

FOREIGN-BORN WORKERS IN HIGH RISK OCCUPATIONS FOR COVID-19 - AN INTERVIEW STUDY

Mia Söderberg¹, Juhaina Swaid², Kristina Jakobsson¹, Maria Magnusson³, Annika Rosengren⁴

¹Arbets- och miljömedicin, Sahlgrenska akademien vid Göteborgs universitet, ²Hälsoteket Östra Göteborg, Göteborgs stad,

³Angereds närsjukhus, Sjukhusen i väster, Västra Götalandsregionen, ⁴Avdelningen för molekylär och klinisk medicin, Sahlgrenska akademien

MANY OCCUPATIONS INCLUDE NOT OBVIOUS CLOSE SOCIAL CONTACTS

INITIAL CRISIS INFORMATION WAS NOT WELL ADJUSTED TO THE ENTIRE SOCIETY

SOME GROUPS HAD LESS POSSIBILITIES TO PROTECT THEMSELVES

Background

The prevalence of COVID-19 is markedly higher in many occupations outside the healthcare sector. These lesser studied jobs are characterised by low wages, low training requirements and a large proportion of foreign-born workers.

Reasons for a higher prevalence of infection and to which extent adjacent living conditions or being foreign-born contribute, is unknown.

Purpose

To investigate occupational factors and living conditions that may increase the risk of infection for covid-19 among foreign-born worker in occupations outside the health and care sector.

Based on previous studies, we chose to include taxi drivers, bus and tram drivers, pizza bakers, cleaners and property managers.

Method

Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, which meant that all questions were based on an interview template, but with open-ended questions, which made it possible for participants to freely describe their situation. All interviews were transcribed and the content was analyzed based on a method similar to systematic text condensation.

Eleven people were interviewed, out of which the majority were men (n=10), with Syria, Turkey, Somalia, Iraq and Palestine as countries of origin.

RESULTS

The initial focus of the study was occupational risks and living conditions, but it was immediately apparent that aspects of access to adapted information also was important.

The two overarching main themes thus resulted in: "**Infection risks at work**" and "**Insufficiently adapted information**".

Under the theme "Infection risks at work", we identified the following sub-themes: Infected surfaces, Lack of protective equipment, Close social contacts, Lack of safety culture and Financial difficulties for sick leave.

Within the main theme "Insufficiently adapted information", these sub-themes appeared: Not linguistically adapted, Lack of knowledge about other types of information channels, Does not create trust and Lack of knowledge about specific protection needs.

CONCLUSION

Our themes span several aspects, but over-arching structural factors were linked to working conditions, vulnerability and lack of life control, which in turn reduced the possibilities for the participants to protect themselves. As our study is based on a small number of people, the results lack generalizability, but can form a basis to larger studies and contribute with suggestions for adapted support for groups with special needs.

ARBETSMILJÖ Coronaviruset

"Vi städare glömdes bort i pandemin"

Städare räknas som ett högriskyrke för att smittas av covid-19, visar flera svenska studier. Men städarnas viktiga jobb har glömts bort, tycker sjukhuslokalvårdaren Emma Leijd.

– Vi såg hur vårdpersonalen fick mackor från lokala affären, fruktkorgar, de fick jättemycket. Vi stod bredvid och fick ingenting.



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