



Skin problems in cooks

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Main Project: cooks, working environment and health

- Working as a cook includes
 - High working speed
 - Irregular working hours
 - Work stress
 - Physical-ergonomic strains
 - Respiratory irritants
 - Wet work and contact with allergens

Questionnaire

- Sent to 2,082 persons who received the certificate of apprenticeship as a cook between 1988 and 2008.
- 894 respondents
- It was asked if they still worked as a cook
 - 341 respondents had quitted as cooks
- It was asked what type of kitchen do you work in
 - A la cart/ethnic, Institution/cantina, Hotel, Other

Data on the respondents

		All					
	Type of education or type of kitchen	N	Still working as cook	Age when started as cook		Age at response	
			%	mean	SD	mean	SD
All		894	61.9	21.9	4.1	33.5	7.5
Type of education	Institution cook	401	59.1	23.0	5.0	34.5	7.9
	Restaurant cook	486	63.6	21.0	2.5	32.7	7.0
	Unknown	7					
Last or present place to work	Institution/cantina	427	72.6	22.5	4.6	34.7	7.4
	A la carte/ethnic	233	50.2	21.3	3.5	31.4	7.7
	Hotel	163	57.7	21.1	2.5	32.4	6.5
	other	71	45.1	22.3	4.3	35.5	7.7

The questions about skin problems

- If you have quitted as cook, what was the reason?
- Did you have dermatitis as a child
- Do you have dermatitis now
- Do your dermatitis worsen at work

Quitting job as a cook because of dermatitis

Among those who have quit

n=341

- 12.6 % report dermatitis as the reason to quit
- 17.9 % report dermatitis now
- For those who quit because of skin problems 69.8 % still have dermatitis (mean 7 years after quitting).

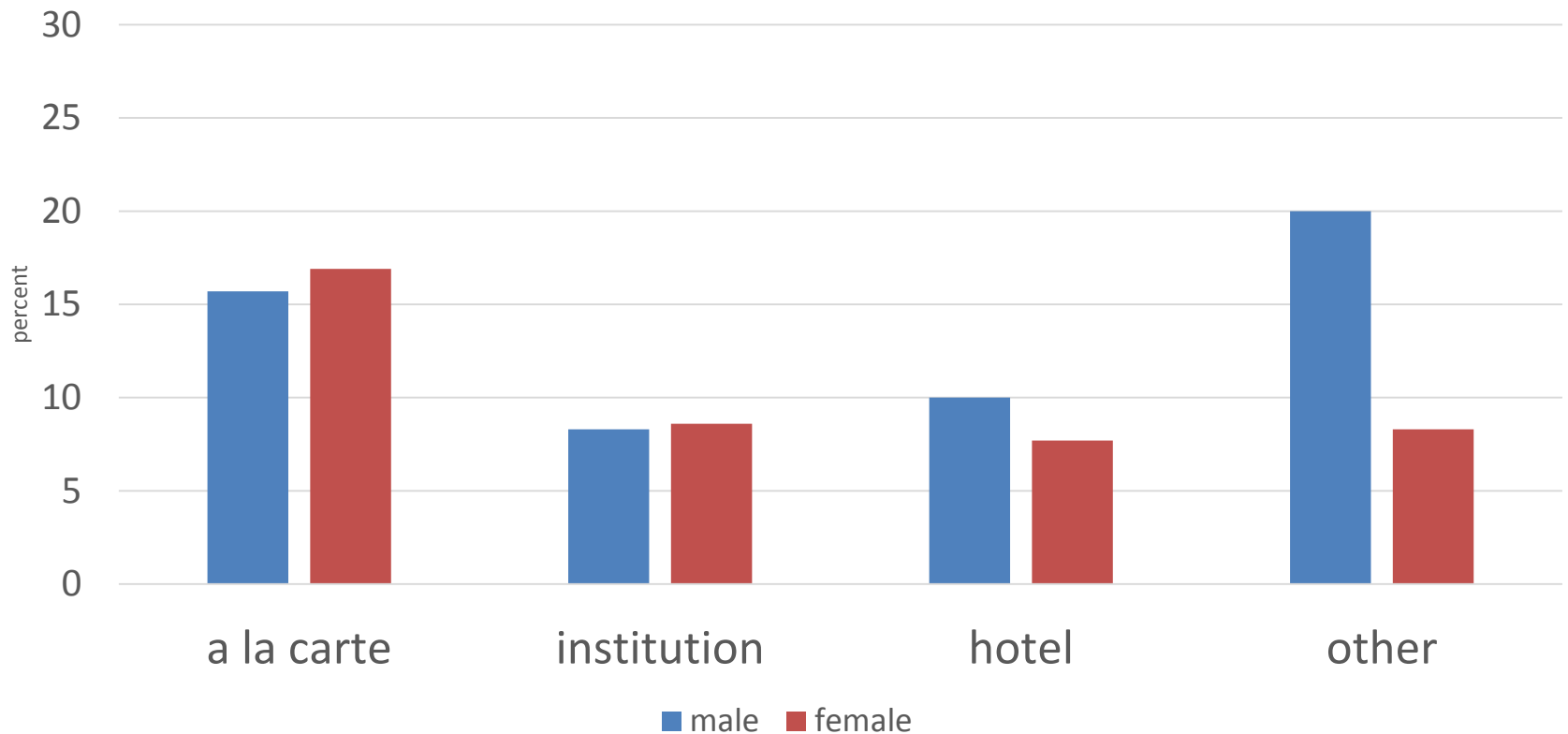
Among all respondents

n=894

- 4.8 % reports dermatitis as the cause for quitting the job as a cook.

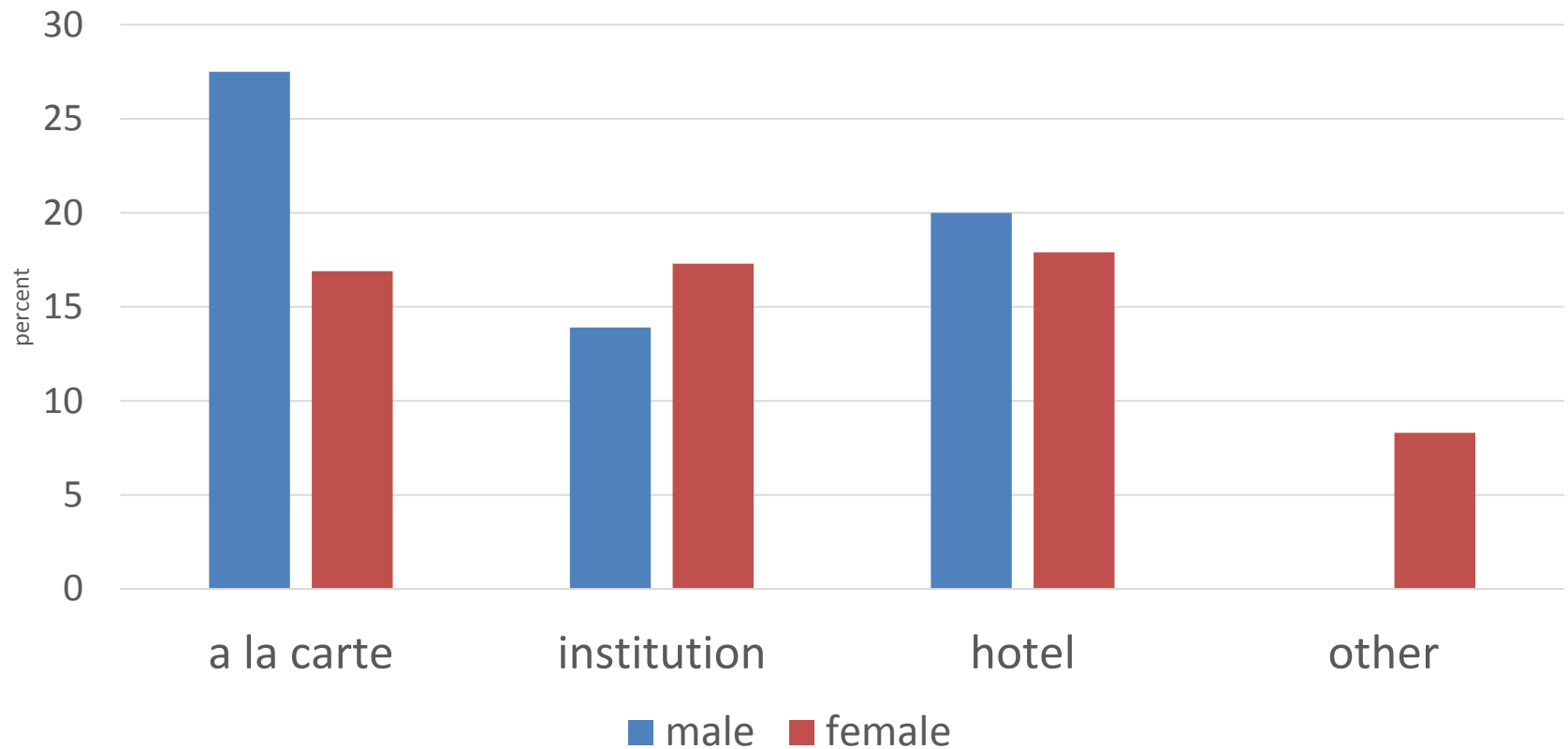
341 who had quitted job as cooks

Occurrence of reporting dermatitis as the cause for **quitting job** as cook for the different types of kitchens



341 who had quitted job as cooks

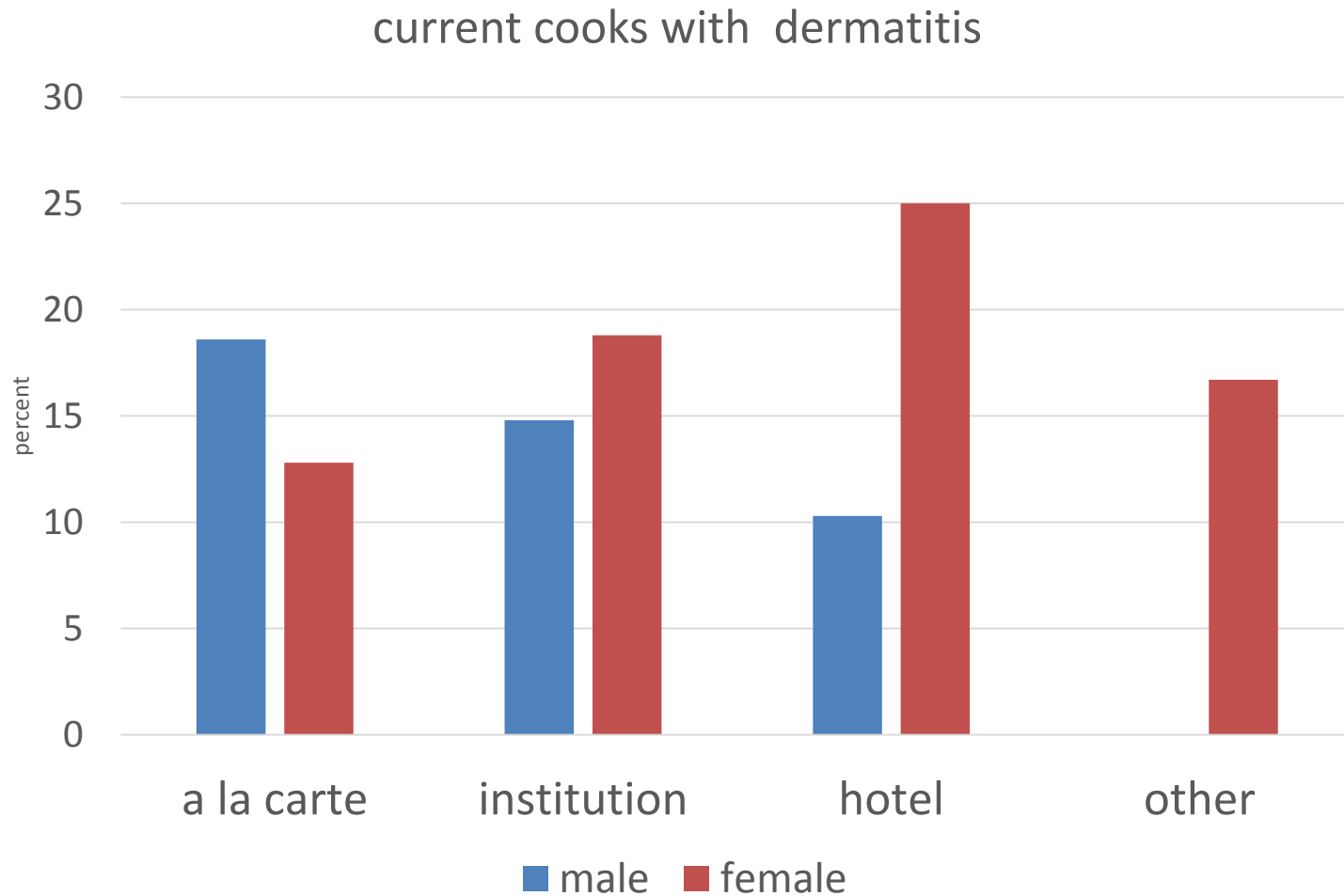
Current dermatitis in former cooks



553 still in work as cooks

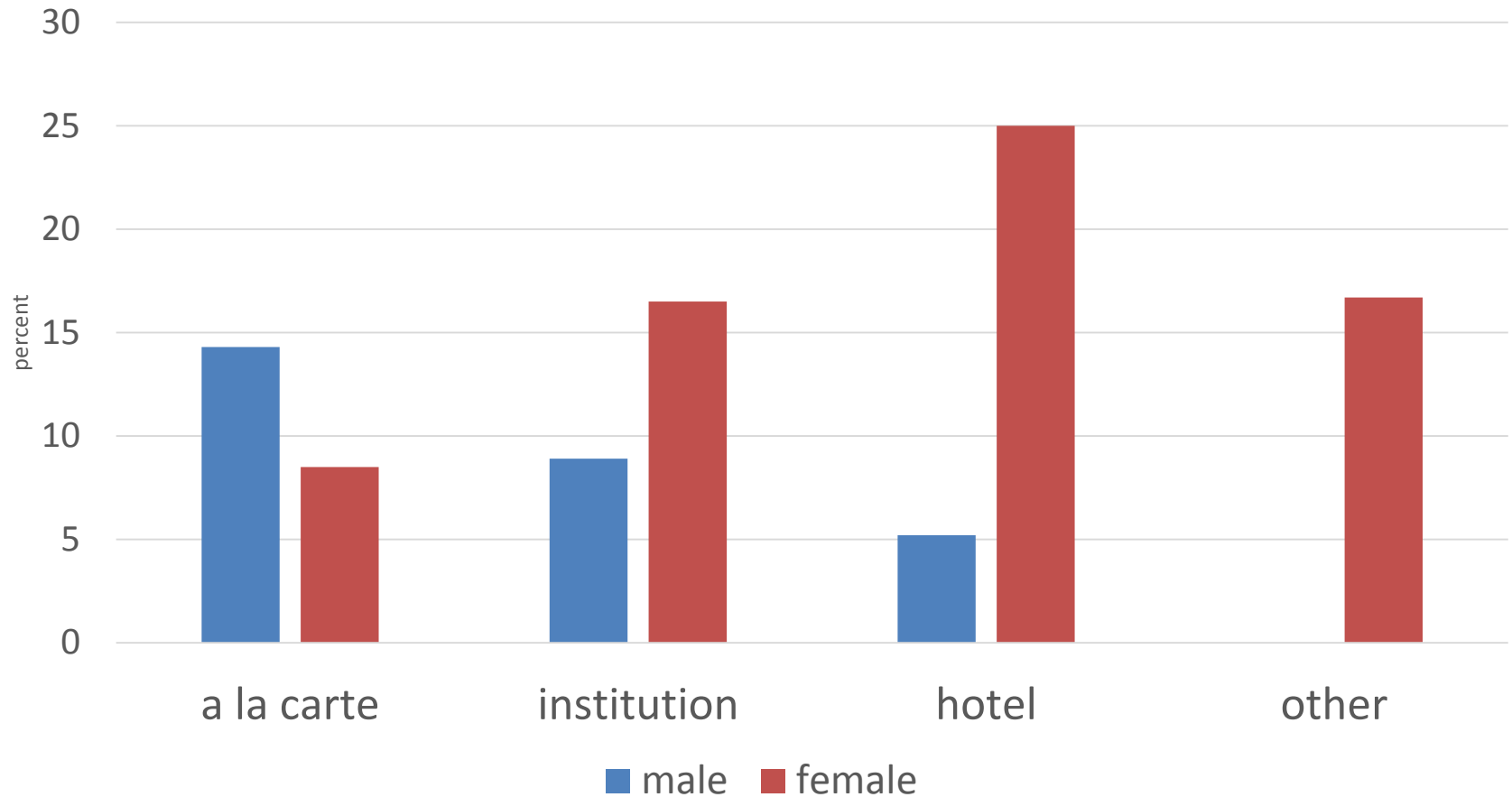
	Percent
All: dermatitis now	17.4
Male	14.7
Female	18.5
All: worsening of dermatitis at work	13.9
Male	9.2
Female	16.3

553 still in work as cooks



553 still in work as cooks

current cooks with worsening of dermatitis at work



Cutting vegetables



water



spices



Washing hands 16 times during 3 hours



Using gloves because of dermatitis



Tight gloves



Thank you for your attention

