Abstract:

In this study, the effects of temporal and locational flexibility or work on the frequency and length of sickness absenteeism are analysed. Using a Dutch survey of public sector employees, we show that increased temporal and locational flexibility is negatively associated with sickness absenteeism in general. Especially flexi-time, i.e. schedule flexibility which is quickly adjustable, reduces both the frequency and in particular the duration of absences. Telehomework or location flexibility on the other hand seems to mainly affect absence frequency but not absence duration. In contrast, long-term duration flexibility in the form of part-time work does not appear to have a significant impact on absenteeism.