

Surveillance of Work-Related Acute Injury Hospitalizations in California using the Workers' Compensation Information System

Christine Dobson, ScD
CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow
California Department of Public Health

2015 WestON Meeting
Quick Takes – Getting a Big Bang Out of Your WC Bucks
September 17, 2015
Denver, CO



Man rescued after falling into industrial meat grinder in California

by Andreas Preuss, CNN

Updated 8:23 AM ET, Sat July 18, 2015



Source: KEYT

Man rescued after falling into meat grinder 01:20

Story highlights

Man was apparently pulled into industrial meat grinder when his coat got caught

Co-worker heard screams, saw legs sticking out and turned off the machine

Fire officials used hydraulic tools to rescue the man, who survived his injuries

(CNN)—A man who fell in to an industrial meat grinder was apparently one blade swipe away from a fatal injury.

The accident happened Thursday at a meat processing plant in San Luis Obispo, California.

The machine's blades "came around and broke his arm and came around again and broke his arm a little further up the next turnaround," San Luis Obispo Fire Battalion Chief Neal Berryman told [CNN affiliate KEYT](#). Berryman told the affiliate the man's head or neck would have been hit next.

The man's screaming alerted his coworker, who saw the victim's legs protruding from the machine and switched it

off in the nick of time.

Man rescued after falling into industrial meat grinder in California

by Andreas Preuss, CNN

Updated 8:23 AM ET, Sat July 18, 2015



Source: KEYT

Man rescued after falling into meat grinder 01:20

Story highlights

Man was apparently pulled into industrial meat grinder when his coat got caught

Co-worker heard screams, saw legs sticking out and turned off the machine

Fire officials used hydraulic tools to rescue the man, who survived his injuries

(CNN)—A man who fell in to an industrial meat grinder was apparently one blade swipe away from a fatal injury.

The accident happened Thursday at a meat processing plant in San Luis Obispo, California.

The machine's blades "came around and broke his arm and came around again and broke his arm a little further up the next turnaround," San Luis Obispo Fire Battalion Chief Neal Berryman told [CNN affiliate KEYT](#). Berryman told the affiliate the man's head or neck would have been hit next.

The man's screaming alerted his coworker, who saw the victim's legs protruding from the machine and switched it

off in the nick of time.

Injury Surveillance Systems



National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS)



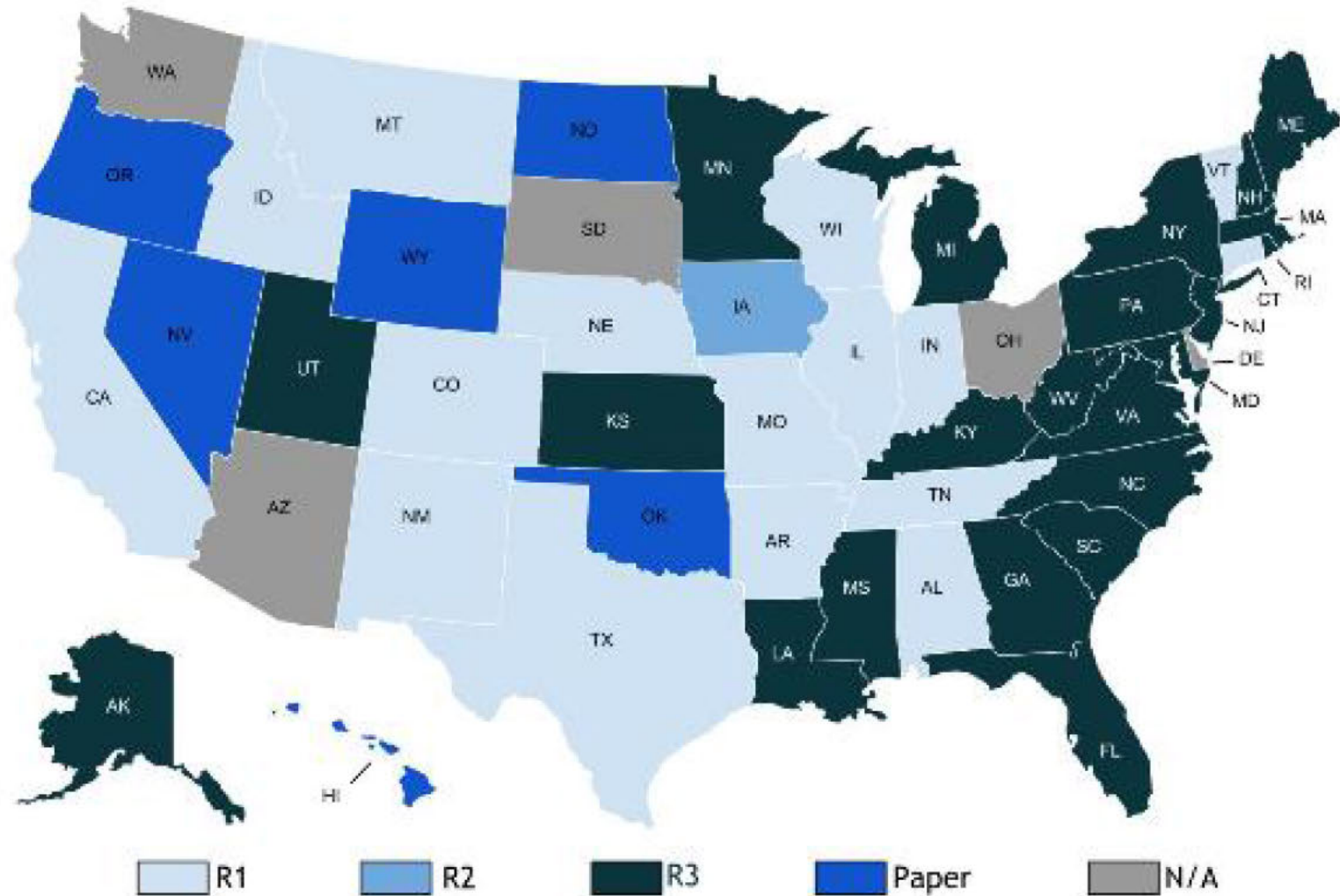
Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII)



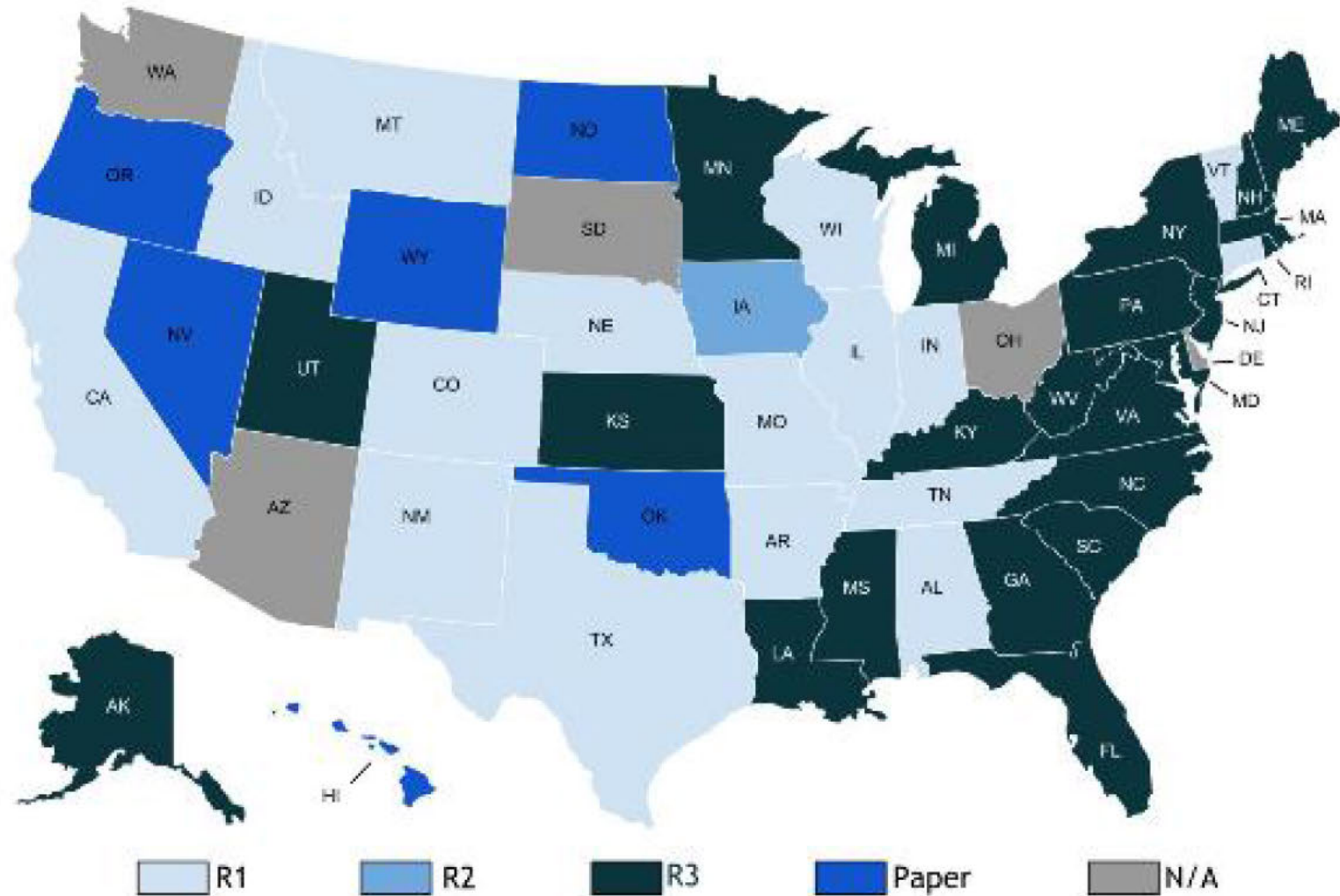
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH INDICATORS



EDI Implementation by State

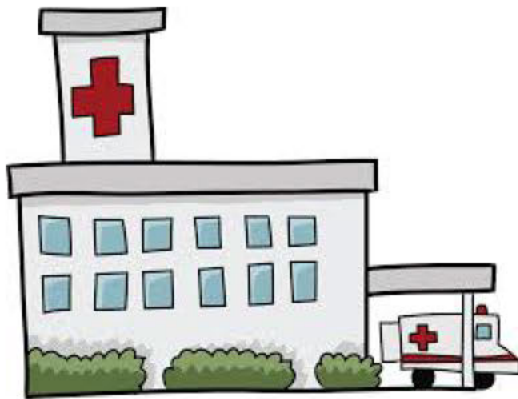


EDI Implementation by State



Acute Injury Hospitalization Definition

2010-2013



Hospital/Inpatient,
Hospital/Subacute Inpatient
or Skilled Nursing/Inpatient

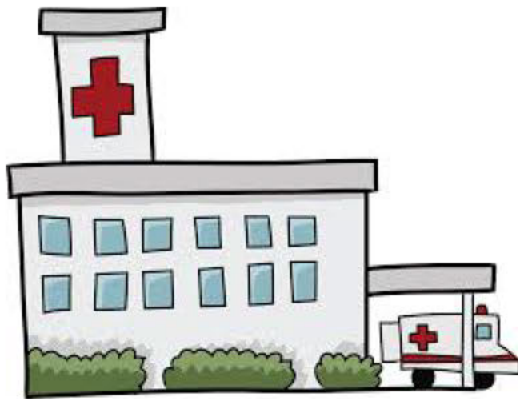
Admission date \leq 1
day of injury date

Room and Board,
ICU,
or CCU

6,842 total cases

Acute Injury Hospitalization Definition

2010-2013



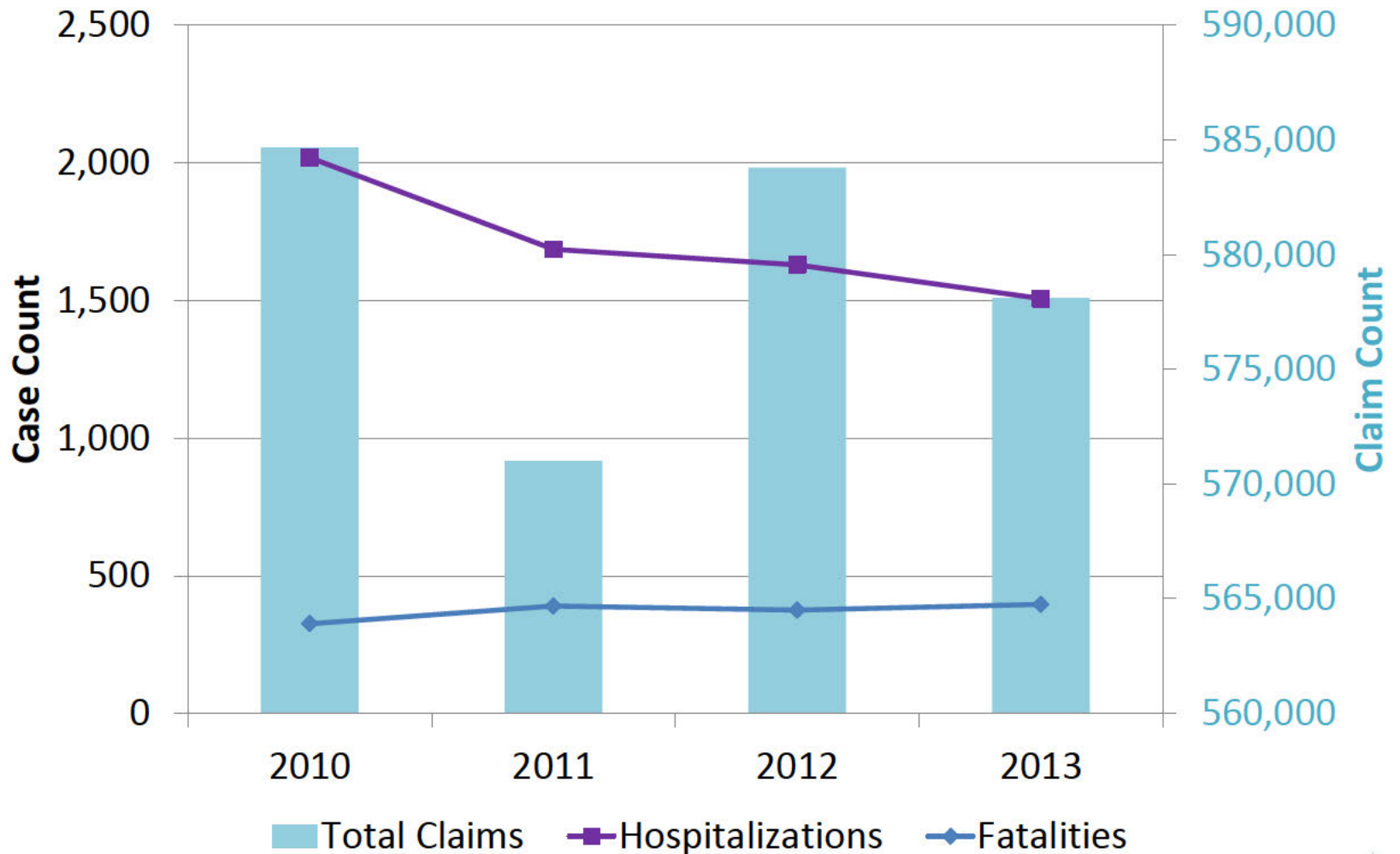
Hospital/Inpatient,
Hospital/Subacute Inpatient
or Skilled Nursing/Inpatient

Admission date \leq 1
day of injury date

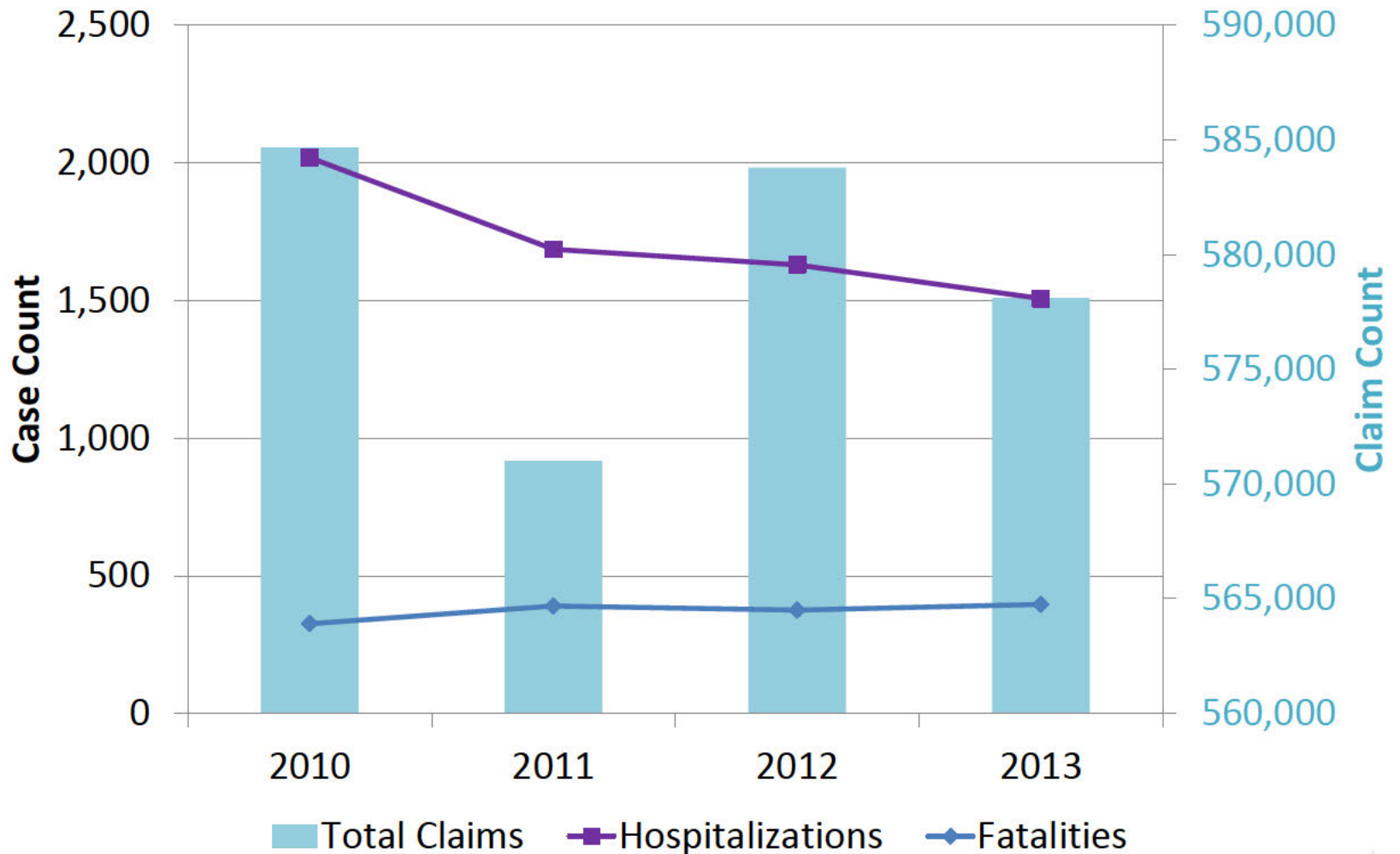
Room and Board,
ICU,
or CCU

6,842 total cases

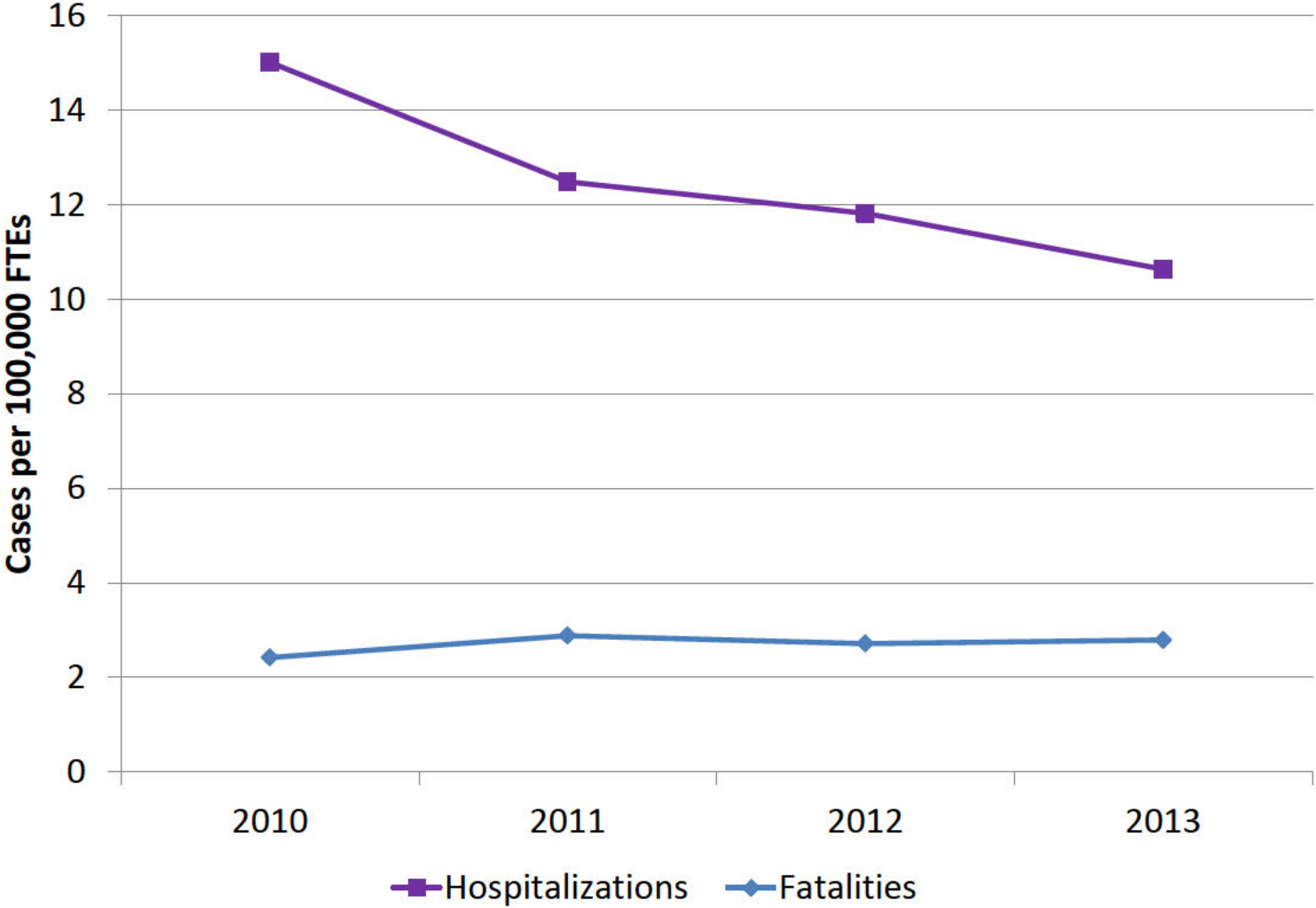
Cases by year



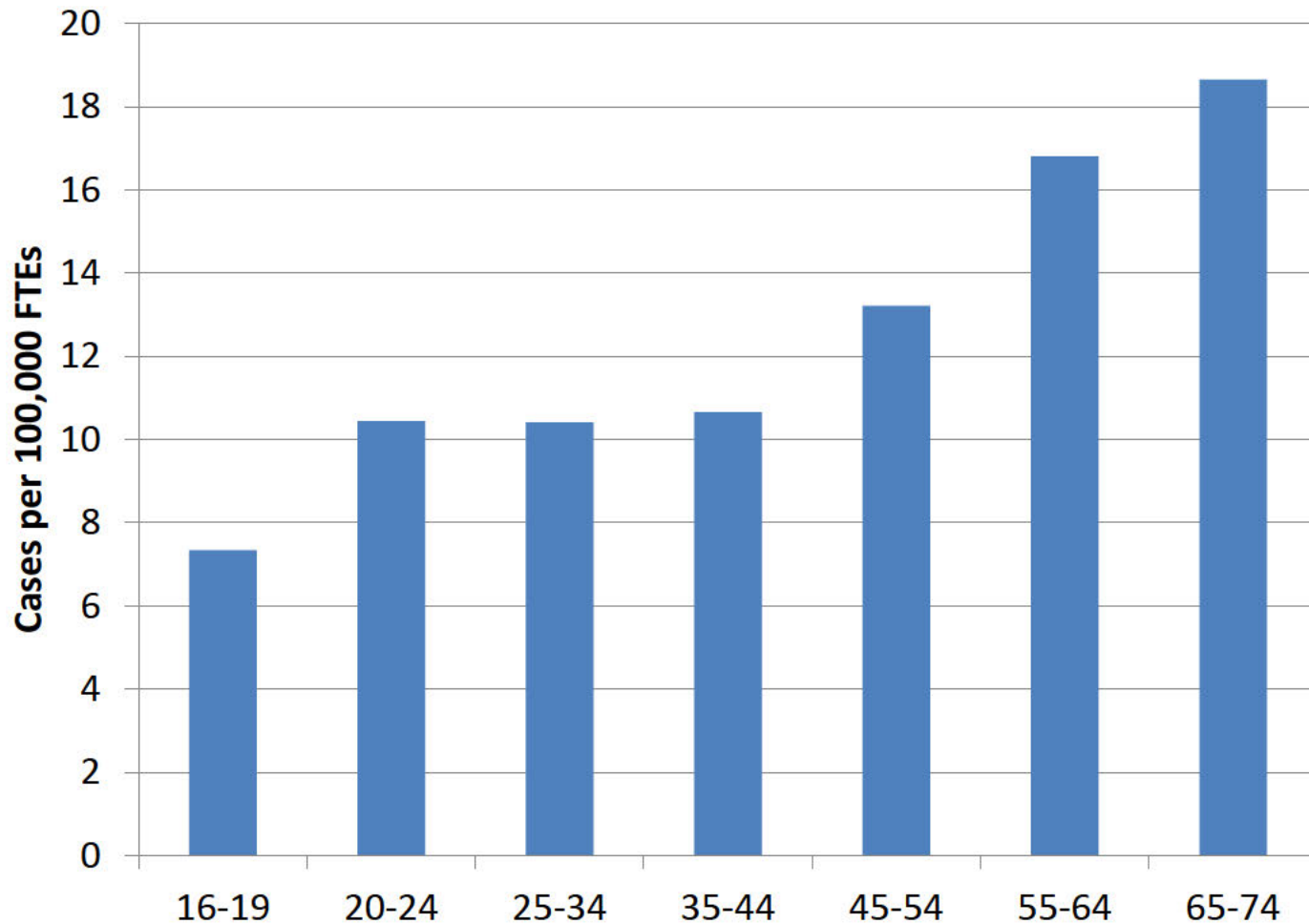
Cases by year



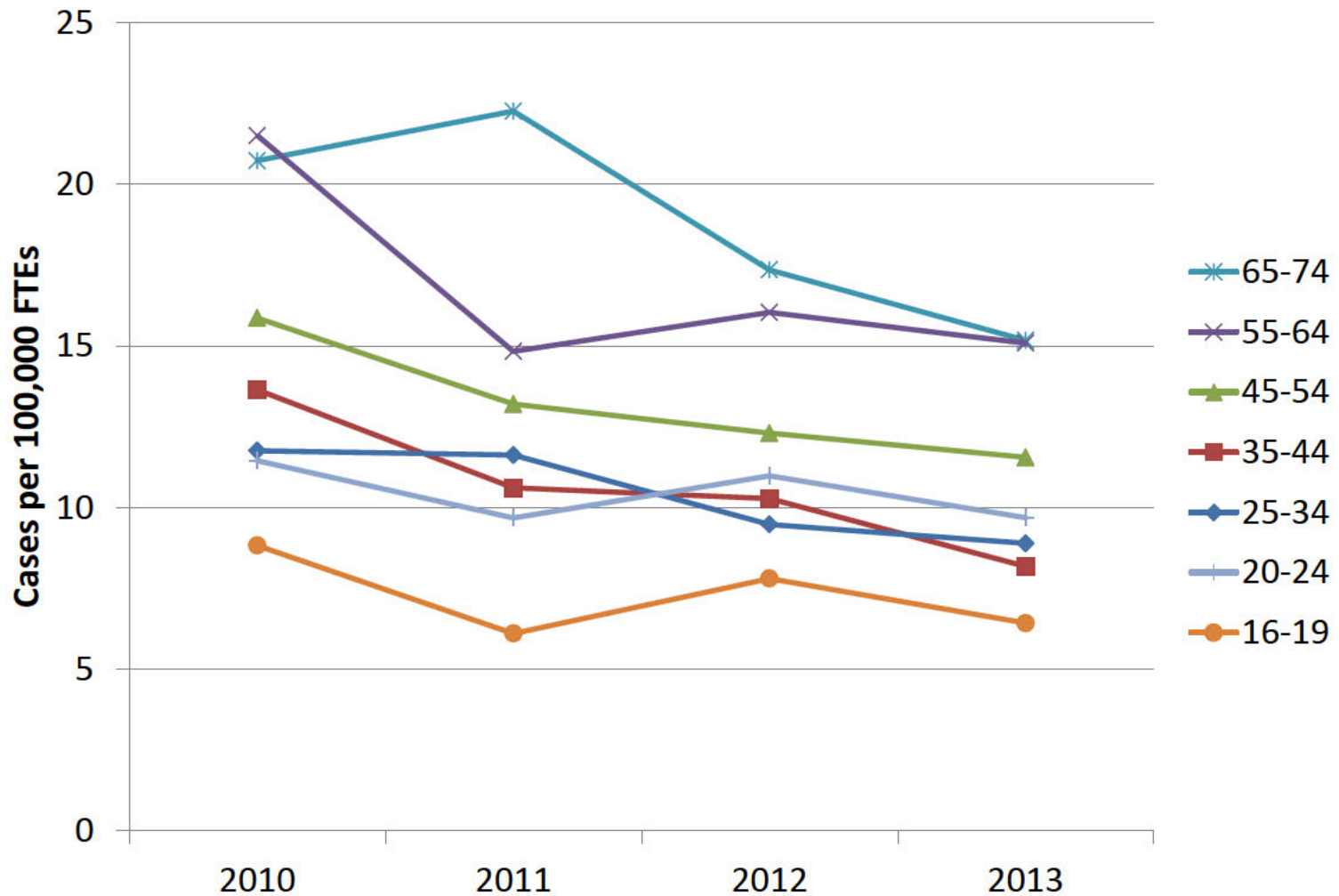
Rates by Year



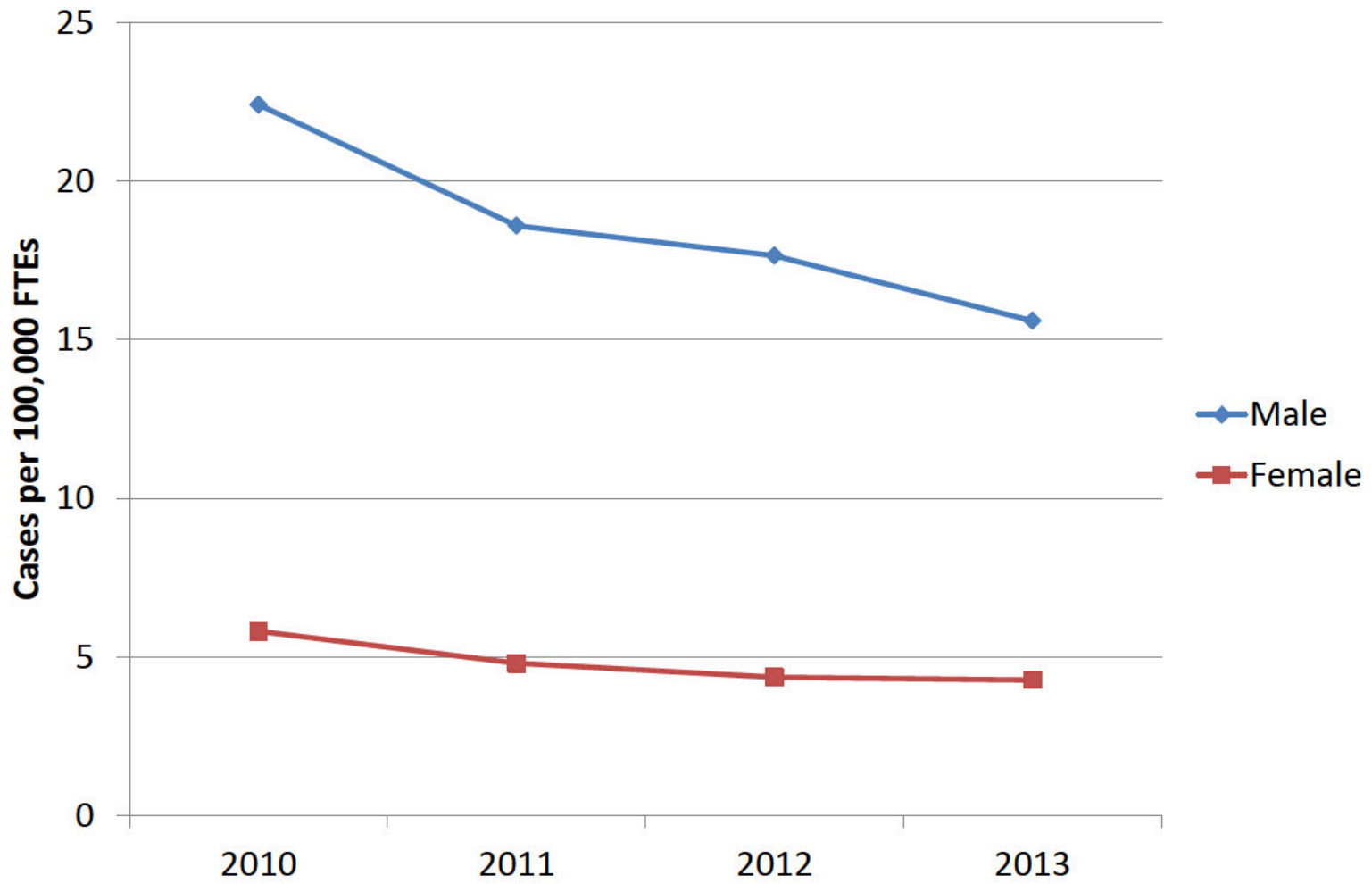
Rates by Age Group



Trends by Age Group



Rates by Gender



Potential Issues



Data Quality



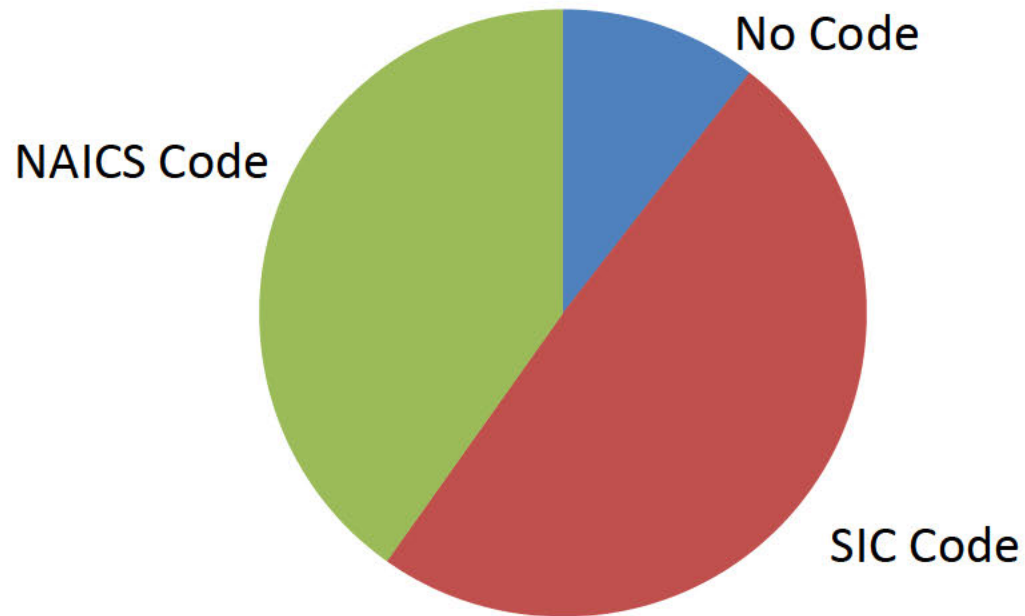
**Data
Completeness**



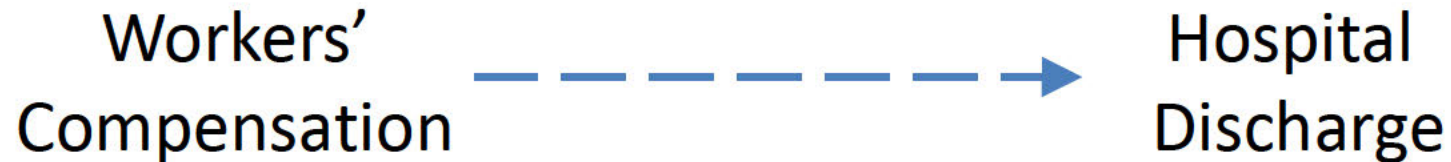
Data Timeliness

Data Quality

Claim Industry Coding



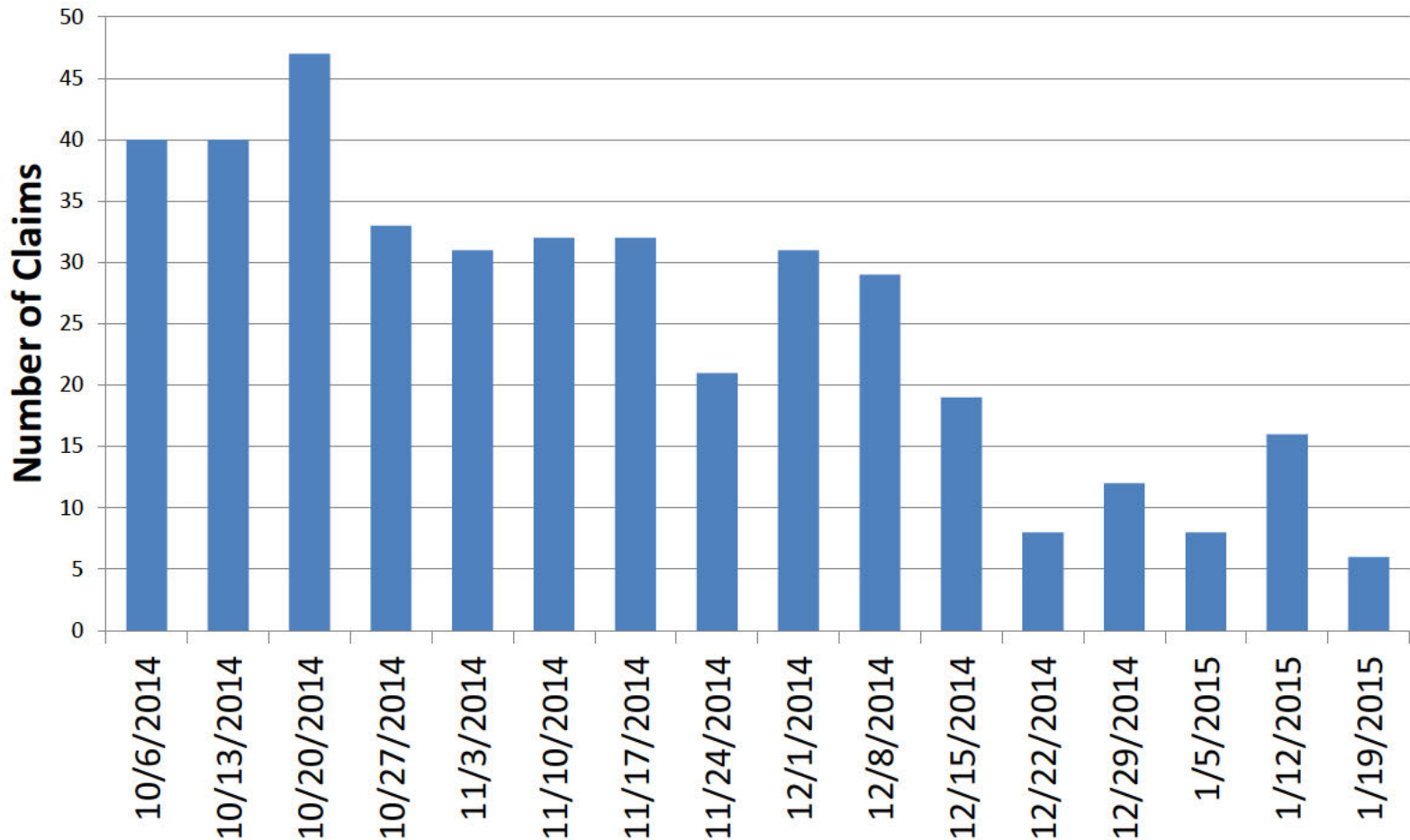
Completeness of Reporting



Linkage	2010	2011	2012	Aggregate
Patient Discharge – WC as payer	65%	65%	65%	65%
Patient Discharge – Any payer	77%	77%	76%	76%

Timeliness of Reporting

Acute Injury Hospitalizations by week October 1, 2014 - January 31, 2015



Simplicity & Acceptability

- Use of WCIS for injury enumeration requires no additional resources
- Employers and medical providers are already required to transmit data to WCIS

Strengths

- Surveillance infrastructure is already in place!
- Good Timeliness
- Good Completeness
- Good Acceptability & Simplicity
- Good Representativeness
- Inexpensive

Acknowledgments

CDPH OHB

Robert Harrison

Matt Frederick

John Beckman

Christine Hannigan

Lauren Joe

CA DIR/DWC

Glenn Shor

Rebecca Jackson

Questions?

Christine Dobson, ScD

CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow
Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control
California Department of Public Health

Christine.Dobson@cdph.ca.gov

p: 510-620-3649

The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the official position of the California Department of Public Health.

This study was supported in part by an appointment to the Applied Epidemiology Fellowship Program administered by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Cooperative Agreement Number 1U38OT000143-02.