

# **Do working conditions affect health?**

## **An analysis on EWCS6 data**

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Most people spend the majority of their time working: the role of work and of work-related factors in human life is so central that it inevitably affects individual health. Given the work and working conditions continuous and rapid transformations, among academics - in the fields of epidemiology, psychology and sociology - and for policy makers the debate on potential effects of work on health has been always alive. In recent time, also economists started studying the impact of work and work-related factors both on physical and psychological health (Barnay 2014). A branch of the literature (Chandola and Zhang 2017) advises that adverse working conditions hurt health, by contrast, being employed with proper working conditions plays a protecting role both on physical and mental health.

The main aim of the paper is studying the effects of working conditions on physical health, using data from the Sixth European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS6) realised in 2017. The effects of working conditions on self-assessed health are tested using a standard ordered probit model.

The original contribution of the paper to the literature is threefold. First, the study uses EWCS6 data to analyse the effects of working conditions on health. To the best of our knowledge, it is the first time that the last release of the data has been employed for this kind of investigation. Second, the paper employs a broad definition of working conditions including also explanatory variables that generally are not considered. Third, the paper extends the countries evidence on the effects of working conditions on health to Norway and Switzerland, and to candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.

Results show that adverse working conditions affect negatively self-assessed individual health.

### **Bibliography**

Barnay, T. (2014), *Health, Work and Working Conditions: A Review of the European Economic Literature*, OECD Economics Department Working Papers No. 1148.

Chandola, T. and Zhang, N. (2017), Re-employment, job quality, health and allostatic load biomarkers: prospective evidence from the UK Household Longitudinal Study, *International Journal of Epidemiology*, dyx150.