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***Buchman DZ, Lo S, Ding P, Dosani N, Fazelzad R, Furlan AD, et al. Palliative care for people who use drugs during communicable disease epidemics and pandemics: a scoping review on access, policies, and programs and guidelines. *Palliative Medicine*. 2022; [epub ahead of print].**

<https://doi.org/10.1177/02692163221143153> [open access]

Abstract: Background: People who use drugs with life-limiting illnesses experience substantial barriers to accessing palliative care. Demand for palliative care is expected to increase during communicable disease epidemics and pandemics. Understanding how epidemics and pandemics affect palliative care for people who use drugs is important from a service delivery perspective and for reducing population health inequities. Aim: To explore what is known about communicable disease epidemics and pandemics, palliative care, and people who use drugs. Design: Scoping review. Data sources: We searched six bibliographic databases from inception to April 2021 as well as the grey literature. We included English and French records about palliative care access, programs, and policies and guidelines for people ≥ 18 years old who use drugs during communicable disease epidemics and pandemics. Results: Forty-four articles were included in our analysis. We identified limited knowledge about palliative care for people who use drugs during epidemics and pandemics other than HIV/AIDS. Through our thematic synthesis of the records, we generated the following themes: enablers and barriers to access, organizational barriers, structural inequity, access to opioids and other psychoactive substances, and stigma. Conclusions: Our findings underscore the need for further research about how best to provide palliative care for people who use drugs during

epidemics and pandemics. We suggest four ways that health systems can be better prepared to help alleviate the structural barriers that limit access as well as support the provision of high-quality palliative care during future epidemics and pandemics.

Aanesen F, Grotle M, Rysstad TL, Tveter AT, Tingulstad A, Lochting I, et al. Effectiveness of adding motivational interviewing or a stratified vocational advice intervention to usual case management on return to work for people with musculoskeletal disorders: the MI-NAV randomised controlled trial. *Occupational & Environmental Medicine*. 2023; 80(1):42-50.

<https://doi.org/10.1136/oemed-2022-108637> [open access]

Abstract: Objectives: To evaluate if adding motivational interviewing (MI) or a stratified vocational advice intervention (SVAI) to usual case management (UC), reduced sickness absence over 6 months for workers on sick leave due to musculoskeletal disorders. Methods: We conducted a three-arm parallel pragmatic randomised controlled trial including 514 employed workers (57% women, median age 49 (range 24-66)), on sick leave for at least 50% of their contracted work hours for ≥ 7 weeks. All participants received UC. In addition, those randomised to UC+MI were offered two MI sessions from social insurance caseworkers and those randomised to UC+SVAI were offered vocational advice from physiotherapists (participants with low/medium-risk for long-term sickness absence were offered one to two sessions, and those with high-risk were offered three to four sessions). Results: Median sickness absence was 62 days, (95% CI 52 to 71) in the UC arm (n=171), 56 days (95% CI 43 to 70) in the UC+MI arm (n=169) and 49 days (95% CI 38 to 60) in the UC+SVAI arm (n=169). After adjusting for predefined potential confounding factors, the results showed seven fewer days in the UC+MI arm (95% CI -15 to 2) and the UC+SVAI arm (95% CI -16 to 1), compared with the UC arm. The adjusted differences were not statistically significant. Conclusions: The MI-NAV trial did not show effect on return to work of adding MI or SVAI to UC. The reduction in sickness absence over 6 months was smaller than anticipated, and uncertain due to wide CIs. Trial registration number: NCT03871712.

Barros C, Baylina P, Fernandes R, Ramalho S, and Arezes P. Healthcare workers' mental health in pandemic times: the predict role of psychosocial risks. *Safety and Health at Work*. 2022; 13(4):415-420.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.shaw.2022.08.004> [open access]

Abstract: BACKGROUND: Healthcare workers perform an emotionally exhausting daily work activity, making them prone to occupational hazards, namely psychosocial ones. This study aims to assess the impact of psychosocial risk factors on healthcare workers' mental health. METHODS: A cross-sectional study was developed between May and June of 2021 with 479 healthcare workers from Portuguese hospitals. The Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale was used to assess mental health, and psychosocial risks were assessed through the Health and Work Survey - INSAT. Statistical analysis was performed to identify the psychosocial risk factors related to anxiety, depression, and stress. Subsequently, a multiple linear regression was performed to identify the models that better explained psychosocial risk factors' relationship with anxiety, depression, and stress. RESULTS: Data showed a strong exposure to

psychosocial risks. Work pace and intensity, work relationships, and emotional demands stood out with higher global average percentages for yes answers to "exposure and discomfort." The analysis of the β values and p-values from the multiple linear regression shows that some cross-sectional psychosocial risks are predictors of anxiety and stress dimensions, and other psychosocial risks differ in the two mental health dimensions. However, it is important to highlight that healthcare workers still showed great joy and pleasure in performing their work activities. **CONCLUSION:** Support network development in the work environment is needed to prevent healthcare workers' emotional stress and promote their psychological well-being. Therefore, new research is essential to understand the psychosocial risks that affect healthcare workers and assess the less visible effects of work-health relationships

d'Errico A, Fontana D, Sebastiani G, and Ardito C. Risk of symptomatic osteoarthritis associated with exposure to ergonomic factors at work in a nationwide Italian survey. International Archives of Occupational & Environmental Health. 2023; 96(1):143-154. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00420-022-01912-1> [open access]

Abstract: **OBJECTIVE:** The risk of developing osteoarthritis (OA) has been reported to increase with exposure to various ergonomic factors at work, although this finding is still debated in the literature. Aim of this study was to assess the association between prevalence of symptomatic OA and exposure to workplace ergonomic factors assigned through a job-exposures matrix (JEM). **METHODS:** The study population was composed of 24,604 persons of 40-69 years who participated in the National Health Survey 2013 and were employed at that occasion. Exposure to ergonomic factors was assigned to the study population through a JEM constructed from the Italian O*NET database, consisting of 17 physical factors, which were summed and averaged by job title (796 jobs) to obtain a combined exposure index. The outcome was self-reported OA characterized by moderate or severe limitations in daily activities. The relationship between OA prevalence and the combined exposure index in quartiles was examined using robust Poisson regression models adjusted for socio-demographics and potential confounders. **RESULTS:** In the analysis adjusted for age and gender, the risk of OA was increased by approximately 20-30% in the second and third quartiles, and by 80% in the highest exposure quartile, compared to the least exposed, with a risk attenuation by approximately 15-20% controlling for other significant covariates. **CONCLUSION:** Our results support a causal role of exposure to physical factors at work in the development of OA. As OA is associated with a great burden of disability, any effort should be made to reduce workers' exposure to ergonomic factors

Eisele-Metzger A, Schoser DS, Klein MD, Grummich K, Schwarzer G, Schwingshackl L, et al. Interventions for preventing back pain among office workers: a systematic review and network meta-analysis. *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health*. 2023; 49(1):5-22.

<https://doi.org/10.5271/sjweh.4070> [open access]

Abstract: OBJECTIVE: Back pain is common in the working population. This systematic review with network meta-analysis (NMA) aimed to compare the effects of interventions for preventing back pain among office workers. METHODS: We searched eight databases and additional sources up to March 2021. We included randomized controlled trials (RCT) and cluster RCT focusing on office workers, comparing work-related interventions aimed at preventing back pain (defined as pain in any part of the spine) to a control condition and assessing back pain and/or work absence. Further outcomes considered were adverse events and participants' satisfaction. We performed both frequentist and component NMA. Risk of bias (RoB) was evaluated using RoB 2 and certainty of the evidence (CoE) was assessed using GRADE. RESULTS: We screened 9809 records and included 24 studies with a total of 7080 participants. RoB was assessed as "some concerns" or "high" for all studies and outcomes. Included studies investigated multicomponent interventions, ergonomics, physical activity, education, behavioral interventions and no/minimal interventions. Effects were mostly not statistically significant and based on low/very low CoE. Physical activity probably reduces days of work absence slightly [mean difference (MD) -1.10, 95% confidence interval (CI) -2.07- -0.13], and combining physical activity and ergonomics may reduce back pain intensity (standardized MD -0.41, 95% CI -0.80- -0.02) when compared to no/minimal intervention. A large proportion of participants were satisfied with the interventions, adverse events were rarely assessed. CONCLUSIONS: We observed mostly minor effects of interventions on back pain and work absence among office workers. The practical relevance of these effects is questionable

Gerding T, Davis KG, and Wang J. An investigation into occupational related stress of at-risk workers during COVID-19. *Annals of Work Exposures and Health*. 2023; 67(1):118-128.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/annweh/wxac076> [open access]

Abstract: OBJECTIVES: Nearly all workers and industry sectors have been affected by the ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in some form since March 2020. However, the pandemic-related stressors experienced in the workplace may vary from industry to industry and may have disproportionately affected some workers. This study investigates increased stress levels, stressor events, and other perceptions of stress from at-risk workers during COVID-19. METHODS: An in-depth work-related stress survey that incorporated many aspects of work, life, work-life balance, and the health of employer-employee relationships was developed with a focus on COVID-19-related stressors. The cross-sectional survey was distributed online through professional networks from October to November 2021. The survey results were statically analyzed using Kruskal-Wallis one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) after grouping the industry sectors into the four groups to

determine trends within these groupings. RESULTS: The survey was completed by 670 workers in sectors such as manual labor, business/office service, healthcare, and education. A variety of trends were determined between the occurrence of COVID-19 and work stress which had, in some cases, affected some industry sectors to a larger degree than others. More than 50% of the participants reported experiencing an increased workload since the onset of the pandemic with some sectors, like healthcare, reporting an increased workload more frequently at 80%. Around 55% of respondents believed they could be exposed to COVID-19 in their workplace, ranging from 52% of business/office service workers to 77% of healthcare workers. CONCLUSIONS: As workplaces navigate past the pandemic, occupational stress should be addressed head-on through workplaces providing expanded resources so as to assure work stress associated with future pandemics are mitigated appropriately. Whether the stressor is associated with irregular shift work or psychosocial aspects (i.e. relying on coworkers), many of these stressors have the possibility to become by external factors such as pandemics

Henrotin JB and Gulisano F. Sick leave during pregnancy and occupational factors: a systematic review. Occupational Medicine. 2022; 72(8):550-558.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/occmed/kqac090>

Abstract: BACKGROUND: The reported prevalence of sick leave (SL) during pregnancy is high among European pregnant workers (PW). The causes of SL during pregnancy are complex, and further research is necessary to explain their occurrence. AIMS: Summarize the evidence for an association between occupational risks for pregnancy and SL. METHODS: A systematic review was conducted by two independent reviewers using PRISMA guidelines. Two databases (Pubmed, Embase) were interrogated between January 1990 and November 2021. The search question integrated key terms according to the PICOS acronym (free terms, MeSH, Emtree). The quality of the selected studies was assessed according to the Methodological Index for Non-randomized Studies score. RESULTS: This review assessed 11 epidemiological studies. Overall, the mean Methodological Index for Non-Randomized Studies score was 11, indicating moderate study quality. The results of the limited number of studies showed limited evidence for associations between psychosocial and physical work-related risk factors and the occurrence of SL among PW. However, this assessment was strengthened by the observation in several studies of a dose-response relationship between the number of occupational risks during pregnancy and SL. CONCLUSIONS: The analysis of this review implicates PW'S exposure to occupational risks in the occurrence of SL. However, the few studies that support this conclusion have provided weak evidence; thus, further research is necessary

Hoefsmit N and Houkes I. Return to work of employees with low levels of education: the employers' role and perspective. *Work*. 2022; 73(4):1189-1202.

<https://doi.org/10.3233/WOR-205233>

Abstract: BACKGROUND: To achieve adequate return to work (RTW) after sickness absence, Dutch legislation prescribes cooperation between absent employees and employers. Yet, we lack insight into how employees with low levels of education exercise influence over (i.e. self-direct) RTW. OBJECTIVE: This study aimed to enhance our understanding of: (A) the role that employers play in the self-direction of employees with low levels of education over their RTW; (B) how employers perceive these employees' efforts (or lack thereof) to self-direct their own RTW; and (C) how employers understand and interpret the behaviours of these employees. Social cognitive theory served as a framework. METHODS: A qualitative study was conducted with 13 employer representatives using semi-structured interviews. Data were analysed in NVivo12 using a template approach. RESULTS: Employers tend to play a guiding, directive role in employees' RTW. According to employers, employees generally comply with the employers' decisions and suggestions, whether or not they have tried to realise their own preferences regarding mode and timing of RTW. Employers interpret such employee behaviours from the perspective of environmental (e.g. financial pressures to RTW) and person-related factors (e.g. sickness and RTW perceptions). CONCLUSIONS: Employers, rather than employees direct the employees' RTW. Employers should give voice to employees and enable them to have more control over their RTW. Future research should acquire more insight in the employees' perspective

Jadhakhan F, Evans DW, and Falla D. The role of post-trauma stress symptoms in the development of chronic musculoskeletal pain and disability: a systematic review. *European Journal of Pain*. 2023; 27(2):183-200.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/ejp.2048>

Abstract: Background and objective: Traumatic injuries are amongst the leading causes of death and disability in the world across all age groups. This systematic review aimed to (1) describe the role of post-traumatic stress symptoms (PTSS) on the development of chronic pain and/or pain-related disability following musculoskeletal trauma and (2) report pain and or pain-related disability by injury severity/type. Database and data treatment: Electronic databases were searched, from inception to 31 November 2021 and updated on 10 May 2022, to identify studies in which: participants were adults aged ≥ 16 years sustaining any traumatic event that resulted in one or more musculoskeletal injuries; an outcome measure of PTSS was used within 3 months of a traumatic event; the presence of pain and/or pain-related disability was recorded at a follow-up of 3 months or more. Two reviewers independently screened papers and assessed the quality of included studies. Results: Eight studies were included. Owing to between-study heterogeneity, the results were synthesized using a narrative approach. Five studies investigated the relationship between PTSS and pain. Participants with PTSS were more likely to develop persistent pain for at least 12 months post-injury. Six studies assessed the relationship between PTSS and pain-related disability.

The results suggest that patients with PTSS had significantly higher disability levels for at least 12 months post-injury. Conclusion: Findings from this comprehensive systematic review support a clear relationship between PTSS post-injury and future pain/disability, with the potential importance of certain PTSS clusters (hyper-arousal and numbing). Significance: The findings of this systematic review indicate an association between PTSS reported within 3 months of a traumatic musculoskeletal injury and the development of longer-term pain and disability. The PTSS clusters of 'hyper-arousal' and 'numbing' appear to be of particular importance in this relationship. Prospero registration number: CRD42021285243.

Karimi-Shahanjarini A, Afshari M, and Besharati F. Cultural appropriateness in randomized controlled trials (RCTs) aimed at reducing pesticide exposure among farmers and farmworkers: a systematic review. International Archives of Occupational & Environmental Health. 2023; 96(1):27-44.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00420-022-01880-6>

Abstract: Objective: The widespread use of pesticides poses serious health hazards to farmers and their families. Some evidence shows that culturally sensitive interventions could be associated with improved outcomes; however, little is known about the effectiveness of cultural adaptations in interventions among farmers and farmworkers. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to summarize strategies used in the cultural adaptation interventions addressing the reduction of pesticide exposure in farmers and farmworkers, as well as assessing the effects of these strategies. Methods: A comprehensive systematic literature search was conducted on PubMed, Embase, Clarivate Web of Science, Scopus, NIOSHTIC, Agricola, Agris, as well as reference lists to identify randomized controlled trials (RCTs) published in English from January 2000 until March 2022. Data were extracted to examine the characteristics of interventions in terms of the cultural adaptation strategies and their effectiveness by two independent reviewers. Results: Eleven articles from ten trials met the inclusion criteria. The majority of studies were conducted in the USA (n = 7) and were ranked as poor quality (n = 5). Four of the ten studies were rated moderate, and six were rated weak. The socio-cultural and constituent-involving strategies were the most commonly reported across the included studies, followed by linguistic strategy. Six studies (seven articles) were tailored for subgroups or individuals. Overall, 8 of 10 studies reported significant changes in whole and some outcomes in the intervention groups over controls. Seven studies received moderate cultural adaptation scores which may reflect the moderate effectiveness of the interventions. Conclusion: Our review underscored the paucity and low quality of existing studies investigating the culturally adapted interventions in reducing farmers' and farmworkers' pesticide exposure. Future high-quality culturally sensitive studies could increase our knowledge regarding the culture's role in reducing pesticide exposure in farmers and farmworkers.

Khalil H, Peters MDJ, McInerney PA, Godfrey CM, Alexander L, Evans C, et al. The role of scoping reviews in reducing research waste. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*. 2022; 152:30-35.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2022.09.012>

Abstract: OBJECTIVES: Scoping reviews and evidence map methodologies are increasingly being used by researchers. The objective of this article is to examine how scoping reviews can reduce research waste. STUDY DESIGN AND SETTING: This article summarizes the key issues facing the research community regarding research waste and how scoping reviews can make an important contribution to the reduction of research waste in both primary and secondary research. RESULTS: The problem of research waste is an enduring challenge for global health, leading to a waste of human and financial resources and producing research outputs that do not provide answers to the most pressing research questions. Research waste occurs within primary research but also in secondary research such as evidence syntheses. The focus of scoping reviews on characterizing the nature of existing evidence on a topic and including all types of evidence, potentially reduces research waste in five ways: (1) identifying key research gaps on a topic, (2) determining appropriate outcome measures, (3) mapping existing methodological approaches, (4) developing a consistent understanding of terms and concepts used in existing evidence, and (5) ensuring scoping reviews do not exacerbate the issue of research waste. CONCLUSION: To ensure that scoping reviews do not themselves end up contributing to research waste, it is important to register the scoping review and to ensure that international reporting standards and methodological guidance are followed

Mueller N and Kempen R. The influence of boundary management preference on work-nonwork policy effectiveness: is "turning off" the solution? *European Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology*. 2022; [epub ahead of print].

<https://doi.org/10.1080/1359432X.2022.2161371>

Reineholm C, Stahl C, and Lundqvist D. Bringing risk back in: managers' prioritization of the work environment during the pandemic. *International Journal of Workplace Health Management*. 2023; 16(1):4-19.

<https://doi.org/10.1108/IJWHM-03-2022-0041> [open access]

Abstract: Purpose The purpose of the paper is to investigate managers' experiences of managing work environment and risks during the Covid-19 pandemic and to explore how managers might use these experiences to develop future risk management. Design/methodology/approach Semi-structured interviews were carried out with 18 Swedish managers at different hierarchical levels working in 11 different organizations. A directed content analysis was carried out, informed by theory on risk management. Findings The results point to the pandemic as a societal crisis which workplaces needed to manage through large means of improvisation. Regular work environment routines were put to the test, and several deficiencies in the work environment and risk management were identified. Organizations that handle occupational safety and risks on a daily basis through established

routines were less affected and could easier adjust work environment and risk management, compared to organizations prioritizing the social and organizational work environment, which had to re-prioritize and start paying more attention to the physical work environment and to bring risk management into their daily routines. Originality/value The study offers an account of how managers in different labor market sectors in Sweden have acted in the midst of the pandemic by handling real-time crises, how these experiences can be used for engaging in retrospective learning and how this may imply changes to their prospective risk management.

Testoff AC, Schaefer SN, Shafazand S, Louzado-Feliciano P, Lee DJ, Koru-Sengul T, et al. Sleep latency and post-traumatic stress disorder among retired career Florida firefighters: evidence from the Advancing Epidemiology of Retired Firefighters Aging Longitudinally cohort. *Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine*. 2022; 64(12):e851-e856.

<https://doi.org/10.1097/JOM.0000000000002722>

Abstract: Objective: Our objective was to estimate the association of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and sleep latency among retired firefighters. Methods: Baseline health survey data collected from retired career Florida firefighters participating in an ongoing prospective cohort study from 2017 to 2021 were analyzed. Risk for PTSD was assessed using a four-item primary care PTSD screening construct, and sleep onset latency was assessed by self-reported length of time to fall asleep. Results: Among the 500 participants, 8.0% screened positive for PTSD risk and 37.6% had prolonged sleep onset latency (=20 minutes to fall asleep). Retired firefighters with PTSD risk were 2.7 times more likely (adjusted odds ratio, 2.70; 95% confidence interval, 1.27-5.75) to have prolonged sleep latency compared with those without PTSD risk while controlling for covariates. Conclusions: Retired firefighters who screen positive for PTSD risk are three times more likely to report delayed sleep onset latency.

Tuckey MR, Li Y, Neall AM, Chen PY, Dollard MF, McLinton SS, et al. Workplace bullying as an organizational problem: spotlight on people management practices. *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*. 2022; 27(6):544-565.

<https://doi.org/10.1037/ocp0000335> [open access]

Abstract: Though workplace bullying is conceptualized as an organizational problem, there remains a gap in understanding the contexts in which bullying manifests—knowledge vital for addressing bullying in practice. In three studies, we leverage the rich content contained within workplace bullying complaint records to explore this issue then, based on our discoveries, investigate people management practices linked to bullying. First, through content analysis of 342 official complaints lodged with a state health and safety regulator (over 5,500 pages), we discovered that the risk of bullying primarily arises from ineffective people management in 11 different contexts (e.g., managing underperformance, coordinating working hours, and entitlements). Next, we developed a behaviorally anchored rating scale to measure people management practices within a refined set of nine risk contexts. Effective and ineffective behavioral indicators were identified through content

analysis of the complaints data and data from 44 critical incident interviews with subject matter experts; indicators were then sorted and rated by two independent samples to form a risk audit tool. Finally, data from a multilevel multisource study of 145 clinical healthcare staff nested in 25 hospital wards showed that the effectiveness of people management practices predicts concurrent exposure to workplace bullying at individual level beyond established organizational antecedents, and at the team level beyond leading indicator psychosocial safety climate. Overall, our findings highlight where the greatest risk of bullying lies within organizational systems and identifies effective ways of managing people within those contexts to reduce the risk, opening new avenues for bullying intervention research and practice.

van Veen M, Oude Hengel KM, Schelvis RMC, Bongers PM, Ket JCF, van der Beek AJ, et al. Psychosocial work factors affecting mental health of young workers: a systematic review. *International Archives of Occupational & Environmental Health*. 2023; 96(1):57-75.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00420-022-01907-y> [open access]

Abstract: Objective: For the general working population, robust evidence exists for associations between psychosocial work exposures and mental health. As this relationship is less clear for young workers, this systematic review aims at providing an overview of the evidence concerning psychosocial work factors affecting mental health of young workers. **Methods:** The electronic databases used were PubMed, Web of Science, and PsycINFO and were last searched in October 2021. The eligible outcomes included depression-, stress-, burnout- and anxiety-related complaints, and fatigue, excluding clinical diagnoses and suicide-related outcomes. Only studies with workers aged 35 years or younger were included, which reported at least one association between a psychosocial work factor as exposure and a mental health complaint as outcome. Studies had to be in English, German or Dutch. Risk of bias was assessed using an instrument from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Data synthesis was conducted using GRADE. **Results:** In total 17 studies were included in this systematic review, including data from 35,600 young workers in total. Across these studies 86 exposure-outcome associations were reported. Nine exposure-outcome associations could be synthesised. The application of the GRADE framework led to one "low" assessment for the association between psychosocial job quality and mental health. The certainty of evidence for the other eight associations in the synthesis was very low. **Conclusions:** The current systematic review disclosed a high degree of uncertainty of the evidence due to conceptually fuzzy outcomes and exposures as well as large heterogeneity between studies.

White N, Wagner SL, Corneil W, Fraess-Phillips A, Krutop E, Fyfe T, et al. Methodological correlates of variability in the prevalence of posttraumatic stress disorder in high-risk occupational groups: a systematic review and meta-regression. American Journal of Industrial Medicine. 2023; 66(1):3-17.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/ajim.23436>

Abstract: **BACKGROUND:** Although numerous studies have reported on PTSD prevalence in high-risk occupational samples, previous meta-analytic work has been severely limited by the extreme variability in prevalence outcomes. **METHODS:** The present systematic review and meta-regression examined methodological sources of variability in PTSD outcomes across the literature on high-risk personnel with a specific focus on measurement tool selection. **RESULTS:** The pooled global prevalence of PTSD in high-risk personnel was 12.1% [6.5%, 23.5%], and was similar to estimates obtained in other meta-analytic work. However, meta-regression revealed that PTSD prevalence differed significantly as a function of measurement tool selection, study inclusion criteria related to previous traumatic exposure, sample size, and study quality. PTSD prevalence estimates also differed significantly by occupational group and over time, as has also been reported in previous work, though exploratory examination of trends in measurement selection across these factors suggests that measurement strategy may partially explain some of these previously reported differences. **CONCLUSIONS:** Our results highlight a pressing need to better understand the role of measurement strategies and other methodological choices in characterizing variable prevalence outcomes. Understanding the role of methodological variance will be critical for work attempting to reliably characterize prevalence as well as risk and protective factors for PTSD

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