



Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin

# Depressive symptoms and non-participation in work – results from the longitudinal Study on Mental Health at Work (S-MGA)

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# Outline

- Introduction: Lack of evidence
- First results from a representative & longitudinal study
- Discussion

# Poor health and participation in work?

- Review on poor health and exit from paid work (*van Rijn, Robroek, Brouwer, Burdorf 2014*):
  - No unified measurements of health and participation in work
  - Random sampling?
  - Longitudinal design?
  - Control variables?
- Depression as risk factor (*Bültmann et. al., 2008*): results from Germany?

## Data: Study of Mental Health at Work (S-MGA)

- Random sample from the Integrated Employment Biographies Register at the Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Nuremberg, Germany
- Employees in Germany aged 31-60 years being subject to social security contributions
- Interviews in person: Participation
  - Baseline 2011/12: 36%; n = 4,511
  - Follow-up 2017: 59%; n = 2,640
  - No differences regarding age, gender and region

*(Rose et al 2017)*

# Variables and analyses using the S-MGA

- Outcome:
  - Non-participation in work according ILO: <1 hour/ week gainful employment
- Independent variable:
  - Depression (PHQ9  $\geq 10$ )
- Covariates:
  - Gender, age, education, non-participation of partner (t2), physical functioning (SF-12)
- Logistic regression analyses

# Non-participation by depression status

	<b>Non-Participation 2017</b>
	%
<b>Depression 2011/12</b>	
<b>No</b>	12
<b>Yes</b>	20

# Non-participation by depression status

		<b>Non-Participation 2017</b>		
		<b>%</b>	<b>Odds Ratio</b>	<b>95% CI</b>
<b>Depression 2011/12</b>				
<b>No</b>		12	1	
<b>Yes</b>		20	1.81	1.25-2.61

# Non-participation by depression status

Controlled for ...:	OR [CI 95%]
	OR [CI 95%]
None	1.81 [1.25-2.61]



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None	1.81 [1.25-2.61]
Gender 2011/12	1.82 [1.26 - 2.63]
Age (5 Y) 2011/12	1.88 [1.27 - 2.77]
Education 2011/12	1.76 [1.21 - 2.56]

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Non participation of partner 2017	1.67 [1.14 - 2.45]
Physical functioning 2017	1.19 [0.81 - 1.76]

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None	1.81 [1.25-2.61]
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Physical functioning 2017	1.19 [0.81 - 1.76]
All 5 covariates	1.39 [0.92-2.10]

# Discussion

- Association between depressive symptoms and non-participation in work longitudinally
- Adjustment:
  - Association unchanged: Gender, age education
  - Association attenuates especially with physical functioning
  - Risk for overadjustment and bias by using health related covariates
- Further analyses planned

# Acknowledgements and references

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- Data collection: Institute for Applied Social Sciences (INFAS), Bonn

## References

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- van Rijn, R. M., Robroek, S. J., Brouwer, S. & Burdorf, A. (2014). Influence of poor health on exit from paid employment: A systematic review. *Occup Environ Med*, 71(4), 295-301.



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**Many thanks!**

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