

Online Table 3: Summary of results from studies reporting on duration of work absence

Study Ref	Sample size	Follow-up	Results
<i>Insurance databases</i>			
[19]	148917 claims	Over 1 year	Median: 61 days
[22]	2342 claims	Over 4 years	Median: 11,13,14,15, 17.5days (per year)
[23]	330 people	6 months	Median: 7 days (range 0-422)
[30]	201 claims	Over 2.5 years	Mean 41.1 days (SD 83.5) for chiropractic claims, Mean 39 days (SD 75) for medical claims
[32]	353 claims	Over 5 years	Mean 3.7 days (SE 0.7) for organic LBP Mean 1.2 days (SE 0.4) for non-specific LBP
[34]	50 people	1 year	Mean 10.5 days (objective findings) Mean 7 days (no objective findings)
[35]	2291 claims	Over 3 years	Mean: 20.73 (SD 38.9) first absence Mean36.8 (SD61.4) second absence
<i>Health care</i>			
[20]	770 patients	1 year	Median; 14 days
[26]	791	6 months	Median; 24 days (range 3-365) women Median; 14 days (range 2-365) men
[28]	104	3 months	Mean: 6.6 days (manual labourers) Mean: 3.6 days (professional or technical employees)
[33]	2487	42days (\pm 15 days)	Mean: 9 days (\pm 7 days)
<i>Workplace</i>			
[21]	240 employees	1 year	Median: 14 days (with restrictions) Median: 15 days (without restrictions)
[24]	615	6 months	Median: 5 days (interquartile range 2-12 days)
[25]	802	1 year	Median: 28 days (4.06 weeks) Mean: 7.01 weeks (1-68 weeks)
[27]	1724	1 year	Mean: 21.2 days (range 0-365)
[29]	280 (work related back injuries) 740 (non-work related back injuries)	1 year	Mean: 5.2 days (work related) Mean: 5.1 days (non-work related)
[31]	2152	5 years	Mean: 5.6 days (age <45 years) Mean: 9 days (age 45-54 years) Mean: 8.5 days (age 55+ years)
<i>Population sample</i>			
[18]	357 participants	1 year	Median: 12 days (men) Median: 7 days (women)

* Range or Standard Deviation (SD) not reported