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Section B: Identifying Which Injury Costs Should Be Characterized, Part 2

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Costing Methods

- $\text{Costs} = \text{units of resources consumed} \times \text{cost per unit}$
- Quantifying cost
- Quantifying units
- Direct measure of change in resource consumption
 - Micro-costing: “Bottom-up” or “top-down”
 - Gross-costing

Costing Methods

- Indirect measure of change in resource consumption
- Quantifying cost
- Market prices for goods or services
- Time costs (productivity)
- Willingness to pay (or to accept)
 - In general, do not include fixed costs

How Accurate Does Costing Have to Be?

- It depends on intent and data availability
 - If accuracy of number of units consumed isn't great, don't obsess over accuracy of cost: you'll be getting a gross estimate anyway

Data Sources

- Billing vs. payment (charges vs. costs)
 - Billing records (in many countries, health services are not billable), payment logs, medical charts, etc. . . .
 - Self-reports
- Wages
- Willingness to pay
- Willingness to accept survey and analysis

Data Coding

- Monetary (and in constant year)

Data Comparability of Costs

- Data source variability (perspective, inclusion criteria, duration, time preference, representability)
- Coding system variability (year)