



PUBLICATION RATE OF ABSTRACTS PRESENTED AT THE SPA SPRING MEETINGS, 2010 TO 2015

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BACKGROUND

- From **2010 to 2015**, more than 250 abstracts per year were accepted to the SPA Spring Meeting.
- Publication is a metric of academic productivity. Publication rates of other clinical and research conferences have been described.
- **Objective:** To measure the rate of publication of all abstracts presented at SPA Spring Meeting in peer-reviewed journals from 2010-2015.

METHODS

- **Primary outcome:** abstracts that yielded publication
- **Secondary outcome:** number of months between conference presentation and publication
- A multi-tiered approach was employed utilizing PubMed's default search tool or Advanced Search Builder function to search SPA abstracts presented from 2010-2015
 - Information extracted: author name(s), abstract title, Presentation type [oral, walkaround (anesthesia category), non-moderated]
 - Each abstract verified by 2nd reviewer
 - Each verified publication was reviewed and confirmed by senior author

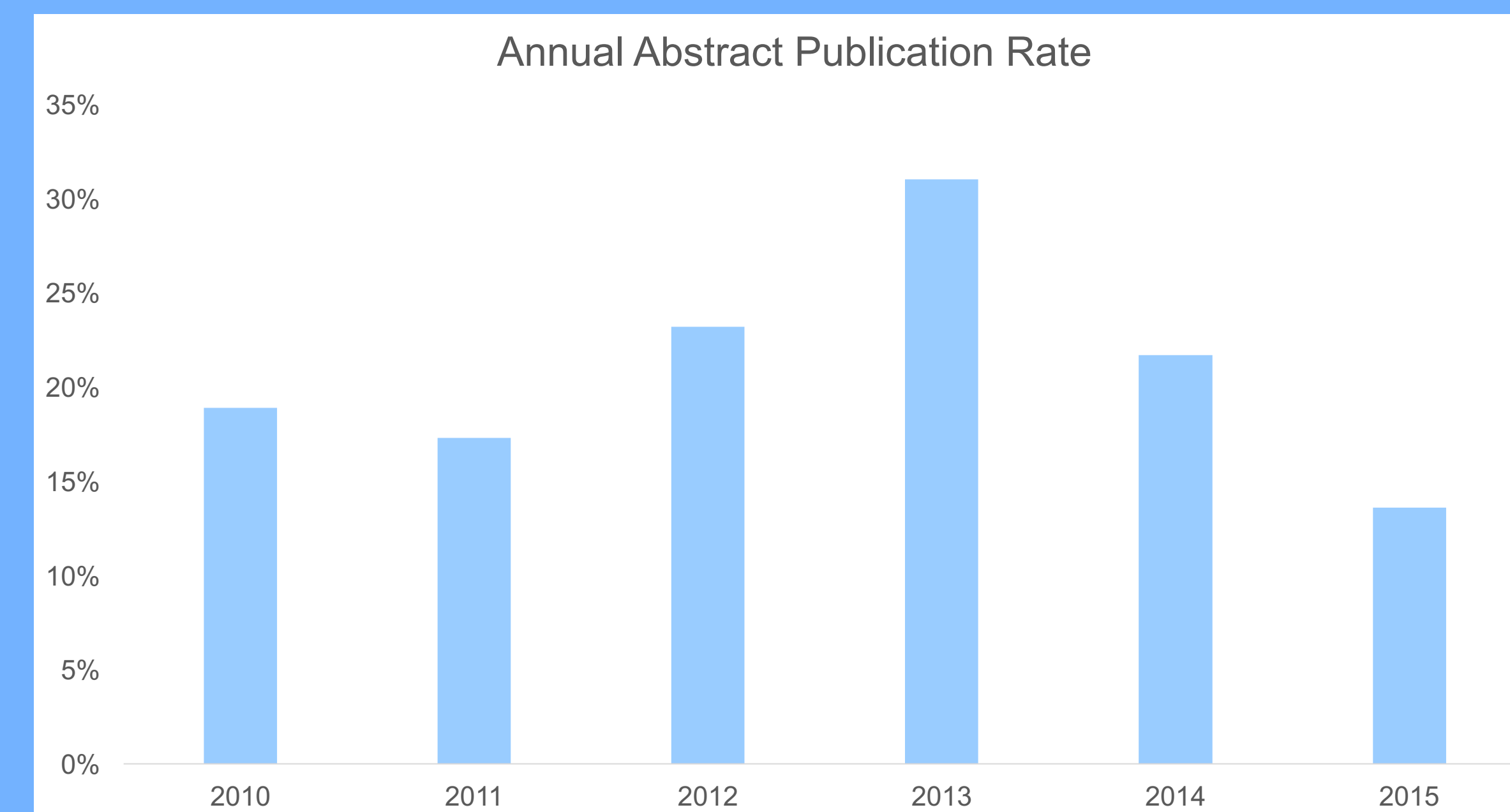


Figure 1: Rates of abstracts that yielded publications per SPA meeting

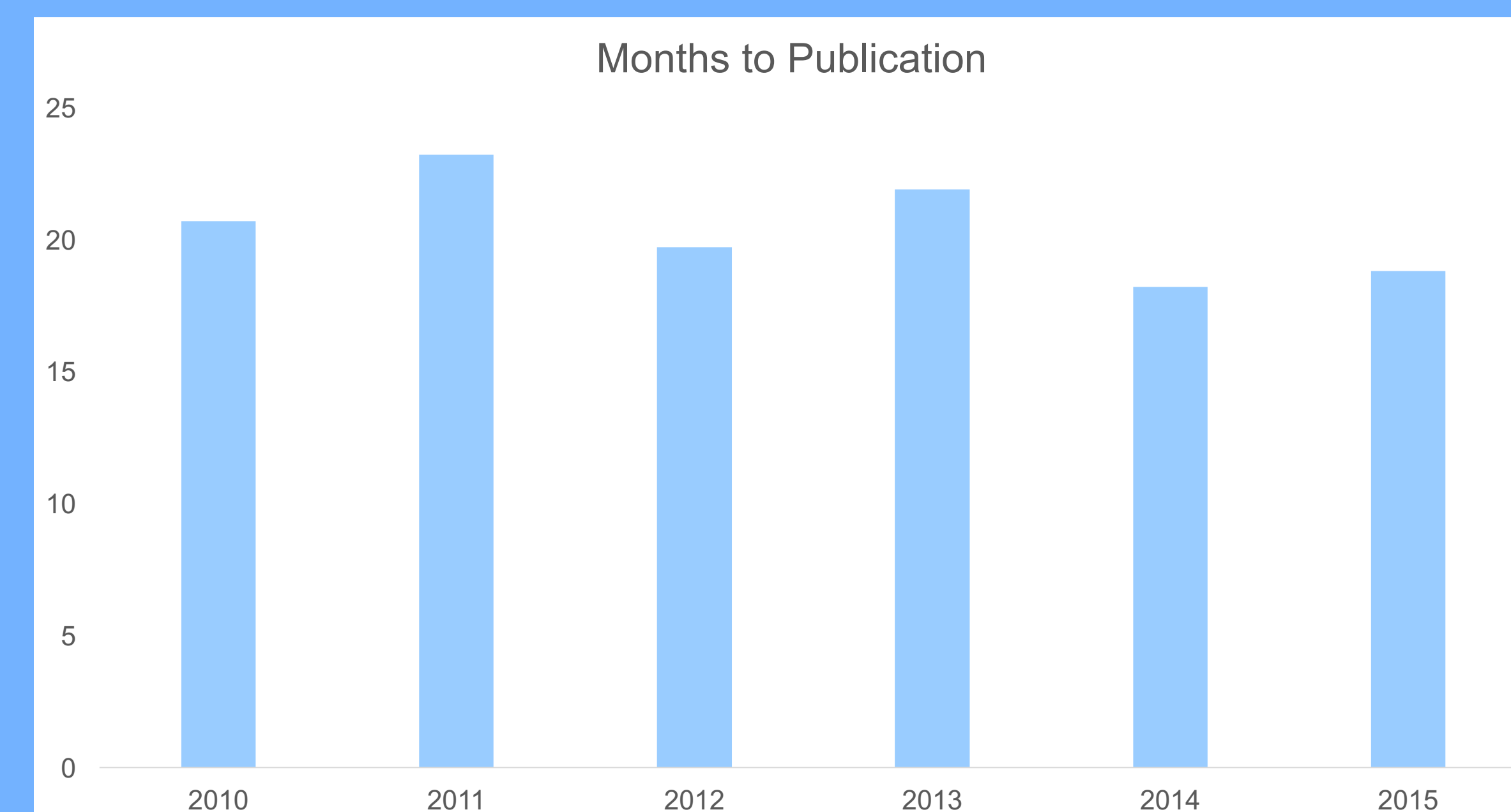


Figure 2: Average months to abstract publication per SPA meeting

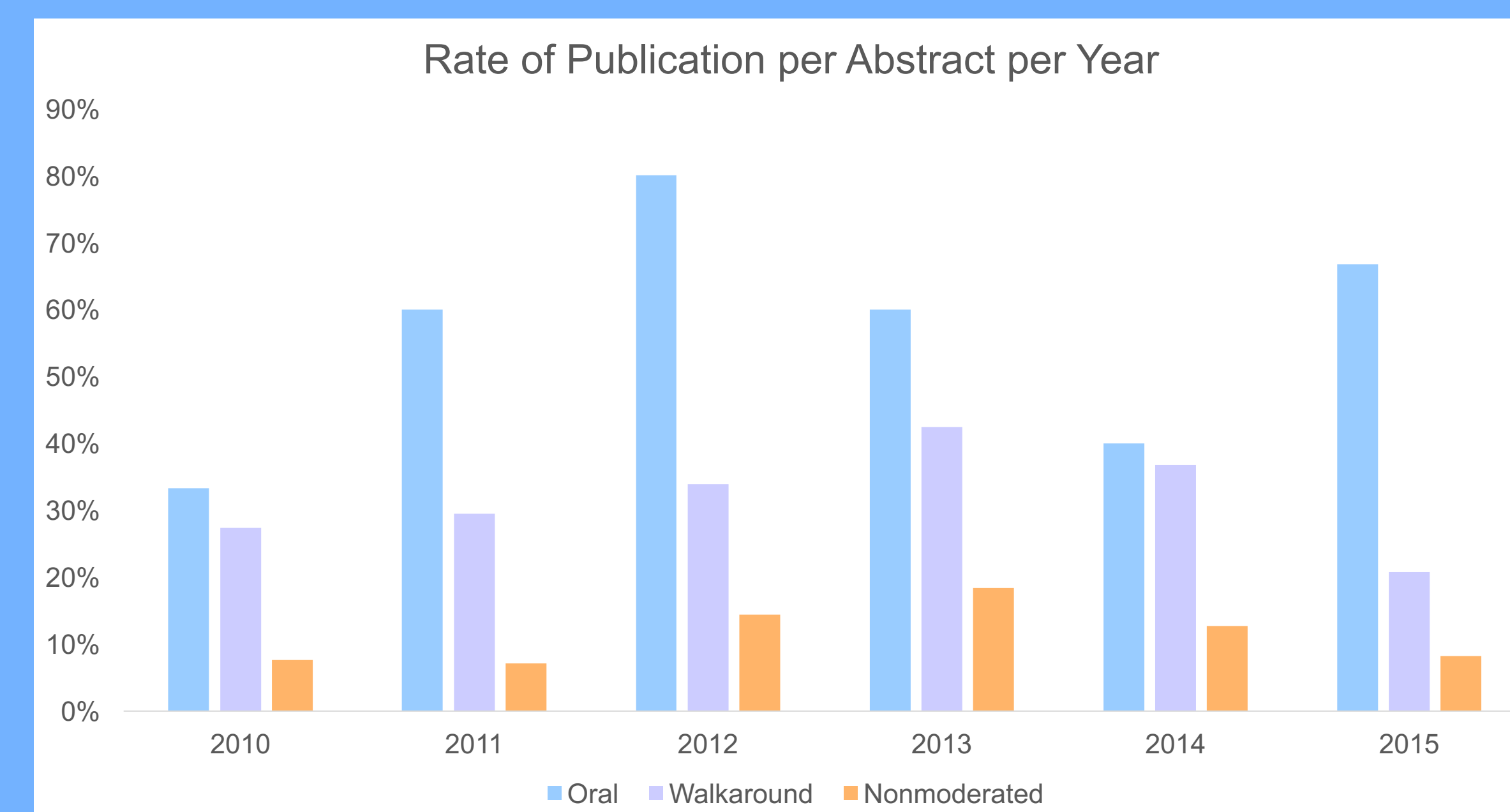


Figure 3: Average rate of Oral, Walkaround, and Nonmoderated abstract publications per SPA meeting

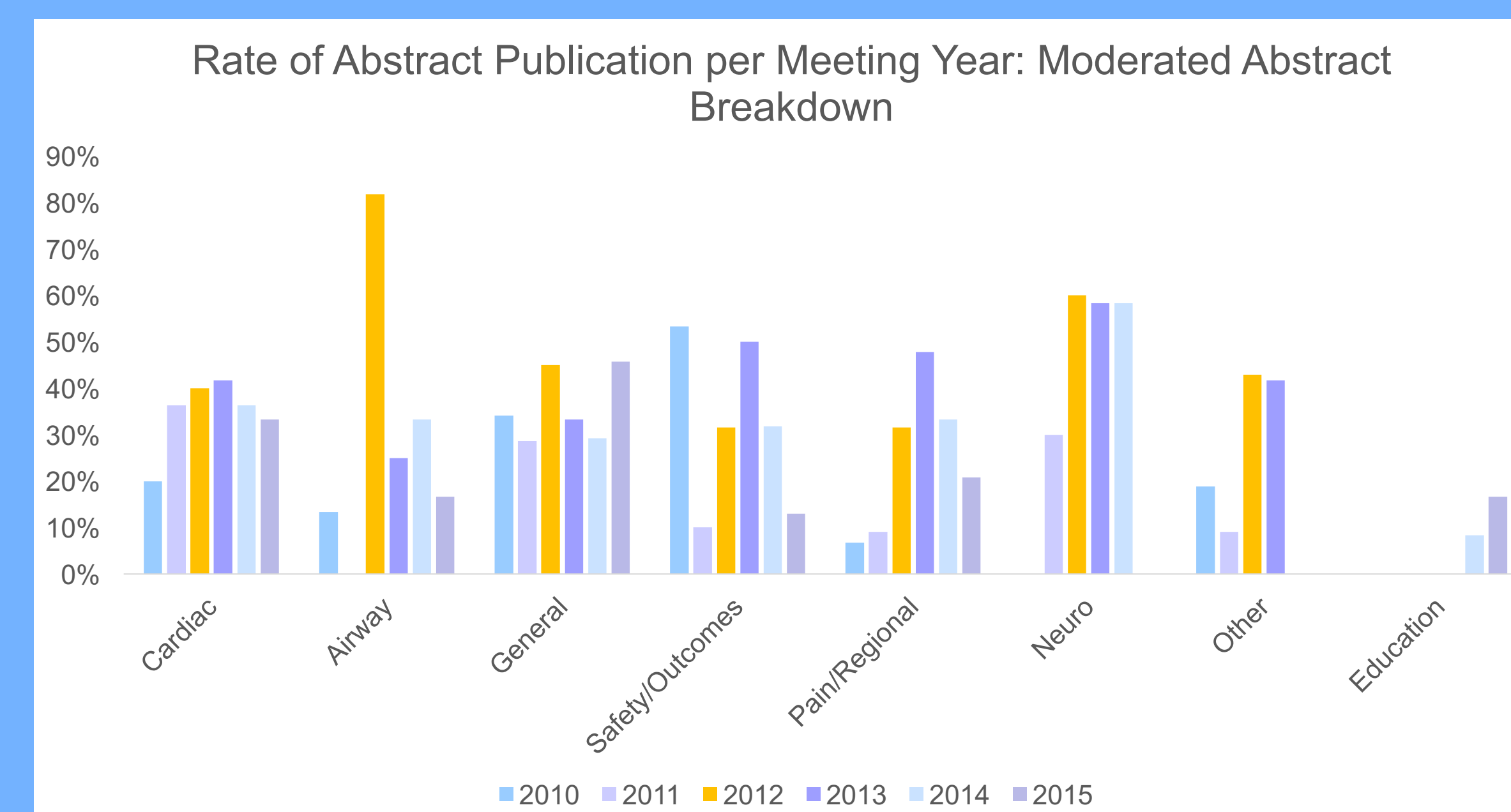


Figure 4: Breakdown of Walkaround type abstract publications per SPA meeting

RESULTS

- Total submitted abstracts increased over years
 - 271 abstracts in 2011
 - 407 abstracts in 2015
- Total of 1844 abstracts presented -> 392 abstracts published (21.3%)
- Total publication rates, by abstract category:
 - Oral: n=18/32 (56.2%)
 - Walkaround: n=253/771 (31.8%)
 - Nonmoderated: n=128/1072 (11.9%)
- In Walkaround category, neuroanesthesia had the greatest average publication rate of 41.3%
- Mean length of time to publication for all abstract types was 20.4 months over 5 years
- 1.7% of abstracts were published prior to their presentation at the SPA meeting (n=31 of 1,844)
- Most published journals
 - Paediatric Anaesthesia: n=109/392 (27.8%)
 - Anesthesiology: n=24/392 (6.1%)
 - Journal of Clinical Anesthesia: n=19/392 (4.8%)

CONCLUSION

- Abstract publication rates for other biomedical meetings = 44.5%².
 - Likely represent a greater focus on research compared to clinical practice
 - Median interval of 20 months between abstract presentation to publication which is comparable to our findings²
- Publication rates may be used as one measure of the academic productivity of clinical conferences
- Abstract acceptance criteria should be explicit, as this may promote higher quality submissions that may ultimately result in greater rates of abstract acceptances and publication.
- **Take Home Points**
 1. Total submissions increased over time
 2. Annual acceptance rates declined
 3. Publication rates did not appear to increase over time

REFERENCES

1. Gerlach B, Shah AM, Lee MT, Wong CA, Sullivan JT, Toledo P. Publication Rate of Abstracts Presented at the Society for Obstetric Anesthesia and Perinatology Annual Meetings 2010–2014. *Anesth Analg* 2017;124:887–9.
2. Scherer RW, Langenberg P, von Elm E. Full publication of results initially presented in abstracts. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2007;MR000005.