

# Occupational and Environmental Medicine in Greenland

Niels Ebbehøj

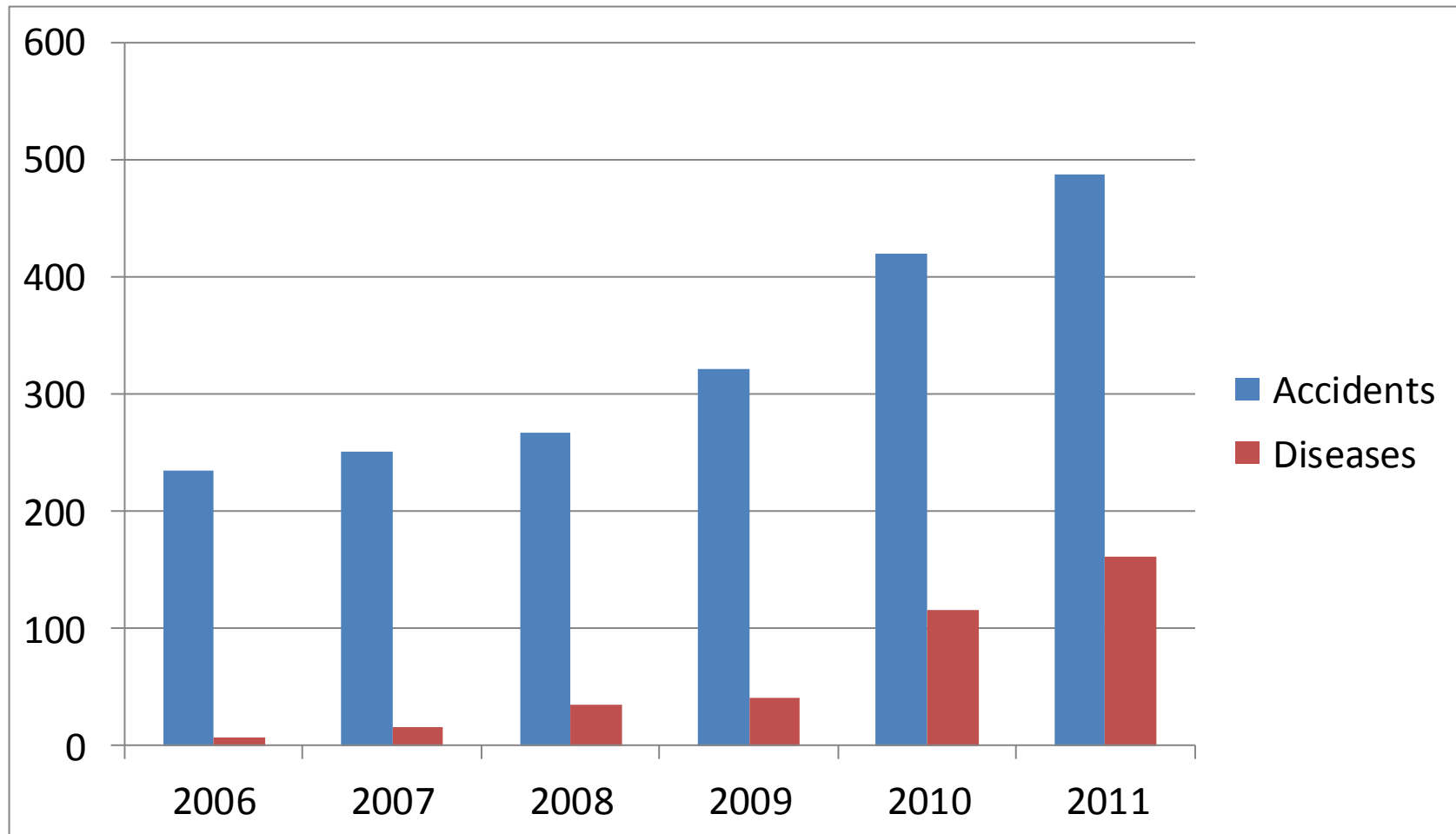
Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Bispebjerg University Hospital

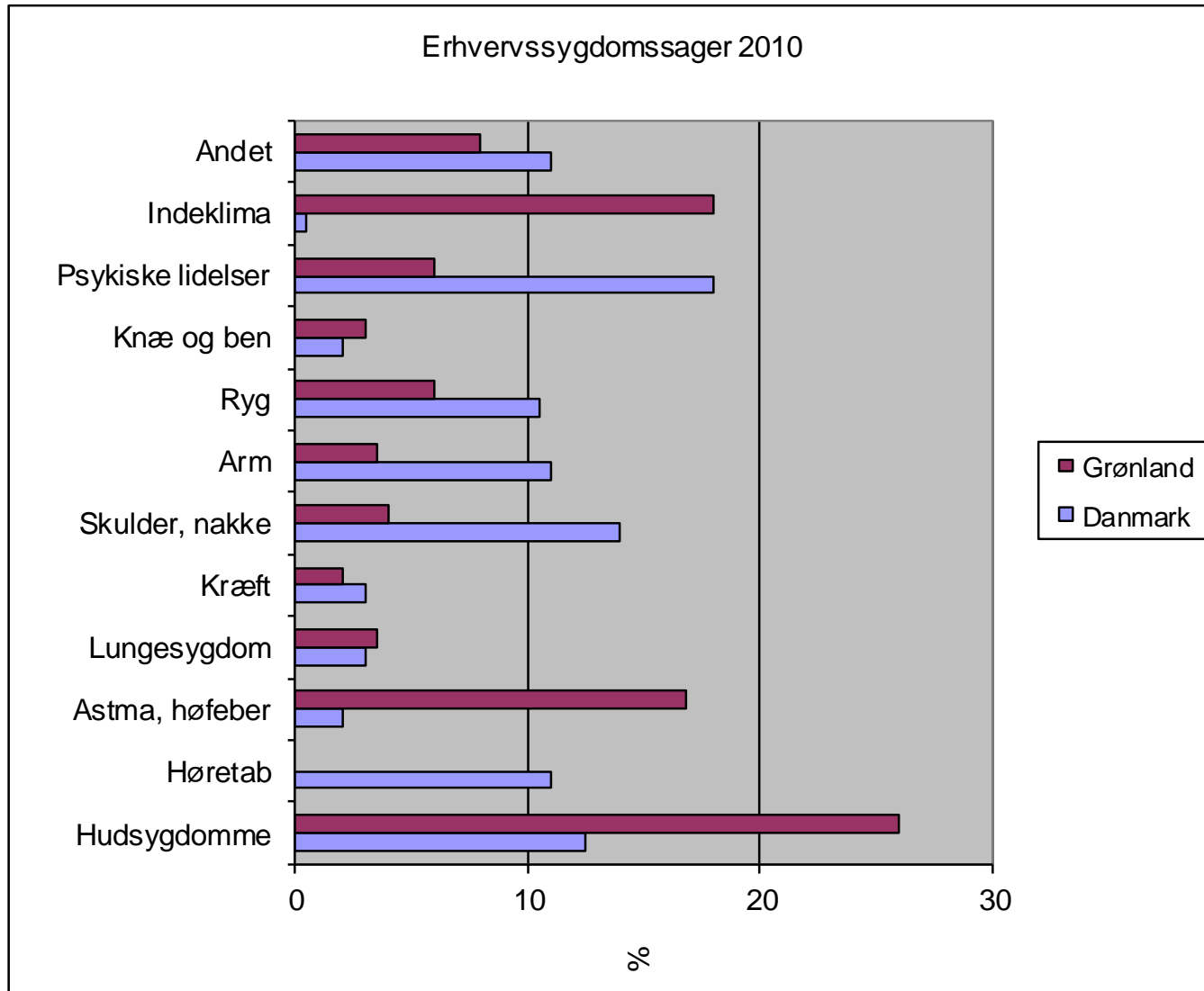




# Reported occupational accidents and diseases

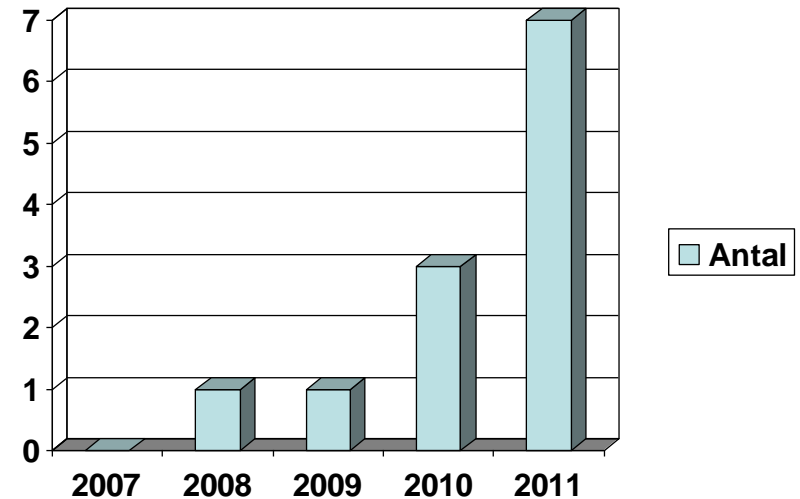
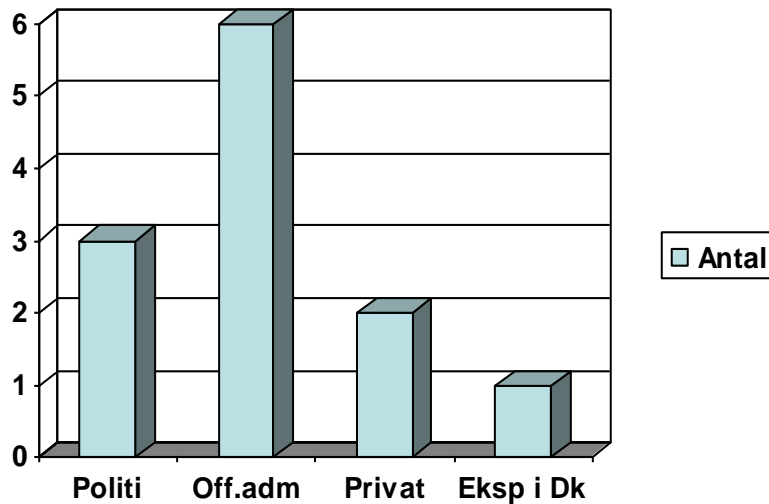


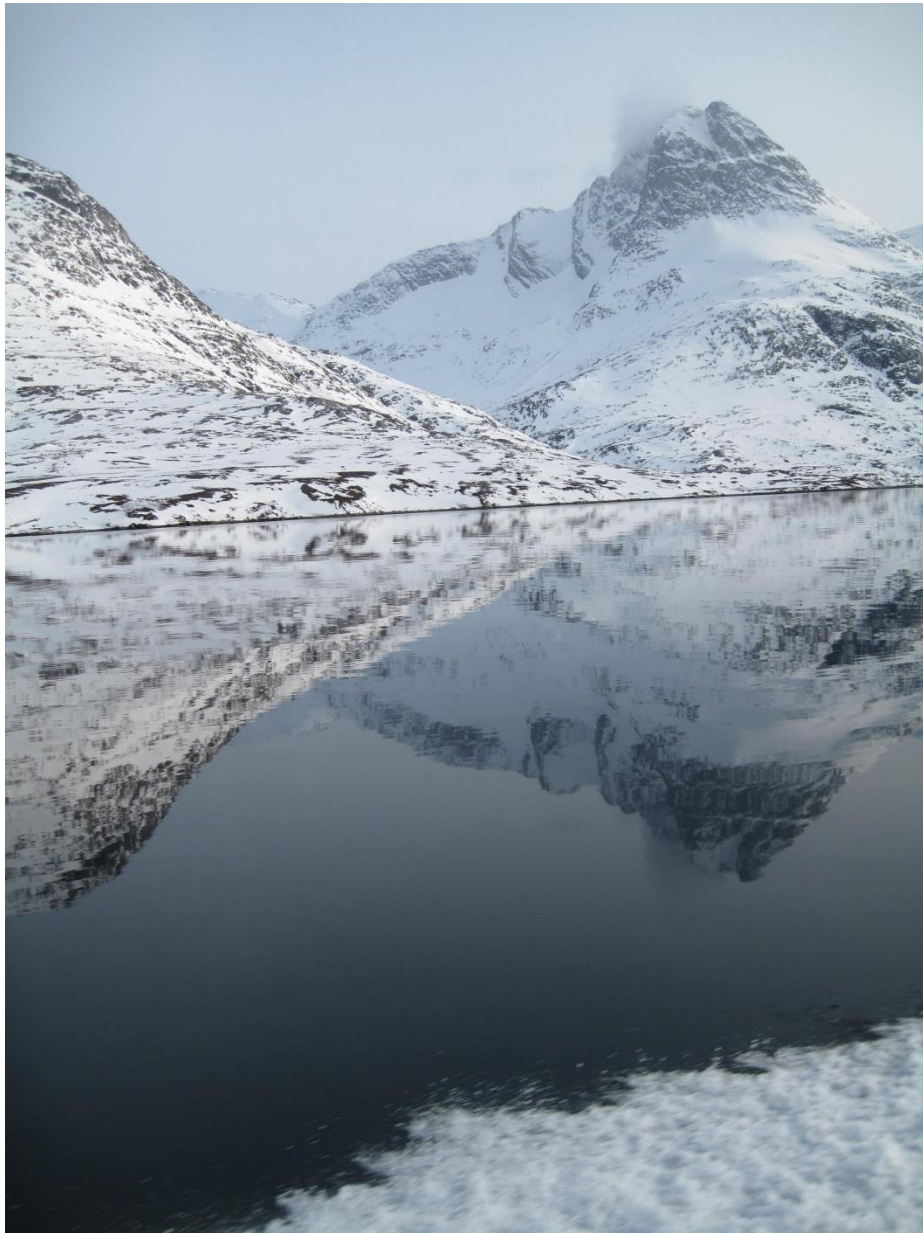
# Reported occupational diseases 2011



# Molds in workers compensation

2007-2011





A yellow rectangular warning sign is attached to a chain-link fence. The sign is secured with four screws, two on each side. The text on the sign is in bold, black, uppercase letters. The background shows a snowy mountain landscape with a clear blue sky. A metal pole is visible on the right side of the fence.

**ISERFIGEQQUSAANNGILAQ !**  
**ADGANG FORBUDT !**

Low back pain?









QIMUSSIT AQQUTAANUT EQQAAGI

RENT SLÆDESPOR  
CLEAN SLEDGE TRAIL









- Can football playing cause silicosis?



Example

# Skin workshop Natseq, Sisimiut



- Old residential block
- Leaking sewage system
- 8 employees
- Dispute about remediation
- 6 claims for Workers Compensation 2006

Systemen Natseq 2007. Foto Niels Ebbehøj

Example

# Musk ox wool





Example

# Examinations



- Spirometry
- Peak-flow monitoring
- Skin Prick test (moskusuld)
- Histamin release (HR-Test)
- Skin patch test (lanolin)

Worlds first positive Skin Prick test  
to musk ox wool?

Foto Niels Ebbehøj, 2008

# Old houses are rebuilt



- And reused

But also new buildings are moist  
and moldy

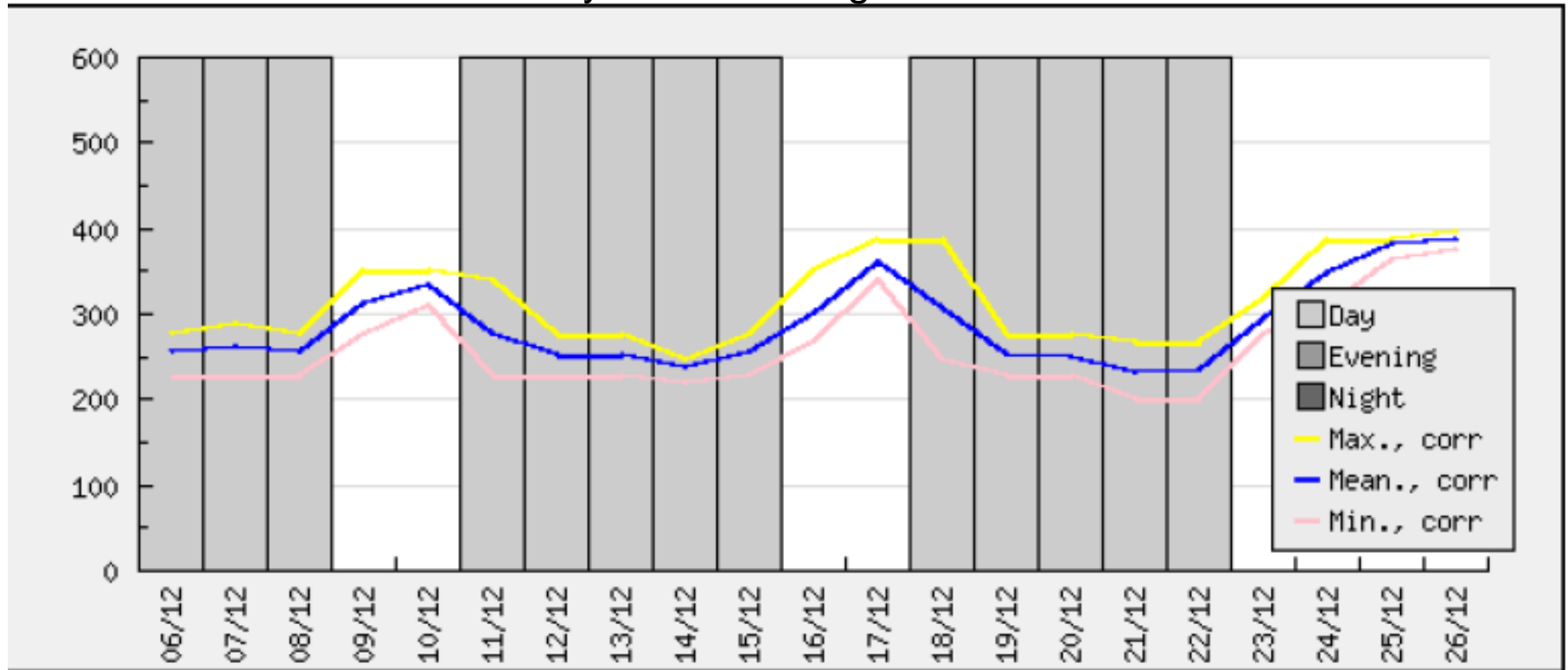


# Peakflow skema

	<i>Ataas / Mandag</i>	<i>Marl / Tirsdag.</i>	<i>Pinga. / Onsdag</i>	<i>Sisam. / Torsdag</i>	<i>Tall. / Fredag</i>	<i>Arfin. / Lørdag</i>	<i>Sapaat / Søndag</i>
<i>Ulloq / Dato</i>							
<i>Suliff. / Angerl. Arbejde / Hjemme</i>							
<i>Nal. / Kl. 7.00</i>							
<i>Nal. / Kl. 10.00</i>							
<i>Nal. / Kl. 13.00</i>							
<i>Nal. / Kl. 16.00</i>							
<i>Nal. / Kl. 19.00</i>							
<i>Nal. / Kl. 22.00</i>							



, 41 years. Works in a mould contaminated building  
Asthma in relation to stay in the building.





# The little difference



Arbejdsskadestyrelsen  
Workers Compensation

- Can we do anything to the symptoms?
- Does it work?
- What diagnose?
- Why is he ill?
- How?
- Can we document cause relation?

# Diagnostic challenges in GL

## Allergy

- Skin Prick test
- HR og Specific IgE
- Skin Patch test

## X-Ray and HRCT

## Lungs:

- Spirometry
- Bronchial challenge
- Diffusion
- Provocation





# The populationn

- We do not know back ground frequency of many of the occupational disorders
- Makes cause assessment uncertain
- We (I) know very few special inuit disposing factors

# Christmas legs (Hjulben)



# Greenland football championship 2012

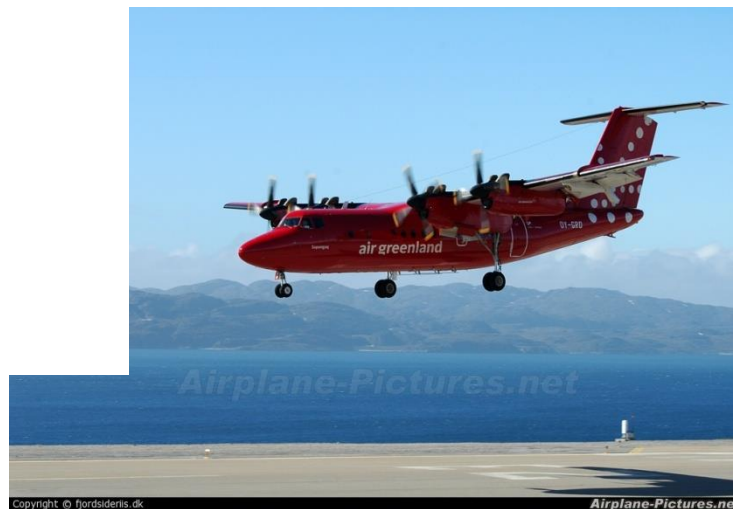


# Other buisness

- Acute toxicology

# Other buisness

- Acute toxicology



# Nalunaq Gold mining





# Antidote for cyanide poisoning





# Conclusion

- We use Danish criteria for recognition
- Make exposure assessments as good as possible
- Document of diagnoses as good as realistically possible



But more research is needed



Tessa  
Qujanaq