



SERBIAN REGULATION ON OCCUPATIONAL CANCER

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Serbian list of occupational diseases

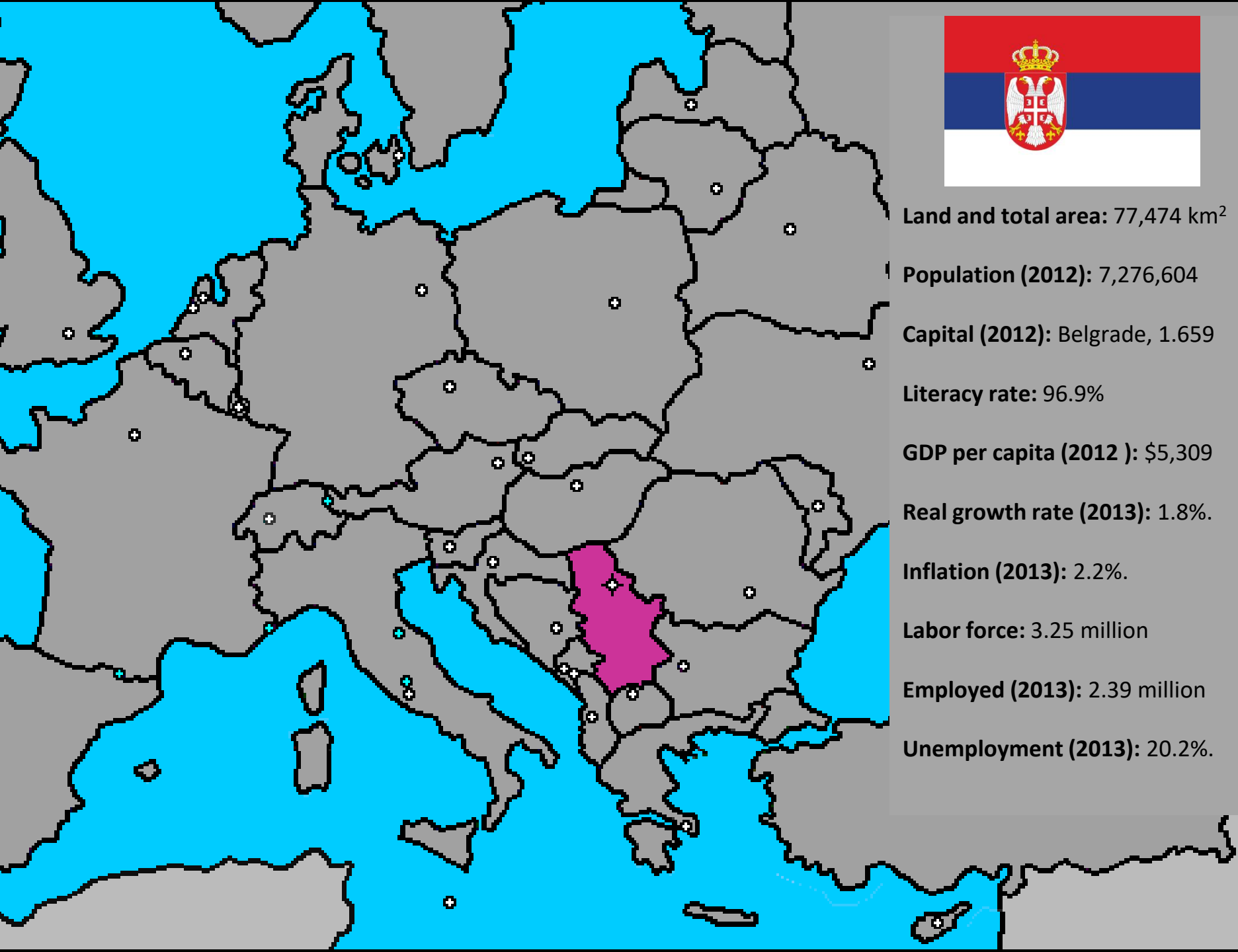
Occupational cancer diagnostic criteria

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Incidence of occupational cancer in Serbia

Way forward





Land and total area: 77,474 km²

Population (2012): 7,276,604

Capital (2012): Belgrade, 1.659

Literacy rate: 96.9%

GDP per capita (2012): \$5,309

Real growth rate (2013): 1.8%.

Inflation (2013): 2.2%.

Labor force: 3.25 million

Employed (2013): 2.39 million

Unemployment (2013): 20.2%.

INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Long tradition in developing criteria for fitness for work assessment and criteria for occupational disease verification
- ❑ Occupational diseases are regulated by two laws:
 - Law on Pension and Disability Insurance-“Certain illnesses incurred during the insurance period, caused by longterm direct influence of processes and working conditions in the workplace, or in the jobs performed“
 - Law on Health Insurance-“Disease caused by prolonged exposure to the workplace hazards“



INTRODUCTION-RECORDING OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

- Recording also regulated in two (three) laws:
 - **Health Care Law**-Organization and implementation of data collection and monitoring the epidemiological situation in the field of occupational diseases is the task of Institute of Occupational Health of Serbia.
 - **Law on Records in the health care**-Recording of occupational diseases entrusted to Institute of Public Health of Serbia.
 - **Law on Safety and Health at Work**-Recording of occupational diseases is task of Directorate for Safety and Health at Work.



SERBIAN LIST OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

- ❑ Rules on occupational diseases verification-enacted in 2003 (identical to the Regulations of 1997)
- ❑ Closed list
- ❑ 56 diseases
 - 30 chemical agents
 - 9 physical agents
 - 4 biological agents
 - 10 lung diseases
 - 2 skin diseases
 - 1 occupational cancer



SERBIAN LIST OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

- ❑ Serbian regulation lays down only general verification criteria
- ❑ Two sets of verification criteria:
 - Exposure criteria
 - Clinical diagnostic criteria
- ❑ Theoretically, every organization might develop own internal verification criteria
- ❑ Legislation did not envisaged right on second opinion in verification of occupational diseases



SERBIAN LIST OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

- The role of occupational medicine specialist?
- The role of general practitioners?
- Financing of occupational disease verification?

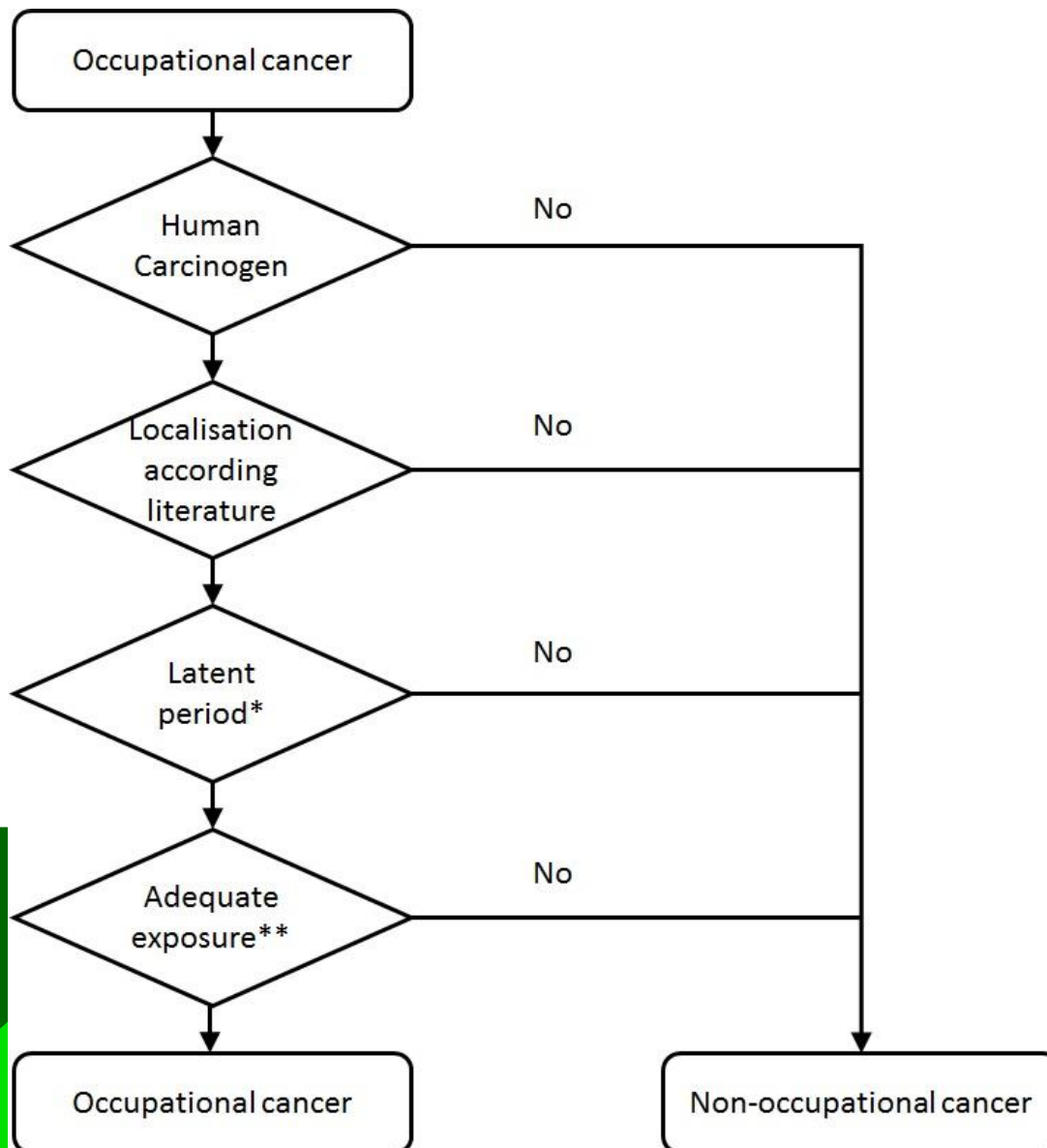


OCCUPATIONAL CANCER DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA

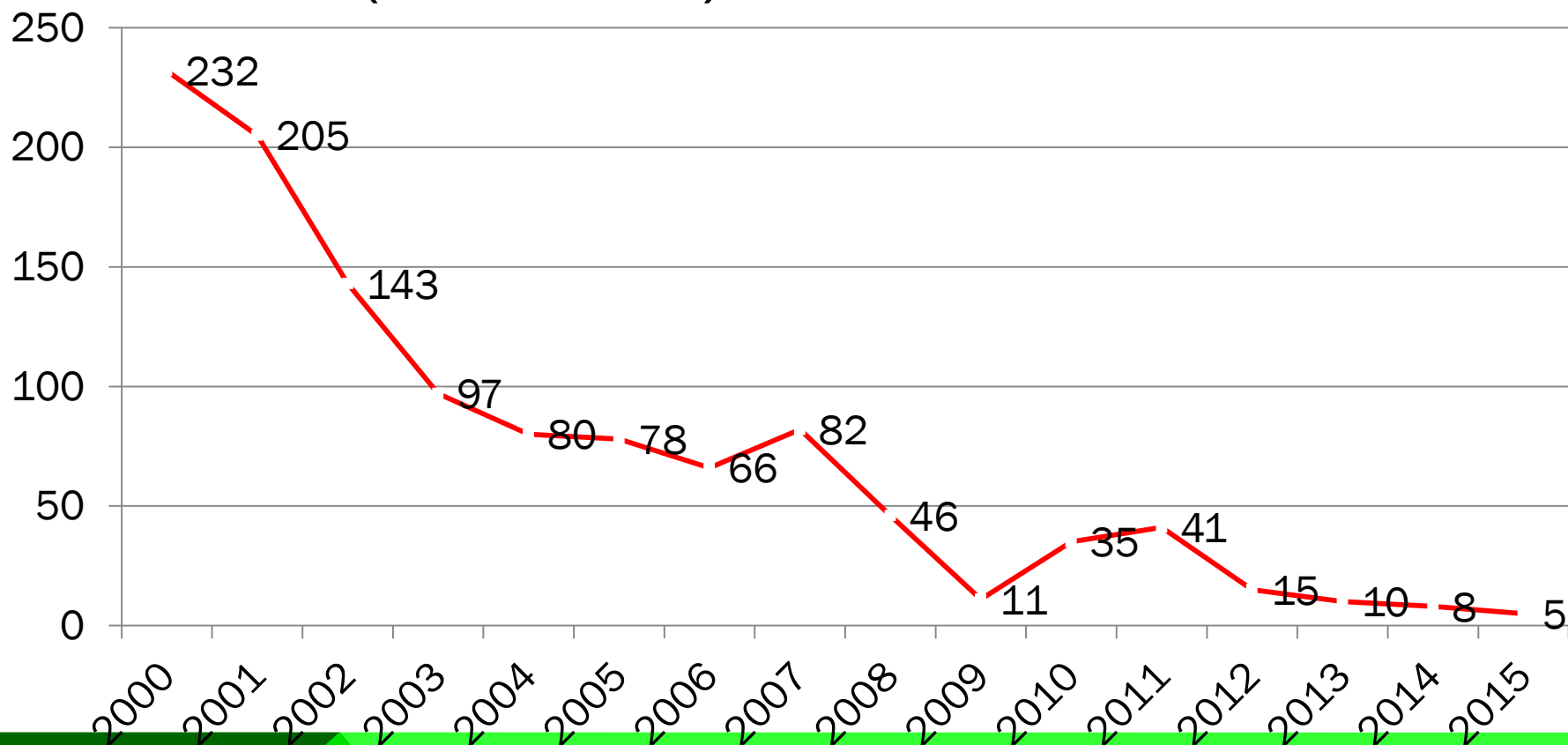
- ❑ Regulation on occupational disease verification is rather general
- ❑ Within exposure criteria it is stated: “Jobs and workplaces on employee had contact with carcinogens”
- ❑ In clinical diagnostic criteria, it is stated: “Clinical presentation of cancer case caused by ionizing radiation or ultraviolet rays or chemical carcinogens listed by International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as human carcinogens (Group 1).



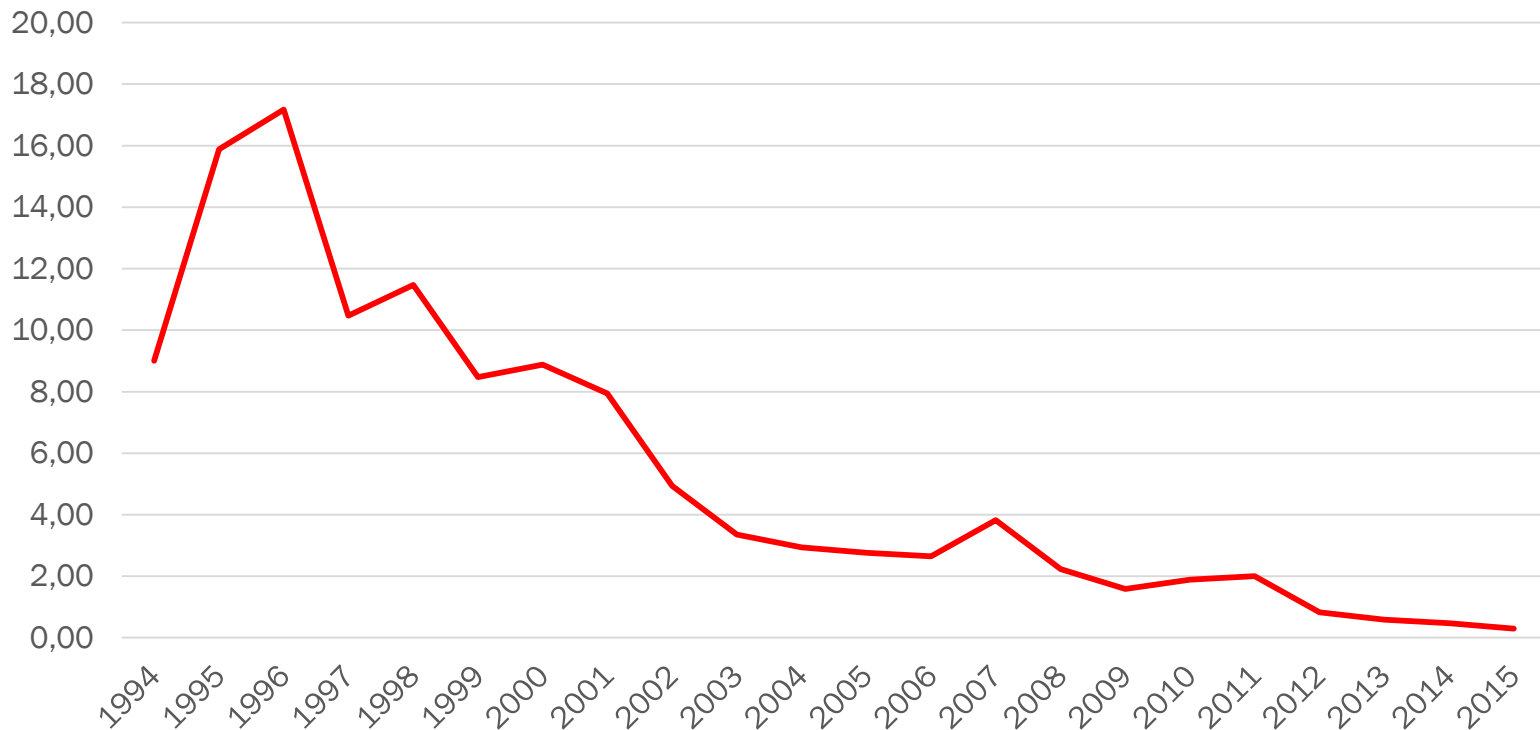
INCIDENCE OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES IN SERBIA



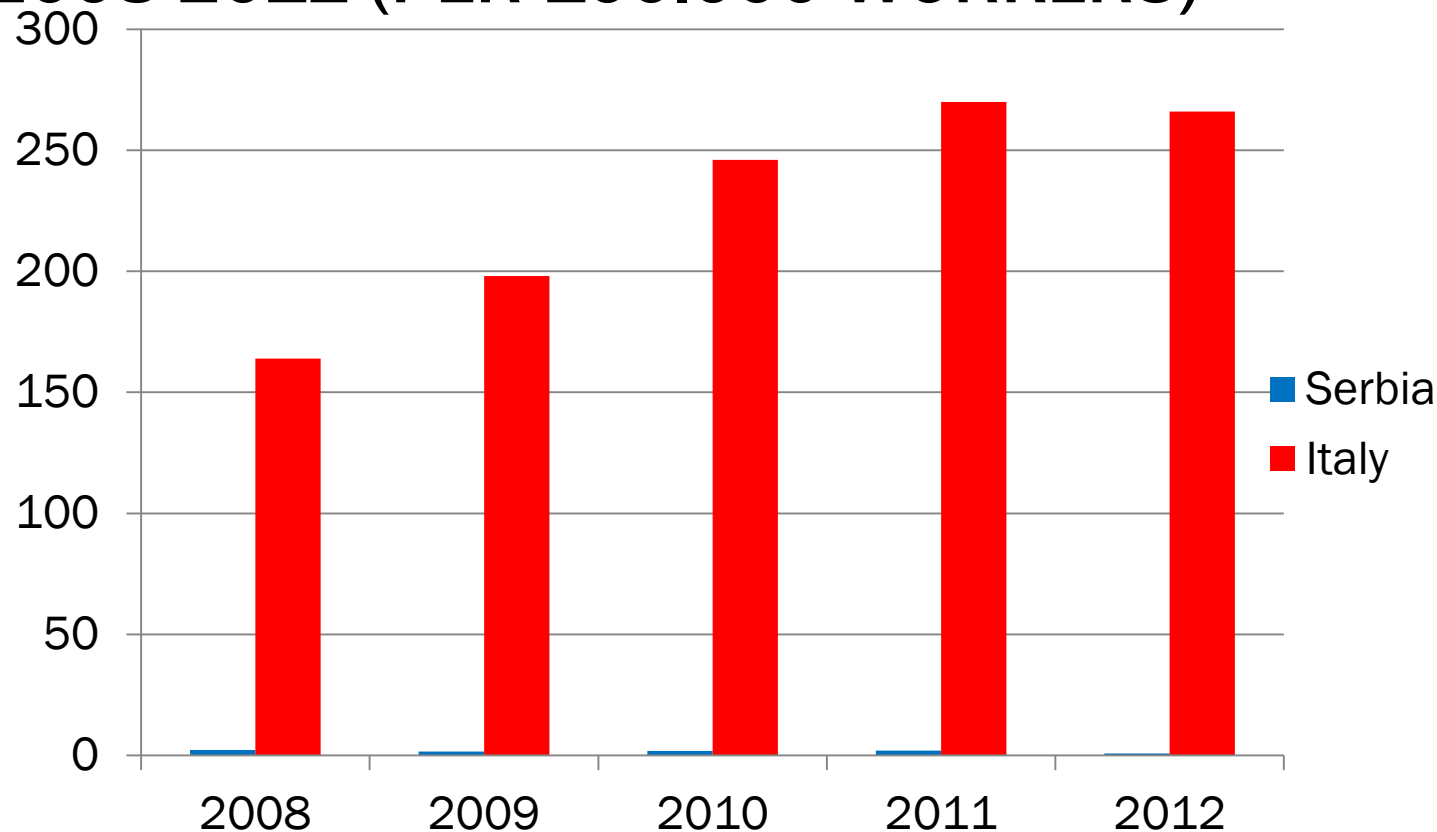
INCIDENCE OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES IN SERBIA (2000-2015)



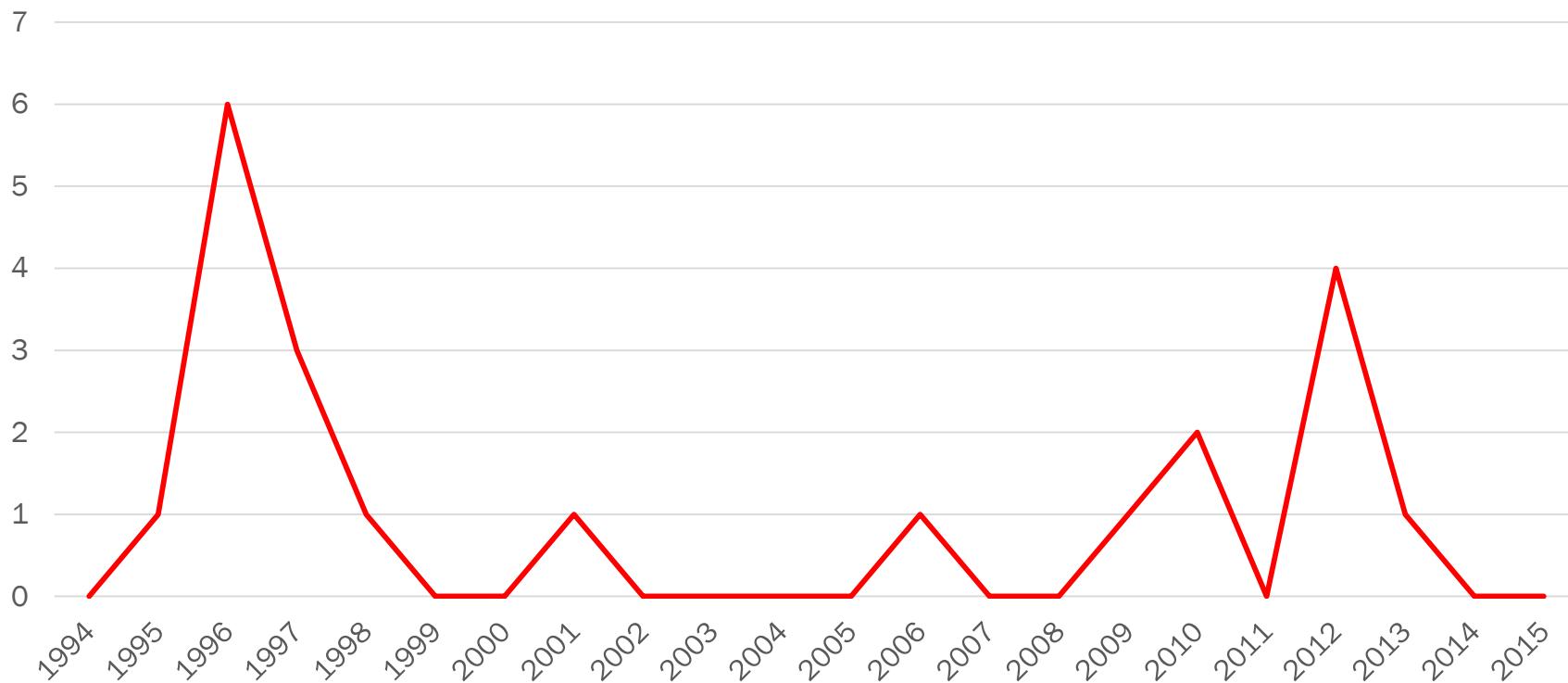
INCIDENCE OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES IN SERBIA (1994-2015) (PER 100.000 EMPLOYED)



OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES IN SERBIA AND ITALY 2008-2012 (PER 100.000 WORKERS)



OCCUPATIONAL CANCER CASES IN SERBIA 1994-2015.



OCCUPATIONAL CANCER IN SERBIA

- ❑ Negligible part of occupational disease incidence in Serbia.
- ❑ In last 22 years there were only 21 verified case of occupational cancer.
- ❑ All cases are from health care institutions linked with ionizing radiation exposure.
- ❑ Data from Serbian cancer registry indicates that in period 2009-2013 there were:
 - 110 registered mesothelioma cases (85%~93)*
 - 28285 lung cancer cases (20%~5657)*

*Straif, K: The burden of occupational cancer. Occup Environ Med, 65, 2008, 787-8.



OCCUPATIONAL CANCER IN SERBIA

- ❑ Even if Serbia developed rather modern criteria for occupational cancer verification, there is a huge underreporting of occupational cancer.
- ❑ Underreporting of occupational cancer in Serbia might be linked with:
 - Diminished role of occupational health
 - Lack of general practice colleagues expertise in the field of occupational diseases
 - Unclear responsibility for verification of occupational diseases
 - Unclear financing of occupational disease diagnostic procedures
 - Doubtful process of reporting
 - Lack of carcinogen exposure registers
 - Lack of exposure data
 - Lack of occupational disease insurance



WAY FORWARD

- Development of new Rules on occupational diseases verification (close/open list) with clear, detailed criteria for verification of occupational diseases
- Development of cancer exposure registry
- Development of occupational disease registry
- Awareness raising among general practitioners as well as among employees on occupational diseases
- Establishment of occupational disease and occupational injury insurance



CONCLUSION

- ❑ Broad criteria for occupational cancer registration and negligible incidence of registered cancer cases indicate that there is significant problem of underreporting of occupational diseases and especially of occupational cancer.
- ❑ Occupational health and safety officials should undertake prompt reaction to establish a sustainable system for verification of occupational diseases and occupational cancer.

