



Office of the Legislative Auditor
State of Minnesota



Nursing Home Inspections

February 10, 2005

Inspection Flexibility

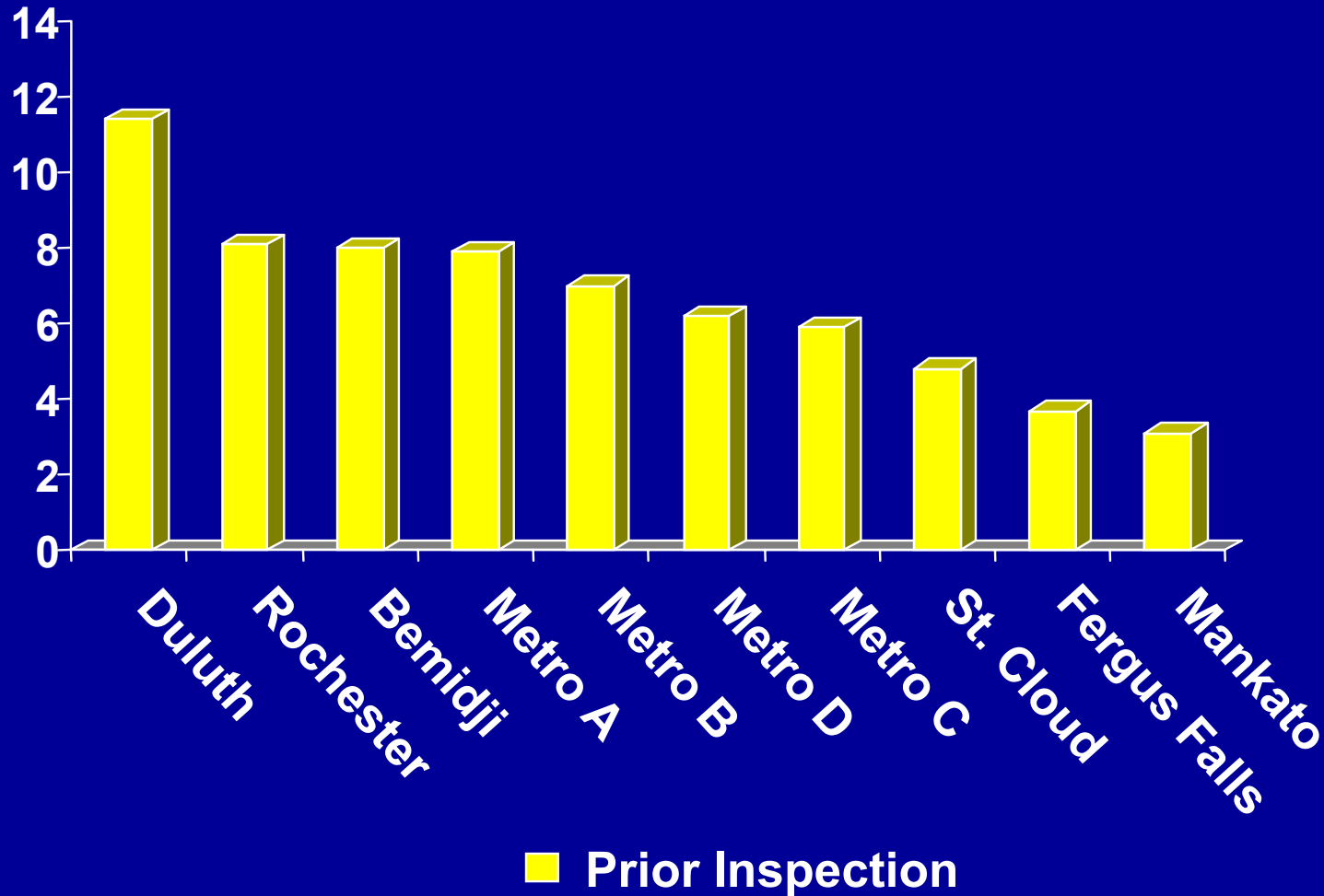
- Federally controlled program
 - At least once every 15 months
 - “Full” inspection
 - Complex and prescriptive regulations

Federal Nursing Home Standards

- Difficult to apply consistently
 - Over 270 standards
 - Sometimes unclear, contradictory, or duplicative
 - Few guidelines from MDH

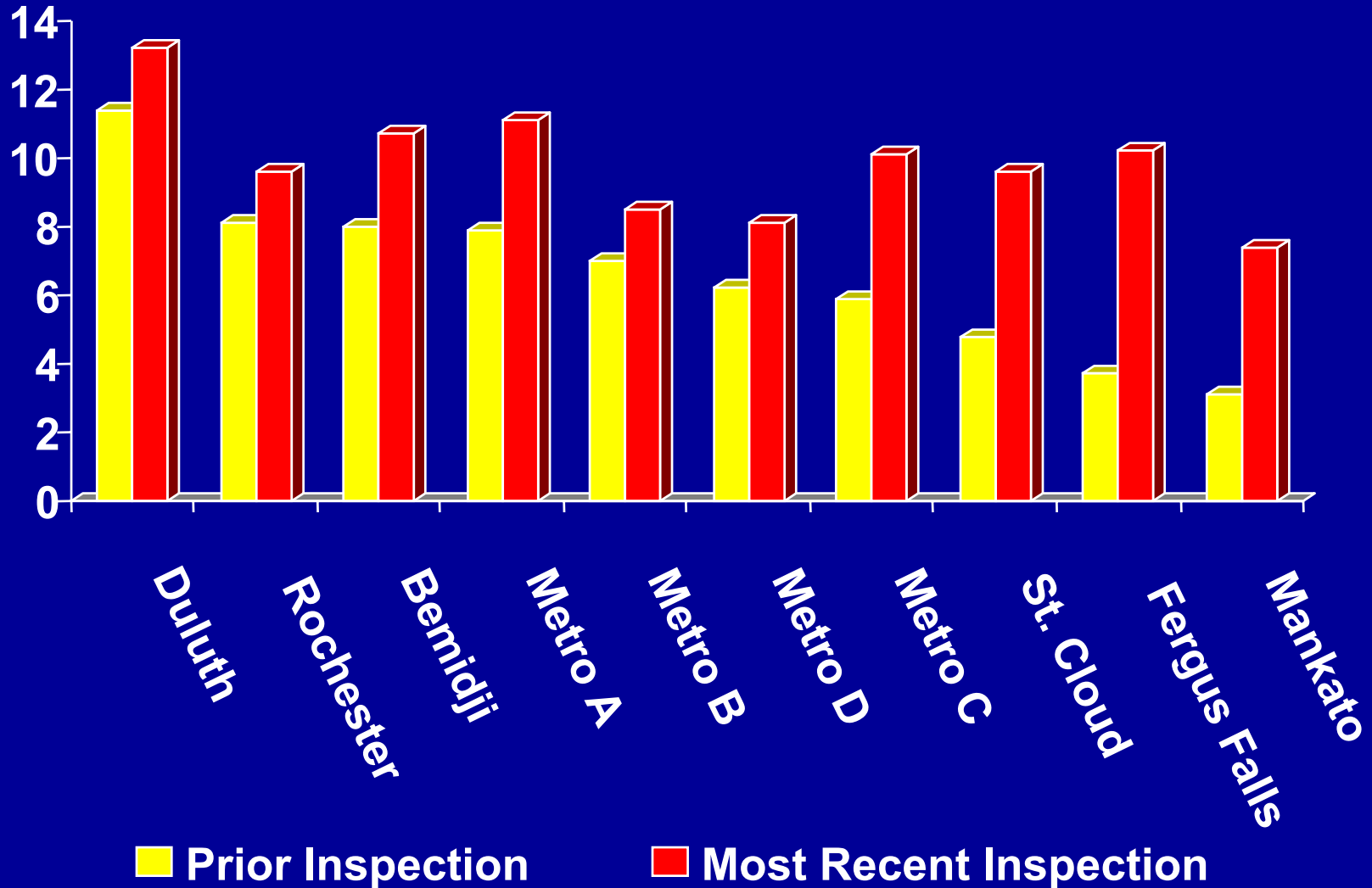
Deficiencies by District

Deficiencies per Facility



Deficiencies by District

Deficiencies per Facility

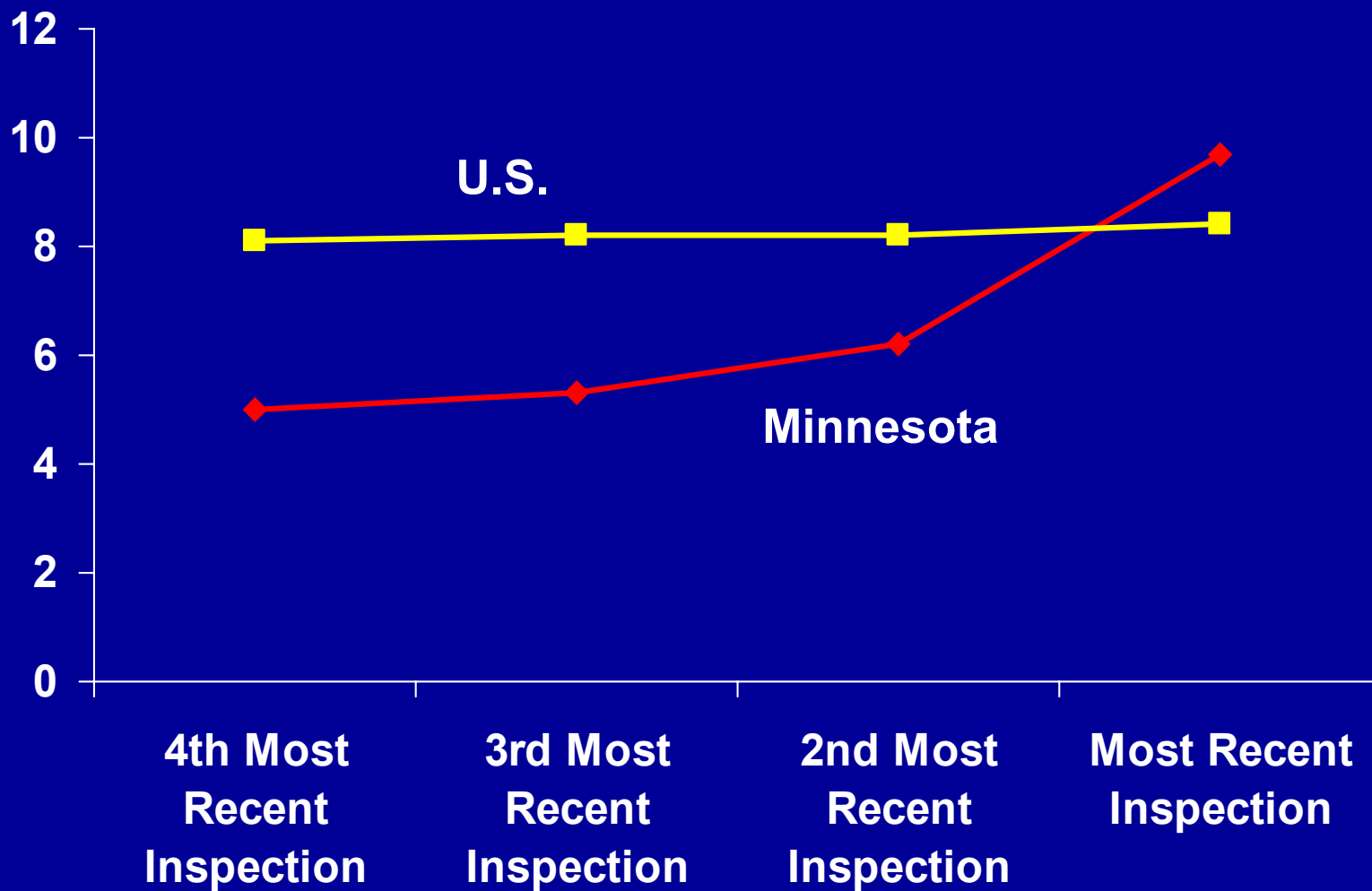


Number of Deficiencies Issued

	<u>Prior Inspection</u>	<u>Most Recent Inspection</u>
Average Deficiencies Per Facility	6.2	9.7
Facilities With No Deficiencies	11%	3%
Facilities With > 10 Deficiencies	19%	40%

Deficiency Trends

Deficiencies per Facility



Most Common Deficiencies

- Not following resident care plans
- Unsanitary food conditions
- Unsanitary/unsafe/uncomfortable environment
- Not helping residents reach their highest practicable well being

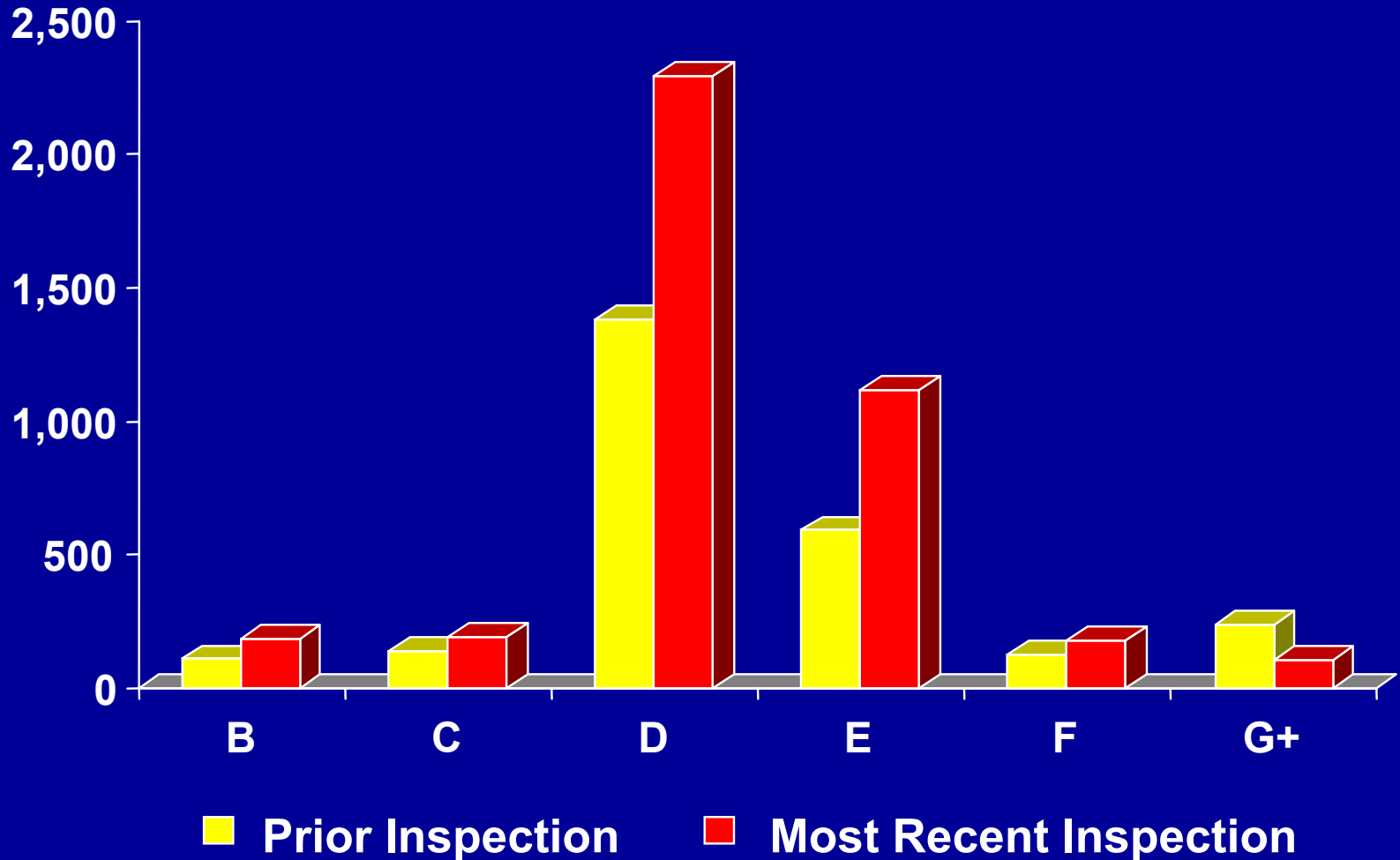
Seriousness of Deficiencies

	Isolated	Pattern	Widespread	
Severity	Immediate Jeopardy	J	K	L
	Actual Harm	G	H	I
	Actual Discomfort or Potential for Harm	D	E	F
	Potential for Discomfort	A	B	C

Scope

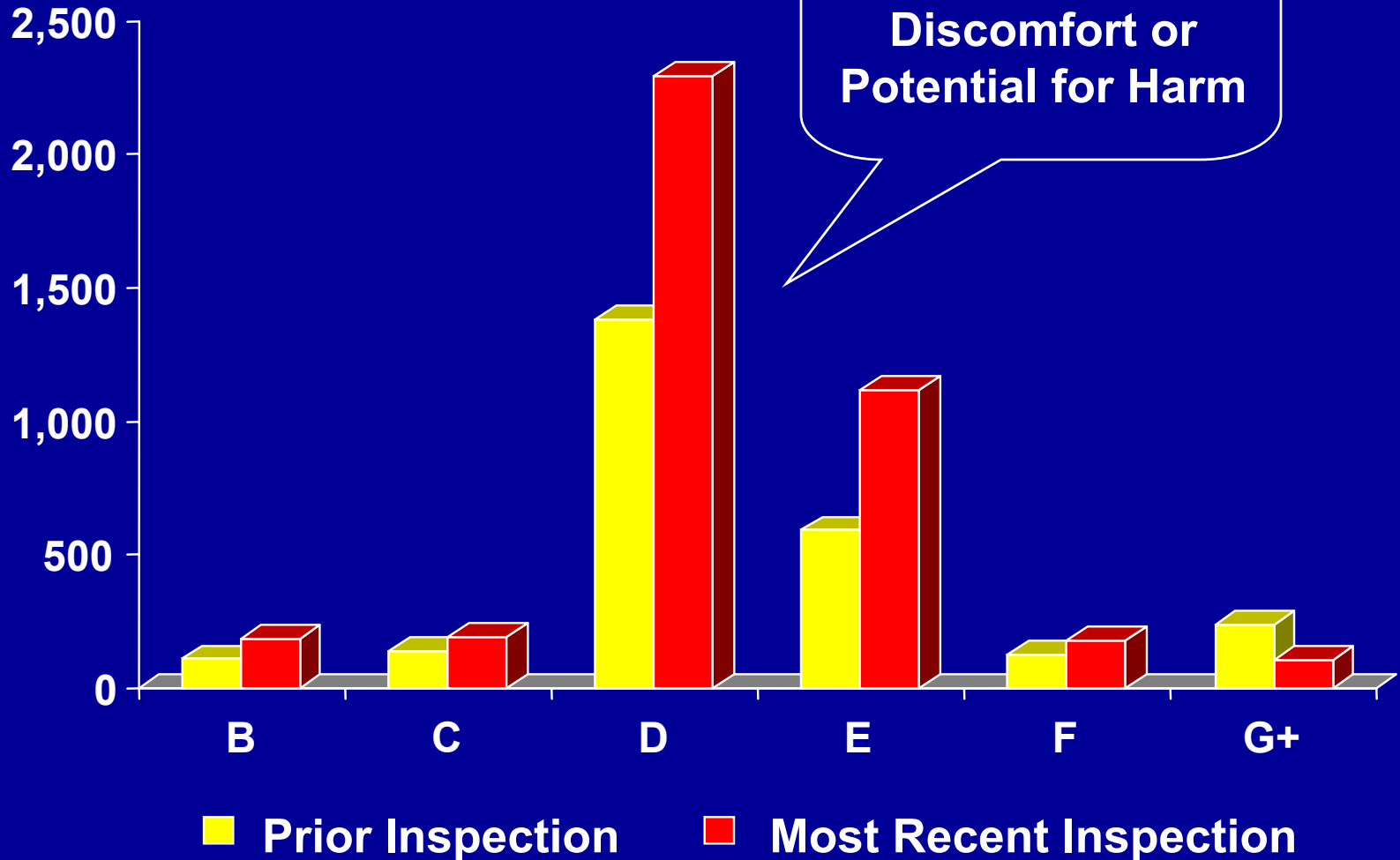
Deficiency Scope and Severity

Number of Deficiencies



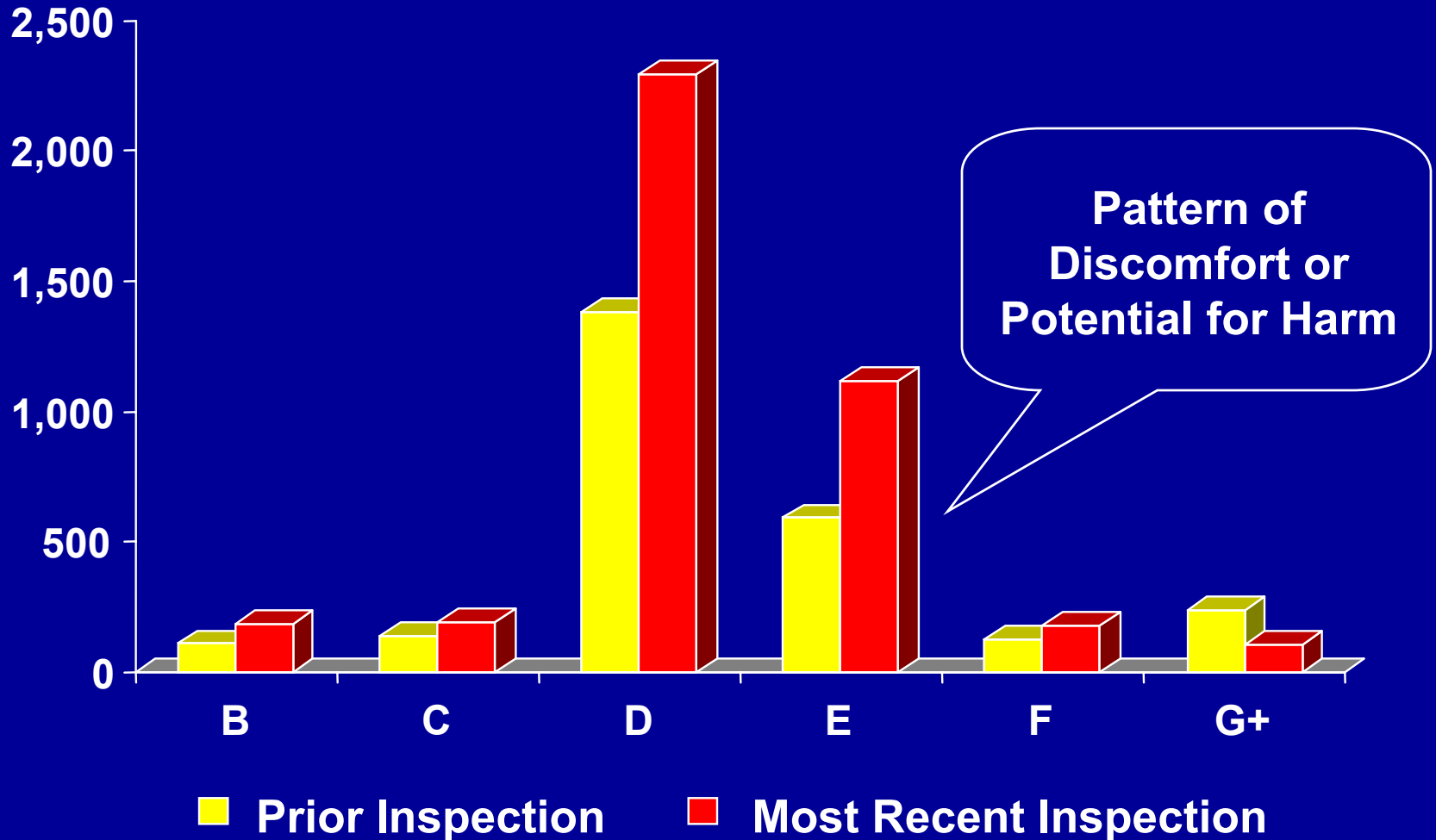
Deficiency Scope and Severity

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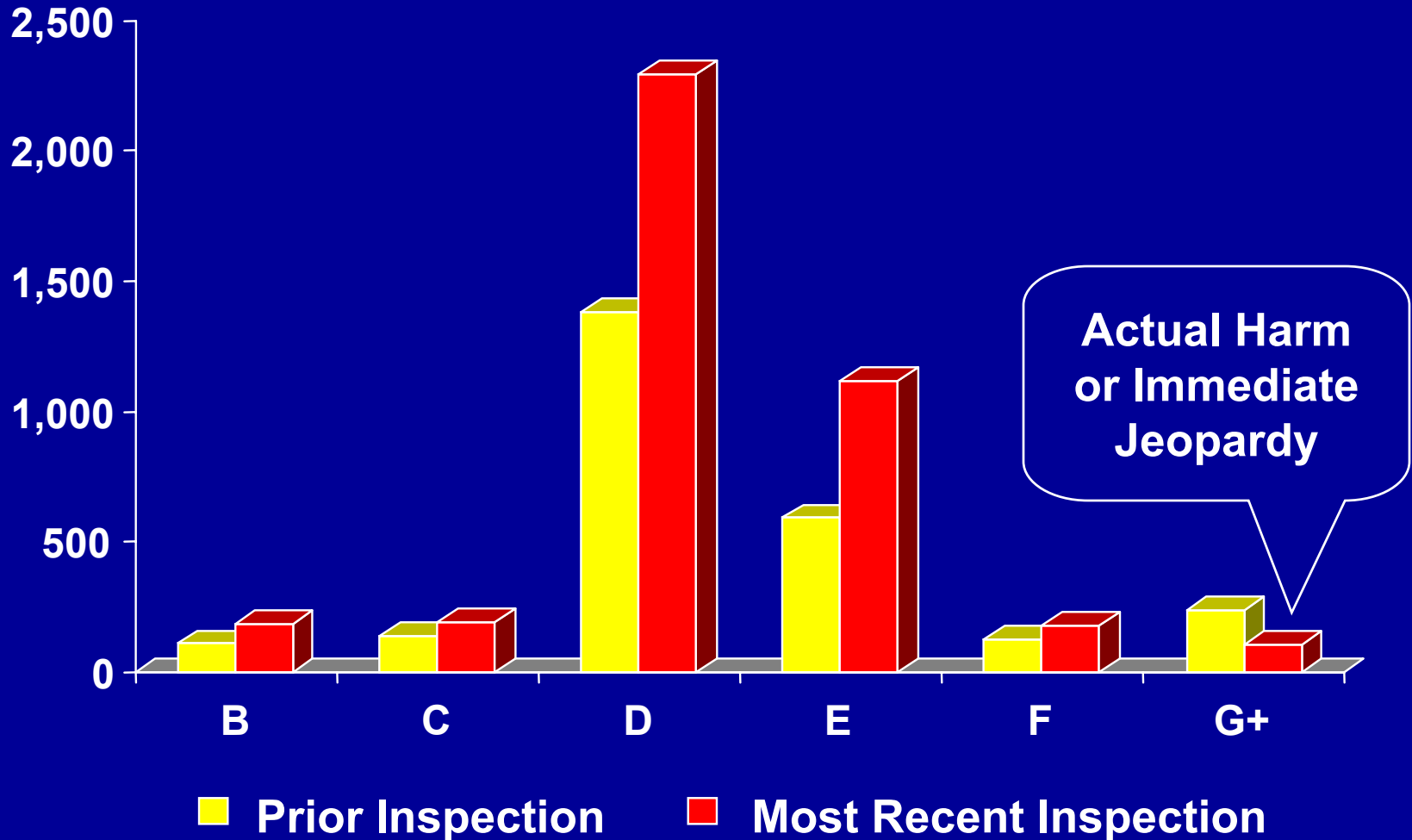
Deficiency Scope and Severity

Number of Deficiencies



Deficiency Scope and Severity

Number of Deficiencies



Consistency: Classifying Deficiencies

- We questioned 9 percent of the nearly 1,000 deficiencies that we examined
- Problems were generally minor
- Most often understated the seriousness of deficiencies, generally regarding their scope

Overall Conclusions

- MDH responding to consistency issues
- Some minor inconsistencies remain
- More can be done

Recommendations for MDH



- Quality assurance program
- More timely assistance
- User-friendly summaries

Nursing Home Inspections

is available at:

www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us