**Online supplementary material**

3.2.2 Studies reporting on chronic pain which were included in the systematic review of the literature

| | Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Brattberg et al. [6] | 1989 | Sweden | 1,009 | Males: 45.9%, Females: 54.1% | 18–84 | N/A | Postal survey, Registry, Random sample | Urban | Cross-sectional | IASP | Self-developed | No | Point prevalence | 40% | 6 |
| **2.** | Andersson et al. [1] | 1994 | Sweden | 1,086 | Males 50,8%, Females 49,2% | 25–74 | | Population register | Rural | Cross-sectional | Definition: 3 or 6 month | Self-developed | No | 6-month prevalence | 49.8% | 8 |
| **3.** | Chrubasik et al. [9] | 1998 | Germany | 1,304 | Males: 45.9%, Females: 54.1% | 18–80 | Years of Education: Women: | Postal survey, Registry, Random sample | Diverse | Cross-sectional | Definition: 6 months | Self-developed | No | Point prevalence | 14.3% (12.4-16.2) | 6 |

| | Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | ≤10: 13.1% 11–13: 44.4% ≥14: 42.5% Men: ≤10: 10.0% 11–13: 55.3% ≥14: 34.7% | | | | | | | | | |
| **4.** | Bergman et al. [3] | 2001 | Sweden | 2,425 | Males 46.8% Females 53.2% | 20–74 | N/A | Population register | Diverse | Cross-sectional | Definition: 3 month | SF-36 | No | 12-month Prevalence | 23.9% | 8 |

| | Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **5.** | Catala et al. [8] | 2002 | Spain | 1,546 | Males: 20.9%, Females: 37.6% | 18–95 | N/A | Telephone survey | Diverse | Cross-sectional | IASP | Self-developed | Yes | Point prevalence | 23.4% | 6 |
| **6.** | Grabe et al. [13] | 2003 | Germany | 4,075 | Males: 46.3%, Females: 53.7% | 18–64 | Years of Education:<br><br>Males:<br><br>9 years: 54.5%<br>10 years: 19.4%<br>12–13 years: 21.8%<br>Other: 4.2%<br>Females: | Random sample from registration office files | Diverse | Cross-sectional | DSM-III-R criteria | M-CIDI | Yes | 6-month, lifetime prevalence | 17.3%, 33.7% | 8 |

| | Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | 9 years: 46.7%<br>10 years: 35.0%<br>12–13 years: 15.0%<br>Other: 3.3% | | | | | | | | | |
| **7.** | Rustøen et al. [21] | 2004 | Norway | 4,000 | Males: 48%, Females: 52% | 19–81 | Educational Status:<br><br>Primary school: 19%<br>Secondary school: 44% | National Register | Diverse | Cross-sectional | IASP | Self-developed, Brief Pain Inventory | No | Point prevalence | 24.4% | 7 |

| | Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | University <4 years: 20% University >4 years: 17% | | | | | | | | | |
| **8.** | Jacobi et al. [16] | 2004 | Germany | 7,124 | Males: 50.3%, Females: 49.7% | 18 – 65 | Educational Distribution (Social Class Index):<br><br>Low: 19.1% Medium: 57.6% | Population registries, Stratified random sample | Diverse | Cross-sectional | DSM-IV | M-CIDI | Yes | 12-month prevalence, Lifetime prevalence | 8.1%, 12.7% | 8 |

| | Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | High: 23.3% | | | | | | | | | |
| **9.** | Breivik et al. [7] | 2006 | Spain, Ireland, UK, France, Switzerland, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Belgium, Italy, | Spain: 3,801, Ireland: 2,722, UK: 3,800, France: 3,846, Switzerland: 2,083, Denmark: 2,169, Germany: 3,832, Netherlands: 3,197, | Males: 44%, Females: 56% | ≥18 | N/A | Telephone survey | Diverse | Cross-sectional | Definition: pain duration more than 6 months | CATI | Yes | Point prevalence | Spain: 12.0%, Ireland 13.0%, UK: 13.0%, France 15.0%, Switzerland 16.0%, Denmark 16.0%, Germany 17.0%, | 5 |

| Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Poland, Norway | Sweden: 2,563, Finland: 2,004, Austria: 2,004, Belgium: 2,451, Italy: 3,849, Poland: 3,812, Norway: 2,018 | | | | | | | | | | | Netherlands 18.0%, Sweden 18.0%, Finland 19.0%, Austria 21.0%, Belgium 23.0%, Italy 26.0%, Poland 27.0%, Norway 30.0% | |
| **10.** | Fröhlich et al. [12] | 2006 | Germany | 4,181 | Males: 50.3%, | 18–65 | Educational Distributi | Population registries | Diverse | Cross-sectional | DSM-IV | M-CIDI | Yes | 12-month prevalence | 8.1% | 8 |

| | Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Females: 49.7% | | on (Social Class Index):<br><br>Low: 19.1%<br>Medium: 57.6%<br>High: 23.3% | , Stratified random sample | | | | | | | | |
| **11.** | Jablonska et al. [15] | 2006 | Sweden | 3,616 | Only females | 18–64 | High (41.2%), Intermediate (37.3%), Low (21.5%) | Random sample | Urban | Cross-sectional | Definition: 3 months | The Pain Questionnaire | No | Point prevalence | 40.0 | 6 |

| | Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **12.** | Svebak et al. [22] | 2006 | Norway | 64,690 | Males: 45.5%, Females: 54.5% | ≥20 | N/A | National registry | Urban | Longitudinal | Definition: 3 months | Standardized Nordic Questionnaire | No | 12-month prevalence | 44.6% | 8 |
| **13.** | Wijnhoven et al. [23] | 2006 | The Netherlands | 3,664 | Males 41%, Females 52% | 25-64 | N/A | random sampling method | Both | Longitudinal cohort study | Definition 3 months | Self-developed | No | Point prevalence | Males: 39%, Females 45% | 8 |
| **14.** | Bouhassira et al. [5] | 2008 | France | 23,712 | Males 46%, Females 54% | ≥18 | N/A | Polls registry | Diverse | Cross-sectional | Definition: 3 months | Brief Pain Inventory, NRS | No | Point prevalence | 31.7%; (95%CI: 31.1–32.3) | 8 |
| **15.** | Gunnarsdottir et al. [14] | 2010 | Iceland | 1,286 | Males 44%, Females 56% | ≥18 | | National registry | Both | Cross-sectional | Definition 3 months | Brief Pain Inventory | No | Point prevalence | 30.6% | 7 |
| **16.** | Landmark et al. [18] | 2012 | Norway | 94,194 | Males 45.3%, | ≥20 | Years of education | National registry | Urban | Longitudinal | Definition: 6 months | Self-developed, SF-8 | No | 12-month prevalence | 28% (95% CI | 8 |

| | Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Females 54.7% | | Women:<br>≤10: 13.1%<br>11–13: 44.4%<br>≥14: 42.5%<br><br>Men:<br>≤10: 10.0%<br>11–13: 55.3%<br>≥14: 34.7% | | | | | | | | 27 to 30) | |
| **17.** | Azevedo et al. [2] | 2012 | Portugal | 5,094 | Male: 47.7%, Female: 52.3% | ≥18 | Education:<br><br>More than 12 | Telephone survey, random sample | Urban | Cross-sectional | IASP | Self-developed | Yes | Point prevalence | 36.7% (95%[35.3-38.2] | 9 |

| Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | years (higher education): 19.9% 10–12 years (secondary education): 27.8% 5–9 years (basic 2nd and 3rd cycles): 20.3% 1–4 years (basic 1st cycle): 25.9% | | | | | | | | | |

| | Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | No education: 3.3% | | | | | | | | | |
| **18.** | Björnsdóttir et al. [4] | 2013 | Iceland | 5906 | Males 46.1%, Females 53.9% | 18–79 | N/A | Stratified random sampling | Diverse | Cross-sectional | IASP | Self-developed, SF-36, IPAQ, | No | Point prevalence | 19.9% | 8 |
| **19.** | Dueñas et al. [11] | 2015 | Spain | 1,957 | Males 49.62%, Females 50.38% | ≥18 | No Education: 19.2% Primary Education: 26.4% Secondary Education: 25.5% Vocational | Telephone survey, Random sample | Diverse | Cross-sectional | IASP | Self-developed | Yes | Point prevalence | 16.6% (95%: 14.9–18.3) | 8 |

| | Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Training: 12.6% University Education: 16.3% | | | | | | | | | |
| **20.** | MacFarlane et al. [19] | 2015 | UK | 503,325 | Males 45.8%, Females 54.2% | 40–69 | | Health service registry | Both | Cross-sectional | Definition: 6 months | | No | Point prevalence | 42.9% | 6 |
| **21.** | Mundal et al. [20] | 2016 | Norway | 78,973 | Males 43%, Females 57% | ≥ 20 | Years of education<br>Women:<br>≤10: 13.1%<br>11–13: 44.4%<br>≥14: 42.5% | Birth registration | Urban | Longitudinal | Definition 3 months using Standardized Nordic Questionnair | SNQ | Yes | 12 month prevalence | 48% | 9 |

| | Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Men: ≤10: 10.0% 11–13: 55.3% ≥14: 34.7% | | | | e (SNQ) | | | | | |
| **22.** | Del Giorno et al. [10] | 2017 | Italy | 1,293 | Males 42.1%, Females 57.2% | ≥18 | N/A | National registry | Diverse | Cross-sectional | Definition: 3 months | Self-developed | No | Point prevalence | 28.4% | 5 |
| **23.** | Landmark et al. [17] | 2018 | Norway | 3,405 | Males 45.3%, Females 54.7% | ≥ 20 | Years of education Women: ≤10: 13.1% 11–13: 44.4% | National registry | Both | Longitudinal | Definition: 6 months | Self-developed, SF-8 | No | Point prevalence | 30.0% | 8 |

| Author | Year | Country | Sample size | Sex distribution | Age | Education | Participant recruitment | Region | Study design | Diagnostic criteria | Diagnostic instrument | Clinical interview | Type of prevalence measure | Prevalence estimate | JBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | ≥14: 42.5%<br><br>Men:<br>≤10: 10.0%<br>11–13: 55.3%<br>≥14: 34.7% | | | | | | | | | |

### 3.2.3 Pubmed Search strategy

| | |
|---|---|
| Group 1 | ((((((((((((((persistent pain) OR (chronic pain)) OR (Fibromy*)) OR (tension headache*)) OR ("chronic musculoskeletal pain")) OR ("functional abdominal pain")) OR ("tension type headache")) OR (fibrositis)) OR (fibromyositis)) OR (myofibrositis)) OR ("chronic widespread pain")) OR ("widespread musculoskeletal pain")) OR ("myofascial pain")) OR ("chronic intractable benign pain*")) OR (non cardiac chest pain)) OR (non specific chest pain)) OR (atypical pain) |
| Group 2 | (Prevalence*) OR (Epidemiol*) |
| Results: | #1 AND #2 |

### 3.2.4 Web of Science Search strategy

| | |
|---|---|
| Group 1 | ((((((((((((((ALL=(persistent pain)) OR ALL=(chronic pain)) OR ALL=(Fibromy*)) OR ALL=(tension headache*)) OR ALL=("chronic musculoskeletal pain")) OR ALL=("functional abdominal pain")) OR ALL=("tension type headache")) OR ALL=(fibrositis)) OR ALL=(fibromyositis)) OR ALL=(myofibrositis)) OR ALL=("chronic widespread pain")) OR ALL=("widespread musculoskeletal pain")) OR ALL=("myofascial pain")) OR ALL=("chronic intractable benign pain*")) OR ALL=("non cardiac chest pain")) OR ALL=("non specific chest pain")) OR ALL=("atypical pain") |
| Group 2 | (ALL=(Prevalence*)) OR ALL=(Epidemiol*) |
| Results: | #1 AND #2 |

### 3.2.5 Embase Search strategy

('persistent pain'/exp OR 'chronic pain'/exp OR 'fibromyalgia'/exp OR 'tension headache'/exp OR 'chronic musculoskeletal pain'/exp OR 'functional abdominal pain'/exp OR 'tension type headache'/exp OR 'fibrositis'/exp OR 'fibromyositis'/exp OR 'chronic widespread pain'/exp OR 'myofascial pain'/exp OR 'chronic intractable benign pain' OR 'non cardiac chest pain'/exp OR 'persistent pain' OR 'chronic pain' OR fibromy* OR 'tension headache*' OR 'chronic musculoskeletal pain' OR 'functional abdominal pain' OR 'tension type headache' OR fibrositis OR fibromyositis OR myofibrositis OR 'chronic widespread pain' OR 'widespread musculoskeletal pain' OR 'myofascial pain' OR 'chronic intractable benign pain*' OR 'non cardiac chest pain' OR 'non specific chest pain' OR 'atypical pain') AND ('prevalence'/exp OR 'epidemiology'/exp OR prevalence* OR epidemiol*)

### 3.2.6 Search strategy Cochrane library

(persistent NEXT pain) OR

(chronic NEXT pain) OR

(Fibromy*) OR

(tension NEXT headache*) OR

(chronic NEXT musculoskeletal NEXT pain) OR

(functional NEXT abdominal NEXT pain) OR

(tension NEXT type NEXT headache) OR

(fibrositis) OR

(fibromyositis) OR

(myofibrositis) OR

(chronic NEXT widespread NEXT pain) OR

(widespread NEXT musculoskeletal NEXT pain) OR

(myofascial NEXT pain) OR

(chronic NEXT intractable NEXT benign NEXT pain*) OR

(non NEXT cardiac NEXT chest NEXT pain) OR

(non NEXT specific NEXT chest NEXT pain) OR

(atypical NEXT pain) AND

(Prevalence*) OR

(Epidemiol*)

### 3.2.7 Funnel plot

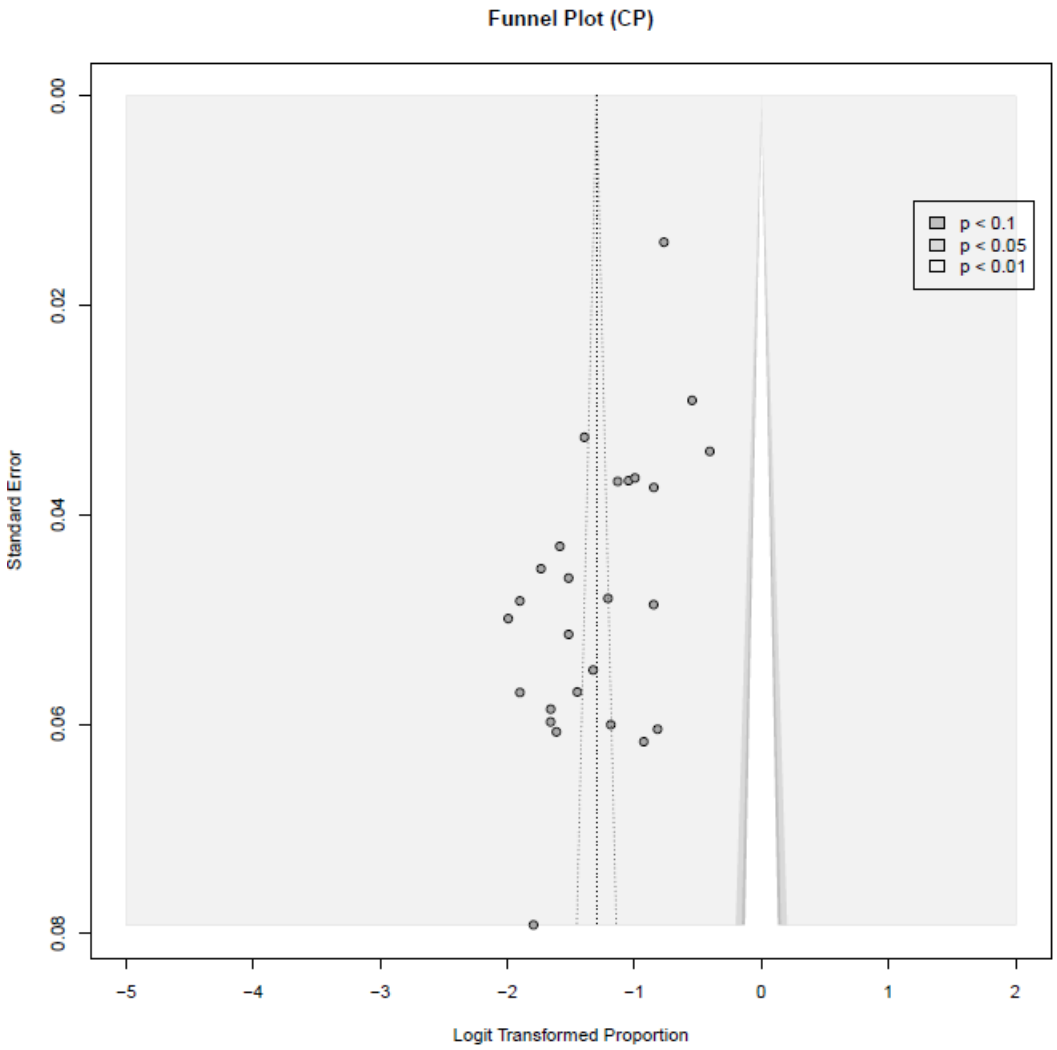


Figure S1. Funnel plot of the included studies on the point prevalence of chronic pain. Significant asymmetry can be detected.

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