



Occupational injuries: A comparison between temporary and permanent workers. Findings from the fifth European working condition survey



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Objective

Although the effect of occupation or employment status on health and safety is notable, there are few studies on the effect of precarious employment (temporary) on occupational injuries. We compared work injuries in precarious workers and their non-precarious (permanent) counterparts using a representative European sample.

Methods

Organization	Questionnaire	Sample number
Eurofound	5 th European working condition survey (EWCS)	26839 workers

For the purpose of this analysis, persons who were not employed or self-employed were excluded and the analysis was restricted to 26839 employed workers from EU27.

Results - Descriptives of the study population

Variables	Total study sample (n =26839)
Mean age: M (SD)	40 (12)
Gender	
Male	14324 (53.37)
Female	12515 (46.62)
Education level	
Primary level	7983 (29.94)
Low secondary	9219 (34.57)
High secondary	1315 (4.93)
High education	8143 (30.54)
Injured	
No	24537 (91.55)
Yes	2262 (8.44)

Results - Multivariate logistic regression model

Variables	Work accident victims OR[CI]
Contract type Temporary Vs. permanent ^C	1.13 [1.01-1.26]*
Age group Continuous variable	0.98 [0.98-0.99]*
Gender Men Vs. Women ^C	1.80 [1.63-1.98]*
How informed you? Not informed Vs. well informed ^C	1.85 [1.64-2.09]*
Long hours Yes Vs. never ^C	1.46 [1.33-1.60]*
Multiple jobs Yes Vs. no ^C	1.41 [1.22- 1.64]*
Working at high speed Yes Vs. no ^C	1.64 [1.49-1.81]*
Activity Type Dangerous Vs. no serious ^C	1.13 [1.03-1.24] ^{ns}
Experience Continuous variable	1.01 [1.00-1.01] ^{ns}

*: significant at 95% level, ns: non-significant
OR, odds ratio; CI, confidence interval
C Reference category

Conclusion

- The current study indicated that temporary workers had a higher risk of occupational injuries than permanent employees.
- This study is the first to examine the relations between types of employment and occupational injuries for all 27 member states of the European Union.
- Our study highlights the need to protect and improve the occupational safety of non-standard workers in EU27.

