Psychiatric health consequences of sickness absence and disability pension

This project aims to investigate the predictive value of patterns of sickness absence and disability pension for various mental health outcomes in the Swedish general population. These outcomes include inpatient care due to mental disorders and suicide attempt, suicide completion and disability pension due to mental disorders.

A cohort of all persons who lived in Sweden on the 31st of December 1994 (n=5,512,611) will be followed prospectively up until the 31st of December 2010. To test eventual cohort effects also cohorts of all persons who lived in Sweden the 31st of December 1989, 1999 and 2004 will be formed with similar follow-up times. Register data is obtained for all individuals and their parents (where available) from Statistics Sweden, the National Board of Health and Welfare and the Social Insurance Agency.

The sparse literature to date suggests an association of sickness absence and disability pension with suicide completion, however often based on selected occupational cohorts. This project includes the so far largest cohort studies in this research area, covering a total population with long follow-up periods, and comprehensive information on potential confounders, like socio-economic factors. The study investigates unresolved issues like e.g. possible cohort effects, the influence of specific diagnoses and of parental factors, which will contribute extensively to the current knowledge base.

Financial support
The Swedish Research Council, The Centre for Health Care Science, Karolinska Institutet, KID funding, Karolinska Institutet

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Publications


10) Jonsson U, Alexanderson K, Kjeldgård L, Westerlund H, Mittendorfer-Rutz E. Diagnosis-specific disability pension predicts suicidal behaviour and