



28<sup>TH</sup> International Congress on Occupational Health  
Renewing a century of commitment to a healthy,  
safe and productive working life  
June, 11-16, 2006, Fiera Milano Congressi Center

Dear Colleague,

thank you for contributing to the scientific programme of ICOH 2006. We are pleased to inform you that your abstract

**"UNEMPLOYMENT AND HEALTH: THE STORY FROM CROATIA"**  
(PIN code: **SOSSHZE** - Abstract identification code: **923**)

has been accepted for presentation at the 28th ICOH 2006. We will inform you in due time about the type of presentation (Oral, Poster).

Before the congress you will be informed about the session, date and time of your presentation. You will also receive guidelines to make your presentation more easily enjoyable by the participants.

**Please, remember that the abstracts will not be considered for presentation and publication unless the Presenting Author has registered within January 31, 2006 (deadline for early registration).**

Looking forward to seeing you in Milan in June 2006.

Sincerely yours,  
Pier Alberto Bertazzi  
Chair - ICOH 2006 Scientific Program

**Reviewer's comments:**  
*[no comments inserted]*

## UNEMPLOYMENT AND HEALTH: THE STORY FROM CROATIA

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**Background:** Unemployment is a severe economic, social and medical problem in Croatia. After democratic changes during last 15 years and social transformation this problem is becoming even more urgent. Although negative effects on social life and psyche resulting from unemployment are regarded as scientifically accepted today, a possible causal relationship between job loss and somatic illnesses is still a matter of controversy.

**Aim:** To investigate relationship between unemployment and related diseases among Croatian population.

**Methods:** Data from Croatian survey, done in different regions, included 9070 subjects. Mann-Whitney U and binomial nonparametric test were used in statistical analysis. The level of  $P < 0.001$  was considered statistically significant.

**Results:** The number of active population was 6118 (67.5%). Among active population 3358 (54.9%) were unemployed (919 or 47.0% male, 2439 or 58.6% female). Unemployed subjects had significantly higher prevalence of back illness, arthritis, elevated arterial blood pressure, gastritis, varicose veins, high cholesterol and blood sugar levels, renal and liver diseases, bronchitis and bronchial asthma, psychosis, cancer, angina pectoris, myocardial infarction and stroke than employed ( $P < 0.001$ ). Unemployed subjects assessed their health status significantly worse than employed ( $P < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** Unemployment has negative health effects. Additional conclusion may be that healthy subjects are less likely to become unemployed or more likely to find new employment if they become unemployed.

Key words: unemployment, health, Croatia

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