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Safety Communication through Effective Safety Inspections

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BACKGROUND

SingHealth Office of Biosafety conducts workplace safety & health (WSH) inspections on all SingHealth research premises annually.

We review how safety inspections can be effectively used in communicating safety information to the researchers.

OUR APPROACH



- WSH officers provide onsite advice to lab managers and suggest workplace improvements.
- Communicate advices, safety findings and safety improvements to all relevant stakeholders.

INSIGHTS

1 Safety inspection is a great way to engage researchers

- Safety inspection brings the inspectors to the site of work and to interact with researchers.
- The inspection walkabout also provides an opportunity for the researchers to ask questions and discuss solutions.
- Inspectors on the ground has a better grasp of the situation and can offer better suggestions.

2 Keeping each safety inspections to 2 hour

- Longer inspections promote fatigue and inspectors performed less effective as the hours progressed.

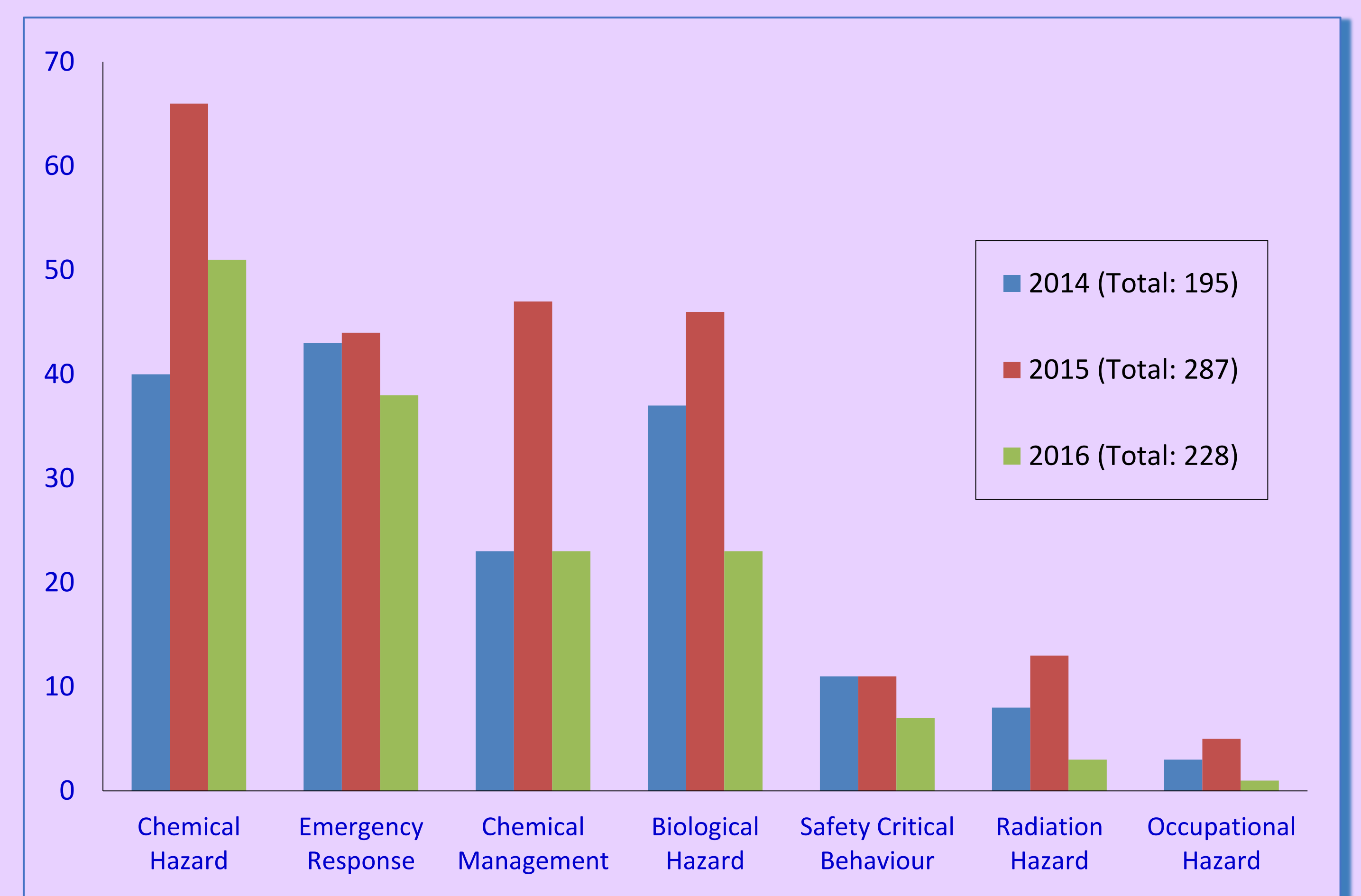
3 Assigned Lab Coordinators

- Lab coordinators are excellent liaisons to help inspectors to broadcast safety messages and follow up on safety inspection findings.

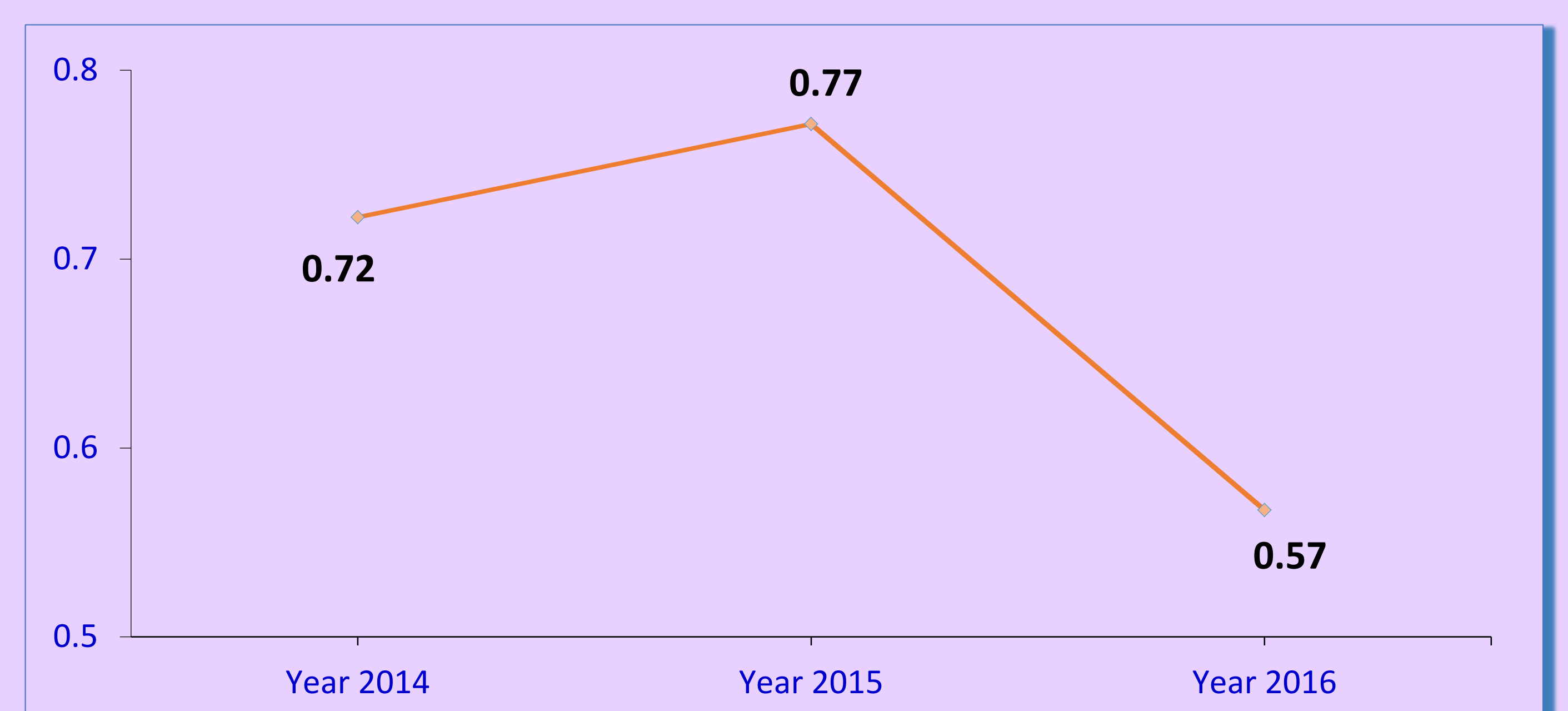
4 Safety Inspections promote safety cultures

- Data for the past few years of safety inspections shows evidence of reduction in inspection findings.
- SingHealth Office of Biosafety finds that the interaction with researchers during safety inspections is an effective means of communicating safety.
- Regular safety inspections is a channel of effective safety communication through a proactive safety activity.

•Chart 1: Number of safety inspection findings (by categories of hazards) from 2014 to 2016



•Chart 2: Number of inspection findings per workplace surveyed from 2014 to 2016



So What Did We Learn?

- Data for the past few years of safety inspections shows evidence of reduction in inspection findings.
- SingHealth Office of Biosafety finds that the interaction with researchers during safety inspections is an effective means of communicating safety.