



RESEARCH FINDINGS

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MISSION



- Objective: Strengthen data dimensions in thematic analysis of SafeWork NSW data.
- Purpose: Improve decision-making for workplace safety through enhanced data quality.

WHAT IS THEMATIC ANALYSIS

- Definition: Technique to identify, analyse, and interpret patterns in textual data.
- Purpose: Helps SafeWork understand key issues and causes in workplace incidents.
- Application: Work health and safety reports, accident investigations, and incident data coding.



APPLYING THEMATIC ANALYSIS TO TEXTUAL DATA

Step 1: Familiarisation:

Reading data to understand context.

Step 2: Generate Initial Codes

Identify and label key features (e.g., "equipment failure").

Step 3: Searching for Themes

Grouping similar codes to create broader themes.

Step 4: Review Potential Themes

Ensure themes accurately reflect accurate data patterns.

Step 5: Defining and Naming Themes

Give descriptive names to themes (e.g., "Safety Gaps").

Step 6: Writing up

Compile findings for stakeholders to support relevance, coherence, and interpretability



PROS AND CONS



Pros

Flexible and Adaptable: Applicable to varied research questions and frameworks.

Accessible: Simple for new researchers; supports data accessibility for stakeholders.

Holistic Insights: Provides a detailed understanding of patterns and causes.

Customisable: Can explore broad themes or specific issues.

Reflects Authentic Voices: Presents direct insights from incident reports.

Cons

Subjective: Risk of researcher bias in interpreting data.

Time-Intensive: Requires deep familiarisation, coding, and theme refinement.

Potentially Surface-Level: Risk of only capturing obvious issues if not thoroughly analyzed.

Over-Interpretation: Can result in assigning unsupported meanings

SAFETY REGULATION SYSTEM

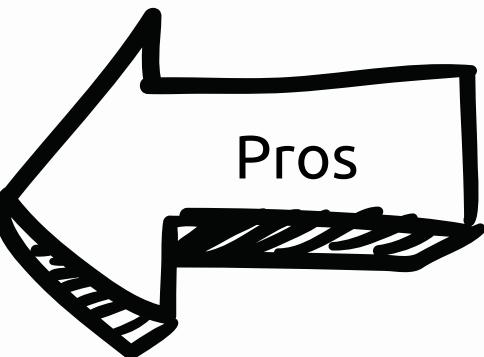
Is another incident / Injury coding system. It was developed by the Government of Western Australia's Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety. It provided categories to classify workplace incidents in the mining industry.

Categories are briefly described below:

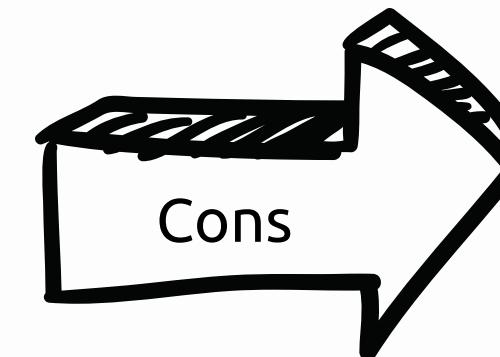
1. Occupation: The type of work the injured person performs (e.g., management, trades, railway operations).
2. Nature of Injury: Describes the type of injury, such as heart attack, burns, musculoskeletal injuries, and toxic effects.
3. Part of Body: Which part of body was injured (e.g., head, neck, arm, leg).
4. Location of Accident: Where injury took place (e.g., underground, in treatment plants, or in administrative areas)
5. Type of Accident: Classification of nature of the incident. (e.g., falls, being struck by objects, exposure to harmful environments, explosion)
6. Injured Person Activity: Detail what person was doing at the time. (E.g. handling tools, power tools, mining task)
7. Breakdown Agency: Details the equipment or substance responsible for causing the injury. (e.g., machinery, chemicals, mobile plant, or environmental agents)



SAFETY REGULATION SYSTEM



vs



- Covers a wide range of factors like occupation, injury type, body part this allows for a greater understanding of the nature and context of the incident.
 - Allows consistency across different workplaces by using predefined categories, making it easier to identify trends and understand root causes of injuries.
 - Detailed categories like cause, body part affected allow for target intervention. This is particularly useful for industries that are high risk like mining.
 - Although designed for mining, it is adaptable for other industries.
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- As it includes many categories and subcategories it can be complex to understand and implement. Smaller organisations may find it difficult to apply it correctly which can result in inconsistencies.
 - Potential for overclassification, some minor injuries may fit into several categories. This could result in excessive data entry.
 - Organisation may need to invest time and resources to train employees to learn how to use the system correctly, which might be difficult for smaller organisations.
 - Although adaptable to other industries not all of the categories would be useful for every industry.

HOW TO ENSURE INTERCODER RELIABILITY WHEN USING SRS

Intercoder reliability is the agreement between different coders when they are independently categorising the same data. This is important because it increases the validity and trustworthiness of the research findings, particularly where data plays a key role in its findings.

Ways to achieve this

- 1. Develop clear guidelines and instructions** on how to use the framework and ensure everyone gets the same guidelines to ensure consistency.
- 2. Have regular check-ins and collaboration sessions:** Here coders can provide feedback. This allows any misunderstandings and errors to be solved quickly.
- 3. Have peer review sessions:** Allow a fresh set of eyes to look at the data so any errors or inconsistencies can be identified and addressed promptly.
- 4. Clear documentation is important** because it provides a reference for coders, ensuring they apply the classification system consistently. It also allows new coders to continue the work without causing any errors or inconsistency.
- 5. Coders should undergo training** (include practical exercises) before starting because it ensures they understand the system and clarify any misunderstandings.



UNDERSTANDING THE ESAW CODING FRAMEWORK FOR WORKPLACE ACCIDENT DATA

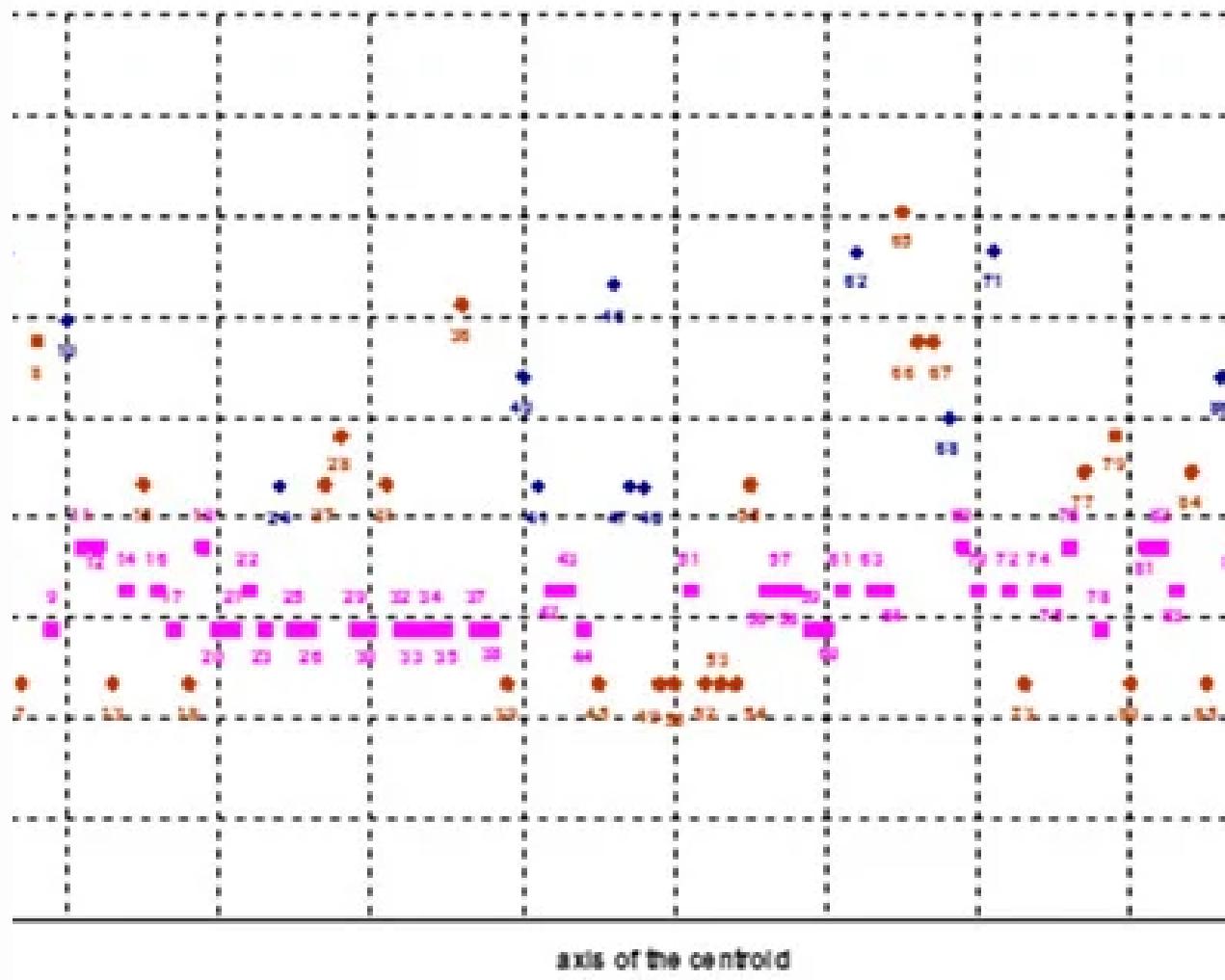


An exploration of the European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW) and its implications for workplace safety data.



Introduction to ESAW

INTRODUCTION TO ESAW



Scope of Data:

Includes data on injury types, economic sectors, accident causes, and demographics, enabling comparative analysis of workplace incidents within the EU.

What is ESAW?

The European Statistics on Accidents at Work (ESAW) is a database managed by Eurostat, offering standardized data on workplace accidents across EU member countries.



ESAW CODING FRAMEWORK



Framework Overview:

ESAW's coding framework uses categories like "deviation" (from normal operations), "contact" (with objects or substances), and "consequence" (injury type).

Structure and Consistency:

The multi-layered structure promotes standardized data collection, ensuring comparability across nations.

BENEFITS OF THE ESAW FRAMEWORK

1

Standardization Across Borders:
Harmonized categories make data
comparable across EU countries.

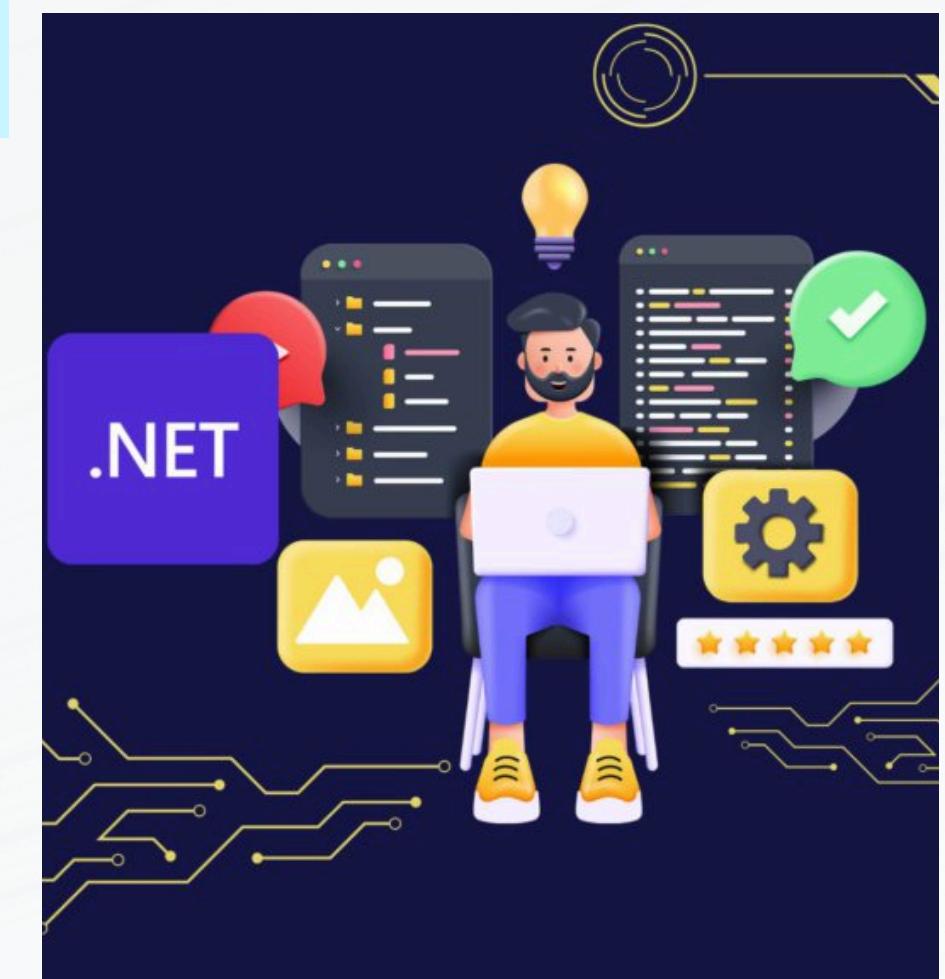


2

Insight for Policymakers:
Detailed categories aid in identifying
recurring issues and high-risk areas.

3

Systematic Data Collection:
Structured coding allows for
systematic trend analysis and
tracking.



LIMITATIONS OF ESAW'S FRAMEWORK

1

Limited Qualitative Depth:
ESAW's focus on predefined codes may overlook
nuances in complex or unique incidents.

2

Rigidity:
As highlighted in research by Palmer and Coe (2012), strictly
codified systems can lack flexibility to capture evolving
workplace contexts.

3

Resource Intensive:
The requirement for harmonization can be demanding
on national authorities, affecting data quality.

