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Differenze per professione nelle condizioni di lavoro nocive

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SUMMARY
«Occupational differences in exposure to hazardous work conditions». Background: *Few studies have been aimed at describing organizational and psychosocial conditions of the Italian workforce by occupational group, and they have been mainly conducted within specific occupations.* Objectives: *The present study aimed at identifying specific groups of occupations which have unfavourable profiles from the point of view of exposure to specific organizational factors and psychosocial risks, and to physical, chemical and ergonomic risks, and analyzing their distribution by worker age.* Methods: *The analysis was conducted on a sample of 4,195 workers in the Piedmont Region who were members of the CGIL Trade Union (Italian General Confederation of Labour), who answered a self-administered questionnaire in 2000, aimed at assessing chemical, physical, and ergonomic risks, accidents, and psychosocial factors connected with work organization and work tasks. Psychosocial risks were assessed via three scales aimed at measuring the degree of control, psychophysical demands, and worker satisfaction. The proportion of workers exposed to the above mentioned risks was analysed according to occupational group. This group was then compared with all other groups taken together, according to prevalence of high strain condition (combination of high demand and low control) and HSUR condition (High Strain Unfairly Rewarded; combination of high strain and low satisfaction).* Results: *Among males aged 25-44 years, restricted to the occupation groups with more than ten workers in high strain condition, significantly higher proportions of stress were observed in leather workers and shoemakers, paper factory workers, rubber workers, crane and bridge crane operators, plastic workers, painters, transport drivers and carpenters. For many of these groups, excesses were confirmed for the HSUR condition. Among subjects aged over 44 years, a higher risk for high strain was confirmed in rubber workers, transport drivers and carpenters. In addition, machine tool operators, assembly line and mechanical workers in this age group were exposed to higher risk of stress. In younger women there was a significantly higher risk of both high strain and HSUR conditions in workers employed in the rubber, plastic and the food industries, and in machine tool workers. Such excess risk was confirmed in the latter three categories also among older women. In general, the proportion of male workers classified as working in high strain conditions decreased as age increased, while in women it remained stable.* Conclusions: *The study allowed evaluation of the differential impact of exposure to physical, chemical, and psychosocial risk factors among occupational groups, thus contributing to the identification and classification of exhausting jobs. The results further showed, particularly among men, a smaller proportion of older workers, compared to younger ones, exposed to harmful physical, chemical, ergonomic and psychosocial conditions, indicating a possible propensity of companies to adapt workplace conditions, organization and internal mobility to worker age.*

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