

# New York Workers Compensation Board Annual Conference

Kathy Fisher, Director of External Relations

October 18, 2024



**WCRI**

Workers Compensation  
Research Institute

# Outline For Today

- About WCRI
- Recent trends in workers' compensation
- Indemnity benefits and medical prices in New York
- Prescription drug trends
- Changes in medical workforce

# About WCRI

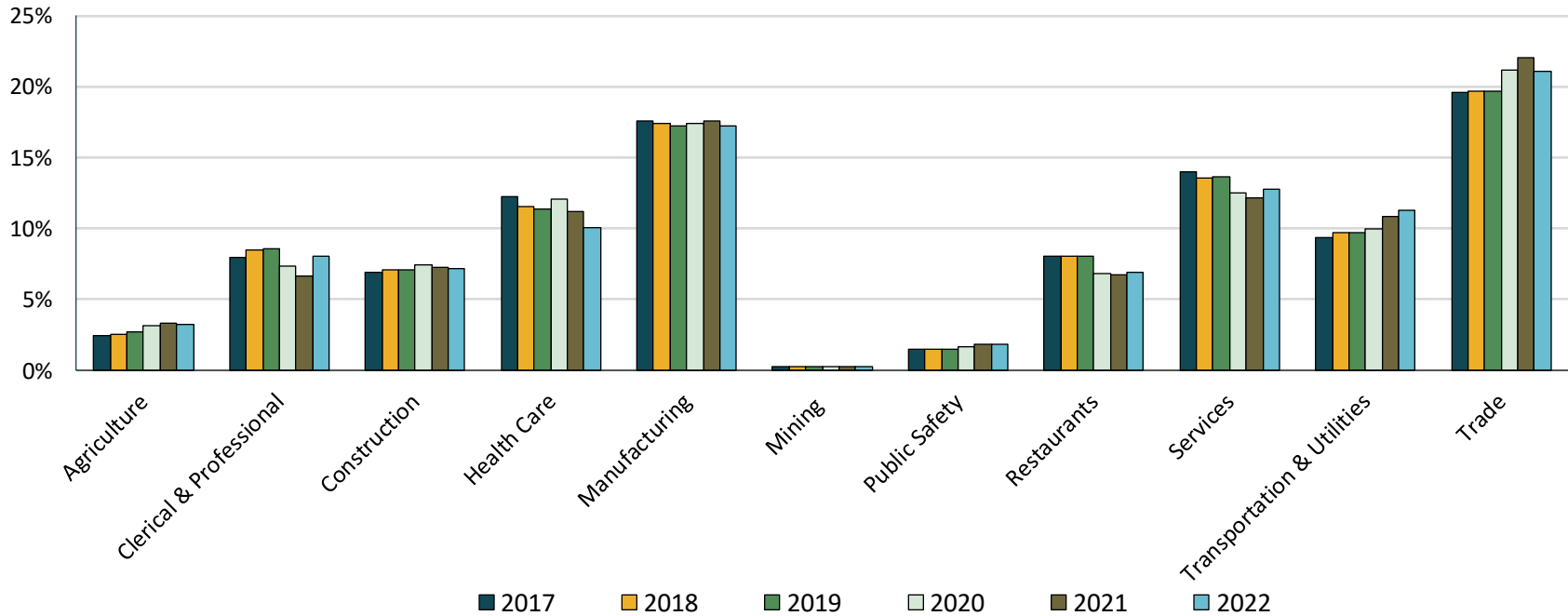
- Independent, not-for-profit research organization providing high-quality, objective information about public policy issues involving workers' compensation systems
- Serve as a resource for public officials and stakeholders, but we do not make recommendations or take positions
- Studies are peer-reviewed with a focus on benefit delivery
- Diverse membership support, including gov't agencies, employers, insurers, labor unions, service providers, etc.



# Trends In Workers' Compensation Claims Composition

# There Have Been Recent Shifts In The Distribution of Work Injuries By Industry

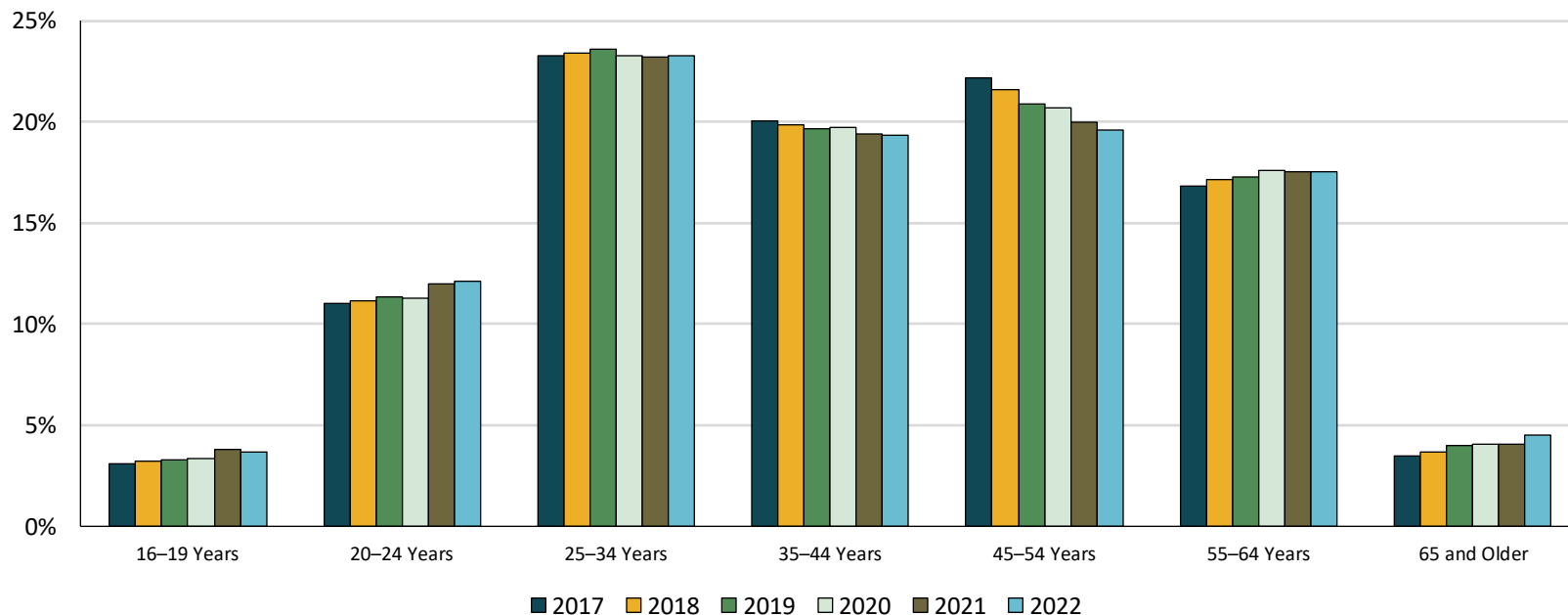
- Increases in relative frequency of injuries in Transportation, Trade, and Agriculture



All non-COVID-19 paid claims for injury years 2017–2022 with 12 months of experience.  
Source: WCRI's Overview of Workers' Compensation Claims Composition (2024).

# Frequency Of Injuries Among Younger And Older Workers Increased

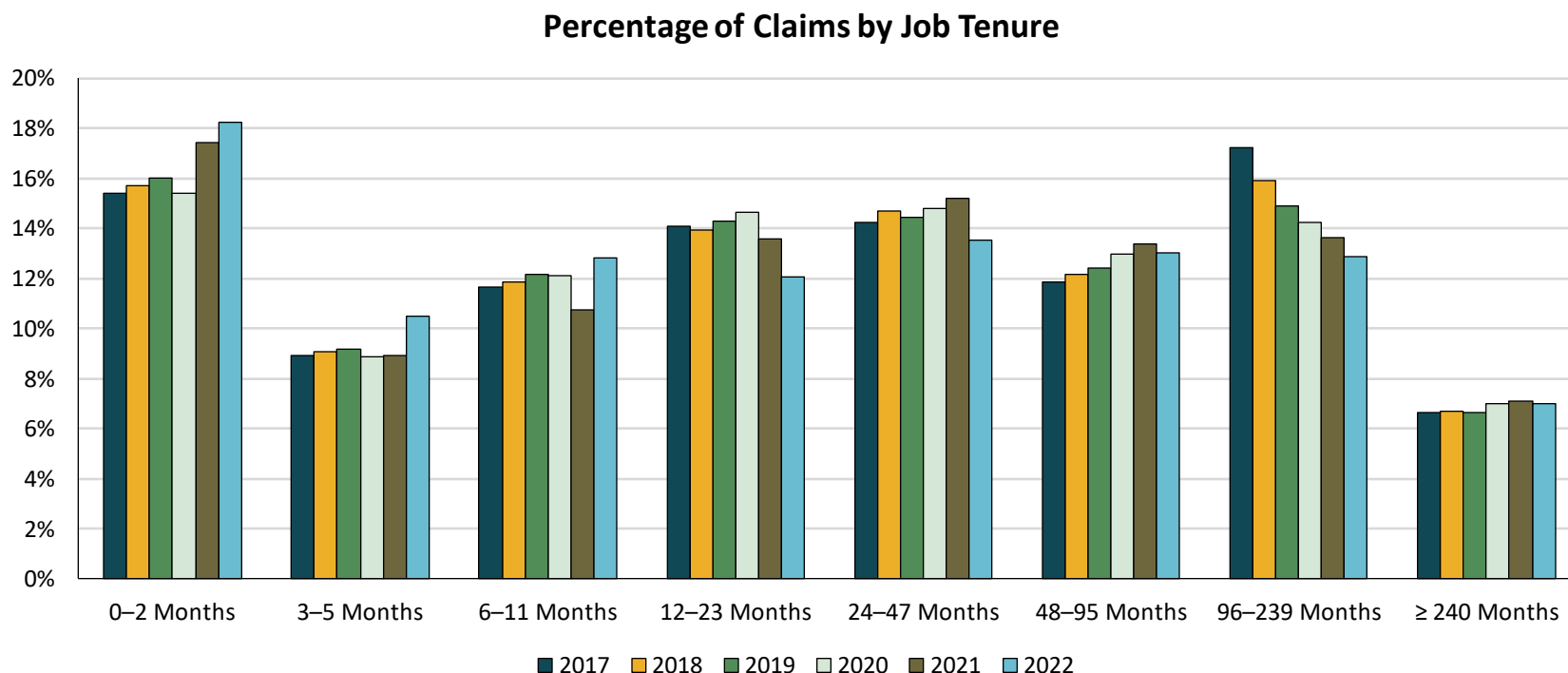
- Increases in frequency of work injuries among workers under 25 and over 55



All non-COVID-19 paid claims for injury years 2017-2022 with 12 months of experience.  
Source: WCRI's Overview of Workers' Compensation Claims Composition (2024).

# Newly Hired Workers Increasingly Contributed To Claims In 2022

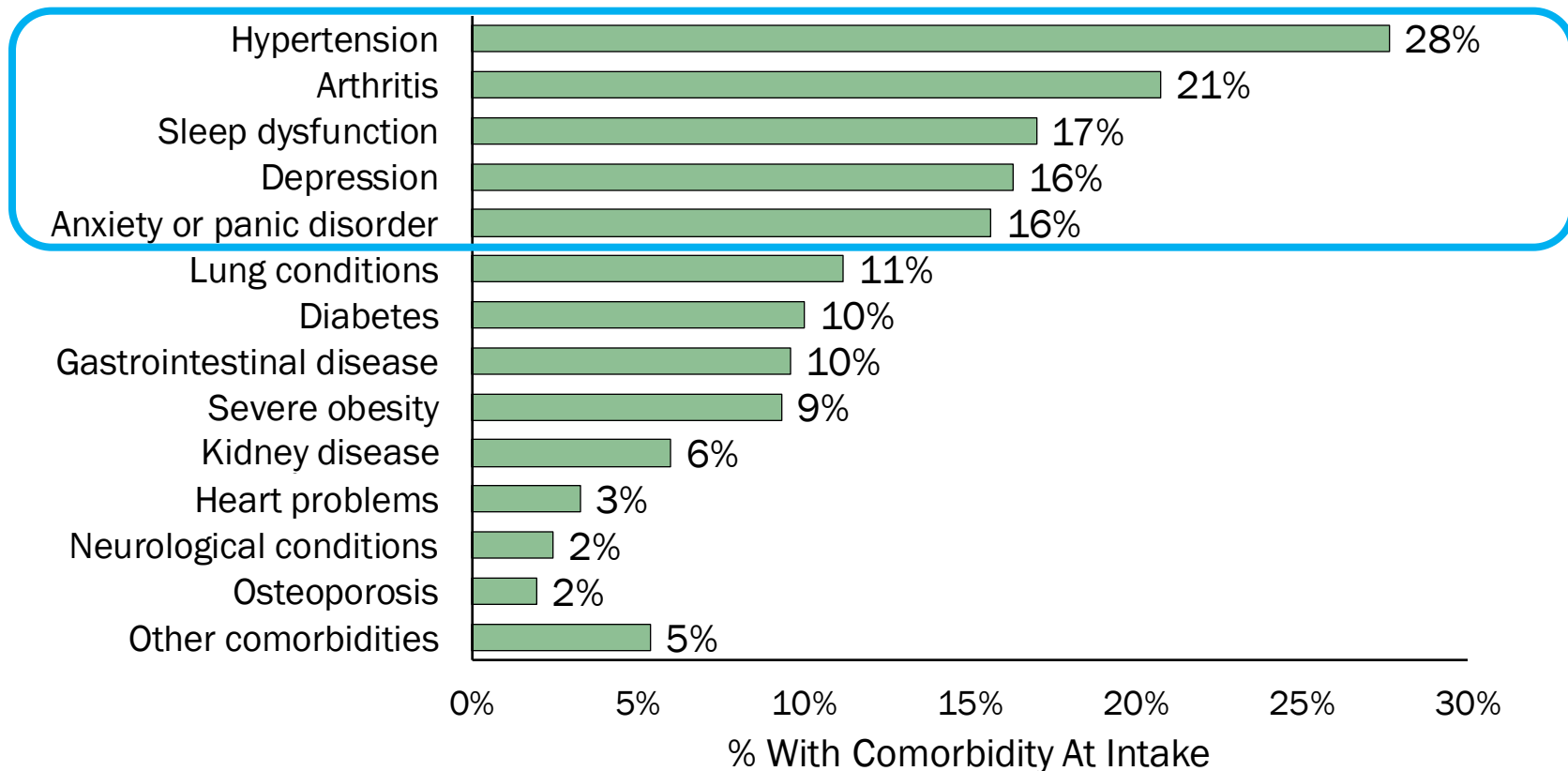
- Frequency of injuries with tenures of <1 year at injury went up



All non-COVID-19 paid claims for injury years 2017–2022 with 12 months of experience.  
Source: WCRI's Overview of Workers' Compensation Claims Composition (2024).

# Hypertension And Arthritis Were The Most Common Comorbidities

56% of WC patients had at least one comorbidity at intake

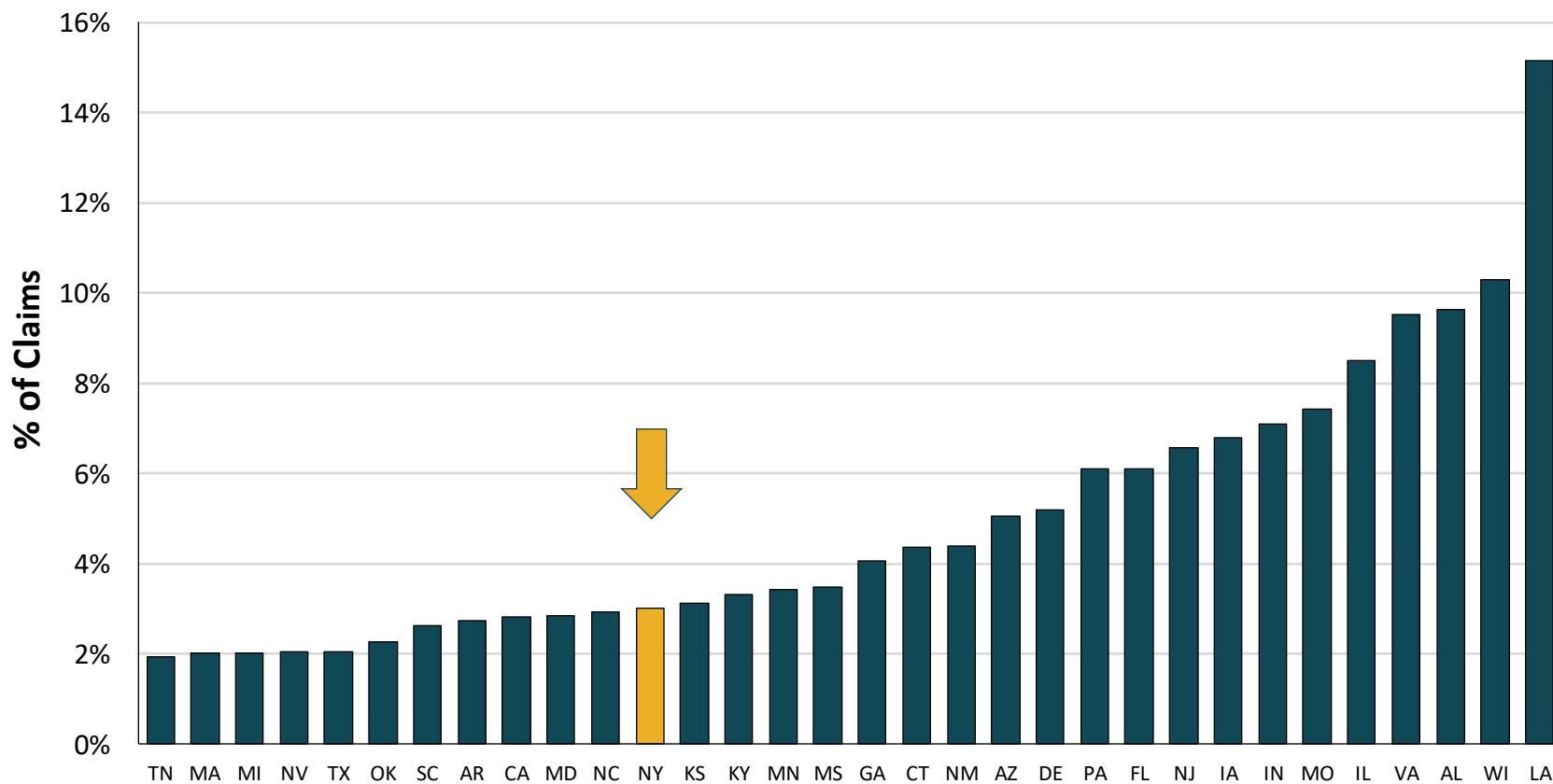


Note: Underlying data were prospectively collected by Focus on Therapeutic Outcomes (FOTO) Inc. from low back pain patients receiving outpatient physical therapy in the United States from 2017 to 2021.

Source: *Comorbidities And Recovery After Physical Therapy For Low Back Pain* (2023)



# Percentage Of Claims Identified As High-Cost Claims



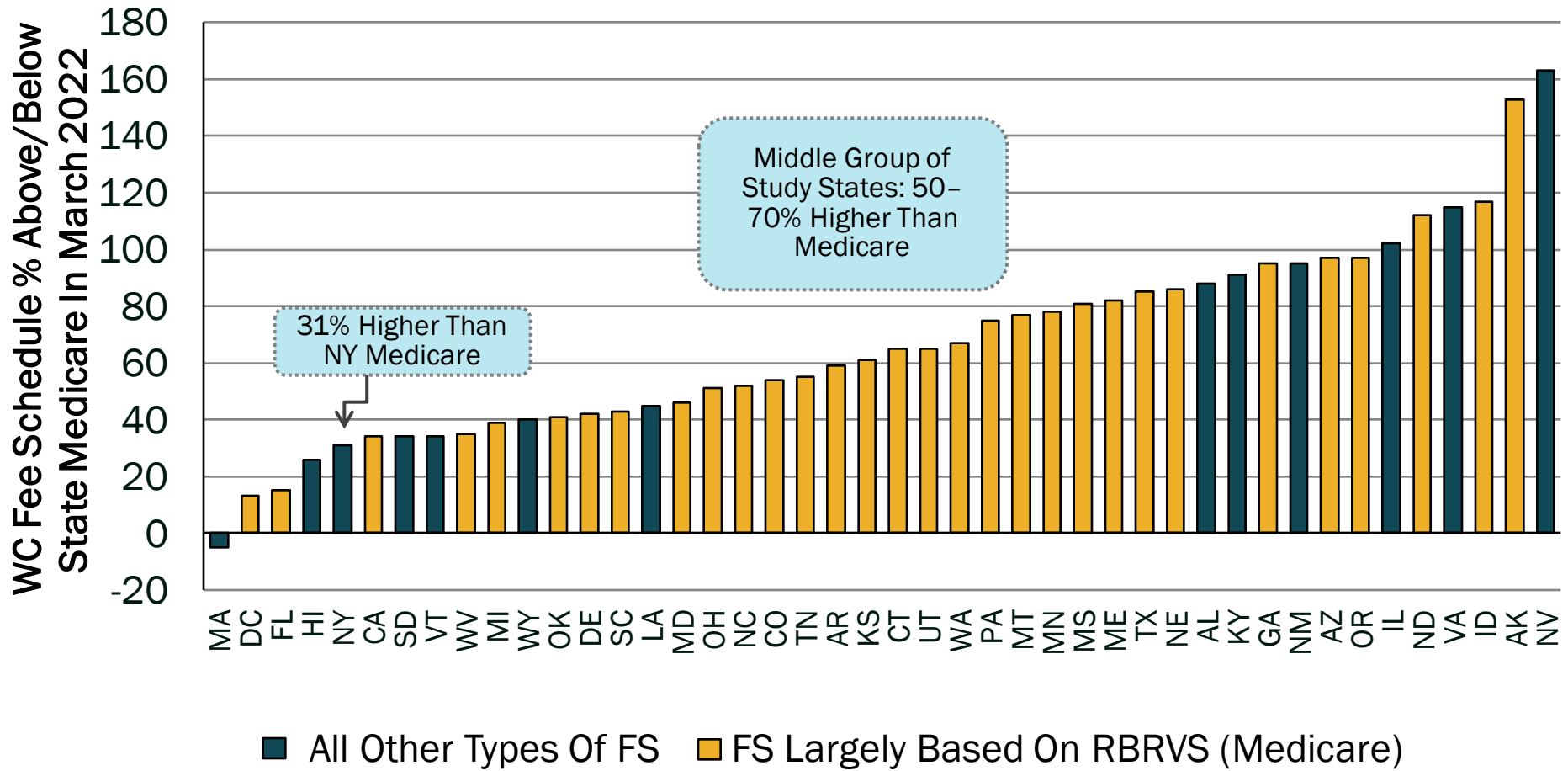
Claims with more than 7 days of lost time. Source: *Factors Associated With High-Cost Claims (2024)*

# Fee Schedule and Medical Prices

# Selected Recent Policy Changes That May Impact Trends In New York Medical Payments Per Claim

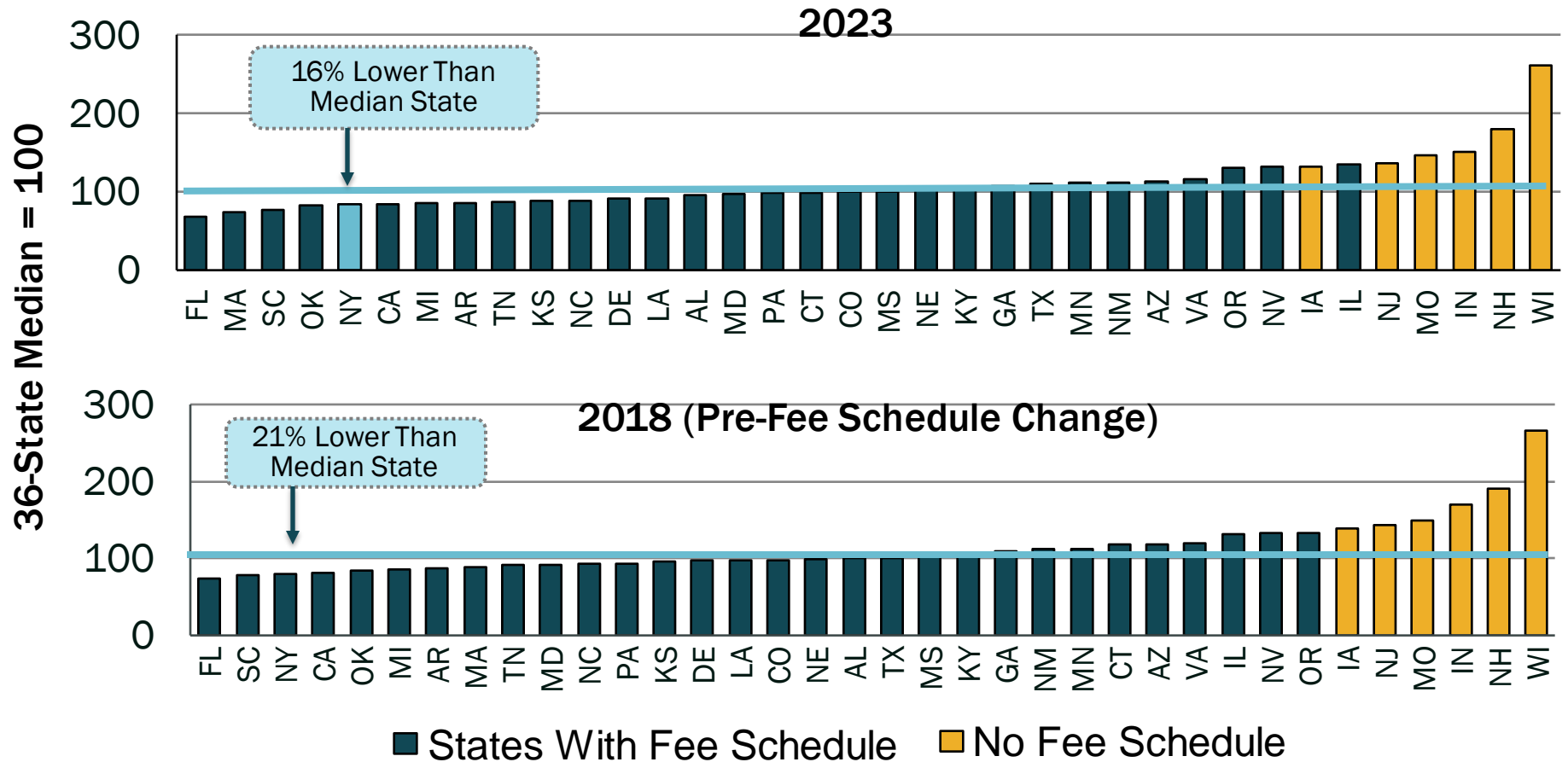
Policy	Effective Date	Selected Metrics To Monitor In Future Editions Of This Report
2019 Medical Fee Schedule Change	4/2019	Nonhospital payments per claim; prices paid; utilization
Drug Formulary	New Rx: 12/5/2019; Refills: 3/7/2022	Rx payments per claim
Expanded Provider Law	1/2020	Nonhospital payments per claim; prices paid; utilization

# NY Fee Schedule For Professional Services (As % Of State Medicare Rates) Lower Than Most States



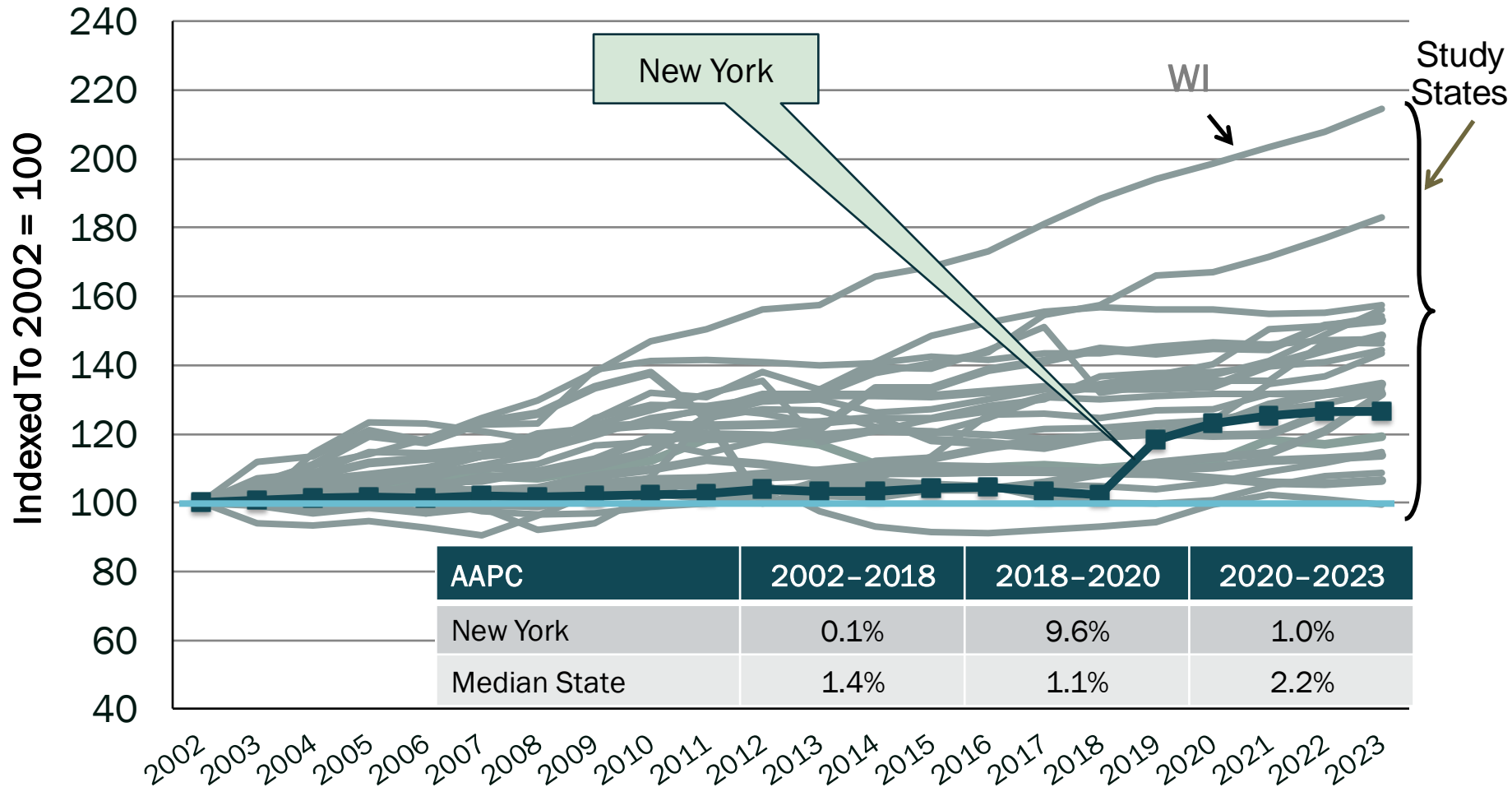
Source: *Designing Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Schedules, 2022* (2022)

# NY Prices Paid For Professional Services Were 16% Lower Than Median Study State In 2023



Prices Paid For Professional (nonhospital) Services In Calendar Year 2018 and 2022 (January through June)  
 Sources: WCRI Medical Price Index For Workers' Compensation, 12th Edition (2020); WCRI Medical Price Index For Workers' Compensation, 15th Edition (2023)

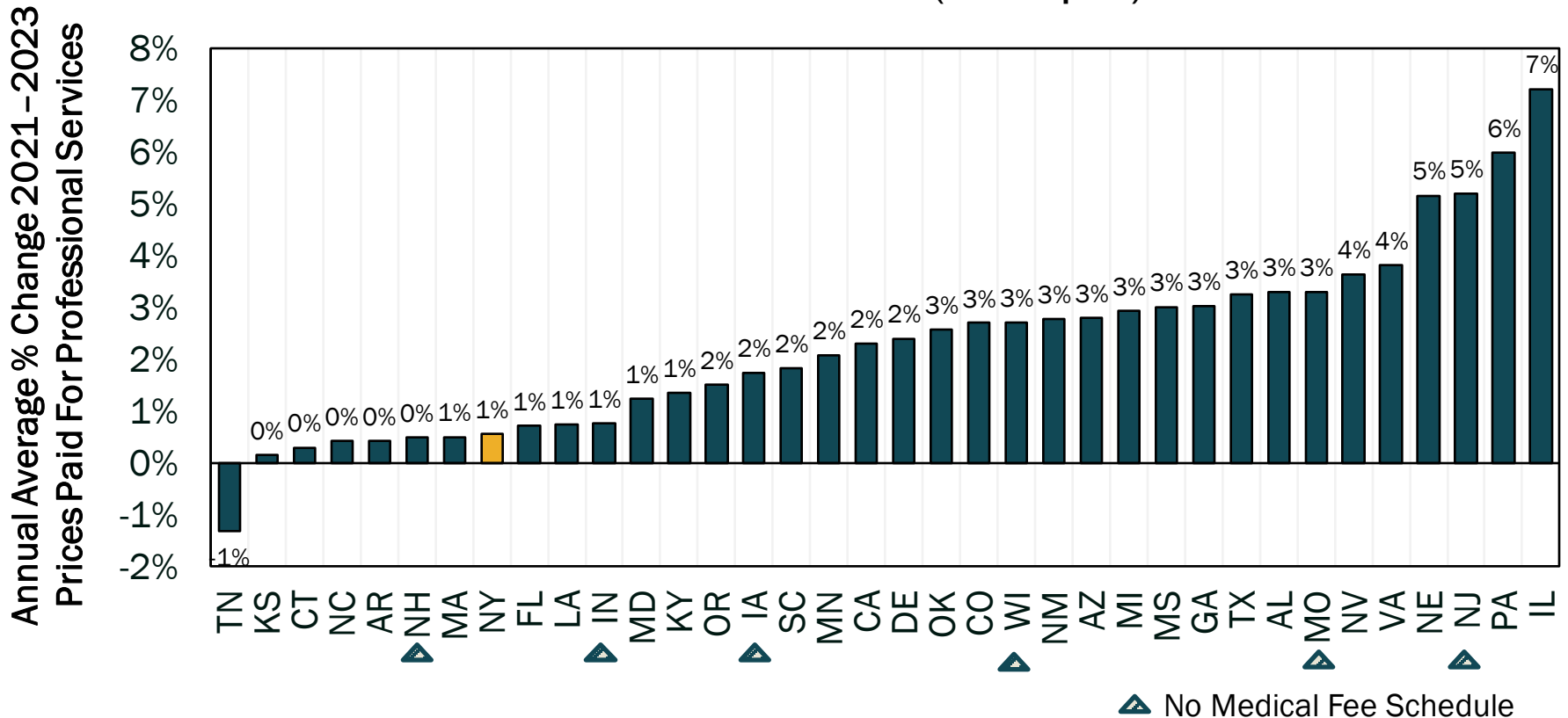
# NY Prices Paid For Professional Services Changed Little Since 2020, Following Increases 2018–2020



Prices Paid For Nonhospital (professional) Services In Calendar Year 2002 To 2023 (2023 data are January through June). Source: *WCRI Medical Price Index For Workers' Compensation, 16th Edition (2024)*

# Prices Paid For Professional Services In NY Grew Less Than Most Other States 2021–2023

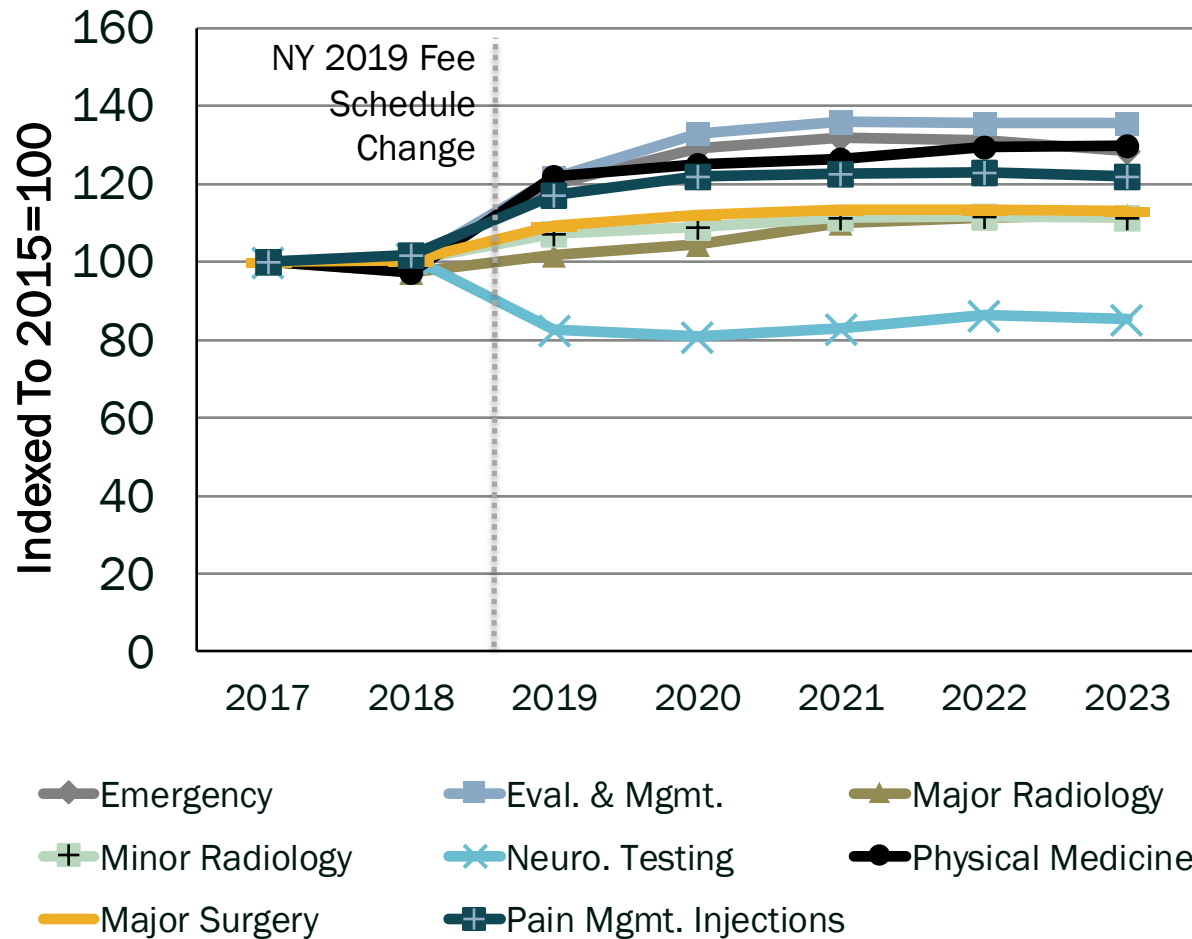
Prices Paid For Professional (nonhospital) Services



Note: VA introduced a medical fee schedule effective for services after January 1, 2018.

Prices Paid For Professional (nonhospital) Services Based On Calendar Years 2021 Through 2023 (2023 data are January through June). Source: *WCRI Medical Price Index For Workers' Compensation, 16th Edition (2024)*

# NY Prices Paid For Key Professional Services Changed Little Since 2020; Followed Rapid Changes 2018–2020



AAPC	2018–2020	2020–2023
Major Radiology	3.6%	2.4%
Neuro. Testing	-10.6%	1.8%
Physical Medicine	13.4%	1.2%
Minor Radiology	4.2%	0.8%
Eval. & Mgmt.	15.3%	0.7%
Major Surgery	5.6%	0.2%
Pain Mgmt. Inj.	9.4%	0.0%
Emergency	13.4%	-0.1%

Prices Paid For Nonhospital Services In Calendar Year 2017 To 2023 (2023 data are January through June)  
 Source: WCRI Medical Price Index For Workers' Compensation, 16th Edition (2024)

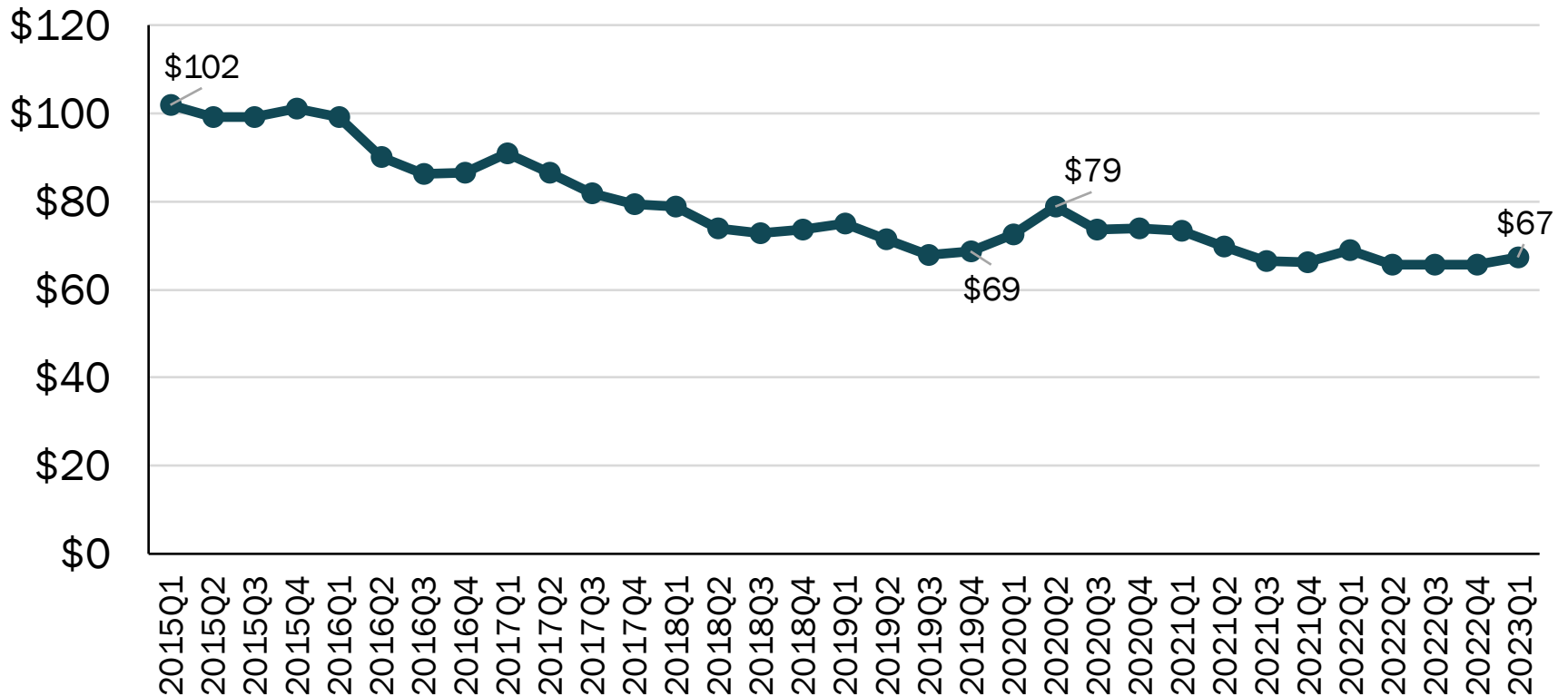




# Rx Drug Trends

# How Did Rx Drug Payments Change Between 2015 And 2023?

## Rx Payment Per Medical Claim

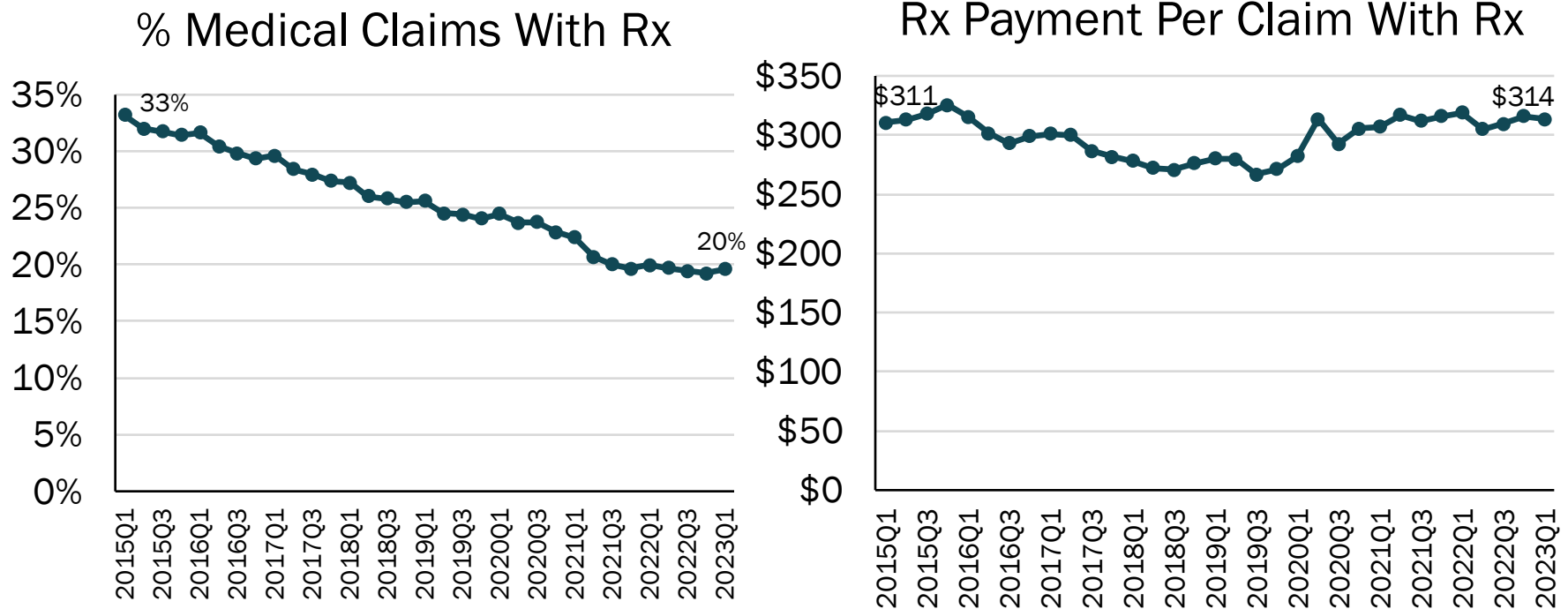


Data include prescriptions (Rx) and medical utilization between 2015Q1 and 2023Q1, for all medical claims with injuries occurring within three years prior to the service date.

Source: WCRI's Interstate Variation and Trends in WC Drug Payments (2024).

# How Did Rx Drug Payments Change Between 2015 And 2023?

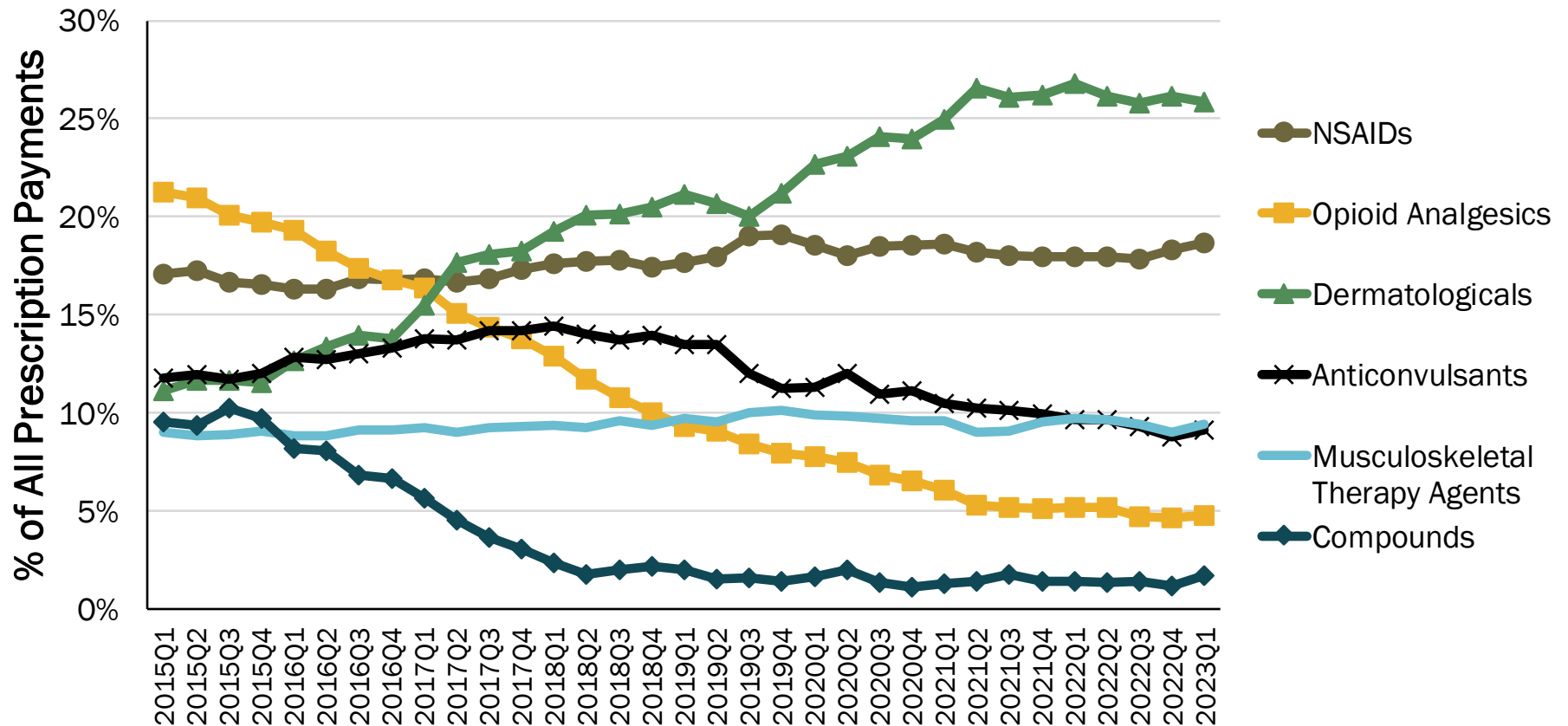
- Rx payments per medical claim decreased across the study states



Data include prescriptions (Rx) and medical utilization between 2015Q1 and 2023Q1, for all medical claims with injuries occurring within three years prior to the service date.

Source: WCRI's *Interstate Variation and Trends in WC Drug Payments (2024)*.

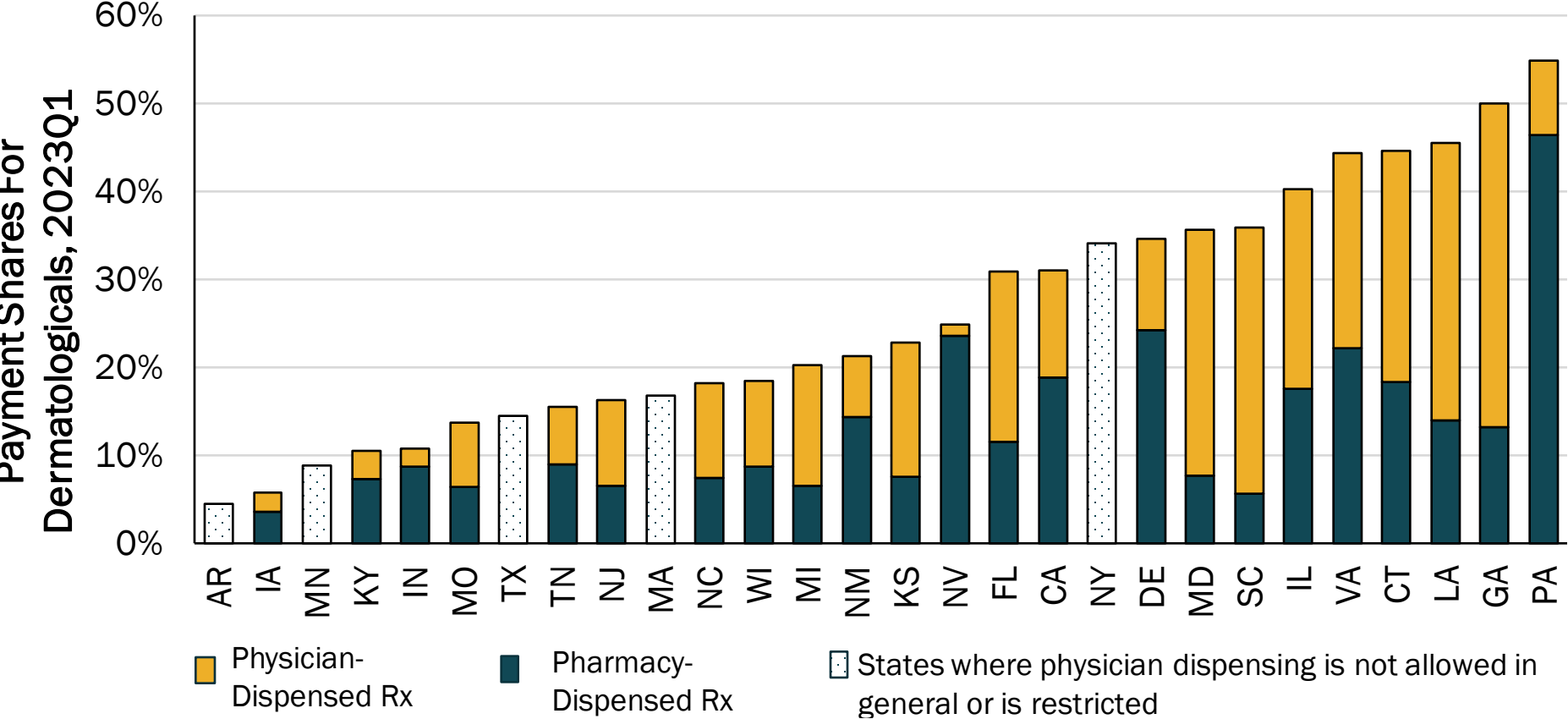
# How Did The Types Of Medications Dispensed Change Over This Period?



Data include prescriptions (Rx) and medical utilization between 2015Q1 and 2023Q1, for all medical claims with injuries occurring within three years prior to the service date.

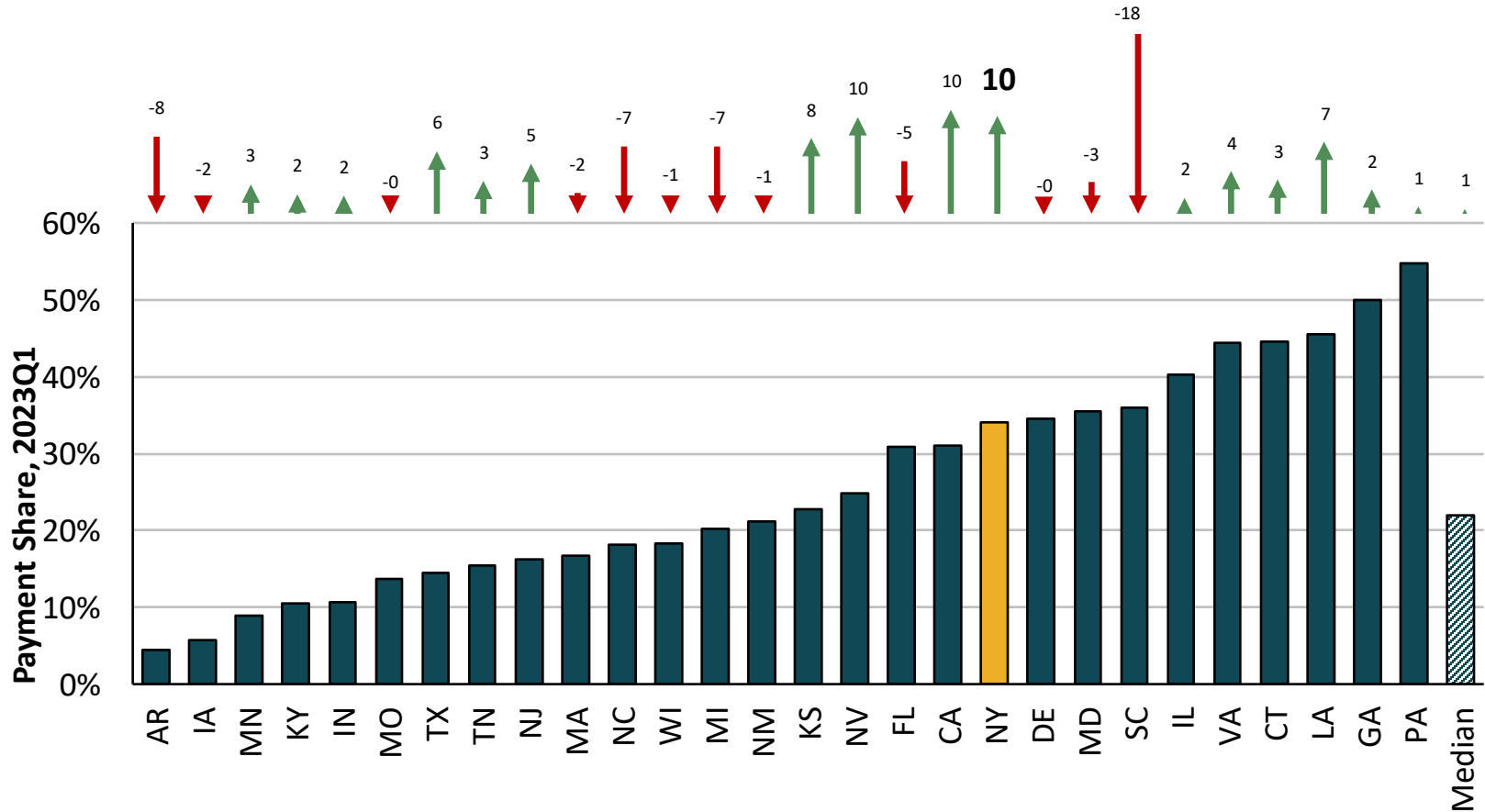
Source: WCRI's Interstate Variation and Trends in WC Drug Payments (2024).

# Dermatological Agents Represented Over 30% Of All Rx Payments In NY In 2023Q1



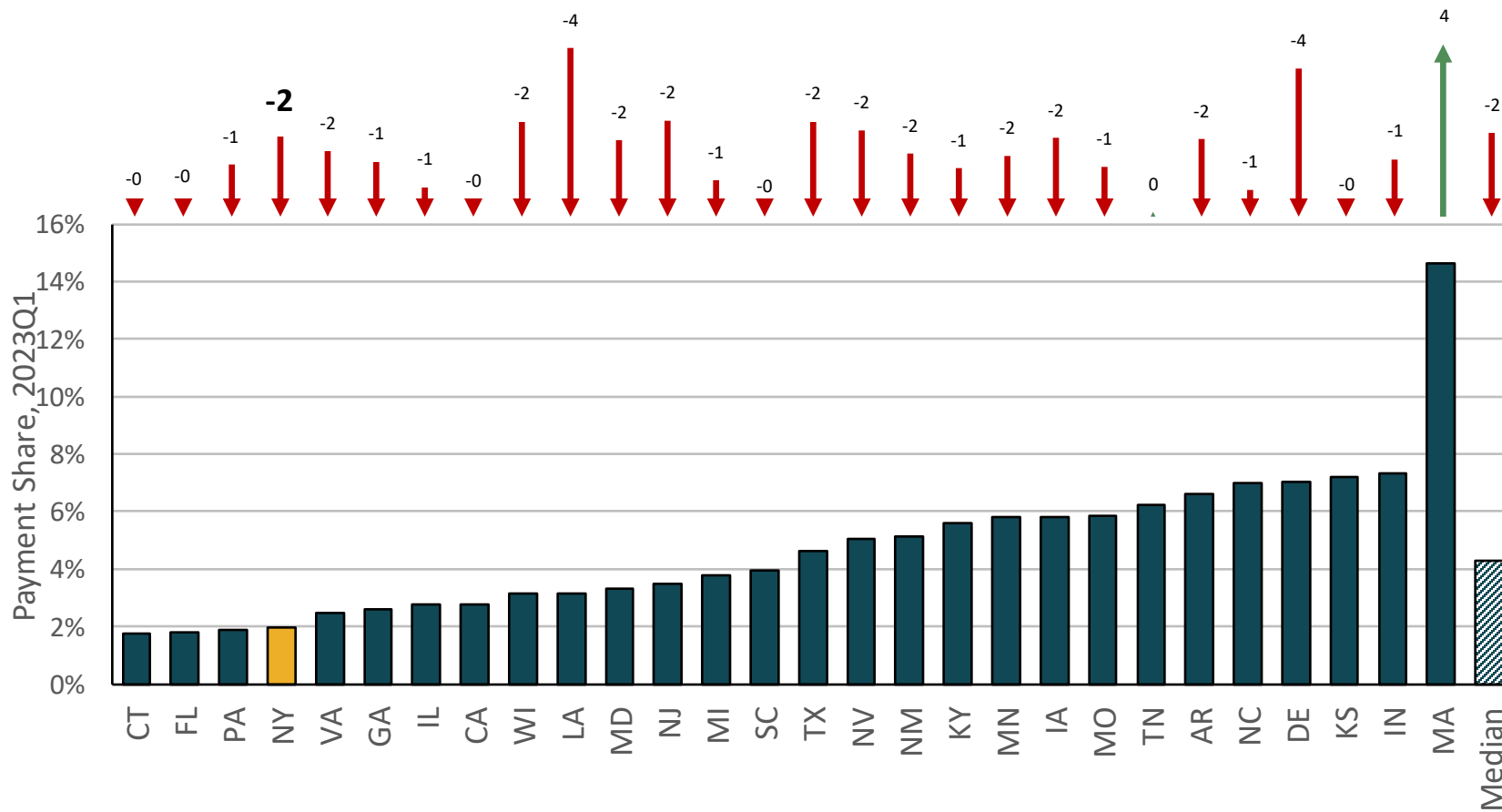
The underlying data include prescriptions filled in 2023Q1 for claims with Rx paid under workers' compensation. Claims are those with injuries occurring within 3 years prior to fill date.

# Cost Share Of Rx Payments For Dermatological Agents 2023Q1 vs. 2021Q1



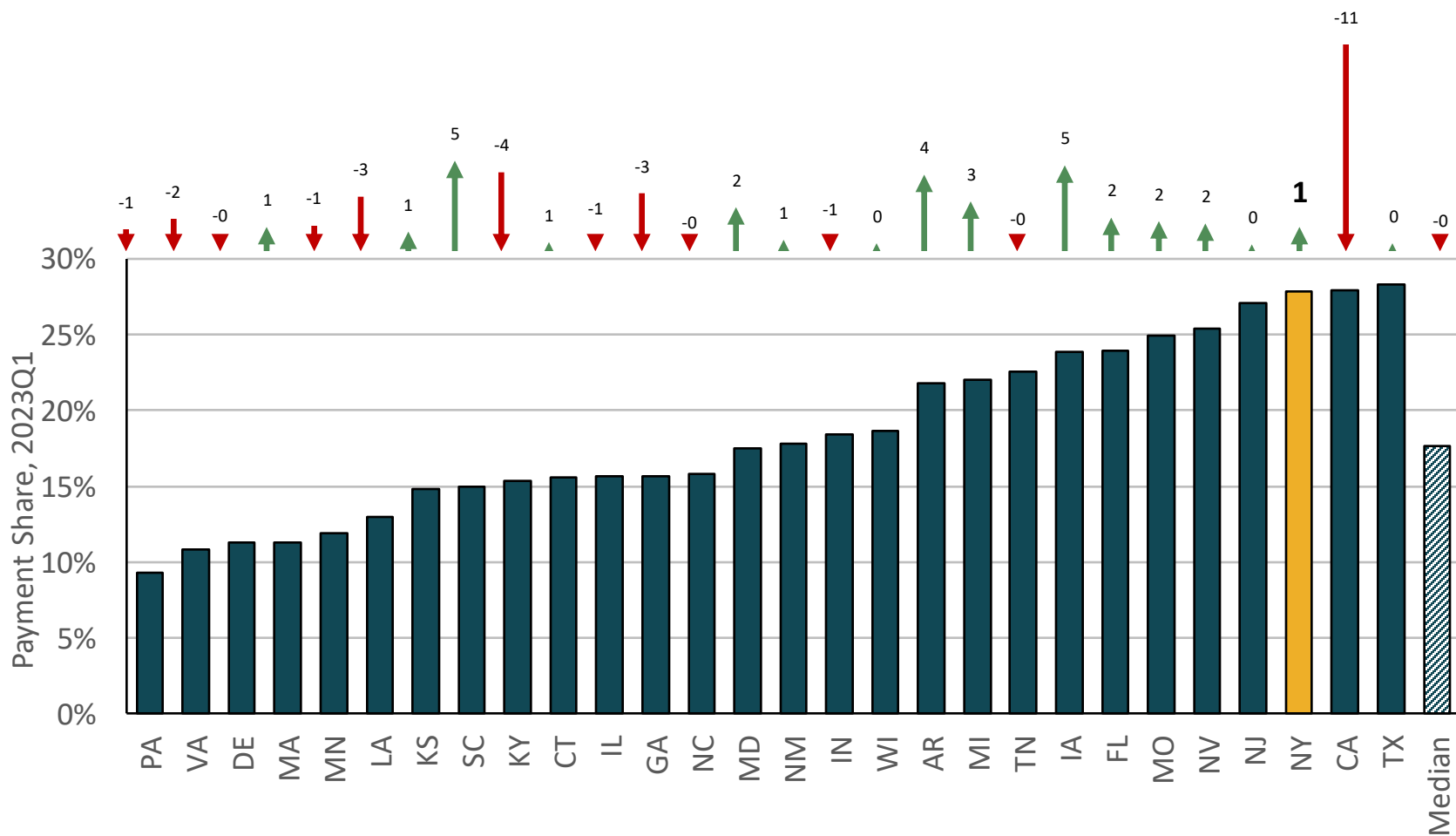
Source: *Interstate Variation and Trends in Workers' Compensation Drug Payments, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*

# Cost Share Of Rx Payments For Opioids, 2023Q1 vs. 2021Q1



Source: *Interstate Variation and Trends in Workers' Compensation Drug Payments, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*

# Cost Share Of Rx Payments For NSAIDS, 2023Q1 vs. 2021Q1



Source: *Interstate Variation and Trends in Workers' Compensation Drug Payments, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*





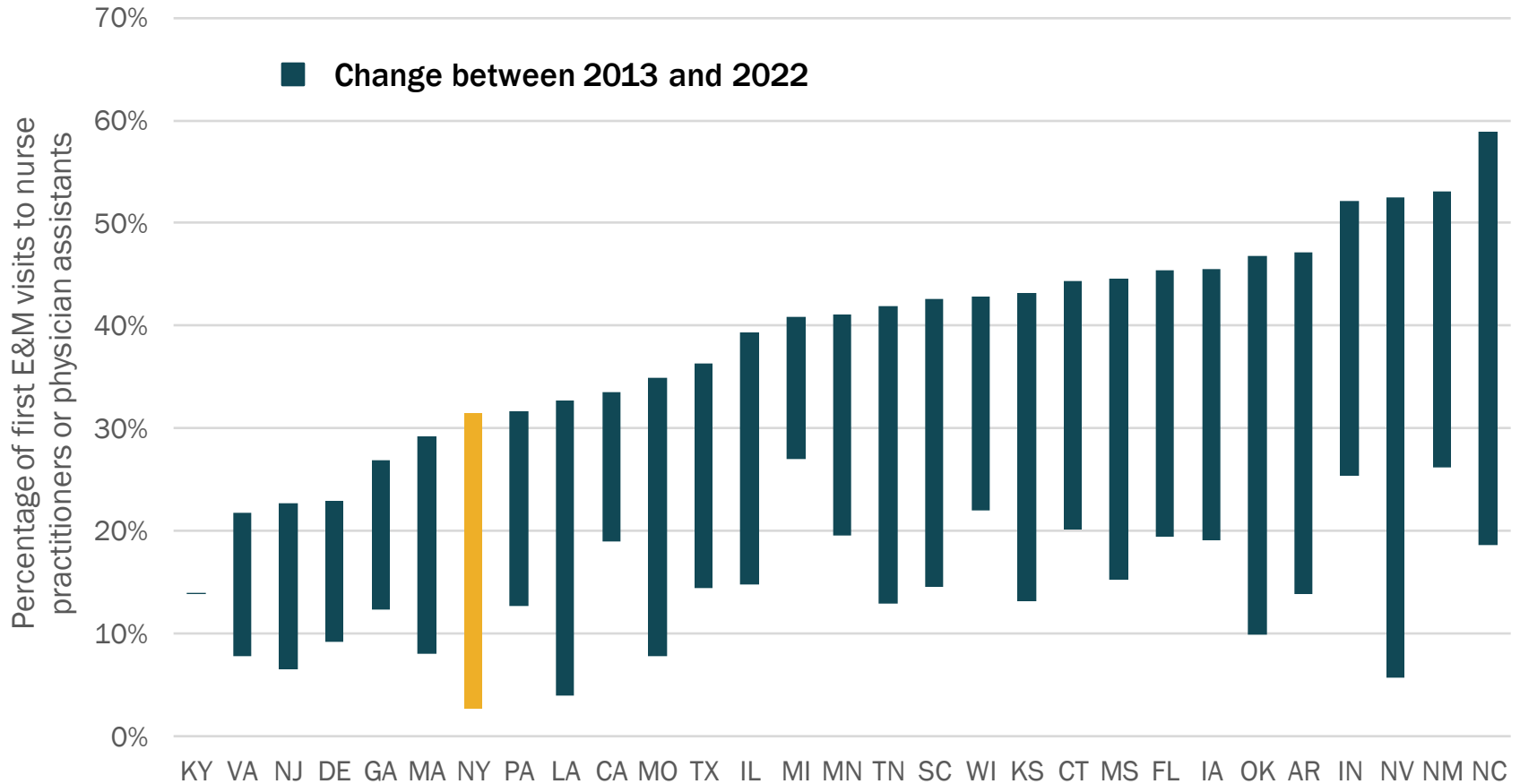
# Changes In Medical Workforce

# Advanced Practitioners Commonly Provide Care In Many States



Percentage of first nonemergency E&M visits (office visits) to nurse practitioners and physician assistants among all claims. Data includes all claims for injuries in 2022 injury years across 29 states. Key: E&M: Evaluation and management (office visits).

# Share Of Visits To Advanced Practitioners Increased In Nearly All States



The change in the percentage of first nonemergency E&M visits (office visits) to nurse practitioners and physician assistants between in 2013 and 2022 injury years across 29 states.

# Thank You

- For questions about the findings, email us at [wcri@wcrinet.org](mailto:wcri@wcrinet.org); [kfisher@wcrinet.org](mailto:kfisher@wcrinet.org)
- The research discussed today may be downloaded from our website at [www.wcrinet.org](http://www.wcrinet.org).
- To learn about membership, visit [www.wcrinet.org/membership](http://www.wcrinet.org/membership).
- Registration is open for the 2025 WCRI Annual Issues & Research Conference, March 6-7 in Phoenix, AZ.
- Follow us on social media

