

Classification of Confirmed WRA Cases

Confirmed WRA cases are classified into the following categories:

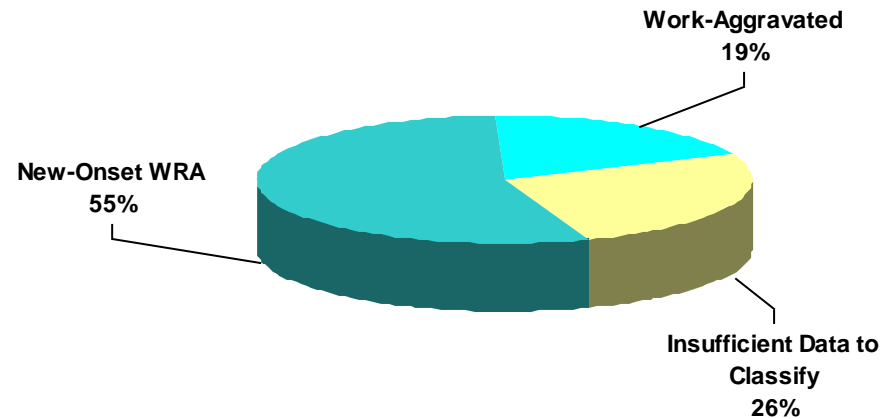
- 1) Work-aggravated asthma, which is pre-existing asthma exacerbated by workplace exposures; and
- 2) New-onset WRA (asthma in a previously healthy individual) which includes:
 - a. Reactive airways dysfunction syndrome (RADS), or irritant-induced asthma, which is a nonimmunologic asthma that is typically caused by a single exposure to high levels of an irritating vapor, gas, fume, or smoke
 - b. Occupational asthma (OA), which is an allergic, or immunologically-mediated, asthma which develops after a period of exposure to a sensitizing agent

Surveillance data also include confirmed WRA cases for which there were insufficient information to classify into the above categories.

The NJDOH WRA Surveillance and Intervention Project identified and confirmed 659 cases of WRA from 1993-2011. Fifty-five percent of the cases were confirmed as new-onset asthma. Twenty-six percent of the cases could not be classified as new-onset or work-aggravated due to insufficient data. This lack of information often impeded patient follow-up activities.

**Classification of Confirmed WRA Cases
New Jersey, 1993-2011
N=659**

Case Classification	N	%
New-Onset WRA*	362	55
Work-Aggravated	127	19
Insufficient Data to Classify	170	26
TOTAL	659	100



*New-onset asthma includes RADS and Occupational Asthma
 Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding
 Source: NJ Department of Health inpatient hospital discharge data