

MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR



Risk factors and practical solutions

Lars L. Andersen, MSc, PhD
Professor at NRCWE, Denmark
Adjunct professor at Aalborg University, Denmark

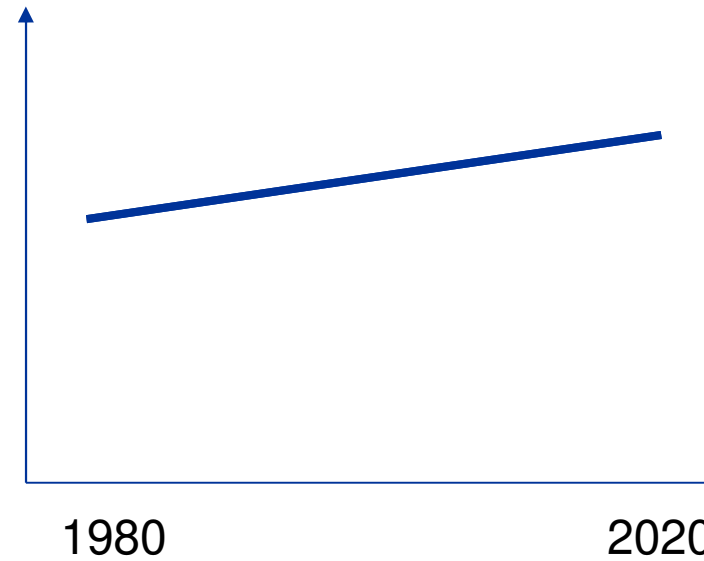


Introduction

Healthcare sector ~10%

Total workforce of the EU

Life expectancy



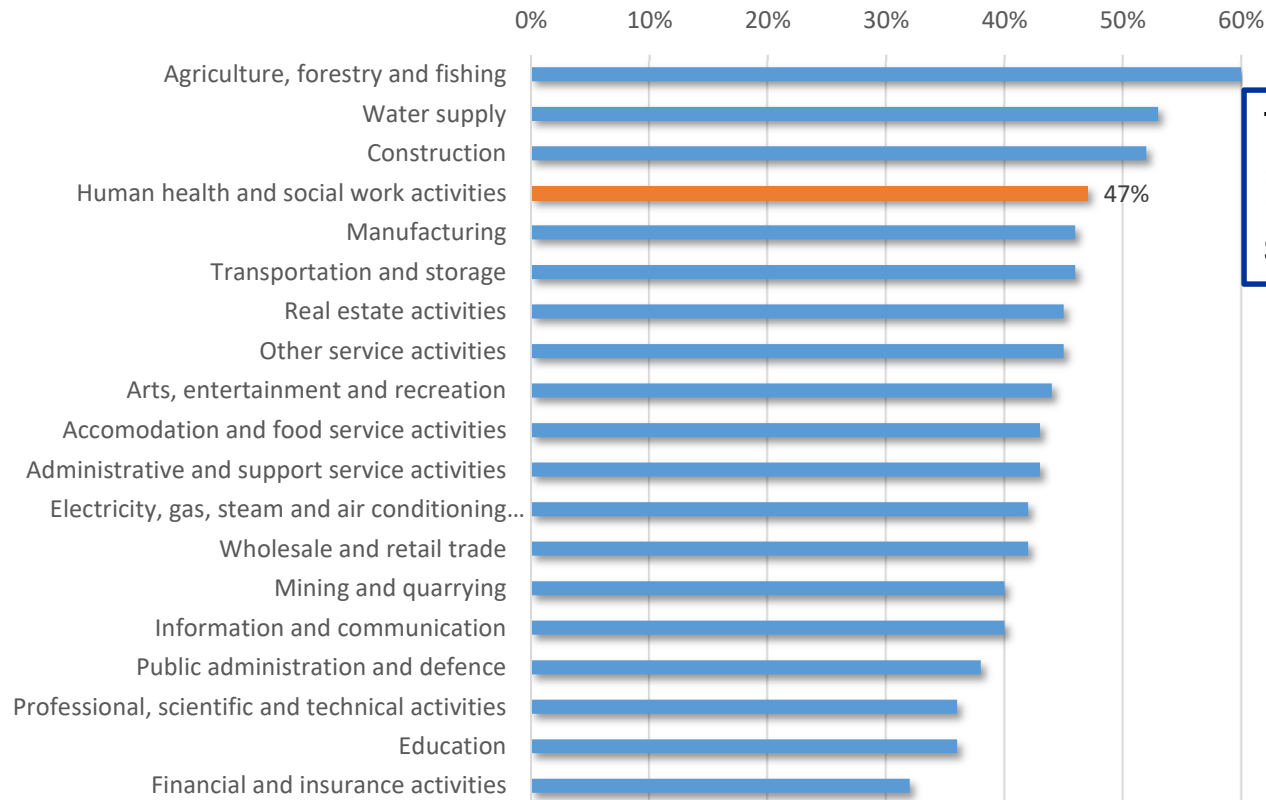
Size of the problem

MSDs and risk factors



1. European Working Conditions Survey (EWCS)
2. European Surveys of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER)

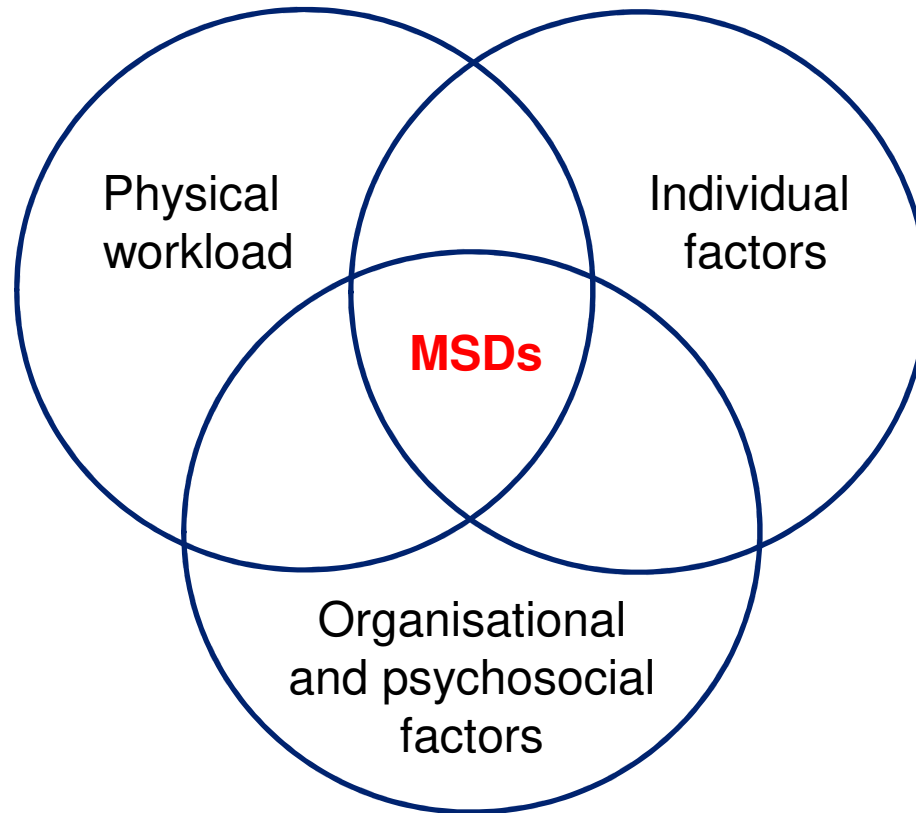
Yearly prevalence of back pain



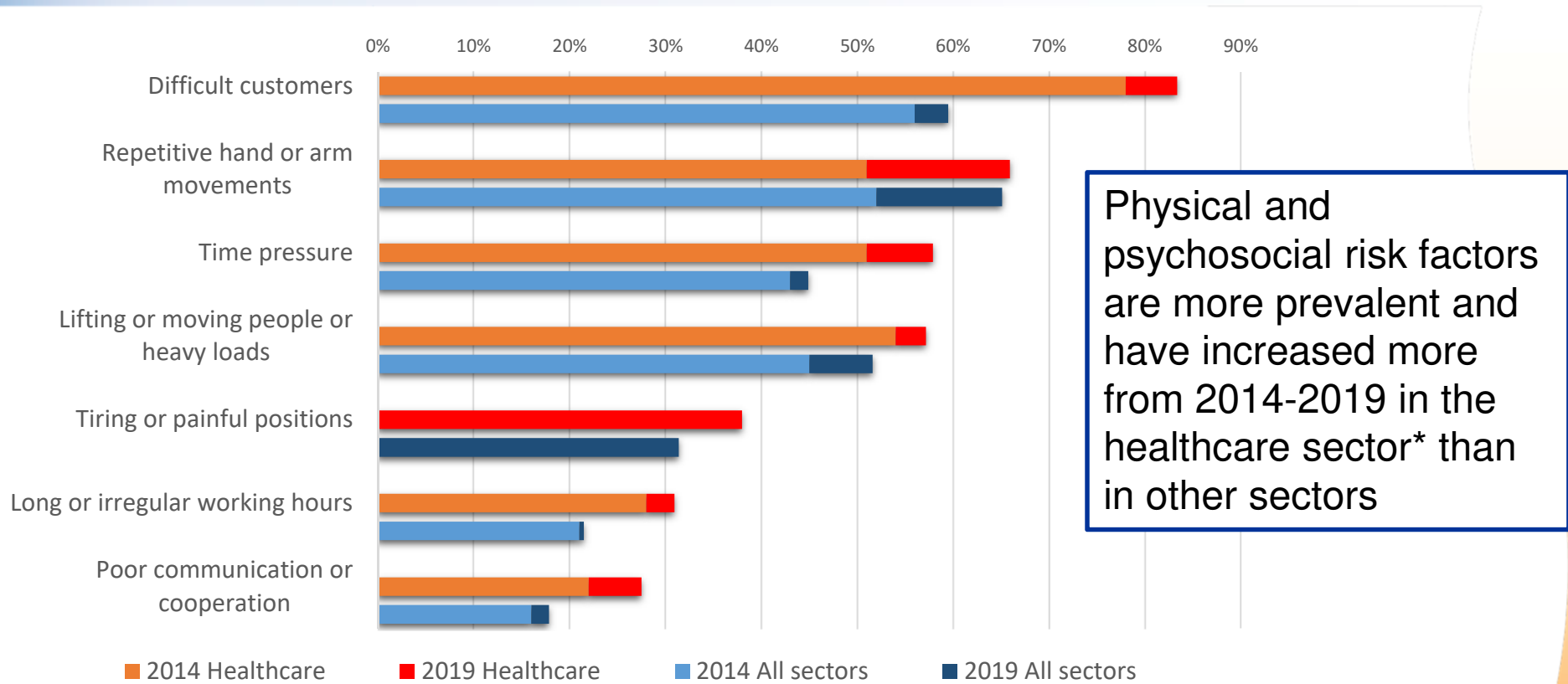
The prevalence of MSD is high in the healthcare sector



Risk factors for musculoskeletal disorders – review of the literature



Prevalence of risk factors



Physical and psychosocial risk factors are more prevalent and have increased more from 2014-2019 in the healthcare sector* than in other sectors

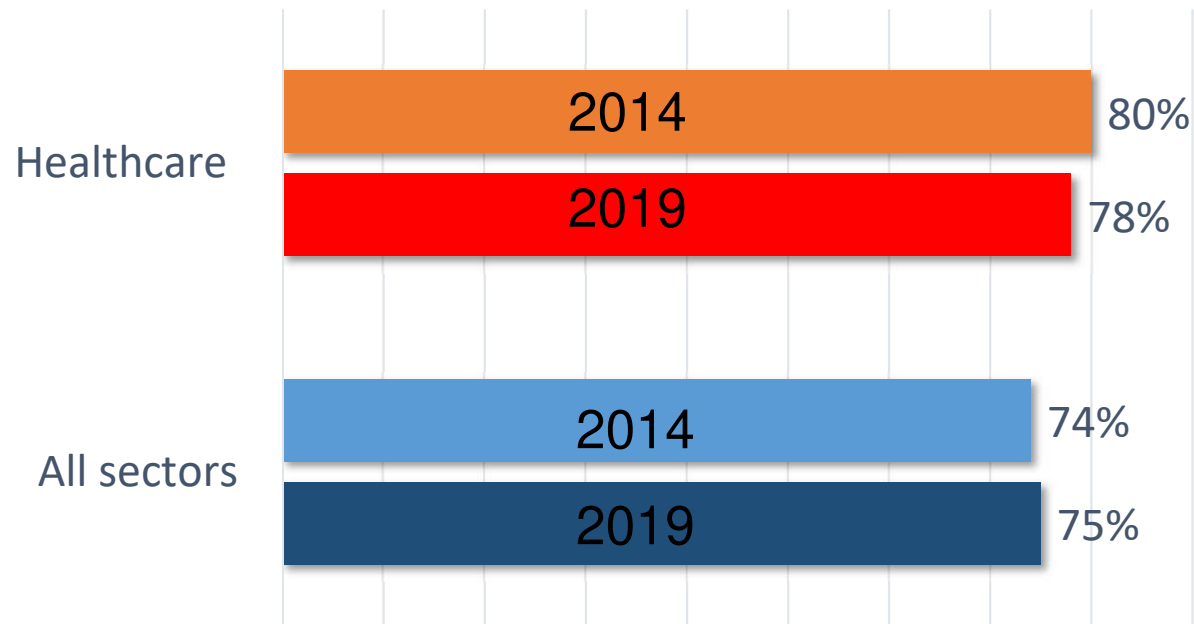
*) Human health and social work activities

Health & Safety efforts



Regular risk assessment

Percentage of establishments in the EU-27 that carried out a regular risk assessment



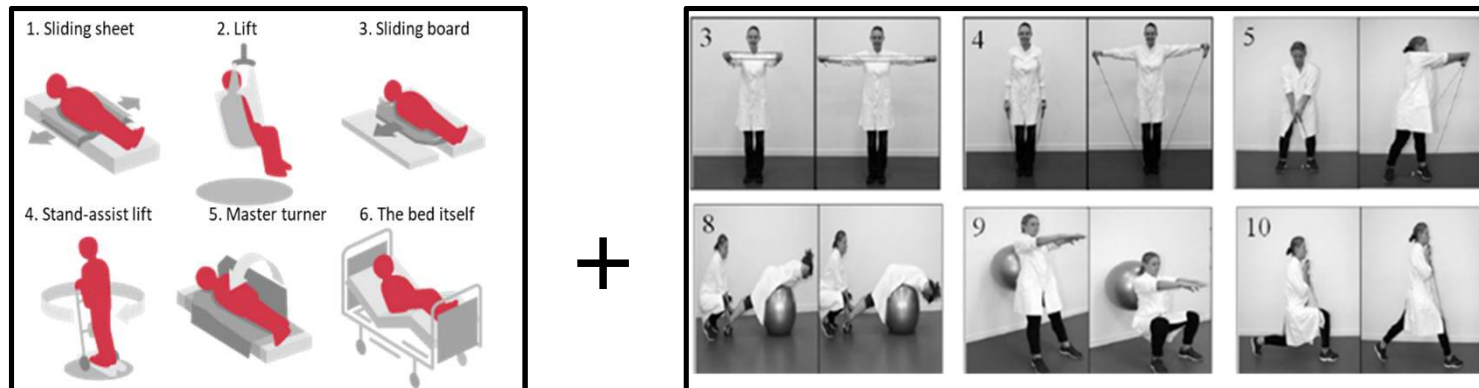
Reasons for difficulties in addressing health and safety

	Healthcare		All sectors	
	2014	2019	2014	2019
The complexity of legal obligations	40%	46%	42%	41%
The paperwork	31%	34%	31%	31%
A lack of time or staff	29%	41%	27%	33%
A lack of money	26%	26%	24%	19%
A lack of awareness among staff	19%	20%	19%	19%
A lack of expertise or specialist support	13%	15%	14%	14%
A lack of awareness among management	13%	13%	13%	12%

Although more than 3 out of 4 establishments in the healthcare sector of the EU-27 performs regular risk assessment, many experience trouble in addressing health and safety.

Protective approaches

Protective approaches

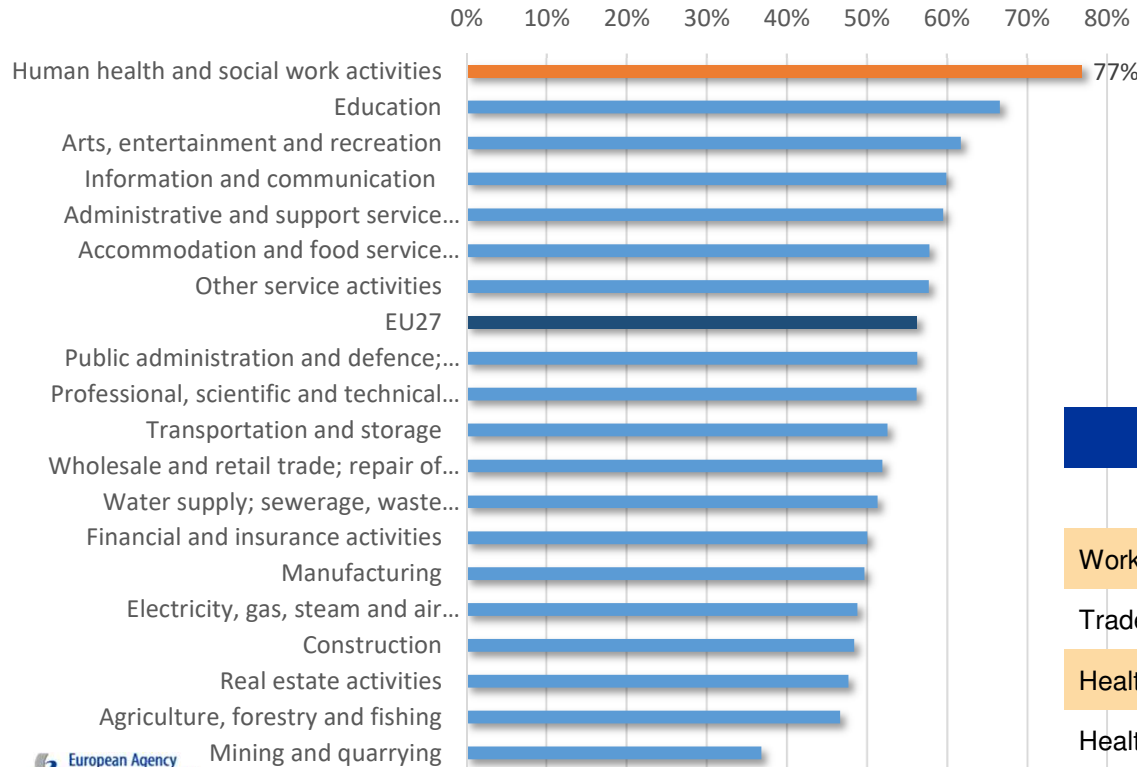


Organisational safety culture

Reduce the physical workload and strengthen the body to prevent and reduce MSDs.

Employee participation

Percentage of establishments that involve employees in dealing with psychosocial risk factors



The healthcare sector is already good at involving employees in dealing with psychosocial risk. This can also be done with risk factors for MSDs.

Types of employee representation across establishments

	Healthcare		All sectors	
	2014	2019	2014	2019
Works council	36%	37%	25%	24%
Trade union representation	33%	36%	20%	18%
Health and safety committee	33%	38%	20%	22%
Health and safety representative	64%	65%	56%	57%

Thank you for your attention

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21/06/2020

Type: Discussion papers

23 pages

Musculoskeletal disorders in the healthcare sector

Keywords:
Campaign 2020-2022

A growing care burden, recruitment difficulties and an ageing workforce mean that musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are likely to become an increasingly difficult occupational safety and health challenge in the healthcare sector.

This discussion paper reviews the literature on musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) in healthcare workplaces. It presents an overview of MSDs and their prevalence in the healthcare sector, reviews the risk factors and discusses effective interventions to prevent, reduce and manage MSDs in healthcare workplaces.

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