

The health of vulnerable workers in Italy

Carlo Lucarelli

(carlo.lucarelli@istat.it)

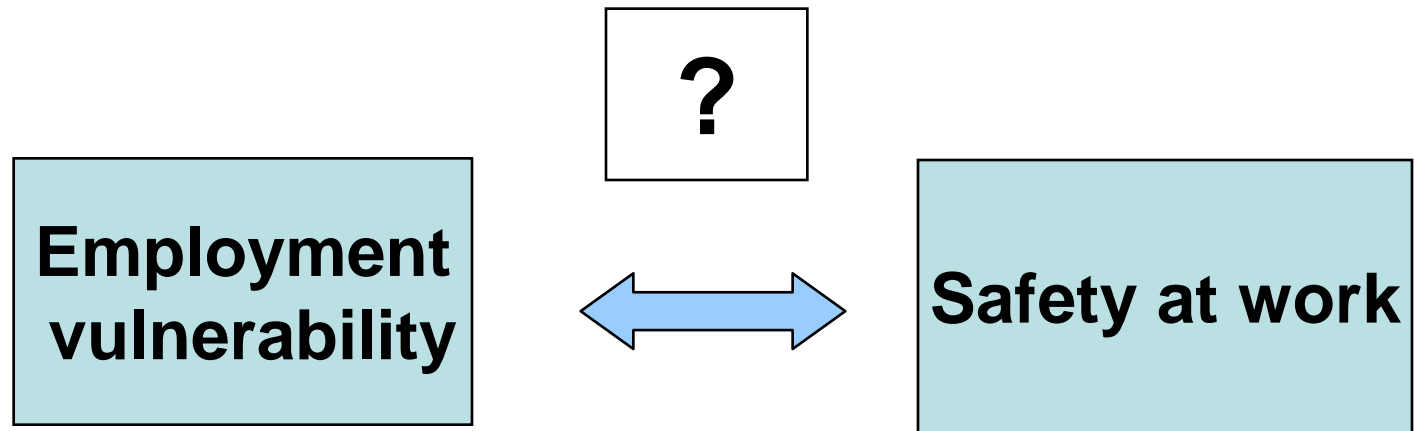
Barbara Boschetto

(barbara.boschetto@istat.it)

Structure of the work

- **Definition of the matter .**
- **EU legislation on health and safety at work.**
- **Vulnerable workers according to the LFS.**
- **Health and safety in LFS.**
- **Health of vulnerable workers .**

Relationship



European Commission Legislation

The Community strategy on health and safety at work 2002-2006: adapting to change work and society.

- **Adoption of a global approach to well-being at work, taking account of changes in the world of work and the emergence of new risks, especially of a psycho-social nature.**
- **Consolidating a culture of risk prevention, on combining a variety of political instruments (legislation, the social dialogue, progressive measures and best practices, economic incentives .**
- **An ambitious social policy is a factor in the competitiveness equation. Having a “non-policy” engenders costs which weigh heavily on economies and societies.**

European Commission Legislation

**The Community strategy on health and safety at work
2007-2012: improving quality and productivity at
work.**

- **Guarantee the proper implementation of EU legislation.**
- **Support SMEs in the implementation of the legislation in force.**
- **Adapt the legal framework to changes in the workplace and simplify it, particularly in view of SMEs.**
- **Promote the development and implementation of national strategies.**
- **Encourage changes in the behaviour of workers and encourage their employers to adopt health focused approaches.**
- **Finalise the methods for identifying and evaluating new potential risks.**
- **Improve the tracking of progress.**
- **Promote health and safety at international level.**

Italian Labour Force Survey

Features of the Italian labour market

Second quarter 2007

**Ad hoc module on accidents at work
and work-related health problems**

Labour force survey in Italy

- **Continuous.**
- **Interviewing by CAPI/CATI techniques.**
- **77000 households – 175000 individuals every quarter.**
- **Delivery of main indicators quarterly and since 2009 monthly.**

Target population in employment

Vulnerable work: 19.4%

- **Fixed term contract (Collective Labour Agreement) 8.1%**
- **Training contract (apprenticeship,...) 2.7%**
- **Temporary agency work 0.3%**
- **Other fixed-term work 1.4%**
- **Free lance contract (coordinated or not) 2.8%**
- **Vulnerable autonomous worker 4.1%**
- **Protected - Permanent work 80.6%**

Health and safety at work

Accident at work **2.8%**

Work-related health problem **7.1%**

Exposure to risk **44.4%**

- **chemicals, dusts, fumes or gases** **16.4%**
- **noise or vibration** **15.3%**
- **difficult work postures, work movements or handling of heavy loads** **20.3%**
- **risk of accidents** **21.3%**
- **time pressure or overload of work** **14.3%**
- **Harassment, bullying, discrimination** **5.2%**
- **violence or threat of violence** **1.7%**
- **other factors** **1.7%**

Logistic regression - frame

Sample dimension **48571**

Dependent variable **Vulnerable worker**

Independent variables **3 groups**

- **Demographic background: Gender, Geographical area, age, educational level.**
- **Characteristics of occupation: Economic activity, working time, evening and night work, Saturday work, Sunday work, Shift work.**
- **Health and safety at work: Accidents at work, Work-related health problems, Exposure to chemicals, Exposure to noise and vibration, Exposure to difficult work posture and movements, Exposure to risk of accident, Exposure to time pressure or overload of work, Exposure to harassment or discrimination, Exposure to violence or threat of violence.**

Logistic regression – outcomes 1

Odds ratios - Health and safety

Accidents at work	1.118
Work-related health problems	0.960
Exposure to chemicals, dusts, fumes, smoke or gases	0.960
Exposure to noise or vibration	0.941
Exposure to difficult work postures, work movements or handling of heavy loads	1.055
Exposure to risk of accident	0.982
Exposure to time pressure or overload of work	0.868
Exposure to harassment or discrimination	0.940
Exposure to violence or threat of violence	1.158

Logistic regression – outcomes 2

Odds ratios – Demographic Background

Sex	Male vs Female	0.852
	North vs South	0.768
Geog. Area	Centre vs South	0.945
	25-34 vs 15-24	0.319
Age	35-44 vs 15-24	0.190
	45-54 vs 15-24	0.144
	55-64 vs 15-24	0.163
	65 e oltre vs 15-24	0.848
Educational level	High vs Low	1.349
	Intermediate vs Low	0.879

Logistic regression – outcomes 3

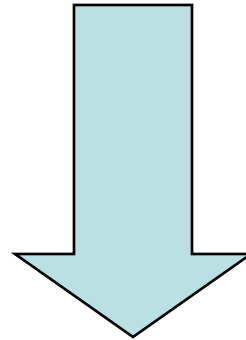
Odds ratios – Work characteristics

Economic Activity	Agriculture & Fishing vs Other services	7.202
	Energy vs Other services	0.468
	Industry vs Other services	0.605
	Construction vs Other services	0.773
	Wholesale & Retail vs Other services	0.926
	Hotels and Restaurants vs Other services	1.185
	Transports and Communications vs Other services	0.822
	Financial sector vs Other services	0.548
	Real Estate vs Other services	1.046
	Public Adm. vs Other services	0.574
	Education vs Other services	1.340
	Health vs Other services	0.590
Working time	Part-time vs Full-time	1.716
Evening and night work	Frequently vs Never	0.787
	Often vs Never	1.050
	Sometimes vs Never	0.937
	Rarely vs Never	1.235
Saturday work	Often vs Never	1.221
	Sometimes vs Never	1.168
Sunday work	Often vs Never	1.550
	Sometimes vs Never	1.140
Shift work	Yes vs No	0.645

Main findings (1)

The relationship:

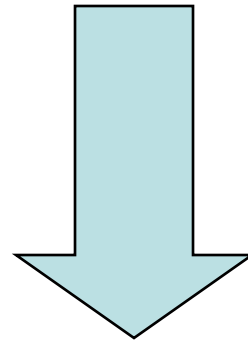
**Vulnerable workers ↔ low level of safety at
work is quite weak**



**Vulnerable workers are strongly worried for
their weak work position**

Main findings (2)

**Improve the health and safety at work
(reduction of accidents and work-related
health problems)**



Reduction of exposure to risks