

**Sick leave certifications in Saxony.**

**A retrospective analysis of routine data of the Medical  
Service of German Statutory Health Insurance**

Thomas Petzold, Jana Hiebsch, Volker Bergner

05.10.2018

## DISCLOSURE

I have no potential conflict of interest to report

I have the following potential conflict(s) of interest to report

**Type of affiliation / financial interest**

**Name of commercial company**

Receipt of grants/research supports:

Receipt of honoraria or consultation fees:

*hok Sachsen*

Participation in a company sponsored speaker's bureau:

Stock shareholder:

Spouse/partner:

Other support (please specify):

**Signature:**

*[Handwritten Signature]*

**Date:**

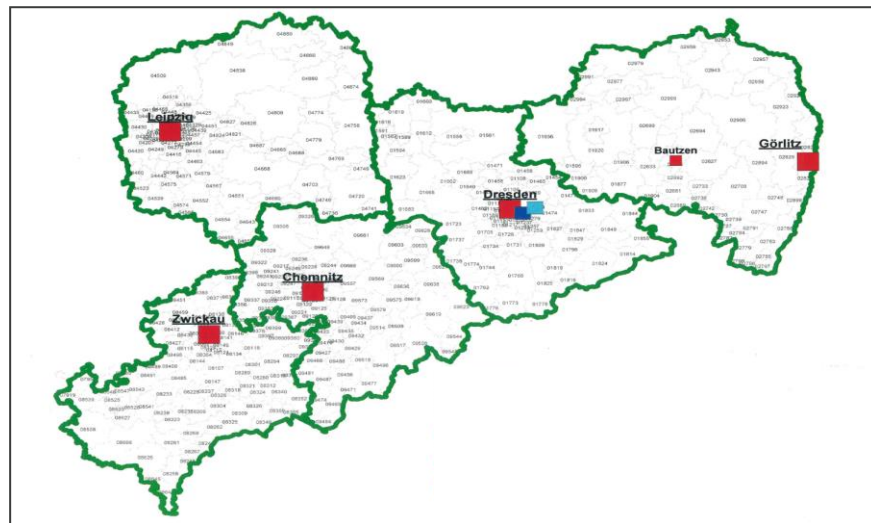
*02.10.2018*

# Background

- the German health care system is divided into statutory and private health insurance system
- the statutory health insurance encompass 110 health insurance funds
- all statutory health insurances have the possibility to assign the medical service of the of German Statutory Health Insurance providers (MDK) to evaluate to need for medical services of the insured persons



## Medical Service of Saxony



# Aim of this study

- evaluation of ongoing sick leave certifications (SLC)
- MDK-physicians evaluate SLC on the basis of peer-review instructions and derive a recommendation on the appropriateness

# Excursus on incapacity to work in the German health care system

- „incapacity to work“ is not defined in the social code books
- undefined legal term which is constantly being further developed by BSG jurisprudence
- Disability Guidelines of the Federal Joint Committee exists
- within the MDK there is a review manual for incapacity to work

# Aim of this study

- evaluation of ongoing sick leave certifications (SLC)
- MDK-physicians evaluate SLC on the basis of peer-review instructions and derive a recommendation on the appropriateness
- the aim of this study is to analyse
  - the number of socio-medical incomprehensible SLC and
  - regional variations in the occurrence of SLC in saxony

# Methods

- retrospective analysis of routine data out of expert assessments for SLC was conducted of the MDK saxony
- analysis contains data from 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017
- the analyses contain
  - the gender and age specific continuance of SLC
  - the length of incapacity to work
  - regional variations in the exhibition of SLC



# Results

→ 7,795 SLC were reviewed during the investigation period by MDK-physicians

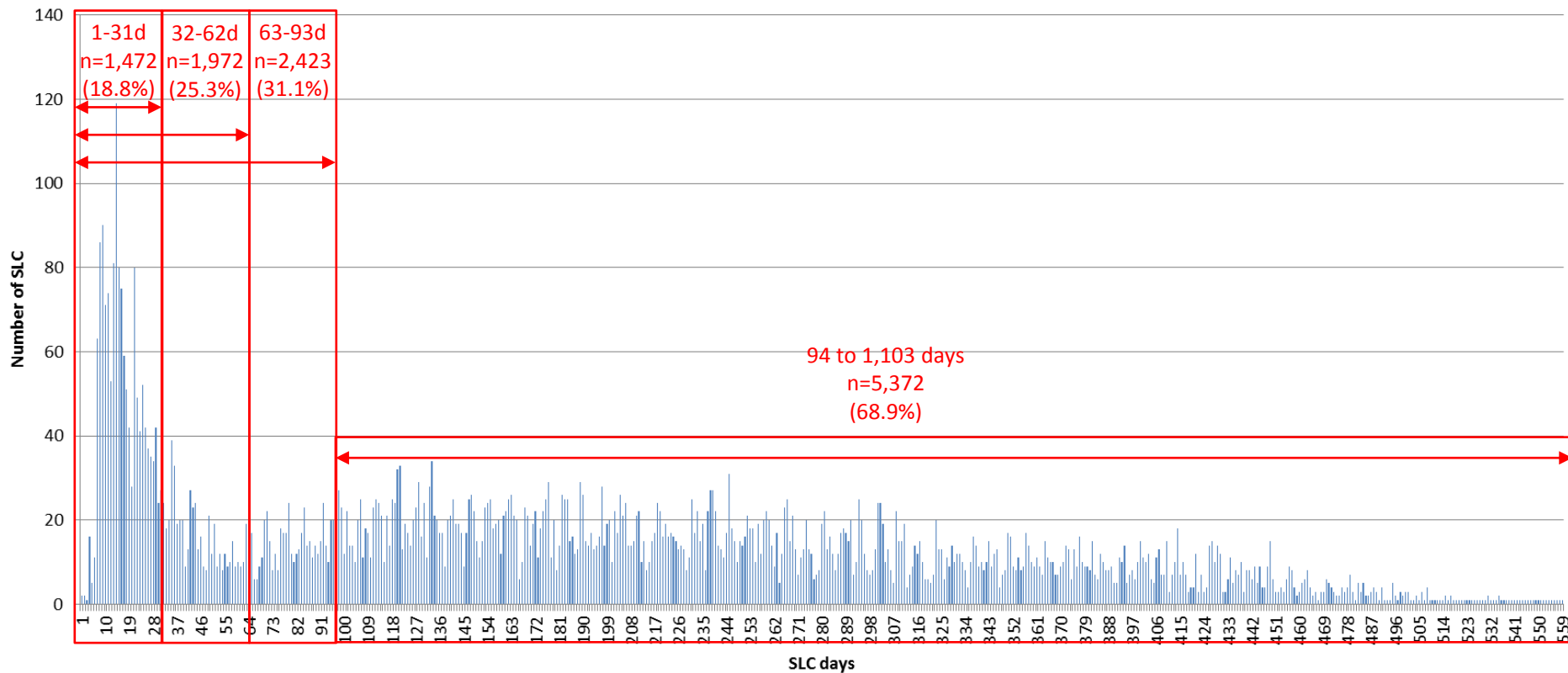
	Women	Men
Number (n; %)	3,854 (49.4%)	3,939 (50.6%)
average age (years)	49	49
age range (years)	17-65	16-65

# General results

- the submitted SLC concerned the following medical disciplines
  - orthopedics and trauma surgery (n=2,063; 26.5%)
  - general medicine (n=1,926; 24.7%)
  - psychiatry and psychotherapy (n=1,511; 19.4%)
- 1,013 insured (13%) were unemployed at the moment of ongoing SLC
- 2,901 insured (37.2%) already requested a rehabilitation
- the pension proceedings were initiated for 743 insured (9.5%)

# Duration of SLC

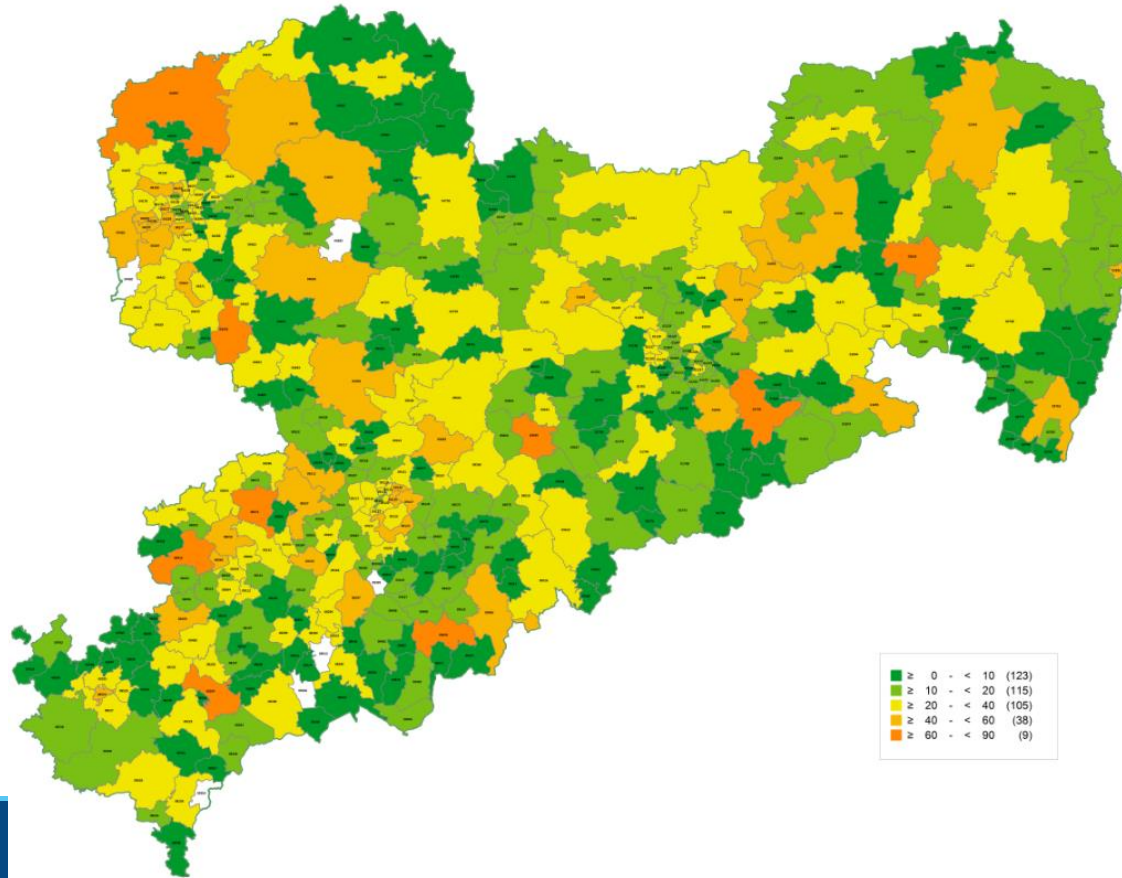
Number of sick leave certifications (SLC) by days (1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017)



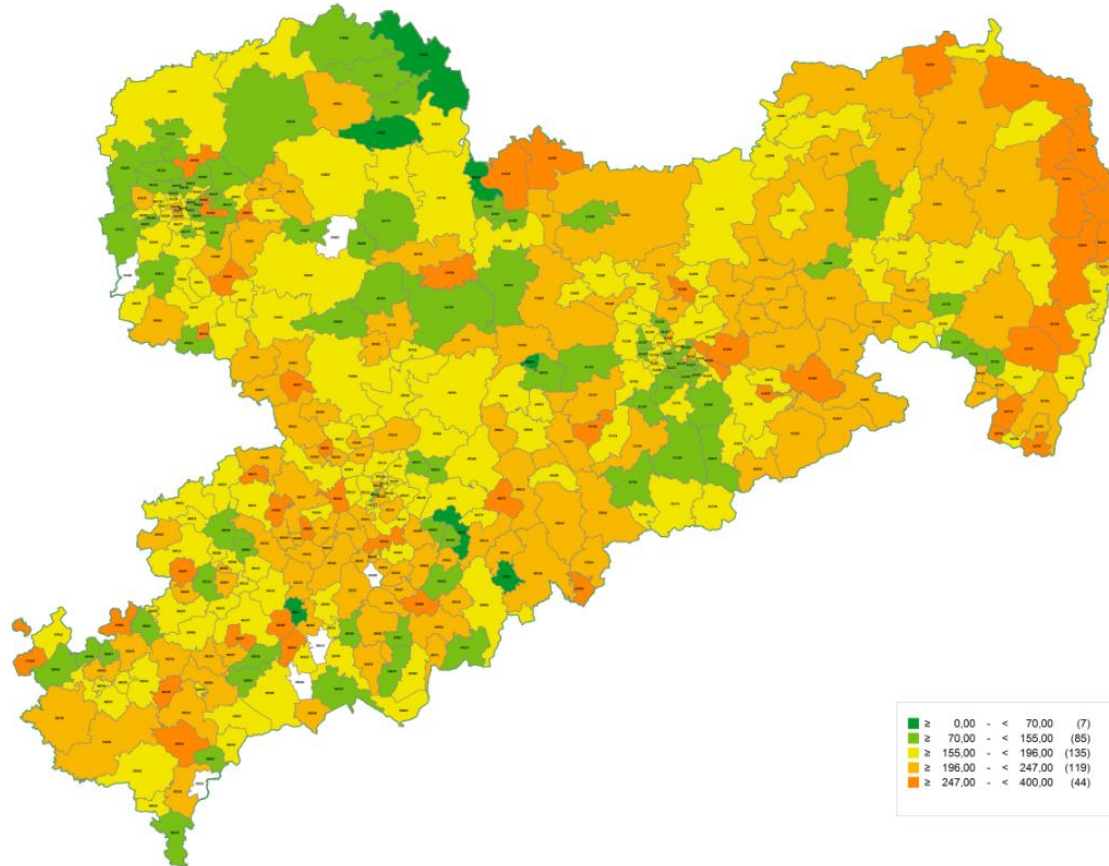
# Socio-medical results

- in 11% (n=903) of the SLC, the SLC was socio-medical incomprehensible and a resumption of work was recommended
- for 3.8% (n=292) of the SLC a gradual reintegration to work was recommended
- the results of the following medical disciplines were
  - orthopedics and trauma surgery: 12.1% socio-medical incomprehensible (n=250)
  - general medicine: 18.1% socio-medical incomprehensible (n=350)
  - psychiatry and psychotherapy: 6.6% socio-medical incomprehensible (n=100)

# Regional variation of SLC (1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017)

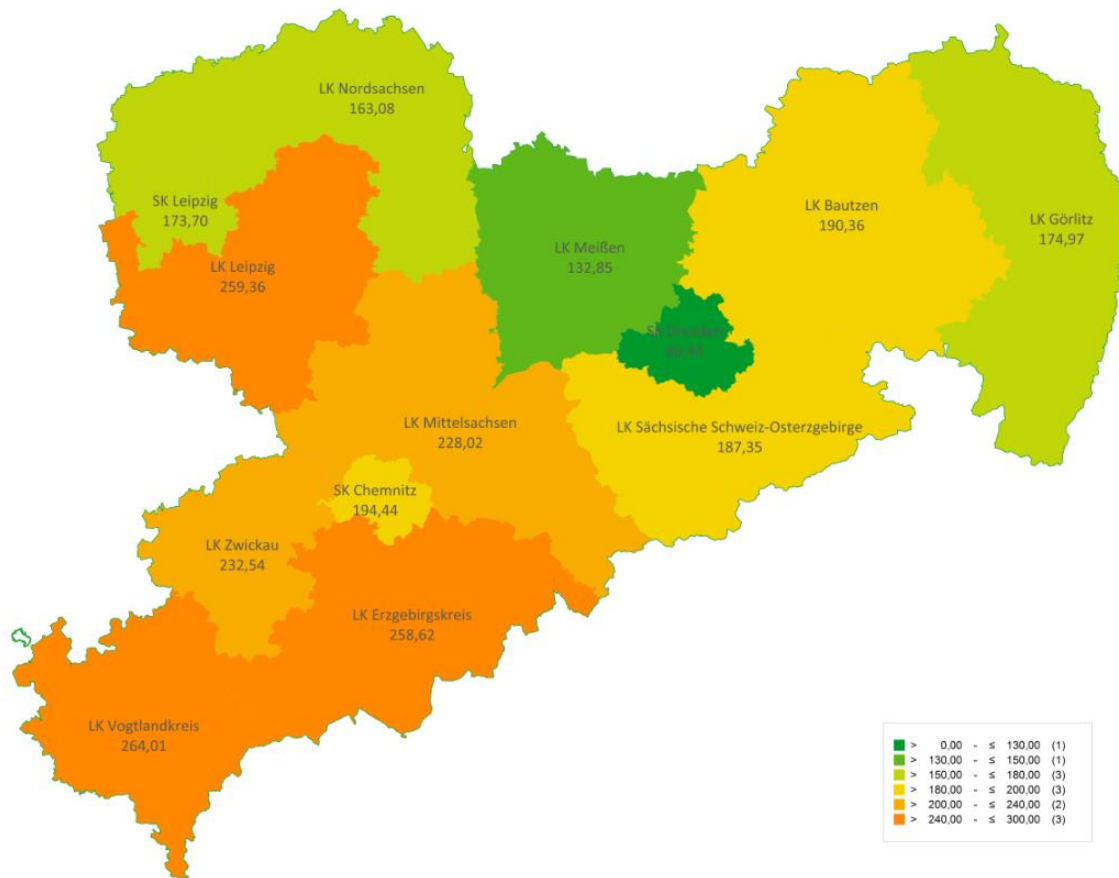


# Regional variation of SLC duration (1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017)



# Age-adjusted number of SLC (1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017)

→ number of SLC  
per 100.000  
inhabitants



# Conclusions

- only for a small part of SLC the socio-medical relevance is incomprehensible
- the duration of the incapacity to work is partly long (<1,103 days), which increases the socio-medical assessment of the appropriateness of SLC by the MDK





**Sick leave certifications in Saxony.  
A retrospective analysis of routine data of the Medical  
Service of German Statutory Health Insurance**

**Thank you for your attention.**



MEDIZINISCHER DIENST  
DER KRANKENVERSICHERUNG  
SACHSEN