

HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE WORKABILITY
Riga, Latvia
FIT FOR WORK CONFERENCE

Occupational health in Latvia

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Introduction and Aim

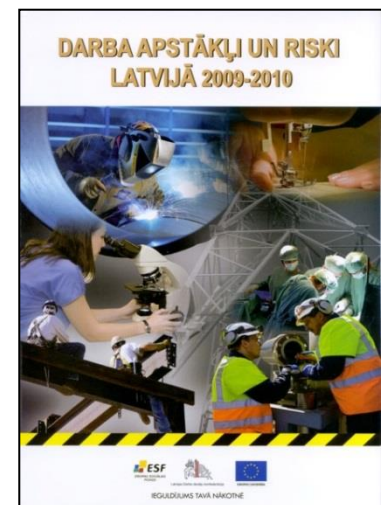
- The aim of this presentation is to analyse changes in occupational morbidity and structure of occupational diseases with emphasis to analysis of multifactorial causes and costs of musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) as fastest growing group of occupational diseases in Latvia
- Work environment in Latvia has changed rapidly over last 20 years due to global changes and changes in Latvian occupational health and safety (OH&S) system
- Also the basic OH&S indicators like incidence of occupational diseases have changed significantly

Overview of legislation changes on OH&S in Latvia

- Major changes since ~ 1999-2001 due to break down of old system and transposition of EU legal requirements
- Law on Health and Safety – **Labour Protection Law** into force from **01.01.2002.** transposing EU *framework* directive (89/391/EEC) and bringing new philosophy on OHS as well as set of by-laws
 - » More than 95% of EU legislation has been transposed
 - » Practical implementation lagging behind (confirmed by research) in many aspects

Data sources

- Data from 3 consecutive surveys on working conditions in Latvia in 2006, 2010 and 2013 (supported by *European Social Fund*) including interviews with:
 - » More than 1000 employers
 - » More than 2500 employees
 - » More than 200 OH&S experts
 - » Focusgroup discussions
- Statistics on accidents & occupational diseases in Latvia
- Analysis of other available data (insurance...)
- Project: “The development of up-to-date diagnostic and research methods for the risks caused by nanoparticles and ergonomic factors at workplaces”, Agreement No. 2013/0050/1DP/1.1.1.2.0/13/APIA/VIAA/025.

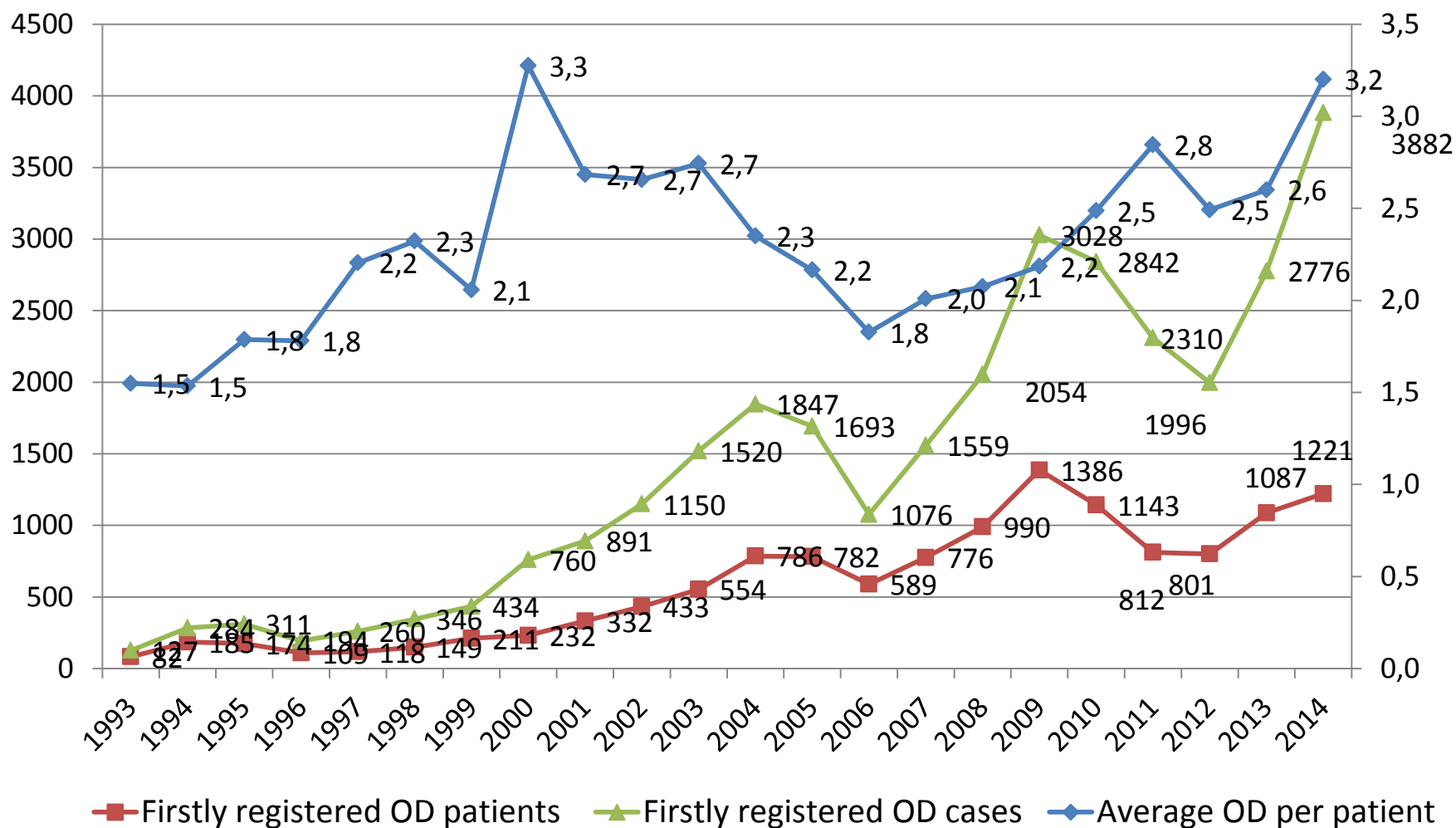


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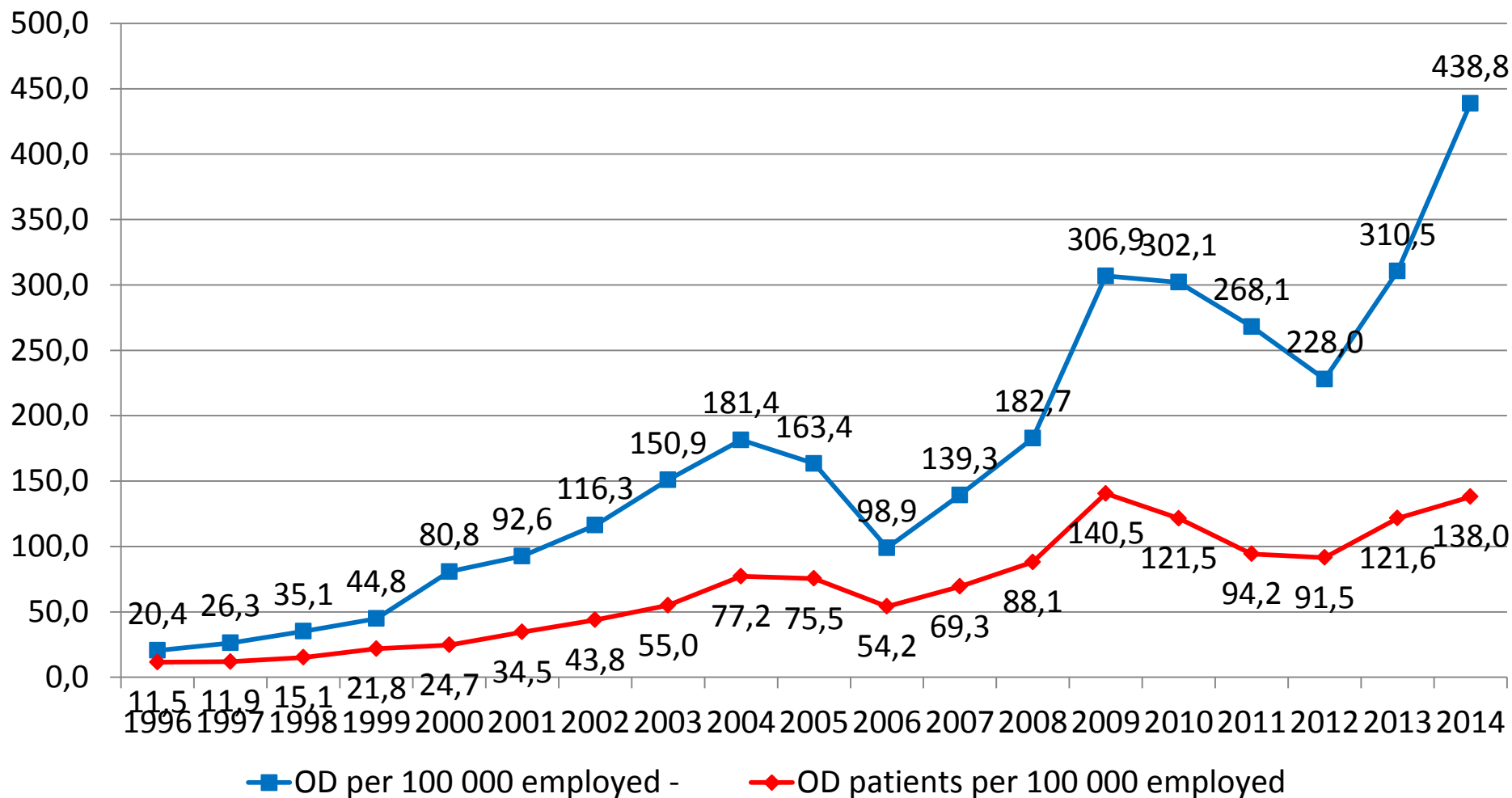
System of registration and statistics of Occupational diseases

- Clear system for list of occupational diseases and registration since 1997 based on U.S.S.R. system, further improved in 2006
- System for workers health surveillance established in 1997, adjusted in 2004 and significantly improved in 2009
- Training of occupational physicians established 1996 improving over the years (*e.g. from 50 hours to 500 hours and/or 4 year residency*)
- Resulting in increase of registered occupational diseases
- In some branches with “political support” improvements more rapid

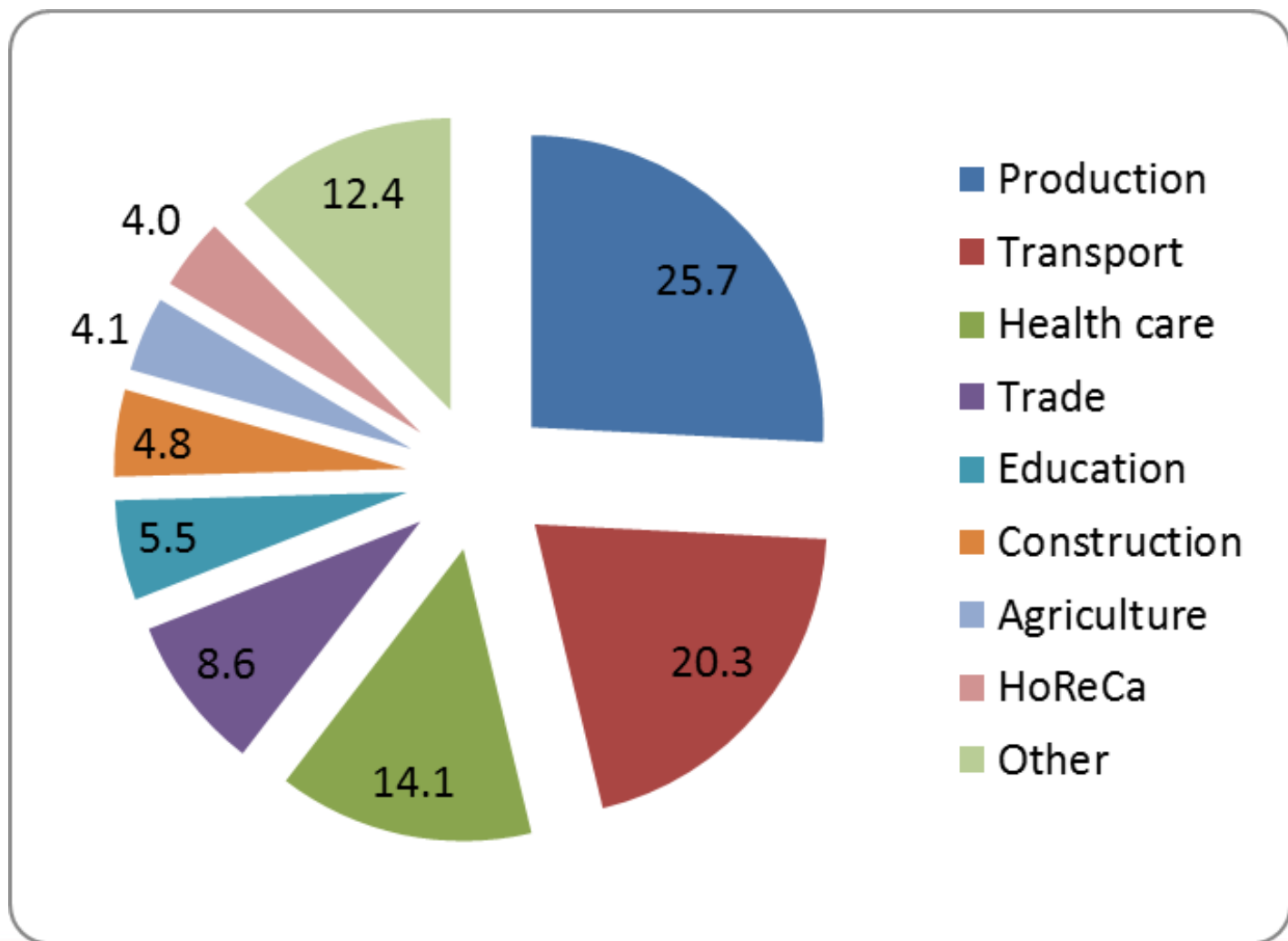
TOTAL NUMBER of first time registered occupational patients and occupational diseases in Latvia during 1993-2013



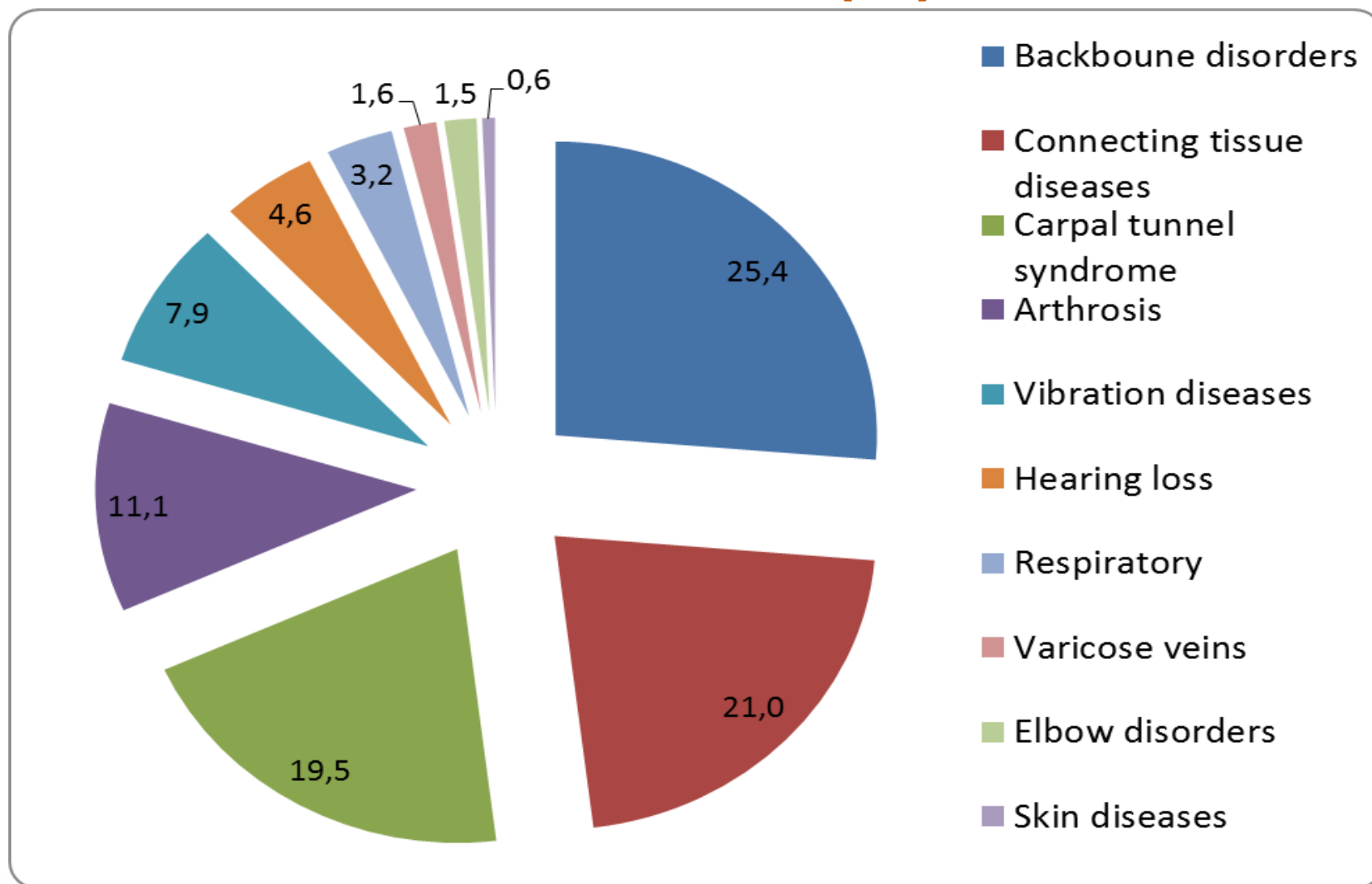
INCIDENCE of first time registered occupational patients and occupational diseases in Latvia during 1993-2013 per 100 000 workers



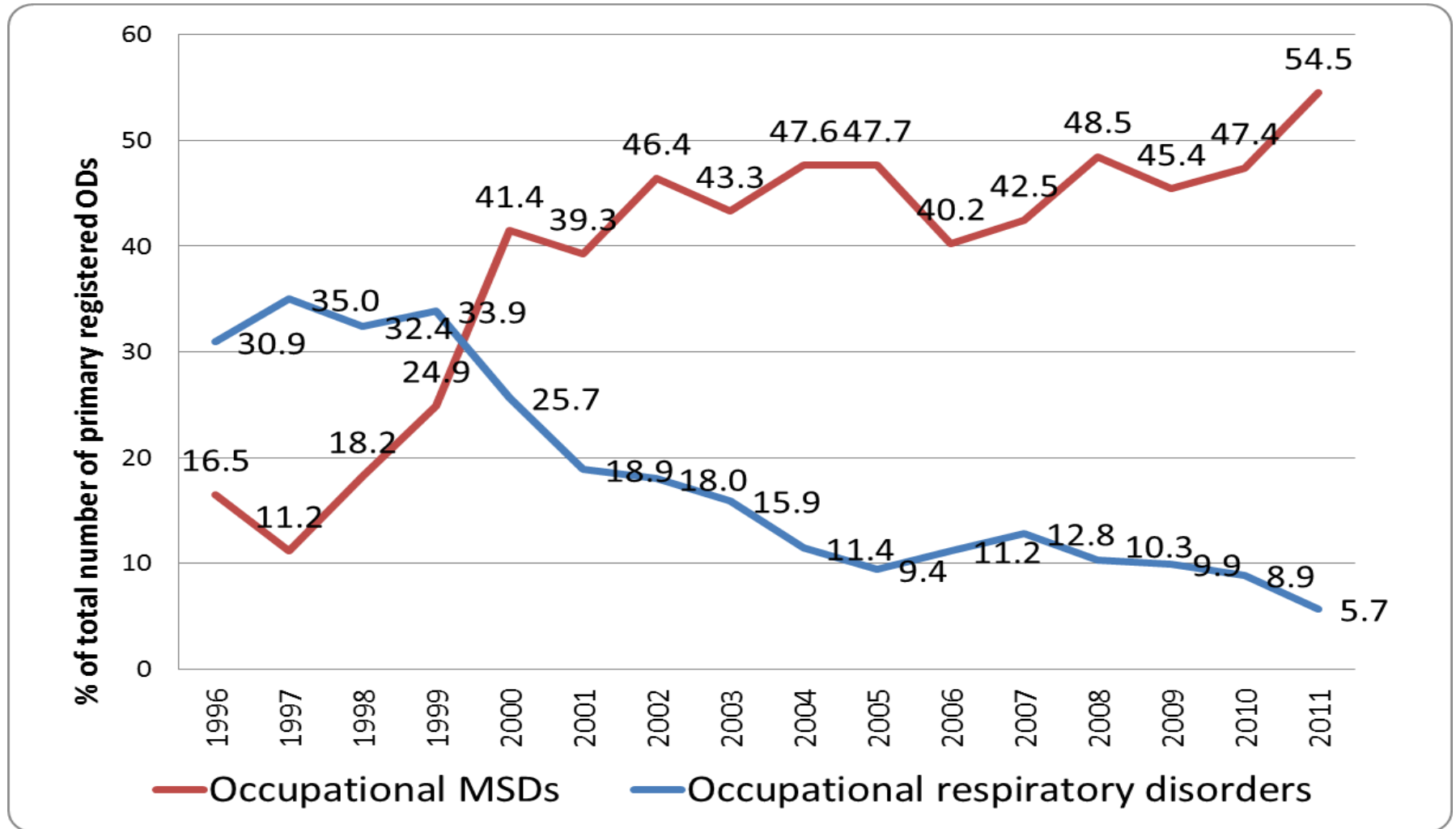
Percentage of occupational diseases (per 100 000 workers) in some selected industries in 2013



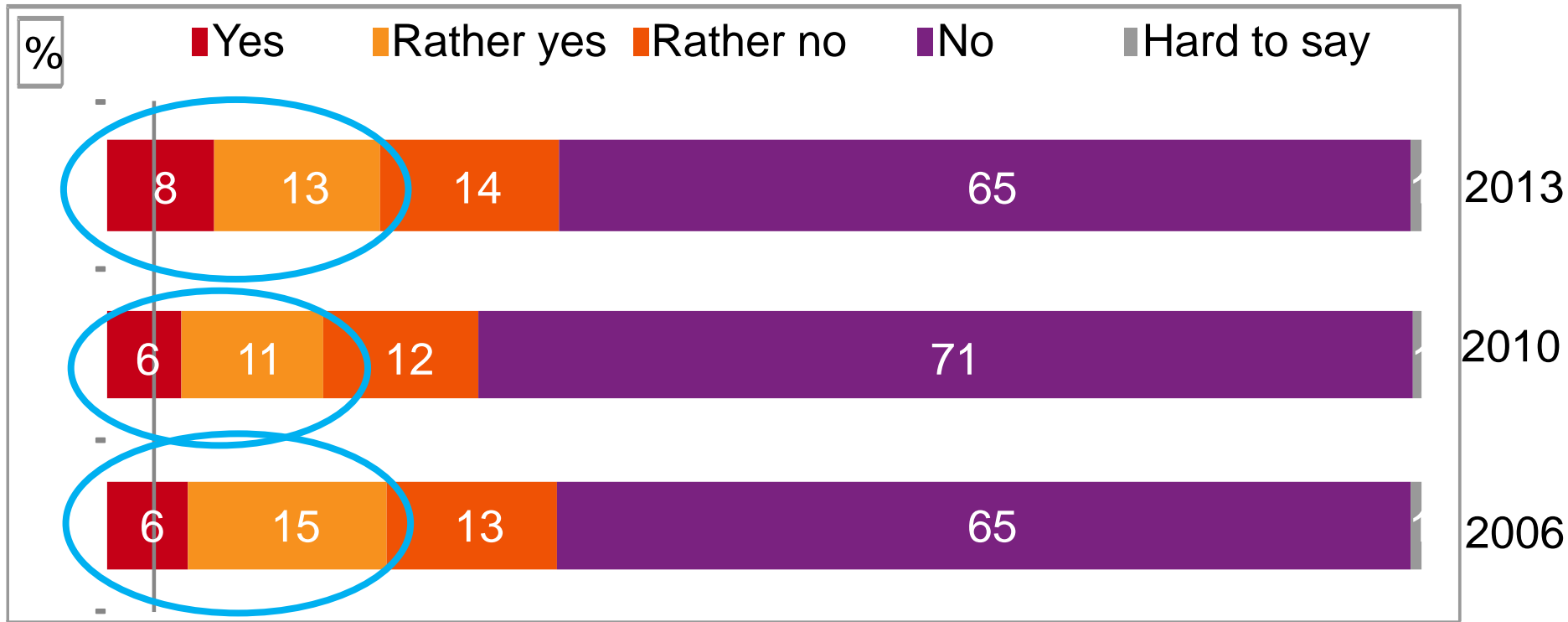
Structure of occupational diseases accross sectors in 2013 (%)



Frequency dynamics of the main groups of occupational diseases in Latvia 1996-2011 per 100 000 workers

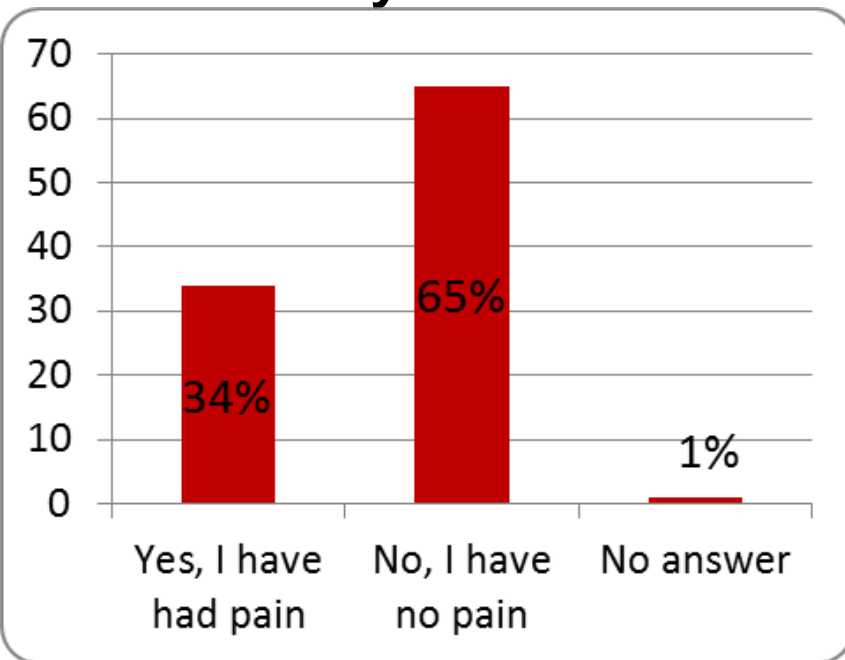


Employees suffering from health disorders caused by the harmful occupational factors (%)

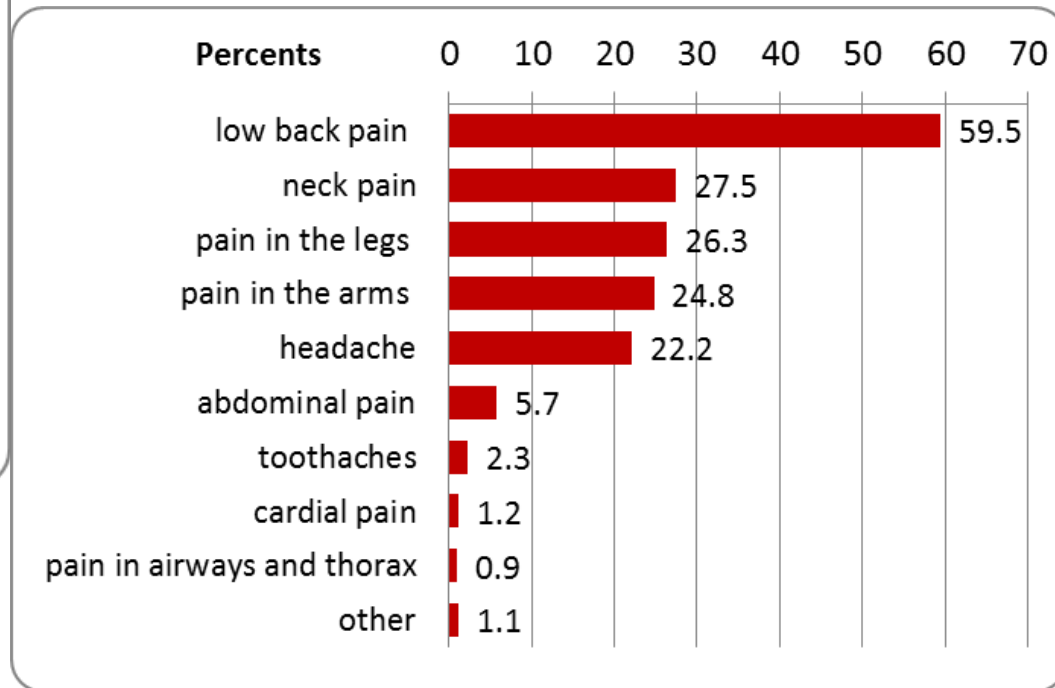


Incidence of pain among Latvian workers

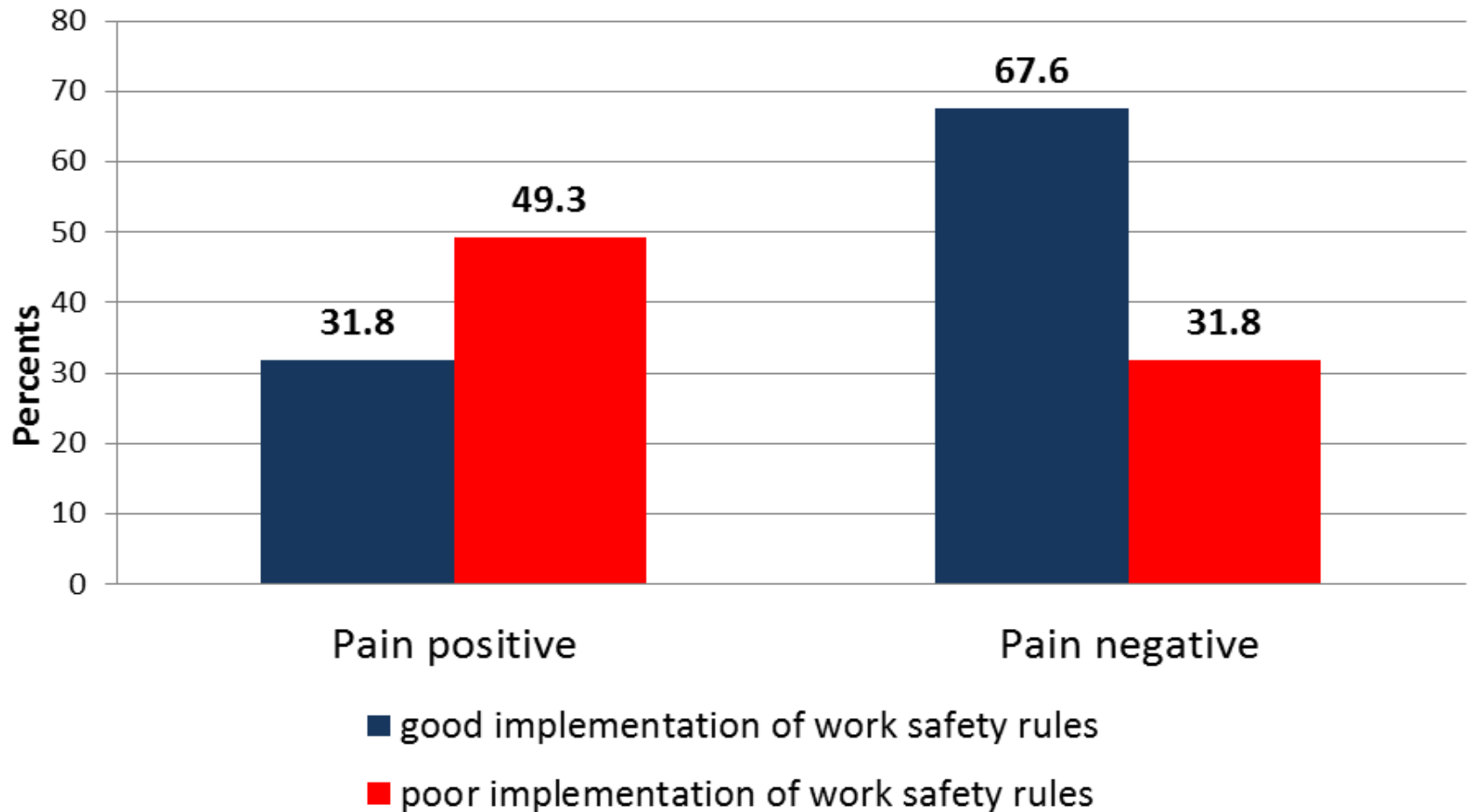
Have you had pain during last year?



What was the location of pain?

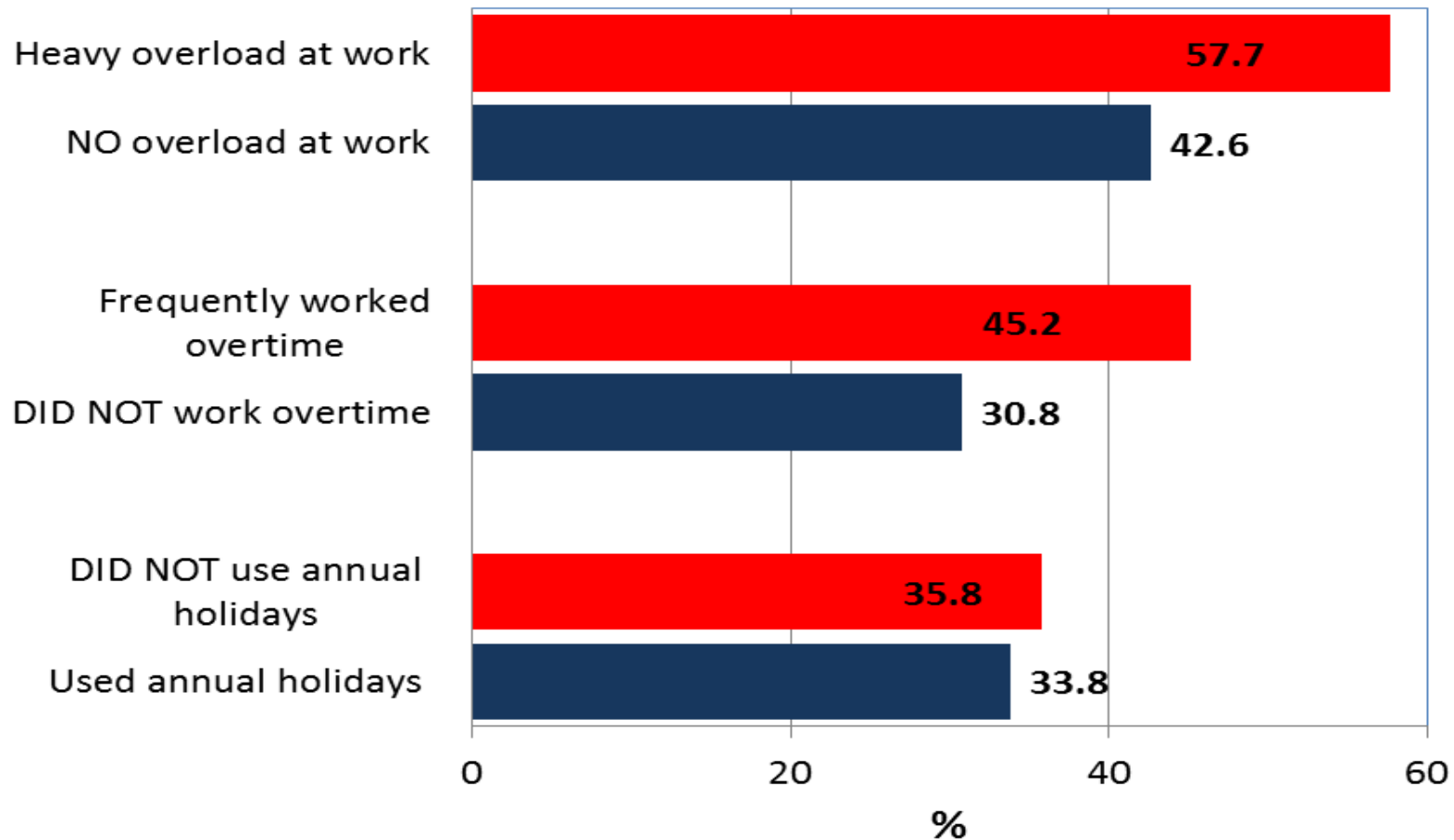


Is the pain (and later OD) associated with working conditions? General situation

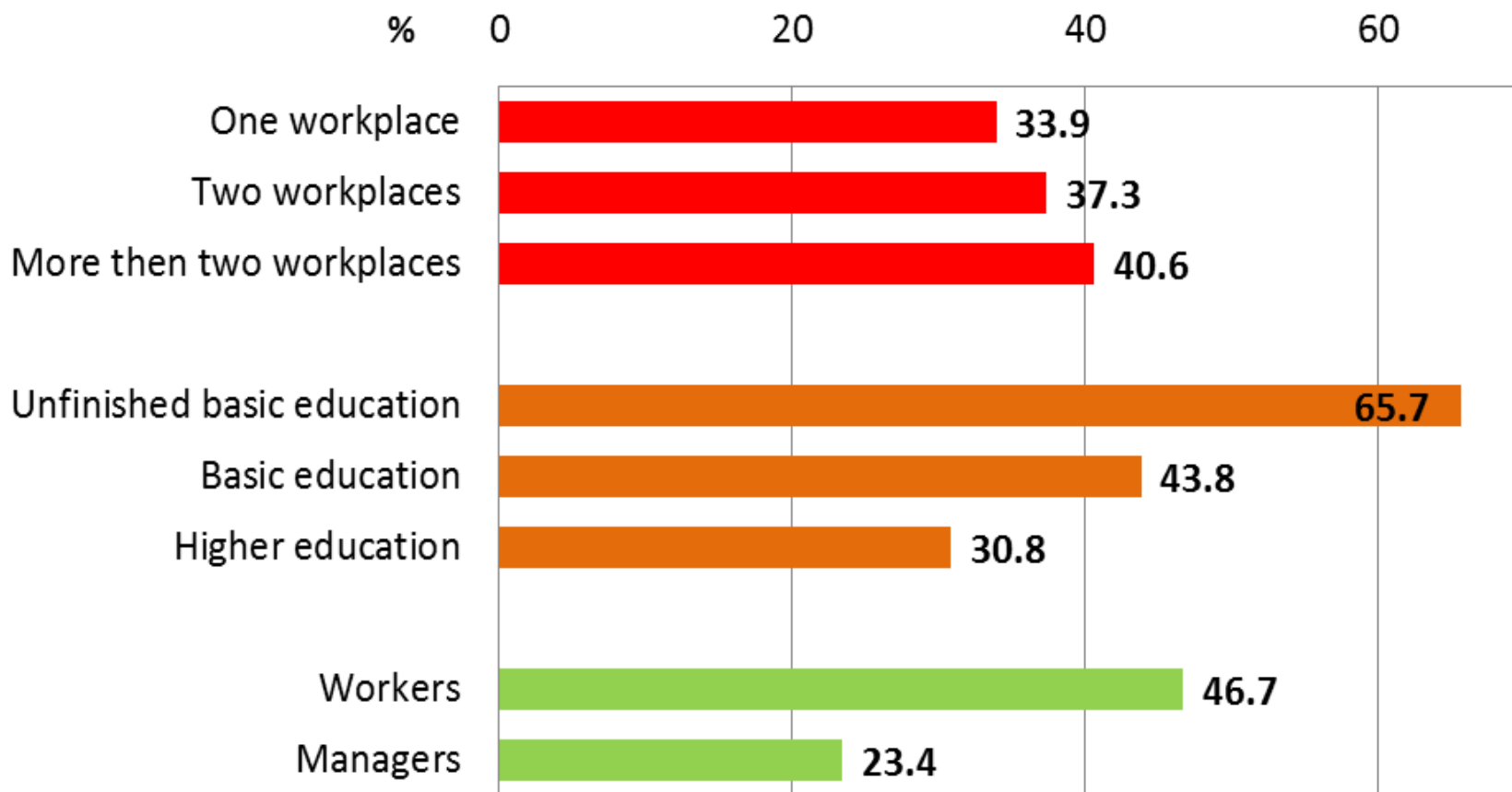


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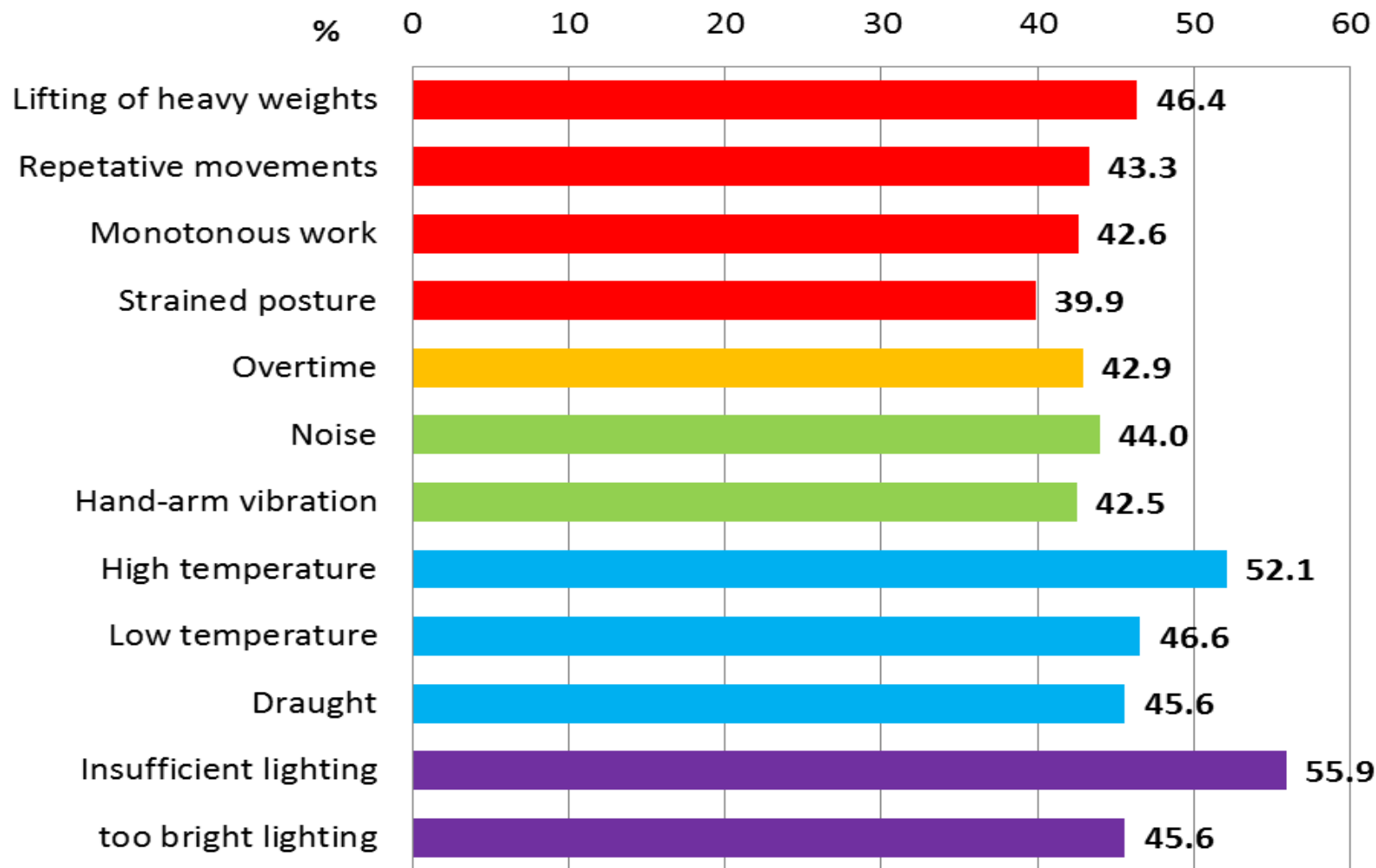
Selected complaints on risks



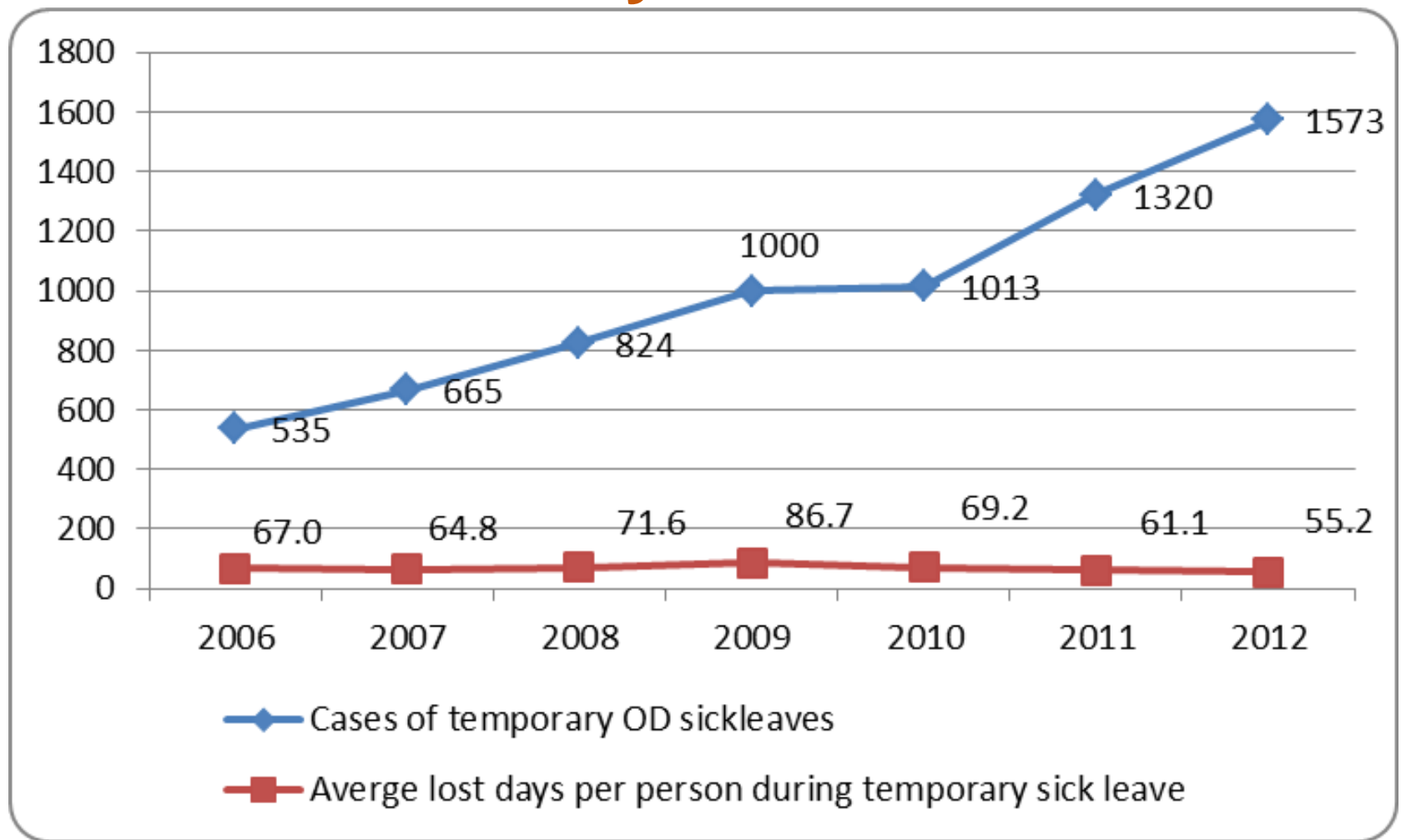
Multifactorial aspects of pain and MSD



Multifactorial aspects of pain and MSD

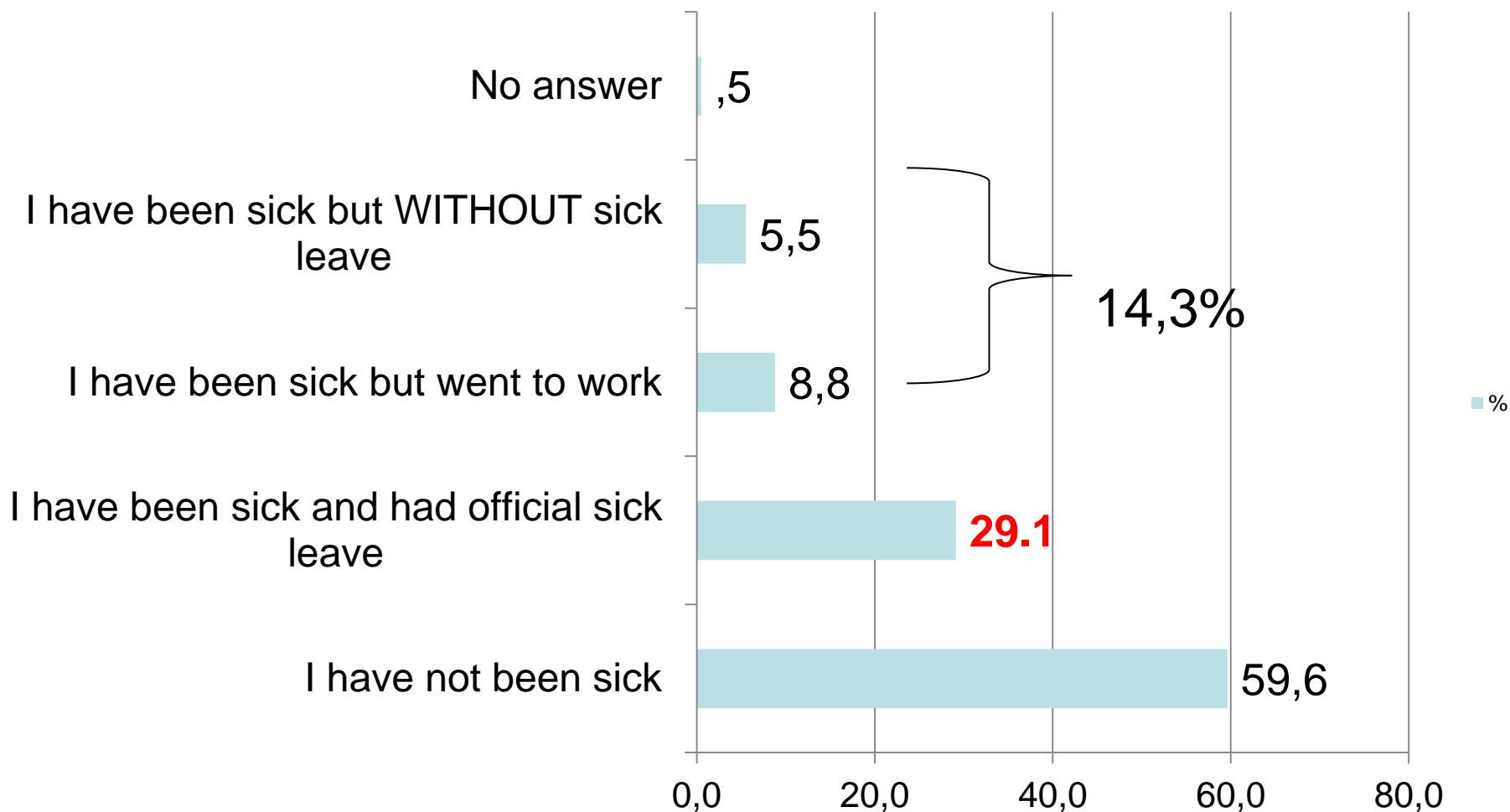


Some economical/cost aspects of OD in Latvia – Number of temporary sick leaves and lost days



Potential for new occupational diseases?

Which situation is true about you in last year? (n=2383)



Conclusions

- Rapid increase of occupational diseases incidence is caused by both the working conditions and improvements in diagnostics and coverage of health surveillance
- The number of OD is probably significantly higher, possibly with MSD still being the largest share
 - » Significant part of employees have health complaints
 - » Incidence of «occupational pain» as pre-condition of MSD is very wide spread
 - » Distribution of OD across sectors are also showing the underdiagnostics of OD

Conclusions

- OD in general and MSD as largest part of them are causing significant economic loss in short and long term in Latvia as well
- Some of the multifactorial causes for pain and MSD area apparently relatively simple to deal with
- **Only by understanding the causes and factors behind early stages of MSD we can make EFFECTIVE PREVENTION**