

SUMMARY OF REPORT 2018:7

## ISF Insured but without benefit

Swedish sickness insurance has been undergoing a transformation away from an encompassing public welfare system towards a greater dependency on collectively negotiated occupational welfare. Earlier everyone received generous benefits from the public system but now two parallel systems are in use in order to secure income related benefits. Such an institutional shift brings along an increased complexity in the sickness insurance system and may consequently result in a situation where people have problems understanding their own income protection. If an individual is not aware of the fact that his workplace is covered by a collective agreement, alternatively, is not aware that such an agreement also brings along occupational sickness insurance, he will not apply for benefit from the occupational sickness insurance when ill. This is problematic as occupational insurance constitute a large, and increasing, part of the total benefit during long-term sick-leave. This study uses longitudinal, individual data to investigate the actual usage of the occupational sickness insurance within the public sector in Sweden. The non-take-up of occupational benefit is close to 17 per cent of every spell of disability pension. The corresponding number for periods of sickness benefit which lasted more than four months is close to 24 per cent. Considering the increased importance of occupational sickness insurance, one may expect these levels to decrease over time but when studying the development the last ten years, this does not seem to be the case. Individuals with low income, young people, men and individuals on sick-leave for mental and behavioural disorders are missing out on occupational benefits to a larger extent than others.