occupational

167   disease. Conversely, the OP estimated that 64.7% of these diseases were work related. The

168 average length of sick leave (10.3 months SD 10.5) was lower than for the MSD (p<0.05), and

169 workers were younger (40.9 years versus 46.0, p<0.001).

170   Unlike the MSD, age and gender were less associated with psychopathology-related unfitness.

171 Moreover, all occupation groups and activity sectors were concerned (Table 2).

172 ***Discussion***

173 Data from this study were directly collected by the OP who determined the "unfit for the job".

174 Consequently, the job losses and the medical causes are as reliable as possible. Moreover, they

175 are based on a medical examination and supported by an expert medical opinion.

176   Therefore, these data may be considered as reliable and of high quality, directly extracted from

177 the medical records. Moreover, this study design allowed information concerning the

178 denominator to be completed. The population followed by the OP involved in this study is known

179 and requested information was extracted directly from the information system. This is a strength

180 of the study design. Most of the experts in the network have accurate data concerning the cases

181 (i.e., an occupational disease), but cannot collect reliable data concerning the population observed

182 and, consequently, the precious indicators such as incidence or an associated risk.

183   The ill-health related job loss, known as "unfit for the job" in France, can be exclusively

184 performed by the worker's OP. Consequently, the cases of ill-health related job losses are

185 probably under-evaluated. An employee with anxiety or depression caused by a conflict at work

186 may choose to resign, but will lose unemployment insurance. By contrast, a termination for a

187 medical reason will maintain the unemployment insurance and termination indemnity.

188 Consequently, it is in the interest of a worker with a medical problem to be determined unfit for

189 their job rather than to resign from the company. Particularly severe or life-threatening diseases

190 (e.g. most cancers) are probably under-evaluated in this study design, which is probably not

191 adapted to reliably assess the impact of such pathologies on jobs.

192   Ill-health related job losses and socio demographic data are easy to extract from the

193   information systems using a simple SQL query. Most of the data are comprehensively coded in

194   the databases of the occupational health services. Moreover, such an epidemiological system is

195   very cost effective. It is based on the French occupational health system.

196   One of the major advantages of integrating a denominator (the demographics of all the

197   workers followed up by each OP) in these cases is the ability to carry out multivariate analyses,

198   and the fact that the analyses can provide risk assessments. These assessments would allow these

199   risks to be monitored and geographical comparisons to be made in France, or other European

200   countries, which could accurately identify ill-health related job losses.

201   The reader should be aware that this study design does not identify the work related diseases,

202   neither can it provide a job loads attributable risk, but rather assesses the impact of diseases,

203   work-related or not, on the capacity to maintain the current job.

204   In our opinion, this must not be considered as a limitation. The mechanism of the observed

205   pathologies may be partly, completely or not at all work-related. However, it is a delicate issue to

206   determine the work-related accountability for each individual. Diseases are often multifactorial

207   with personal, professional and extra professional components (e.g., a sub acromial impingement

208   and musculoskeletal disorder). In fact, all data concerning the issue of work accountability should

209   be cautiously interpreted. In our study, the outcome is job loss, which is an objective data, rather

210   than the work accountability of cases, which requires a judgment. The analysis of the "unfitness

211   for the job", even if it does not allow the work related accountability to be determined, allows at-

212   risk groups to be determined and preventative actions to be promoted in order to support the

213   continuation of employment.

214   Findings

215   The global one-year incidence of unfitness in our study was 7.78‰. A similar study of ill-health

216   related job losses was previously conducted in 2012 in another occupational health service in the

217   east of France (9). Dutheil et al. found very similar results. The global one year incidence of job

218   losses was 7.72 ‰ in their study. Dutheil's study confirmed the major impact of MSD and

219   psychopathology on employment. However, the design of this previous study did not allow

220   multivariate analysis (c.f. above). Our study design allowed multivariate analysis because there

221   was a single data frame for fit and unfit workers, and consequently the possibility to adjust the

222   Odds Ratios based on the age groups, sex, occupation and activity sector which are strongly

223   associated with job losses. Our findings highlight that 85.7% of ill-health related job losses are

224   related to MSD (47.2%) and psychopathology (38.4%) (Table 2). The high prevalence of job

225   losses related to MSD (10, 11, 12) and psychopathology (12, 13, 14) have been estimated in other

226   countries. Recent data from the THOR-GP network (UK – 2015-2016) estimated that 85% of

227   self-reported work related ill-health are caused by these two groups of pathologies (15) , which is

228   similar to our findings. This supports the relevance of the unfitness for the job as an indicator,

229   even if it does not assess the work related incidence of different pathologies. Moreover, the

230   process of rating a pathology as work related is partly subjective and complex, and may lead to a

231   misclassification.

232   The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is the Health and Safety Executive's data source,

233   complemented by other sources such as death certificates and reports from doctors (THOR). It

234   estimated the incidences of work related ill health by stress-anxiety-depression and MSD as

235   690/100,000 workers and 550/100,000 respectively (16). The incidences were higher than the job

236   loss incidence because all these cases of work-related ill health did not lead to a classification of

237   "unfit for the job". Stress, anxiety, and depression accounted for 37% of all work related ill health

238   cases in 2015/2016, and MSD prevalence accounted for 41% of all work related illnesses. These

239   data suggest that psychopathologies and MSD are not only the two main causes of work related

240   diseases, but also the two main causes of job loss.

241   Musculoskeletal disorders

242   Our findings highlight the important increase in the risk of job loss caused by musculoskeletal

243   disorders after 50 years. This is a major risk among blue collar workers. It is a particularly

244   worrying situation because the capacity to find a new job for people over the age of 50, in activity

245   sectors where mechanical loads are frequent, and which is adapted to the potential disability

246   caused by the MSD, may lead to employment problems for the concerned workers and significant

247   social problems. Unfortunately, the primary prevention of workplace tasks is probably rarely

248   adapted to the age of the worker. However, maintaining working ability in early old age is

249   essential for sustaining economic growth in Europe (14).

250   Psychopathology

251   First, our findings highlight the huge impact of psychopathology on job loss. These diseases are

252   invisible when they are observed through the national occupational diseases data (e.g. the

253   recognized occupational diseases), notably because it is very difficult to determine the

254   occupational accountability. According to the French medical insurance data, only a few hundred

255   cases of anxiety or depression are recognized as an occupational disease by the medical

256   insurance.

257   Another important finding is that all workers are concerned. There may be an increased risk

258   for women or older workers, but all socio professional statuses and activity sectors are impacted

259   by this issue.

260   Sex

261   The results highlight the gender inequalities in the face of job loss due to ill-health (Table 2).

262   Dutheil et al. observed similar univariate risks of job loss for women for MSD,

263   psychopathology and all-causes together (RR= 1.51, 1.70 and 1.51 respectively) (9).

264   This gender inequality issue probably needs particular attention. Traditionally, a high
265   proportion of women work in activity sectors with high physical or psychological loads, such as
266   health care, accommodation for seniors or social care. The higher risk of job loss in these sectors
267   could be a consequence of these women working in jobs that require lower levels of education.
268   There are too few cases of job losses in this study (398 cases) to analyse the risks associated with
269   specific occupations matched with sex ratio. However, an extended study (only 17 OPs
270   participated in this study versus 5,000 OPs in France) could provide very accurate information. A
271   more specific analysis of activity sectors and jobs for the observed population could provide
272   more accurate "indications" concerning these observed data.

273   Age

274   Our findings concerning the average age of unfit workers (44.4 years), and the risks of unfitness
275   according to the group of diseases among workers aged 50 years and older (Table 2) are similar
276   to the findings of the previous study carried out in 2012 (9). In this study, the average age of unfit
277   workers was 45.9 years, and the risk of job loss caused by a MSD, a psychopathology and all
278   causes together, up to the age of 50, were 2.92, 1.38, and 2.51 respectively. Not surprisingly, our
279   findings highlight the progressive increase of the odds ratios of job loss with the age of the
280   workers, particularly for MSD.

281   The encoding of pathologies leading to the unfitness notification, based on a common thesaurus
282   and adapted to a clinician's routine practice, would increase the quality and processing speed of
283   such analyses. Unfortunately, the different information systems in the occupational health
284   services do not provide such a possibility at this time. Therefore, a common system would
285   considerably enhance the epidemiological capacity to analyse ill-health related job losses, and its
286   processing speed.
287   It would be appropriate to match our findings with other sources of data, such as expert-based

288   networks or observations. In our opinion, our data are complementary to them.

289   The population included in our study was limited (50,000 workers). A more significant

290   population would increase the power of the analysis. This would allow the more accurate

291   identification of the sub groups of workers or specific socio-professional categories at risk of

292   losing their jobs for medical reasons, and better provide information concerning prevention

293   targets or further specific studies. French occupational health systems have an important and cost

294   effective epidemiological capacity.   The supervisory authorities of the occupational health

295   services, the General Labour department of the ministry of work, should consider promoting such

296   an epidemiological approach based on occupational health service data, which could provide

297   useful, accurate, and reliable information in the field of occupational health. Moreover,

298   occupational health information systems contain accurate and high quality data on workplace

299   analysis, medical records, or sociodemographic data. Moreover, several European countries, such

300   as Belgium, could collect and analyse similar data (17). It is for these reasons that an

301   Occupational Health System Data Analysis network should be promoted.

302   *Acknowledgements*

303   The authors would like to thank the OPs who participated to the study

304   *Competing interest*

305   The authors declare no conflict of interest

306   *References*

307   1. Carder M, Turner S, McNamee R, Agius R. Work-related mental ill-health and 'stress' in

308   the UK (2002-05) Occup Med (Lond). 2009 Dec; 59(8):539-44

309   2. Stocks SJ, McNamee R, Van Der Molen HF, Paris C, Urban P, Campo G et al. Monitoring
310   trends in occupational diseases and tracing new and emerging risks in a network
311   (Modernet). Trends in incidence of occupational asthma, contact dermatitis, noise-induced
312   hearing loss, carpal tunnel syndrome and upper limb musculoskeletal disorders in
313   european countries from 2000 to 2012. Occup Environ Med 2013. 70:437-38

314   3. McDonald JC, Beck MH, Chen Y, Cherry NM. Incidence by occupation and industry of
315   work-related skin diseases in the United Kingdom, 1996-2001. Occup Med (Lond). 2006
316   Sep;56(6):398-405

317   4. Bonneterre V, Faisandier L, Bicout DJ, Bernardet C, Piollat J, Ameille J et al.
318   Programmed health surveillance and detection of emerging diseases in occupational
319   health : contribution of the Franch national occupational disease surveillance and
320   prevention network (RNV3P). Occup Environ Med 2010; 67:178-86

321   5. Bonneterre V, Faisandier L, De Gaudemaris R, Bicout DJ. Occupational exposome : a
322   network-based approach for characterizing occupational health problems. J biomed
323   Inform 2011;44:545-52

324   6. Mustard CA, Chambers A, Ibrahim S, Etches J, Smith P. Time trends in musculoskeletal
325   disorders attributed to work exposures in Ontario using three independent data sources,
326   2004-2011. Occup Environ Med 2015;72:252-57

327   7. Dutheil F, Pereira B, Moustafa F, Naughton G, Lesage FX, Lambert C. At-risk and
328   intervention thresholds of occupational stress using a visual analogue scale. PLoS One.
329   2017 Jun 6;12(6)

330   8. FERNAND J. Unfitness trajectory [Trajectoire inaptitude] – Direccte bretagne (labor

331   department) . 2012 – available from http://bretagne.direccte.gouv.fr/trajectoires-

332   inaptitudes (oct 2017)

333   9. Dutheil F, Naughton G, Sindyga P, Lesage FX. Ill Health-Related Job Loss: A One-Year

334   Follow-Up of 54,026 Employees. J Occup Environ Med. Sep;58(9):918-23.

335   10. Cherry NM, Meyer JD, Chen Y, Holt DL, McDonald JC. The reported incidence of work

336   related musculoskeletal disease in the UK: MOSS 1997-2000. Occup Med

337   2001;51(7):450-55

338   11. Chen Y, McDonald JC, Cherry NM. Incidence and suspected cause of work-related

339   musculoskeletal disorders, United Kingdom, 1996-2001. Occup Med (Lond). 2006

340   Sep;56(6):406-13.

341   12. Lderer P, Weltle D, Weber A. [Illness-related premature unfitness for work among civil

342   servants in Bavaria - an evaluation in the social medical field]. Gesundheitswesen. 2001

343   Aug-Sep;63(8-9):509-13.

344   13. Cherry NM, Chen Y, McDonald JC. Reported incidence and precipitating factors of work-

345   related stress and mental ill-health in the United Kingdom (1996-2001). Occup Med

346   2006(6);56:414-21

347   14. Reinhardt JD, Wahrendorf M, Siegrist J. Socioeconomic Position, Psychosocial Work

348   Environment and Disability in a Ageing Workforce: A longitudinal Analysis of SHARE

349   data from 11 european countries. Occup Environ Med 2013;70:156-63

350   15. Carder M, McNamee R, Turner S, Hodgson JT, Holland F, Agius RM. Time trends in the

351   incidence of work-related mental ill-health and musculoskeletal disorders in the UK.

352   Occup Environ Med 2013;70:317-24

353   16. hse.gov.uk [Internet]. Work Related Musculoskeletal Disorder Statistics (WRMSDs) in

354   Great Britain 2016. Available from:

355   http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/musculoskeletal/index.htm

356   17. Godderis L. Data Warehouse for detection of occupational diseases in OHS data. Occup

357   Med (oxford) 015; 65:651-658.

What is new in the paper?

358

359   -   In addition to a previous study in France (9), we conducted a multivariate analysis of the

360   causes of job loss in order to adjust the Odds Ratios for the age groups, sex, occupation and

361   activity sectors which are strongly associated with the job loss.

362   -   We support the recognition of the French occupational health system as an important and

363   cost effective epidemiological tool.

Demographics, company characteristics,and incidence of unfitness for the job.

		Employees unfit for the job n=398 (100%)	Employees fit for the job n=50,734 (100%)	Incidence ‰ 7.78
Age (years)	Mean (sd)	44.4 (11.8)	38.7 (11.8)	
	≤30 y	50 (12.6%)	15,298 (30.2%)	3.26
	31-40 y	91 (22.9%)	13,510 (26.7%)	6.70
	41-50 y	98 (24.6%)	12,180 (24.0%)	7.98
	51-60 y	124 (31.2%)	8,165 (16.1%)	14.96
	>60 y	35 (8.8%)	1,512 (3.0%)	22.62
Sex	Men	124 (31.2%)	21,279 (42.0%)	5.79
	Women	274 (68.8%)	29,455 (58.0%)	9.22
Length of service (years)	Mean (sd)	8.47 (7.9)	5.53 (7.39)	
Occupation	Higher grade administrative and managerial occupations, higher grade professionals	24 (6.1%)	7,650 (17.0%)	3.13
	Intermediate occupations. Lower supervisors	65 (16.5%)	12,220 (27.2%)	5.29
	White collar workers. lower services, sales and clerical occupations	212 (53.8%)	19,671 (43.7%)	10.66
	Blue collar workers	93 (23.6%)	5,442 (12.1%)	16.80
Workforce	Mean (sd)	84.6 (99.47)	112.4 (184.7)	
	<10	105 (26.4%)	13,000 (25.6%)	8.01
	10-49	138 (34.7%)	16,102 (31.7%)	8.50
	50 - 249	93 (23.4%)	14,503 (28.6%)	6.37
	≥250	57 (14.3%)	7,129 (14.0%)	7.93
Activity sectors (aggregated A10 code)	Manufacturing (BE)	4 (1.0%)	154 (0.3%)	25.31
	Construction (FZ)	0	515 (1.0%)	0
	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activity (GI)	123 (30.9%)	14,051 (27.7%)	8.68
	Information & communication (JZ)	2 (5.0%)	2,306 (4.6%)	0.87
	Financial & insurance activities (KZ)	9 (2.3%)	2,954 (5.8%)	3.04
	Real estate activities (LZ)	13 (3.3%)	1,350 (2.7%)	9.54
	Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities (MN)	69 (17.3%)	9,696 (19.1%)	7.07
	Public administration, compulsory social security; education; human health and social work activities (OQ)	152 (38.2%)	14,909 (29.4%)	10.09
	Arts, entertainment, repair of household goods & other services (RU)	26 (6.5%)	4,799 (9.5%)	5.39

Factors associated with unfitness for the job, for the different causes of unfitness: univariate and multivariate analyses.

ORc= crude Odds Ratio ; ORa= odds ratio adjusted on age, sex, occupation and industry

		Causes of unfitness for the job								
		Musculoskeletal disorders (n=188)			**Psychopathologies (n=153)**			**All causes together (n=398)**		
		ORc[CI95%]	ORa[CI95%]	*p*	ORc[CI95%]	ORa[CI95%]	*p*	ORc[CI95%]	ORa[CI95%]	*p*
	Mean (standard deviation)	46.0 (11.3)			40.9 (11.2)			44.4 (11.8)		
Age (years)	≤30 y	1	1		1	1		1	1	
	31-40 y	1.76 [0.97 ; 3.25]	**2.37** [1.35 ; 4.18]		**2.22** [1.34 ; 3.75]	**2.23** [1.36 ; 3.65]		**2.05** [1.46 ; 2.90]	**2.43** [1.70 ; 3.45]	
	41-50 y	**3.14** [1.83 ; 5.57]	**3.81** [2.25 ; 6.45]	<0.001	**1.96** [1.16 ; 3.38]	**1.90** [1.14 ; 3.18]	<0.01	**2.46** [1.74 ; 3.44]	**2.64** [1.86 ; 3.76]	<0.001
	51-60 y	**6.56** [3.94 ; 11.39]	**7.35** [4.40 ; 12.28]		**2.4** [1.38 ; 4.22]	**2.26** [1.32 ; 3.86]		**4.59** [3.31 ; 6.37]	**4.75** [3.37 ; 6.69]	
	>60 y	8.60 [4.22 ; 17.32]	**9.93** [5.06 ; 19.49]		**3.24** [1.26 ; 7.42]	**3.22** [1.43 ; 7.23]		**6.94** [4.52 ; 10.66]	**7.62** [4.85 ; 11.96]	
	≤50 years	1	1	<0.001	1	1	0.07	1	1	<0.001
	>50 years	**3.65** [2.70 ; 4.91]	**3.41** [2.53 ; 4.61]		**1.50** [1.02 ; 2.17]	1.41 [0.98 ; 2.04]		**2.82** [2.29 ; 3.46]	**2.63** [2.13 ; 3.25]	
Sex	Men	1	1	<0.001	1	1	0.14	1	1	<0.001
	Women	**1.64** [1.19 ; 2.25]	**1.89** [1.35 ; 2.66]		**1.41** [1.00 ; 1.98]	1.31 [0.92 ; 1.88]		**1.48** [1.19 ; 1.83]	**1.52** [1.21 ; 1.91]	
Occupations	Intermediate occupations. Lower supervisors	1	1		1	1		1	1	
	Higher grade administrative and managerial occupations, higher grade professionals	**0.11** [0.00 ; 0.69]	0.12 [0.02 ; 0.88]	<0.001	0.65 [0.34 ; 1.16]	0.76 [0.43 ; 1.35]	0.52	**0.59** [0.35 ; 0.96]	0.66 [0.41 ; 1.06]	<0.001
	White collar workers. lower services, sales and clerical occupations	**4.47** [2.59 ; 8.27]	**3.88** [2.25 ; 6.70]		1.09 [0.74 ; 1.64]	1.10 [0.74 ; 1.64]		**2.03** [1.53 ; 2.72]	**1.95** [1.47 ; 2.60]	
	Blue collar workers	**9.43** [5.3 ; 17.85]	**8.13** [4.52 ; 14.62]		1.02 [0.56 ; 1.79]	1.17 [0.66 ; 2.07]		**3.21** [2.31 ; 4.49]	**3.23** [2.30 ; 4.54]	
Activity sectors (aggregated A10 code)	Financial & insurance activities (KZ) Real estate activities (LZ) n=4326	1	1	<0.01	1	1	0.25	1	1	0.20
	Wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activity (GI)) n=14174	**5.26** [2.00;20.23]	**3.65** [1.32; 10.1]		1.01 [0.53;2.06]	1.05 [0.55; 2.01]		**1.71** [1.08;2.84]	1.45 [0.91; 2.32]	
	Professional, scientific and technical activities; administrative and support service activities (MN) n=9765	**4.22** [1.52 ;16.28]	2.36 [0.83; 6.71]		0.75 [0.36;1.62]	0.69 [0.34; 1.39]		1.39 [0.85;2.37]	1.01 [0.61;1.65]	
	Public administration, compulsory social security; education; human health and social work activities (OQ) n=15061	**4.33** [1.60;16.42]	2.33 [0.84;6.44]		1.38 [0.75;2.73]	1.16 [0.63;2.12]		**1.99** [1.27;3.28]]	1.35 [0.86; 2.13]	

Arts, entertainment, repair of household goods & other services (RU) n=4825	2.91 [0.90;12.28]	1.99 [0.64;6.13]	0.76 [0.31;1.84]	0.76 [0.34; 1.70]	1.06 [0.58;1.97]	0.85 [0.48; 1.51]