

IAB-Colloquium

zur Arbeitsmarkt- und Berufsforschung

The effect of job displacement on the onset of diabetes

Prof. Dr. Annette Bergemann

University of Bristol

Are there negative health effects from losing the job? We analyze the causal effect of job displacement on diabetes type-2 incidence. Type 2 diabetes is an illness that is directly affected by lifestyle factors and psychosocial stress, and with severe side-effects deteriorating the quality of life. We use rich Swedish register data that allows us to identify workers displaced through downsizing of workplaces between 2004-2006, matched to information on diabetes status from the Swedish National Diabetes Register. As those displaced at large layoffs may still be a selective group with respect to health we control for a rich set of labor market, workplace and individual background characteristics. We find evidence of an increased risk to contract diabetes in the case an individual is displaced in a mass laid off: The effect particularly strong for women 3-6 years after the displacement. We also find that previous diabetes prevalence in the family increase the vulnerability, thus stressing the importance of a family component. However, few of the socioeconomic characteristics are important for the risk.

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