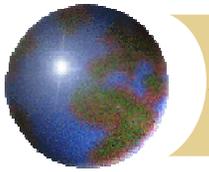


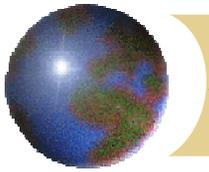
*Impact of Changing Social
Structures on Stress and Quality
of Life: Individual and Social
Perspectives*





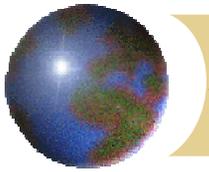
STRESS IMPACT

- An EU funded, 5th Framework project
- Duration: December 2002 – December 2005
- Six Countries: Austria, Finland, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, United Kingdom



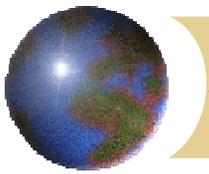
Background

- Current statistics show that 60 % of people who are absent from work longer than 5 weeks do not return to work on short notice (DWP, 2002).
- And 80 % of LTA's moving onto Incapacity Benefits do not re-enter the work place within 5 year.

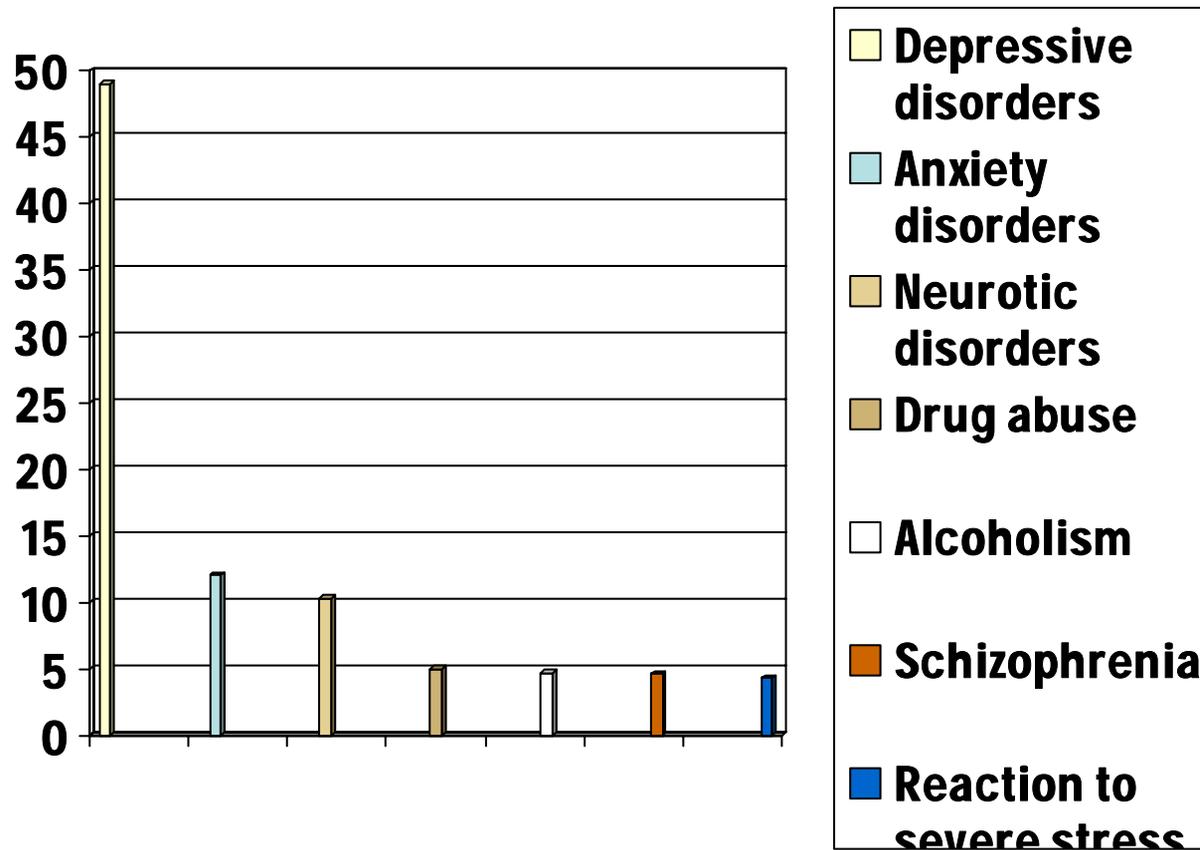


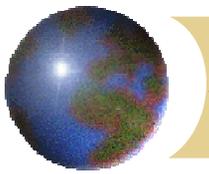
Background

- 'Mental and Behavioural Disorders' (depressive disorders) are currently the most frequently mentioned reasons for long-term sickness absence from work.



Background

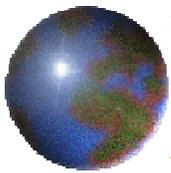




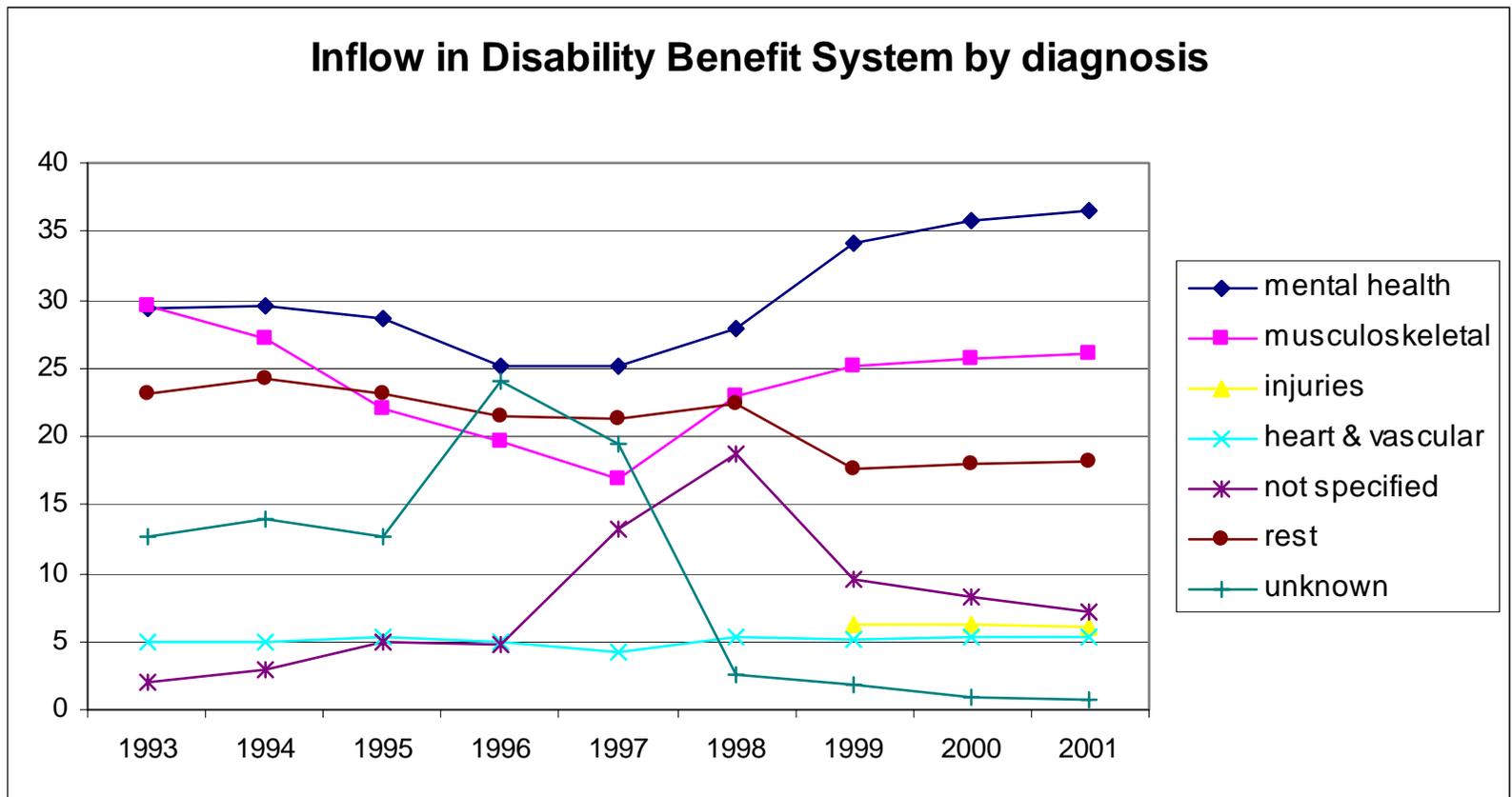
Statistics: United Kingdom

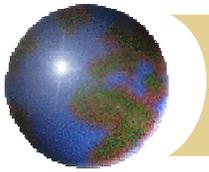
- In 2002: 2.7 mln IB claimants (working population = 28 mln)
- IB claimants 'mental & behavioral disorders'

May 2000	701.700	(26 %)
May 2002	945.000	(35 %)



Statistics: The Netherlands

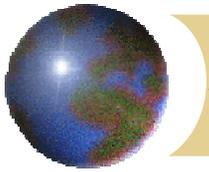




Background

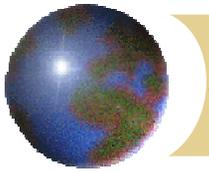
⊕ What is stress?

- ⊕ Stress is the consequence of a long-term process in which people have been exposed to demands that exceed their capacity to cope.
- ⊕ Recovery presumably is also a long-term process.



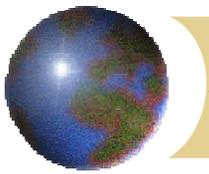
Theoretical background

- Sickiness absence is conceptualised as decision making process (Allegro & Veerman, 1998).
- The decision to be absent from work is dependent on
 - health situation
 - job situation
 - social situation
 - financial and legal aspects



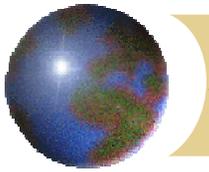
Theoretical background

- Similarly return to work can also be conceptualised as a decision making process.
- With similar factors determining the decision to return to work ?

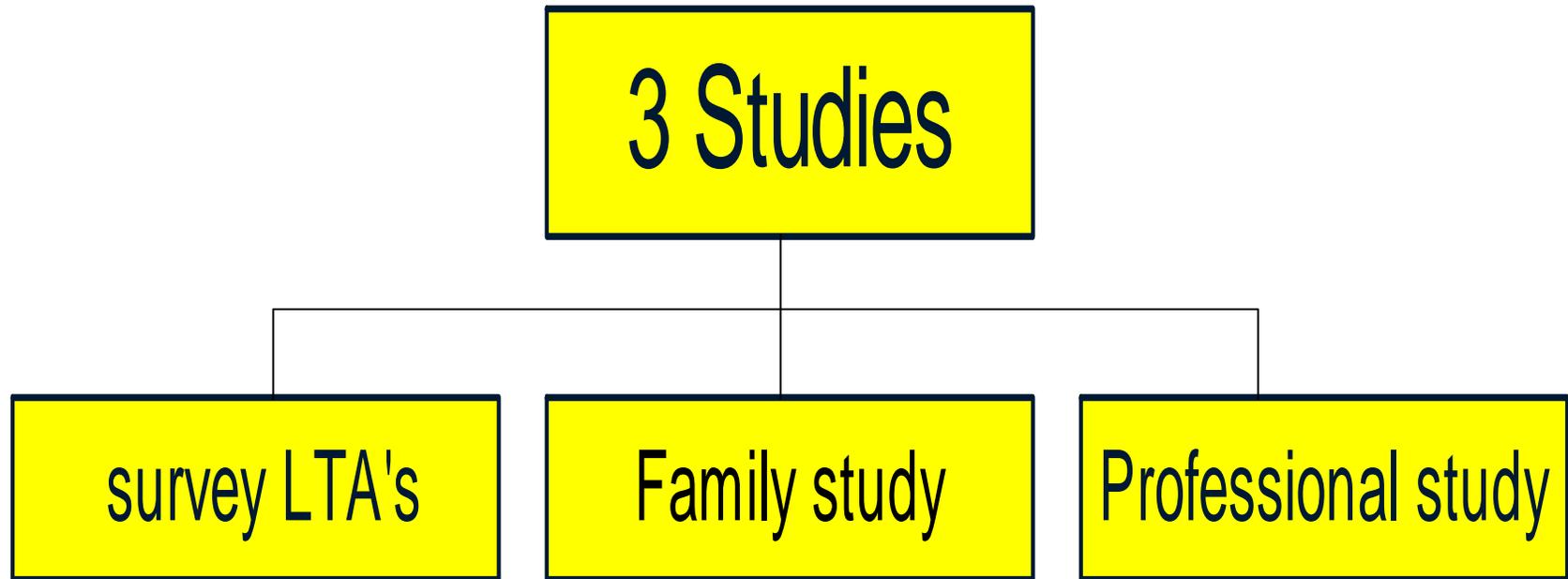


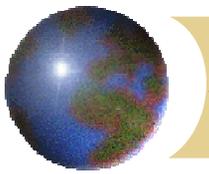
Project Objectives

- ❖ Provide an estimate of the incidence and demographics of stress related absence in 6 EU countries.
- ❖ Document individual perceptions and experiences with respect to being on long term absence, and explore factors that facilitate/inhIBite return to work.
- ❖ Explore relationships between professional and institutional approaches to stress.



Methodology





Contact details

- For further information on this project and project partners:

www.surrey.ac.uk/Psychology/stress-impact