

Working carers' situation with regards to their health and gendered patterns of care

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Background

Working carers (WKC) are defined as informal carers who combine paid work with informal care provision and are estimated to represent around 900 000 people in Sweden. Knowledge on WKC in a Swedish context is limited and little is known about the patterns of informal care provision, the support they receive as care providers, the impact of informal care provision on WKC self-reported health and employment and how these differ between male and female WKC. Further, the impact of the current Covid-19 pandemic in this group of carers is also unexplored.

Aim of the study

The aim is to provide a summary of Swedish WKC situation regarding the patterns of informal care provision, impact of informal care on their health, social life and received support, and to provide in-depth insights of WKC situation and experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Methods

Methods used will be presented and include quantitative methods, based on a cross-sectional questionnaire-based survey and qualitative methods through semi-structured interviews ongoing this spring.

Results

Results include gender differences in the patterns of informal care provision, need for support, received care-provider support and impact on employment in a sample of Swedish WKC. Impact of informal care provision on Swedish WKC social life and self-reported health will also be included, together with results from a qualitative study, focusing on the WKC experiences of combining paid work with informal care provision during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Conclusions and implications

Conclusions will include main contributions to increased knowledge on WKC and how this knowledge might be used in the future to change their situation.