Does persistent precarious employment affect health outcomes among working age adults? A systematic review and meta-analysis

Additional file 1: Search strategy, PRISMA flowchart and description of studies

(TITLE-ABS(precarity) OR TITLE-ABS(precariat) OR TITLE-ABS("precarious employment") OR TITLE-ABS("precarious work") OR TITLE-ABS("employment security") OR TITLE-ABS("employment insecurity") OR TITLE-ABS("secure employment") OR TITLE-ABS("insecure employment") OR TITLE-ABS("job security") OR TITLE-ABS("job insecurity") OR TITLE-ABS("low pay no pay cycle") OR TITLE-ABS("flexible labo*r") OR TITLE-ABS("dual labo*r") OR TITLE-ABS("temporary employment") OR TITLE-ABS("temporary contract*") OR TITLE-ABS("zero hour contract*") OR TITLE-ABS("gig economy") OR TITLE-ABS("contingent work*") OR TITLE-ABS("contingent employment") OR TITLE-ABS("secondary labo*r market") OR TITLE-ABS(flexicurity) OR TITLE-ABS("nonstandard work") OR TITLE-ABS("non-standard employment") OR TITLE-ABS("non-standard contract*") OR TITLE-ABS(underemployment) OR TITLE-ABS("atypical work") OR TITLE-ABS("casual work") OR TITLE-ABS("casual employment") OR TITLE-ABS("casual labo*r") OR TITLE-ABS("non-permanent employ*") OR TITLE-ABS("non-permanent work*") OR TITLE-ABS("exclusionary employment") OR TITLE-ABS("employment history*") OR TITLE-ABS("employment trajectory*") OR TITLE-ABS("employment transition*") OR

TITLE-ABS("job transition*") OR TITLE-ABS("job separation*") OR TITLE-ABS("job trajector*"))

AND

(TITLE-ABS(health) OR TITLE-ABS(wellbeing) OR TITLE-ABS(death) OR TITLE-ABS(hospitali*ation) OR TITLE-ABS(prescri*) OR TITLE-ABS(injur*) OR TITLE-ABS(absen*) OR TITLE-ABS(mortality) OR TITLE-ABS(illness) OR TITLE-ABS(disease) OR TITLE-ABS("ill health") OR TITLE-ABS(sick*) OR TITLE-ABS(morbidity) OR TITLE-ABS(disabilit*) OR TITLE-ABS(disabled))

Figure S2.1: Scopus search strategy

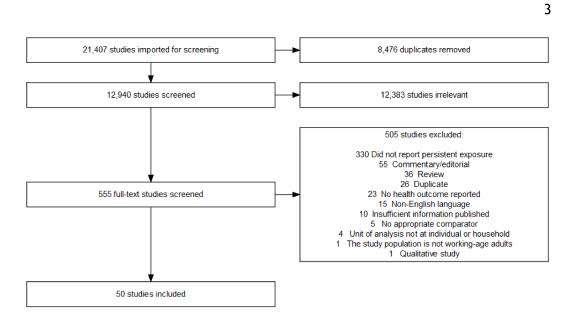


Figure S2.2: Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) flow diagram for study selection

Study	First	Country	Study	Study	Risk of	Exposure	Outcome
	author		design	population	bias		
	(year)						
10-Town Study	Kivimaki, M	Finland	Cohort	Municipal	Mediu	Employment	General health: all-cause
	(2003)			employees and	m	contract: temporary	mortality
				long-term		employment	
				underemployed			Physical health:
				(aged 18-63			cardiovascular disease
				years)			mortality, cancer mortality,
							external causes mortality
							Health behaviours: alcohol-
							related mortality; smoking-
							related mortality
1970 British Cohort	Emerson, E	UK	Cohort	Working age	Mediu	Employment	General health: self-rated
Study	(2018)			adult (1970	m	contract: non-	health
				cohort)			

						standard	Mental health: malaise score
						employment	
American's	Burgard, S	USA	Cohort	Working age	Mediu	Perceived job	General health: self-rated
Changing Lives	(2009)			adults (25 and	m	security	health
(ACL) study				over)			
	Burgard, S						Mental health: depressive
	(2017)						symptoms
British Household	Bender, K	UK	Cohort	Working age	Low	Employment	General health: self-rated
Panel Survey	(2018)			adults		contract: % time in	health
(BHPS)						flexible employment	
							Physical health: heart
							health; stomach health;
							breathing health; migraine;
							skin/allergy
Canadian National	Dobson, K	Canada	Cohort	Working age	Low	Perceived job	Health behaviours: smoking
Population Health	(2018)			adults		security	status
Survey (NPHS)							

	Watson, B				Mediu	Perceived job	Mental health: psychological
	(2017)				m	security	distress
Canadian Survey	Scott-	Canada	Cohort	Working age	High	Perceived job	General health: self-rated
of Labour and	Marshall, H			adults		security	health
Income Dynamics	(2019)			(economically			
(SLID)				active, aged 25-			
				54 years)			
Compulsory	Moscone, F	Italy	Cohort	Adults	Mediu	Multiple: temporary	Mental health: mental health
Communications	(2016)				m	employment and	prescription
(linked workforce						number of contract	
and prescription						changes	
registers)							
Danish	Rugulies, R	Denmark	Cohort	Working age	Mediu	Multiple: perceived	Mental health: mental health
Longitudinal Study	(2010)			adults (37-56	m	job security and	prescription
on Work,				years)		history of prolonged	
Unemployment and						unemployment	
Health (linked to							

prescriptions and
employment
registers)

European Union	Pirani, E	Italy	Cohort	Working age	Low	Employment	General health: self-rated
Statistics on	(2015)			adults		contract: temporary	health
Income and Living						employment	
Conditions (EU-							
SILC)							
Finnish census	Pensola, T	Finland	Cohort	Working age	Low	Employment spells:	General health: all-cause
linked to deaths	(2004)			adults (30-34		fragmented	mortality
register				years at end of		employment path	
				exposure			
				period)			
Finnish Public	Virtanen, P	Finland	Cohort	Public sector	High	Employment	General health: self-rated
Sector (FPS) Study	(2018)			employees		contract: temporary	health
						employment	

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Health and Social	Virtanen, P	Finland	Cohort	Working age	Mediu	Employment	Health behaviours: tobacco
Support (HeSSup)	(2008)			adults	m	contract: atypical	consumption; alcohol
Study				(economically		employees or	consumption; body mass
				active, aged 20-		unemployed	index; physical activity
				54 years)			
Health Conditions	Fiori, F	Italy	Cross-	Working age	Mediu	Employment	Mental health: mental health
and Access to	(2016)		sectional	adults	m	contract: temporary	symptoms
Health Services				(economically		or atypical	
Survey				active, aged 18-		employment	
				39 years)			
Household Panel	Rodriguez,	Germany	Cohort	Working age	Low	Employment	General health: self-rated
Comparability	E (2002)			adults (aged 16		contract: temporary	health
Project				years and over)		employment	
Japanese Study on	Kachi, Y	Japan	Cohort	Working age	High	Employment	Mental health: psychological
Stratification,	(2018)			adults (aged 25-		contract: non-	distress
Health, Income,				50 years)		standard	
						employment	

and Neighborhood							
(J-SHINE)							
	Sato, Y				Mediu	Employment	Physical health: tooth loss
	(2018)				m	contract: temporary	
						employment	
Korean Labor and	Lim, H	South	Cohort	Working age	High	Employment	General health: self-rated
Income Panel	(2015)	Korea		adults (aged 20-		contract: non-	health
Study				60 years)		standard	
						employment	
Korean	Jin-man, C	South	Cohort	Adults (aged 45	Low	Employment spells:	Mental health: major
Longitudinal	(2015)	Korea		years and older)		number of jobs	depressive symptoms
Survey of Aging							
(KLoSA)							Physical health: comorbidity
Korean Welfare	Yoo, K	South	Cohort	Working age	Mediu	Employment	Mental health: depressive
Panel Study	(2016)	Korea		adults	m	contract: temporary	symptoms
						employment	
_							

lidA study,	Burr, H	Germany	Cross-	Working age	Mediu	Employment	Mental health: major
Integrated	(2015)		sectional	adults	m	contract: non-	depressive symptoms
Employment						standard	
Biography (IEB)						employment	
register data of the							
German Federal							
Employment							
Agency							
Longitudinal	Kachi, Y	Japan	Cohort	Working age	Low	Employment	Mental health: psychological
Survey of Middle-	(2014)			adults (aged 50-		contract: non-	distress
aged and Elderly				59)		standard	
Persons (LSMEP)						employment	
Persons (LSMEP) Midlife in the	Burgard, S	USA	Cohort	Working age	High	employment Perceived job	General health: self-rated
	Burgard, S (2009)	USA	Cohort	Working age adults (aged 25-	High		General health: self-rated
Midlife in the	•	USA	Cohort		High	Perceived job	
Midlife in the United States	•	USA	Cohort	adults (aged 25-	High	Perceived job	
Midlife in the United States	•	USA	Cohort	adults (aged 25-	High	Perceived job	health

11	

Midspan	Metcalfe, C	Scotland	Cohort	Working age	High	Employment spells:	General health: all-cause
	(2001)			adults		number of jobs	mortality
				(economically			Mental health: psychiatric
				active; aged 35-			hospital admission
				64)			
							Physical health:
							cardiovascular mortality;
							non-alcohol or smoking-
							related cancer mortality
							Health behaviours: smoking-
							related cancer mortality;
							alcohol-related mortality
	Metcalfe, C						Mental health: psychological
	(2003)						distress

Physical health: diastolic	
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blood pressure; lung

function; cholesterol level;

ischemia; angina

Health behaviours: smoking

status; alcohol consumption;

physical activity; body mass

index

National health	Barbadoro,	Italy	Cross-	Working age	Mediu	Employment	Health behaviours: body
survey "Health and	P (2016)		sectional	adults	m	contract: non-	mass index
use of health care				(economically		standard	
services" carried				active)		employment	
out by the Italian							
National Institute of							
Statistics (ISTAT)							

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National	Dooley, D	USA	Cohort	Working age	Mediu	Underemployment	Health behaviours: alcohol
Longitudinal	(1998)			adults (young)	m		symptom
Survey of Youth							
	Cross, J			Working age			General health: self-rated
	(2009)			adults (aged 24-			health
				30 years at			
				baseline)			Mental health: depression
							Physical health: chronic
							conditions
							Health behaviours: alcohol
							consumption
Northern Finland	Sirvio, A	Finland	Cohort	Working age	High	Multiple:	Mental health: mental health
1966 Birth Cohort	(2012)			adults (cohort at		discontinuous	symptoms
(NFBC 1966)				31 years)		employment history	
_							_

and non-standard

employment

Gustafsson,	Sweden	Cohort	Working age	Low	Employment	General health: cortisol
P (2012)			adults (aged 16		contract: temporary	levels
			at baseline)		employment	
Virtanen, P			Working age	Low	Multiple: non-	General health: self-rated
					·	
(2011)			adults (aged 30		standard	health
			at baseline, 42		employment and	
			at follow-up)		perceive job security	Mental health: mental health
						symptoms
Canivet, C	Sweden	Cohort	Working age	High	Employment	Mental health: mental health
(2017)			adults (18-55		contract: atypical	symptoms
			years)		employees or	
					unemployed	
	P (2012) Virtanen, P (2011) Canivet, C	P (2012) Virtanen, P (2011) Canivet, C Sweden	P (2012) Virtanen, P (2011) Canivet, C Sweden Cohort	P (2012) adults (aged 16 at baseline) Working age (2011) adults (aged 30 at baseline, 42 at follow-up) Canivet, C Sweden Cohort Working age (2017) adults (18-55	P (2012) adults (aged 16 at baseline) Virtanen, P Working age adults (aged 30 at baseline, 42 at follow-up) Canivet, C Sweden Cohort Working age High (2017)	P (2012) adults (aged 16 contract: temporary employment Working age Low Multiple: non- adults (aged 30 standard at baseline, 42 employment and at follow-up) Canivet, C Sweden Cohort Working age High Employment (2017) Adults (18-55 contract: atypical employees or

Pulford A, et al. J Epidemiol Community Health 2022;0:1–9. doi: 10.1136/jech-2022-219292

Spanish WORKing	Lopez	Spain	Case-	Working age	Mediu	Employment spells:	General health: all-cause
life social security	Gomez, M		control	adults (aged 16	m	employment,	mortality
(WORKss) cohort	(2017)			and over)		unemployment and	
						inactivity	
Swedish Twin	Helgadottir,	Sweden	Cohort	Working age	High	Employment	Physical health: sickness
project Of Disability	B (2019)			adults (twins,		contract: temporary	absence
pension and				aged 19-47)		employment or self-	
Sickness Absence						employed	
(STODS) linked to							
the National Social							
Insurance Agency							
Micro Data for							
Analyses of Social							
insurance							
database (MiDAS)							

Swedish Work	Magnusson	Sweden	Cohort	Working age	Low	Perceived job	Mental health: depressive
Environment	Hanson, L			adults (20-69)		security: threats of	symptoms
Survey (SWES),	(2015)					dismissal	
subset of Swedish							
Longitudinal							
Occupational							
Survey of Health							
(SLOSH)							
Swiss Household	Giudici, F	Switzerlan	Cohort	Adults (aged 16-	Low	Employment spells:	General health: depressive
Panel (SHP-III)	(2019)	d		100 years)		discontinuous work	symptoms
						history	
							Mental health: self-rated
							health
Temporary	Virtanen, P	Finland	Cohort	Female public	Low	Employment	Mental health: psychological
Employees in	(2005)			sector		contract: temporary	distress
Municipal Jobs				employees with		employment	
Study							
-							

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initially f	ixed-
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term contracts

Three-City Study	Coley, R	USA	Cohort	Low-income	Low	Employment spells:	General health: self-rated
	(2014)			mothers		number of jobs	health
							Mental health: mental health
							symptoms
U.S. Panel Study	Amick, B	USA	Cohort	Working age		Perceived job	General health: all-cause
of Income	(2002)			adults		security	mortality
Dynamics				(economically			
				active, aged 18-			
				62 years)			
Unnamed survey 1	Barnett, R	USA	Cohort	Working age	High	Perceived job	Mental health: psychological
	(1997)			adults		security	distress
				(economically			
				active)			
							-

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Unnamed survey 3	Johannesse	Norway	Cohort	Working age	High	Perceived job	Mental health: psychological
	n, H (2013)			adults		security	distress
Unnamed survey 4	Kim, Y	South	Cohort	Sales and office	High	Perceived job	Mental health: depressive
	(2018)	Korea		workers in an		security	symptoms
				automobile			
				company			
Unnamed survey 5	Reine, I	Sweden	Cohort	Working age	High	Employment	Mental health: mental health
	(2008)			adults (aged 30		contract: temporary	symptoms
				years at end of		employment	
				study)			
Unnamed survey 6	Heaney, C	USA	Cohort	Automobile	High	Perceived job	General health: physical
	(1994)			manufacturer		security	symptomology
				employees			
Unnamed survey 7	Jahn, I	Germany	Case-	Adult males	High	Employment spells:	Physical health: lung cancer
	(1995)		control	(born after		job changes by level	diagnosis
				1912)		of (in)voluntariness	

19	9
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Unnamed survey 8	Moore, S	USA	Cohort	Employees	High	Layoff contact:	Mental health: Depressive
	(2004)			within a large		number of layoff	symptoms
				manufacturing		contacts (direct and	
				organisation		indirect)	Physical health: self-
							reported health problems
US Health and	Gallo, W	USA	Cohort	Working age	High	Employment spells:	Mental health: depressive
Retirement Survey	(2006)			adults (aged 51-		number of job losses	symptoms
(HRS)				61 years)			
Whitehall II	Ferrie, J	UK	Cohort	Civil servants	Low	Perceived job	General health: self-rated
	(2002)			(aged 25-55		security	health
				years)			
							Mental health: mental health
							symptoms
							Physical health: cholesterol
							level; blood pressure

							Health behaviours: body
							mass index; alcohol
							consumption; smoking
							status
Work and Health	Giraudo, M	Italy	Cohort	Working age	Mediu	Multiple: number of	Physical health: injury
Histories Italian	(2016)			adults	m	contracts, number of	
Panel (WhipSalute)						jobs, occupational	
						sector, work	
						intensity, duration of	
						longest period of	
						non-employment	
Work, Stress, and	Glavin, P	USA	Cohort	Working age	Low	Perceived job	General health: self-rated
Health (WSH)	(2015)			adults		security	health
study				(economically			
				active)			Mental health: psychological
							distress

Table S2.1: Summary of studies included in the systematic review

Additional File 4: Narrative synthesis

An exact binomial test was run for each exposure/outcome grouping with confidence intervals calculated using the Wilson method.[1] Harvest plots were created to visually summarise the direction of effect estimates by outcome as a means of synthesising studies where there were a mix of binary and continuous exposure and outcomes measures, meaning that meta-analysis was not feasible.[1, 2]

Each bar in the harvest plots relates to a data point in the extracted data. Bars are coloured-coded by exposure topic, while the height of the bar relates to whether the study the data point is drawn from was classified as high, medium or low risk of bias according to the amended Effective Public Health Practice Project (EPHPP) Quality Assessment tool for Quantitative Studies. Low risk of bias is represented as the tallest bar. Multiple bars can be presented for one study where the PECOS definition is independent of other bars (e.g. separate estimates for male and female subjects in studies where a total effect size estimate was not presented for both sexes).

General health outcomes

Included studies reported five general health outcomes: all-cause mortality, self-rated health, sickness absence, somatic symptoms and stress response measures (see Additional file 4). Twenty-six out of 35 data points showed poorer self-rated health among people with persistent precarious employment than in the study comparator group (74.3%, 95% CI: 56.7% to 87.5%). There was no clear evidence of associations for the other outcome measures.

Mental health outcomes

Mental health service use and symptoms of poor mental health were the most common reported outcomes (see Additional File 4). Fifty-six out of 67 data points showed a worse outcome than the study comparator group (83.6%; 95% CI 72.5% to 91.5%).

Physical health outcomes

Studies identified in the review related to twelve physical health outcomes: blood pressure, cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic conditions, dental problems, digestive problems, mortality due to external causes, health problems, injury, migraine, respiratory disease and skin conditions/allergy (see Additional file 4). There was clear evidence that persistent precarious employment was associated only with injury. All six data points showed a worse outcome than the study comparator group (100%; 95% CI 54.1% to 100%), extracted from a single study classified as medium risk of bias.[3]

Health behaviour outcomes

Identified studies assessed six health behaviour outcomes: alcohol consumption, alcohol outcomes, body mass index, physical activity, smoking outcomes and tobacco consumption (see Additional File 4). Persistent precarious employment was most clearly associated with increased alcohol consumption and body mass index. Nine out of ten data points relating to alcohol consumption showed a worse outcome than the study comparator group (90.0%, 95% CI 55.5% to 99.7%). Fourteen out of 16 data points relating to body mass index showed a worse

outcome than the study comparator group (87.5%, 95% CI 61.6% to 98.4%).

There was no clear evidence of associations for the other outcome measures.



Figure S4.1: Harvest plot of general health outcomes

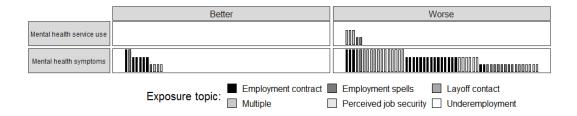


Figure S4.2: Harvest plot of mental health outcomes

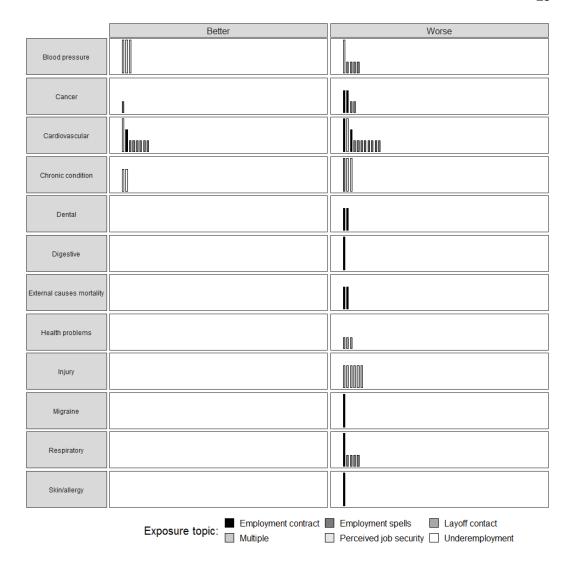


Figure S4.3: Harvest plot of physical health outcomes

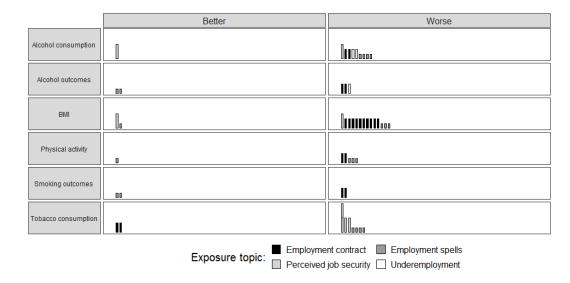


Figure S4.4: Harvest plot of health behaviour outcomes

Additional file 5: Self-rated health meta-analyses stratified by sub-group



Figure S5.1: Forest plot presenting effect sizes and meta-analysis of poor self-rated health by persistent perceived job security



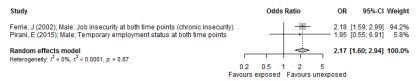
Figure S5.2: Forest plot presenting effect sizes and meta-analysis of poor self-rated health by persistent employment contract



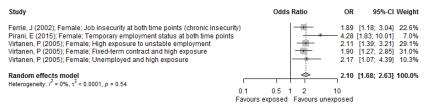
Figure S5.3: Forest plot presenting effect sizes and meta-analysis of poor self-rated health by persistent multi-dimensional measure of precarious employment

Additional File 6: Sub-group meta-analysis

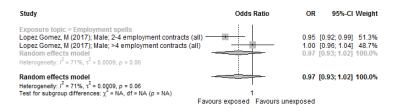
Sub-group analyses were undertaken for males and females for all meta-analyses with the exceptions of self-rated health as a continuous scale and mental health symptoms as a continuous outcome measure on the CES-D scale, due to insufficient data points. We have presented male and female only versions of the meta-analyses presented in our main analysis. There were insufficient male and female estimates to conduct sub-group meta-analysis of self-rated health as a continuous scale and symptoms of poor mental health as a continuous outcome measure on the CES-D scale. We found no clear differences between sex-specific pooled estimates.



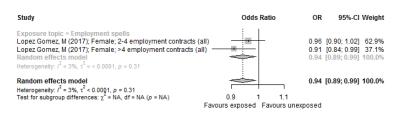
(a) Male poor self-rated health as a binary outcome



(b) Female poor self-rated health as a binary outcome

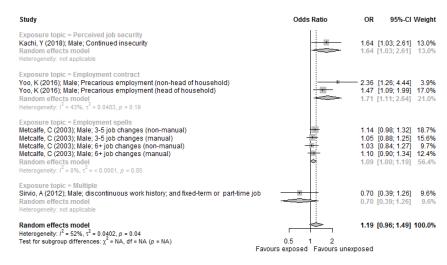


(c) Male all-cause mortality

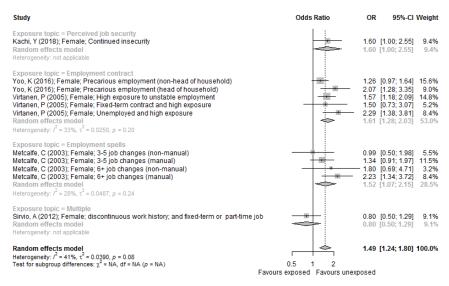


(d) Female all-cause mortality

Figure 6.1: Forest plots presenting effect sizes and meta-analysis of selected general health outcomes by persistent precarious employment exposure

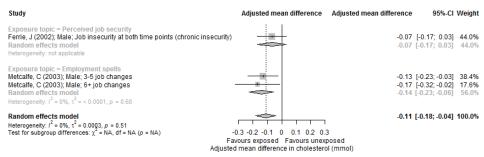


(a) Male poor mental health as a binary outcome

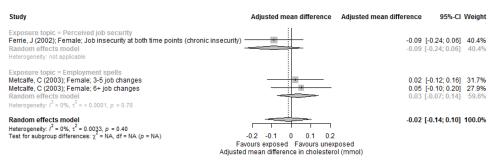


(b) Female poor mental health as a binary outcome

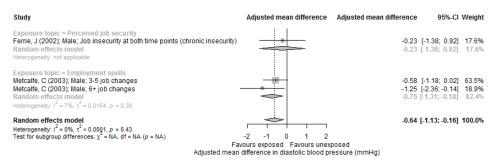
Figure 6.2: Forest plots presenting effect sizes and meta-analysis of selected mental health outcomes by persistent precarious employment exposure



(a) Male cholesterol level



(b) Female cholesterol level



(c) Male diastolic blood pressure

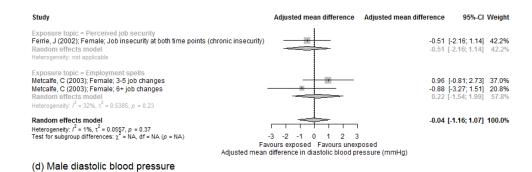
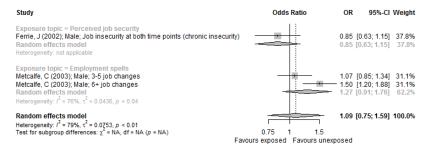
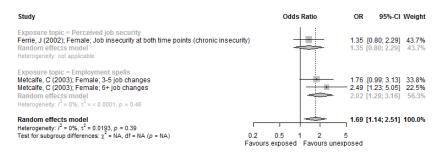


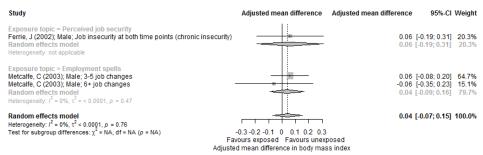
Figure 6.3: Forest plots presenting effect sizes and meta-analysis of selected physical health outcomes by persistent precarious employment exposure



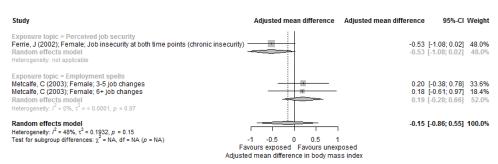
(a) Male harmful alcohol consumption



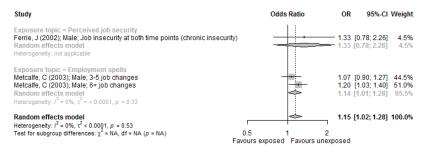
(b) Female harmful alcohol consumption



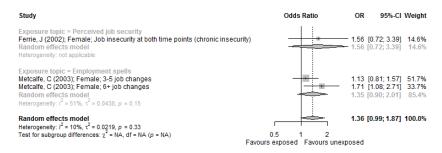
(c) Male body mass index



(d) Female body mass index



(e) Male current smoking status



(f) Female current smoking status

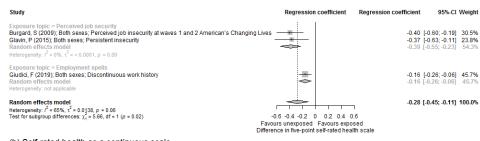
Figure 6.4: Forest plots presenting effect sizes and meta-analysis of selected health behaviour outcomes by persistent precarious employment exposure

Additional File 7: Sensitivity analysis

We have presented sensitivity analyses of the meta-analyses presented in our main analysis, excluding studies classed as high risk of bias using a modified version of the Effective Practice in Public Health Project (EPHPP) tool. All-cause mortality and symptoms of poor mental health as a continuous outcome measure on the CES-D scale had no high risk of bias studies and are not presented as part of the sensitivity analysis. The findings of our review were not qualitatively changed by excluding high risk of bias studies.



(a) Poor self-rated health as a binary outcome



(b) Self-rated health as a continuous scale

Figure 7.1: Forest plots presenting effect sizes and meta-analysis of selected general health outcomes by persistent precarious employment exposure

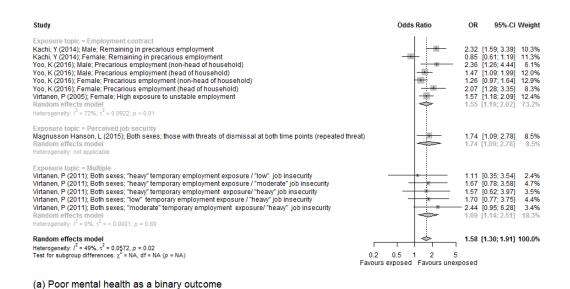
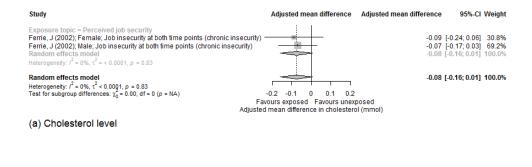


Figure 7.2: Forest plots presenting effect sizes and meta-analysis of selected mental health outcomes by persistent precarious employment exposure



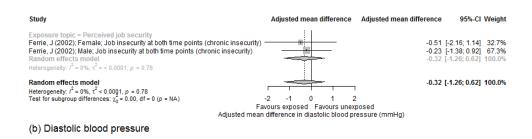
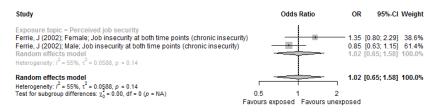
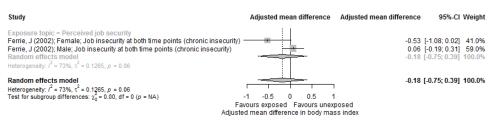


Figure 7.3: Forest plots presenting effect sizes and meta-analysis of selected physical

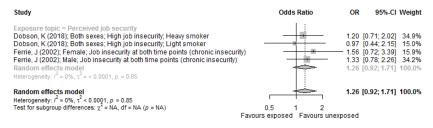
health outcomes by persistent precarious employment exposure



(a) Harmful alcohol consumption



(b) Body mass index



(c) Current smoking status

Figure 7.4: Forest plots presenting effect sizes and meta-analysis of selected health behaviour outcomes by persistent precarious employment exposure

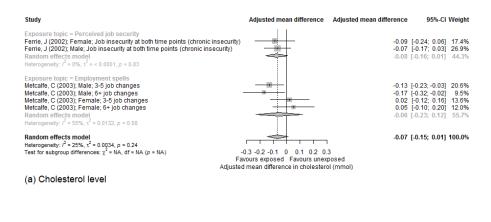
Additional file 8: Narrative synthesis and metaanalysis of other health outcomes

Data analysis and presentation

We initially tabulated extracted data by the type of exposure and outcome. Due to the wide range of outcome measures included in this review, a narrative synthesis was undertaken using vote counting based on the direction of effect for all exposure/outcome groupings following Cochrane guidance.[1] An exact binomial test was run for each exposure/outcome grouping with confidence intervals calculated using the Wilson method.[1] Harvest plots were created to visually summarise the direction of effect estimates by outcome as a means of synthesising studies where there were a mix of binary and continuous exposure and outcomes measures, meaning that meta-analysis was not feasible.[1, 2]

Physical health outcomes

Persistent precarious employment was associated with lower cholesterol (adjusted mean difference -0.07 mmol/l, CI -0.15 to -0.01, I² 25%) based on two studies [4, 5] (Figure 8.1(a)). When stratified by exposure topic, the separate studies showed similar effect sizes. Persistent precarious employment was associated with lower diastolic blood pressure when meta-analysed (-0.54 mmHg, CI -0.99 to -0.08, I² 0%) (Figure 8.1(b)).



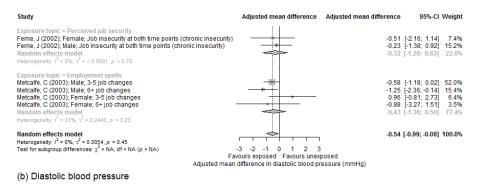
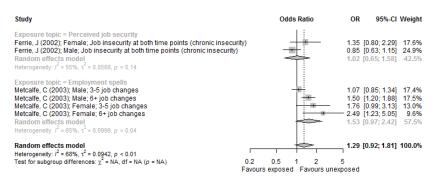


Figure 8.1: Forest plots presenting effect sizes and meta-analysis of selected physical health outcomes by persistent precarious employment exposure

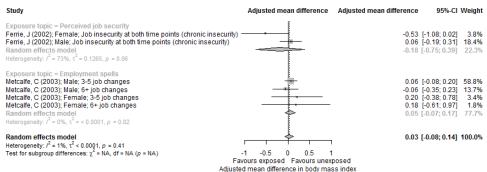
Health behaviour outcomes

Our meta-analysis or persistent precarious employment and harmful alcohol consumption suggested an association with increased odds (OR 1.29, CI 0.92 to 1.81, I² 68%) based on two studies [4, 5] (Figure 8.2(a)). It should be noted that the two studies used different thresholds for harmful alcohol consumption and for different sexes. Both studies used a threshold of 22 or more units of alcohol per week for harmful drinking among men. For women, Ferrie et al.[5] used a threshold of 15 or more units of alcohol per week, while Metcalfe et al.[4] used a threshold of eight or more units of alcohol per week. No association was found between persistent precarious employment and body mass index based on the pooled adjusted mean differences from two studies (Adjusted mean difference

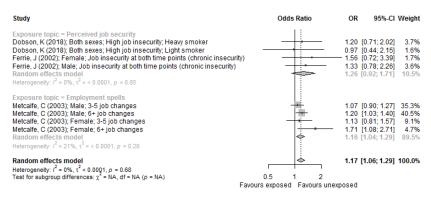
0.03, 95% CI -0.08 to 0.14, I² 1%) [4, 5] (Figure 8.2(b)). Persistent precarious employment was found to be associated with current smoking status based on the pooled estimates from three studies (OR 1.17, CI 1.06 to 1.29, I² 0%) [4-6] (Figure 8.2(c)).



(a) Harmful alcohol consumption



(b) Body mass index



(c) Current smoking status

Figure 8.2: Forest plots presenting effect sizes and meta-analysis of selected health behaviour outcomes by persistent precarious employment exposure

All three outcomes that we assessed were downgraded to very low overall certainty when assessed using the GRADE framework (Table 1). All outcomes except for self-rated health were rated down on risk of bias, while two outcomes were rated down on inconsistency (all-cause mortality and self-rated health), and one outcome on imprecision (alcohol consumption).

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- Ferrie JE, Shipley MJ, Stansfeld SA, *et al.* Effects of chronic job insecurity and change in job security on self reported health, minor psychiatric morbidity, physiological measures, and health related behaviours in British civil servants: The Whitehall II study. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 2002;**56**:450-4.
- 6 Dobson KG, Gilbert-Ouimet M, Mustard C, et al. Association between dimensions of the psychosocial and physical work environment and latent smoking trajectories: a 16-year cohort study of the Canadian workforce: Supplementary File. Occupational and Environmental Medicine 2018;75.

GRADE assessment of certainty											
									Absolute risk		
Outcome	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Publication bias	Number of studies	Number of participants	Relative difference (95%CI)	Medium risk	Exposed risk (95%CI)	Certainty (reasons for downgrading)
Diastolic blood pressure	Serious limitations (uncontrolled confounding and exposure integrity)	No serious inconsistency	No serious indirectness (borderline)	No serious imprecision	Undetected	2	9,705	Adjusted mean difference = -0.54 (-0.99; -0.08)	76.9mmHg [5]	76.4mmHg (75.9mmHg to 76.8mmHg)	Very low (risk of bias)
Alcohol consumption	Serious limitations (uncontrolled confounding and exposure integrity)	No serious inconsistency (borderline)	No serious indirectness (borderline)	Serious imprecision (95% CI includes 1 appreciable benefit or harm)	Undetected	2	9,705	OR = 1.29 (0.92; 1.81)	43.0%***	55.5% (41.0% to 57.7%)	Very low (risk of bias, imprecision
Current smoker	Serious limitations (uncontrolled confounding and exposure integrity)	No serious inconsistency	No serious indirectness (borderline)	No serious imprecision	Undetected	3	15,166	OR = 1.17 (1.06; 1.29)	16.0%***	18.7% (16.8% to 19.7%)	Very low (risk of bias)

^{*} http://healthsurvey.hscic.gov.uk/data-visualisation/data-visualisation/explore-the-trends/general-health.aspx

Table 9.1: GRADE assessment of certainty of estimate of effect size and summary of findings

^{**} http://healthsurvey.hscic.gov.uk/support-guidance/public-health/health-survey-for-england-2016/well-being-and-mental-health.aspx

^{***} https://files.digital.nhs.uk/D4/93337C/HSE19-Adult-health-behaviours-rep.pdf

Additional File 10: Funnel plots

We have presented funnel plots for PECOS combinations with ten or more data points.

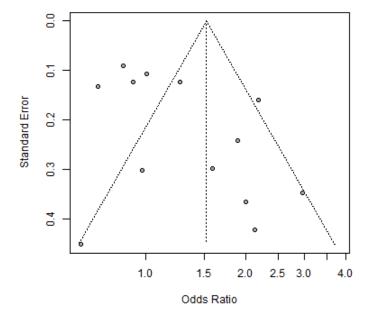


Figure S8.1: Funnel plot for studies reporting poor self-rated health as a binary outcome

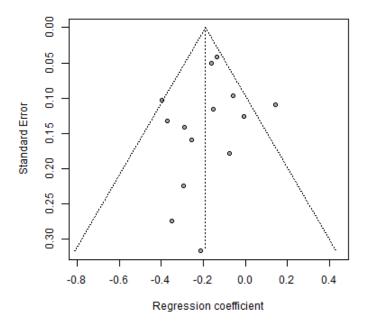


Figure S8.2: Funnel plot for studies reporting self-rated health as a continuous scale

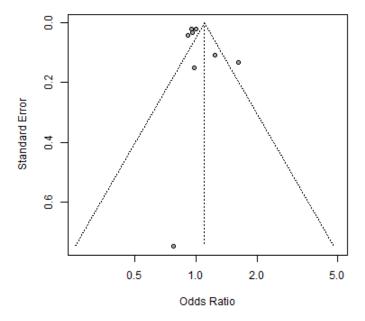


Figure S8.3: Funnel plot for studies reporting all-cause mortality

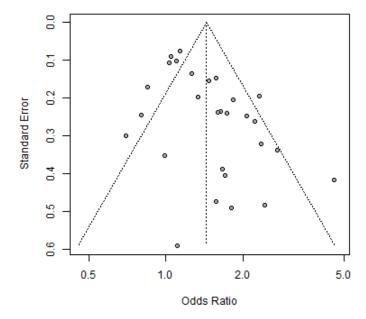


Figure S8.4: Funnel plot for studies reporting poor mental health as a binary outcome