

NOCCA - the Nordic Occupational Cancer Study, first phase

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The aim of the study was to investigate cancer risk by occupation in the Nordic countries. Individual census information on occupation on 15 million inhabitants of the Nordic countries aged 30 to 65 was collected in 1960, 1970, 1980 and/or 1990. Follow-up was obtained through linkages with national death and cancer registries through 2002-2005. Occupational information was categorized into 53 occupational groups and one group of economically inactive persons. Cancer data were grouped into 48 main cancer sites and 27 histological or anatomical subgroups. Results will be presented as standardized incidence ratios (SIRs), defined as the ratio of the observed to the expected number, and 95% confidence intervals.

Among men, a wide variation in risk was observed, from waiters (SIR 1.48) to farmers (SIR 0.85). Among women, SIRs varied between 1.27 in tobacco workers and 0.83 in gardeners. Farmers, gardeners, and teachers were groups showing low-risk profiles for most cancer sites in both genders. Several established occupational risk factors were confirmed, as well as gradients in risk according to socioeconomic status (SES). Specific results will be presented and discussed.