

# Staffing & Employment Characteristics of California Community College Athletic Trainers

Preliminary Results



California Community College Athletic Trainers Association

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at the

California Community College Athletic Trainers'  
Association Southern Symposium & Business Meeting

August 5, 2016

San Diego Mesa College



California Community College Athletic Trainers Association

# Background

- ▶ The challenges in providing a wide range of health care services to student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletics have become more complex as colleges add more teams, more games (traditional and non-traditional seasons) and more training sessions. These increases, without proportionate staffing adjustments, may increase the risk of injury due to increased athlete exposure.
- ▶ This effect may expose colleges to increased legal liability.

# Background

- ▶ According to the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) "*Recommendations and Guidelines for Appropriate Medical Coverage of Intercollegiate Athletics*" (AMCIA) (2007), "Sports-related lawsuits have shifted *away* from equipment manufacturers and their "duty to warn" *toward* the health care delivery process.
- ▶ Universities are sued over whether they have properly trained health care professionals, whether they have enough of them, whether they keep proper records, and whether they deliver proper treatment as a result" (p. 3).

# Purpose

- ▶ Due to the locally governed nature of California's community college system, how athletic training is handled at each institution often varies.
- ▶ The purpose of this survey was to quantify several variables related to labor practices, employee contracts, union representation and medical coverage.

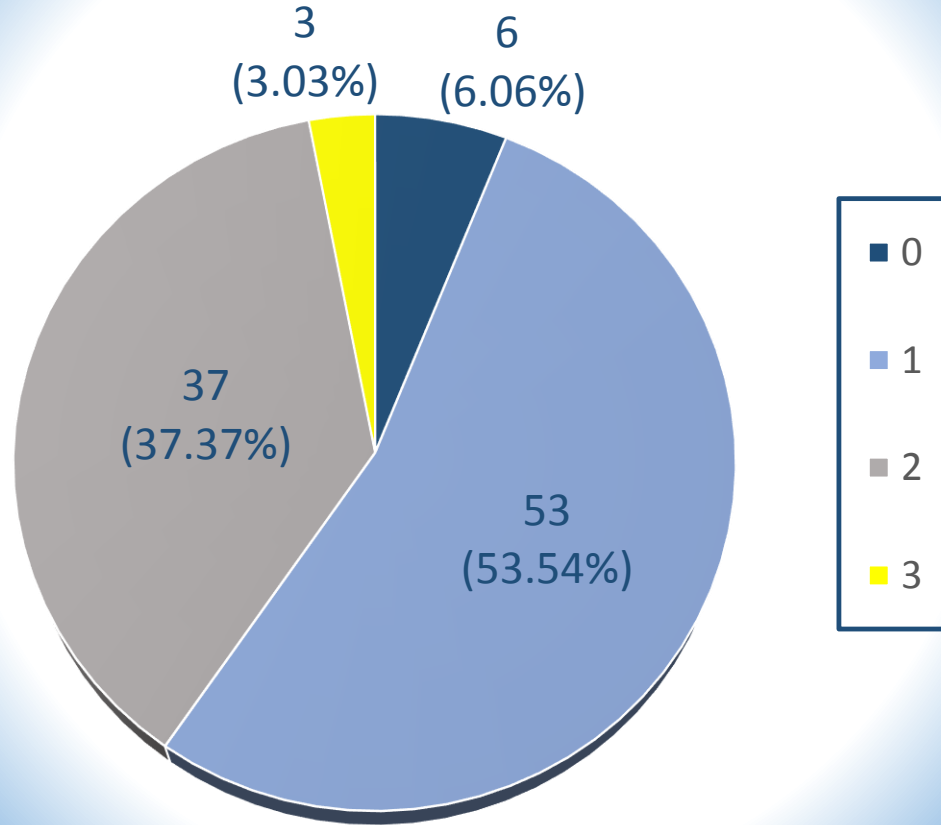
# Methodology

- ▶ With input from the executive board and several former and current community college athletic trainers, a survey was created using SurveyMonkey.com.
- ▶ Using the CCCATA member directory and individual college staff directories, the survey was emailed to athletic trainers representing all 105 community colleges that host intercollegiate athletics.
- ▶ Responses were received from 100 colleges (one incomplete), a completed response rate of 94.3%.

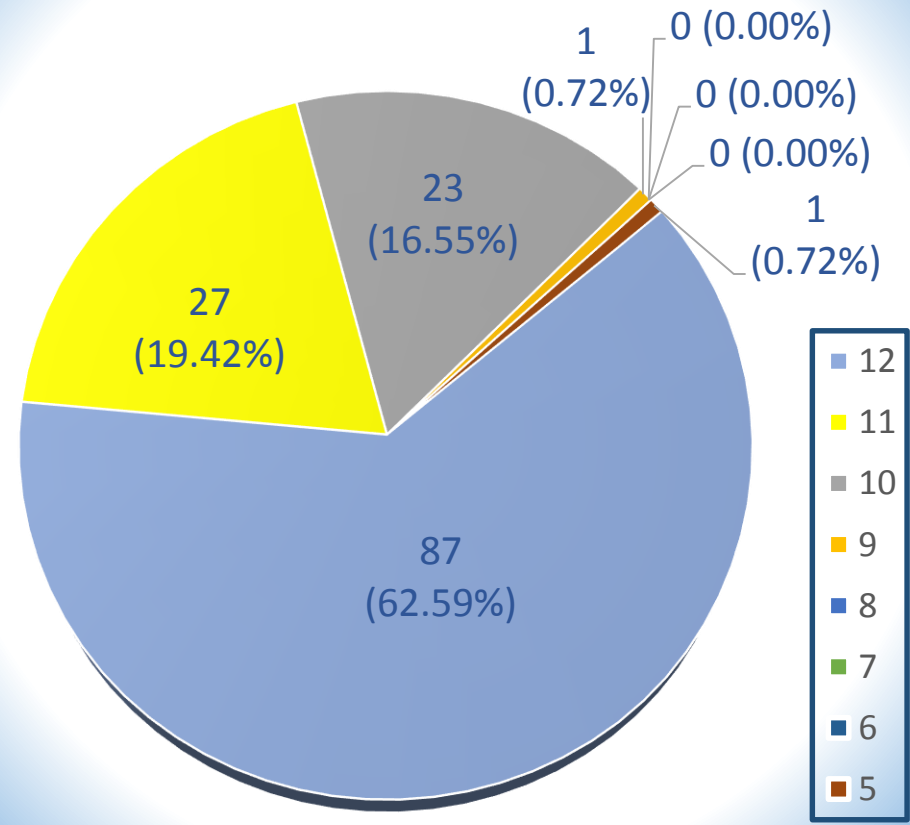
# Results Overview

- ▶ Number of full-time athletic trainers and distribution of contract length
- ▶ Distribution of full-time and part-time staff
- ▶ Average number of sports per college
- ▶ Union representation
- ▶ Medical coverage

**Q: How Many Full-Time Athletic Trainers does your college employ?**



**Contracted Months per Year for Full-Time Athletic Trainers**

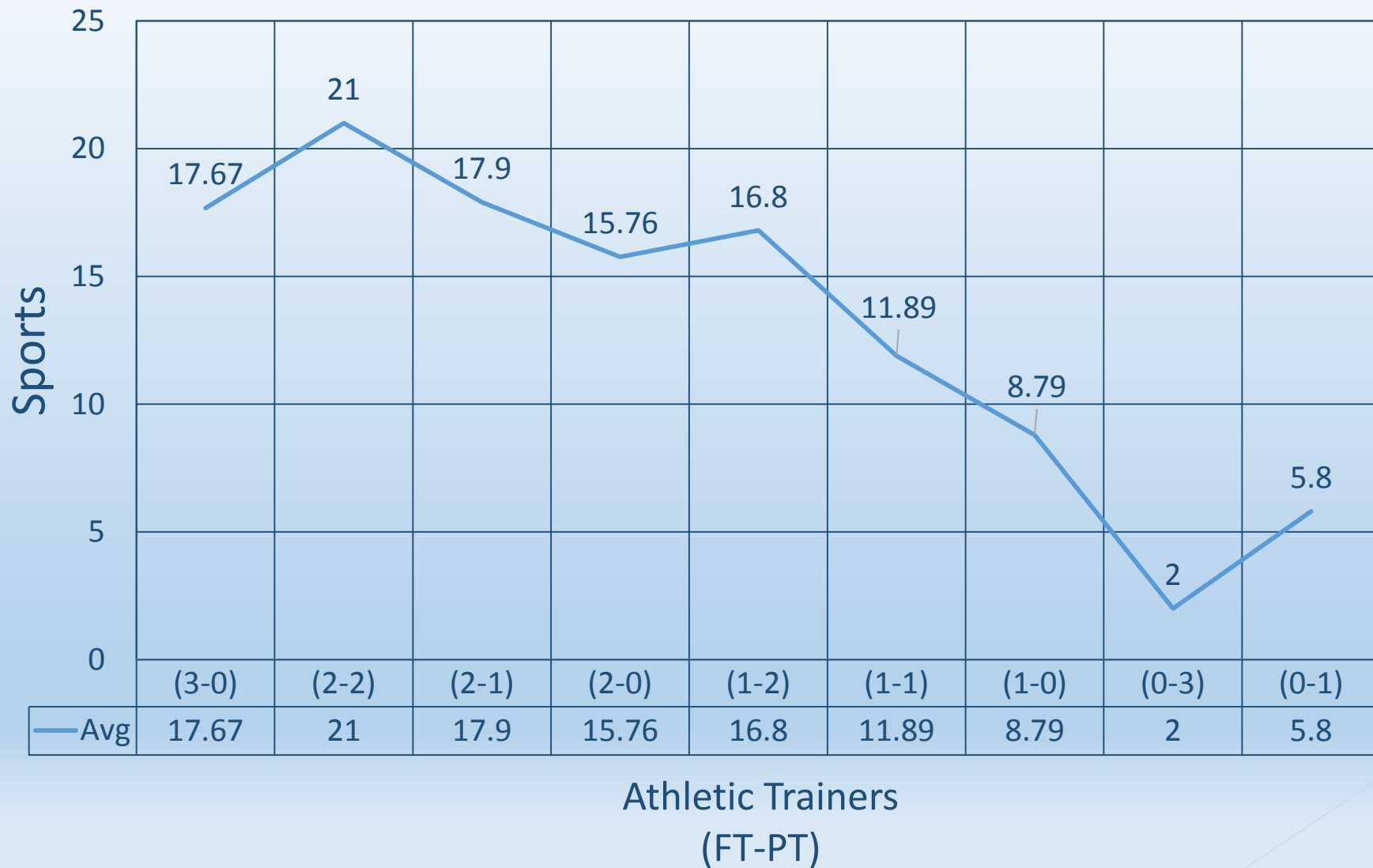


\*A follow-up survey for part-time athletic trainers is currently being conducted

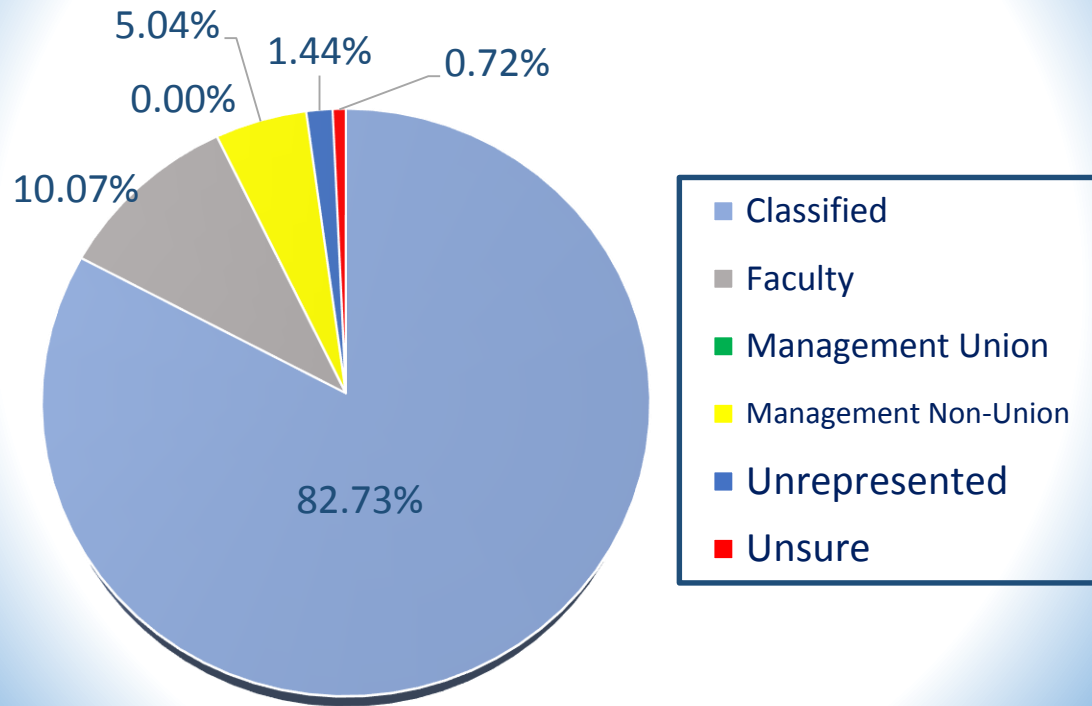


Athletic Training Staff		Colleges		Sports Offered				Colleges with Football	
FT	PT	N	%	Min	Max	Avg	SD	N	%
3	0	3	3.03	15	20	17.67	2.517	3	100
2	2	2	2.02	21	21	21	0.000	2	100
2	1	10	10.10	10	25	17.90	4.280	9	90
2	0	25	25.25	10	23	15.76	3.358	22	88
1	2	5	5.05	12	23	16.80	4.658	5	100
1	1	19	19.19	7	17	11.89	2.846	14	73.7
1	0	29	29.29	3	21	8.79	4.212	11	37.9
0	3	1	1.01	2	2	2	0.000	0	0
0	1	5	5.05	2	11	5.80	3.899	0	0
Total		99	100	2	25	12.74	5.368	66	66.7

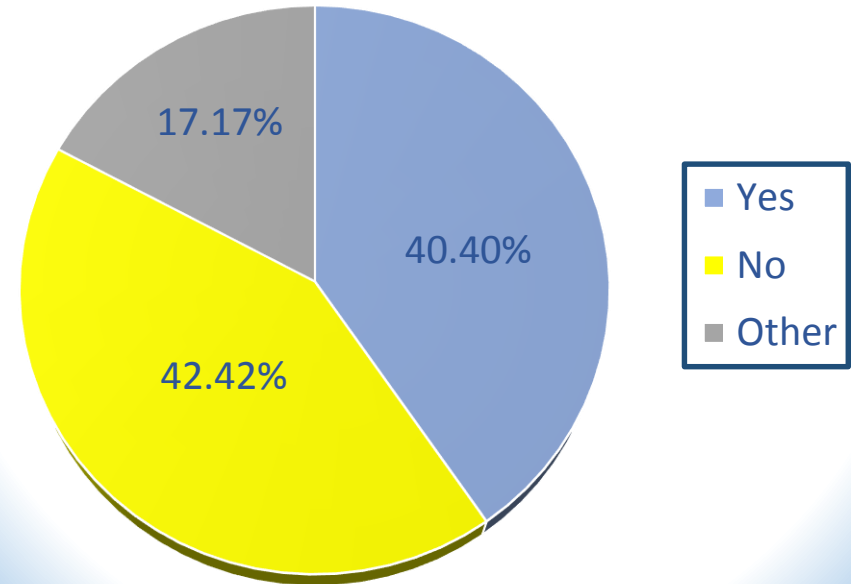
## Average Number of Sports per Athletic Training Profile



## Full-Time Union Representaion

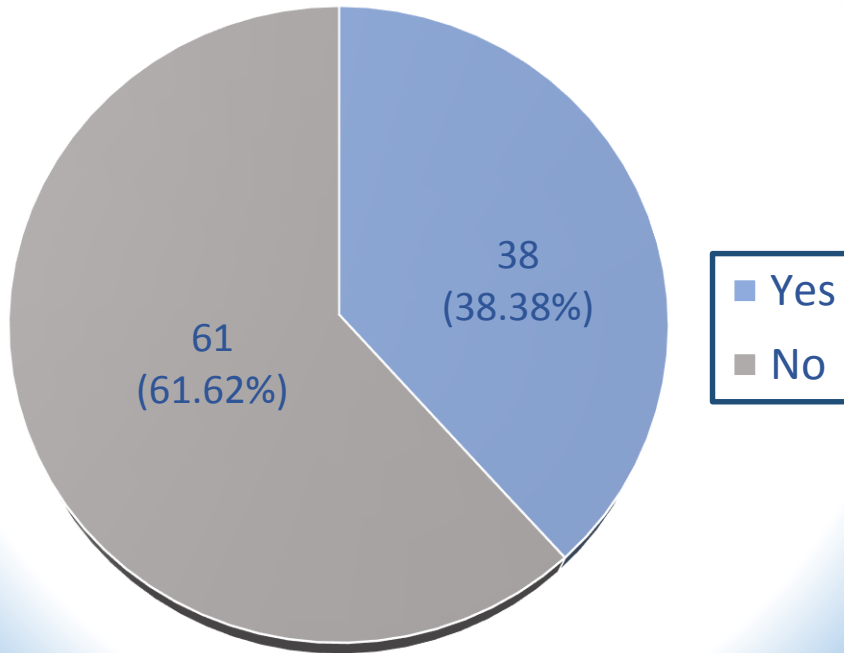


Q: Are non-faculty Certified Athletic Trainers able to teach courses at your college?

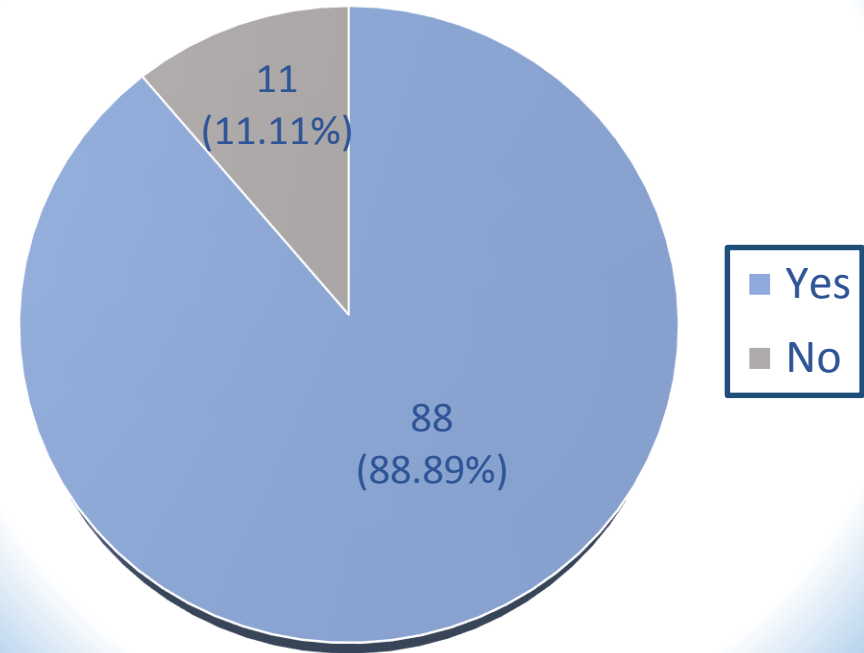


# Medical Coverage

Q: Must an ATC be present in order for your teams to practice?

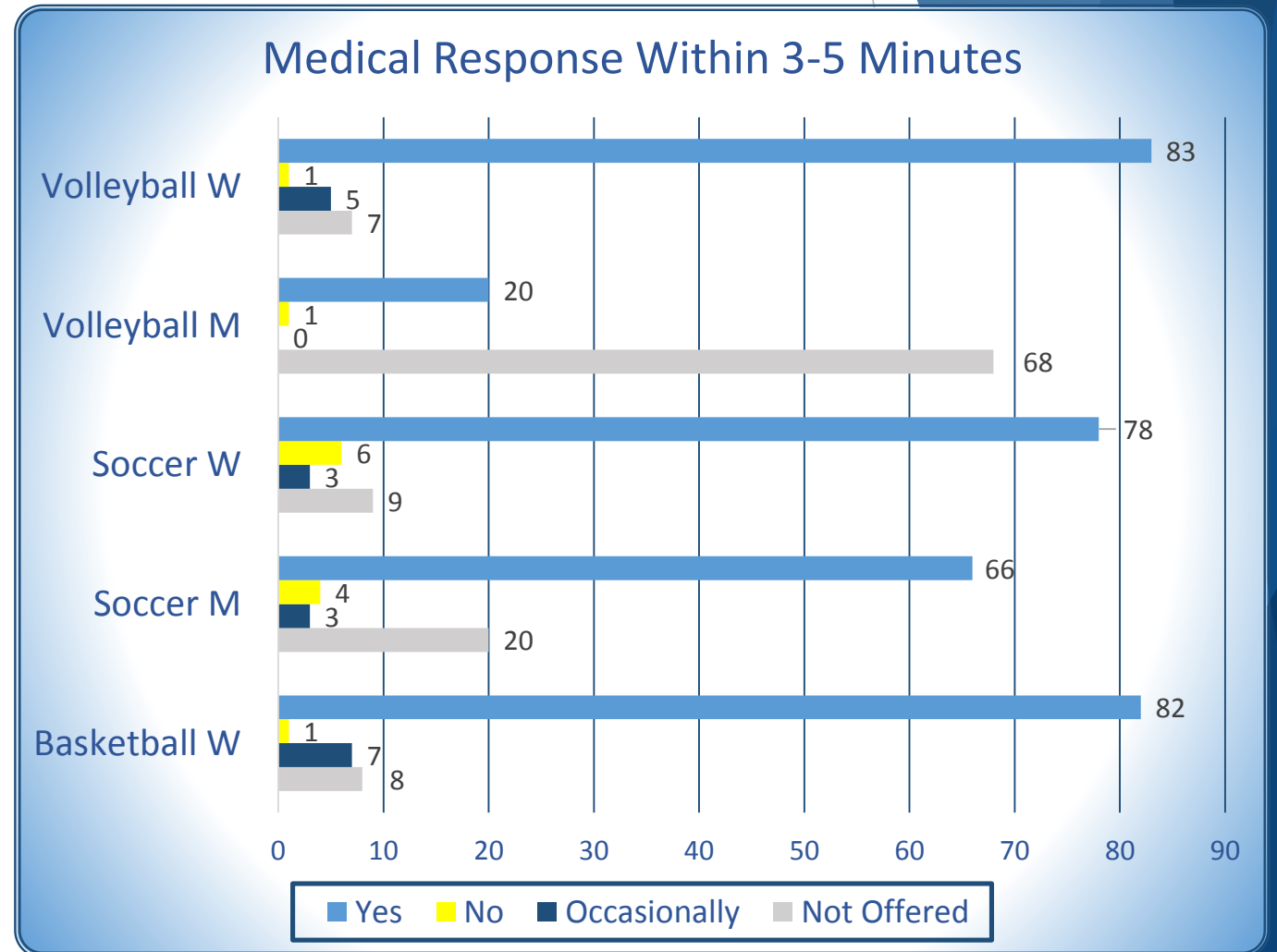


Q: Does your college allow teams to practice on the weekends?



# Medical Coverage

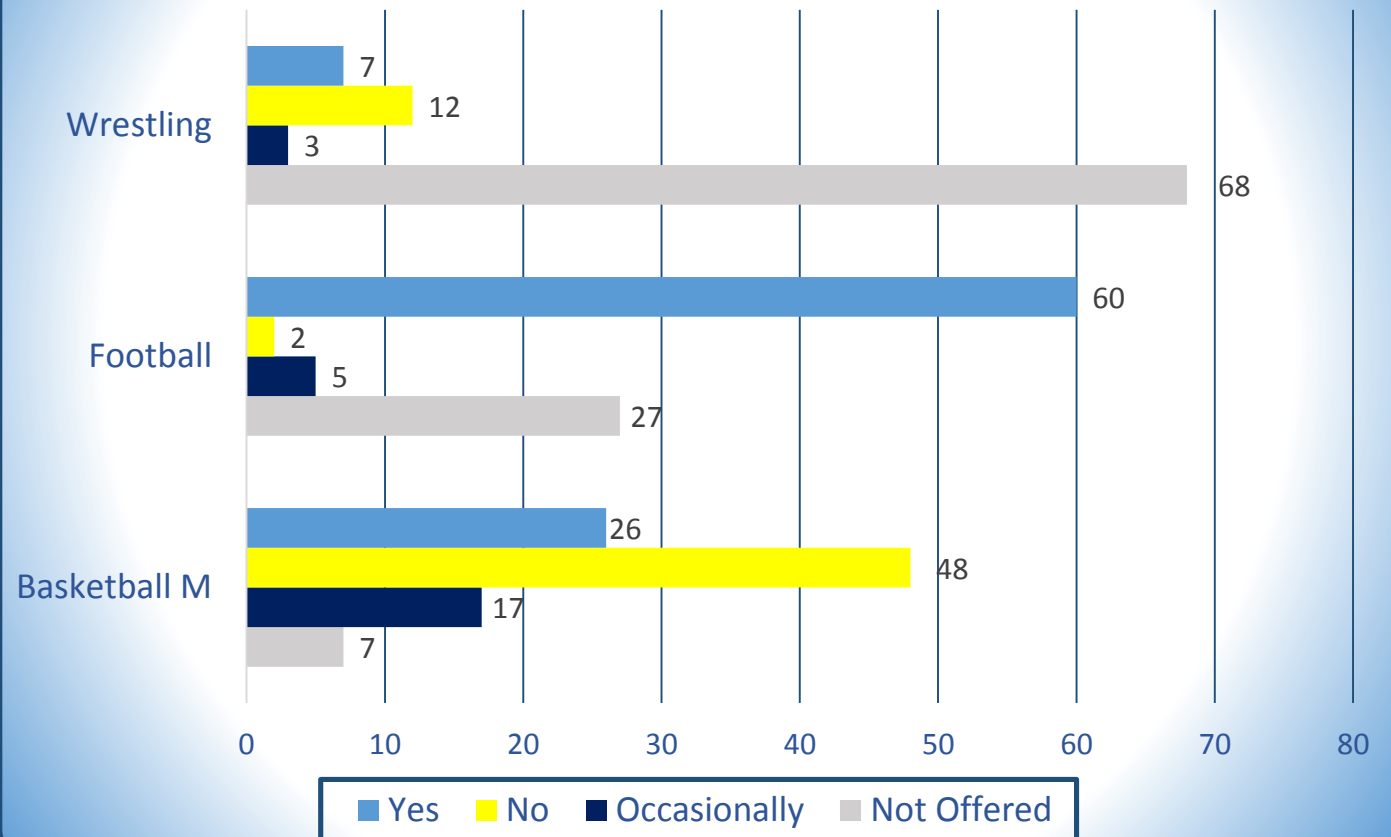
- ▶ Based on injury rate and catastrophic injury rate, the AMCIA recommends an athletic trainer be minimally able to respond within 3-5 minutes for these sports.
- ▶ Though being present is optimal.



# Medical Coverage

- ▶ According to the AMCIA guidelines, wrestling, football and men's basketball are considered high risk based on injury rate and catastrophic injury rate.
- ▶ Recommend an athletic trainer be present at all practices/competitions.

Certified Athletic Trainers Present at Practice Venue



# Discussion

- ▶ The National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Sports Medicine Handbook recommends the use of the NATA's AMCIA in determining appropriate medical staffing levels for intercollegiate athletics.
- ▶ The AMCIA states:
  - ▶ “It is reasonable that one certified athletic trainer can only manage so much in a given academic year (i.e., ~one sport/season)” (p. 7).
  - ▶ “...the assumption that full-time health care staff are able to care for two high risk sport teams in a given year (providing no significant overlap in seasons exists)” (p. 10).
  - ▶ “A certified athletic trainer must directly supervise all full-service athletic training facilities during institution-declared hours of service” (p. 13).

# Discussion

- ▶ Currently, the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) has not addressed athletic training staffing recommendations.
- ▶ Due to the locally governed nature of California's community colleges, access to medical services for student athletes may differ from college to college and may also vary from sport to sport, creating unjust inequities.
- ▶ More research is necessary.