

IMPACT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO HEALTH IN INDUSTRIAL POPULATION

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Background:

The results of a lot of epidemiological studies found evidence between low socio-economic status (SES) and worse health status.

Objectives:

The aim of the study was to identify the relationship between SES and demographic characteristics and health of population in a region where life style is impacted by heavy and coal-mining industry. Also individual approach to preventive measures was evaluated in relationship to investigated topics.

Methods:

A structured questionnaire was elaborated, distributed to a random sample of some 3,000 aged 25-70 and collected by postal delivery.

Results:

In total 634 completed questionnaires were analysed. The subjective health status was reported as good in one third of respondents; it was positively correlated with education ($p<0.001$), negatively with age; worse subjective health was significantly more reported in people economically non-active ($p<0.001$).

More than a half of the study sample suffered by the serious chronic disease, significantly more in men ($p<0.01$), less in more educated ($p<0.001$) and the prevalence increased with age ($p<0.001$). The chronic diseases of the highest prevalence were: 28% disorders of locomotor system, 19% CDV and 9% respiratory disorders. About half of respondents regularly underwent the preventive medical examination at practitioner (significantly more men - $p<0.05$, economically active people - $p<0.001$, and married $p<0.01$).

Women more frequently took care about their limit of weight (mostly for esthetical reasons), use more medicaments than men, they were more interested in protective health information ($p<0.01$). The use of medicaments was reported significantly less in economically active respondents than in non-active.

Conclusions:

Sub-groups of population (women, more educated and economically active) with an active approach to health preventive measures had significantly better health status and also self-reported health. Marital status affects health status the least of select factors.

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