Occupational diseases in the EU
2-3 December 2013 - Brussels

Session 2: diagnostic criteria, data and statistics

European Occupational Diseases Statistics (EODS)

Eurostat
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Overview

- Institutional and legal context
- EODS methodology and statistics
- Problems and quality assessment
- Report current situation of OD systems
- Future EODS
Institutional and legal context

- Eurostat's role, ESS (European Statistical System)
- European OD policy
- Code of practice
- Regulation 1338/2008

- Related:
  - ESAW (accidents at work)
  - Labour Force Survey ad-hoc module 2013
EODS methodology and statistics

- Development – 1999-2000
- 2 phases
- National systemic differences
  (List; recognition; determination of incapacity – physiological, economical, mix;...)
- Gentlemen's agreement
- Grants for implementation
EODS – scope (phase 1)

- **incidence data of OD recognised in the reference year**
  (temporary incapacity / permanent incapacity / post mortem)
- **prevalent cases leading to the death**
  of the victim in the reference year
- Occupational diseases to be covered:
  - List of selected diseases according ICD-10
    (EODS annex with specifications)
  - Commission recommendation of 19 September 2003
    concerning the European Schedule of Occupational Diseases:
    list in annex I
- not included: prevalent cases which changed (disability level)
EODS– variables (phase 1)

- Country of emergence
- Age / Sex
- Occupation at time of harmful exposure (ISCO)
- Economic activity of employer at time of harmful exposure (NACE)
- European Schedule Reference Number (ESOD)
- Diagnosis (disease - ICD)
- Severity of Disease (temporary / permanent incapacity, death)
- Exposure (causal agent; short or long list)
- Exposure - use categories (chemical causal agents – industrial product)
- (Year/severity first recognition)
EODS statistics - problems

- Coverage (year / country / variables)
- Burden at the source (EODS compliant coding)
- Accuracy and comparability
  - Recognition / reporting
  - Differences in meaning / levels of detail (mild cases, temporary as sick leave days, physiological / economical incapacity or a mix)
  - Coherency checking between variables (IDC, ESOD, exposure)
- Member States against dissemination of national data on Eurostat’s web site
- Only EU aggregate data (but nor complete, neither stable)
Quality assessment

• Quality criteria:
  • relevance, accuracy, comparability, timeliness, clarity and understanding, cost-effectiveness

• Assessment through consultation rounds
  • questionnaire round 1
  • discussion WG EODS November 2011
  • questionnaire round 2 (Jan 2012 – paused/partial)

• Questionnaires: EODS compliance/coverage and quality assessment
Quality assessment – round 1

- Types of OD included (and type of incapacity)
- Coverage ESOD scheme
- Coverage EODS variables, details for severity
- Coverage years, sectors, professional status
- National OD system characteristics
- Relevance (added value of European statistics EODS, inclusive quantitative setting as numbers and amounts of expenditure, stakeholders and types of use)
- Accuracy (under-reporting, variability over the years, validation at the source)
- Comparability (points above + breaks in time)
- Clarity (types of indicators and measurement units, metadata, ...)
- Cost-effectiveness (cost of national EODS, burden at the source)
Quality assessment – some results

• Incapacity and severity - different definitions, no complete coverage; 4 MS do not use, 3 MS do not use temporary; 6 MS do not deliver fatal cases, do not apply post mortem recognition

• Reporting of EODS variables problematic (severity, ESOD code, exposure); drop long list

• Coverage sectors for employees: in theory all but under-reporting; under-reporting varies over the years in 6 MS; different types of benefits

• Relevance high to medium; quantitative assessment of the scope, cost created by OD difficult; comparing countries important

• Cost for development towards EODS compliant statistics: low; annual production: reasonable (by-product) with some extra burden for EODS codification
Report "Current situation of OD systems"

- "Nearly all the countries covered by this study (26 out of 29: AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, DE, GR, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, MT, NO, PL, PT, RO, SK, SI, ES, CH, UK) have a list of occupational diseases. .... The degree of exhaustiveness of the lists varies depending on the country.... In many countries, the national list is similar in structure to Annex 1 of the European list."
- "compensation can be covered by different insurance systems"
- "not all have a specific compensation system for these diseases (23 out of 29)"
  "There is great heterogeneity among the 23 specific systems for compensation of occupational diseases"
- "There is a great diversity of recording systems, in their management (insurance organisation, Ministry, other ad hoc organisation), in the criteria used as a basis for reporting cases, and in their objectives (compensation, statistics, risk prevention). "The diversity of the registers from one country to another, and even within a given country, makes it hard to compare the statistics between countries. "
- "With the exception of Bulgaria, all the countries recognise (BE, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, GR, HU, IS, IT, LV, LT, MT, NO, RO, SI, SK, ES, SE, CH, UK) or do not rule out (AT, DE, IE, PL, PT) a problem of under-reporting of occupational diseases."
Report "Current situation of OD systems"

- "Regarding the scale of the under-reporting, it seems that very few countries have carried out research on the subject"
- "It is important that the Community statistics Regulation is explicitly supported by any adaptation of the OD Recommendation and forms the basis for OD statistics"
- "with only two exceptions (CY, MT) more or less reliable data of varying reliability on recognised ODs are available in every country."
- "It is difficult to compare national statistics of occupational diseases for several reasons .... The comparative exercise is nevertheless still useful to derive the big trends .... it is possible to deduce what are the most frequent diseases in Europe or simply to diagnose a functional problem of the reporting system in some countries. " The comparative exercise remains also useful for some diseases whose recognition conditions are relatively similar in all the national OD compensation systems"
Report "Current situation of OD systems"

- "it appears that in those countries in which the system of prevention, registration and compensation for occupational diseases is long-standing, the changes observed do not converge toward a common European system."
- "several “new” EU members made use of the EU lists to reform their system; for many of these countries, the lists of occupational diseases in Annexes 1 and 2 of the Recommendation proved to be useful reference tools."

Report "Current situation of OD systems"

- The **reliability of statistics varies considerably** across Member States. The main problems include: variations in concepts (recognised cases or reported cases); under-reporting of occupational diseases due to variations in reporting practices; and variations in recognition systems such as the content of national lists and the recognition criteria (including the specification, or not, of intensity of exposure). The nature of a country's economic activities (agriculture, industry, services) can also affect the number and the typology of the occupational diseases reported and recognised.

- "EUROSTAT should provide **criteria for notification** of occupational diseases. This allows Eurostat to develop **statistics in which similar diagnostic/exposure criteria** are being used." "...of course to have sufficient completeness of the reported cases in every Member State. ...Member States to analyse and notify the **catchment capacity** of their systems ""
Future EODS

- Annual Work Plan Eurostat: "report on a possible regular simplified data collection related to occupational diseases."
- Working Group EODS 6/7 may 2014
- Some ideas:
  - Confirm EODS based on ESOD recommendation
  - Restrict/update common list of OD
  - Simplification in some variables
  - Inclusion of on-set date
  - Drop or make optional some variables
  - Review dissemination (limited set of tables)
    EU aggregates (numbers, incidence rates, trends, distributions)
    National indicators (trends, distributions, no numbers)
    Micro data for research (anonymised, age groups)