

BRAZILIAN JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH - RBSO
PUBLIC CALL FOR ARTICLES

Worker health and decent work in times of precariousness and transformation of work

Introduction

Profound transformations in the world of work, occurring globally and intensified in Brazil following the 2017 Labor Reform, have reconfigured forms of hiring, organization, and work management. These changes have direct and indirect impacts on the health of the working population. The expansion of outsourcing, the spread of the misclassification of employees as independent contractors, the growth of platform-mediated work (“uberization”), and the persistence of extreme forms of exploitation reveal a scenario characterized by heterogeneity and fragmentation. This scenario is marked by unstable employment ties, intensified working hours, reduced rights, precariousness, and greater exposure to psychosocial, organizational, and physical health risks. These changes deepen historical inequalities related to class, gender, race, and territory, posing new challenges to understanding the relationship between work and health.

Parallel to this, there is a growing mismatch between the rapid transformations in ways of working and the legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks designed to protect workers’ health and rights. Public policies, legal frameworks, and mechanisms for oversight and surveillance of occupational health often prove limited in their ability to respond to the complexity and diversity of contemporary work situations.

Decent work, as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO), is the productive work of quality, in conditions of freedom, equity, and security, and human dignity. It guarantees fair remuneration, social protection, respect for labor rights, safety in the work environment, and equal opportunities, being fundamental to overcoming poverty and reducing inequalities.

In the current context, decent work acquires centrality not only as a normative reference but also as an analytical axis to understand the impacts of work transformations on health. Such understanding is necessary to support the formulation of public policies capable of ensuring healthy and fair working conditions in a scenario of profound and persistent changes.

In this context, the Brazilian Journal of Occupational Health, as a reference publication in the field, seeks to broaden the dialogue between science, practice, and public policies, promote knowledge production, and support the debate on contemporary challenges in occupational health to achieve dignified, healthy, and fair working conditions.

Objective

To encourage the submission of articles that critically analyze how contemporary transformations in the world of work – including technological, organizational, and regulatory changes – impact working conditions, workers' health, their rights, and opportunities for access to decent work, exercised with freedom, equity, and dignity.

Topics of Interest (non-exhaustive list)

1. Transformations in the world of work and their effects on health

- a) Productive restructuring, flexibilization, and precariousness of work and impacts on worker health
- b) Changes in employment ties and hiring forms and repercussions for health protection
- c) Work intensification, targets, and performance control and their psychosocial and physical health effects
- d) Remote, hybrid, and telework: risks, protection, and health promotion

2. Work organization, technology, and workers' health

- a) Automation, artificial intelligence, and management algorithms: implications for health and autonomy at work
- b) Digital platforms, on-demand work, and worker health
- c) Surveillance technologies, monitoring, and performance evaluation and their effects on mental health
- d) Ergonomics, work organization, and illness related to intensive use of technologies

3. Working time, hours, shifts, and health

- a) Organization of working time and outcomes in physical and mental health
- b) Extended hours, shift work, and night work and their impacts on illness and safety
- c) Work shifts and worker health
- d) Debates and scientific evidence on the health effects of reducing working hours and ending the 6x1 shift schedule
- e) Implications of working time for rest, recovery, and social life

4. Decent work, rights, protection, and alternative forms of productive organization

- a) Work in the solidarity economy and worker health
- b) Modern-day slavery and impacts on health
- c) Child labor and strategies to address it
- d) Labor rights, health, and safety at work
- e) Informality, outsourcing, and the weakening of health protection
- f) Inequalities of gender, race, class, and territory as determinants of working conditions and health

5. Evidence production and policy evaluation focused on workers' health

- a) Epidemiological studies on work transformations and worker health
- b) Evaluation of public policies, regulations, and organizational interventions
- c) Qualitative, participatory, and interdisciplinary approaches in occupational health
- d) Production and use of scientific evidence to promote decent work and health

Submission Instructions

- Manuscripts must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the RBSO instructions for authors: <https://www.scielo.br/journal/rbso/about/#instructions>
- Submissions must be made exclusively via the RBSO ScholarOne Manuscripts system: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rbso>
- The submission deadline is **August 31, 2026**.
- All articles will undergo the journal's regular evaluation process (desk review, peer review, and editorial decision), involving RBSO editors and external reviewers.
- RBSO accepts submissions in Portuguese, English, and Spanish.
- Approved articles will be published in continuous flow, in a bilingual version (Portuguese and English, or Spanish and English), with no translation fee.
- RBSO charges no submission or publication fees.
- In there are any questions, please contact: rbso@fundacentro.gov.br

About the Brazilian Journal of Occupational Health (RBSO)

RBSO is an open-access scientific journal indexed in the SciELO Brazil Collection and Scopus. The journal adopts open science principles, promotes diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA), and seeks to strengthen Brazilian and international scientific production in the field of occupational health.

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