

Counting the Cost of Injury and Poor Health - an Analysis of QCOS Data

Bruce Ham

Mining OHS Consultant

1 – Who is QCOS

- The Queensland Coal and Oil Shale Mining Industry Superannuation Fund provides the industry superannuation service.
- QCOS pays out superannuation benefits and insurance claims to the families of deceased members and members with total permanent disability.

2 – What is the study about

- To inform on a previously unreported OHS outcomes.
- To advise of prevalence disorders in the context of data on the general population
- To highlight the need to have health and safety management systems to manage health risks in the workplace.

3 - Method of Classification

- The 267 records classified into 10 categories using International Classification of Disease.
- Modified to capture risk information on nervous and mental disorders.
- These may be classified as external injuries which is often the clinical outcome.

4 - Method of Analysis

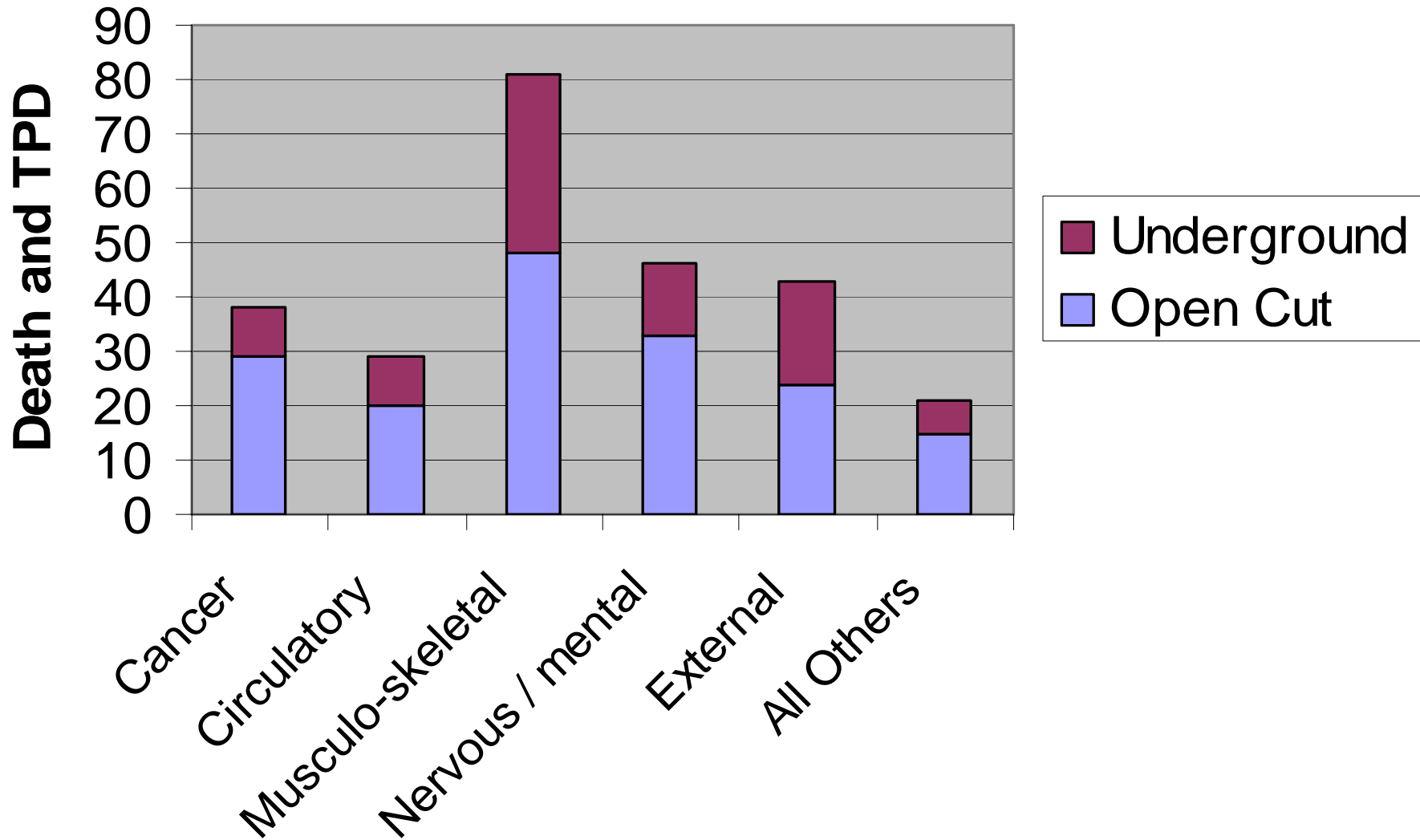
- The age distribution of the coal mining industry employees was estimated from health assessment
- Death rates compared with data published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2002)
- Estimated the cost of death and total permanent disability

5 - QCOS Data - Deaths and TPD by Cause

Year	Deaths	TPD	Total
1998	10	22	32
1999	8	65	73
2000	13	59	72
2001	6	46	52
2002	13	24	37
2003	1	0	1
Total	51	216	267

2/7/2007

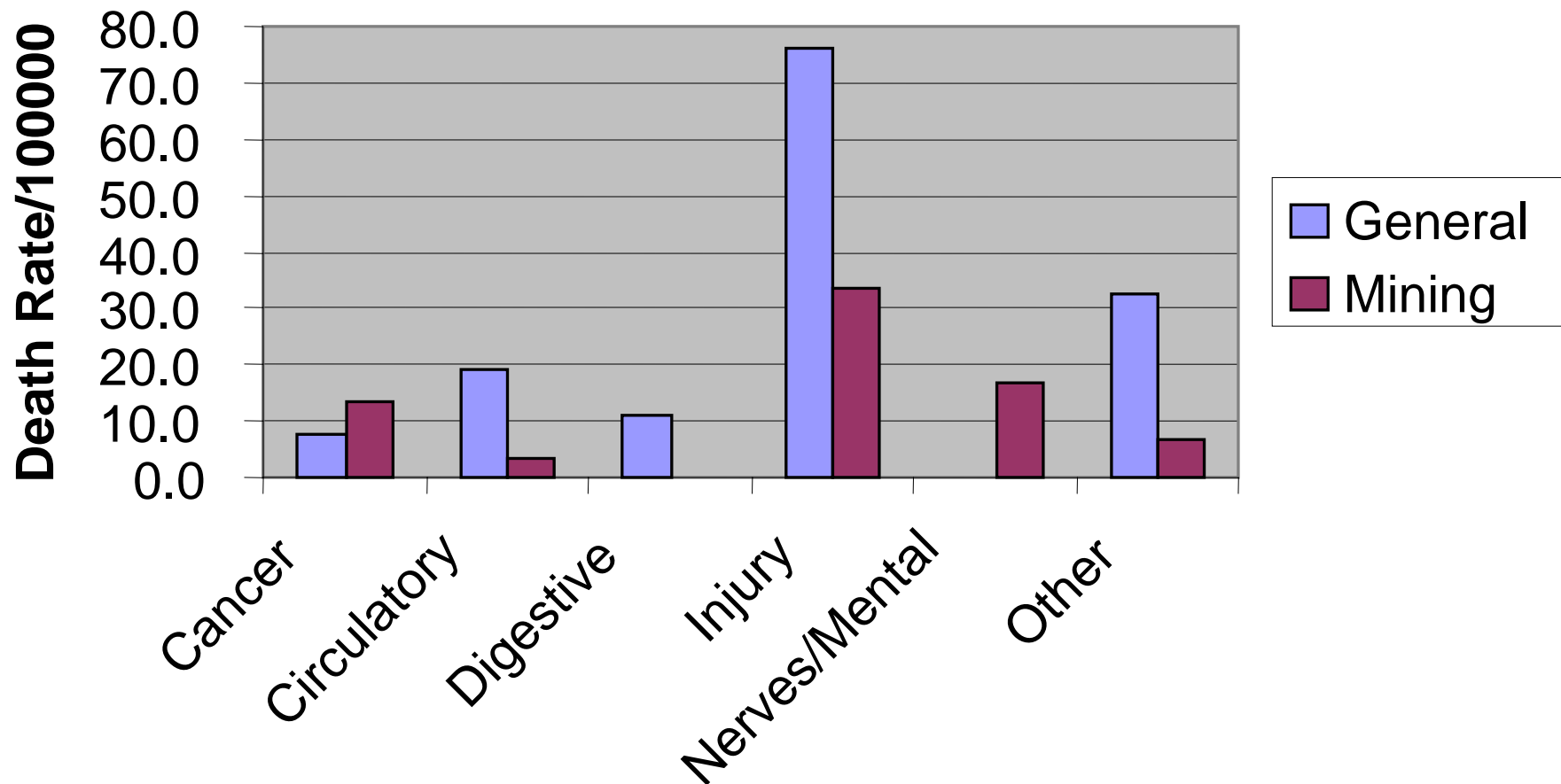
6 Death and TPD by Cause



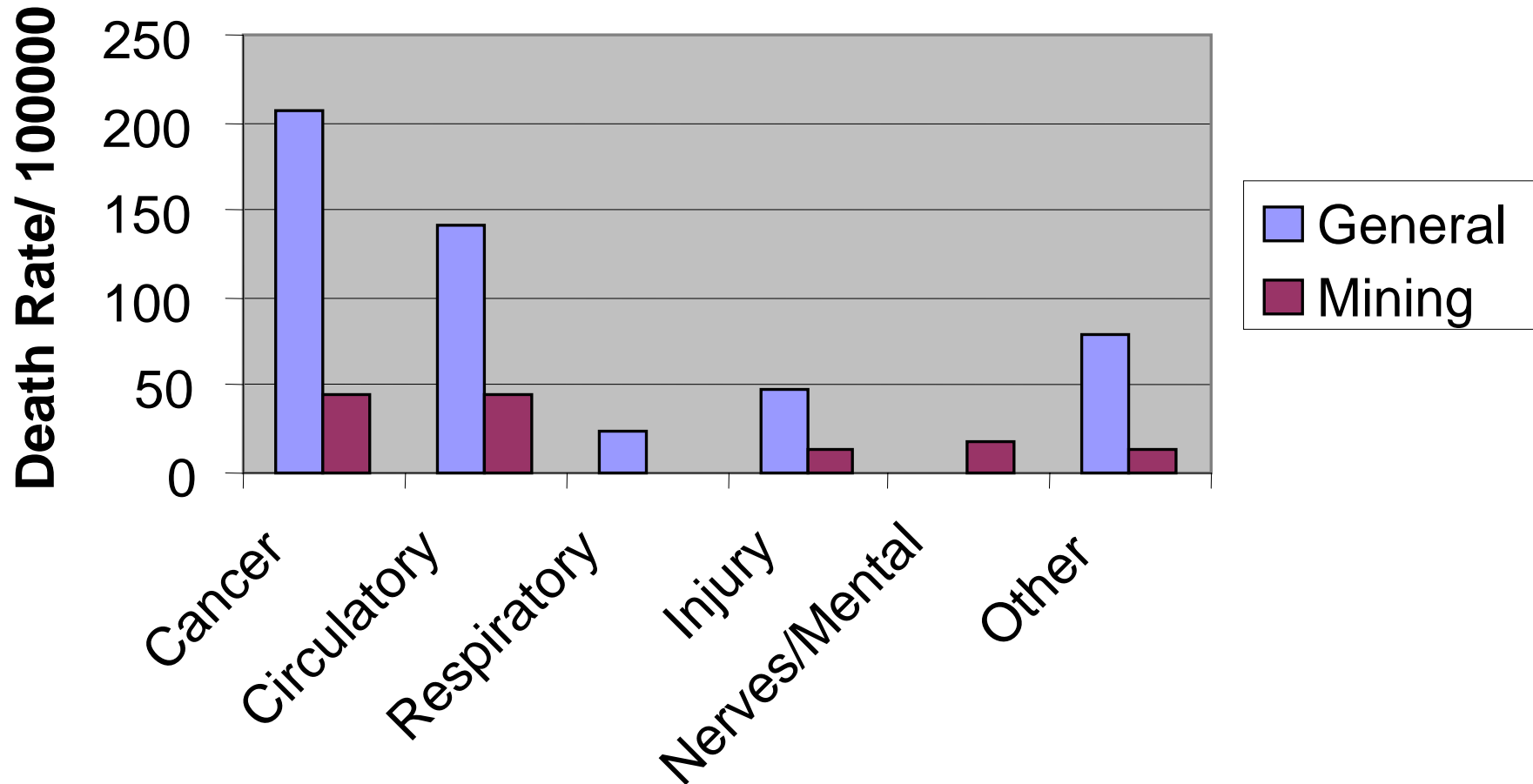
7 Cost Estimates from NRM , Workcover and QCOS data

Source	Days	Man-Years	Total Cost \$M
LTI Data	3627	18	1
Mine Returns	5475	27	2
Sickness	31158	156	12
Workcover			4
Lost wages - QCOS		660	43

8 Comparison of Death Rates Age Group 25 to 44



9 Comparison of Death Rates - Age Group 45 to 64



10 Sensitivity to Alternate Interpretation in Coding

Cause	Author Reviewer	
Cancer	34	33
Circulatory disease	33	34
Musculo-skeletal disorders	84	88
Nervous / mental disorders	51	59
Respiratory disease	4	4
External causes	45	32
Other	16	15

11 Validity Issues

- No mechanism to capture fatigue related deaths
- The lead time on dust disease
- Data of persons over 60 years age is not reliably collected
- The delay in reporting the QCOS data 2002 data is considered incomplete

12 Implications for OHS

Practice

- Industry Commission report on Work, Health and Safety' (1995)
- *CMSH Reg-Health* Scheme - health and exposure monitoring and a safety management system
- Need research and consultation to establish appropriate trigger levels
- Maintain confidentiality of private health data.

13 - Conclusions

- Use of superannuation fund data to identify long-term health outcomes
- Musculo-skeletal disorders, nervous / mental disorders and cancer conditions
169 out of 267
- 34 cases per year of death or TPD
- Where are our safety management systems that help protect the health of the current workforce