

30th International Congress on Occupational Health Cancun, Mexico, March 18 – 23, 2012

Progress in Prevention of Occupational Skin Diseases – Global Medical, Regulatory and Societal Aspects –

**- Occupational dermatoses: disease burden and
options of prevention from an insurer's point of view -**

Prof. Dr. Stephan Brandenburg

**Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention,
Director General**

BGW – Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention

- **one of the largest institutions for statutory accident insurance in Germany**
- **more than 6 million insured people**
- **in more than 550,000 companies**
- **e.g. non-governmental hospitals, physicians, veterinary and dental practices, homes for the elderly, pharmacies, outpatient nursing services, midwives, hairdressing salons**

BGW – Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention

Statutory Duties:

- **Prevention of**
 - **workplace accidents**
 - **occupational diseases**
 - **work-related health hazards in more than 550,000 companies**

- **Rehabilitation**
 - **optimal medical treatment**
 - **benefits to promote occupational and social integration**
 - **reasonable compensation**

BGW – Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention

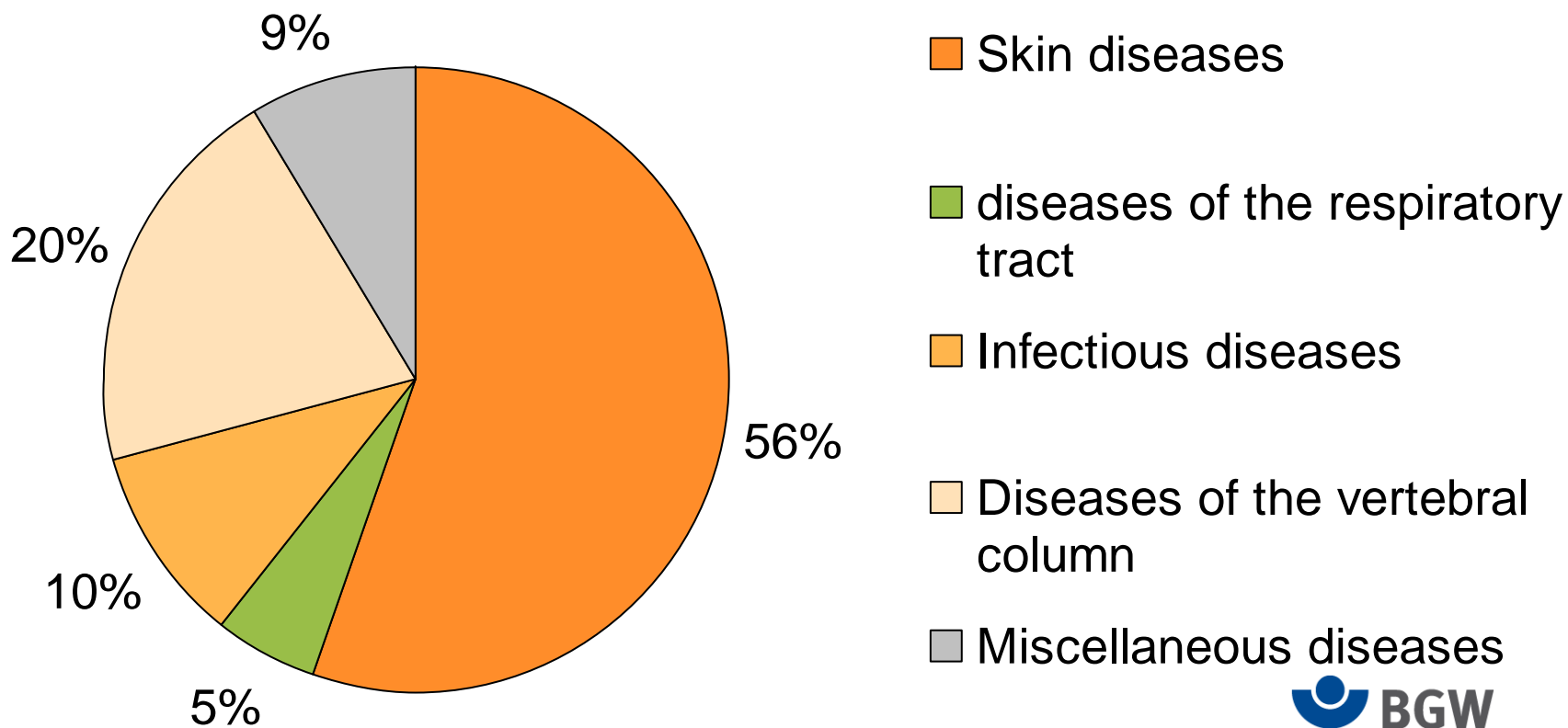
Insured Persons:

- **Compulsory Insurance – (Examples)**
 - **Employees (of the professions mentioned above)**
 - **Employers / Self-employed persons of companies which are part of the public health sector**

- **Voluntary Insurance – (Examples)**
 - **Self-employed doctors, dentists, veterinarians, pharmacists**

Occupational Diseases Cases reported in 2010

Occupational Skin Diseases constitute the most frequent occupational disease to affect persons insured with the BGW:



Prevention – Measures specifically matched with the different Professions insured with the BGW

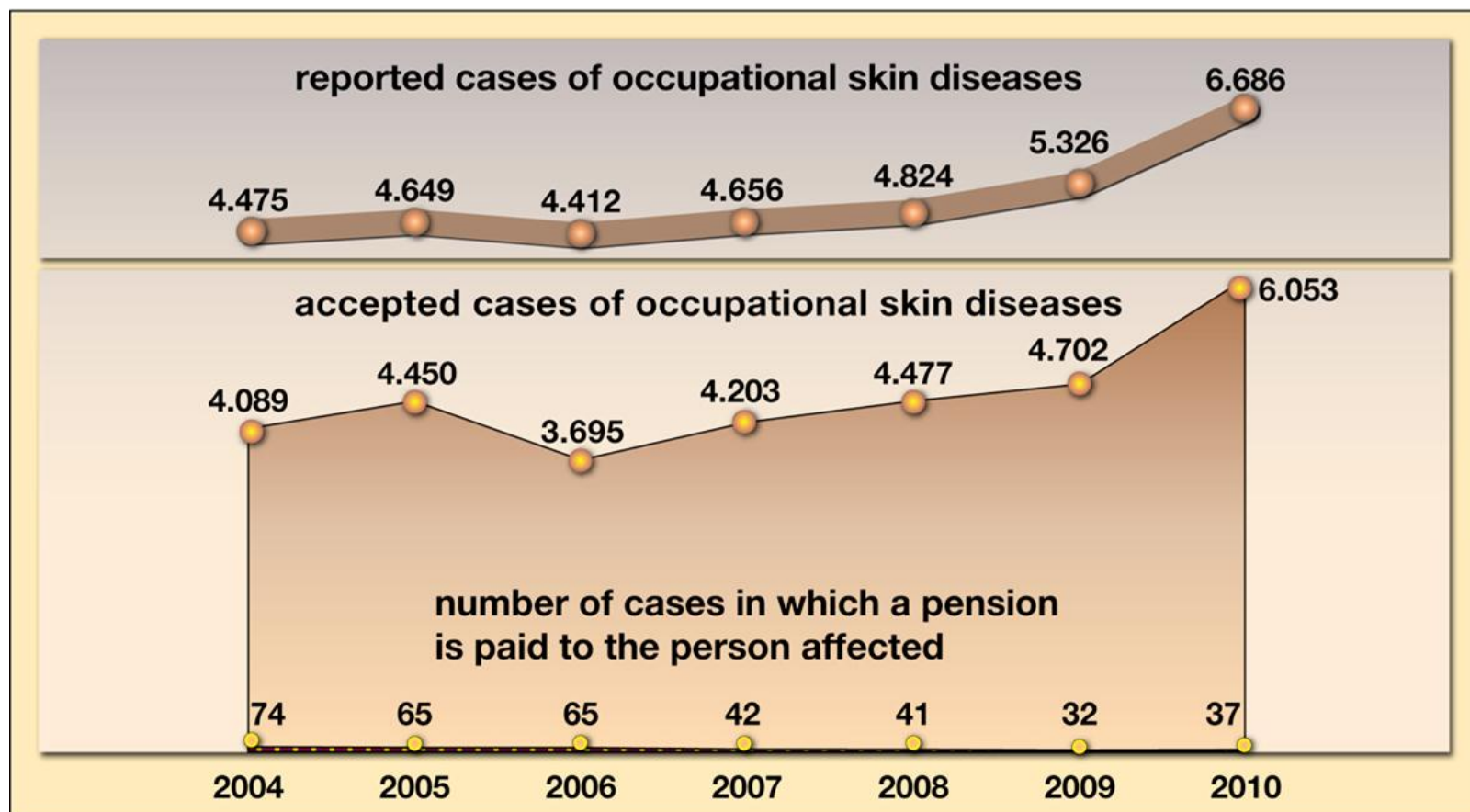
- **Elements e. g.:**
Informations concerning measures of prevention of occupational Skin diseases for employers and employees – printed and online
- **Secondary individual prevention program**
Advisory service and training specifically designed for the different professions (e. g. hairdressers, nursing service)
- **Individual counselling and doctor's advice for insured persons affected by occupational skin diseases**

Prevention of Occupational Skin Diseases

- **Special Procedure for the Report of Occupational Skin Diseases: → allows an intervention at an early stage**
 - 1. Dermatologists notify BGW (or the appropriate Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention) about patients affected by occupational skin diseases**
 - 2. Doctors other than dermatologists have to refer patients to dermatologists**
 - 3. Patient is treated by dermatologist**
 - 4. Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention supervises treatment – dermatologists sends reports about the course of treatment**

Occupational skin diseases

Ordinance on occupational diseases No. 5101 – reported cases of occupational skin diseases accepted cases / skin diseases accepted as occupational



Quelle: BGW-Statistik N 030 A eng /11

Elements of Prevention

Specifically designed for different professions

- **Special programmes designed for**
 - **Hairdressers**
 - **employees / self-employed persons working in the health care sector**



Secondary individual prevention program Hairdressers

- **Set up of 10 training and advisory centers across Germany**
→ quick and nonbureaucratic help
- **Dermatological examination and advice**
→ as early as possible
- **Seminars on skin protection**
→ health educational training for two days
- **Result**
→ 70% of participants stay in their job

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Prevention

Example: Hairdressers

- **Cooperation with the association of German hairdressers and the association of manufacturers of personal care products and detergents**
- **Education and cooperation with manufacturers of latex gloves (powder free)**
- **Issue of mandatory "technical rules for hazardous substances"**
- **Information of hairdressers**
- **Development of media for the training**
- **Exhibiting at trade shows**

Secondary individual prevention – Information about Measures of Prevention for all Professions

- **Skin protection:**
 - Use of skin protection creams without fragrance, preservatives and dyes
 - Use of suitable gloves
- **Skin cleansing:**
 - Waiver of soap, use of pH-neutral synthetic detergents
 - Drying hands with soft and absorbent towels for single use
- **Skin Care:**
 - Cream without fragrance, preservatives and dyes

Tertiary prevention – Inpatient treatment

- **Effective help for patients affected by severe and recurring cases of occupational skin diseases**
- **Elements:**
 - **inpatient treatment (for three weeks) followed by**
 - **a three-weeks leave of work and treatment by dermatologist**
 - **further examinations in regular intervals**
 - **information and counselling for the patient**

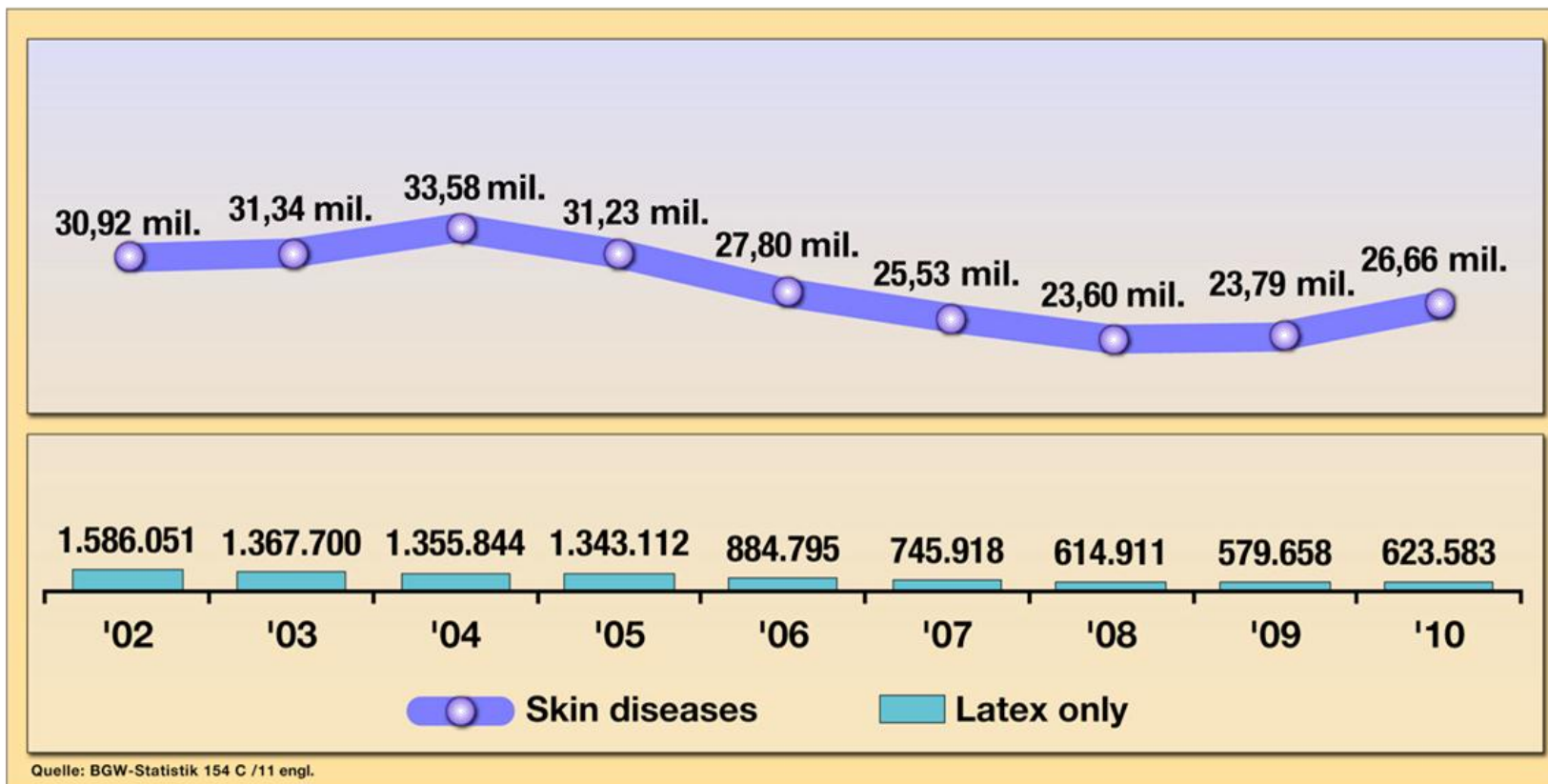
Keeping in the job

- **Disability managers give advice at the workplace**
- **Explanation of the necessary preventive measures**
- **Takeover of costs during a trial period**
- **Support of return to work**
- **Take account of particular problems:**
 - **Family situation**
 - **Care of relatives**

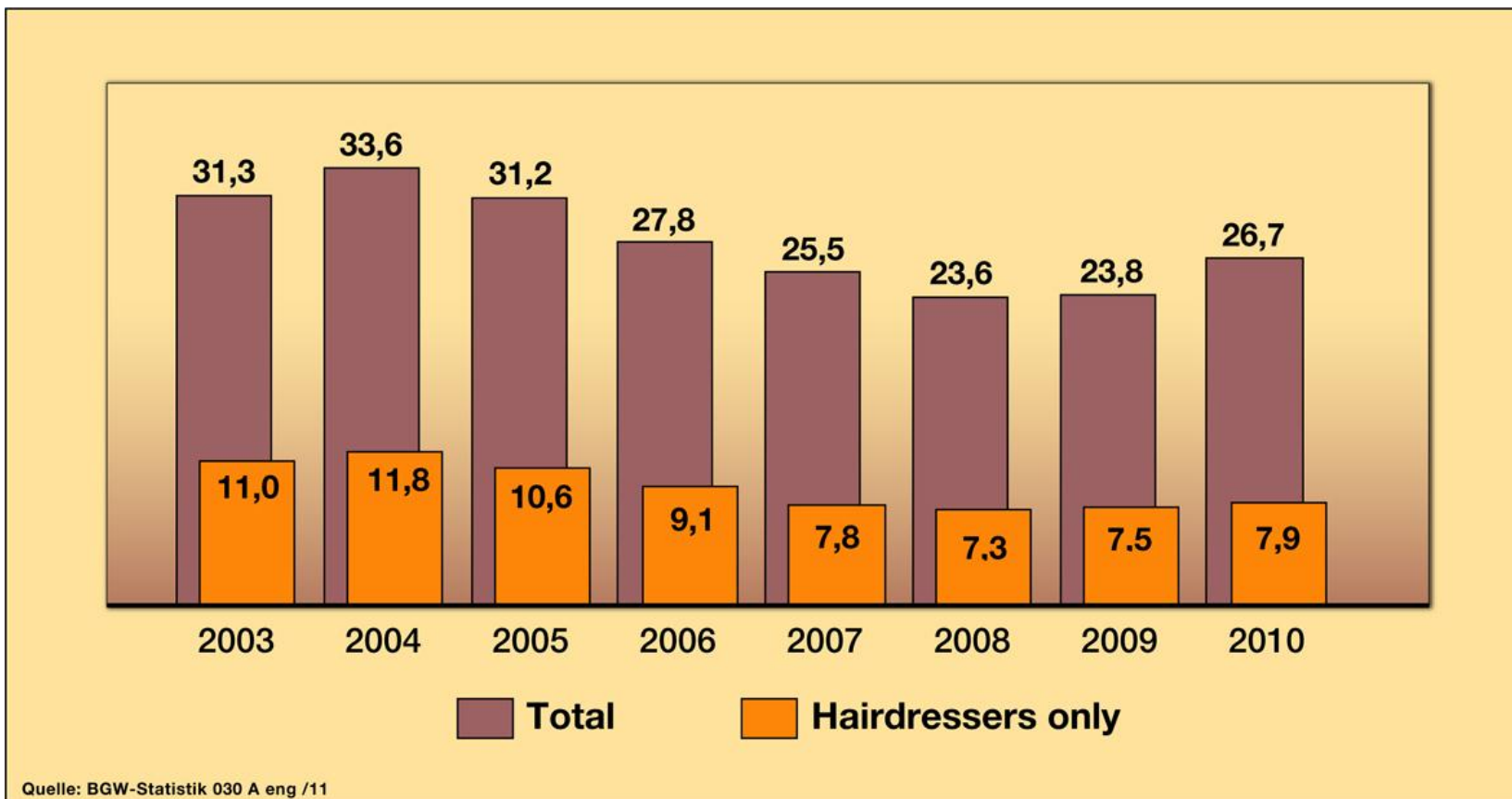
Effective measures of prevention – Results

- **Number of cases of occupational skin disease is reduced, severe courses of occupational skin diseases are prevented**
- **Employees can remain in their profession – their work experience is preserved for the company**
- **Lower costs to be paid for insurance contribution by companies**

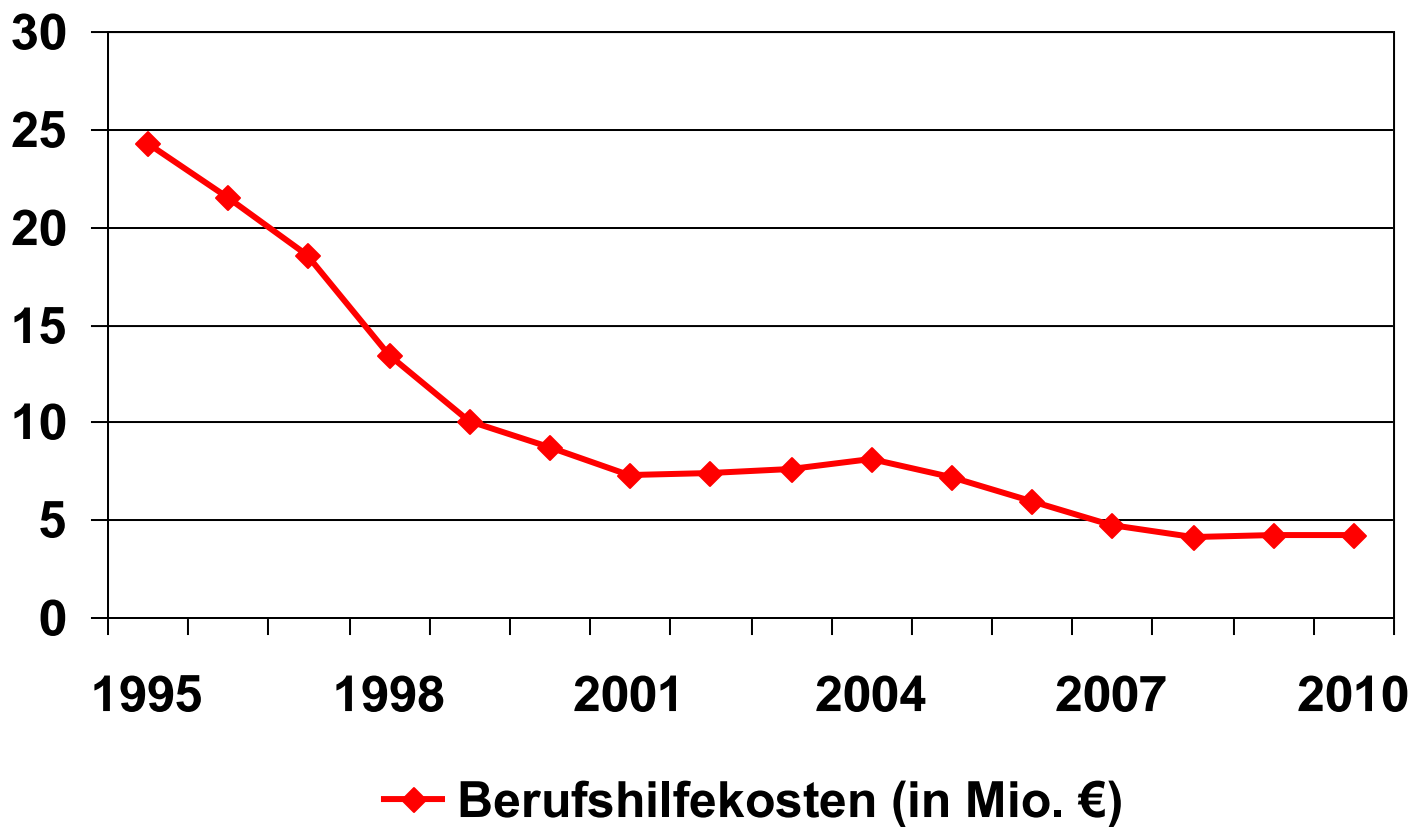
Compensation payments 2002 – 2010 for skin diseases / latex only – in millions of Euro



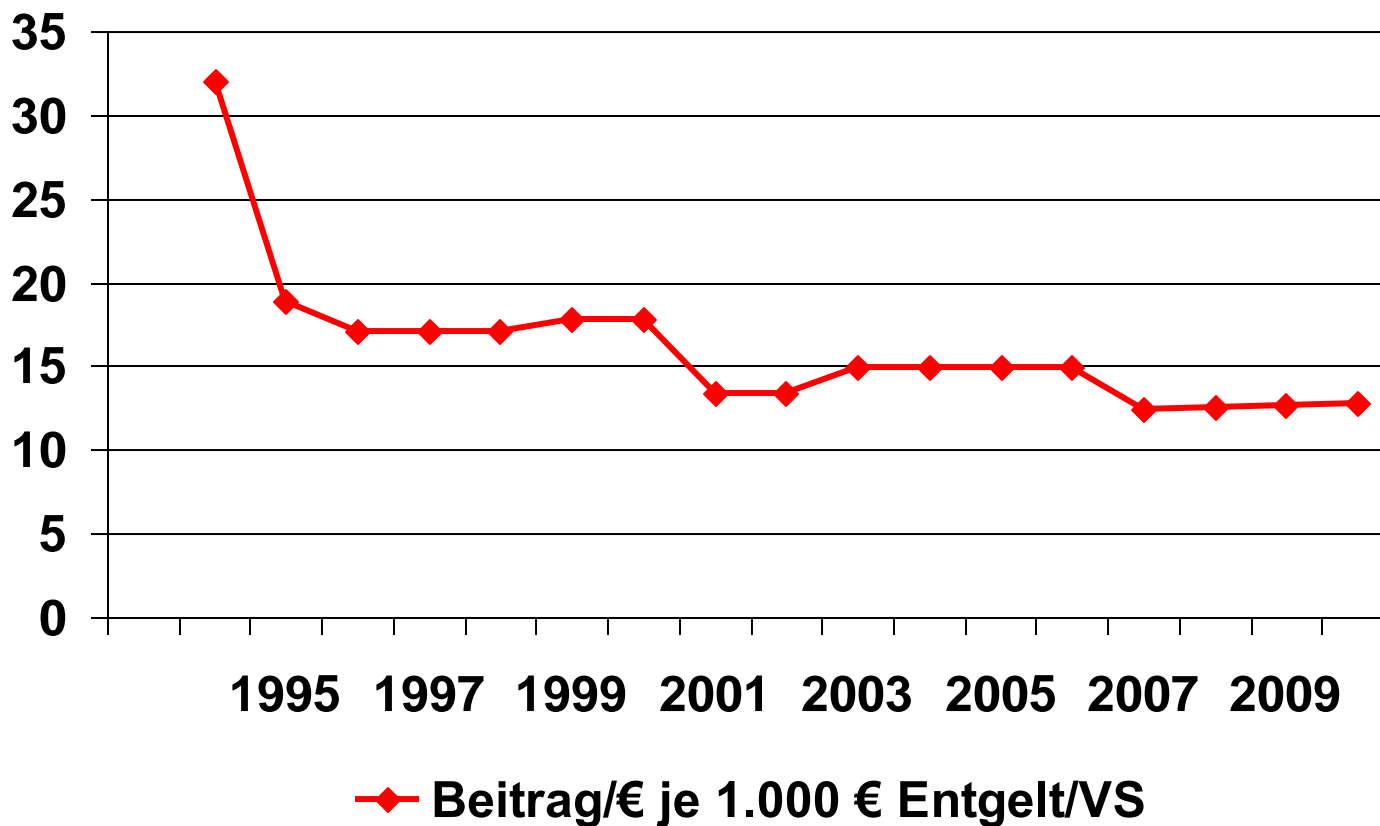
Compensation payments for occupational skin diseases in millions of Euros



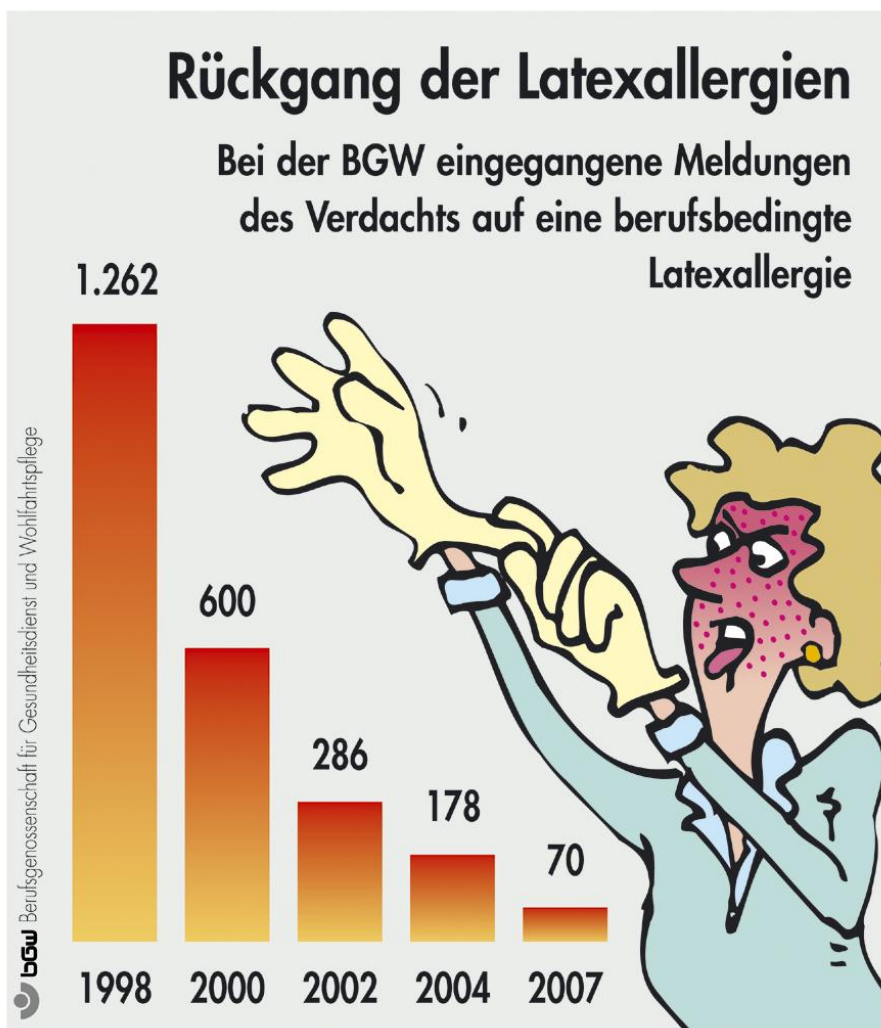
Measures of Prevention – costs for vocational Rehabilitation for Hairdressers in Mill. of Euros



Measures of Prevention – Insurance Contributions to be paid by Hairdressers per 1.000 Euros paid to Employee - Trend



The success



decline in latex allergy

Achieving better Protection of the skin - an ongoing Commitment of the BGW

- **Developing better methods and products for skin protection**
- **Perspective / Research:
Design of gloves with semipermeable membranes to avoid occlusion and humidity**

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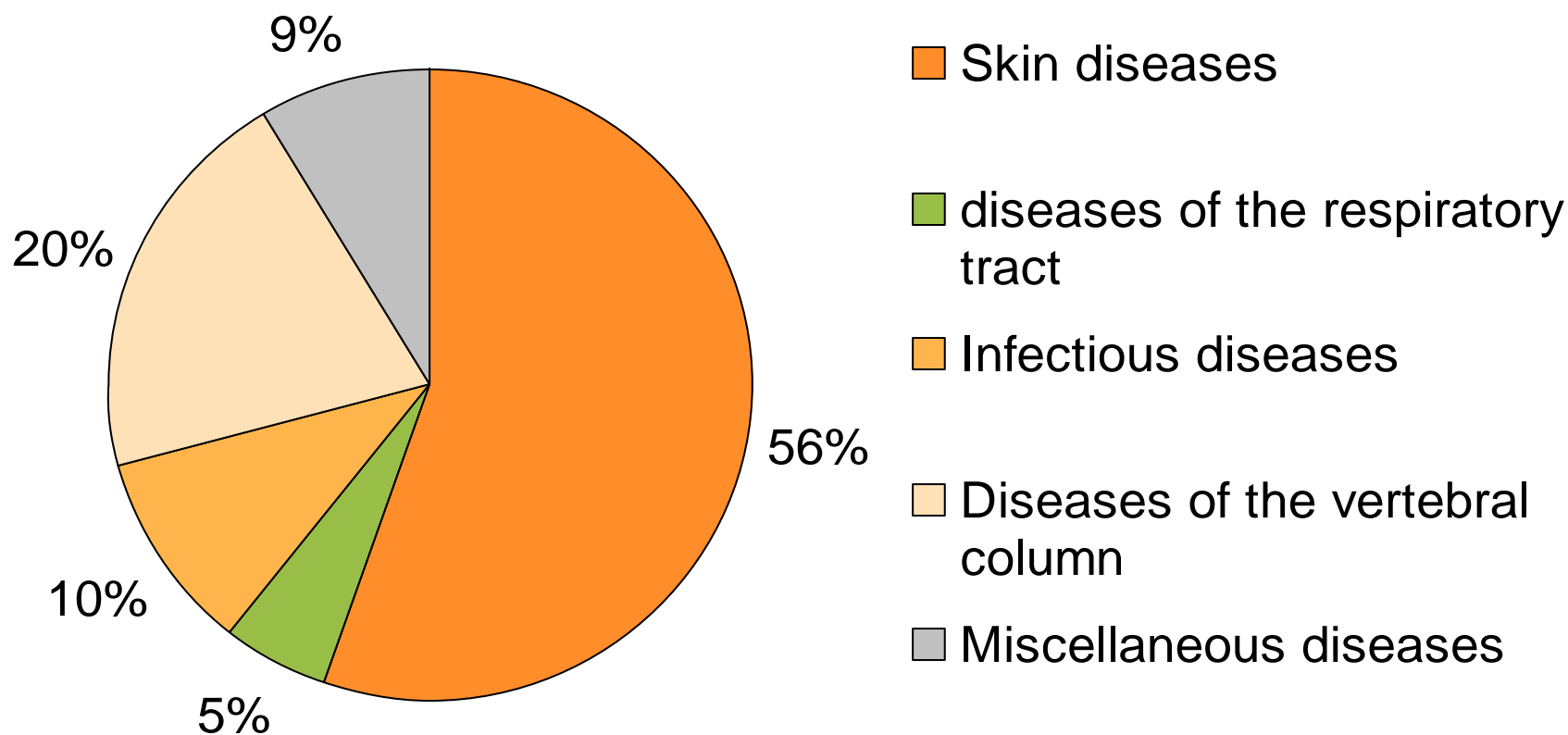
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Allergic Contact Dermatitis - Facts and Figures -

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Occupational diseases reported in 2010



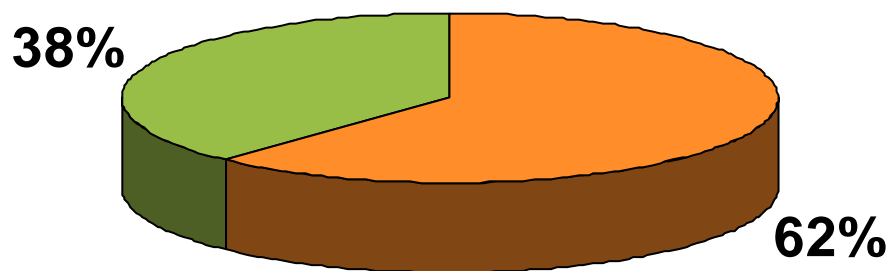
Allergic Contact Dermatitis

Hairdressers

- **Cases – decided in 2010 by the BGW Hairdressers:**
 - **Cases concerning all types of occupational skin diseases: 1.464**
 - **Cases concerning Allergic Contact Dermatitis: 549**

Allergic Contact Dermatitis Hairdressers

- skin diseases other than allergic contact dermatitis
- allergic contact dermatitis



Allergic Contact Dermatitis Hairdressers

- **Main Allergens / Causes - Hairdressers:**
 - **dyes,**
 - **hairspray,**
 - **chemicals for applying perms,**
 - **humidity**

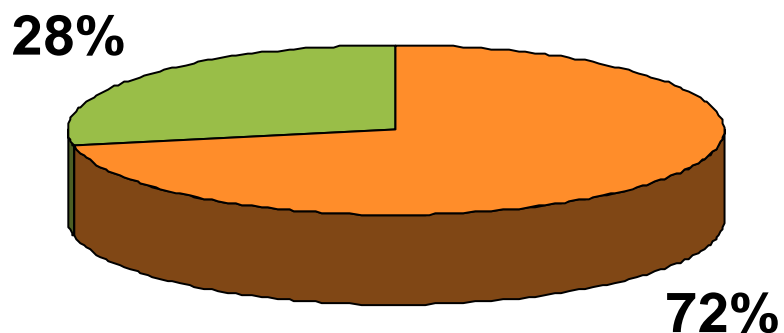
Allergic Contact Dermatitis

Health Care Sector

- **Cases – decided in 2010 by the BGW**
Employees / Self-employed in the health care sector:
 - **Cases concerning all types of occupational skin diseases: 1.743**
 - **Cases concerning Allergic Contact Dermatitis: 485**

Allergic Contact Dermatitis Health Care Sector

- skin diseases other than allergic contact dermatitis
- allergic contact dermatitis



Allergic Contact Dermatitis

Health Care Sector

- **Main Allergens / Causes – Health Care Sector:**
 - **disinfectants,**
 - **cleansing agents,**
 - **humidity (e. g. due to having to wear gloves)**

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**Allergic Contact Dermatitis
- Facts and Figures -**

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