



**The concealment of occupational diseases  
An unsolved problem affecting workers worldwide**

**El ocultamiento de las enfermedades profesionales  
Un problema no resuelto que afecta a trabajadores de todo el mundo**

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Sociedad de Medicina del Trabajo de la Provincia de Buenos Aires



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**Recognized occupational diseases in Europe**  
Source: Eurogip 2006

Country	Occupational diseases reported x 100.000 workers
Luxembourg	25
Italy	38
Germany	40
Austria	42
Belgium	54
Portugal	70
Denmark	98
Spain	103
Sweden	267
France	282

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**The five most common occupational diseases in Europe**  
Source: EUROSTAT 2006

Country	1	2	3	4	5
Austria	NIHL	Dermatoses	Asthma	Chemical Resp. diseases	Infectious diseases
Belgium	MSD	Dermatoses	NIHL	Resp. diseases	Cancer
Denmark (2005)	Dermatoses	MSD	NIHL	Resp. diseases	Cancer
France	MSD	Asbestosis	Lumbago	NIHL	Eczema
Germany	NIHL	Asbestosis	Mesothelioma	Silicosis	Asbestos breast & larinx cancer
Italy	MSD	NIHL	Resp. diseases	Cancer	Dermatoses
Portugal	MSD	NIHL	Resp. diseases	Dermatoses	Other
Spain	MSD	Dermatoses	NIHL	Infect. diseases	Asthma
Switzerland	NIHL	Infectious dis.	Dermatoses	MSD	Resp. diseases
Sweden	MSD	NIHL	Psych. diseases	Poisoning	Resp. diseases

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Portugal	MSD	NIHL	Resp. diseases	Dermatoses	Other
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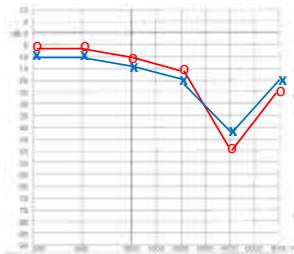
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Recognized occupational diseases in Latin America  
Source: 2006-2009

Country	Occupational diseases reported x 100.000 workers
Argentina (SRT 2006)	180
Colombia (FASECOLDA 2010)	136
Brasil	130
México	35
Venezuela	26

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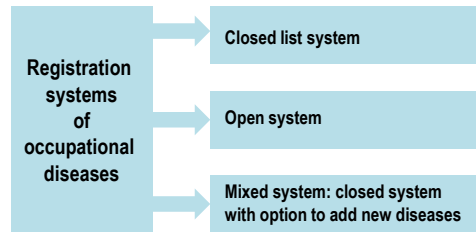
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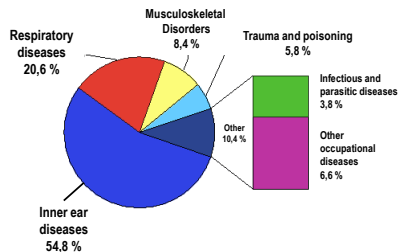
As the sum does not reach 100 decibels at frequencies 0,5-1,2-4 kHz, there is no obligation to report hearing loss as occupational disease (Rule AMA 1979)

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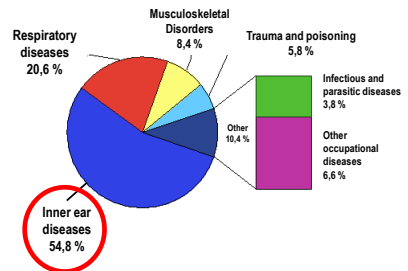
Distribution of occupational diseases in Argentina  
Source: Anuario Estadístico SRT 2004



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Distribution of occupational diseases in Argentina  
Source: Anuario Estadístico SRT 2004

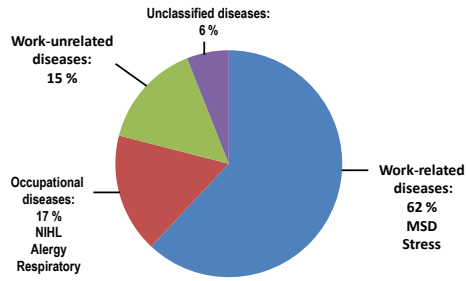


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**National Survey of Workers about Jobs, Conditions and Work Environment**

Superintendencia de Riesgos del Trabajo, 2009

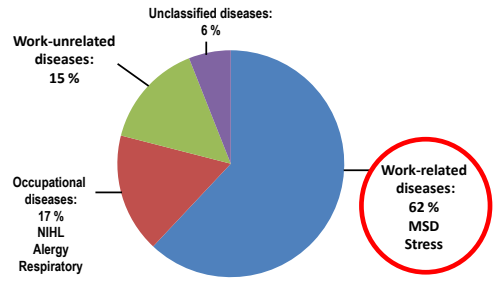


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**National Survey of Workers about Jobs, Conditions and Work Environment**

Superintendencia de Riesgos del Trabajo, 2009



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In most countries the percentage of recognized occupational diseases in women is 20-30% below that of men.

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*"The number of women entering the global labor force has never been so high, but they have to face higher unemployment and lower wages and represent 60 percent of the 550 million of poor workers"*  
(ILO, 2004)

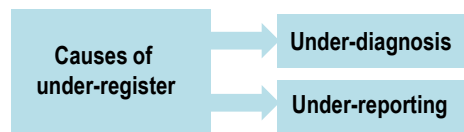
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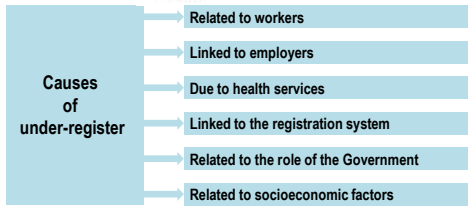
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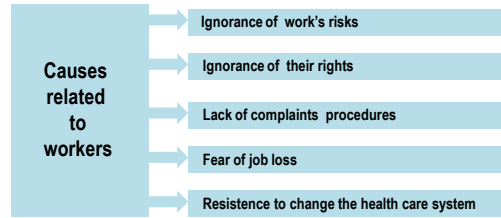
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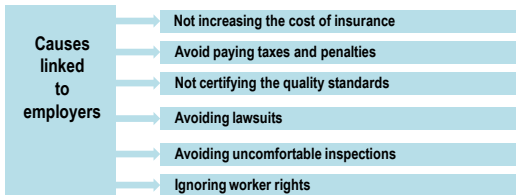
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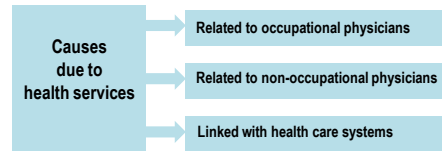
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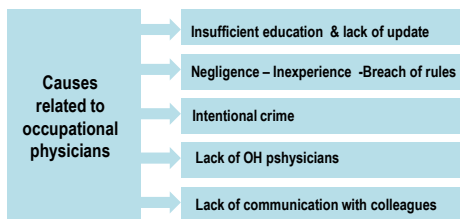
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**International Code of Ethic for Occupational Health Professionals (ICOH):**

**22 : “Collective health data” : ....Occupational injuries and work related diseases must be reported to the competent authority according with national laws and regulations**

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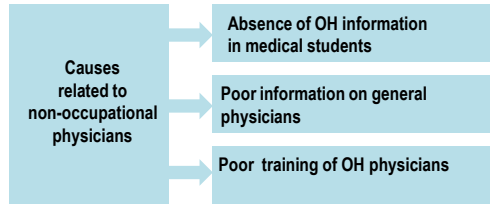
**Physicians per 1.000 inhabitants**

Source: WHO 2009

Country	# physicians x 1.000 inhabitants
Cuba	5,9
Uruguay	3,7
<b>Argentina</b>	<b>3.0</b>
México	2.0
Venezuela	1,9
Colombia	1,4
Brasil	1,2
Perú	1,1
Chile	1,1
Haití	0,25

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Researchers	Estimated occupational cancer
Doll & Peto (USA, 1981)	4 %
Dreyer et al (Scandinavian, 1997)	3 %
Harvard Report (USA 2000)	6 %
Nurminen & Karjalainen (Finland, 2001)	10 %

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**Cancers recognized as professionals in Europe, 2008**

Source: EUROSTAT 2009

Country	Population	# recognized occup. cancers 1999	# recognized occup. cancers 2008
Belgium	11.000.000	149	219
Denmark	5.600.000	79	187
France	65.000.000	900	1898
Germany	82.000.000	1889	2240
Italy	60.000.000		694
Finland	5.300.000	110	16
Spain	47.000.000	6	62
Sweden	9.000.000		19
United Kingdom	61.000.000	806	116

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**Current data of the Substances and Carcinogens Register**

Source: SRT (2009)

# registers	Accumulated data	Total
Employers	249	741.606
Exposed workers	3.742	7.742.000

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**Causes linked to the public and private health care system**

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**Statistical Yearbook 2008**  
( published by the Superintendencia de Riesgos del Trabajo)

Occupational diseases were 2.7% of reported cases

Private insurers found only 8% of occupational diseases detected through periodic health examinations

43% of occupational diseases was detected among the public hospital and the health care system of the worker union



**Causes linked to the registration system**

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**Causes related to the role of the Government**



**Causes related to socioeconomic factors**

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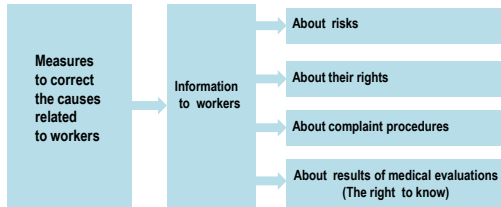
**Recommendations to improve the recognition and reporting of the occupational diseases**

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**International Code of Ethics for Occupational Health Professionals**

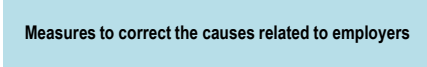
**Duties and obligations of OH professionals**

**Information to the worker**

9. *The results of examinations, carried out within the framework of health surveillance must be explained to worker concerned...*

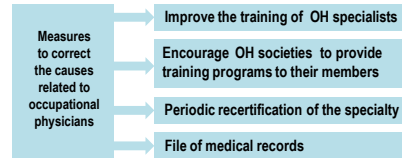
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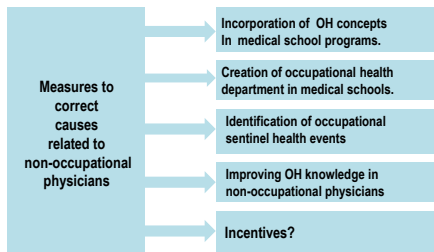
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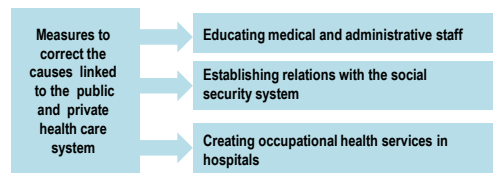
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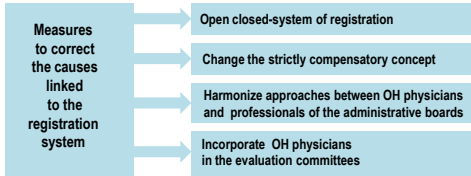
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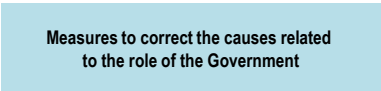
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