

Results have shown that as far as overload diseases in the Czech Republic are concerned, the situation is far from satisfactory. The biggest number of such cases was registered in 1996–2000. In this period, incidence of overload diseases reached on average 350 cases a year. The highest occurrence was recorded in 1997, with 477 cases. In subsequent years (2000–2004) there was a fall and on average 280 cases were registered annually. In 2005, the incidence of overload diseases rose again to over 300 cases a year.

I am of the view that the variation of overload diseases is caused by a number of reasons. Behaviour of individual employees is one of the main ones. As I have said, forced reduction of staff in many companies during the past years has increased their fears of the loss of job, which has led to the dissimulation of many health defects. One can see a seeming fall in the incidence of professional diseases due to overload diseases in general. One has also to take into account the problem that is in the background. Not all cases are really registered. As a result, we do not know whether the incidence in 2000–2004 was higher than in the previous years or perhaps similar. It seems likely that real numbers of recorded overload diseases do not correspond to the real number of afflicted persons. Due to this, one can assume that the issue of overload diseases will be a serious problem also in the future, as in the neighbouring countries.

However, if asked whether the incidence of overload diseases has a downward trend (given the latest statistical and epidemiological surveys), we would have to give a negative answer. Despite recommended preventive measures, the incidence is rising. Besides, new technologies, new methods as well as improvements in organisation and health care do not seem to have any major impact on the incidence of overload diseases. In such a case, a large part of possible causes of their rising number can be attributed to the human factor. Every individual should think of the problem as the factor cannot be influenced by means of currently used preventive measures. Although many changes have occurred in the prevention of the diseases (new technologies, methods and better health care) since 1996, the number of their cases has not decreased. The human factor, involving mostly psychosocial and economic influences, can be a cause.