

# WSH 2018 PLUS

ADVANCING WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH IN SINGAPORE FOR 2018 AND BEYOND

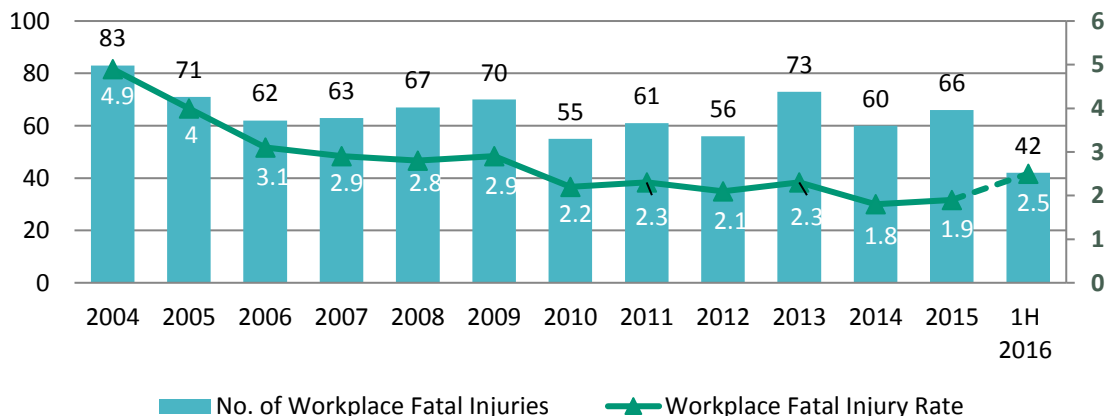
## BACKGROUND

While the vision, strategic outcomes and strategies under the WSH 2018 remain relevant, more efforts are needed. WSH 2018 Plus sets out the plan to bring Singapore back on track to achieve the 2018 target while laying the foundation to address emerging Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) challenges and sustain continuous improvement beyond 2018.

## CURRENT WSH SITUATION

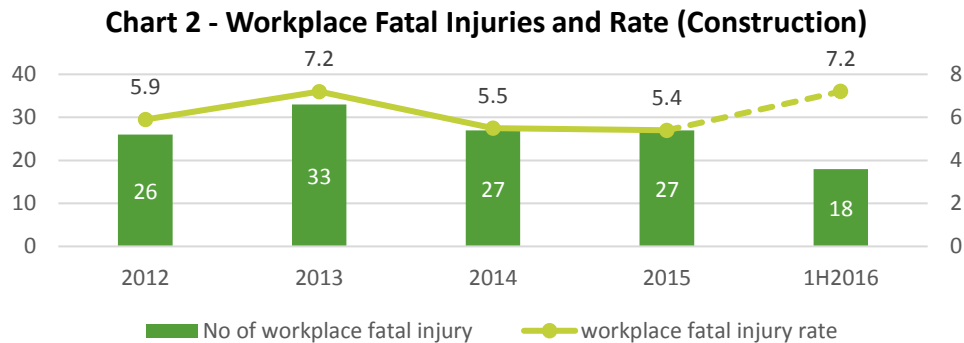
- Singapore has made steady improvement in our WSH over the past decade. While year-on-year fluctuations in workplace fatal injury rate are expected, our WSH performance has plateaued at around 2.0 per 100,000 employed persons over the last few years (see Chart 1).

**Chart 1 - Workplace Fatal Injuries**

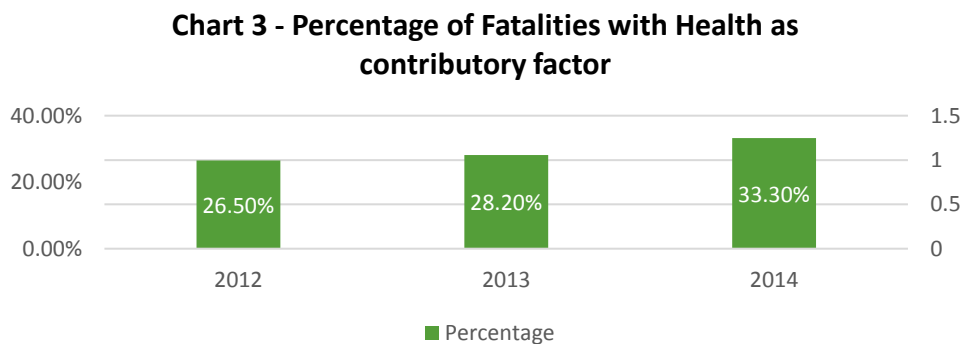


- Although we achieved the fatality rate of 1.8 per 100,000 employed persons in 2014, it could not be sustained. We had 42 workplace fatalities in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2016, compared to 30 over the same period in 2015. The projected annualised fatal injury rate for 2016 is 2.5 per 100,000 employed persons, highest since 2009. We need to ensure this does not indicate a structural uptrend.

- Construction remained the main contributor to workplace fatalities with 18 deaths (43% of total fatalities) in 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2016. The projected annualised fatal injury rate for 2016 stands at 7.2 per 100,000 employed persons. This would set us back to the high point of 7.2 in 2013. Workplace safety records in the other sectors have stayed relatively stable, but we need to ensure that they can be sustained and improved over the long term (see Chart 2).



- Workplace injury rate has improved over the past decade, declining from about 460 per 100,000 employed persons in 2007 to about 364 per 100,000 employed persons in 2015. The projected annualised workplace injury rate for 2016 is 361 per 100,000 employed persons.
- We have further observed a rising incidence of workplace health as a contributory factor to work-related fatalities. In the last 3 years, almost 30% of work-related fatality claims under the Work Injury Compensation (WIC) Act had health as a contributory factor (see Chart 3).



## WSH 2018 PLUS

The WSH 2018 Plus plan has three key priorities (see Figure 1):

1) [Improving WSH Performance in Construction Industry](#)

At the Construction WSH Leadership Summit 2015, 10 construction industry association leaders reaffirmed their commitment to reduce the construction sector's fatal injury rate to 1.8 per 100,000 employed persons by 2018. A series of action plans covering leadership, procurement and reducing safety and health risks through good design was formulated and is in progress.

We need to encourage companies to be committed and adopt a positive attitude towards WSH. This will instil greater ownership and motivation for them to work towards preventing work injuries and ill-health upstream. To facilitate this, we will influence WSH standards through procurement practices and continue to adopt an outcome-based approach on principles of risk management in reviewing and enacting WSH legislation. Recognising that companies have different capabilities and attitude towards WSH, we will adopt a differentiated enforcement approach to improve their WSH performance.

2) [Strengthening WSH Competency](#)

A workforce competent and skilled in managing WSH is critical to deliver sustained improvement in Singapore's WSH performance across all sectors. Specialised knowledge of safety need to commensurate the complexity of projects. Beyond technical knowledge, soft skills such as communication and relationship management are critical to convey safety messages effectively. These require training providers to deliver quality training and safety professionals to upgrade and enhance their value.

3) [Building Collective WSH Ownership](#)

Sustained WSH improvement can only happen with collective ownership by all stakeholders to build a progressive and pervasive WSH culture. We need to change our mindsets towards preventing all work-related injuries and ill-health. We also need to shift our focus from injury compensation to injury prevention and management, and from just safety to equal emphasis on safety and health. These efforts require greater industry leadership and ownership to drive sustained improvements in WSH.

The WSH 2018 Plus plan has three key priorities:

1. IMPROVING WSH PERFORMANCE IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
2. STRENGTHENING WSH COMPETENCY
3. BUILDING COLLECTIVE WSH OWNERSHIP

Figure 1: WSH 2018 Plus

