

Quebec's Social and Health Survey Information: Baseline Data Report 2008 (Section 4.2)

4.2	Work and Health.....	1
	Table 4.2.1 – Presentation of certain organizational conditions of work and physical risks according to sex, population 15 years and older with paid employment, Quebec, 19982	
	Table 4.2.2 – Presentation of certain organizational conditions of work and chemical risks according to sex, population 15 years and older with paid employment, Quebec, 19983	
	Table 4.2.3 – Indicators of psychological distress and periods of extreme anxiety or irritability according to violence and intimidation at work in the course of a twelve-month period, population 15 years and older with paid employment, Quebec, 1998... 4	
	Table 4.2.4 – Perception of state of physical health and mental health according to violence and intimidation at work in the course of a twelve-month period, population 15 years and older with paid employment, Quebec, 1998..... 4	
	Table 4.2.5 – Different serious muscular and skeletal long-term problems according to exposure to certain risks or physical constraints at work, population 15 years and older with paid employment, Quebec, 1998 5	
	Table 4.2.6 – Persons with paid employment by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998..... 6	
	Table 4.2.7 – Type of work by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998 6	
	Table 4.2.8 – Intimidation at work by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998 6	
	Table 4.2.9 – Violence at work by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998 7	

4.2 Work and Health

- 30.8% of survey respondents reported an irregular or unpredictable work schedule, 21% report repetitive work with hands and arms, 18.4% report work using tools, machines or equipment and manipulation of heavy loads.
- Men are more likely than women to have an irregular work schedule, manipulate heavy loads, and produce work using tools, machines or equipment and deal with intense noise at their workplace. Chemical health risk at work was reported more frequently by men followed by the risk caused by dust and fumes from soldering.
- Survey respondents who manipulate heavy loads, and are affected by the vibrations of tools, machines or equipment, are more likely to report serious back pain or pain in the spine and at least one serious long-term muscular or skeletal problem.
- 86% of respondents never receive income from investment, commission or bonus. Women are more likely than men never to receive income from such sources.
- English-speaking survey respondents were less likely to have paid employment than French-speakers. Employed Anglophones were more likely to have non-manual, or a mix of non-manual and manual, work than Francophones.
- Almost 30% of respondents reported experiencing high levels of psychological distress and periods of extreme anxiety due to physical violence at work. 35% reported high levels of psychological distress and anxiety due to intimidation. 6.7% reported periods of severe distress and anxiety due to intimidation at work.
- English-speaking survey respondents were more likely than French-speakers to experience intimidation at work often and/or very often. They were also more likely to report violence at work.
- Survey respondents who reported physical violence at work were less likely than those who did not to perceive their state of physical health as excellent or very good. They were also more likely to perceive their mental health as poor or average.

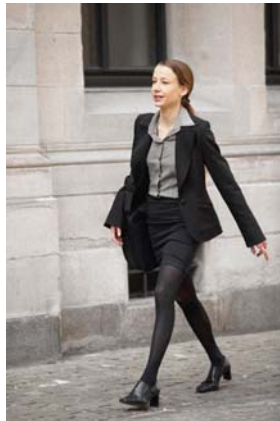


Table 4.2.1 – Presentation of certain organizational conditions of work and physical risks according to sex, population 15 years and older with paid employment, Quebec, 1998

	Never	From time to time	Often or all the time
	%		
Work organization			
Income from investment, commission or bonus			
Men	83.5	5.7	10.8
Women	88.8	3.3	7.9
Total	85.9	4.6	9.5
Irregular or unpredictable work schedule			
Men	32.4	33.2	34.4
Women	41.6	32.1	26.3
Total	36.5	32.7	30.8
Night shift			
Men	69.8	16.3	13.9
Women	87.8	6.4	5.8
Total	77.8	11.9	10.3
Physical risks			
Repetitive work with hands and arms			
Men	65.9	12.7	21.5
Women	71.0	8.6	20.4
Total	68.2	10.9	21.0
Manipulation of heavy loads			
Men	51.7	23.7	24.6
Women	72.5	16.8	10.8
Total	60.9	20.6	18.4
Produce work using tools, machines or equipment			
Men	52.0	20.2	27.9
Women	83.9	9.5	6.6
Total	66.2	15.4	18.4
Vibrations from tools used by hands (affecting hands and arms)			
Men	68.5	16.6	14.9
Women	94.0	3.9	2.1
Total	79.9	10.9	9.2
Vibrations from heavy machines, vehicles or the ground (vibrations of entire body)			
Men	77.0	12.5	10.5
Women	98.0	1.2*	0.8*
Total	86.4	7.5	6.2
Intense noise (required to yell)			
Men	58.7	22.0	19.3
Women	86.9	8.4	4.7
Total	71.3	15.9	12.8

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête sociale et de santé 1998*.

* Interpret with caution

** Imprecise estimate, indication only

- 30.8% of survey respondents reported an irregular or unpredictable work schedule, 21% report repetitive work with hands and arms, 18.4% report work using tools, machines or equipment and manipulation of heavy loads.
- Men are more likely than women to have an irregular work schedule, manipulate heavy loads, produce work using tools machines or equipment and deal with intense noise at their workplace.

- 86% of respondents never receive income from investment, commission or bonus. Women are more likely than men to never receive income from investment, commission or bonus.

Table 4.2.2 – Presentation of certain organizational conditions of work and chemical risks according to sex, population 15 years and older with paid employment, Quebec, 1998

		Never	From time to time	Often or all the time
		%		
Work organization				
Income from investment, commission or bonus				
	Men	83.5	5.7	10.8
	Women	88.8	3.3	7.9
	Total	85.9	4.6	9.5
Irregular or unpredictable work schedule				
	Men	32.4	33.2	34.4
	Women	41.6	32.1	26.3
	Total	36.5	32.7	30.8
Night shift				
	Men	69.8	16.3	13.9
	Women	87.8	6.4	5.8
	Total	77.8	11.9	10.3
Chemical risks				
Dust from flour				
	Men	91.0	4.5	4.5
	Women	94.3	3.2	2.5
	Total	92.5	3.9	3.6
Dust from wood				
	Men	81.3	9.5	9.2
	Women	97.4	1.6*	1.0*
	Total	88.5	6.0	5.6
Fumes from soldering				
	Men	77.6	15.0	7.5
	Women	97.7	1.7	0.6**
	Total	86.6	9.1	4.4
Solvents				
	Men	64.9	21.3	13.9
	Women	88.5	7.4	4.1
	Total	75.4	15.1	9.5
Pesticides				
	Men	91.0	7.2	1.9
	Women	96.7	2.7	0.6**
	Total	93.5	5.2	1.3

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

* Interpret with caution

** Imprecise estimate, indication only

- The greatest chemical health risk at work reported by survey respondents was from solvents and this was reported with greater frequency by men than women. This was followed by the risk from wood dust and soldering fumes and was reported with greater frequency by men than women.

Table 4.2.3 – Indicators of psychological distress and periods of extreme anxiety or irritability according to violence and intimidation at work in the course of a twelve-month period, population 15 years and older with paid employment, Quebec, 1998

	Indicator of psychological distress		Periods of severe anxiety or irritability	
	Low or average	High	Yes	No
	%			
Physical violence at work				
Never	80.9	19.1	3.2	96.8
From time to time, often or very often	70.8	29.4	5.1**	94.9
Intimidation at work				
Never	84.0	16.0	2.4	97.6
From time to time, often or very often	65.1	34.9	6.7	93.3

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

** Imprecise estimate, indication only

- Almost 30% of respondents reported experiencing high levels of psychological distress and periods of extreme anxiety from time to time, often, or very often due to physical violence at work. 70% reported low or average distress and anxiety due to physical violence at work.
- 35% reported high levels of psychological stress and anxiety due to intimidation at work from time to time, often or very often and 65% reported low or average levels due to these conditions. 6.7% reported periods of severe distress and anxiety due to intimidation at work.

Table 4.2.4 – Perception of state of physical health and mental health according to violence and intimidation at work in the course of a twelve-month period, population 15 years and older with paid employment, Quebec, 1998

	Perception of state of physical health			Perception of state of mental health		
	Excellent or very good	Good	Average or poor	Excellent or very good	Good	Average or poor
	%					
Physical violence at work						
Never	61.8	32.8	5.4	74.4	19.0	6.6
From time to time, often or very often	54.0	38.3	7.7**	65.1	24.3	10.6*
Intimidation at work						
Never	63.1	32.1	4.8	76.3	18.1	5.6
From time to time, often or very often	54.7	37.1	8.2	63.9	23.8	12.3

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

* Interpret with caution

** Imprecise estimate, indication only

- Survey respondents who reported physical violence at work were less likely than those who did not to perceive their state of physical health as excellent or very good. They were also more likely to perceive their mental health as poor or average.

Table 4.2.5 – Different serious muscular and skeletal long-term problems according to exposure to certain risks or physical constraints at work, population 15 years and older with paid employment, Quebec, 1998

		Serious back pain or pain in the spine	At least 1 serious long- term muscular or skeletal problem ¹
		%	
Manipulation of heavy loads			
	Never	8.6	14.4
	From time to time	9.7	14.9
	Fairly often or all the time	11.9	17.7
Produce work using tools, machines or equipment			
	Never	8.5	14.2
	From time to time	9.4	14.2
	Fairly often or all the time	13.0	19.2
Vibrations from tools used by hands (affecting hands and arms)			
	Never	8.9	14.4
	From time to time	9.5*	14.3
	Fairly often or all the time	16.3	21.6
Vibrations from heavy machines, vehicles or the ground (vibrations of entire body)			
	Never	9.0	14.7
	From time to time	10.5	15.4
	Fairly often or all the time	14.7	20.6

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête sociale et de santé 1998*.

1- Includes serious back and spinal column pain, arthritis or rheumatism and other serious problems with bones, joints, muscles or tendons

* Interpret with caution

- Survey respondents who manipulate heavy loads, use tools, machines or equipment and are affected by the vibrations of tools used by their hands or from heavy machines and vehicles fairly often or all the time, are more likely than those who do not to have serious back pain or pain in the spine and at least 1 serious long-term muscular or skeletal problem.

Table 4.2.6 – Persons with paid employment by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998

	N=	18211	1054	685	445
		French	English	Other	n/a
Yes		57.38%	52.47%	58.98%	42.02%
No		40.63%	45.35%	38.54%	51.24%
Refusal		1.98%	2.18%	2.48%	6.74%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- English-speaking survey respondents were less likely to have paid employment when compared to French-speaking respondents.

Table 4.2.7 – Type of work by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998

	N=	9783	498	491	172
		French	English	Other	n/a
Manual		36.29%	25.70%	38.90%	50.00%
Non manual		46.29%	56.22%	45.21%	34.30%
Mixed		16.18%	17.27%	15.07%	14.53%
Unknown		1.24%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- Anglophone survey respondents were (21% in relative terms) more likely than Francophones to have non-manual work and somewhat more likely (7% in relative terms) to have work that consists of a mix of manual and non-manual tasks.

Table 4.2.8 – Intimidation at work by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998

	N=	10450	538	535	187
		French	English	Other	n/a
Never		80.15%	77.70%	80.56%	81.28%
From time to time		15.45%	15.24%	12.52%	10.70%
Often/Very often		2.84%	4.65%	2.24%	2.67%
Unknown		1.55%	2.42%	4.67%	5.35%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- English-speaking survey respondents were more likely than French-speakers to experience intimidation at work often and/or very often.

Table 4.2.9 – Violence at work by mother tongue, Quebec, 1998

	N=	10450	538	535	187
		French	English	Other	n/a
Never		95.42%	93.12%	93.27%	90.37%
From time to time		2.71%	3.16%	2.43%	0.00%
Often/Very often		0.37%	1.30%	0.56%	0.00%
Unknown		1.50%	2.42%	3.74%	6.42%
		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

- English-speaking survey respondents were more likely than French-speaking respondents to report violence at work from time to time and were much more likely to report violence often/very often but numbers are small overall in this category.