Association between unemployment and insomnia-related symptoms based on the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions: a large cross-sectional Japanese population survey

Mitsuya MAEDA[1]*, Ronald FILOMENO[1], Yumi KAWATA[1], Tomoyo SATO[1], Koutatsu MARUYAMA[1, 2], Hiroo WADA[1], Ai IKEDA[1], Hiroyasu ISO[3] and Takeshi TANIGAWA[1]*

[1]Department of Public Health, Juntendo University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan
[2]Laboratory of Community Health and Nutrition, Special Course of Food and Health Science, Department of Bioscience, Graduate School of Agriculture, Ehime University, Japan
[3]Department of Public Health, Social Medicine, Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan

Abstract: This study examined whether employment category was associated with insomnia-related symptoms (IRS). We analyzed the 2010 Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions in Japan. The anonymous data of 43,865 people ranging from 20–59 yr of age were analyzed. We defined six employment categories: regularly employed, non-regularly employed, self-employed, others, unemployed and not in the labor force. Sex-specific odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) of IRS were calculated using multivariable logistic regression analysis, adjusted for confounding factors. We further conducted stratified analyses by mental illness, smoking status, and age. For men, the multivariable ORs (95% CI) of IRS for the unemployed and those who were not in the labor force were 2.5 (1.8–3.4) and 2.1 (1.2–3.7). For women, the multivariable ORs (95% CI) for the unemployed was 1.9 (1.5–2.5). After being stratified by mental illness, we found that the associations were not significant in persons with mental illness, and were more evident in persons without mental illness. Smoking and age did not modify the associations. In conclusion, we found a significantly higher OR of IRS for the unemployed, and men who were not in the labor force. These associations were particularly more evident for individuals without mental illness.

Key words: Insomnia-related symptoms, Employment category, Sleep guidelines, Comprehensive survey of living conditions, Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare of Japan

Introduction

Insomnia is related to a wide variety of health problems, including depression and metabolic syndrome, as well as socio-economic problems, such as workplace accidents[1–3]. The overall prevalence of insomnia among Japanese

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people during the preceding month in February or March 1997 was 21.4%, and included difficulty initiating sleep (DIS) (8.3%), difficulty maintaining sleep (DMS) (15.0%) and early morning awakening (EMA) (8.0%)[4].

An independent, not-for-profit policy research organization showed that in Japan, insufficient sleep reduced the size of the working population by making workers miss work due to sickness. Together with reduced work performance, this resulted in large economic losses (between 88 and 138 billion dollars)[5].

Previous studies in Western countries suggest that insomnia is associated with socioeconomic status, including income and employment status[6–9]. Most of these studies showed that lower income groups had a higher prevalence of respondents who were bothered by insomnia-related symptoms (IRS) (i.e., DIS, DMS, EMA, poor sleep quality) than higher income groups. Other studies have shown that employment status is the strongest determinant of income, and the unemployed have a higher risk of sleep disturbance[6–12] due to their poorer mental and/or physical health[9] and strained domestic circumstances (e.g., difficulty in job seeking, financial threats)[12].

In Japan, the Sleep Guidelines for Health Promotion were devised in 2003, and revised in 2014, by the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare (MHLW)[13]. The guidelines comprise twelve messages on how sleep can improve health (e.g., how sleep can reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases and accidents); they also include messages for three different age groups: the young, the middle-aged, and the elderly. However, the guidelines do not mention anything regarding the relationship between insomnia and employment category.

Given that the Japanese economy is gradually recovering and the real and nominal GDP growth rates rose for 5 consecutive years, the employment situation is also steadily improving: the average unemployment rate decreased between 2009 and 2016, with that of 2016 being the lowest rate since 1994. However, the proportion of non-regularly employed individuals has been gradually increasing[14].

To date, several studies have examined the association between employment category and IRS in Japan[4, 15–18]. A previous study of local government employees showed that low-grade male employees had poor sleep quality compared to high-grade male employees[15]. However, a cross-sectional study of employees of a telecommunications company showed that daytime white-collar workers had poorer sleep quality than the general population of Japanese adults[16]. Another cross-sectional study of a rep-

resentative sample of Japanese people (n=3,030) showed that the unemployed had a higher prevalence of insomnia than the employed[4]. As of yet, no study using a representative sample of Japanese individuals has examined the association between IRS and employment category, specifically for the unemployed and those not in the labor force.

Given that the lower productivity levels and higher mortality risks related to insufficient sleep could cause substantial economic losses to modern economies, it is important to investigate the background factors that cause insomnia. Specifically, the relationship between insomnia and socioeconomic status in Japan must be investigated so that effective measures to reduce economic losses due to insufficient sleep[5] can be implemented. The purpose of the present study was to use the 2010 Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions (CSLC)—which is a representative sample of the Japanese population—to examine whether employment category was associated with IRS and to assess effect modification by potential confounding factors.

Subjects and Methods

The outline of the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions (CSLC)

The Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions (CSLC) is a comprehensive survey carried out by the MHLW using a self-reported questionnaire. The purpose of the CSLC is to investigate living conditions—such as health, medical care, welfare, pension, and income—and to obtain the basic data required by the MHLW for planning and management. The CSLC covers households and household members nationwide. For the 2010 survey, which is used in the present study, 5,510 districts were randomly sampled from the 2005 National Census. Further details on the CSLC can be found on the MHLW website[19].

Basic materials

The data source for the present study is the anonymous data in the 2010 CSLC. We obtained approval from the MHLW to use this data in accordance with Article 36 of the Statistics Law of Japan on November 20th, 2015 (No. 1120-6).

Subjects

The anonymous data from 44,031 people (21,716 men and 22,315 women) between 20–59 yr of age were

obtained from the MHLW. Of these, 127 people did not provide an answer for employment status, 14 people did not provide an answer for employment category, and 25 unemployed people did not answer whether or not they have an intention to find work. We excluded these non-respondents from the present study and analyzed the data of the remaining 43,865 people (21,649 men and 22,216 women).

Assessment of employment category

In the 2010 CSLC, participants were asked three questions: "Did you work to obtain income in May 2010?", "Were you employed or self-employed?", and "What was your employment category?" When the participant answered "Not worked", he or she was also asked whether or not he or she had the intention to find work to obtain income. We defined six employment categories according to International Labor Organization standards: regularly employed, non-regularly employed, self-employed, others, unemployed, and not in the labor force, as shown in Fig. 1.

Assessment of insomnia-related symptoms (IRS)

We assessed IRS using the CSLC self-administered questionnaire responses. Participants answered the following question: "Over the past several days, did you experience any symptoms of sickness or injury?" Those respondents who selected "I could not sleep" from 42 symptom choices were defined as having IRS.

Assessment of confounding factors

We also assessed participants' recent history of mental illness, insomnia related chronic diseases, smoking status and household expenditure using the self-administered questionnaire. For recent history of mental illness, participants who selected "depression or other mental illness with outpatient visit" from a list of 41 diseases and injuries were defined as being with mental illness. For insomnia related chronic diseases, participants who selected "hyperlipidemia", "Parkinsonism", "hypertension", "Asthma", "disease of stomach or duodenum" or "rheumatoid arthritis" from a list of 41 diseases and injuries were defined as being related to IRS by side effect of treating these illnesses[20].

For smoking status, participants could select from four answers: participants who chose "Never" or "Past (have not smoked for more than 1 month)" were defined as non-smokers, while participants who chose "Smoking everyday" or "Smoking sometimes" were defined as smokers. Smokers were divided into two subgroups based on the number of cigarettes they reported smoking: "Smoking ≤20 cigarettes per day" and "Smoking ≥21 cigarettes per day". For household expenditure, participants answered their household expenditure in May 2010. We divided under 25 percentile (men; under 150,000 yen, women; under 170,000 yen), 25 to 50 percentile (men; 150,000 to 250,000 yen, women; 170,000 to 250,000 yen), 50 to 75 percentile (men; 250,000 to 335,000 yen, women; 250,000 to 350,000 yen) and 75 percentile (men; 335,000 yen, women; 350,000 yen) or over.

We also assessed the following confounding factors using the self-administered questionnaire: marital status (single, married, and divorced or widowed), education level (junior high school, high school, junior college or technical upper secondary school, and university or graduate school) and parental status (in need of long-term care or not in need of long-term care).

Statistical analysis

Sex- and age-specific proportions of participants, percentages of respondents with age, marital status, education level, mental illness, smoking status, parental status, household expenditure and insomnia related chronic diseases were calculated according to the six employment categories. These differences were then tested using χ^2 tests. The sex-specific proportion of participants with IRS was calculated according to the six employment categories. Sex-specific odds ratios (ORs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) of IRS for each employment category were compared to those for the regularly employed using multivariable logistic regression analysis, adjusting for the potentially confounding factors of age, mental illness, marital status, education level, smoking status, parental status, household expenditure and insomnia related chronic diseases.

The same analyses were also performed stratified by mental illness, smoking status, and age subgroups (20–39 and 40–59 yr). The effect modification of these factors was tested using an interaction term generated by multiplying each employment category by each of the factors above.

All statistical analyses were performed using SAS ver. 9.4 software (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, USA). All probability values for statistical tests were two-tailed, and values of $p<0.05$ were regarded as statistically significant.

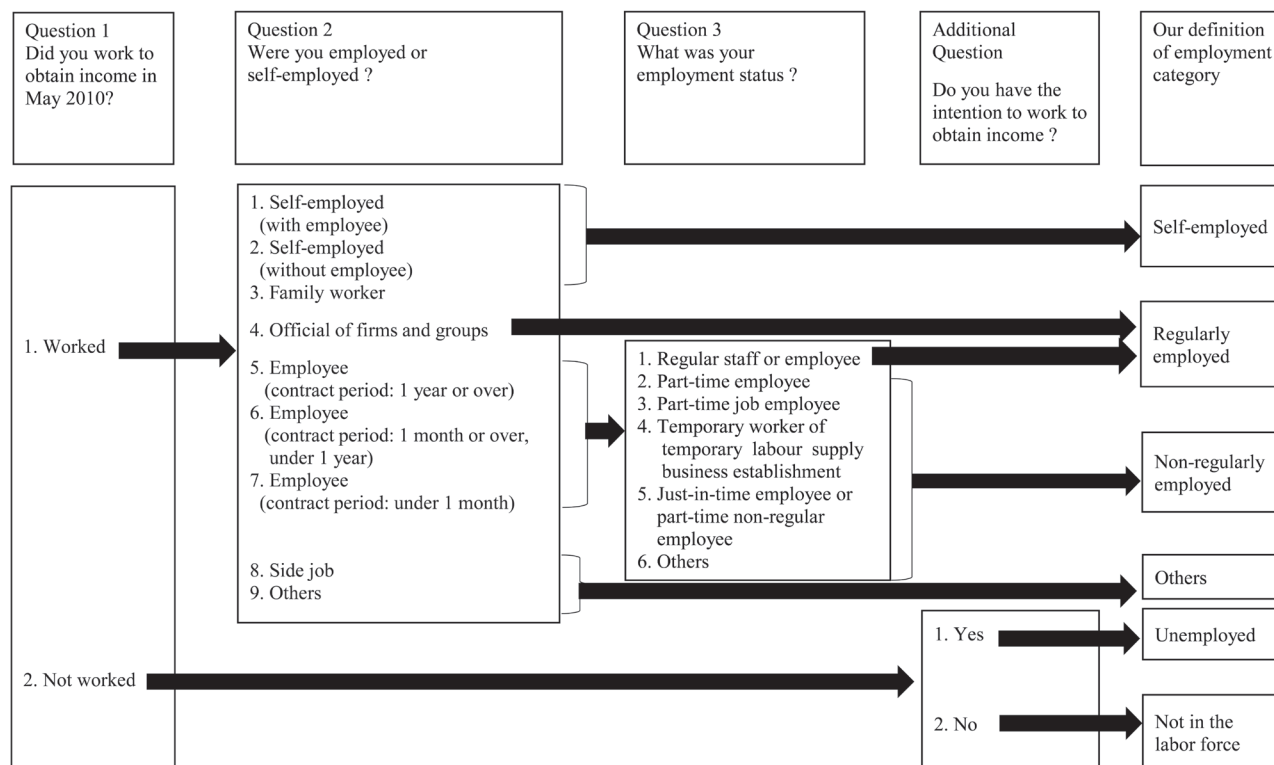No protocol approval was needed for this study because the survey data are publicly available.

Fig. 1.   Assessment of employment category.

Results

The proportion of participants with IRS was 2.1% (452/21,649) in men and 2.6% (581/22,216) in women. Table 1 shows respondents' demographic characteristics according to the six employment categories. For both sexes, participants aged 50–59 had the highest proportion of self-employment (39.5% in men and 43.3% in women). In men, the unemployed had the highest proportion of people with mental illness (7.3%). In women, those who were not in the labor force had the highest proportion of mental illness (4.1%). For both men and women, those who were not in the labor force had the highest percentage of non-smokers (63.3% and 80.8%, respectively). Participants aged 30–39 made up the largest group of the regularly employed in men (28.8%) and the largest group of the unemployed in women (36.0%).

Table 2 shows age- and multivariable-adjusted ORs (95% CI) according to the six employment categories. The age-adjusted ORs (95% CI) of IRS for unemployed men and men who were not in the labor force were 4.3 (3.2–5.6) and 4.0 (2.5–6.5) compared to the regularly employed. For unemployed women, the ORs of IRS was 2.1 (1.7–2.6). After adjusting for confounding factors, the associations

were attenuated, but remained statistically significant. The multivariable ORs (95% CI) of IRS for unemployed men and men who were not in the labor force were 2.5 (1.8–3.4) and 2.1 (1.2–3.7) compared with the regularly employed. The multivariable OR of IRS for unemployed women was 1.9 (1.5–2.5).

Table 3 shows the multivariable ORs (95% CI) of IRS, stratified by mental illness, smoking status, and age group (20–39 and 40–59 yr). After adjusting for age, marital status, education level, smoking status, parental status, household expenditure and insomnia related chronic diseases, three groups without mental illness—unemployed men, men who were not in the labor force, and unemployed women—had a higher prevalence of IRS compared to the regularly employed population.

Discussion

Summary of the results

The proportion of individuals with IRS was 2.1% of men and 2.6% of women in the present study, whereas previous studies showed higher insomnia prevalence rates[4]. We defined individuals with IRS as those who chose "I could not sleep" among 42 possible responses to the ques-

Table 1. Demographic characteristics according to employment category of 43,865 people (21,649 men and 22,216 women)

	Men							Women						
	Unemployed	Not in the labor force	Regularly employed	Non-regularly employed	Self-employed	Others	p	Not in the labor force	Unemployed	Regularly employed	Non-regularly employed	Self-employed	Others	p
N	1,075	341	15,056	2,083	2,808	286		2,581	3,483	6,853	7,087	1,729	483	
Age of persons														
20–29	34.8	47.5	16.0	39.8	7.1	20.6	<0.0001	8.8	16.9	27.5	16.4	7.0	12.8	<0.0001
30–39	16.3	7.9	28.8	23.7	23.0	22.4		21.2	36.0	27.4	25.0	20.5	23.4	
40–49	19.1	10.0	28.3	14.8	30.4	24.1		21.3	26.0	23.8	30.6	29.2	30.2	
50–59	29.9	34.6	26.9	21.7	39.5	32.9		48.7	21.1	21.4	28.0	43.3	33.5	
Marital status														
Married	27.4	17.6	69.8	30.1	74.5	52.8	<0.0001	89.2	83.6	46.5	68.3	77.2	72.3	<0.0001
Single	65.8	76.0	27.2	64.5	21.3	42.3		7.4	11.0	43.9	22.4	14.3	22.0	
Divorced or widowed	6.9	6.5	3.0	5.5	4.2	4.9		3.5	5.5	9.5	9.3	8.5	5.8	
Education level														
Junior high school	12.7	10.9	4.2	8.8	10.2	11.2	<0.0001	6.6	5.6	2.3	4.9	5.3	7.3	<0.0001
High school	36.2	26.7	37.9	39.9	41.1	43.0		40.9	39.3	32.2	43.8	41.6	42.7	
Junior college or technical upper secondary school	11.1	6.2	12.9	14.7	15.3	12.2		29.5	31.5	33.9	30.6	29.6	26.9	
University or graduate school	34.1	49.9	37.1	29.4	23.2	25.9		16.9	16.9	23.5	13.0	13.0	14.5	
Mental illness														
Yes	7.3	6.5	1.2	1.3	0.7	2.4	<0.0001	4.1	3.9	1.4	1.7	1.2	2.1	<0.0001
No	92.7	93.5	98.8	98.7	99.3	97.6		95.9	96.1	98.6	98.3	98.8	97.9	
Smoking status														
Smoking 21 or more cigarettes per day	8.7	2.4	9.2	7.1	13.6	7.0	<0.0001	1.0	1.4	0.8	1.5	1.7	1.0	<0.0001
Smoking 20 or less cigarettes per day	27.8	18.2	30.4	32.3	27.0	30.3		7.9	12.9	12.3	13.9	12.3	12.0	
Non-smokers	49.6	63.3	50.1	47.7	45.9	48.2		80.8	78.2	78.8	75.5	73.1	73.9	
Parental status														
In need of long-term care	5.4	9.7	0.3	1.1	0.4	4.5	<0.0001	2.6	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.2	2.3	<0.0001
Not in need of long-term care	94.6	90.3	99.7	98.9	99.6	95.5		97.4	99.0	99.7	99.7	99.8	97.7	
Household expenditure*														
Under 25 percentile	40.7	37.5	13.8	25.9	17.1	23.1	<0.0001	20.2	27.0	24.7	23.7	25.9	22.6	<0.0001
25 to 50 percentile	26.6	23.5	32.9	31.6	30.9	33.6		22.4	27.2	21.7	23.2	21.8	22.2	
50 to 75 percentile	14.8	17.0	27.5	21.0	24.4	21.7		29.3	26.6	26.4	27.3	23.4	27.3	
75 percentile or over	11.3	15.3	20.8	16.0	21.4	16.4		23.0	14.9	21.9	20.3	22.7	21.5	
Insomnia related chronic diseases														
With diseases	9.5	10.6	8.7	5.4	8.5	7.0	<0.0001	11.6	6.9	6.2	7.5	9.1	8.9	<0.0001
Without diseases	90.5	89.4	91.3	94.6	91.5	93.0		88.4	93.1	93.8	92.5	90.9	91.1	

p values: χ^2 test.

*25 percentile (men; under 150,000 yen, women; under 170,000 yen), 25 to 50 percentile (men; 150,000 to 250,000 yen, women; 170,000 to 250,000 yen), 50 to 75 percentile (men; 250,000 to 335,000 yen, women; 250,000 to 350,000 yen) and 75 percentile (men; 335,000 yen, women; 350,000 yen) or over.

Table 2. Multivariable adjusted Odds Ratios (ORs) and 95% Confidence Intervals (CIs) for insomnia-related symptoms

	Unemployed	Not in the labor force	Regularly employed	Non-regularly employed	Self-employed	Others
Men						
N	1,075	341	15,056	2,083	2,808	286
No. of persons with insomnia-related symptoms (%)*	71 (6.6)	20 (5.9)	273 (1.8)	38 (1.8)	44 (1.6)	6 (2.1)
Age-adjusted OR (95% CI)	4.3 (3.2–5.6)	4.0 (2.5–6.5)	1.0	1.2 (0.8–1.7)	0.8 (0.6–1.1)	1.2 (0.5–2.7)
Multivariable OR[#] (95% CI)	2.5 (1.8–3.4)	2.1 (1.2–3.7)	1.0	1.1 (0.8–1.6)	0.9 (0.6–1.2)	1.0 (0.4–2.3)
Women						
N	3,483	2,581	6,853	7,087	1,729	483
No. of persons with insomnia-related symptoms (%)*	148 (4.3)	73 (2.8)	144 (2.1)	171 (2.4)	32 (1.9)	13 (2.7)
Age-adjusted OR (95% CI)	2.1 (1.7–2.6)	1.2 (0.9–1.6)	1.0	1.1 (0.9–1.4)	0.8 (0.5–1.2)	1.2 (0.7–2.2)
Multivariable OR[#] (95% CI)	1.9 (1.5–2.5)	1.1 (0.8–1.5)	1.0	1.1 (0.9–1.4)	0.9 (0.6–1.3)	1.3 (0.7–2.3)

*Proportion of persons with insomnia-related symptoms among persons by employment category.
#Adjusted for age, marital status, education level, mental illness, smoking status, parental status, household expenditure and insomnia related chronic diseases.

tion: "Over the past several days, did you experience any symptoms due to sickness or injury?" However, insomnia is characterized as a hypnagogic disorder, deep sleep disorder, middle wakening, or early wakening[21]. Thus, the discrepancy of the proportion of IRS between that of the present study and that of previous studies may be due to underestimating the symptoms of insomnia; however, the characteristics of persons with IRS identified in the present study were similar to those found in previous studies, e.g., age and smoking behavior.

The prevalence of IRS in the present study was extremely low compared to a previous study, which focused on insomnia and employment status[4]. This is because in the present study the targeted duration of IRS was shorter and the causes of IRS were confined.

For both men and women, being unemployed had a higher ORs of IRS, and the association seemed to be more derived by those without mental illness. Talala *et al.* showed that the unemployed had a higher proportion of self-reported insomnia than the employed for both men (OR: 2.48, 95% CI: 2.22–2.76; *p*<0.05) and women (OR: 1.80, 95% CI: 1.60–2.02; *p*<0.05) in their age-adjusted model. After further adjustment for all socioeconomic status variables (educational level, employment category, and household income) and depression, the multivariable ORs (95% CI) were attenuated to 1.76 (1.55–2.00; *p*<0.05) for men and 1.39 (1.22–1.58; *p*<0.05) for women, but the multivariable ORs remained statistically significant[10]. According to the results of previous studies, sleep complaints, sleep disturbance, and the prevalence of insomnia were higher among the unemployed than among the regularly employed[4, 7, 12]. Chen *et al.* showed that unemployed in-

dividuals who were actively seeking work had the highest levels of sleep disturbance compared to those with other employment categories[12].

The results of the present study exhibited a similar trend with those from previous studies. Indeed, the ORs of IRS for unemployed men, men who were not in the labor force, and unemployed women were higher (as compared with the regularly employed) in both the age-adjusted and multivariable models than the ORs of IRS previously reported in the literature.

We were able to assess mental illness as a confounding factor using the self-administered questionnaire because a previous longitudinal study revealed a statistically significant relationship between insomnia subtype (e.g., difficulty initiating sleep) and having depression when looking at data from a period of three years[1]. We were able to assess smoking status as a confounding factor because previous cross-sectional studies strongly suggested that cigarette smoking is associated with poor sleep habits, poor sleep quality, delayed sleep onset, and diminished sleep duration[22, 23].

Mechanisms

Although the biological mechanisms linking unemployment and insomnia are not clear, our data suggested an association between unemployment and IRS based on a large and representative sample of Japanese individuals. Previous studies have suggested that unemployment causes depressive symptoms[24], and these symptoms could induce insomnia[25, 26].

The key findings in the present study are that unemployed men, men who were not in the labor force, and

Table 3. Multivariable odds ratios (ORs) and 95% Confidence Intervals (CIs) for insomnia-related symptoms, stratified by mental illness, smoking status and age subgroups

	Men						Women					
	Unemployed	Not in the labor force	Regularly employed	Non-regularly employed	Self-employed	Others	Unemployed	Not in the labor force	Regularly employed	Non-regularly employed	Self-employed	Others
N	1,075	341	15,056	2,083	2,808	286	3,483	2,581	6,853	7,087	1,729	483
Mental illness												
Yes												
No. of persons with insomnia-related symptoms (%)*	25 (31.6)	7 (31.8)	46 (24.5)	7 (25.0)	4 (19.0)	1 (14.3)	45 (33.3)	20 (19.0)	28 (29.8)	28 (23.0)	7 (35.0)	1 (10.0)
Multivariable adjusted ORs (#1) (95% CI)	1.4 (0.7–2.9)	1.3 (0.4–3.9)	1.0	1.0 (0.3–2.8)	0.7 (0.2–2.2)	0.4 (0.0–4.2)	1.3 (0.7–2.4)	0.7 (0.3–1.4)	1.0	0.7 (0.4–1.3)	1.4 (0.5–3.9)	0.4 (0.0–3.2)
No												
No. of persons with insomnia-related symptoms (%)*	46 (4.6)	13 (4.1)	227 (1.5)	31 (1.5)	40 (1.4)	5 (1.8)	103 (3.1)	53 (2.1)	116 (1.7)	143 (2.1)	25 (1.5)	12 (2.5)
Multivariable adjusted ORs (#1) (95% CI)	3.0 (2.1–4.3)	2.7 (1.4–4.9)	1.0	1.1 (0.7–1.6)	0.9 (0.6–1.3)	1.2 (0.5–2.9)	2.1 (1.6–2.8)	1.2 (0.9–1.7)	1.0	1.2 (1.0–1.6)	0.9 (0.5–1.3)	1.5 (0.8–2.7)
Smoking status												
Smokers												
No. of persons with insomnia-related symptoms (%)*	34 (8.7)	7 (10.0)	101 (1.7)	17 (2.1)	19 (1.7)	5 (4.6)	37 (7.4)	13 (5.7)	25 (2.8)	42 (3.9)	5 (2.1)	1 (1.6)
Multivariable adjusted ORs (#2) (95% CI)	3.5 (2.2–5.7)	3.6 (1.4–9.2)	1.0	1.3 (0.8–2.3)	1.0 (0.6–1.6)	2.5 (0.9–6.6)	2.2 (1.2–3.9)	1.7 (0.8–3.8)	1.0	1.3 (0.8–2.3)	0.9 (0.3–2.3)	0.6 (0.1–4.7)
Non-smokers												
No. of persons with insomnia-related symptoms (%)*	35 (6.6)	11 (5.1)	155 (2.1)	19 (1.9)	22 (1.7)	1 (0.7)	104 (3.8)	53 (2.5)	109 (2.1)	115 (2.2)	24 (1.9)	12 (3.4)
Multivariable adjusted ORs (#2) (95% CI)	2.0 (1.3–3.3)	1.4 (0.7–3.0)	1.0	1.0 (0.6–1.6)	0.8 (0.5–1.2)	0.3 (0.0–1.9)	2.0 (1.5–2.6)	1.0 (0.7–1.5)	1.0	1.1 (0.8–1.4)	0.9 (0.6–1.4)	1.6 (0.8–3.0)
Age subgroup												
20–39 yr of age												
No. of persons with insomnia-related symptoms (%)*	24 (4.4)	5 (2.6)	101 (1.5)	17 (1.3)	7 (0.8)	4 (3.3)	62 (3.4)	11 (1.4)	70 (1.9)	72 (2.5)	9 (1.9)	4 (2.3)
Multivariable adjusted ORs (#3) (95% CI)	1.7 (1.0–2.8)	1.6 (0.6–4.1)	1.0	0.8 (0.5–1.4)	0.6 (0.3–1.2)	2.1 (0.7–6.1)	1.7 (1.2–2.6)	0.7 (0.4–1.4)	1.0	1.2 (0.8–1.7)	1.0 (0.5–2.1)	1.3 (0.5–3.8)
40–59 yr of age												
No. of persons with insomnia-related symptoms (%)*	47 (8.9)	15 (9.9)	172 (2.1)	21 (2.8)	37 (1.9)	2 (1.2)	86 (5.2)	62 (3.4)	74 (2.4)	99 (2.4)	23 (1.8)	9 (2.9)
Multivariable adjusted ORs (#3) (95% CI)	3.0 (2.0–4.6)	2.5 (1.3–4.9)	1.0	1.4 (0.9–2.2)	1.0 (0.7–1.5)	0.5 (0.1–2.0)	2.0 (1.4–2.8)	1.3 (0.9–1.9)	1.0	1.1 (0.8–1.5)	0.9 (0.5–1.4)	1.3 (0.6–2.7)

*Proportion of persons with insomnia-related symptoms among persons by employment category.

#1: Adjusted for age, marital status, education level, smoking status, parental status, household expenditure and insomnia related chronic diseases.

#2: Adjusted for age, marital status, education level, and mental illness, parental status, household expenditure and insomnia related chronic diseases.

#3: Adjusted for marital status, education level, mental illness, and smoking status, parental status, household expenditure and insomnia related chronic diseases.

unemployed women are significantly associated with IRS, especially among men without mental illness. Riemann *et al.* developed a neurocognitive model of insomnia in which acute insomnia (1–90 d) is associated with predisposing and precipitating factors (e.g., psychosocial stressors), and chronic insomnia (over 6 months) is associated with perpetuating factors (e.g., extension of time in bed). In this study, cognitive-behavioral and neuro-biologic domains are depicted in a parallel way. The authors assume that both domains are strongly interconnected and not independent of each other[27]. Therefore, the higher OR of IRS for unemployed individuals was due to the interaction of both domains.

Strengths

In the present study, we used anonymous data derived from the 2010 CSLC Household and Health questionnaire, which collected randomly sampled data at the household (approximately 290,000 households) and household member (approximately 750,000 persons) levels. The strength of the present study is its large sample size of those aged between 20 and 59, representing national samples. To date, there are very few large-scale studies investigating the association between employment category and IRS that are without sampling bias. Therefore, this is the first study with high statistical power that has investigated the impact of mental illness-, smoking status-, and age-stratified employment category on IRS in an Asian population.

Limitations

There are several limitations to the present study. First, because this study was cross-sectional, we could not determine any causal relationship between unemployment and IRS. Second, because only self-reported information was available regarding participants' IRS, we could not clarify whether participants had physical illnesses or injury in relation to IRS. Though the causes of IRS are various and not always clearly identified, in the present study the definition of IRS was confined by duration and cause. Thus, the self-report-defined non-insomnia category likely contained a substantial undiagnosed population. This suggests that the ORs of IRS associated with employment category observed in our analyses may have been underestimated. Third, because there was no information on participants' exercise and drinking habits in the 2010 CSLC, it was not possible to evaluate how IRS relates to habitual exercise or alcohol consumption. These factors have been reported to have an impact on insomnia[4, 28]. Fourth, while we adjusted for confounding factors, i.e., history of mental illness,

marital status, education level, smoking behavior, parental status, household expenditure and insomnia related chronic diseases, there are potential residual confounding factors, i.e., income. Because we did not receive infromation of income from Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, we used household expenditure on behalf of income. Finally, in this study, there may be several persons classified in the "Not in the labor force", because they suffered from child-rearing stress. However, we could not support that because the questionnaires were not enough to search the details of respondents who chose "Not in the labor force". We consider that the misclassification could be low, as compared to the age composition of unemployed women, among women not in the labor force, there were comparatively more women aged 40–59 and fewer aged 20–39.

Implications

Measures should be taken to ensure that there are medical checkup opportunities and the utilization of the 2014 Sleep Guidelines for Health Promotion[13] for unemployed individuals with the aim of preventing unemployment-induced insomnia. This will reduce the economic losses due to insufficient sleep, as the unemployed have a significant association with IRS. Additionally, the Guidelines should be revised from the viewpoint of employment category, with a specific focus on the unemployed.

Conclusions

We found a significant association between insomnia-related symptoms and the following groups: unemployed men, men who were not in the labor force, and unemployed women. This association was particularly strong for men without mental illness. Measures should be implemented to ensure medical checkup opportunities and the utilization of the 2014 Sleep Guidelines for Health Promotion.

Authors' Contributions

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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