



# Verification of Predictive Modeling in the Management of Rare, Chronic Diseases

Jason Cooper<sup>1</sup>, M.S.; Daryl Wansink<sup>2</sup>, Ph.D.;  
Alexander Marano<sup>1</sup>

*<sup>1</sup>Accordant Health Services; <sup>2</sup>Independence Blue Cross*



**Independence  
Blue Cross**

**Accordant**  
A CVS Caremark Company

# Outline

---

- **Background**
- **Objectives**
- **Methodology**
- **Results**
- **Next Steps**
- **Q&A**

# Background

---

- **Accordant Health Services is a Disease Management Organization (DMO) that specializes in managing chronic conditions for two primary categories:**
  - **Common (Asthma, CAD, CHF, COPD, and Diabetes)**
  - **Rare (ALS, CF, CIDP, Crohn's, Gaucher, Hemophilia, Lupus, MS, Myasthenia Gravis, Myositis, Parkinson's, RA, Scleroderma, Sickle Cell disease, and Seizure disorders)**
- **Independence Blue Cross (IBC) is a Managed Care Organization (MCO) headquartered in Philadelphia, PA.**
  - **Approximately 3.4 million insured members**
  - **Utilize Accordant's services as a provider of rare disease management**



Independence  
Blue Cross



# Objectives

---

- **Study Symmetry's Episode Treatment Group (ETG) and Episode Risk Group (ERG) predictive modeling tools for analyses of IBC's members and determination of risk relevance to rare, chronic population**
- **Determine statistically relevant risk category groupings**
- **Consider how best to incorporate results for novel approaches to clinical intervention strategies**

# Methodology

---

- **Matched member approach: IBC eligible members in Accordant rare program for at least nine months of each study year**
- **Model year: 10/01/05 – 09/30/06. Used to generate prospective risk scores for each member**
- **Verification Year: 10/01/06 – 09/30/07. Used to determine cost and utilization totals to verify Symmetry's risk scores**
- **For all matched members:**
  - **Medical Claims**
  - **Rx Claims**
  - **Diagnosis (Primary Managed Condition)**

# Methodology (cont.)

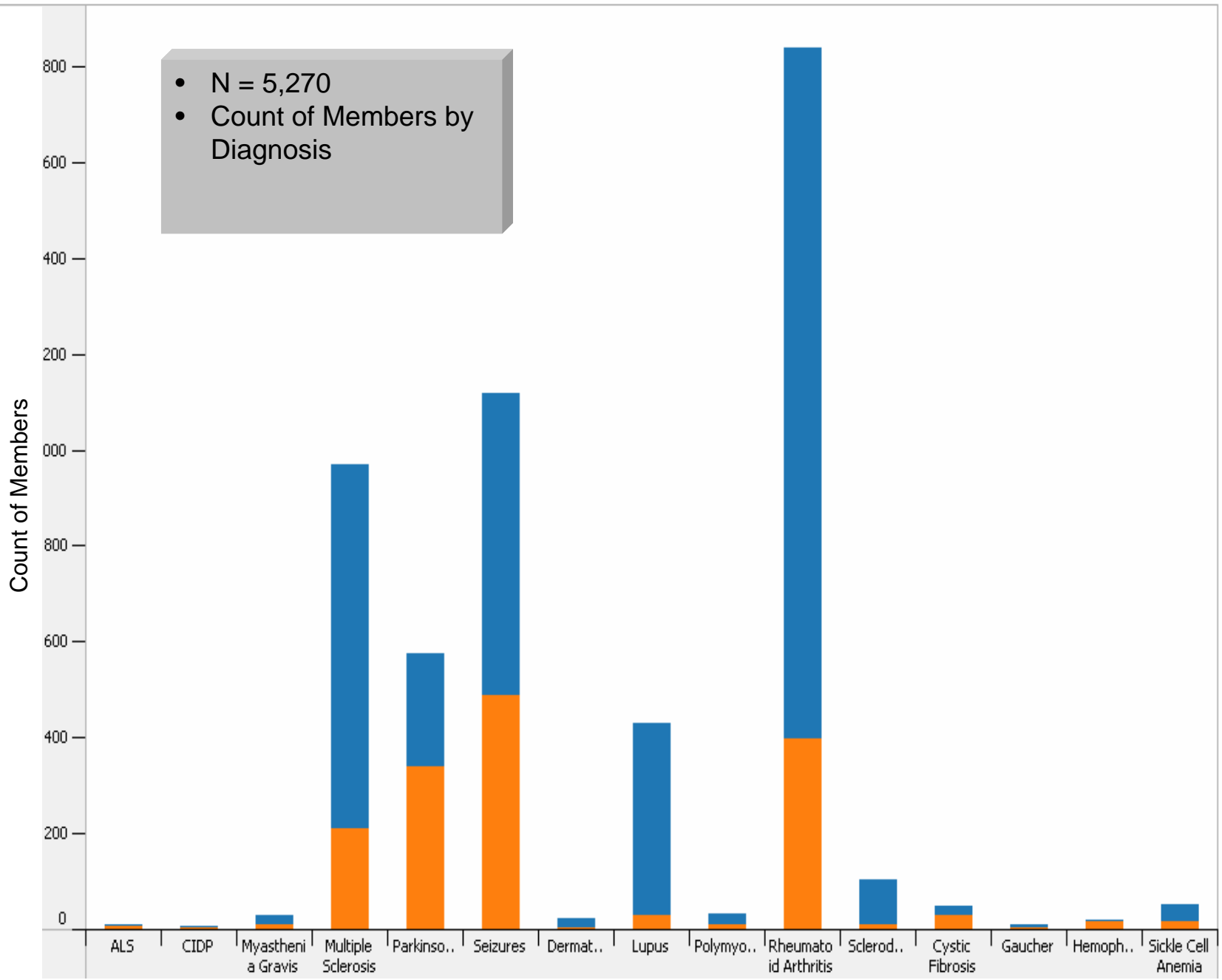
---

- **Originally considered five diagnosis groups:**
  - **Gastroenterology (n = 0): Crohn's**
  - **Hematology (n = 79): Gaucher, Hemophilia, Sickle Cell disease**
  - **Neurology (n = 2711): ALS, CIDP, Myasthenia Gravis, MS, Parkinson's, and Seizures**
  - **Pulmonary (n = 50): Cystic Fibrosis**
  - **Rheumatology (n = 2430): Lupus, Myositis, RA, and Scleroderma**
- **Crohn's not included in later study stages due to null population (a new program for IBC)**
- **Hematology and pulmonary not included in later study stages due to low 'n' size and higher statistical variability**

# Members by Dx and Gender

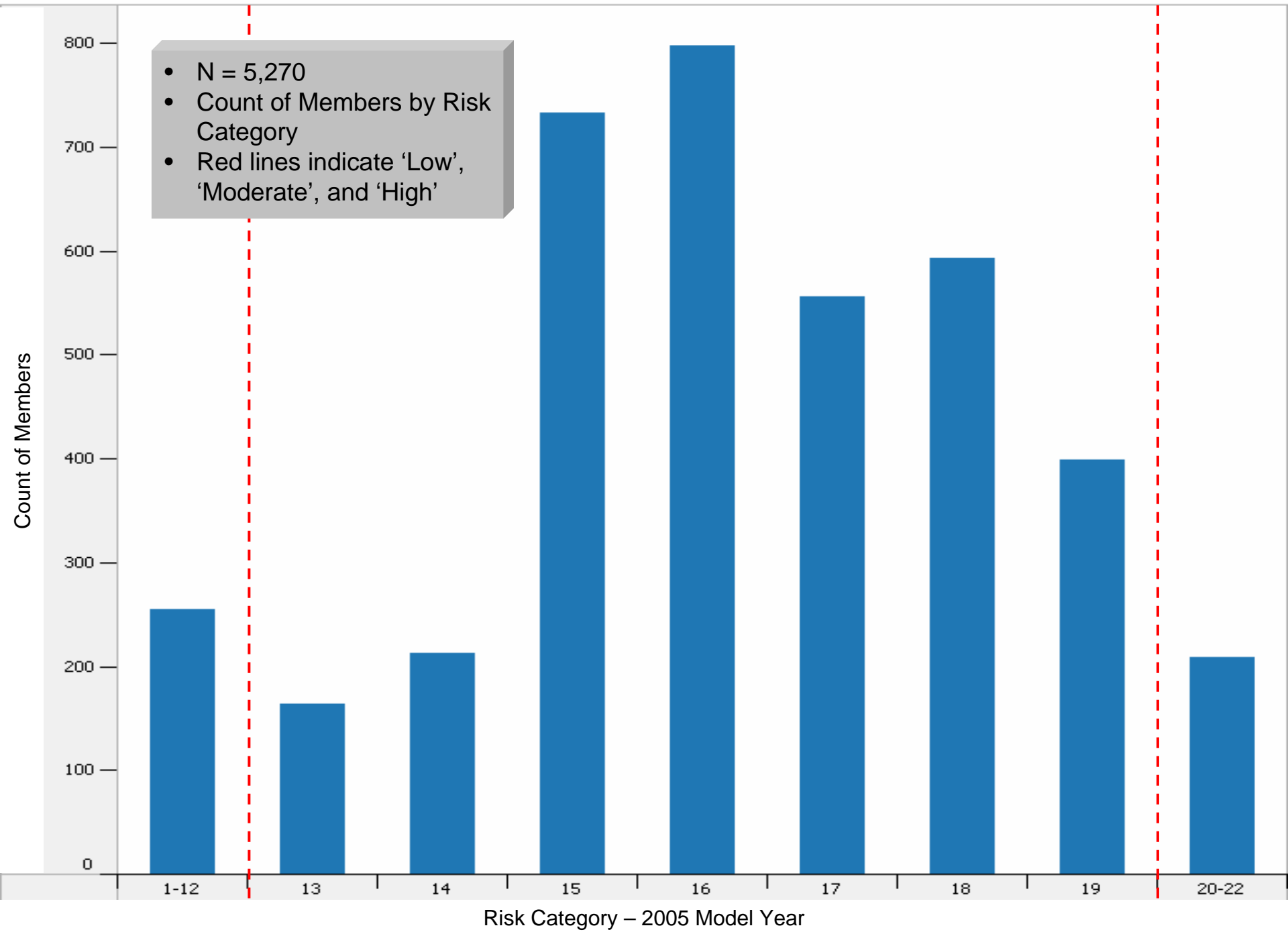
• N = 5,270  
• Count of Members by Diagnosis

**Gender**  
F  
M



Diagnosis

# Members by Risk Category

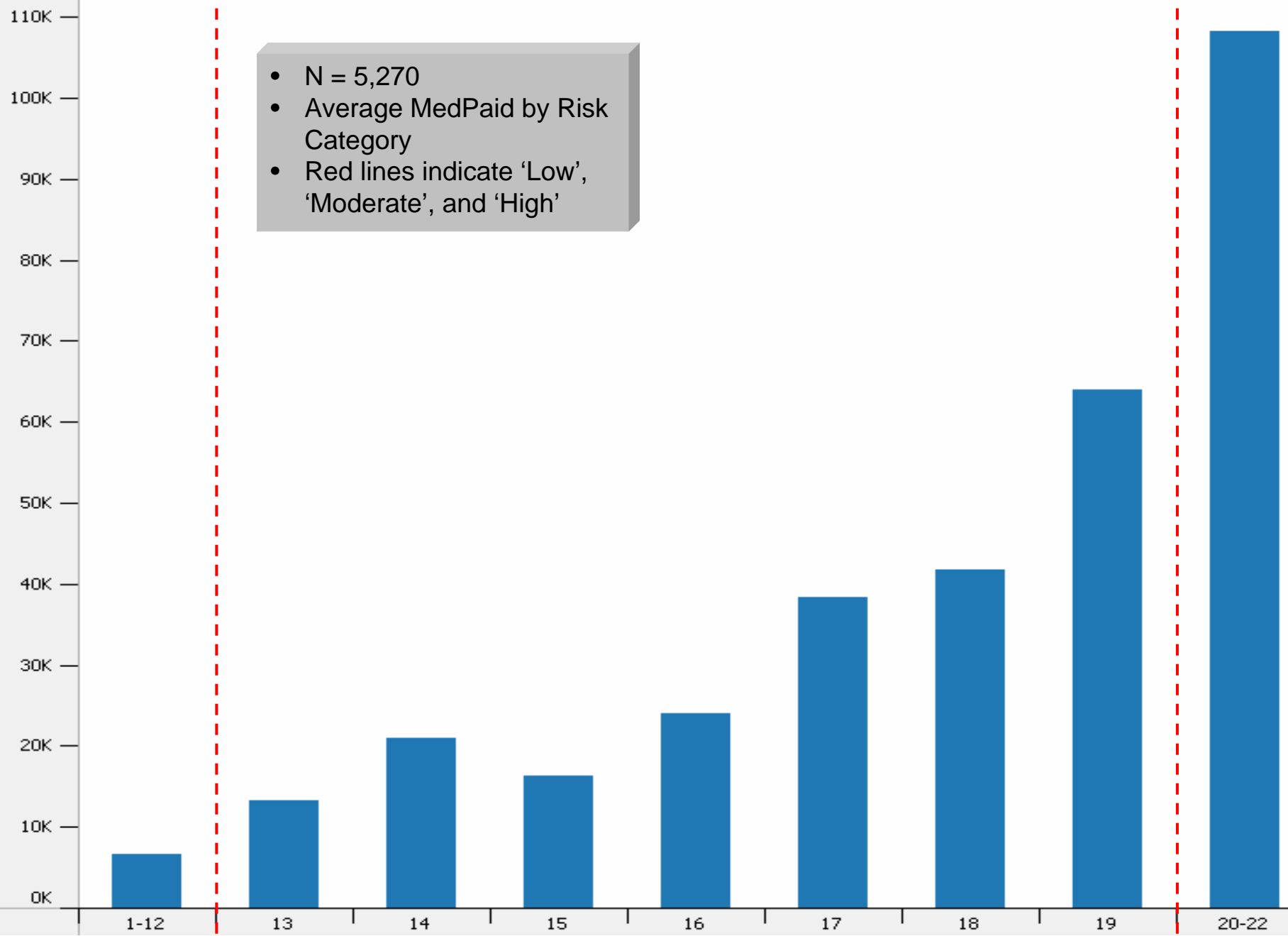


- N = 5,270
- Count of Members by Risk Category
- Red lines indicate 'Low', 'Moderate', and 'High'



# Avg MedPaid - Aggregate

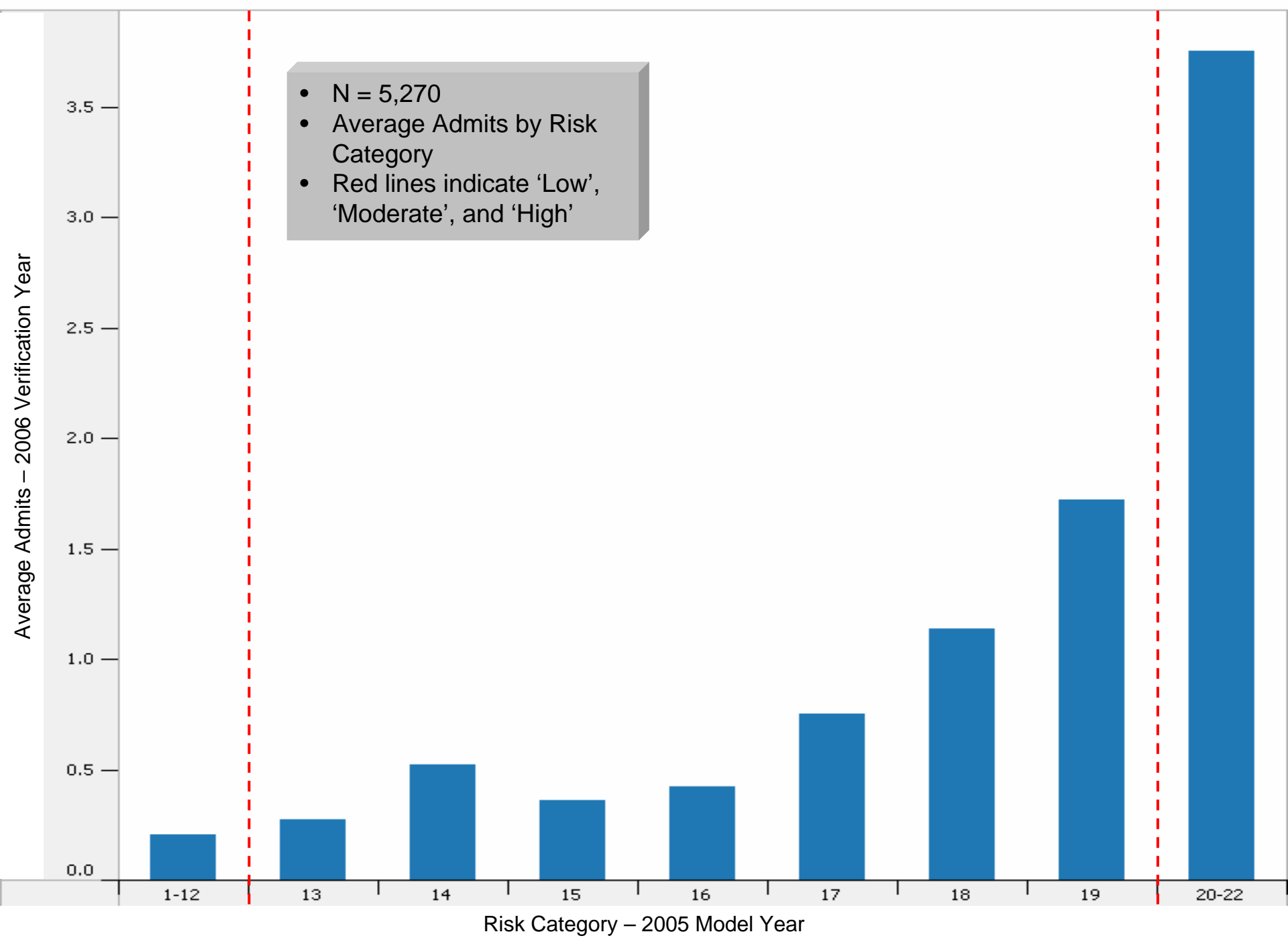
Average MedPaid – 2006 Verification Year



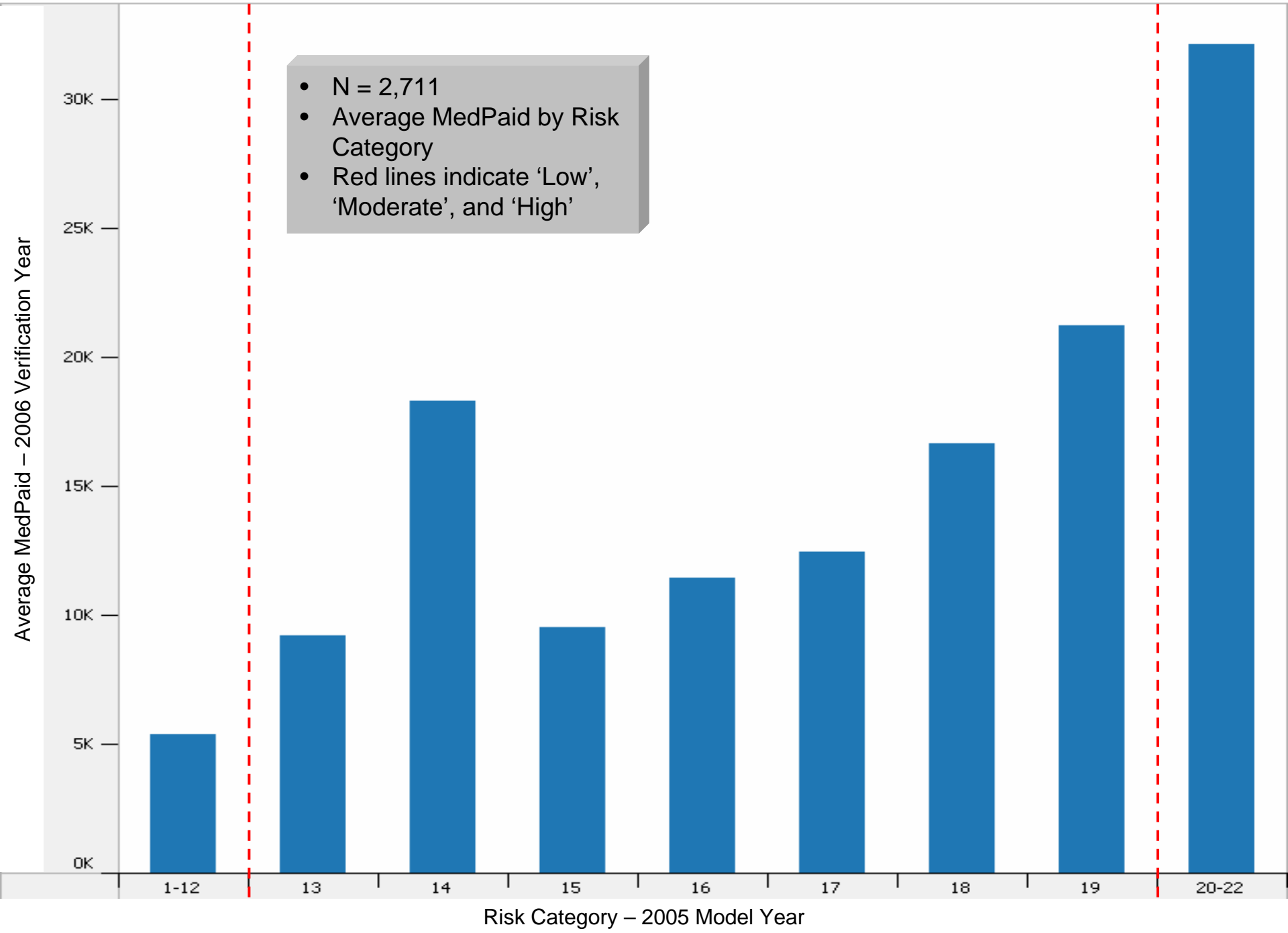
- N = 5,270
- Average MedPaid by Risk Category
- Red lines indicate 'Low', 'Moderate', and 'High'

Risk Category – 2005 Model Year

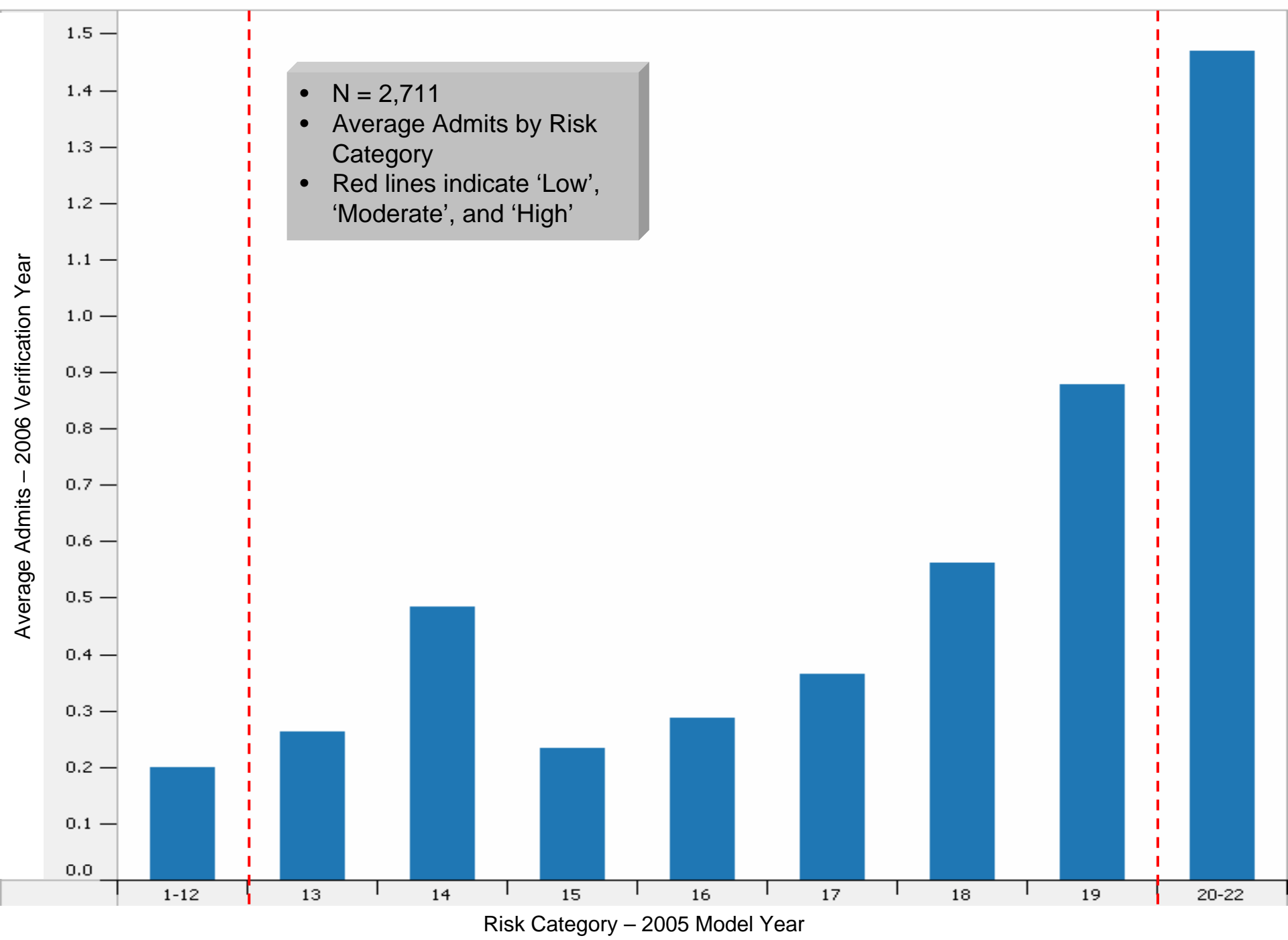
# Avg Admits - Aggregate



# Avg MedPaid - Neurological



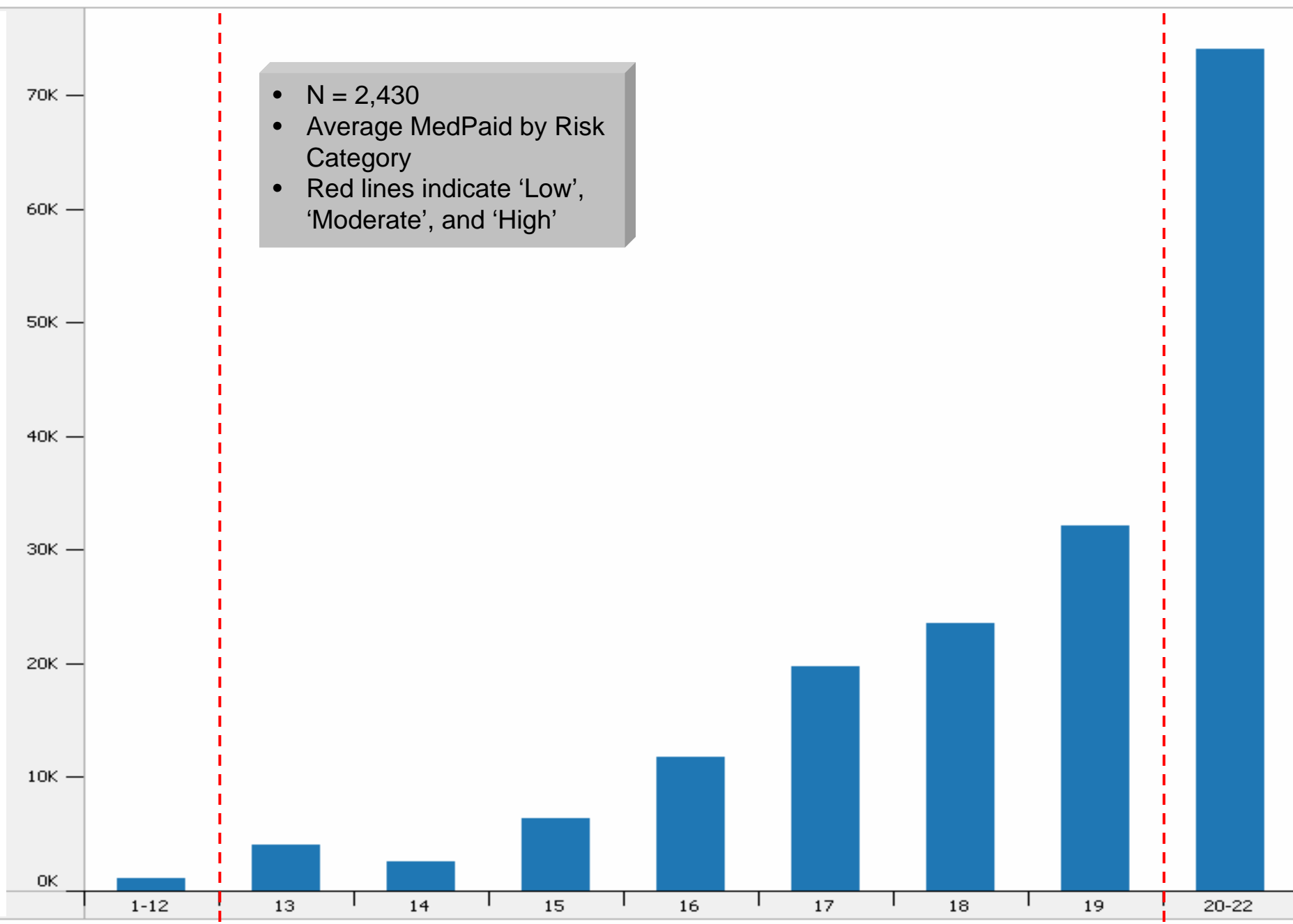
# Avg Admits - Neurological



# Avg MedPaid - Rheumatological

Average MedPaid - 2006 Verification Year

- N = 2,430
- Average MedPaid by Risk Category
- Red lines indicate 'Low', 'Moderate', and 'High'

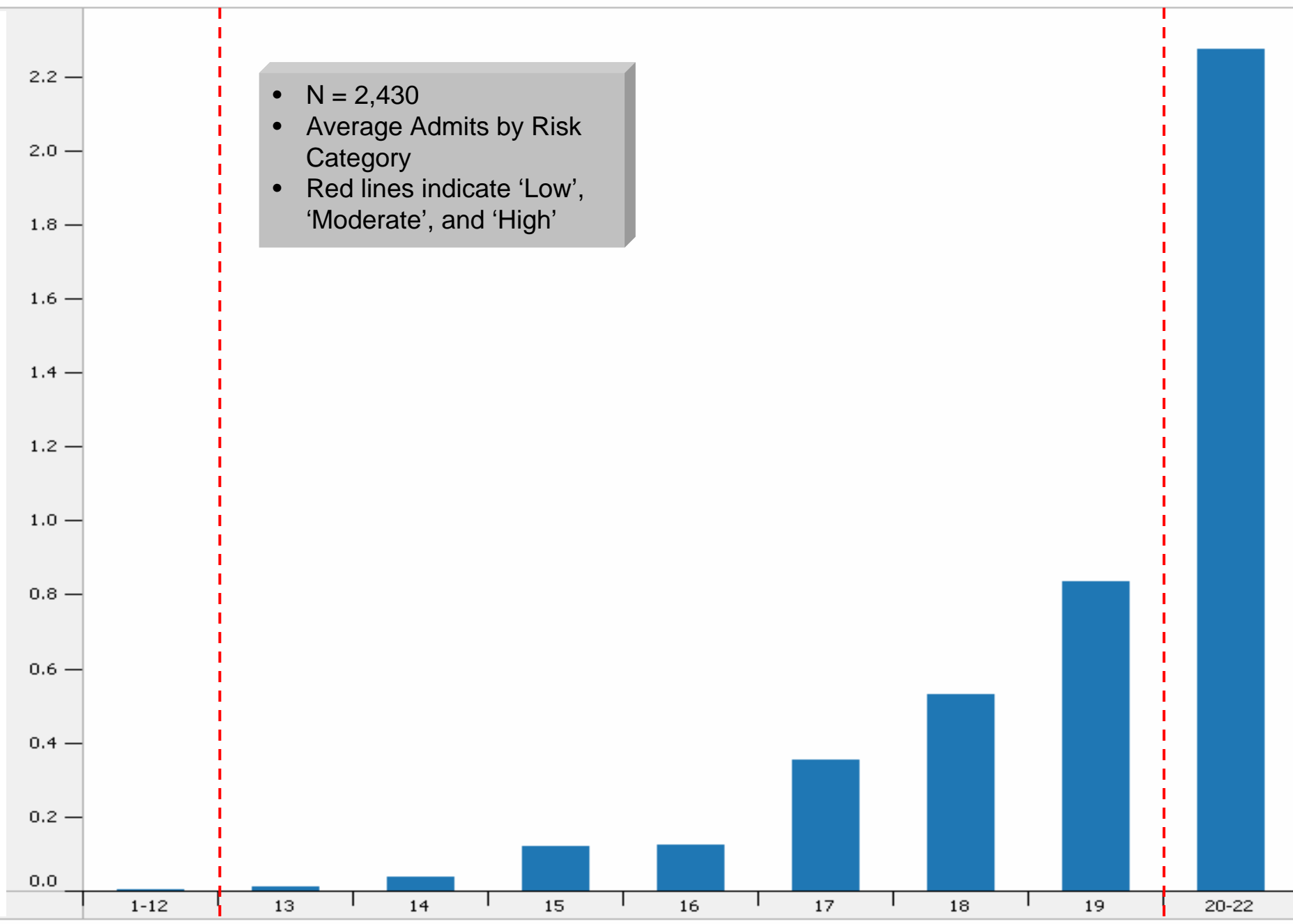


Risk Category - 2005 Model Year

# Avg Admits - Rheumatological

Average Admits – 2006 Verification Year

- N = 2,430
- Average Admits by Risk Category
- Red lines indicate 'Low', 'Moderate', and 'High'



Risk Category – 2005 Model Year

# Non-Parametric Analyses

## Kruskal-Wallis Tests

---

- $H_0$ : The mean ranks of [Medical Paid Amounts, Admits, ER Visits] are equivalent amongst the [Risk Categories].
- $H_1$ : The mean ranks of [Medical Paid Amounts, Admits, ER Visits] are significantly different amongst the [Risk Categories].

# Kruskal-Wallis Tests

- **Defined Risk Categories (based on Symmetry's Prospective Risk):**
  - Lower (Risk < 13)
  - Moderate (13 ≥ Risk ≤ 19)
  - Higher (Risk > 19)

	<b>Aggregate</b> <b>(n=5270)</b>	<b>Neuro</b> <b>(n=2711)</b>	<b>Rheuma</b> <b>(n=2430)</b>
<b>MedPaid</b>	p < 0.05	p < 0.05	p < 0.05
<b>Admits</b>	p < 0.05	p < 0.05	p < 0.05
<b>ER Visits</b>	<i>p &gt; 0.05</i>	p < 0.05	<i>p &gt; 0.05</i>



# Neurology Population

## Dx Related

<i>Description</i>	<i>ETG / Count</i>
Minor inflammation of skin & subcutaneous tissue	~678~ / n = 404
Neurological diseases signs & symptoms	~185~ / n = 381
Infections of lower genitourinary system, not sexually transmitted	~574~ / n = 173
Inflammatory diseases of eye, w/o surgery	~206~ / n = 120
Otitis media, w/o surgery	~329~ / n = 107

## Non-Dx Related

<i>Description</i>	<i>ETG / Count</i>
Routine exam	~794~ / n = 442
Benign neoplasm of skin	~682~ / n = 212
Isolated signs, symptoms & non-specific diagnoses or conditions	~900~ / n = 201
Fungal skin infections, w/o surgery	~675~ / n = 173
Tonsillitis, adenoiditis or pharyngitis, w/o surgery	~331~ / n = 155

# Rheumatology Population

Dx Related	
<i>Description</i>	<i>ETG / Count</i>
Minor inflammation of skin & subcutaneous tissue	~678~ / n = 441
Benign neoplasm of skin	~682~ / n = 203
Fungal skin infections, w/o surgery	~675~ / n = 180
Gastroenterology diseases signs & symptoms	~486~ / n = 133
Infections of lower genitourinary system, not sexually transmitted	~574~ / n = 127

Non-Dx Related	
<i>Description</i>	<i>ETG / Count</i>
Routine exam	~794~ / n = 350
Isolated signs, symptoms & non-specific diagnoses or conditions	~900~ / n = 165
Acute bronchitis, w/o comorbidity, age 5 & older	~384~ / n = 117
Acute sinusitis	~333~ / n = 104
Otolaryngology diseases signs & symptoms	~354~ / n = 103

# Conclusions

---

- **Symmetry's risk categories were verified against IBC's rare, chronic study population**
- **Prospective risk appears to identify those members with a higher likelihood of increased medical spend and/or utilization**
- **Determined significant difference in groups of risk (Low, Moderate, High)**
- **Established that Symmetry captures both rare condition diagnoses and non-diagnoses related episodes of care**

# Next Steps

---

- **Additional analyses to consider correlations between member's participation status and risk, as well as a member's level of acuity and risk**
- **Determine relevant segmentation for impacting clinical intervention strategies:**
  - **Common traits of risk inclined members**
  - **Exclusionary parameter considerations**
  - **Collaborate with Clinical Operations to develop a segmentation strategy**
  - **Pilot a prospective study to measure segmentation strategy impact**

# Questions?

---

## Thank You...

- [JCooper@accordant.net](mailto:JCooper@accordant.net)
- [Daryl.Wansink@ibx.com](mailto:Daryl.Wansink@ibx.com)
- [AMarano@accordant.net](mailto:AMarano@accordant.net)