



Department of Clinical Neuroscience
Division of Insurance Medicine

Sickness absence within the police force

The overall objective of this study is to achieve general knowledge about sickness absence within the police force and more specifically about gender differences. Sickness absence is more frequent among women than men within the Police. Increased knowledge in this area will make it easier to prioritize and take action to decrease sickness absence for women in the police organization. In the long run the aim for the police organization is to have an organization without differences in health and sickness absence between men and women. More scientific knowledge is needed about factors of importance for sickness absence to reach that goal. Data on sickness absence and work conditions from questionnaires distributed to all employed within the Police in 2005, 2007, and 2009 are being analyzed.

One sub-study also focus on short- and long-term sickness absence 2007 among women and men in the Stockholm Police county (Polismyndigheten i Stockholms län). Both survey and sick-leave register data are analyzed.

Special focus is gender differences in sickness absence, the associations between threats, violence and threats of violence, harassments, leadership, and sickness absence as well as sickness presence.

Financing

This study was partially financed by the Swedish police organization and the Stockholm Police Force (2006-2010), Forte and Stockholm Stress Centre (Forte).

Project management

Kristina Alexanderson, Professor, Principal investigator (PI)
Pia Svedberg, PhD, assistant professor/junior researcher, Co-PI

Collaboration

This project is conducted in collaboration with the Swedish Police (RPS), Stockholm Police, Karolinska Institutet (KI) and the Police School (PHS). In 2011, collaboration with Stockholm University, Stockholm Stress Centre (SSC)/FAS, was initiated.

Publications Peer-reviewed

1. Körlin J, Alexanderson K, Svedberg P. Sickness absence among women and men in the police: a systematic literature review. *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*. 2009;37(3): 310-319.

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4. Taloyan M, Kecklund G, Thörn L, Kjeldgård L, Westerlund H, Svedberg P, Alexanderson K. Sickness presence in the Swedish Police in 2007 and in 2010: associations with demographic factors, job characteristics, and health. *Work*. 2016;54(2)379-87.

Scientific reports

1. Körlin J, Svedberg P, Alexanderson K. (2007). Sjukfrånvaro bland kvinnor och män anställda inom polisen [Sickness absence among women and men in the Police]. Sektionen för personskadeprevention, Institutionen för klinisk neurovetenskap, Karolinska Institutet.
2. Svedberg P, Alexanderson K. (Eds.) (2009) Sjukfrånvaro och arbete inom Polisen. [Sickness absence and work in the Police]. Sektionen för personskadeprevention, Institutionen för klinisk neurovetenskap, Karolinska Institutet.
3. Kjeldgård. L, Ekmer. A, Vaez. M, Alexanderson. K. (2010) Sjukfrånvaro bland kvinnor och män inom Polismyndigheten i Stockholms län. [Sickness absence among women and men in the Police Force of Stockholm County], Sektionen för försäkringsmedicin, Institutionen för klinisk neurovetenskap, Karolinska Institutet.

Conference abstracts

Svedberg P, Körlin J, Alexanderson K. (2007). Is sickness absence in the Swedish police force associated with discrimination, harassments, threats, and violence? *European Journal of Public Health*, vol 17, suppl.2. 15th EUPHA conference, Helsinki, Finland.

Student Thesis

1. Jenny Körlin (2007). Sickness absence, gender discrimination and sexual harassment in the Police – two systematic literature reviews. Student project work, Medical programme, T7, Karolinska Institutet.
2. Sibeck-Vedberg, C. (2009) Sjukfrånvaro och ledarskap inom polisen [Sickness absence and leadership in the Swedish police force](In Swedish). Stockholm: Karolinska Institutet; Magisteruppsats i Försäkringsmedicin 2009.

