

Recent Developments in Occupational Health and Safety in Latvia - Shift Towards Musculo-skeletal Disorders

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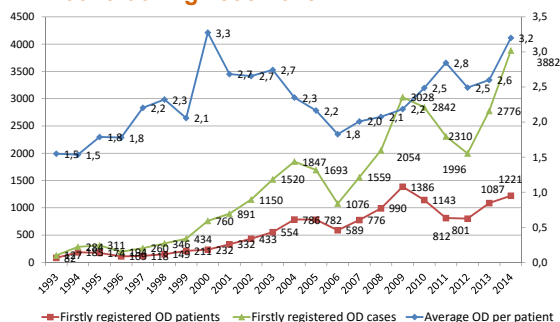
Introduction and Aim

- The aim of this presentation is to analyse changes in working environment and occupational morbidity and structure of occupational diseases in Latvia
- Work environment in Latvia has changed rapidly over last 20 years due to global changes and changes in Latvian occupational health and safety (OH&S) system
- Also the basic OH&S indicators - like incidence of occupational diseases have changed significantly

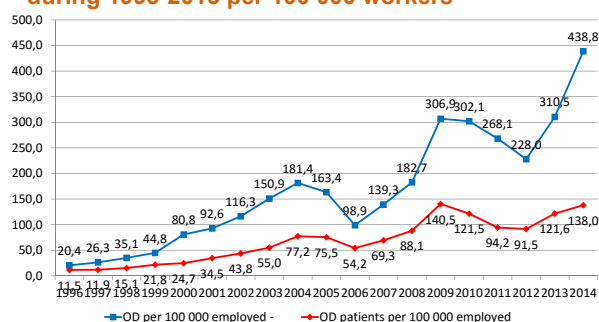
System of registration and statistics of Occupational diseases – overview

- Clear system for list of occupational diseases and registration since 1997 based on U.S.S.R. system, further improved in 2006
- System for workers health surveillance established in 1997, adjusted in 2004 and significantly improved in 2009
- Training of occupational physicians established 1996 improving over the years (e.g. from 50 hours to 500 hours and/or 4 year residency (since 2012))
- Resulting in increase of registered occupational diseases
- In some branches with "political support" improvements more rapid, e.g. Health care sector

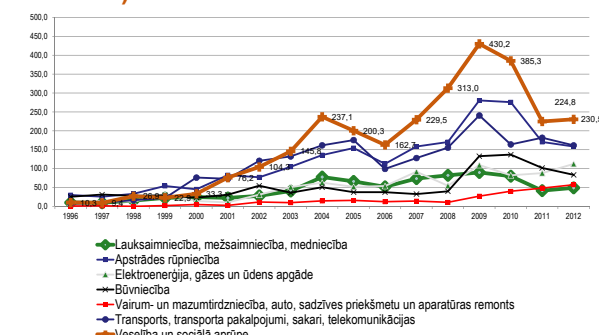
TOTAL NUMBER of first time registered occupational patients and occupational diseases in Latvia during 1993-2013



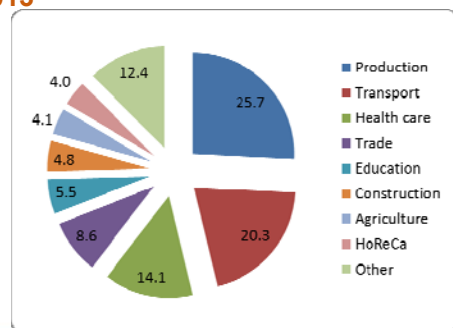
INCIDENCE of first time registered occupational patients and occupational diseases in Latvia during 1993-2013 per 100 000 workers



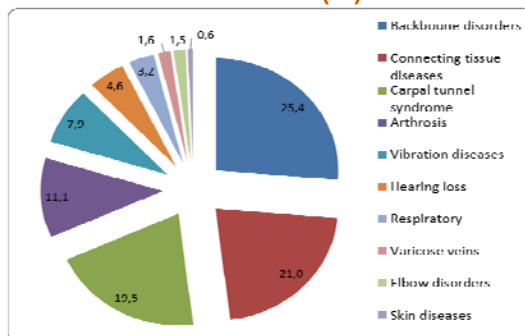
Incidence of occupational diseases (per 100 000) in some selected industries



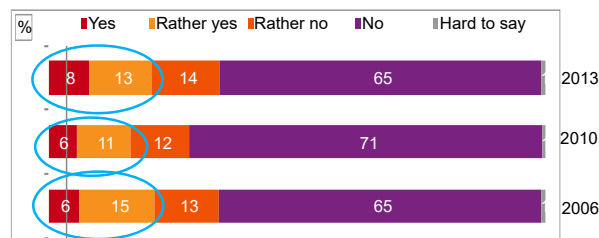
Percentage of occupational diseases (per 100 000 workers) in some selected industries in 2013



Structure of occupational diseases across sectors in 2013 (%)



Do we register all occupational diseases? Employees suffering from health disorders caused by the harmful occupational factors (%)

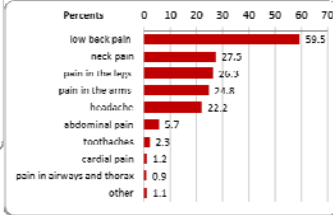


Incidence of pain among Latvian workers

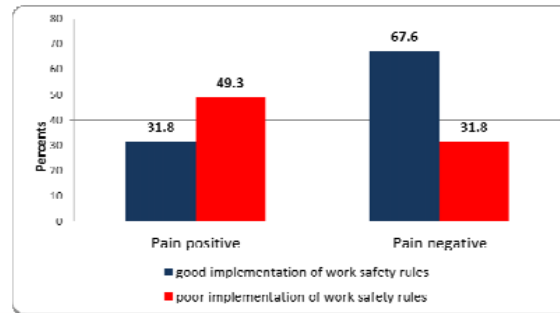
Have you had pain during last year?



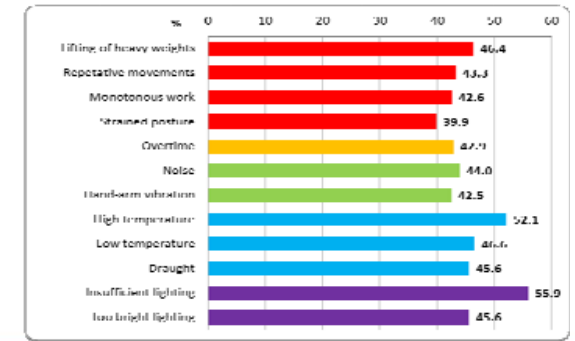
What was the location of pain?



Is the pain (and later OD) associated with working conditions? General situation

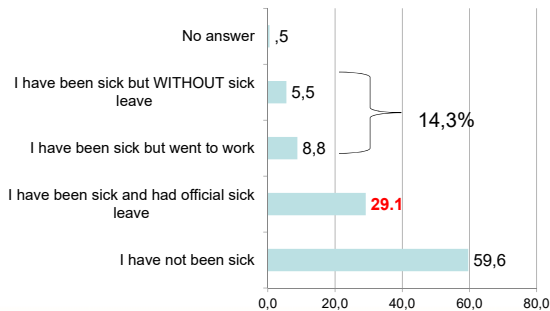


Multifactorial aspects of pain and MSD



Behaviour of employees in case of being sick?

Which situation is true about you in last year? (n=2383)



Conclusions

- Rapid increase of occupational diseases incidence is caused by both the working conditions and improvements in diagnostics and coverage of health surveillance
- The number of OD is probably significantly higher, possibly with MSD still being the largest share
 - » Significant part of employees have health complaints
 - » Incidence of «occupational pain» as pre-condition of MSD is very wide spread
 - » Distribution of OD across sectors are also showing the underdiagnosics of OD

Conclusions

- OD in general and MSD as largest part of them are causing significant economic loss in short and long term in Latvia as well
- Some of the multifactorial causes for pain and MSD area apparently relatively simple to deal with
- **Only by understanding the causes and factors behind early stages of MSD we can make EFFECTIVE PREVENTION**