

Trends of EIBI activity in Finnish occupational health service

Kuokkanen Martti, Heljälä Leena

Introduction

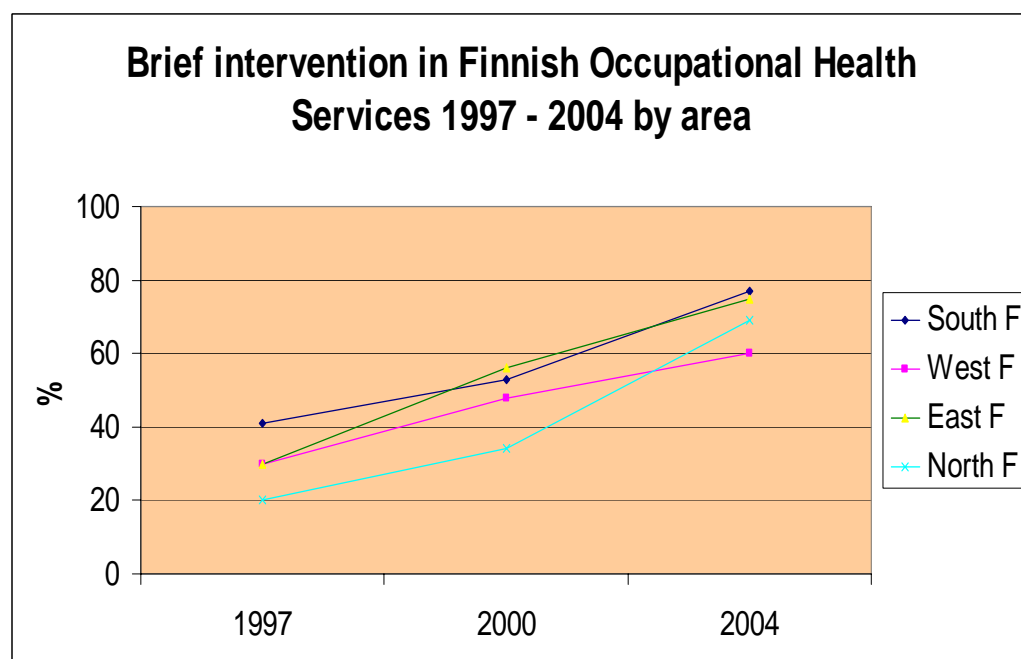
To get information on the EIBI (early identification and brief intervention) situation in Finnish occupational health services, a questionnaire survey was carried out as part of a national survey of occupational health services in 1997 and in 2000. More information was gathered with a telephone interview of a sample of Finnish occupational health care centres in 2004.

Methods and Material

A questionnaire was sent to all occupational health care centres of Finland in 1997 and in 2000 inquiring about EIBI activity. Every centre filled out one questionnaire. Information was obtained from 770 centres in 1997 and 672 centres in 2000. More information was also gathered by a telephone interview of 55 Finnish occupational health care centres in 2004. The outcome variable was the EIBI activity of the centres in 1997, 2000 and 2004.

Results

The EIBI-activity of centres increased from year 1997 to year 2004 most in East Finland (from 30% to 75%). Number of individual EIBI´s in Finland increased from 10 000 year 1997 to 27000 year 2004. That year near 1.8% of all individual occupational health care contacts had some EIBI activity.



Conclusion

There is a clearly increasing trend of EIBI activity in Finnish occupational health services. However, the number of clients in occupational health services that provide EIBI activity is still rather low. A new national project was started in summer 2004 to increase EIBI activity in Finnish occupational health services. The preliminary results show a clear rising trend for EIBI activity also during 2004, but material that year is too scanty for drawing more conclusions.



Finnish Institute of
Occupational Health