

Recognition procedure and analysis of occupational diseases in the Republic of Croatia

Denis Lisica Mandek, Katarina Zahariev Vukšinić, Dijana Krišto, Ana Bogadi-Šare

Croatian Institute for Health Protection and Safety at Work

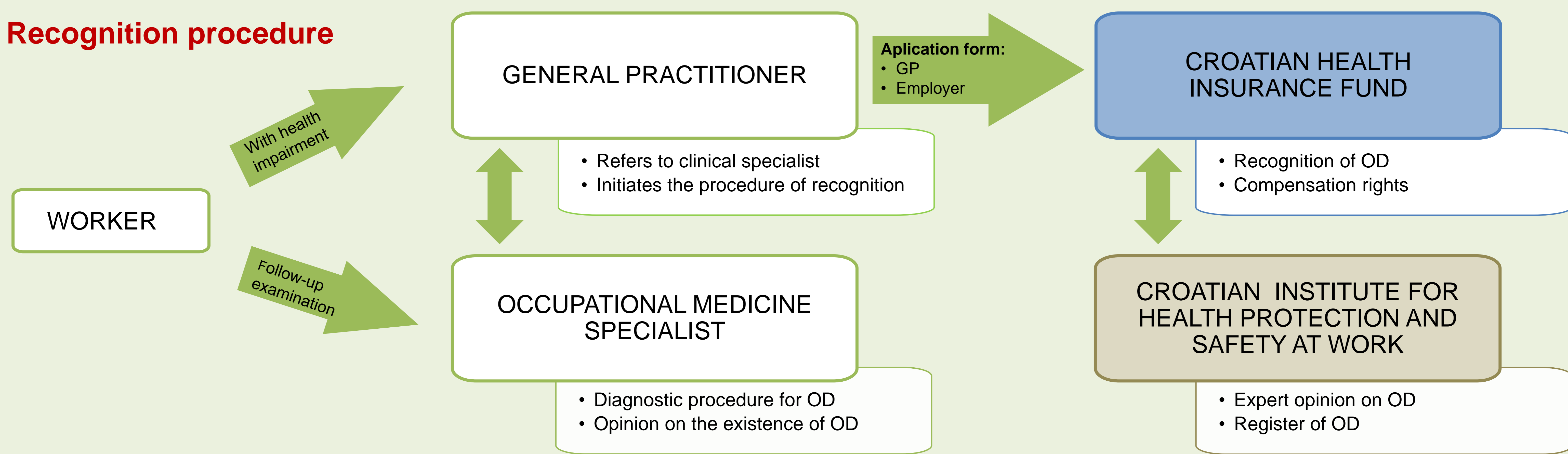
Introduction

The process of recognizing occupational diseases (OD) requires identification of hazard at the workplace together with workplace exposure assessment and determination of causal relationship between health impairment and hazardous exposure. The procedure for recognition of occupational diseases, defined by the legislation, allows complete registration and monitoring of all occupational diseases at national level. Recognizing, monitoring and analysing occupational diseases are few among myriad of tasks carried out by Croatian Institute for Health Protection and Safety at Work.

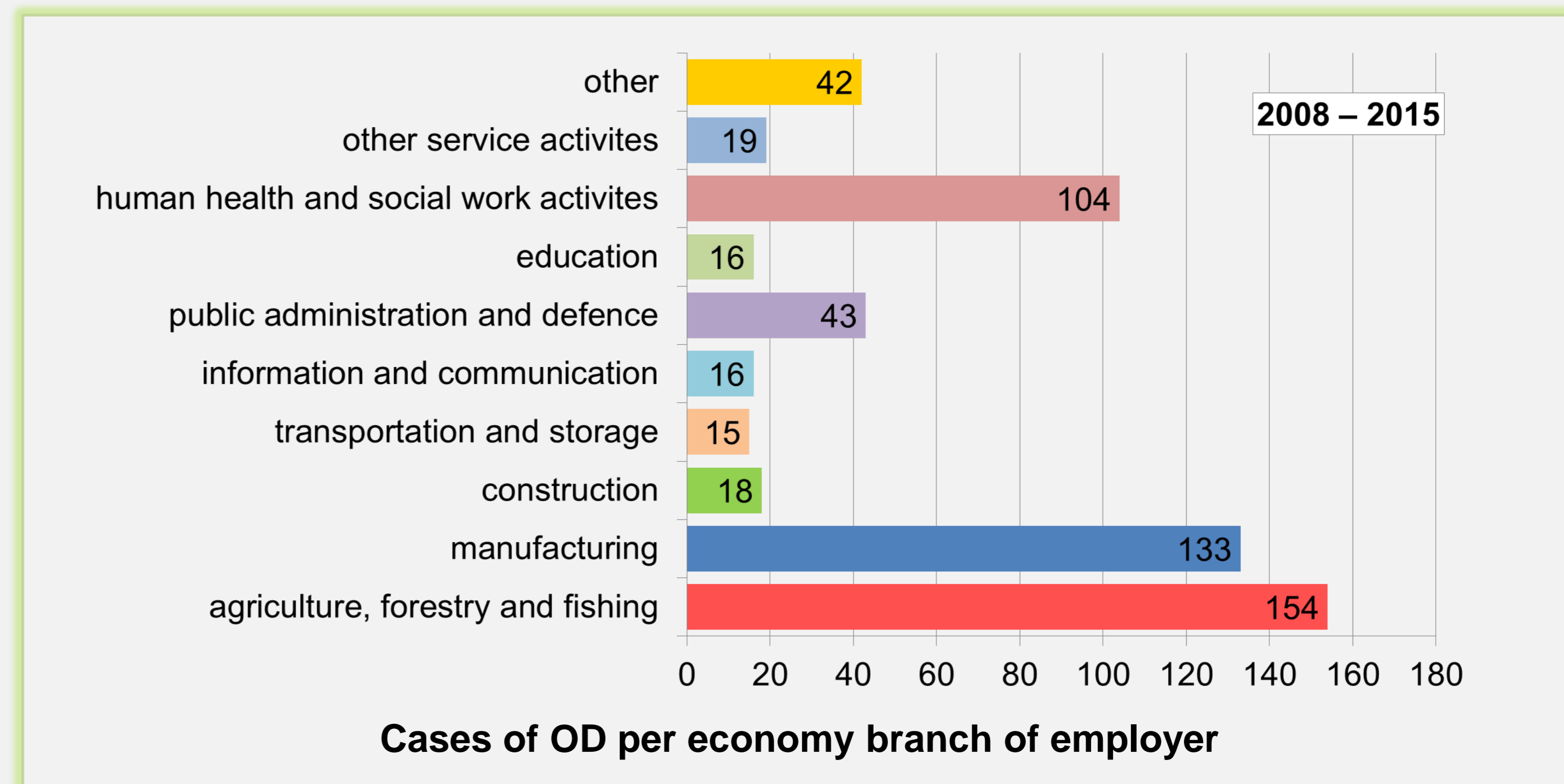
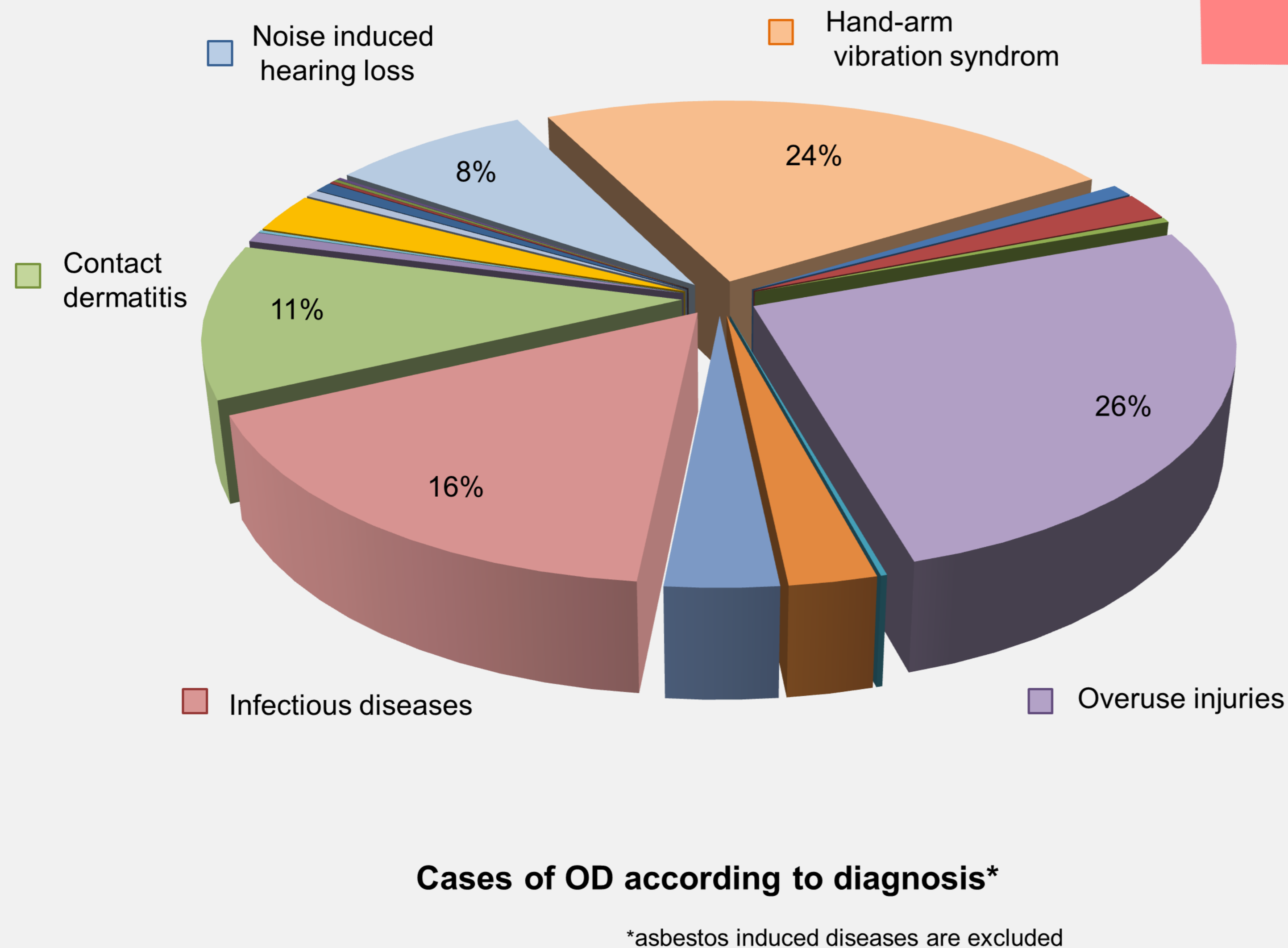
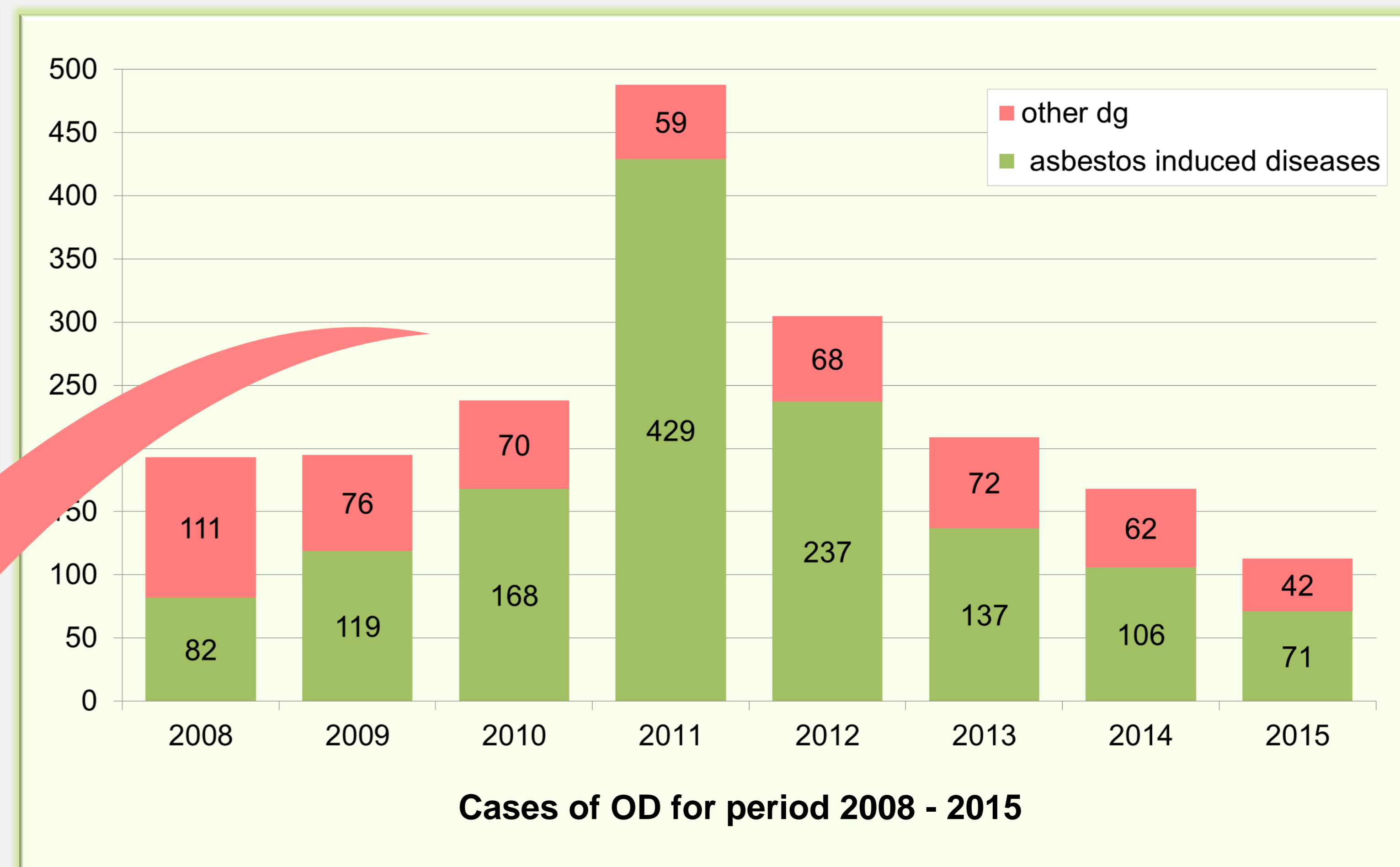
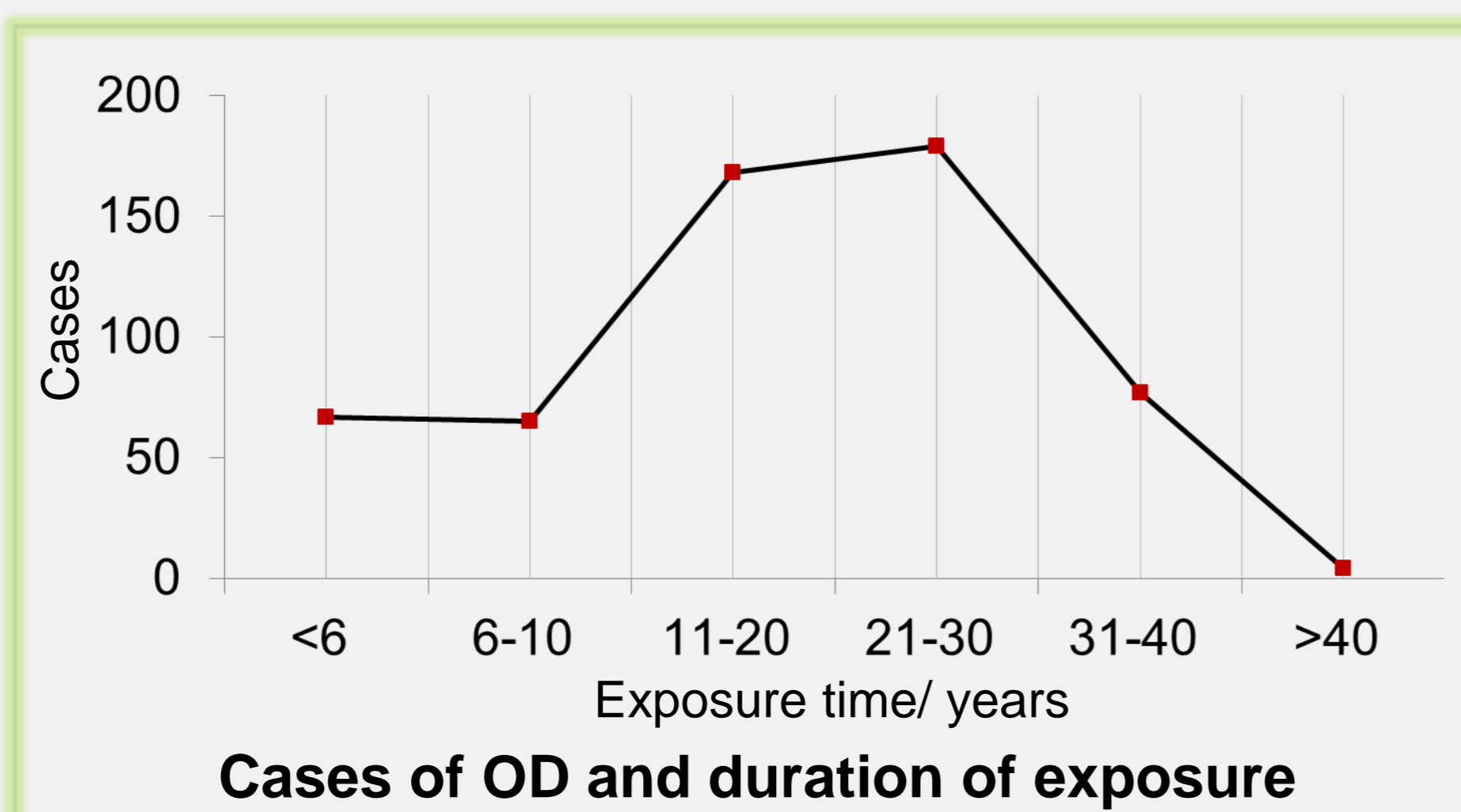
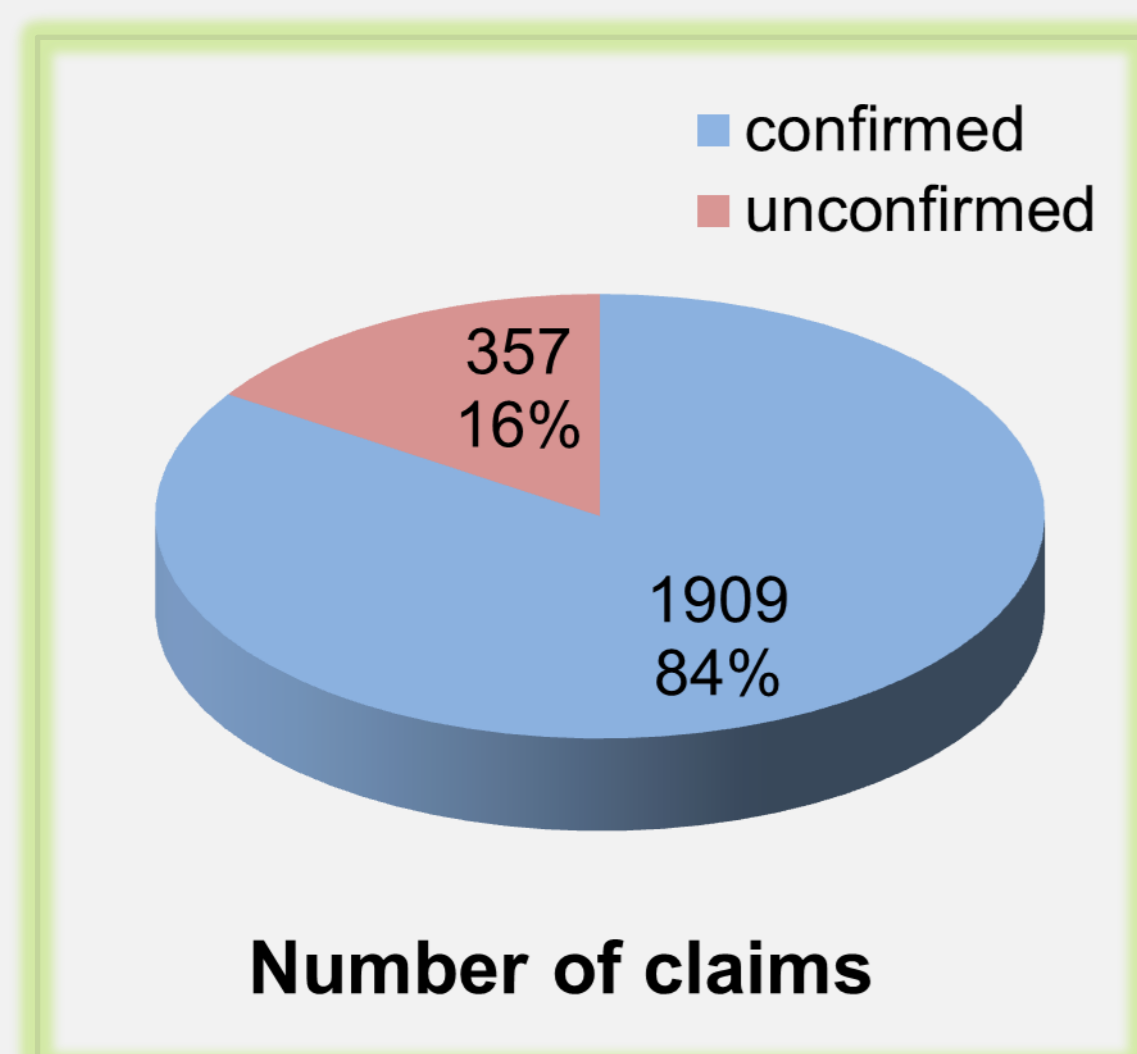
Objective and Methods

The objective of this presentation is to display the procedure for recognizing occupational diseases in the Republic of Croatia together with results of descriptive analysis conducted for the last eight-year period, regarding clinical diagnosis, economy branch of employer and duration of workers' exposure to hazard prior to diagnosing health impairment. For the purposes of this analysis we used data from the Register of occupational diseases held by the Institute, National classification of economic activities and International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision.

Recognition procedure



Results



Conclusion

The recognition of occupational diseases is a complex process. In its shortest, it involves general practitioner, occupational medicine specialist, clinical specialists, employer, insurer and experts from the Institute. The group of involved parties could be extended to non-medical professions when it comes to verification of exposures and re-evaluation of risk assessments. Hence, the procedure includes a multidisciplinary approach and cooperation between medical (occupational medicine specialist, general practitioner, clinical specialists) and non-medical professions (lawyer, safety engineer). Last but not least, monitoring and analysing cases of occupational diseases provides important data needed for planning preventive actions within health protection of working population.