

Health *Work* Privacy
 Safety Evaluation
 Occupational Policy
 Data Knowledge
 Administrative Databases
 Surveillance **Injury**

Partnership for Work, Health and Safety

Evaluating inspections

What are the injury prevention effects of WorkSafeBC prevention activities?

Kim McLeod

September 27, 2013



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Introduction

- Background on me and my work
- Describe how inspections should work to prevent injuries
- Explain my research
- Outline the contributions this research will make

A bit about me

- First job out of university – water treatment plant inspector for Alberta Environment
- Good cop / bad cop



VS.



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My interest in worker safety



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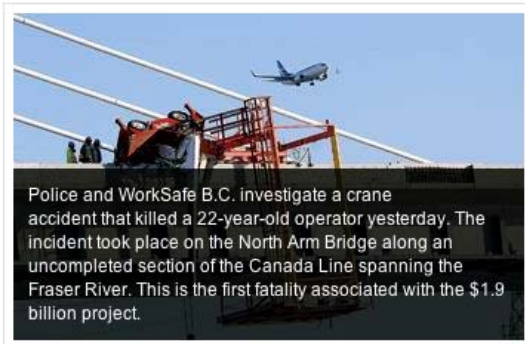
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January 22, 2008

Updated: January 22, 2008 | 11:02 am

Crane worker dies

By Fernando Carneiro
Metro Vancouver



The 22-year-old operator of a mobile crane working at a Canada Line construction site died yesterday when the crane tipped over, pinning him in the cab and crushing him to death.

The man was hoisting a load of materials onto the deck of a bridge connecting Vancouver to Richmond over the Fraser River when the crane toppled, according to Canada Line spokesman Steve Crombie.

The accident occurred just before noon.

Metro (Vancouver),
2008

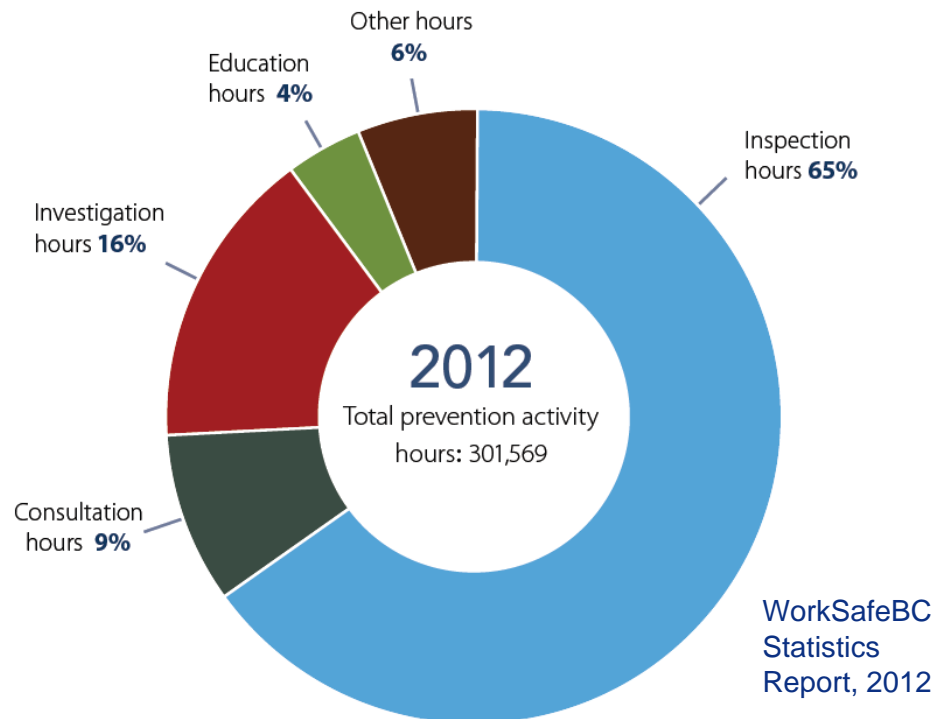
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Why is it important to evaluate inspections?

- Significant human resources investment at WorkSafeBC
- Key part of prevention program
 - Almost 200,000 hours spent on inspections last year



Background: How do we think inspections work to promote safety?

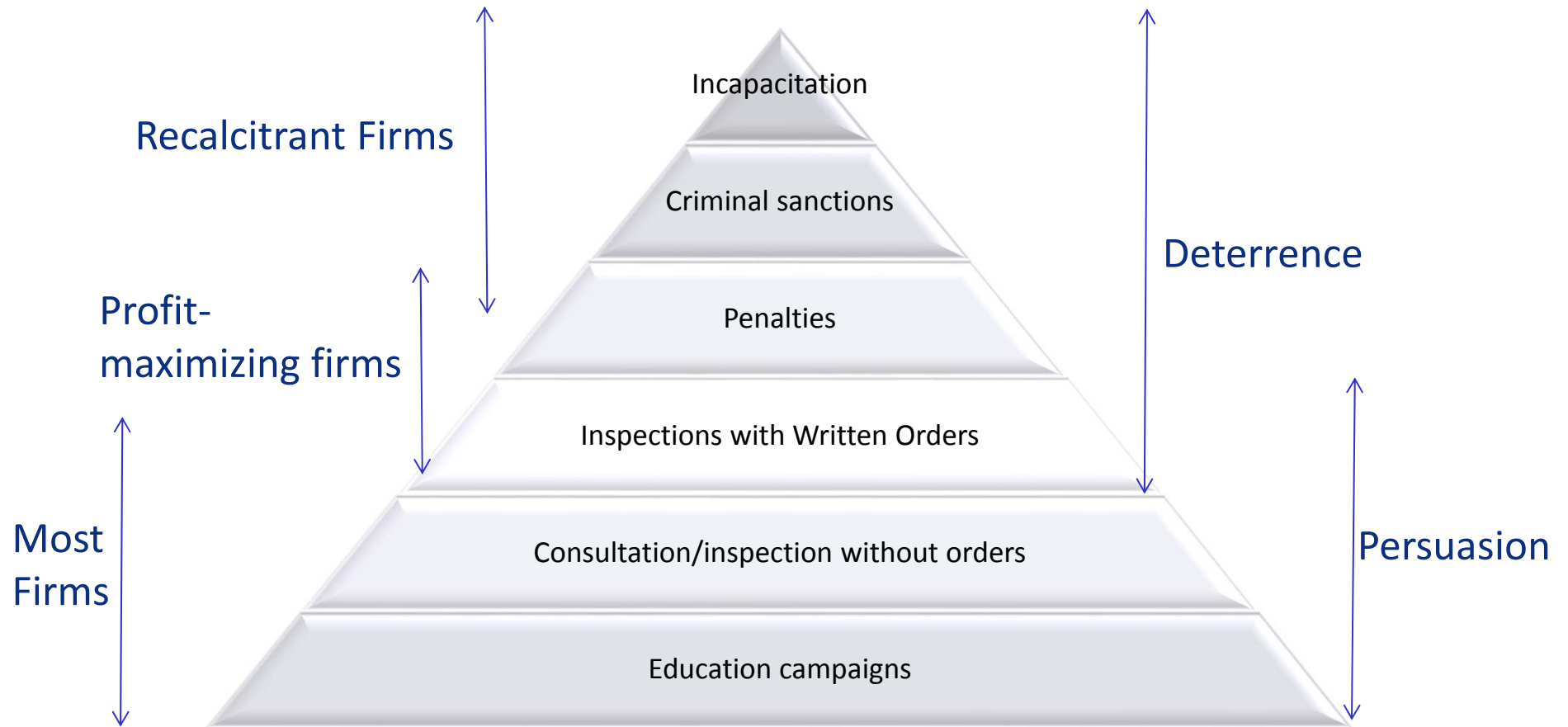
- One strategy: deterrence
- Some firms are motivated only by profit
 - Need carrots and sticks



Background: How do we think inspections work to promote safety?

- Another strategy: persuasion
- Other firms are motivated by profit but also by civic duty, morality, etc.
 - May only need reminders, information
- All types of firms may also benefit from ‘capacity building’ from inspections

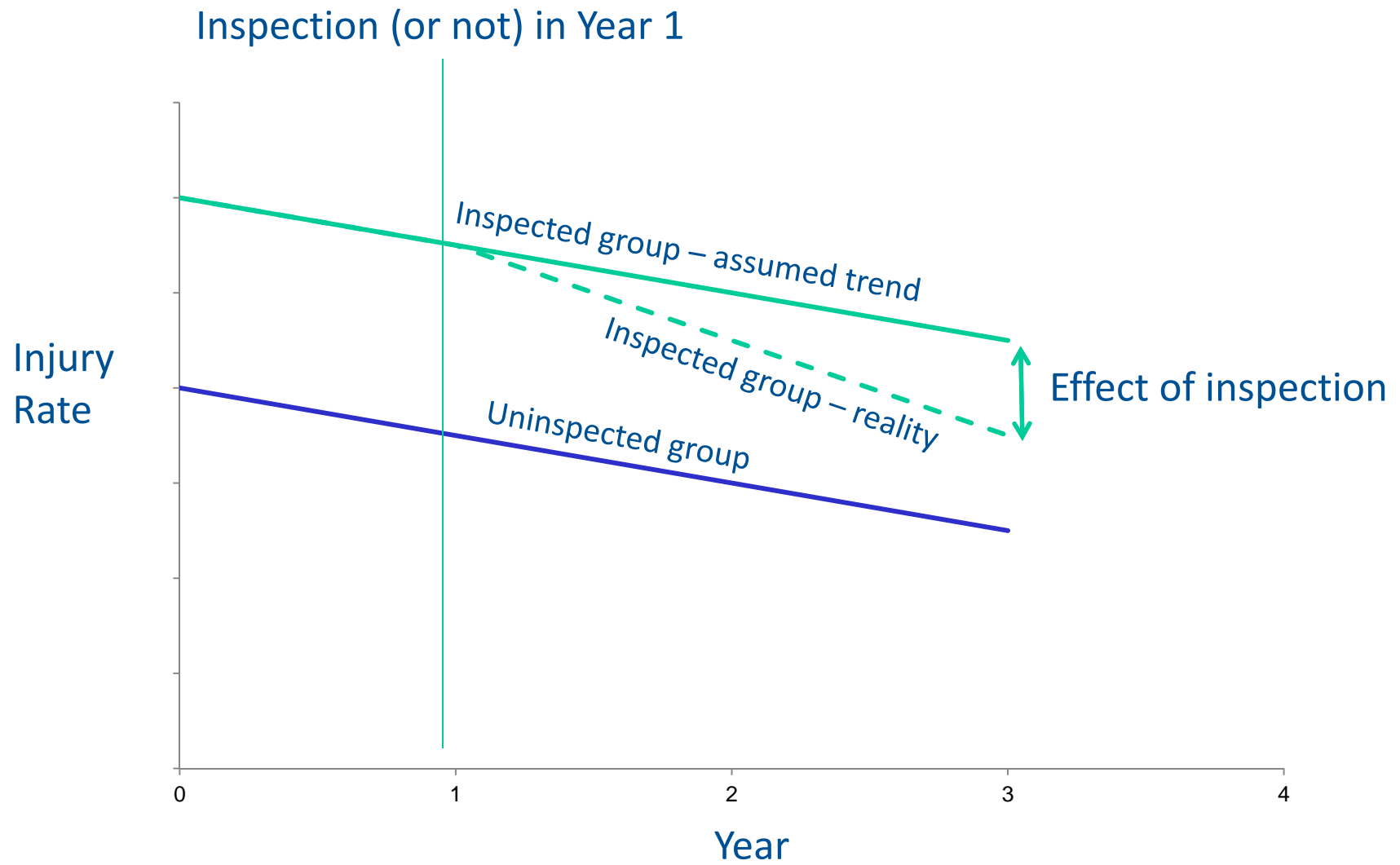
To target different firms...



My research

- Do firms that experience an inspection have fewer injuries?
- Or, do we have to move up the enforcement pyramid to see significant safety benefits?
 - Inspections with orders, inspections with penalties

Research Methods



Why do we need this research?

- Two reviews of previous research: evidence is “limited” and studies are “low quality”
- Limited Canadian Research
- Low on BC context

Contributions

- Improvement over past research:
 - Better data
 - Improved methods
- Provide information about which prevention activities are most effective at reducing injuries
 - Valuable for WorkSafeBC policies and program development
- Thank you to WorkSafeBC for their support and to my committee for their assistance in this project.

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