

Department of Clinical Neuroscience
Division of Insurance Medicine

The National Working Life Cohort

The National Working Life Cohort was created as a longitudinal study between 2004 and 2006 at the National Institute for Working Life. A random sample of the Swedish population was followed annually surveys by telephone interviews and postal surveys. Additional information about education, income, social security payments for individuals was collected from population registers and covers the period 2001-2010.

Data material

Statistics Sweden was responsible for the collection of data and the questionnaires were structured and largely the same in the three years 2004, 2004, and 2006. At each data collection an introductory telephone interview to each individual was followed by a postal survey. The data collection took place during the first three months of each year. The sample was based on all individuals living in Sweden aged 25-50 in 2004 defined in the register for the total Swedish population at Statistics Sweden. In the first data collection the sample consisted of 5009 persons. The restriction on age distribution was motivated by the fact that focus of the study was on individuals labour force attachment and also the idea to enable long term follow ups concerning work, sickness absence and disability. (Marklund et al 2006, Berntson et al 2005a, 2005b).

The response rate in the first interview in 2004 was 71.9 per cent. The corresponding response rate for the postal survey 2004 was 59.4 per cent. In the following interviews and postal surveys there was a gradual decrease in the numbers who responded. A conducted analysis of the non-response bias showed that the total sample is reasonably representative for the Swedish working population despite an underrepresentation of younger males and persons living in big cities. (Marklund et al 2006, Berntson et al 2005b)

Project group:

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Funding and ethical approval

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