

Prevention of fatal occupational injuries in Sweden

Bengt Järvholm, Johanna Björnstig, Ulf Björnstig, Umeå University, Sweden

Objective: How to prevent fatal occupational injuries?
What can we learn from routine national statistics?

Methods: We used available registers at Work Environment Authority, Insurance Company (AFA Försäkring), National Registers of Deaths, Hospital Care and Occupational Registers



Findings:

- The average risk of a fatal occupational injury is about *1 per 100 000* persons and year
- The odds men:women is *9:1*
- The victims are *rather old* (median age: men 52 years, women 43 years)
- Serious injuries and fatal injuries has *different* patterns considering, age, gender, industrial sector, type of injury.
- Injuries involving vehicles constitute about *half of all* fatal injuries
 - Half occurs in general traffic
 - Half occurs in other areas
- Fall from height is an important cause
- Violence, Explosions, Electric shocks are rather uncommon causes

Conclusions:

1. Previous accidents is not a very reliable source for future actions
 - Fatal injuries are rare
 - Serious injuries have a different distribution
2. Focus on situations with high energy
 - Prevent contact between humans and “high energy”
 - Vehicles
 - Fall from height
 - Big animals/cutting trees/....
 - Strict organizational measures
 - Traffic is an occupational arena
3. Classification with a higher focus on preventable factors
E.g. for which injuries are the preventive measures
 - Well-known
 - Unknown