

A 25-Year Overview of AgrAbility Demographics

2021 AgrAbility NTW Virtual Session Series

June 15, 2021

11:40-12:00 am MT

By **Robert J. Fetsch**, Colorado State University Extension AgrAbility

Robert E. Petrea, University of Illinois

Paul J. Jones, Purdue University

William E. Field, Purdue University &

Robert A. Aherin, University of Illinois

AANTWMcGillQOL6.1521 (Rev. 6.1421a)



To “A 25-Year Overview of AgrAbility
Demographics”

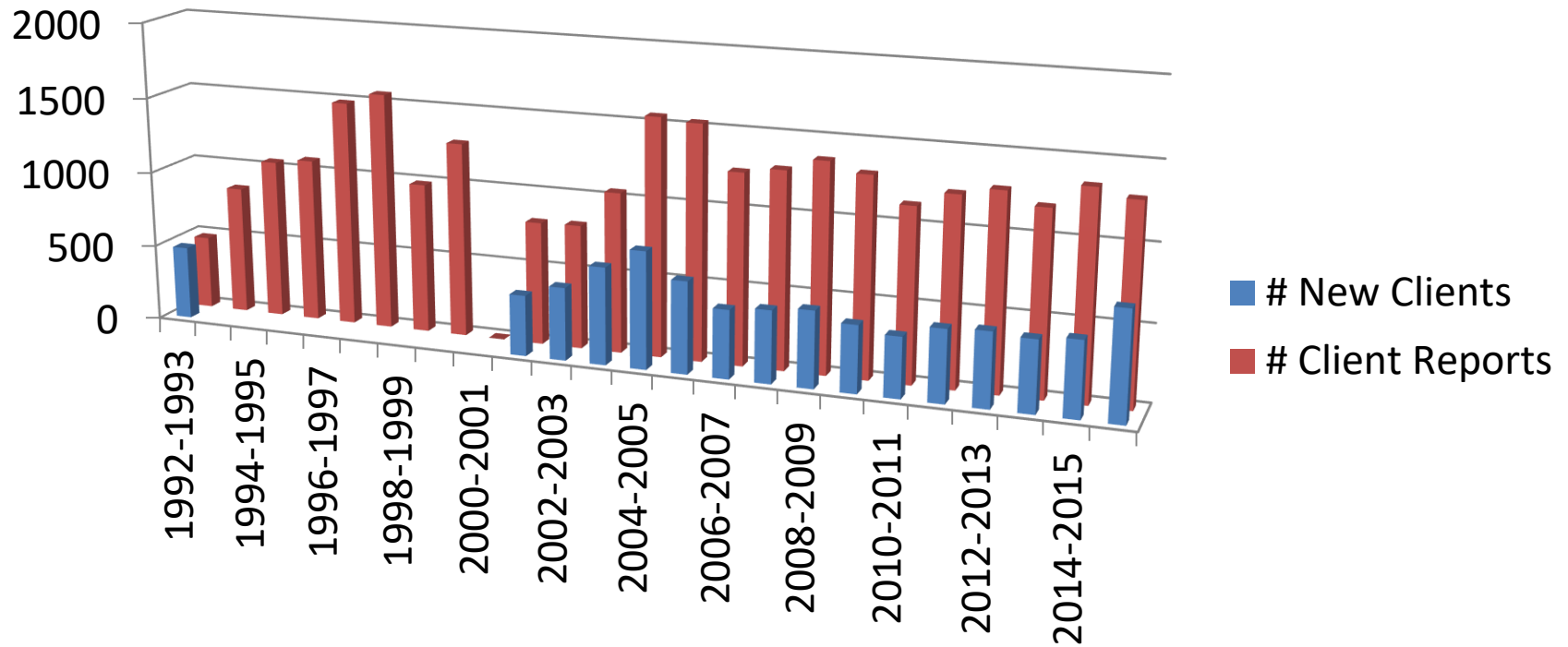
Our AgrAbility Mission

“The vision of AgrAbility is **to enhance quality of life** for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural workers with disabilities, so that they, their families, and their communities continue to succeed in rural America.”

Who Is an AgrAbility Client?

- An AgrAbility client is an individual with a disability engaged in production agriculture as an owner/operator, family member, or employee who has received professional services from AgrAbility project staff during an **on-site visit**.

Figure 1. Number of Client Reports Per Grant Year and Number of New Clients Per Grant Year



**Chip Petrea Worked Diligently with
National Easter Seals.**

- **Thank you, Chip!**
- Without your good work, we would not have the early data from Easter Seals (1993-2000).

Figure 1. Total Number of New, Ongoing, Reopened, and Closed Client Reports and Total Number of New Clients (Actual)

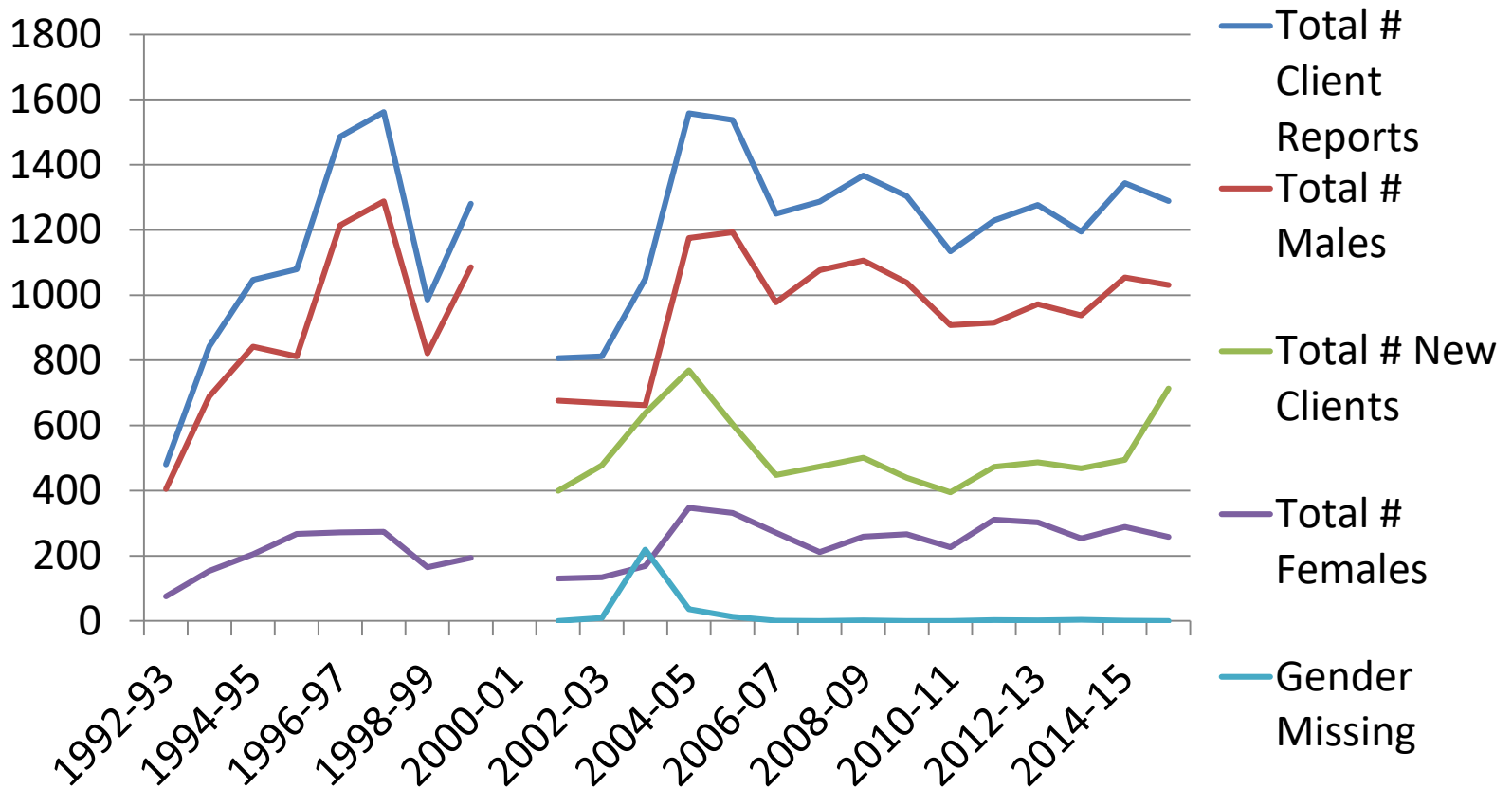


Figure 4. Total Number of New, Ongoing, Reopened, and Closed Client Reports and Total Number of New Clients (Actual + Estimated)

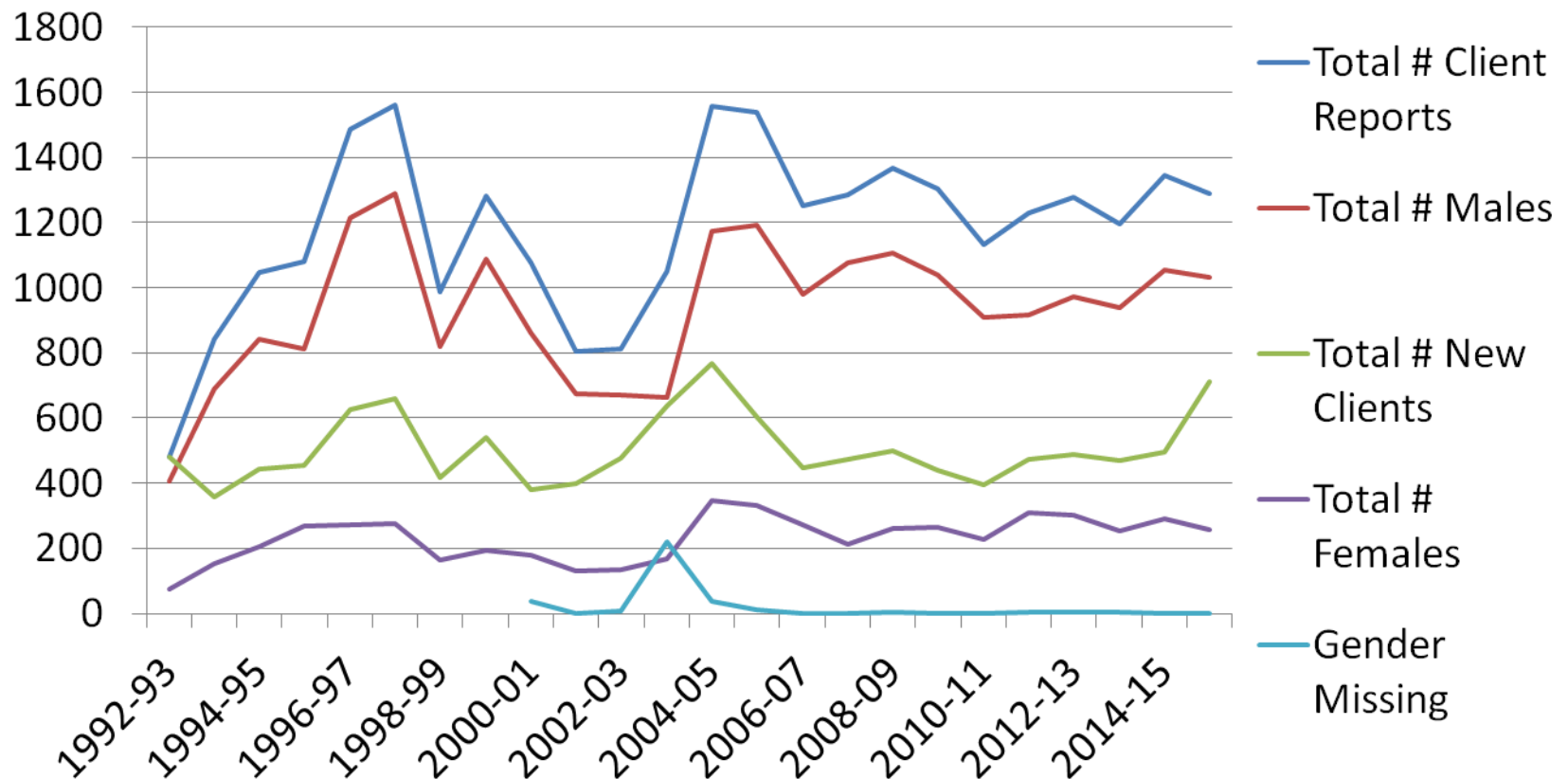


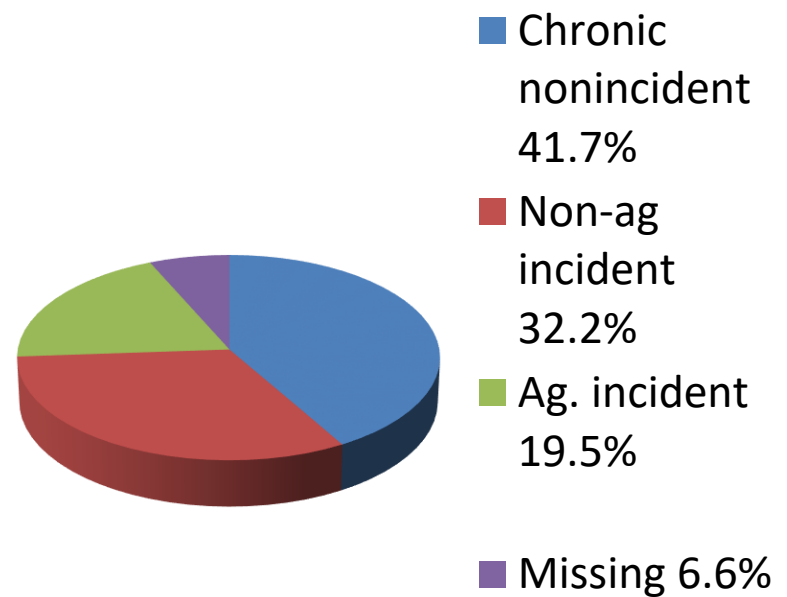
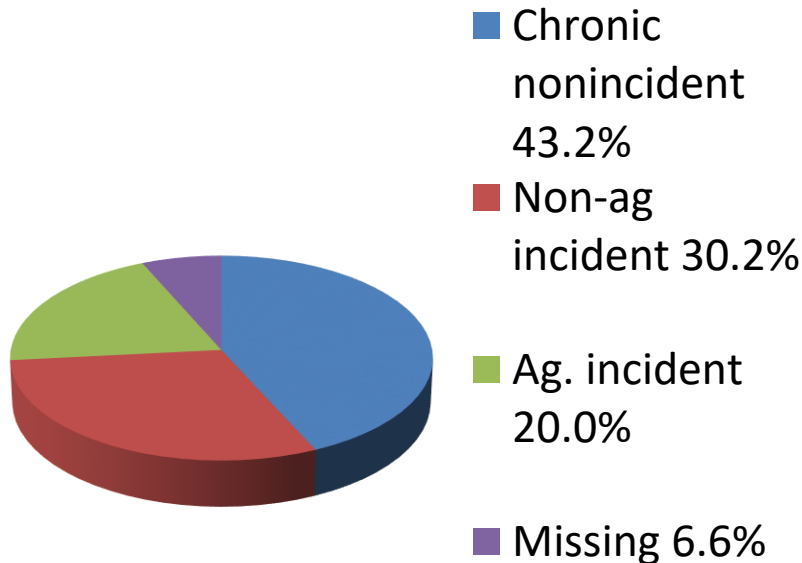
Figure 2. Most Prevalent Origins of Disability
in Total Sample of Client Reports
and in New Client Sample

Total Sample Reports (N = 18,438)

New Client Sample (N = 7,779)

Percent

Percent



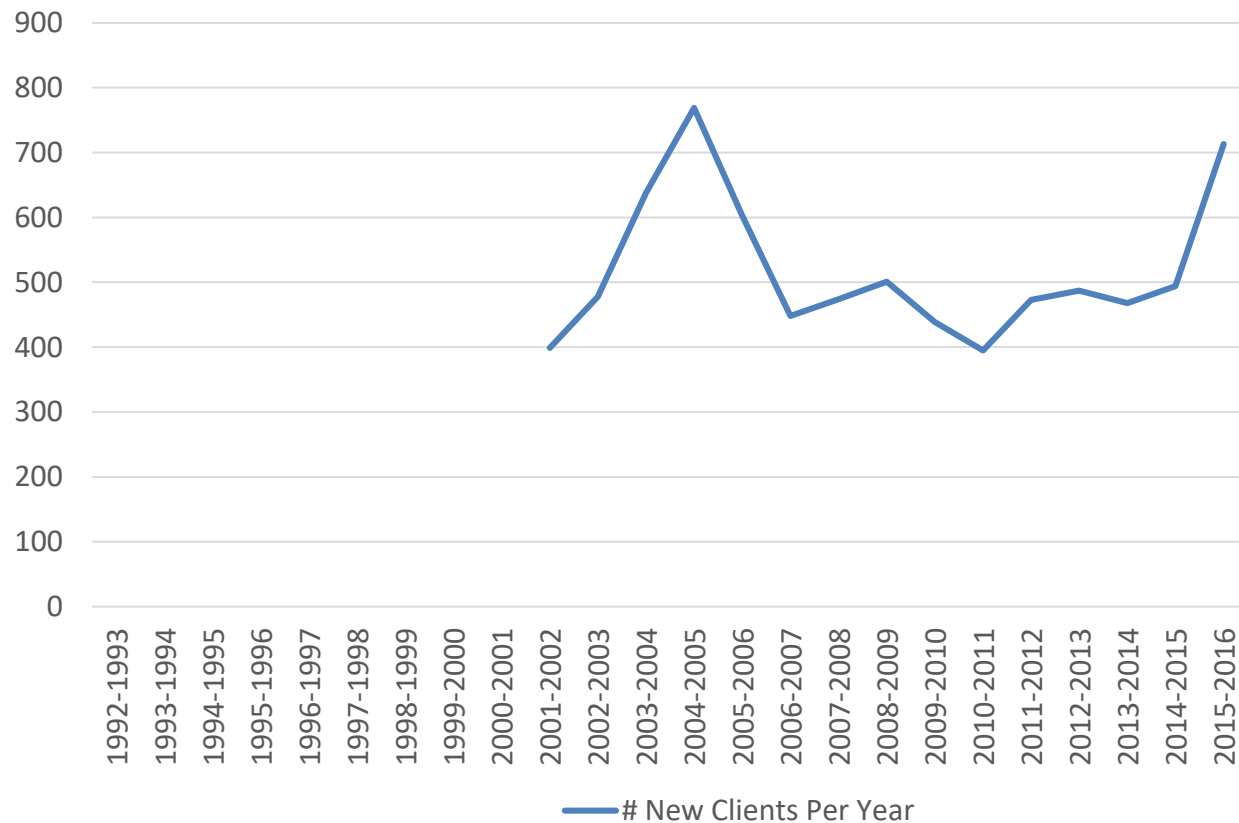
What Were the Primary Causes of Disabilities?

- Primary causes of reported disabilities were among our new client sample ($N = 7,779$):
 - 41.7% Chronic nonincident-related disabilities.
 - 32.2% Non-agricultural incidents.
 - 19.5% Agricultural incidents.
- Most clients worked with AgrAbility 2-7 years ($M = 14.85$ months).

How Many Clients Did We Serve in 24 Years?

- Each year between 1993 and 2016, 8-25 SRAPs served an average of approximately:
 - **490 new clients.**
 - **1,190 new + ongoing + reopened + closed cases.**

Figure 6. Number of New Clients Per Year



How Similar Were Our Two Groups?

- Our two groups were similar in:
 - **Age** (52.1 new; 52.7 total).
 - **Gender = Male** (75.1% new; 78.0% total).

From 24 years of Demographic Data We Learned that:

- AgrAbility provided information, education, and service to an estimated 11,754 new clients (1993-2016) with c. 490 new participants added each year.
- The average age was 52.12 years.
- 75.1% were male.

From 24 years of Demographic Data We Learned that:

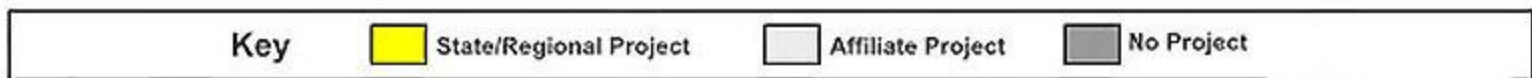
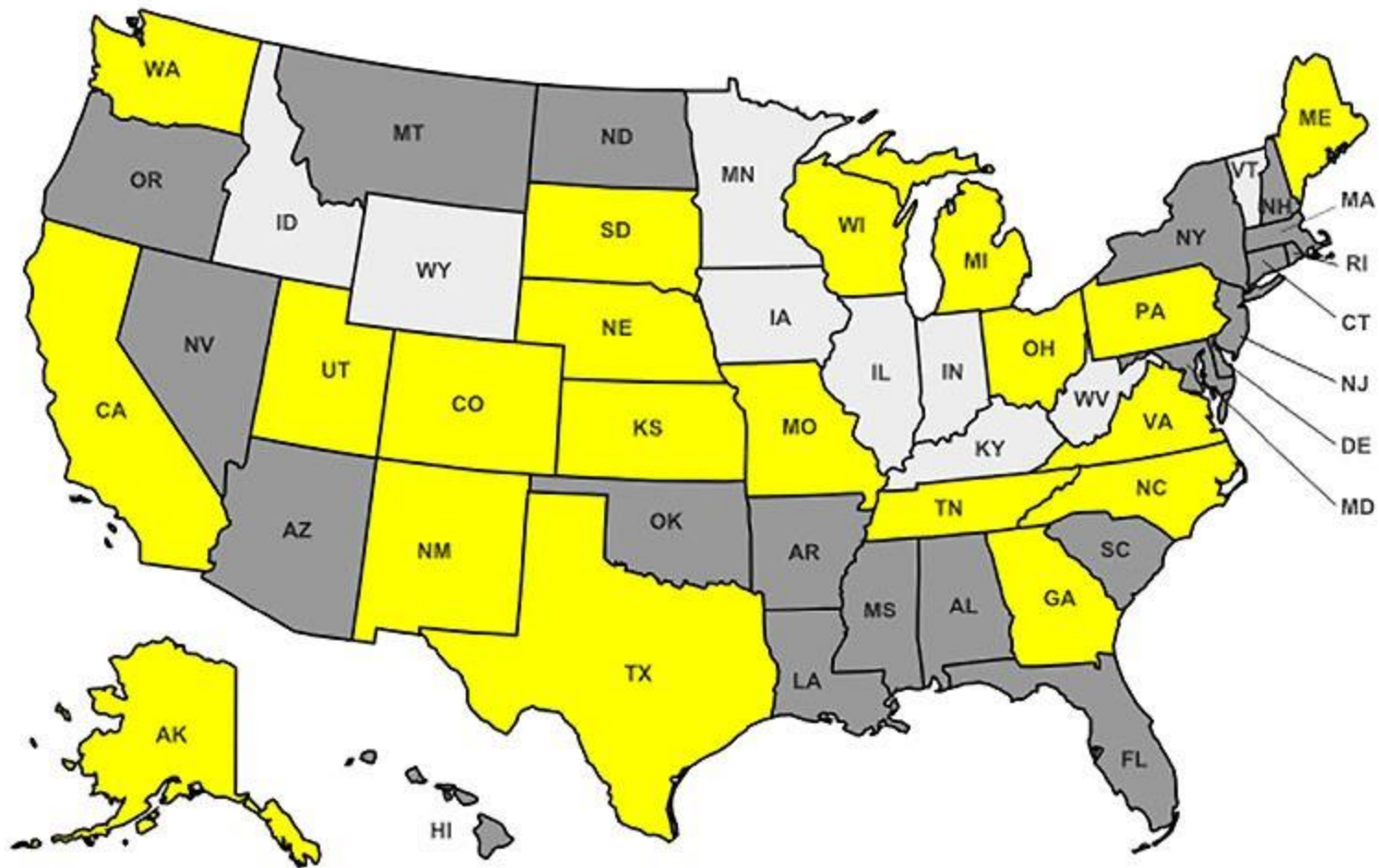
- Counting **new, ongoing, reopened, and closed** clients, AgrAbility served 27,201 clients over 24 years (1993-2016) which on average was 1,133 clients served each year.

Providing Demographic Data Helps.

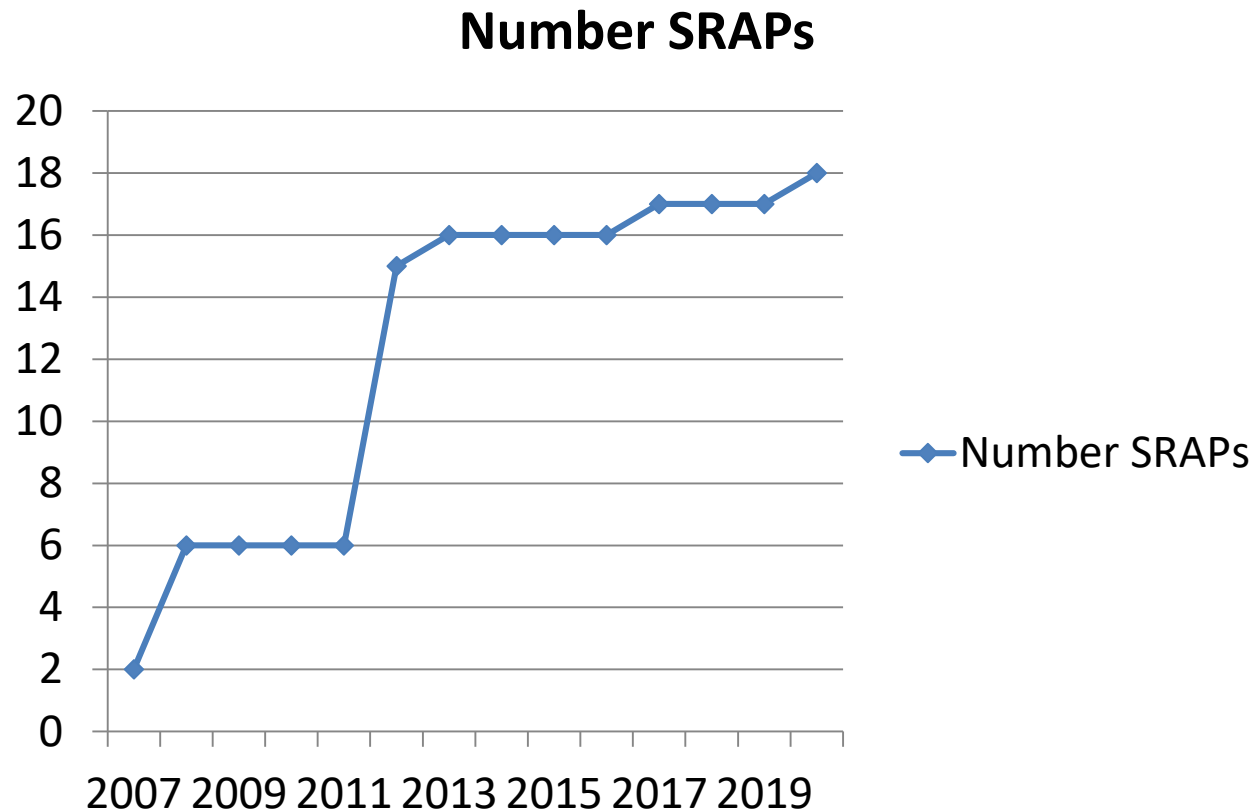
- Providing demographic data annually helps:
 - Us be accountable to NIFA, taxpayers, farmers, and ranchers.
 - Us provide data to policy makers as they decide to continue, discontinue, or expand AgrAbility funding.
 - NAP Advisory Team make decisions based on empirical data.

Providing Demographic Data Helps.

- Providing demographic data annually helps:
 - NAP shape in-service training.
 - Provides directions for marketing efforts.
 - Demonstrates the breadth of the overall AgrAbility Project during our first 25 years (1991-2016).



How Many SRAPs Are Collecting ILW and QOL data?



Why Join Us?

1. Document your project's *effectiveness* at increasing clients' ILW and QOL levels.
2. Enhance your chances of *receiving funding* next time with empirical evidence of your SRAP's quality and effectiveness.
3. Increase your chances for *outside funding* by demonstrating your accountability.
4. Contribute to AgrAbility's *Mission*.

Our Steps
Toward
Evidence-
Based
AgrAbility
Programming

QOL SEM (In preparation)

Who Gains the Most/Least? (In preparation)

AgrAbility Demographics (Fetsch, Petrea, Jones, Field, & Aherin, 2020)

AgrAbility Motivation (Fetsch, Leathers, & Morgan, 2020)

Behavioral Health with 14 SRAPs ($N=273$), (Fetsch & Collins, 2018)

Treatment-Comparison with 12 SRAPs ($N = 225$), (Fetsch & Turk, 2018)

Pretest-Posttest Changes from 10 SRAPs ($N = 191$), (Fetsch, Jackman & Collins, 2017)

Pretests from 11 SRAPs ($N = 398$), (Jackman, Fetsch, & Collins, 2016)

We are building a road to
Evidence-Based AgrAbility
Programming over the next four
years—Together!

Won't You Join Us? Here's How:

1. Send an email to robert.fetsch@colostate.edu.
2. Seek IRB approval from your Land-Grant University.
3. Study and use the same protocol.
4. Adapt CO to ___ on pp. 1-2 & mail.
5. Enter your data into an Excel file that we will provide, proof perfectly & email to me.

Questions? & Answers

**Thank you
very much!**

Further Research Is Needed to Answer...

- **What can we learn from AgrAbility demographics?**
- **What can we learn from those who improved the most? What did they and their SRAPs do differently?**

What Are Our Newest Directions?

- How do we get more matched pretest-posttest QOL data?
- What are we learning about who gains the most from AgrAbility in our qualitative case studies project?

Future Directions for Our Qualitative Case Study by Hamida Jinnah & Paige Tidwell, University of Georgia

- Methods
- Key interview questions
- Preliminary themes from the data

To Answer These Questions...

- More SRAPs are encouraged to join us.
- SRAPs are encouraged to collect more matched pre-test and post-test data.

History of NAPEC

- Fourteen SRAPs conducted a 14-year* AgrAbility treatment versus non-AgrAbility treatment comparison, pretest-posttest study to answer three questions:
 - Do AgrAbility participants' overall QOL and ILW levels improve?
 - Do AgrAbility participants' behavioral health levels improve?
 - Does a group of AgrAbility participants' behavioral health levels improve more than those of a group of non-AgrAbility participants?

* 2/20/2007-2/20/2021

National AgrAbility Project Evaluation Committee (NAPEC) Produced Results

- Published 9 refereed journal articles, & 1 in preparation.
 - Christen, C. T., & Fetsch, R. J. (2008). Colorado AgrAbility: Enhancing the effectiveness of outreach efforts targeting farmers and ranchers with disabilities. *Journal of Applied Communication*, 92(1&2), 57-73.
 - Fetsch, R. J., & Collins, C. L. (2018). The effects of AgrAbility on the mental/behavioral health of farmers and ranchers with functional limitations: A comparison study. *Medical Research Archives*, 6(2). <http://www.journals.ke-i.org/index.php/mra/article/view/1691/1762>

National AgrAbility Project Evaluation Committee (NAPEC) Produced Results

- Published 9 refereed journal articles & 1 in preparation.
 - Fetsch, R. J., & Jackman, D. M. (2015, December). Colorado's AgrAbility Project's effects on KASA and practice changes with agricultural producers and professionals. *Journal of Extension*, 53(6), Article # 6FEA6. Available from <http://www.joe.org/joe/2015december/a6.php>

NAPEC Produced Results

- Published 9 refereed journal articles & 1 in preparation.
 - Fetsch, R. J., Jackman, D. M., & Collins, C. L. (2018). Assessing changes in quality of life and independent living and working levels among AgrAbility farmers and ranchers with disabilities. *Disability and Health Journal*, 11(2), 230-236. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dhjo.2017.08.001>
 - Fetsch, R. J. & Turk, P. (2018). A quantitative assessment of the effectiveness of USDA's AgrAbility Project. *Disability and Health Journal*, 11(2), 249-255. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dhjo.2017.10.004>

NAPEC Produced Results

- Published 9 refereed journal articles & 1 in preparation.
 - Jackman, D. M., Fetsch, R. J., & Collins, C. L. (2016). Quality of life and independent living and working levels of farmers and ranchers with disabilities. *Disability and Health Journal*, 9, 226-233. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dhjo.2015.09.002>
 - Meyer, R. H. & Fetsch, R. J. (2006). National AgrAbility Project impact on farmers and ranchers with disabilities. *Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health*, 12(4), 275-291.

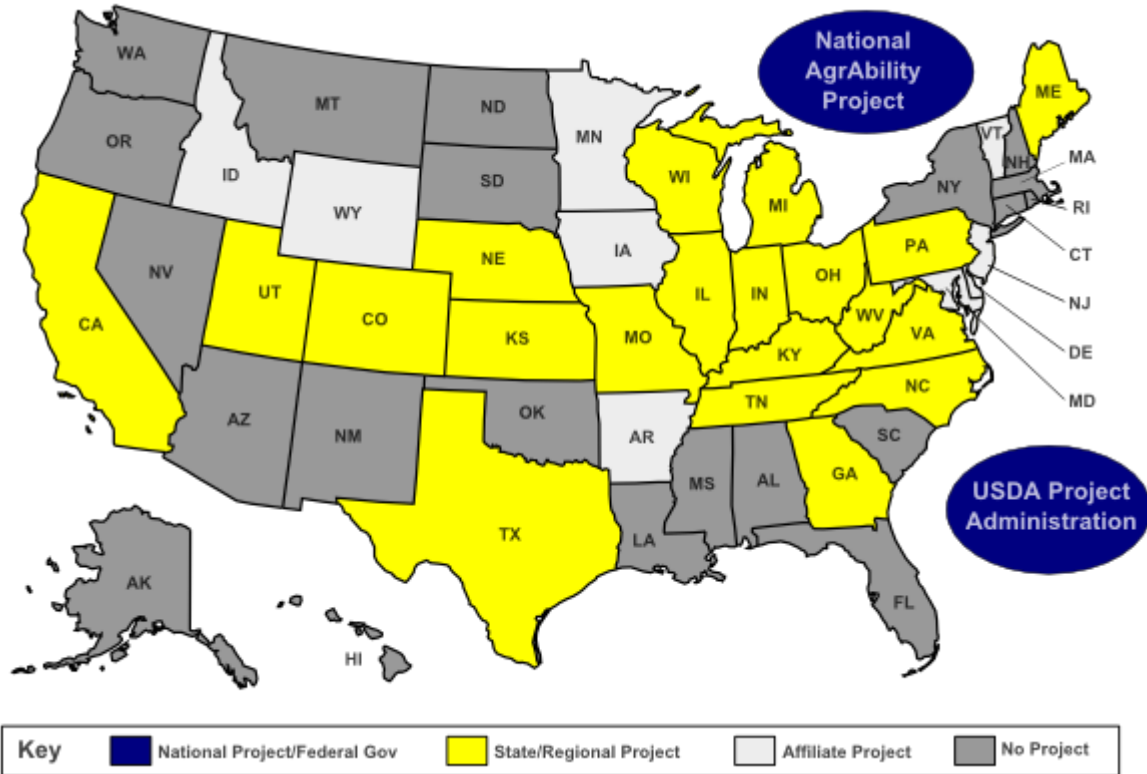
NAPEC Produced Results

- Published 9 refereed journal articles and 1 in preparation.
 - Fetsch, R. J., Leathers, C. L., & Morgan, G. A. (2020, February). Why do some farmers and ranchers overcome limitations from accidents and illnesses and others do not? AgrAbility works for most. *Medical Research Archives*, 8(2). Available at: <<https://journals.kei.org/mra/article/view/2047> (<https://journals.kei.org/mra/article/view/2047>)>. doi: <https://doi.org/10.18103/mra.v8i2.2047> (<https://doi.org/10.18103/mra.v8i2.2047>).

NAPEC Produced Results

- Published 9 refereed journal articles & 1 in preparation.
 - Fetsch, R. J., Petrea, R. E., Jones, P. J., Field, W. E., & Aherin, R. A. (2020). *A 25-year overview of AgrAbility demographics. Journal of Agromedicine*, doi: 10.1080/1059924X.2020.1837318.
 - Jinnah, H. A., & Fetsch, R. J. (2021, in preparation). *What can we learn from those USDA AgrAbility clients who improved the most and least?* Manuscript in preparation.

***Let's discuss how you
and I might get these
results to AgrAbility
stakeholders and
decision makers?***



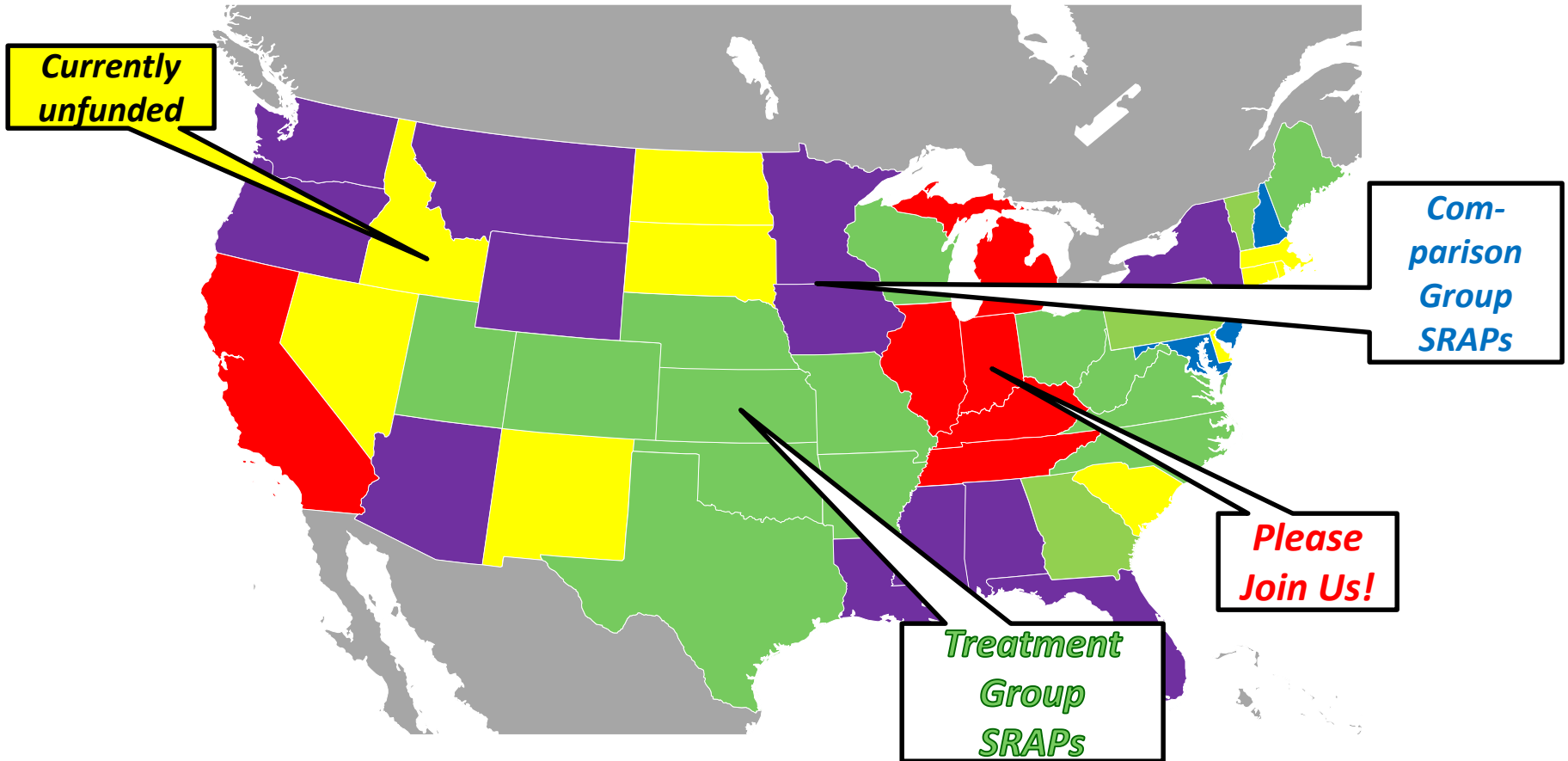
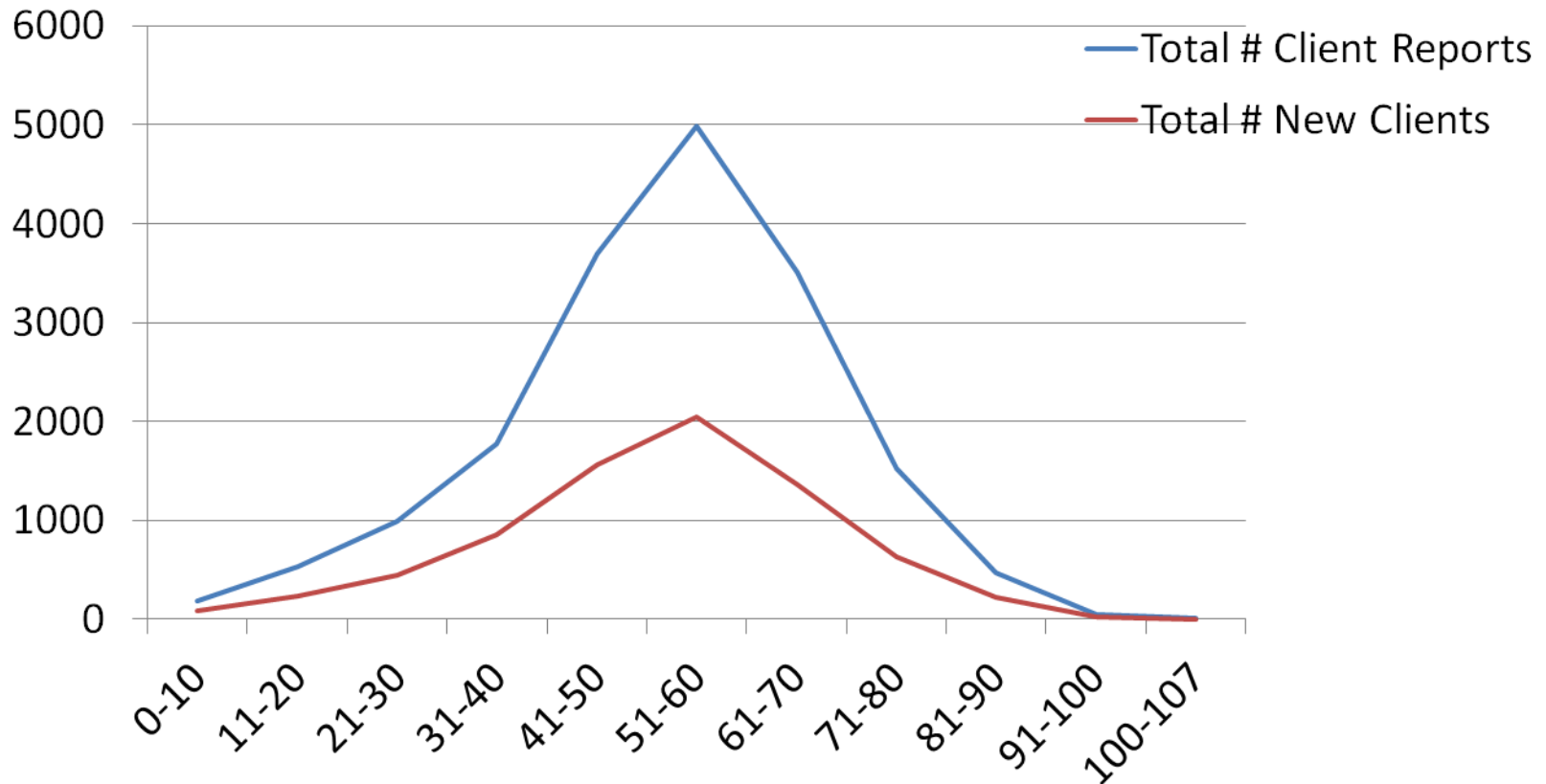


Figure 3. Frequencies by Age Groups from 17,713 Client Reports Compared with 7,452 New Clients (2001-2015)



What percent of AgrAbility clients' origin of disabilities do you think is ag related?

- ***55%?***
- ***26%***
- ***11%?***
- ***8%?***

191 New Clients' Origin of Disabilities were....

- Chronic non-incident 55%
- Non-ag incident 26%
- Ag incident 11%
- Missing 8%