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

Physical pain in	Gender	Non workers	Moderate workers	Intensive workers	Total	Chi-square test	N
Joints or muscles	Girls	42.8%	56.8%	48.8%	48.4%	p = .011**	603
	Boys	38.6%	37.1%	42.7%	38.8%	p = .729	510
Back	Girls	40.6%	45.3%	57.9%	45.5%	p = .006**	604
	Boys	23.0%	39.1%	46.7%	30.7%	p = .000**	512
Neck or shoulders	Girls	35.8%	45.3%	53.7%	42.4%	p = .002**	604
	Boys	22.0%	29.3%	29.3%	25.0%	p = .174	512
Myalgia	Girls	42.3%	46.6%	57.9%	46.8%	p = .016*	603
	Boys	19.5%	21.8%	24.0%	20.8%	p = .657	510

*p ≤ .05, **p ≤ .01.

Table II reveals important gender differences in the association between the measured musculoskeletal symptoms and level of work. The association persists for all four symptoms among the girls, but only for backache among the boys. In other words, intensive term-time work affects the musculoskeletal system of young females more than that of young males.