low-cost construction of IAIABC-specific claims. I addition, the vendor is providing coverage decision support applications including indemnity, medical, legal and associated claims costs.

The state-of-the-art decision support and data warehousing capability is based on an advanced claim, coverage, and workers' compensation data reporting system. The initial phase for the international data repository will include data from Release 1 First Report of Injury and IAIABC Core Data Elements for the calendar year 2000 and should consist of at least five (5) jurisdictional participation.

This system has the capability to integrate administrative, financial, and clinical information both within and across lines of business, administrative jurisdictions, industries, and risk. The modular technology in the repository will make it possible for both rapid and incremental deployment catering to the current and future needs of those interested in workers' compensation issues, such as public policy research for preventing and managing work injury and illness.

B3.4 A Report on the Third International Conference on Measuring the Burden of Injury—Luchter S, MacKenzie EJ

INTRODUCTION
A major issue in measuring injury outcomes is the applicability of methods and indices, originally developed for measuring the outcomes from medical treatment of disease, to the measurement of outcome from injury. The third in a series of international conferences on this issue was held in May, 2000 at which experts in injury outcomes from around the world gathered to discuss methods for measuring the burden of injury and hearing the results of recent research from their colleagues. The theme of the conference was "Towards Consensus."

METHOD
Invited speakers made presentations covering health profiles and indices, preference based and quality of life measures, coding and classification of non-fatal injuries, and new developments in cost of injury. Keynote presentations included health status and quality of life measures, rehabilitation measures, and cost/effectiveness cost/benefit issues. Poster presentations covered research results related to quality of life and economic methods of measuring injury burden. Breakout sessions and open discussion periods focused on the theme issue of developing consensus on methods that could be applied by the international injury outcome research community. The views on injury outcome as seen by the World Health Organization were presented at the conference dinner.

RESULTS
A summary of the presentations and the poster abstracts are included in a proceedings published shortly after the conference. In addition to summaries of the presentations and posters the proceedings includes a discussion of the level of consensus reached and identification of issues that need additional research.

CONCLUSIONS
Considerable progress was made in identifying areas where additional research is needed in order to work towards consensus on methods of measuring injury burden. Preliminary plans were made for a follow-on conference to be held in 2002 in Canada.

Session: B4.0
Title: Injuries in the Construction Industry I
Category: Injury Surveillance
Moderator(s): Matt Gillen

B4.1 Deaths and Injuries Caused by Falls Through Roof and Floor Openings and Surfaces, Including Skylights—Bobick TG

Occupational injuries and fatalities caused by falling is a serious problem throughout the U.S. Analyses of data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicate that during the 7-year period, 1992 through 1998, a total of 4,507 workers died as a result of a fall. Of these, 3,964 (88%) involved a fall to a lower level. An important sub-set of the "falls to a lower level" category involves workers falling through an existing opening in the floor or roof, or through floor or roof surfaces, including skylight fixtures already installed. During this 7-year period, 447 workers lost their lives by falling through something - 136 deaths occurred when workers fell through an existing roof or floor surface, 198 workers died by falling through existing openings (e.g., openings created for stairs, elevators, or skylights), and 113 died when they fell through already-installed skylight fixtures.

In addition to fatalities, numerous injuries result from these "fall-through" events. Because of the circumstances associated with these incidents, the resulting injuries are among the most severe cases, in terms of median number of "days away from work" (DAFW). Analyses of other BLS data (i.e., Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses) indicate that 16,251 injuries occurred during the 6-year period, 1992 through 1997 (latest available data). The total DAFW related to these injuries was calculated to be 259,258. Data analyses revealed that the median number of DAFW (across all six years) were 13, 12, 43, 19, and 33 for falls through (a) existing floor openings, (b) floor surfaces, (c) existing roof openings, (d) roof surfaces, and (e) skylights, respectively. These analyses highlight the significance of falls through work surfaces, and suggest the need for injury reduction through modifying current work practices and developing appropriate engineering controls.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
October 17-19, 2000

ABSTRACTS

National Occupational Injury Research Symposium

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