

Emerging and re-emerging illness The concept of emerging illnesses does not necessarily imply these illnesses did not previously exist; it refers to its recent identification, knowledge, extension, or gravity. Emerging illnesses are caused by new risk factors, but also by already known factors which have recently acquired an epidemic character becoming a health threat in places where they were previously inexistent.

Re-emerging illnesses are those that have reappeared, once their incidence was reduced significantly.
 Emerging and re-emerging illnesses usually are associated with high morbidity and mortality; thus they need to be quickly identified and reported both locally and internationally.

Emerging risks, determinants of new occupational illnesses

New technologies and production processes
Nanotechnology
Biotechnology
Computer technology and robotics

New working conditions
Higher workloads
Work in the informal economy

New forms of employment
Temporary contracts
Subcontracting

New industrial products
6000 new compounds per year

New forms of work organization
Rotating work and work during the night
Intensification of work

Significant changes in the working environment

Characteristics of the social security system in each country

Insufficient labor laws

Non-compliance with current legislation

Low income

Precarious and poorly paid work for women, and double work-time

Emerging illnesses in the medium term

- Increase of cancer among professionals, as well as musculoskeletal disorders and cardiovascular diseases
- Mutagenic and teratogenic alterations
- Burnout syndrome
- Mobbing syndrome
- · Chronic fatigue syndrome
- · Tecnostress syndrome
- Workaholism

Factors in addition to labor risks which increase occupational illnesses

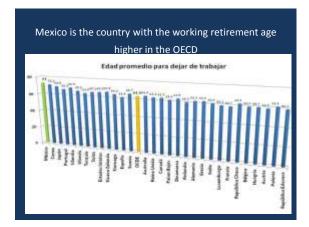
- Undernutrition
- Obesity
- Smoking
- Alcoholism
- Overcrowding
- Bad conditions in dwellings and personal hygiene
- Age of worker
- Gender

In most countries the age at retirement is increasing, up to around 67 years old, due to increases in life expectancy

By increasing the retirement age, the time of exposure to risk factors within the work environment increases, too. Therefore, the probability of damage increases and life expectancy after retirement decreases

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. OECD

In OCDE countries, the average retirement age is 64 years old



The actual average age at which people no longer works, is often higher than the retirement official age

Mexico

65 years or more: 100% of pension

The average age for stop working is 73 years old

> Life expectancy Men: 73.4 years old Women: 78.1 years old

Leading causes of mortality in retired workers (65 years old and more). Mexico, 2008

- Diabetes mellitus
- Ischemic diseases of the heart
- Stroke disease
- Obstructive chronic pulmonary disease
- · Cirrhosis and other chronic diseases of the liver
- · Lower respiratory infections
- Protein calorie malnutrition
- Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus, and lung
- Malignant tumor of the prostate
- Malignant neoplasm of liver Malignant neoplasm of stomach

- Malignant neoplasm of pancreas Malignant neoplasm of colon and rectum

What to do ...

- Education
- · Research, journal articles
- Share experiences
- Legislation
- Better reports
- Honest reports
- Consolidate criteria for diagnosis and working plans

Universities

- Occupational health should seek integral health of workers, not only prevention of accidents and illnesses at work
- Need to train professionals at the undergraduate and graduate levels in occupational health
- Training for medical students at universities aimed at identifying health problems that are a consequence from occupational exposure
- Research in each country to develop the maximum permissible levels of exposure according to the particular characteristics of the working population and exposition levels
- Update tables of occupational diseases

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México Research

"Physiological, medical, and psychiatric study in workers exposed 715 workers were studied

-Sleep disturbance -Decreased libido

29% of workers died within 10 years after the retirement age; on average, 58 years old

Tell me what do you do for work and I will tell you of what you will die

