

Infortuni ripetuti, rischio per professioni in Italia negli anni novanta

ANTONELLA BENA, C. MAMO, CHIARA MARINACCI, O. PASQUALINI, A. TOMAINO, G. COSTA*

Servizio regionale di Epidemiologia, ASL 5, Grugliasco (TO)

* Dipartimento di sanità pubblica e microbiologia, Università di Torino

KEY WORDS

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SUMMARY

«Risk of repeat injuries by economic activity in Italy in the 1990s». **Background:** Repetitive work injuries are a phenomenon that has not been sufficiently studied. Using data gathered by INAIL (National Institute for Insurance against Occupational Accidents and Diseases), it is possible to study the propensity of having a further injuries at the workplace after the first one. **Objectives:** To identify the risk of experiencing multiple injuries according to occupation, with discussion of how useful the available information systems are. **Methods:** The data base includes workplace injuries, as classified by INAIL in Italy between 1994 and 2000 in the industrial and artisan sectors (2,162,702 subjects, ages 25-55). Selecting data on accidents occurring among 107,082 subjects who had experienced the first accident in 1996-99, in this cohort we assessed the occurrence of further accidents within two years in the same occupation, taking into account job mobility and factors eventually influencing underreporting (geographic area, age, severity of first accident and size of the enterprise). The risk for each occupation was computed stratifying by gender. **Results:** There were significant differences between the first and successive accidents when examined by type, age group, severity of physical consequences and company size. Among men, the occupations showing higher risk were those already known to be at high risk for accidents: cleaning staff and refuse workers, foundry workers, masons, pilots, woodworkers, carpenters, transport workers, sailors, farmers, and miners. Among women the occupations most at risk were postwomen and messengers, cleaning staff and refuse workers, waitresses, cooks, bartenders, machine tool operators, woodworkers, and weavers in the textile industry. **Conclusions:** Among men, the risk of recurrent workplace accidents by occupation tends to reflect the frequency of the total accidents in each occupation. The results indicate that the study model employed is efficient and useful in providing risk profiles which allow identification of where to direct future studies, investigations, and preventive measures for each sex.