



Young Employees' Trajectories and Occupational Class Differences in Utilization of Primary Care Services Provided by Occupational Health Service

Sosiaalilääketieteen päivät 2018

Sumanen H, Harkko J, Piha K, Pietiläinen O, Rahkonen O, Kouvonen A

Background

The presented manuscript is part of a project “The work ability of young workers and the use of occupational health care services”, funded by TSR

The aim of the research project is to investigate the patterns of occupational health care services of young workers and the associations between the use of occupational health care services and sick-leaves and work disability pensions due to mental health reasons (ICD-10 F00-F99)

The specific aim of this article was to explore the targeting of occupational health care services for young workers

Background / rationale

Lack of research focusing to OHS provided for the working population and need for further study to identify service development needs and possibilities.

As socioeconomic differences in sickness allowances are large among employees, OHS primary care service utilization may be feasible to monitor from the socioeconomic viewpoint

We aimed to identify developmental trajectories in OHS primary care service utilization in the municipal employees

We tested the hypothesis that lower occupational classes have a higher risk of high OHS utilization, when background and occupational characteristics are brought into the analysis

Methods

This study was a retrospective register based cohort study

The study covered all Helsinki City employees aged 20-34 at the beginning of their first work contract with the City (N = 23,388) between 04/06/2004 and 04/19/2013

Only employees with employment records for four years were retained in the present study (n = 10,064)

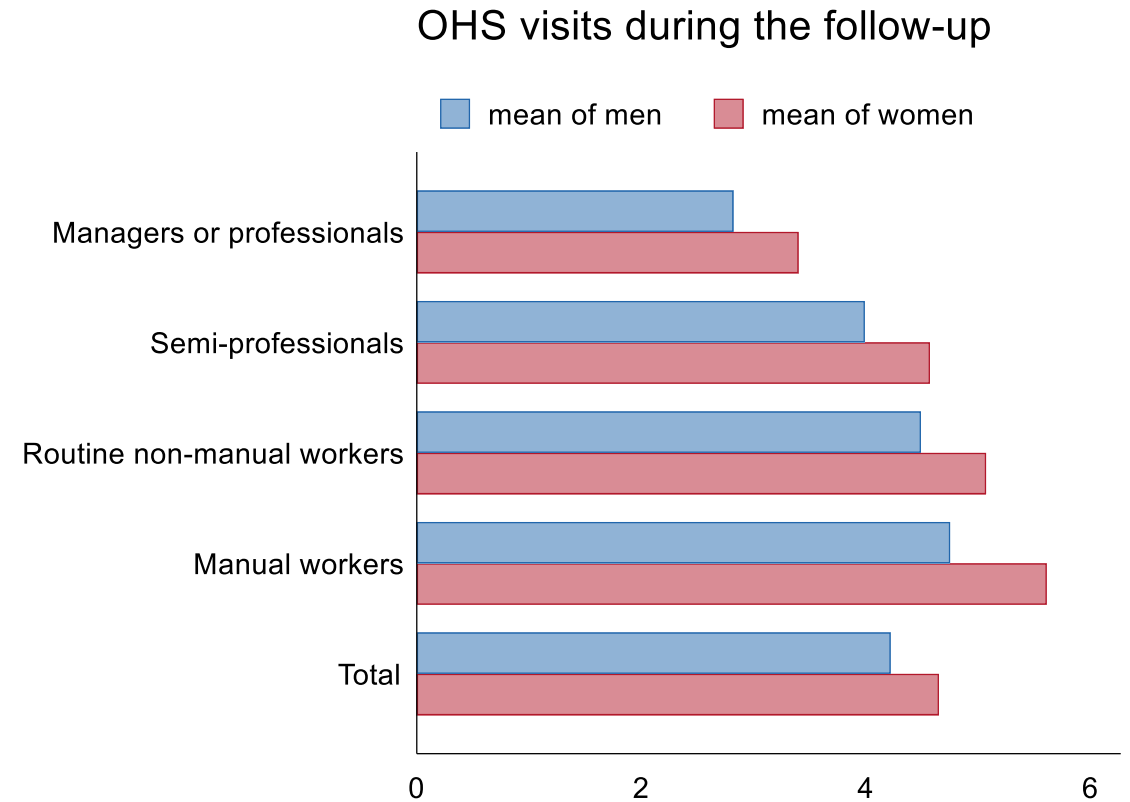
Group-Based Trajectory Modeling was applied for identify clusters of individuals with similar developmental trajectory on OHS utilization

Multinomial logistic regression models were applied to investigate the predictors of the trajectory group membership

Results. Descriptive data

Number of visits was smallest among managers and professionals, and increased with decreasing occupational class

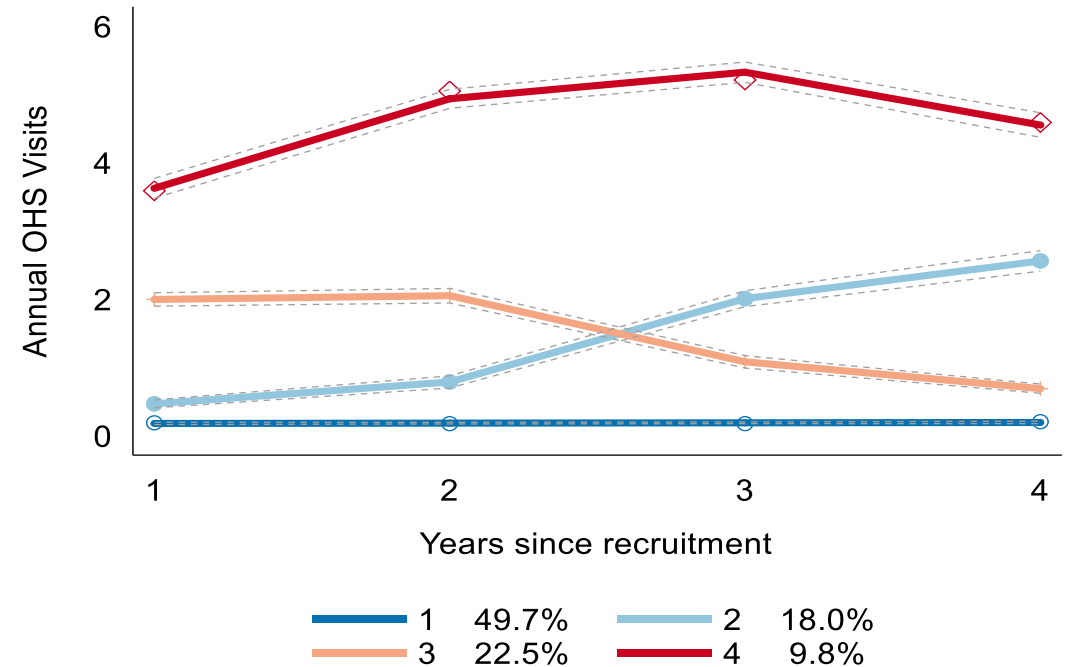
Women used the services more in all occupational classes



Results. Trajectory analysis

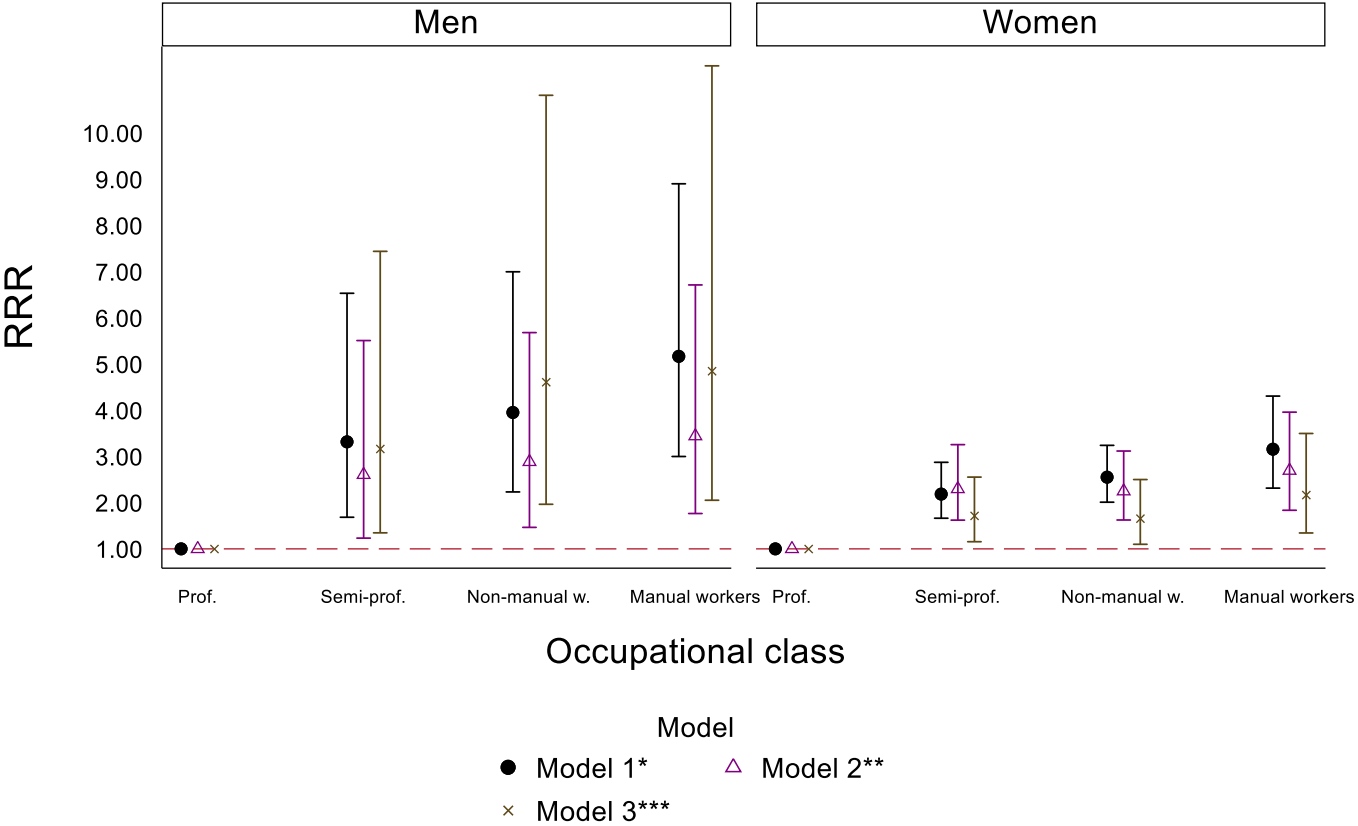
A trajectory model consisting of four distinct trajectories

- “No OHS visits” (n = 5,106, 50%)
- “Low/increasing OHS visits” (n = 1,744, 18%)
- “Low/decreasing OHS visits” (n = 2,238, 22%)
- “High/recurrent OHS visits” group (n = 976, 10%)



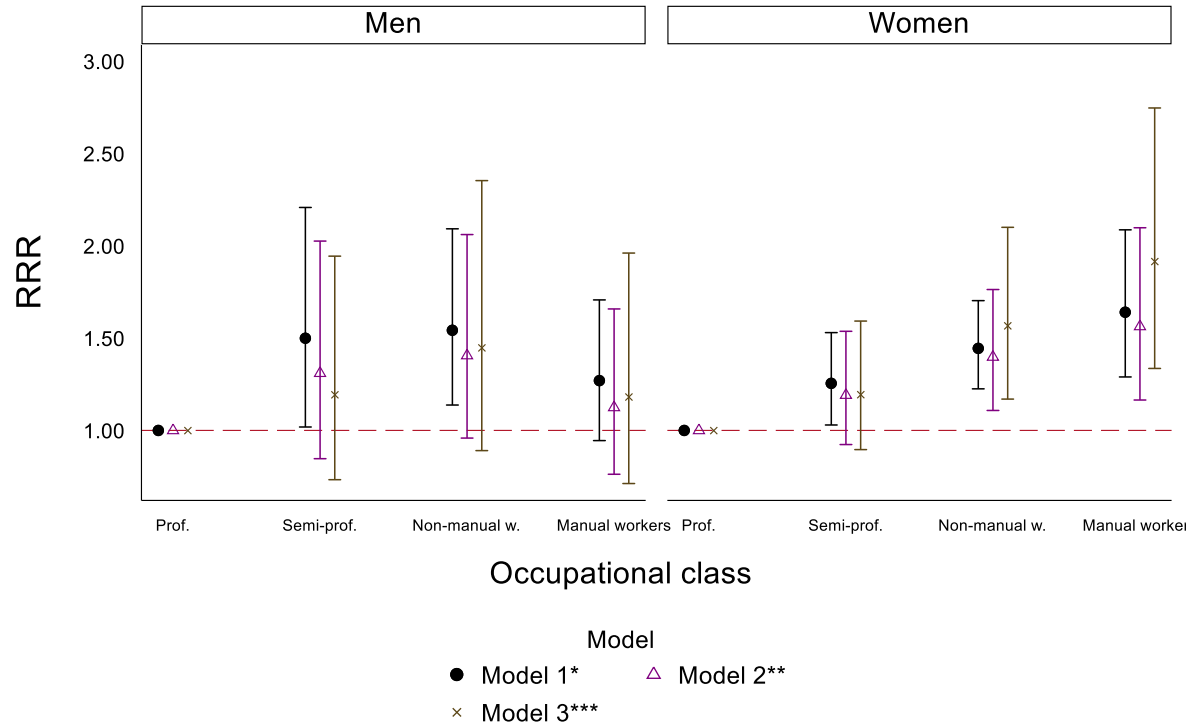
High/recurrent

Occupational class differences in high/recurrent OHS utilization group are steep especially among men, and also evident among women

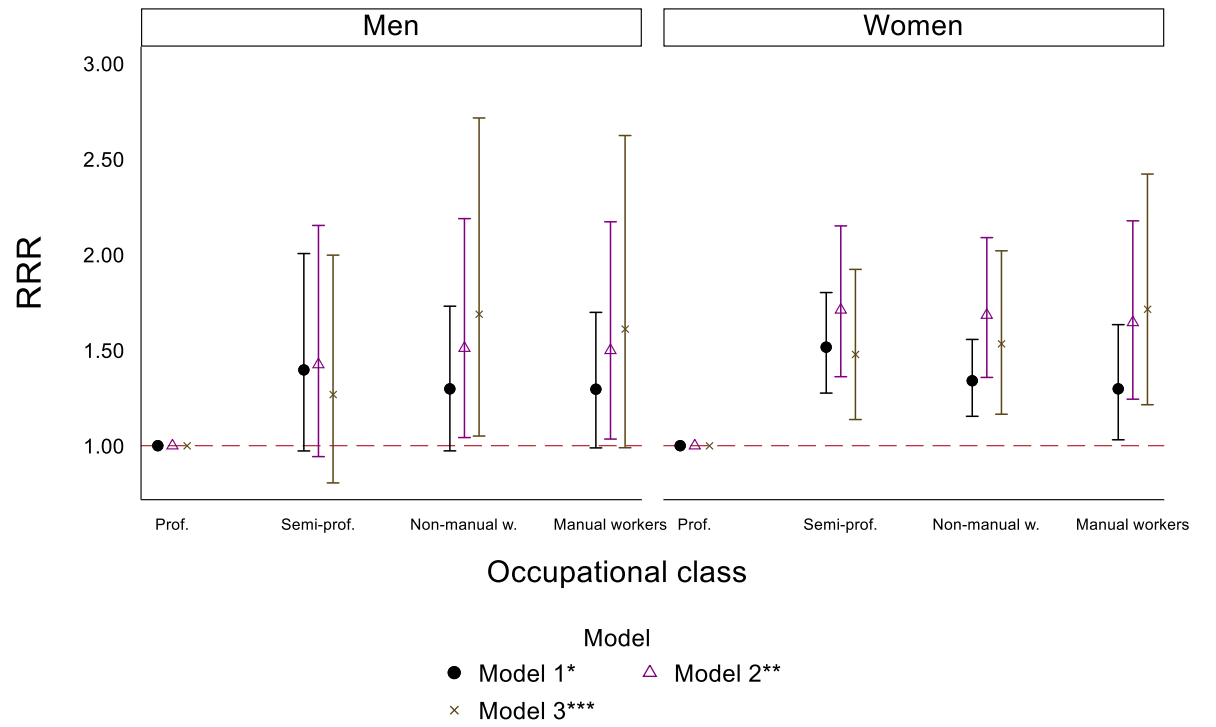


*Model 1. Unadjusted model
 **Model 2. Model 1 adjusted for age, education and language
 ***Model 3. Model 2 adjusted for income, working hours and type of employment contract

The two "low" groups



*Model 1. Unadjusted model
 **Model 2. Model 1 adjusted for age, education and language
 ***Model 3. Model 2 adjusted for income, working hours and type of employment contract



*Model 1. Unadjusted model
 **Model 2. Model 1 adjusted for age, education and language
 ***Model 3. Model 2 adjusted for income, working hours and type of employment contract

Occupational class differences in Low/increasing and Low/decreasing groups were less steep and no dose-exposure relation

Key results

A large proportion of the young employees do not use OHS primary care services to any considerable extent

Occupational class differences are seen in the utilization

Trajectory groups of no visits, low/increasing, low/decreasing and high/recurrent were identified

There were some occupational class differences related to belonging to the “low utilization” trajectories

The trajectory group of high/recurrent OHS utilization had large occupational class differences especially among men, and also evident among women.

Discussion and conclusions

We tested the hypothesis that occupational class is an independent risk factor for higher OHS utilization.

Our results highlight the significance of socioeconomic gradient that was visible in the utilization of primary care services provided by OHS among both genders

The trajectory group of high/recurrent OHS utilization is perhaps the most interesting group alongside with low/increasing in terms of costs and possible preventive opportunities.



Thank you!