Psychosocial Working Conditions and Obesity Research in Firefighters

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Obesity (BMI $\geq 30$ kg/m$^2$) prevalence rates of OECD countries

Trends in obesity prevalence rates among working adults in the US


FIGURE 1—Trends in gender- and race-specific prevalence rates of obesity among working adults, (a) men and (b) women: the National Health Interview Survey, 1986 to 2002.
Obesity and the workplace?
In conclusion, the papers in this thematic issue of the *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health* demonstrate how, for several reasons, the obesity epidemic is an important issue in occupational health research and practice. Some occupational risk factors contribute to obesity, and obesity contributes to injuries and preterm exit from the labor market. It is also known that behavioral changes focusing on diet and physical activity are key factors to address. But at present it is not known if and how this knowledge can be utilized for preventive action at the workplace. This gap in knowledge defines a major research area that so far has been given far too little attention.
Figure 1. Analytic framework for worksite nutrition and physical activity interventions to improve weight status

Four presentations

- The Role of Work in the Etiology of Obesity. *Dr. Peter L. Schnall*

- Psychosocial Working Conditions, Health Behaviors, and Obesity in Firefighters. *Dr. BongKyoo Choi*

- Total Worker Health and Firefighter Obesity: A Participatory, Mixed-method Research Approach. *Dr. Marnie Dobson*

- Two worksite intervention studies to improve the health of firefighter? *Dr. BongKyoo Choi*