

Introduction

- **Workplace Hazard:** Forklifts “among the machines involved with the highest levels of occupational fatalities” - Choi M et al, 2020
- **Unevaluated Policy:** US Navy and DLA require medical certification examinations beyond OSHA operator training, but have not compared exams to incidents
- **Our Goal:** Determine whether medical examinations protect workers and public from medically unsafe forklift operators
- **This Project:** Links exams to outcomes, and illustrates how demanding such policy evaluations are currently

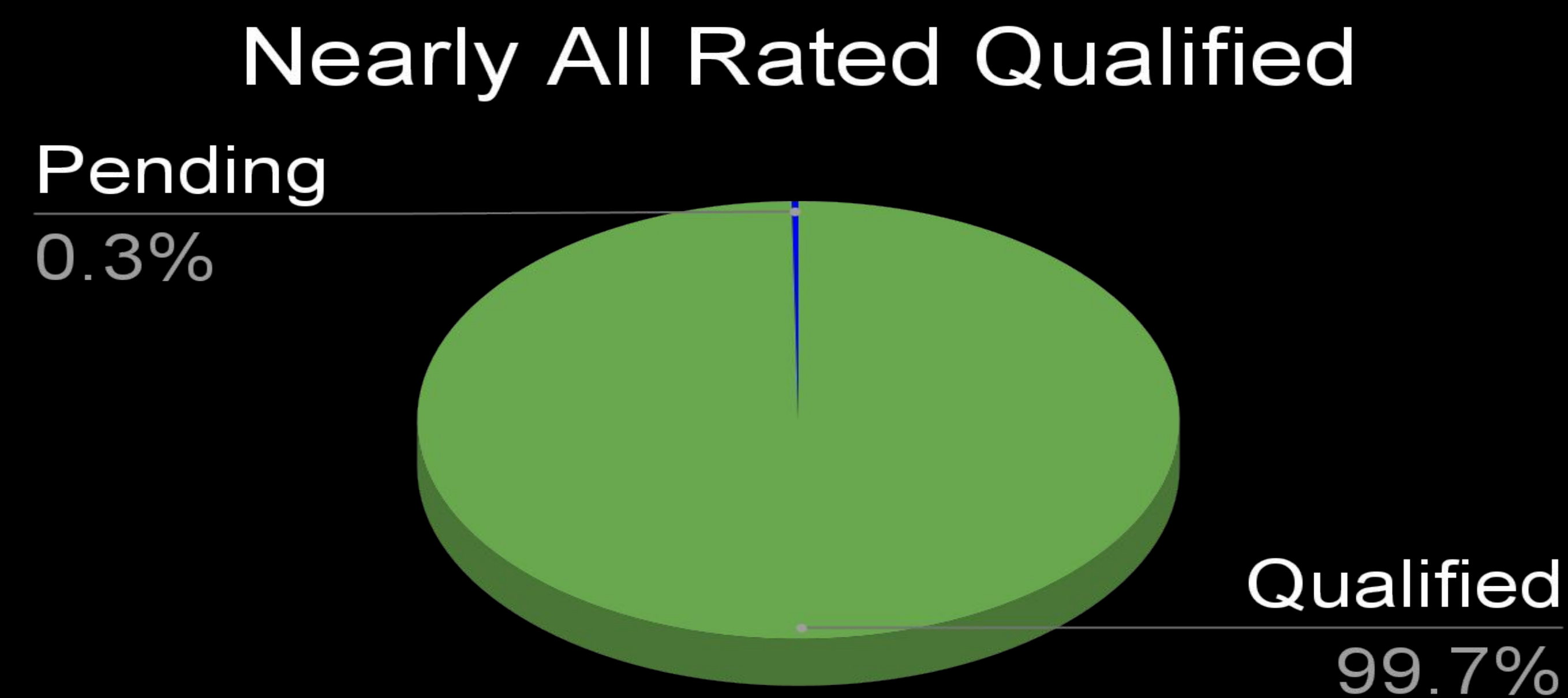
Methods

- 710 initial and periodic repeat examinations at one clinic for 491 individual forklift operators over 2015-2019
- Manually collected operator age, gender, visual perception (Snellen acuity, depth, color, and visual fields), height, weight, and Qualification rating
- Compared to incident and disciplinary outcome records
- Number of person-hours needed to analyze documented

Key Results

- Nearly all operators are rated qualified by current standards
- No clear evidence that mishaps are result of medically unfit operators
- Without a centralized repository, policy evaluation is a resource intensive process of manual extraction
- Study limited by inability to control for worker’s behavioral changes in anticipation of exams

Forklift Operator Medical Certification Examinations: A Case Study in the Need for Ongoing Occupational Health Data Analysis



Out of 710 examinations, 708 rated “Qualified”, two “Pending” for visual acuity, **zero “Unqualified”**

Zero mishaps out of 35 safety reports from 2015-2019 identified medical conditions as a cause or contributing factor

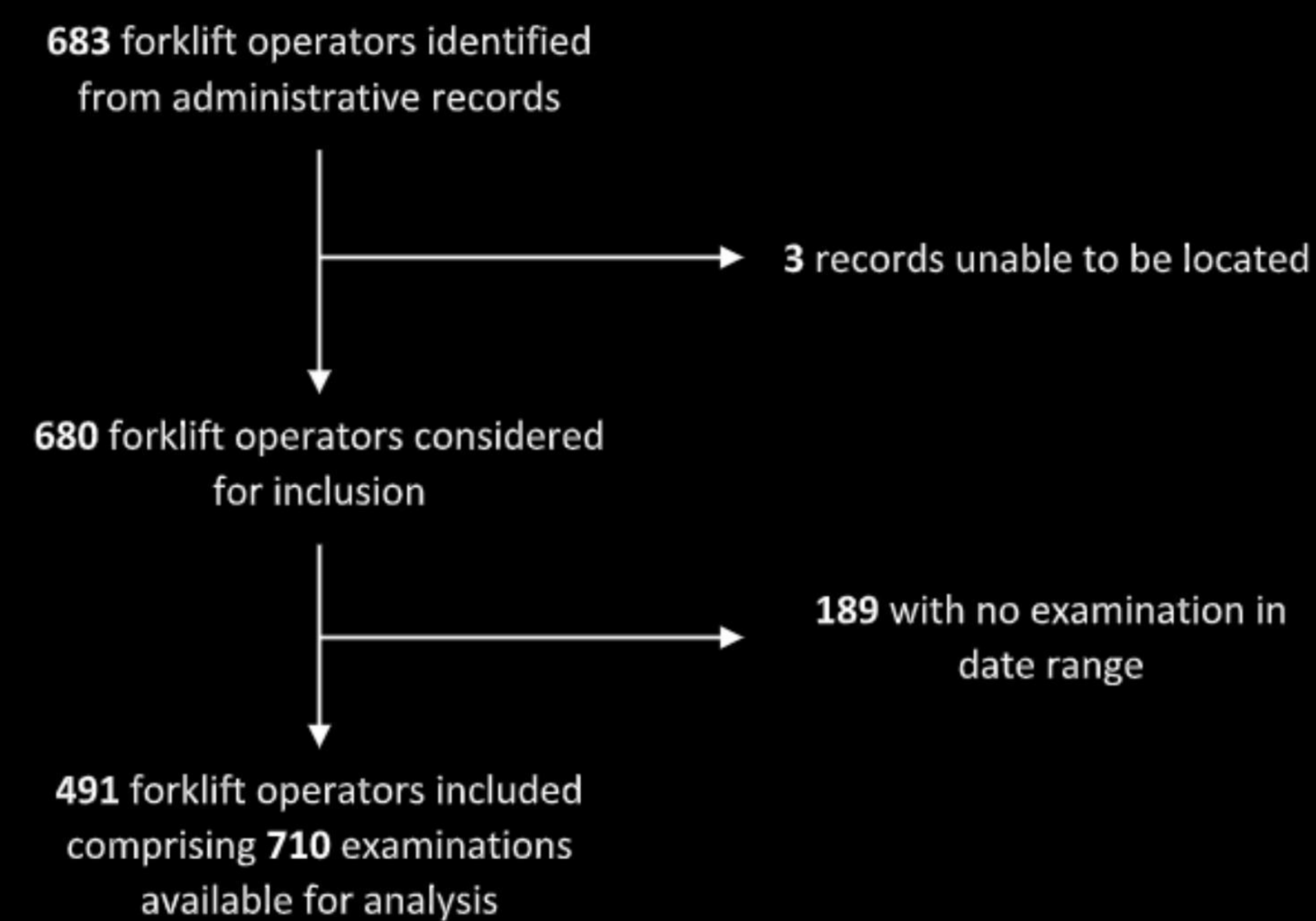


Figure 1. Study subject selection.

52 Person-Hours needed for data abstraction to assess the effectiveness of this policy at preventing injuries