The Arkhangelsk region has one of the highest fatal occupational injuries rates in Russia and Varakina et al. [8] describe 734 occupational fatalities from 1996–2007. Agriculture, hunting and forestry sector had the highest incidence rates. Thirty-two (4.3%) of the victims had a blood alcohol concentration over 0.5%.

Haslam et al. [9] explore organizational attitudes to injury and illness costs, and how organizations monitor their impact, or use cost information in health and safety campaigns. Health and safety investments are driven by a range of factors, not only cost reduction, so information focusing solely on the economic implications of work injury and illness may have limited effect.

Finally, occupational asthma is the most common work-related respiratory disease in the UK and Allan at al. [10] evaluates respiratory health surveillance for those working with laboratory animals, finding it to be effective in identifying cases of occupational asthma. Spirometry did not detect new cases not already identified by questionnaire.

Peter Noone
Assistant Editor

References


