

"Safety - Are We Better or Worse?"

Fatal and Non-Fatal Injuries in WA Workplaces

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Good things to know

- WA FACE's goal is to prevent work-related fatal injuries.
- FACE receives funding from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to track fatal work-related traumatic injuries. FACE counts:
 - Deaths due to traumatic injury, not disease or natural causes. Includes MVIs, homicides, suicides, drug overdoses.
 - Deaths that occur at work and where there's an established work connection.
- Rates: Number of workers injured or killed / all workers. State, industry, and year specific.
- Incident type: Circumstances that caused an injury in broad categories – Falls, MVIs, Machinery.
- Industry: Sector > sub sector > industry.
- Trend lines: Also known as best fit lines, illustrate trends in data.
- Risk Classes: Describe risks to workers, employers have multiple, determine WC rate.

How do we get “safer”?

Never stop

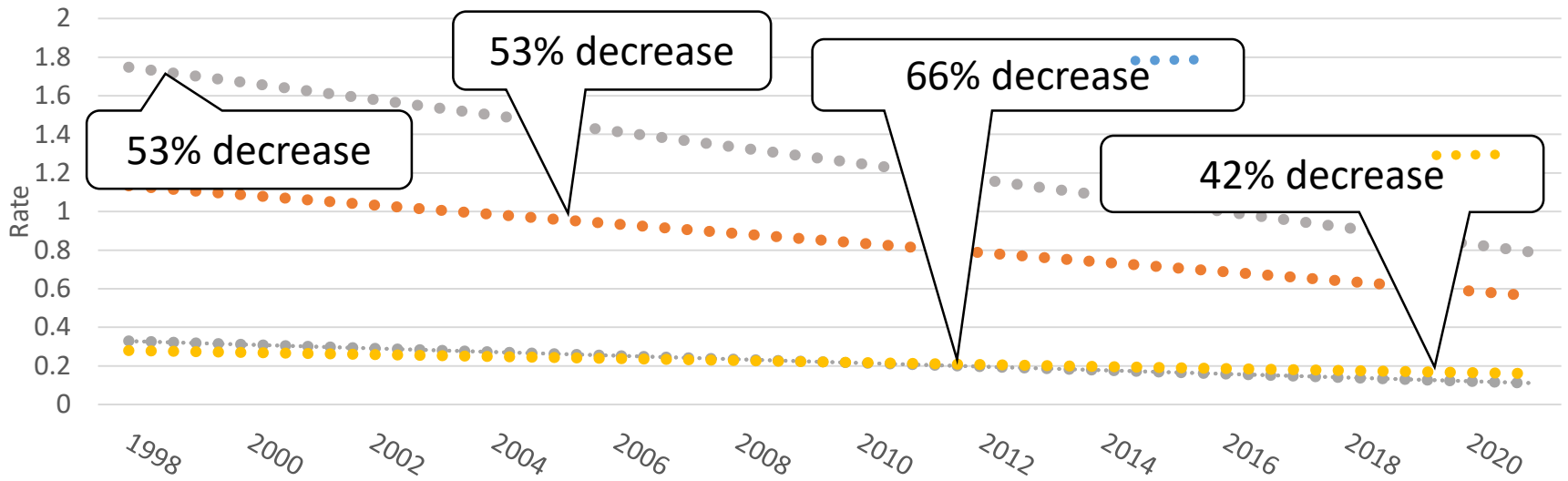
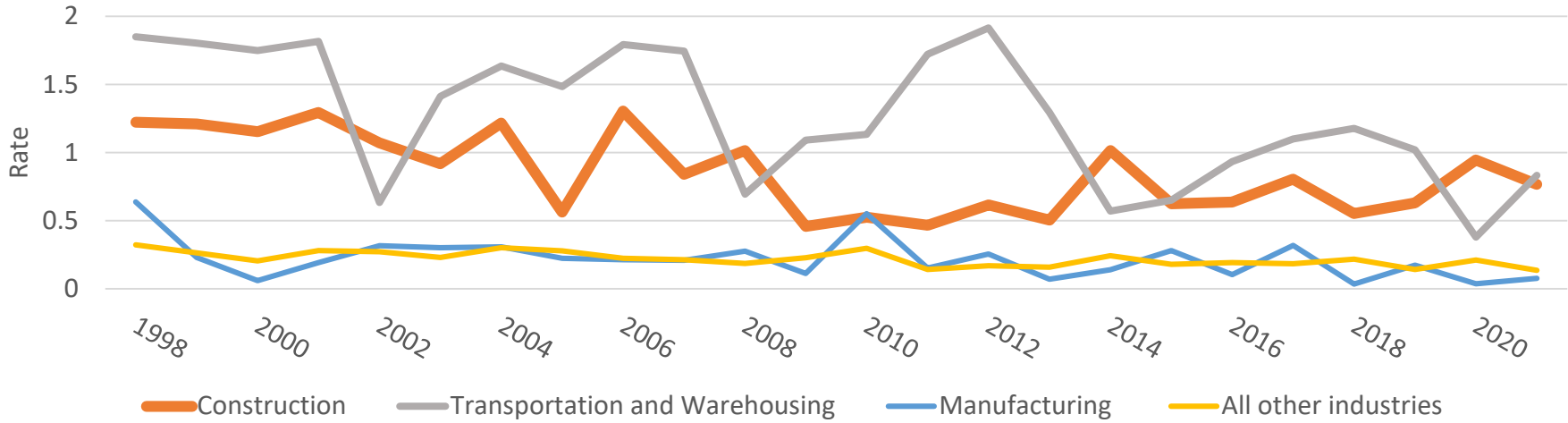
- Learning
- Teaching
- Promoting



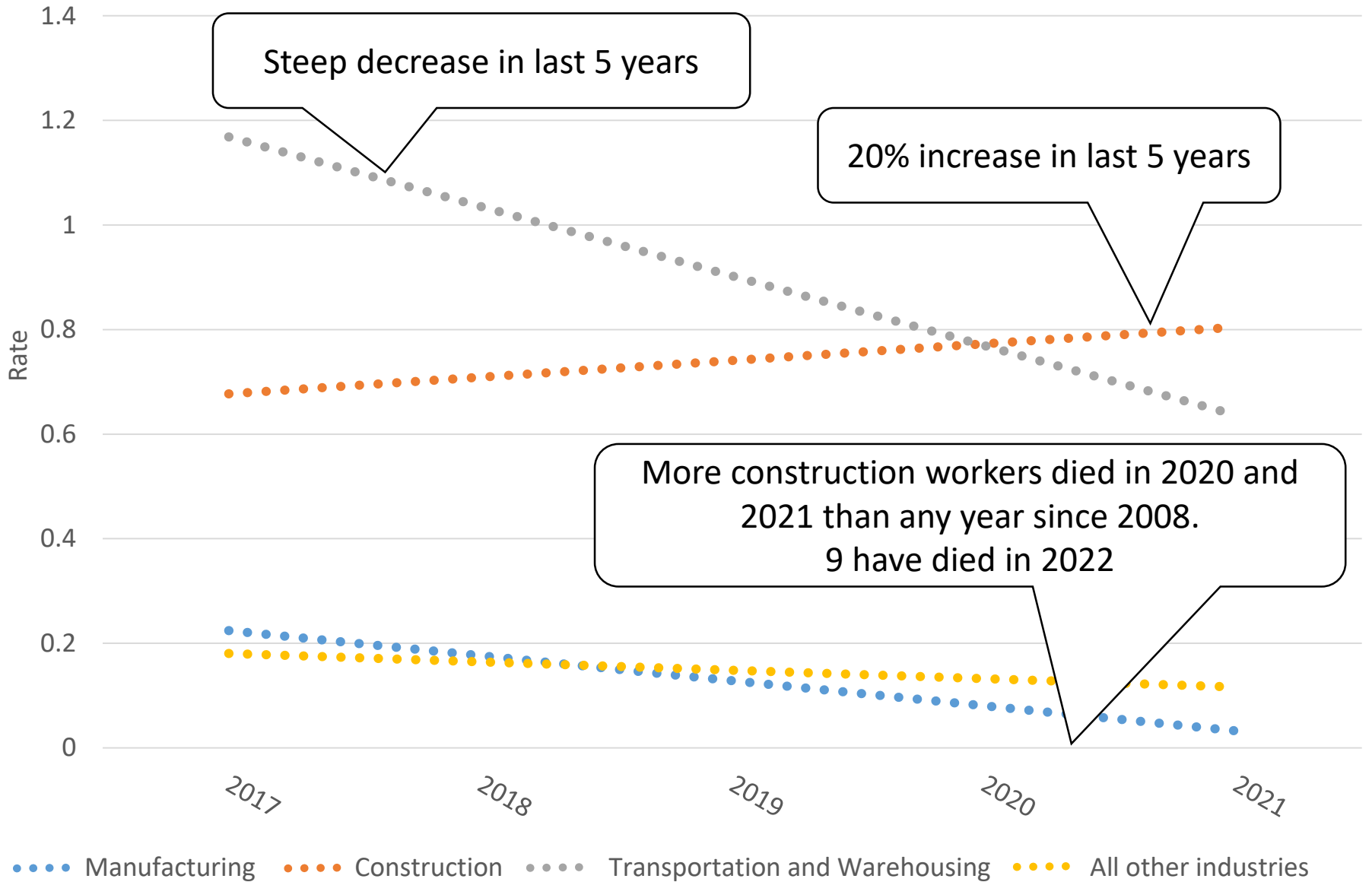
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State FACE Program

Fatality Assessment & Control Evaluation



Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

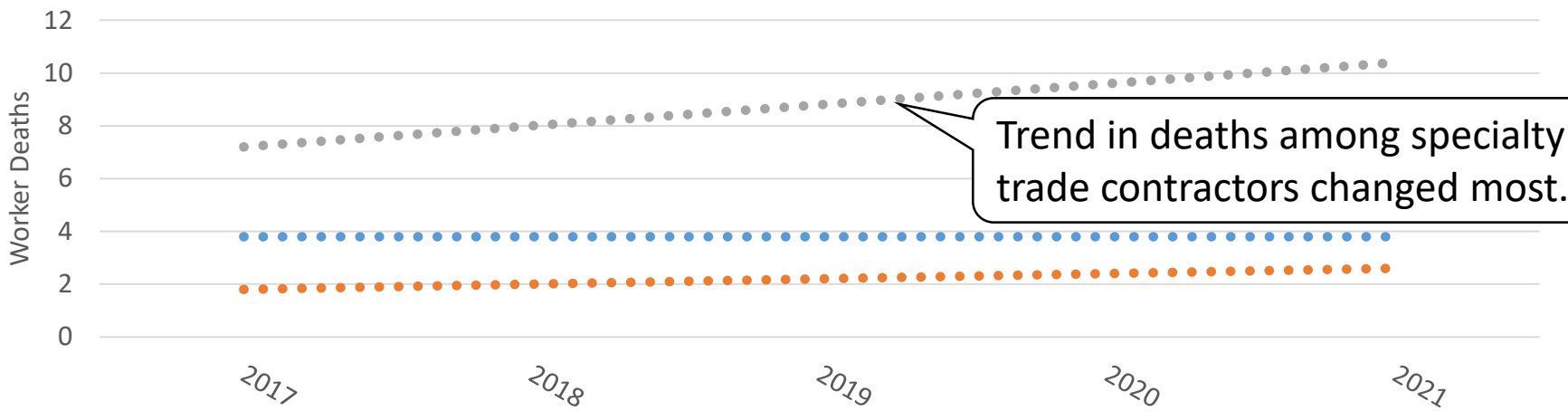
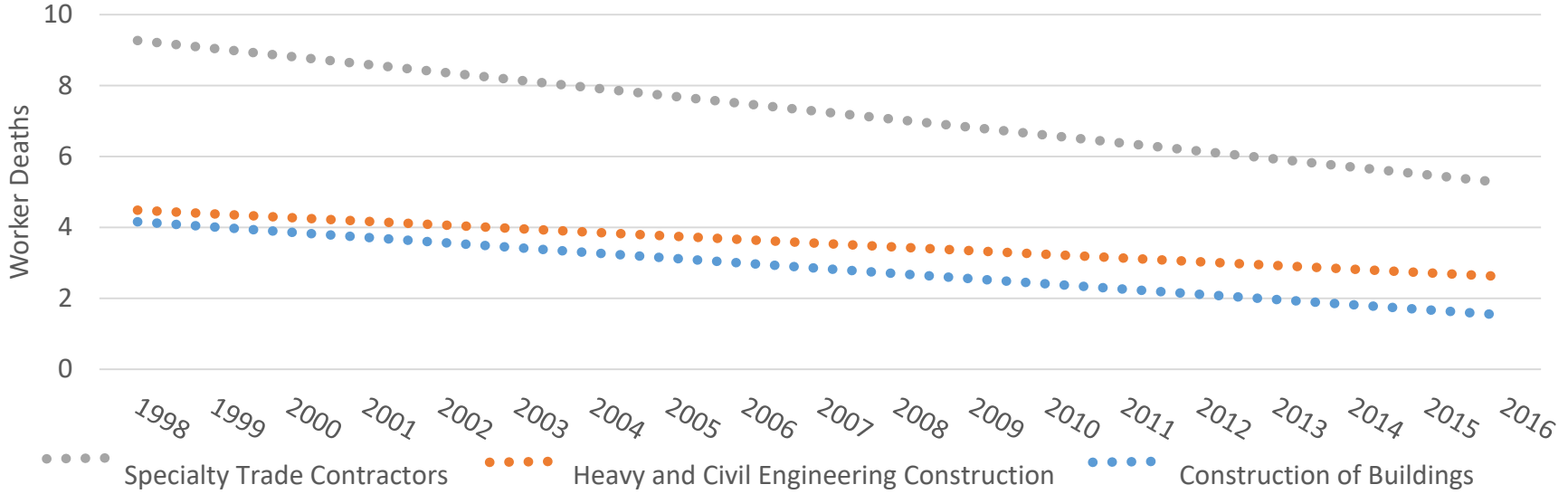




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Trend in deaths among specialty trade contractors changed most.

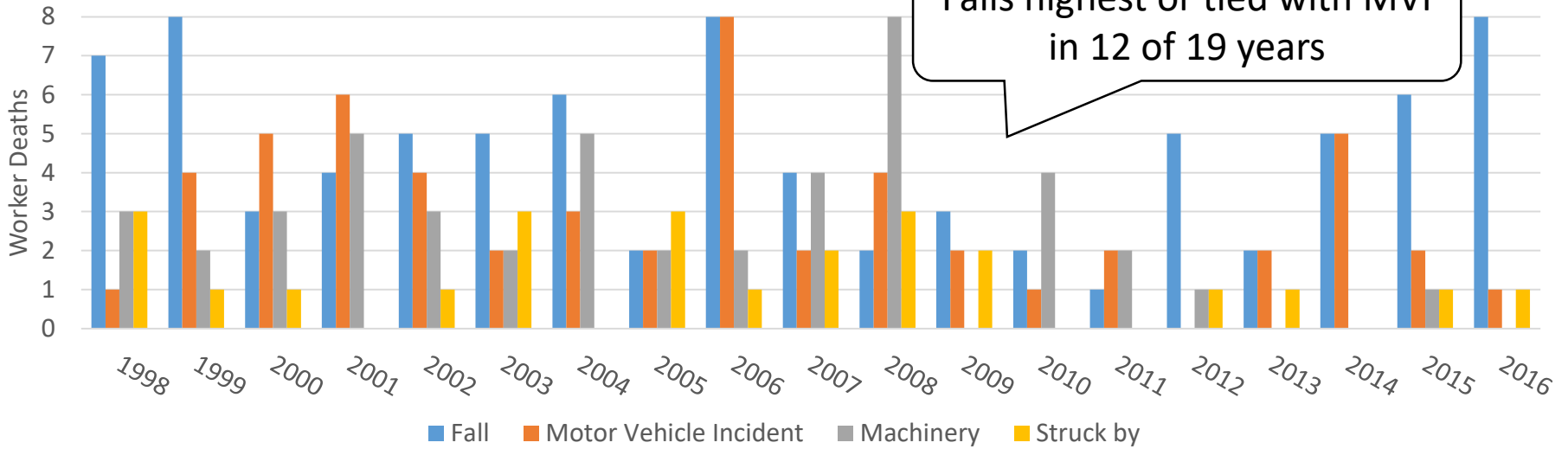




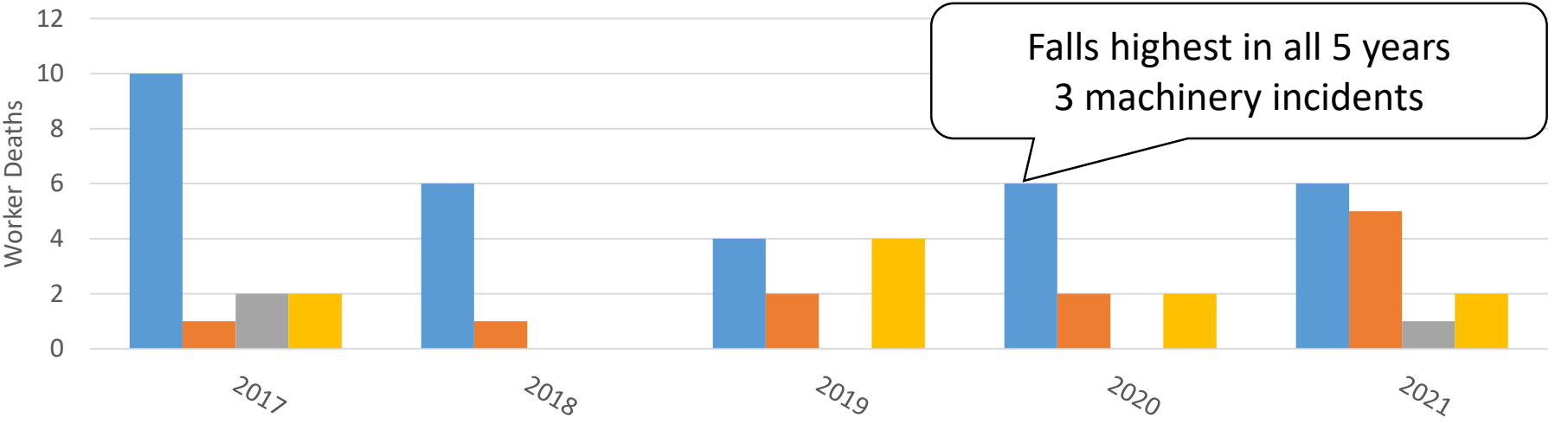
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Falls highest or tied with MVI in 12 of 19 years



Falls highest in all 5 years
3 machinery incidents



High Hazard 4 x 4s

- 4 industries x 4 incidents
- Account for 1/3 of deaths

34% were falls
 22% were MVIs
 3 suicides, 3 overdoses

Rank		1	2	3	4
	Industry, 1998-2016	Fall	Motor Vehicle	Machinery	Struck by
1	New Single-Family Housing Construction	13	5	4	2
2	Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction	2	14	7	
3	Site Preparation Contractors		6	8	8
4	Roofing Contractors	14	2	3	

43% were falls
 14% were MVIs
 6 suicides, 6 overdoses

Rank		1	2	3	4
	Industry, 2017-2021	Fall	Motor Vehicle	Struck by	Suicide
1	Roofing Contractors	8			1
2	All Other Specialty Trade Contractors	2		3	
3	Residential Remodelers	3	1	1	1
4	Site Preparation Contractors	1	2	1	

Summary

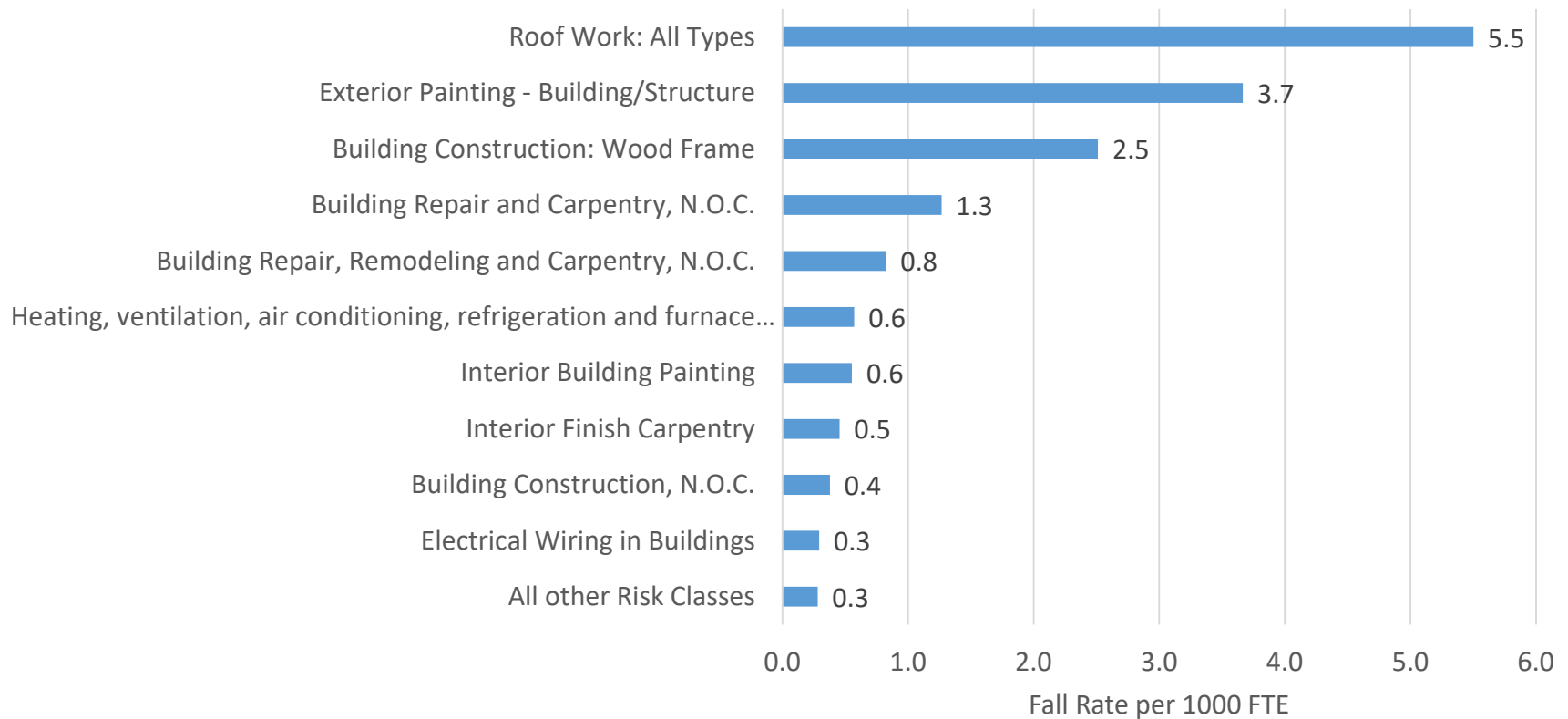
- Fatality rates among construction workers declined in the last 24 years but increased in the last 5.
- The number of worker deaths trended upward among specialty trade contractors and heavy and civil engineering in the last 5 years.
- Workers deaths due to falls was highest in most years, including the last 5 years.
- Worker deaths due to MVIs decreased in the last 5 years.
- There was a dramatic rise in the number of suicides and overdoses in the last 5 years.

Examining severe fall injuries in construction

- Severe fall injury
 - Worker hospitalized within one day of injury.
 - Compensable claim: Injury involving wage replacement for missed work, disability, or death.
- Construction sector
 - All NAICS 23 because risk classes are not restricted to a single industry
- Injury date
 - 2015-2019
- 453 severe fall injuries

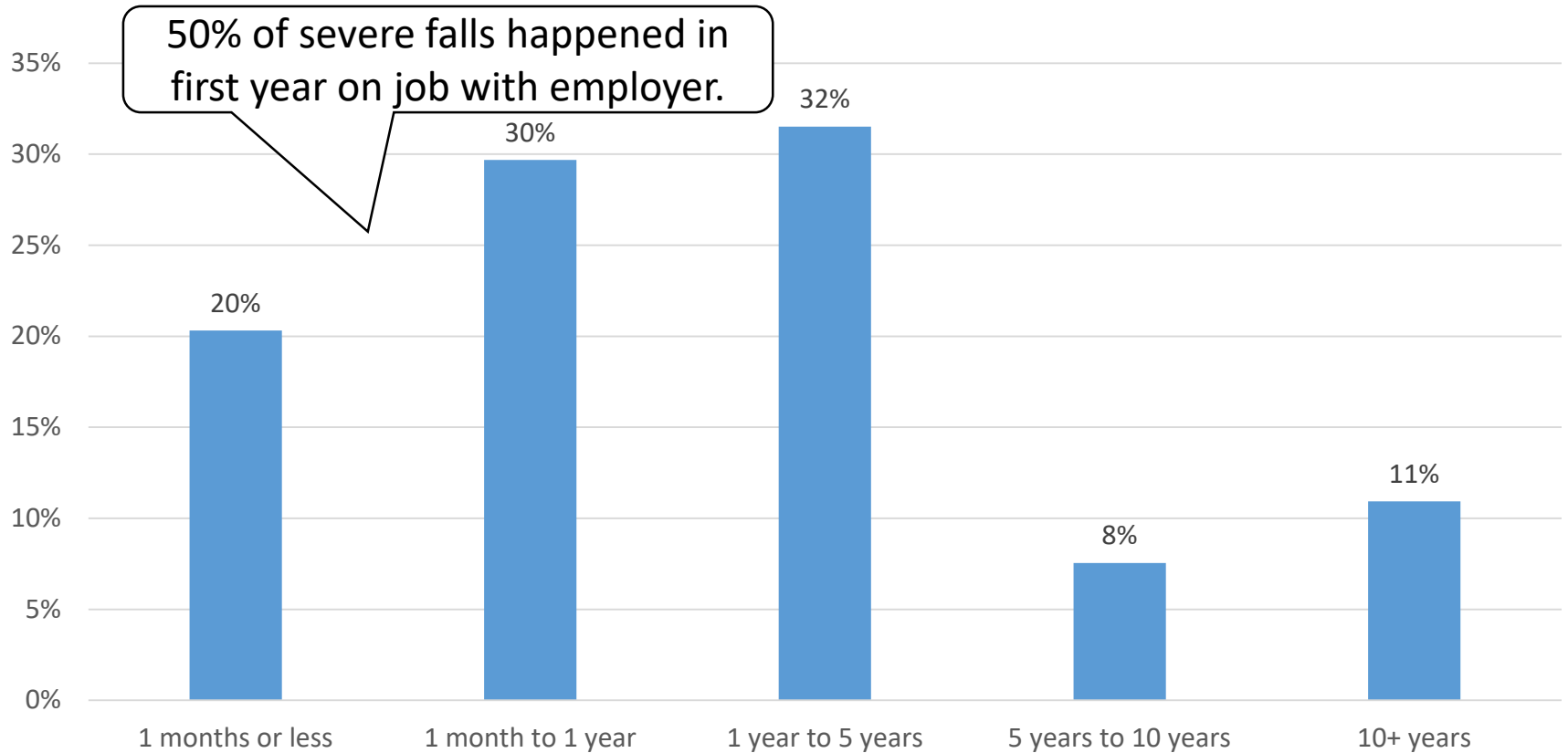
Fall Injury Rates by Risk Class

WA WC claims data, 2015-2019



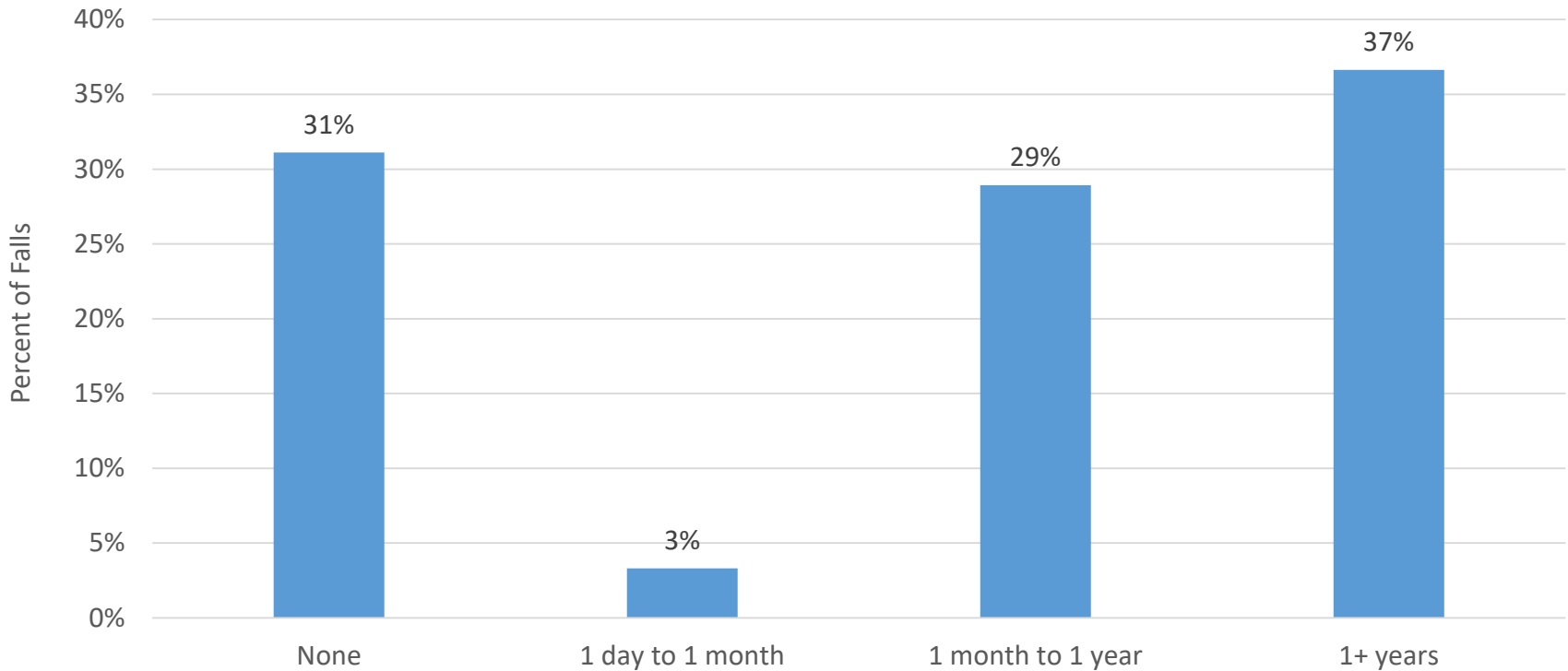
Worker Time with Employer

WA WC claims data, 2015-2019



Paid Time Away from Work

WA WC claims data, 2015-2019



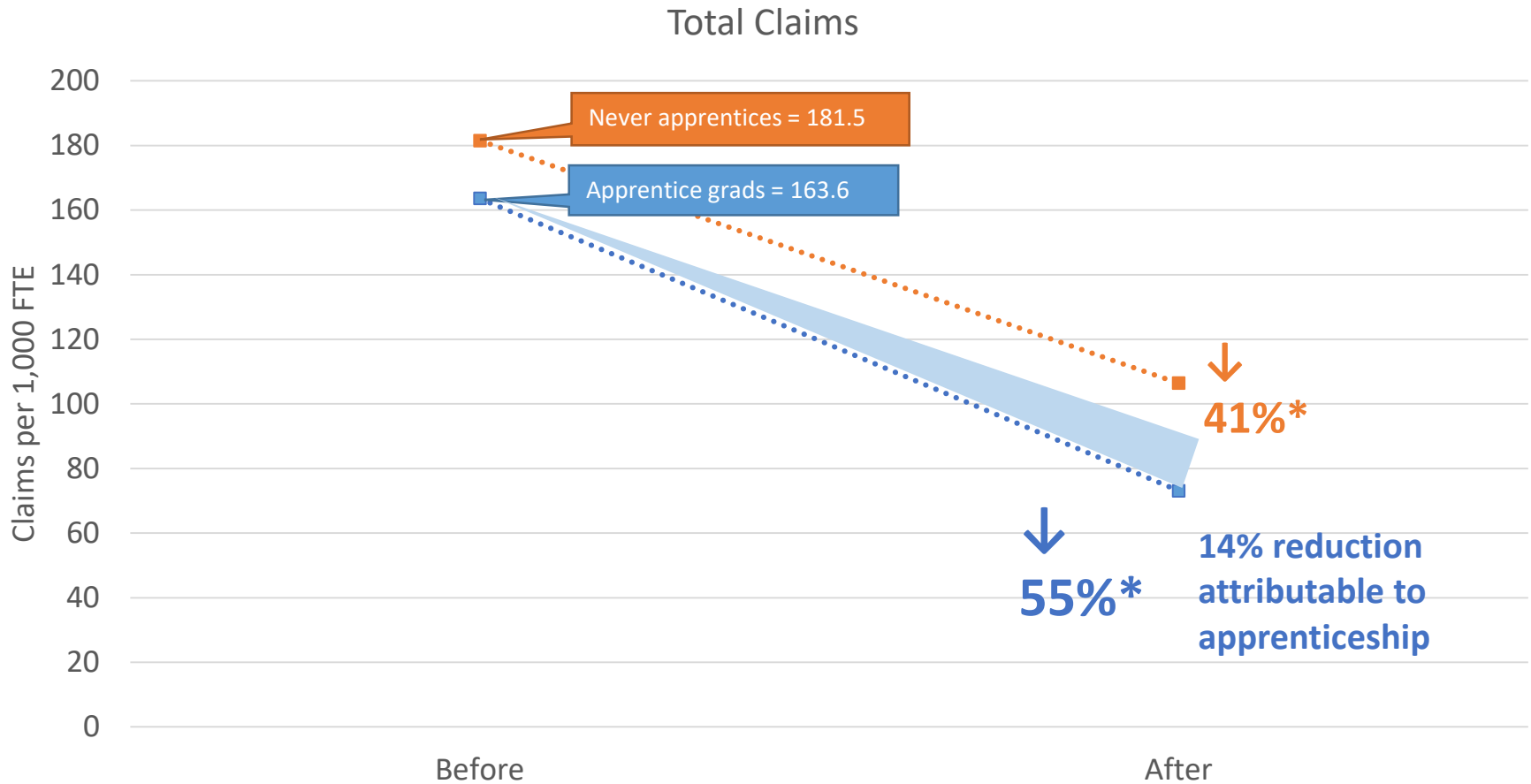
Summary

- Workers classified in roof work, exterior painting, and wood frame construction risk classes suffered falls at the highest rates.
- Workers fell from ladders and from and through roofs most frequently.
- Half of the workers experienced a fall within the first year with the employer.
- 37% of workers who fell were away from work for a year or more.
- Fall rates were highest among smaller employers and consistently lower as employer size decreased.

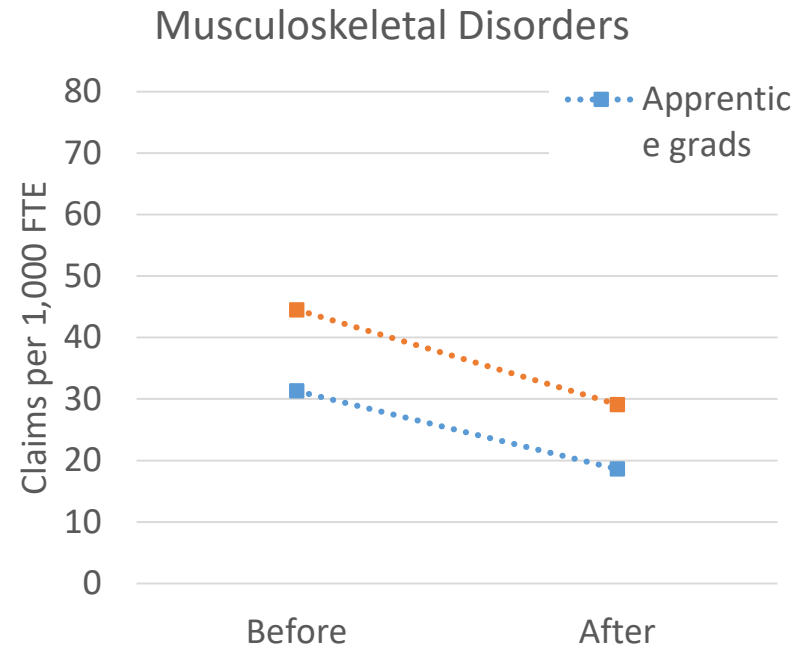
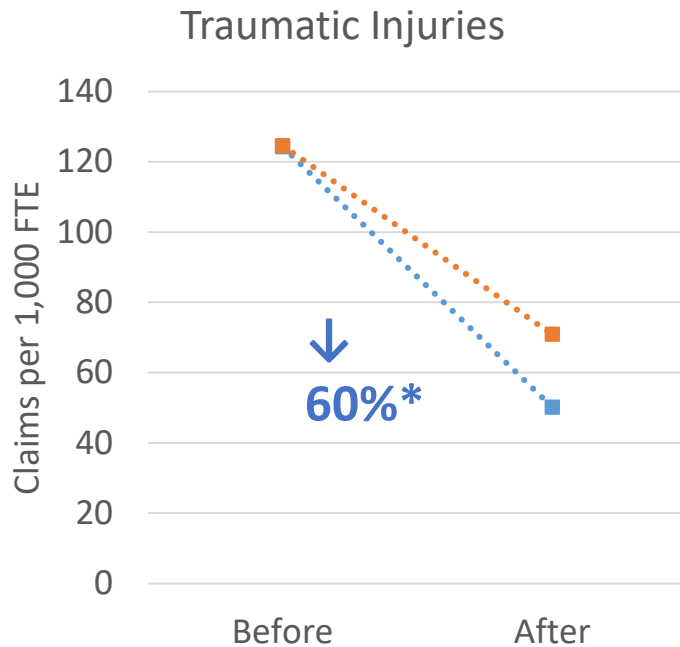
JLP licensed with state
Straightforward licensing data – easy to track them
All 3 groups did similar work tasks
Very specific training and supervision requirements
Used 2000-2018 data



Workers' compensation claim rates: 5 yrs before JLP certification vs. after



Workers' compensation claim rates: 5 yrs before JLP certification vs. after



Summary

- Fewer and larger reduction in work-related injuries after apprenticeship
 - Acute injuries > musculoskeletal disorders
- Possible explanations?
 - Apprentice programs impart workplace safety competencies
 - Self-selection:
 - Workers with propensity for safety seek out apprenticeships
 - Safer employers host and preferentially hire apprentice grads

Apprenticeships

[Find an Apprentice or Apprenticeship Program](#)

You can find:

- An apprentice by training/program
- Apprenticeship programs by name, county, and occupation
- Training agents/Employers

Learning and Teaching – FACE Fatality Narratives

Slideshows have more photos,
illustrations and details.

Construction

- [Truck Driver/Equipment Operator Crushed while Loading Backhoe onto Trailer Slideshow](#)
- [Apprentice Ironworker Struck by Dropped Steel Wedge Slideshow](#)
- [Communication Tower Worker Falls 260 Feet Slideshow](#)

Trucking

- [Driver Caught Between Trucks at Warehouse Loading Dock Slideshow](#)
- [Truck Driver Has Fatal Fall While Tarping Flatbed Trailer Slideshow](#)
- [Driver Struck by Semi-Truck in Shipper's Parking Lot Slideshow](#)

Also available for Agriculture and Services sectors.

Learning and Teaching FACE Fatality Investigations

Some topics explored:

Hazardous energy control,
APP/LOTO/safety program audit deficiencies

- [Driver Crushed Under Tires of Rollaway Chip Truck](#) [Summary](#)
- [Compost Plant Operator Caught in Rotating Conveyor Belt](#) [Summary](#)
- [Hay Press Operator Struck by Machine's Guillotine Blade](#) [Summary](#)

Other topics we're concerned about recently

- [Retail Hazard Alert: Women Victims of Homicide](#) | [Korean](#)
- [Workplace Homicide by Gender](#)
- [Alert: Suicides at Work in Construction](#)
- [Painter Dies from Accidental Drug Overdose](#)

In 2022 so far:

Homicides: 7
Suicides: 6
Overdoses: 5

*All industries

Learning and Teaching – Sign up to receive WA FACE publications by email:

- [Construction Fatality/Injury Narratives](#)
- [Trucking Fatality/Injury Narratives](#)
- [Agriculture Fatality/Injury Narratives](#)
- [Fatality Investigation Reports](#)

Promoting – Safety Campaigns

[Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction](#) – May

[Excavation and Trenching Safety Stand-Down](#) – June 20-24

Questions