

Table I. Percentage of 13-19-year-olds sometimes or often experiencing musculoskeletal symptoms in the last twelve months, by level of term-time employment

	Non workers	Moderate workers	Intensive workers	Total	Chi-square test	N
Ache in joints and/or muscles	40.7%	48.8%	46.4%	44.0%	p = .047*	1113
Backache	31.7%	42.7%	53.6%	38.7%	p = .000**	1116
Ache in neck or shoulders	28.8%	38.7%	44.4%	34.4%	p = .000**	1116
Myalgia	30.8%	36.3%	44.9%	34.9%	p = .001**	1113

*p ≤ .05, **p ≤ .01.

The four types of musculoskeletal symptoms measured in the study are common among Icelandic teenagers, as Table I illustrates. Aches in joints and/or muscles are the most common symptom, with 44.0% reporting that they had sometimes or often suffered such pain in the last 12 months. Aches in the neck or shoulders are the least common (34.4%). A significant association appears between the level of work and all four types of musculoskeletal symptoms. In general, intensive term-time workers are more likely to suffer musculoskeletal symptoms than non-workers. The difference is especially prominent for backache: less than a third of the non-workers report sometimes or often suffering such pain, 42.7% of the moderate workers, but more than half of the intensive term-time workers.