Appendix Potential confounding factors.

Potential confounder	Measurement	Categorisation in the analyses
Daily smoking[a]	"Do you currently smoke daily or almost daily?"	No, yes
Self-perceived work ability[b]	"How do you rate your current work ability with respect to the physical demands/mental demands of your work"	Good, moderate, and poor
Sex	Sex at baseline 2010	Men, women (no other alternatives available)
Age	Age at baseline 2010	Continuous and in quartiles (18-38), (39-46), (47-54), (55-61)
Body mass index (BMI)	Weight/height^2 (kg/m^2)	Categorical; underweight (<18.5), normal weight (18.5-24.9), overweight (25-29.9), obese (≥30)
Socioeconomic status (SES)	According to the classification from Statistics Sweden. Based on current occupation and education for the economically active population.	Unskilled/semiskilled worker, skilled worker, low level non-manual employees, middle level non-manual employees, high level non-manual employees/self-employed, self-employed (other than high level)
Household	"Do you live together with someone?"	Categorical; living together with adult/s and child/ren, living alone, living with child/children only
Headache/migraine	"Do you have headache or migraine?"	No, yes; somewhat or severe
Psychological distress[1, 2]	Based on the 12-item General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12), using the scoring system 0-0-1-1.	No (0-2), mild (3-6), severe (7-12)
Personal support[2, 3]	"Do you know persons who can provide you with personal support for personal problems or crises in your life?"	No-usually not or never, yes-always or for the most part
Sleep disturbances	"Do you have sleep disturbances"	No, yes; somewhat or severe
Sedentary leisure time	"Refer to your leisure physical activity during the past 12 months? If the activities vary during the year and during a week, refer to an average." Sitting/watching TV/reading during leisure time.	Categorical: less than 2 hours/day, 2-3 hours/day, more than 3 hours/day
Leisure physical activity - moderate intensity	"Refer to your leisure physical activity during the past 12 months? If the activities vary during the year and during a week, refer to an average." Walking/biking during leisure time.	Categorical: less than 20 minutes/day, 20-40 minutes/day, more than 40 minutes/day
Leisure physical activity - high intensity	Refer to your leisure physical activity during the past 12 months? If the activities vary during the year and during a week, refer to an average." Exercise, other than walking/biking, during leisure time.	Categorical: less than 1 hour/week, 1-2 hours/week, more than 2 hours/week
Physical workload[4]	"Refer to your physical activity during your daily activity and/or work during the past 12 months? If the activity vary during the year and during a week, refer to an average.	Categorical; sedentary at least to 50 %, standing/walking/some lifting, walking/lifting/heavy work
Subsample participation[c]	Refers to the subsample of the Stockholm Public Health Cohort the participants belonged to.	Categorical: 2002/2007/2010/2014, 2006/2010/2014, 2010/2014

[a] Daily smoking was assessed as a potential confounder in the analyses with self-perceived work ability as exposure. [b] Self-perceived work ability was assessed as a potential confounder in the analyses with daily smoking as exposure. [c] Subsample participation was included in all adjusted models order to adjust for potential systematic difference between the subsamples. [#] Bibliographical references to definition and psychometric properties of the factors.

1. Goldberg DP, Gater R, Sartorius N et al. The validity of two versions of the GHQ in the WHO study of mental illness in general health care. Psychol Med. 1997;27(1):191-7.
2. McDowell I. Measuring health a guide to rating scales and questionnaires. 3rd ed. New York ; Oxford: Oxford University Press; 2006. xvi, 748 p
3. Unden AL, Orth-Gomer K. Development of a social support instrument for use in population surveys. Soc Sci Med. 1989;29(12):1387-92.4. Leijon O, Wiktorin C, Harenstam A, Karlqvist L. Validity of a self-administered questionnaire for assessing physical work loads in a general population. J Occup Environ Med. 2002;44(8):724-35.