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ANALYSIS OF UK OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PHYSICIAN RESPONSE RATE TO SURVEY RESEARCH

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Background:

Survey research is a tool used to collect data or opinion from a predefined group of respondents on particular topics of interest. In Occupational Medicine, they form an integral part of developing a consensus opinion to assist in areas without guidelines. The response rate of a survey determines the quality of sample representation. The response rate of Occupational Health Physicians (OHPs) can vary depending on the topic in question, the interest generated, and time taken to complete the survey.

Aim:

To establish the survey response rate of UK OHPs in the last decade.

Settings and Design: Literature review.

Methods and Material:

A literature search of the UK OHPs was conducted using online databases PUBMED, Occupational Medicine, Occupational and Environmental Medicine and Google Scholar with the MeSH terms "Occupational Health Physician" and "Survey" for the past 10yrs from August 2010 to August 2020.

Statistical analysis: Pearson's chi-squared test.

Results:

A total of 806 abstracts were reviewed; 6 papers met the study criteria. The response rates of OHPs varied from 18% to 63%. Society of Occupational Medicine e-newsletter was commonly used to conduct survey research. Provision of incentive was associated with the highest number of response rates. Length of the questionnaire did not influence the response rate $\chi^2 (1, N=10) = 16.33, p = 1.76$.

Conclusion:

This study suggests that there is a significant variation in the response rates to surveys by OHPs.