

test research study was to examine the effectiveness of an intervention designed through a participatory process to improve knowledge and safe work practices, as well as to reduce sharps injuries among nurses.

Methods The study population was surgical nurses from 16 randomly selected hospitals in north-western Poland. Data were collected between 2009–2011 with the use of self-administered, anonymous pre-intervention/post-intervention questionnaires containing records of demographic characteristics, self-reported sharps injuries, knowledge (12 items) and practices on injection safety, before/1 year after the educational intervention which included a 2 hour lecture.

Results Of 91 participants (mean age 42.8, range 24–59 years) for whom the pre-intervention and post-intervention questionnaires could be directly matched, 20.9% worked at teaching, 15.4% – at other urban, 63.7% – at provincial hospitals; 64.8% were employed at surgical, 24.2% – at gynaecological wards, 11.0% – in the admitting area. The mean level of knowledge on injection safety before the intervention was 3.09, it increased to 4.12 after ($p < 0.001$), including the improvement of the knowledge of the post-exposure prophylaxis ($p < 0.001$). Before the intervention 48.4% of respondents had had a needle-stick injury in the previous year, the number decreased (20.9%) after the intervention, $p < 0.001$; before intervention 47.5% reported recapping needles after use, and 30.0% – after, $p < 0.05$.

Conclusions Despite a high risk of contracting a blood-borne infection due to unsafe practices at work and numerous sharps injuries, surgical nurses had alarmingly low knowledge on injection safety. Educational intervention can have a long-term positive impact on the improvement of knowledge and safe work practices and reduce sharps injuries.

998 FARMERS' OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENTS IN FINLAND

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Background According to the statistics of the Farmers' Social Insurance Institution Mela, approximately six per cent of insured farmers have received compensation for an occupational accident in recent years.

Methods The study population consisted of 3117 farmers and was weighted to be equivalent to the actual distribution of the production sector in Finland in 2014. The data was collected through computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI). The structure of the interviews was planned by a group of experts at the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, and included questions on the nature of occupational accidents.

Results Of the interviewed farmers, 15% had had an accident during farm work in the previous 12 months. Out of these, two thirds required medical care after the accident. Livestock farmers were far more likely to have had occupational accidents than crop farmers. One in four (25%) dairy cattle farmers had had an accident, while the number for crop farmers was 11%. Relative to part-time farmers, full-time farmers had had more accidents (19% and 7%, respectively) and were also more likely to have required medical care afterwards (13% and 5%, respectively). The most recent occupational accident for which farmers had seen a doctor had usually occurred either during cattle tending (24%), forest work (13%) or maintaining machines (12%).

Conclusions According to the farmers' own accounts, there had been a third more occupational accidents requiring medical care than what is shown in the compensation statistics of Mela. This is largely explained by the bonus system of the current farmer's accident insurance legislation in which the insurance fees significantly decrease after a number of years without accidents. The greater frequency of accidents among full-time farmers is explained both by a greater amount of time spent on farm work and a larger focus on the more high-risk livestock farming.

999 NEW APPROACH ABOUT ACCIDENT PREVENTION

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Background Department for Occupational Safety and Health of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health ordered a preliminary study on a topic called "modern accident program" which means a new approach to accident prevention. The basis for this program was the strategy for social and health policy Socially Sustainable Finland 2020 and the document Policies for the work environment and well-being at work until 2020. This study was completed in end of the year 2014 and it was carried out by VTT (Technical Research Centre of Finland) in cooperation with Tampere University of Technology (TTY).

Description of the problem One goal of the Policies for the work environment and well-being at work until 2020 (compared to the year 2010) is to reduce the frequency of workplace accidents by 25%. The frequency hasn't reduced as we hope to. In Finland, we need new tools for accident prevention.

Results The targets of this program correspond to the recommended actions of the preliminary study. The program is not carried out elsewhere as a separate program. It's a new approach that promotes best practices in accident prevention and cooperation among stakeholders.

Conclusions The target year of these goals is 2025. It's the same target year as for the future review Working life 2025 which has been written in the Department for Occupational Safety and Health of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

1000 PSYCHOSOCIAL/PSYCHOSOMATIC CONSEQUENCES ON EMPLOYEES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION OF TWO MUNICIPALITIES IN THE CITY OF ATHENS, AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "KALLIKRATES PLAN" PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY

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Background Reconstruction and/or merging of Greek Businesses and Services, by a program which is called "Kallikrates", ("Kallikrates Plan" is a major administrative reform in Greece, aiming to the restructuring and better administrative cooperation among the thirteen regions of Greece). This reform plan has direct and indirect consequences on employees' health condition and security in Local Government Administration (L.G.A) work places. Staff reduction, new responsibilities, work overload, unexpected horizontal staff transfers, roles ambiguity, and job insecurity,