Marginalization and social isolation as a predictor of disability pension in young people

That people have to leave working life early due to reduced work capacity is a public health problem and a heavy socioeconomic burden for the society. In Sweden and in other Nordic countries, the number of disability pensioners has increased particularly in young women. The proportion of women aged 20-29 years with disability pension due to mental illness has increased fivefold between 1987-2005. The corresponding figure for men was a threefold increase. The upward trend in disability pension is persisting among younger people, while the rate of disability pension in the general population is falling. The present investigation focuses mainly on disability pension due to mental illness, but comparisons with disability pension due to musculoskeletal diagnoses are also made. The aim is to study whether social isolation with weak social networks, low participation in working life and society is important for the process leading to disability pension. Differences between men and women and between younger and older will be analyzed. The study includes men and women aged 20-64 years who were interviewed in the surveys of Swedish Living Conditions (SSLC) between 1990-2008. Prospective analyses based on Cox regression will be used, starting at the year of interview, provided that the person was "healthy" at interview. The study group is linked to other registers, for example, data from the Swedish Social Insurance Agency. The investigation has a gender perspective and the aim is primarily to increase knowledge of the circumstances behind the upward trend in disability pension among young people with special focus on mental illness. The investigation can provide valuable insight for the direction of preventive actions with socioeconomic implications.

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Scientific articles


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