Depression in the workplace in Denmark

Data from a survey of more than 7,000 employees and managers from seven European countries, including Denmark, on attitudes, disclosure and time off work for depression.¹

Depression /ˈdɛprəʃ(ə)n/

Depression is a common mental disorder, characterized by sadness, loss of interest or pleasure, feelings of guilt and low self-worth, disturbed sleep and appetite, a lack of energy and trouble concentrating. It can be long lasting or recurrent, substantially impacting a person at work, school and in their everyday life.²

Prevalence of depression in Denmark³

267,213 cases of depression were reported in 2015, which is 5% of the population

Depression is associated with high costs to employers and employees

Depression accounts for 7.7% of the overall disease burden in Denmark³

Mood disorders, including depression, have associated costs totalling over €1,000 million per year in Denmark⁴

Factors associated with greater perceived discomfort regarding depression in the workplace

Individual

eg, gender, education

Social

eg, social acceptance of people with mental illness

Workplace

eg, benefit systems, flexible working hours

How do workplaces in Denmark support employees with depression?¹

51% of employees with depression were offered help by their manager

30% were encouraged to talk to a healthcare professional

13% were offered flexible working

However, 2% of managers avoided talking about it

³. World Health Organization. Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders. Available at http://www.who.int/mental_health/management/depression/prevalence_global_health_estimates/en/ Last accessed April 2018

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