

# Medical advisor tasks reform in Belgium

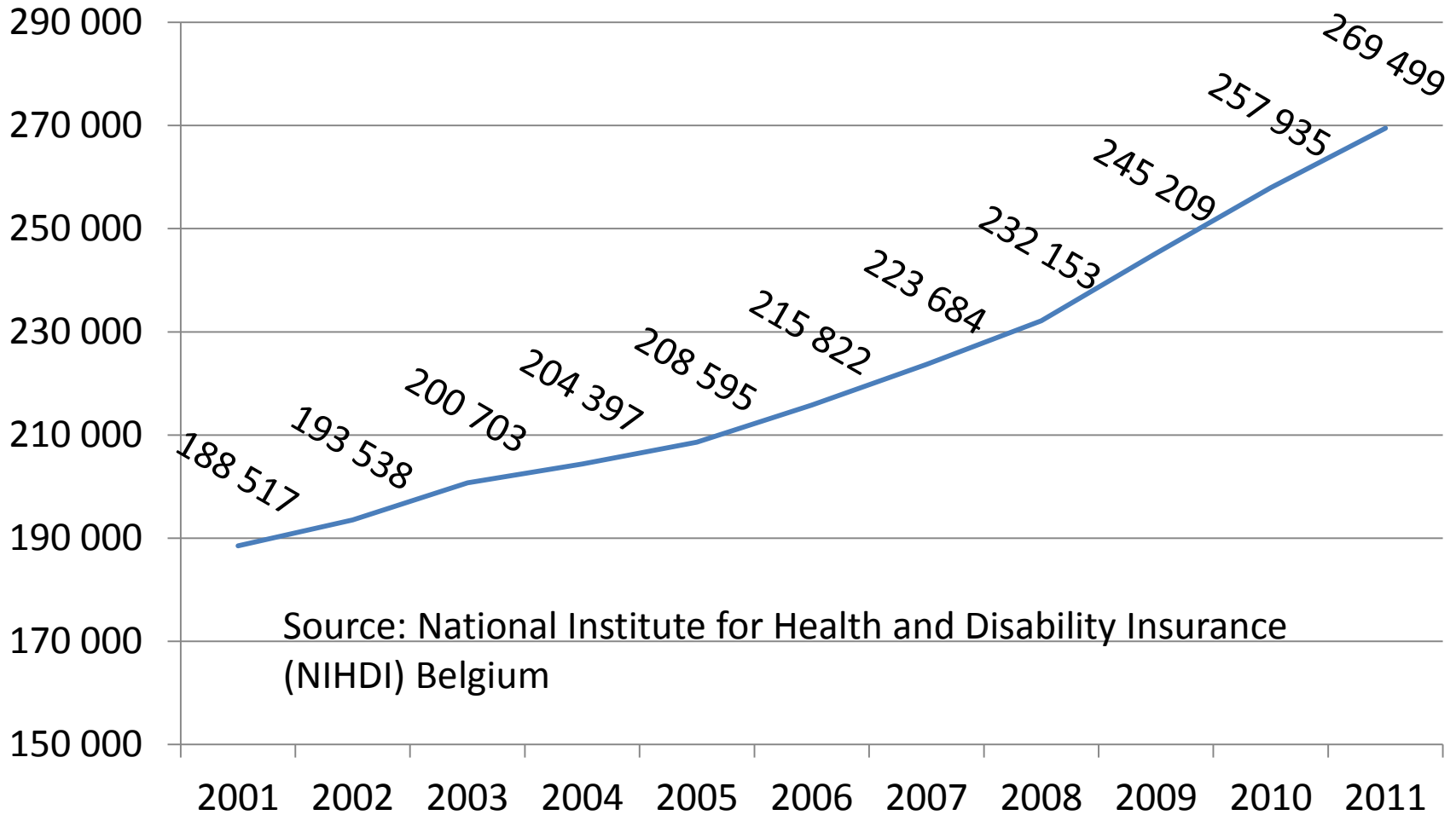
F. Falez, MD, Ph D

Université Libre de Bruxelles

Challenge : long term incapacity to work prevention

# **BACK GROUND**

# Long term incapacity in Belgium



Source: National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance (NIHDI) Belgium

# Necessity for a reform

- Law of 13 July 2006
  - New task assigned to medical advisors
    - Objective: to maintain social integration of persons with a handicap for work.

Part time activity

Return to work pathways

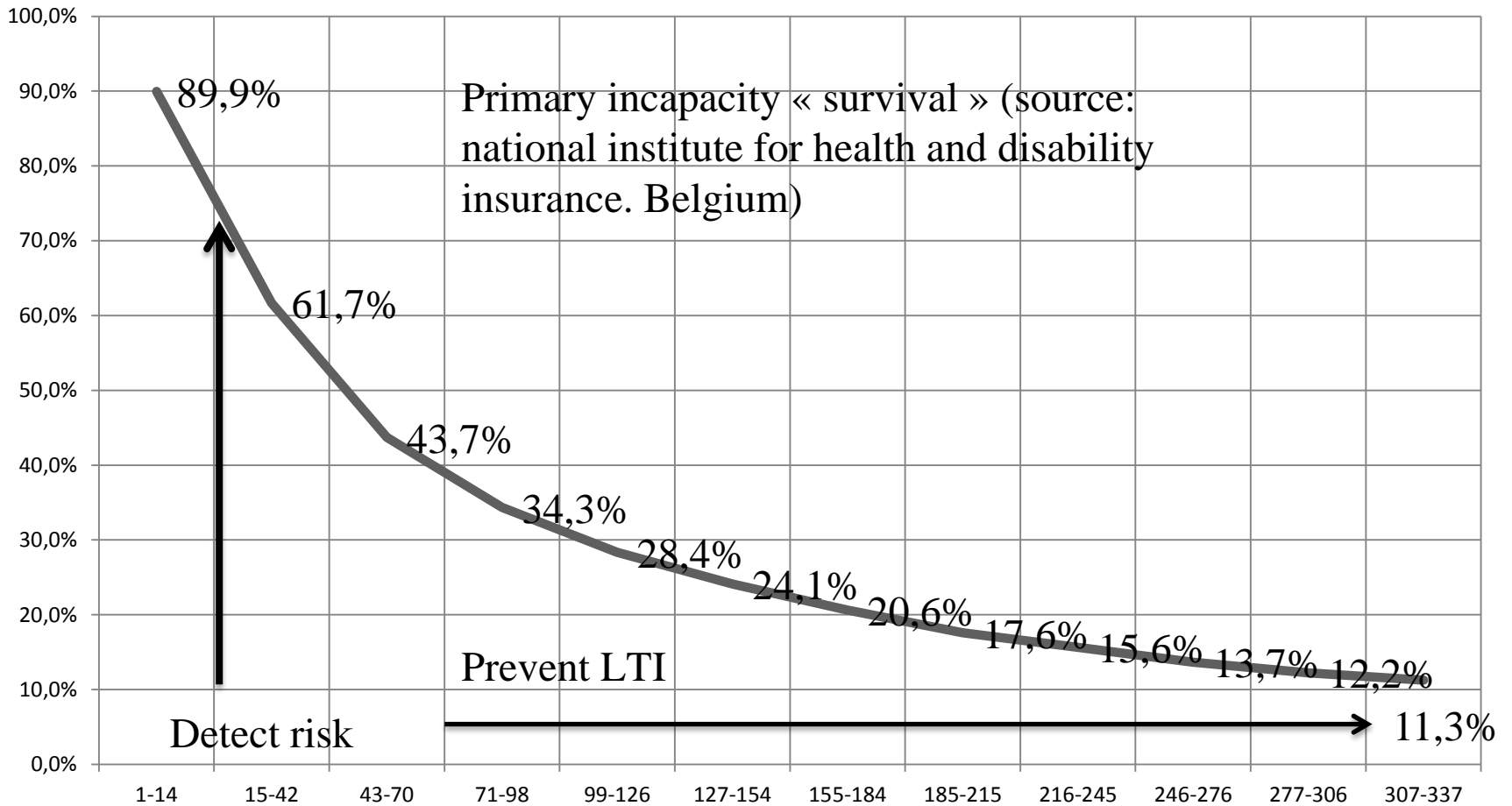
Collaboration between incapacity insurance and public bodies for placement and vocational retraining

Communication between medical advisors, occupational doctors and GP

Case disability managers

# METHOD

# Detect and prevent



# Return to work pathways (1)

- Stimulate part time return to work
- Organise return to work
  - Return to previous job
  - Return to former job (professional rehabilitation)
  - Vocational retraining.
- Collaboration between incapacity insurance and public bodies for placement and vocational retraining

# Return to work pathways

- Communication between doctors
  - Occupational doctors
    - Work station accommodation
  - general practitioners
    - E-health platform: electronic communication
- Case disability managers
- Reform of control tasks
  - Selection of risk cases
  - Early intervention to prevent avoidable LTI



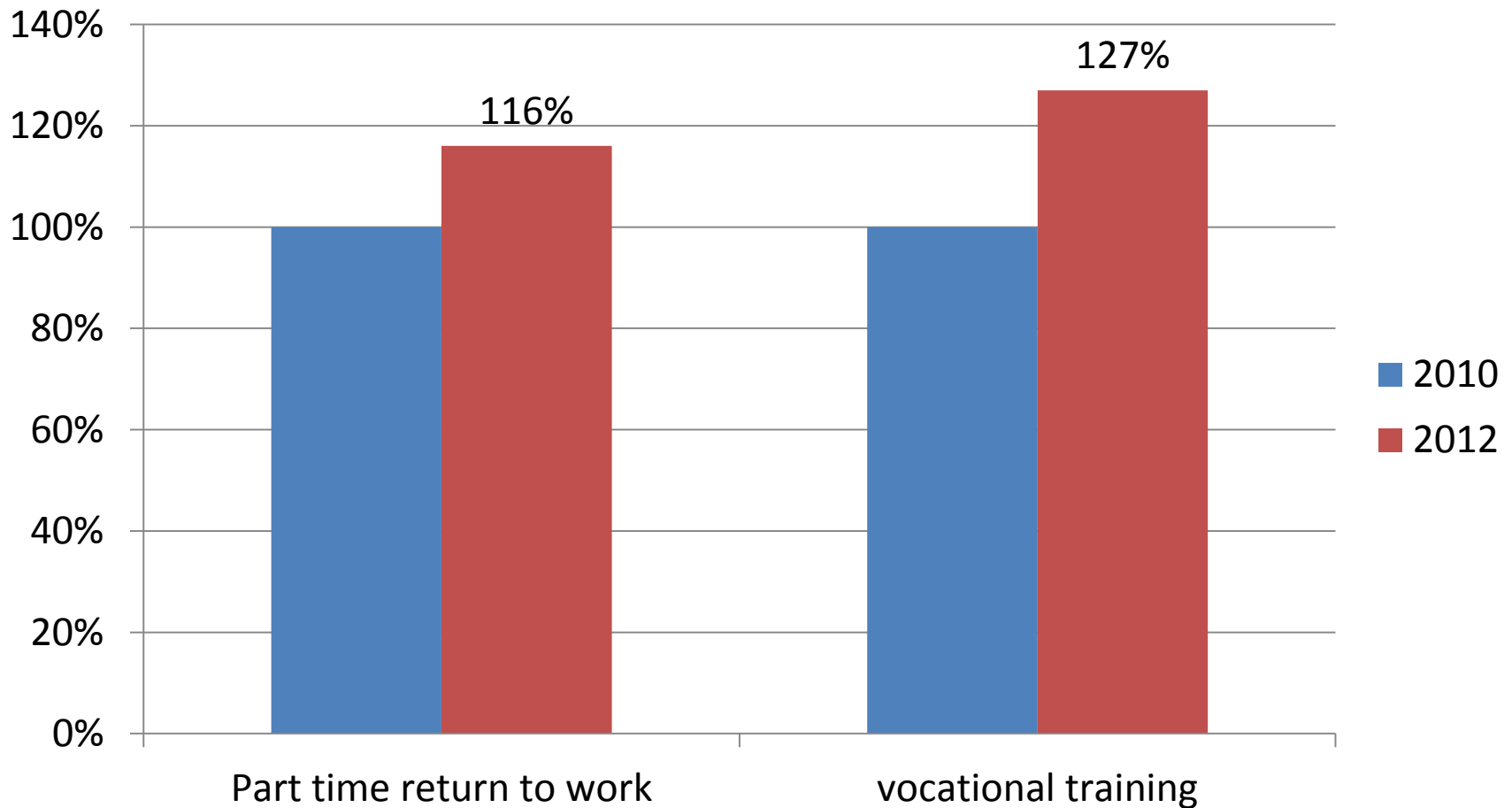
Increase of part time return to work

Increase of vocational training

Legal reforms achieved

# RESULTS

# Part time return to work and vocational training



# Legal reforms achieved

- Reform of the law 14/07/1994
  - Definition of return to work pathways (May 2013)
  - New organisation of medical advisors tasks (April 2014)
  - funding plan for case disability managers training (2013)
  - Licence from National Institute of Disability Management and Research (Canada) (2014)
    - Case disability international training program)

# CONCLUSION

# New paradigm for medical advisor

- Assess capacity and not incapacity
- Act to maintain social integration
  - Do not control but assess
  - Guide the patient