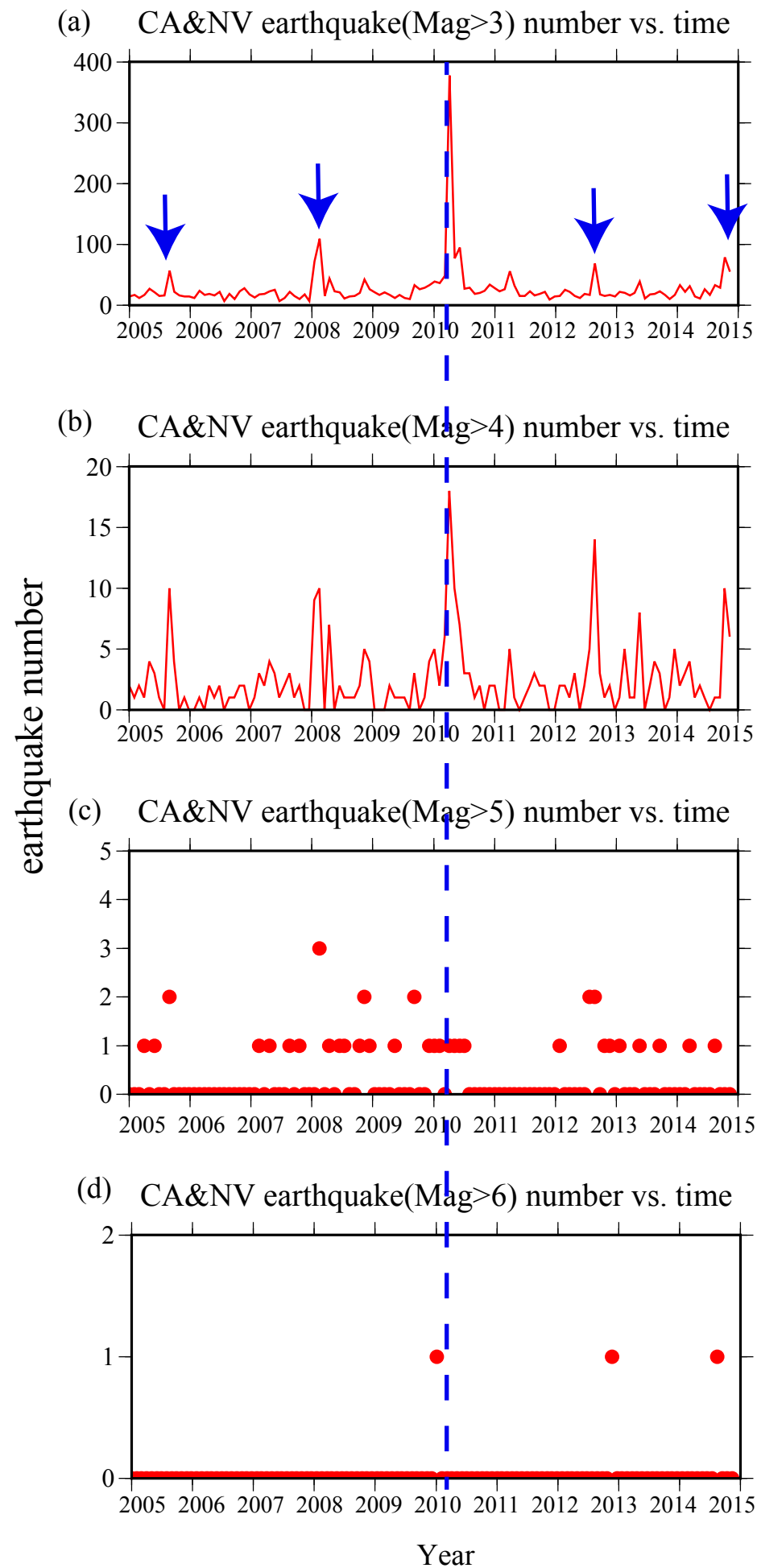# Figure 2

By analyzing the time variation of the number of earthquakes in the past 10 years, we can find that the occurrence of earthquakes actually has certain pattern. Figure 2 shows the time variation of the number of earthquakes. Different panels represent results with different selection criteria. For example, Figure 2a shows the time variation of the earthquakes with magnitude larger than 3.0, and Figure 2b is the time variation of earthquakes with magnitude larger than 4.0. It's obvious that there is a peak about every 2.5 years. More interestingly, the occurrences of large earthquakes (magnitude>5.0 or 6.0; Figures 2c,d) are generally correlated with those peaks. Therefore it is possible to predict how likely a big earthquake is likely to happen in the next few years. In practice, we need to analyze different clusters of earthquakes (Figure 1b) separately, and make predictions/estimations that vary from place to place.