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Background and Introduction

Recently, there has been an increase in the prescription of opioids in primary and secondary care. Public Health England (2015) published the latest figures from 2014, which showed that 22.75 million prescriptions were written in England with a total cost of nearly £305 million to the National Health Service.

The increase in opioid prescriptions has raised awareness worldwide and prescribing guidelines have been developed to support safe and effective decisions (Faculty of Pain Medicine, 2015). Strong opioids are often initiated and titrated in hospital by the in-patient pain service (IPS). The present study explores the use and management of strong opioids in secondary care settings and the weaning of strong opioids after discharge.

Methodology

Development of the electronic database.

- The electronic database was developed by the IPS members in collaboration with the Clinical Effectiveness Unit of the trust.
- Variables included: demographic information, gender and age; date reviewed by the IPS; reason for admission and surgical details (if relevant), data related to pain assessment, treatment plan and adverse events.

Pilot period : 3months

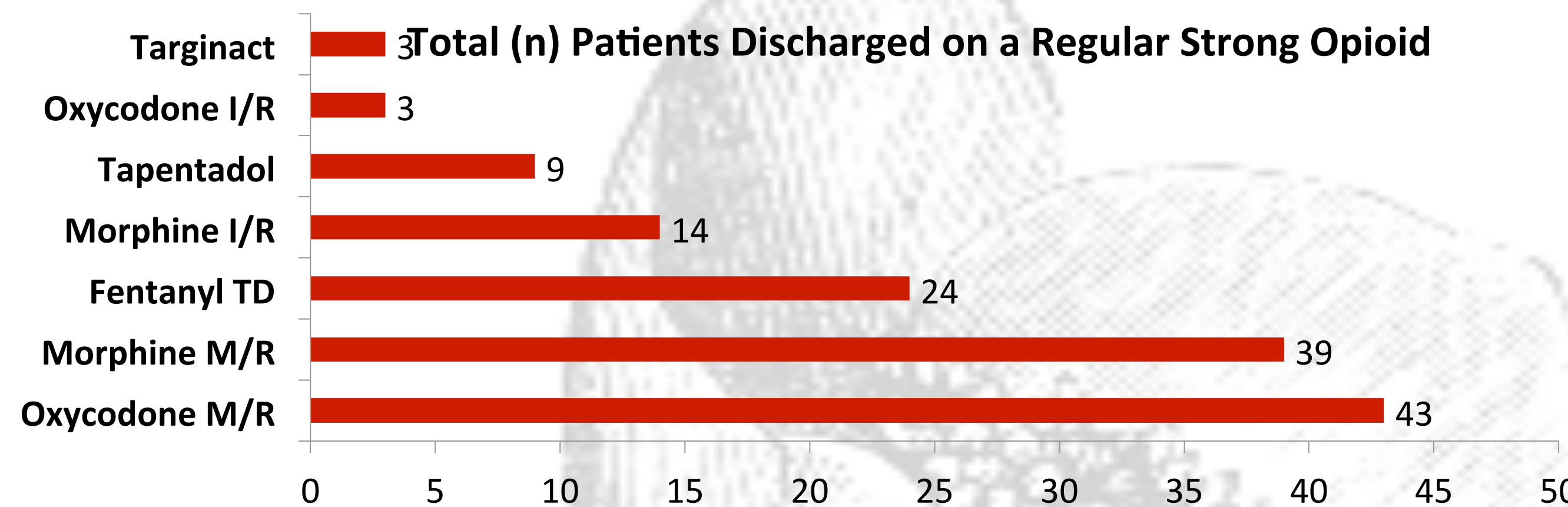
- Design weaknesses identified and modified.
- Usability was tested.

Data collection

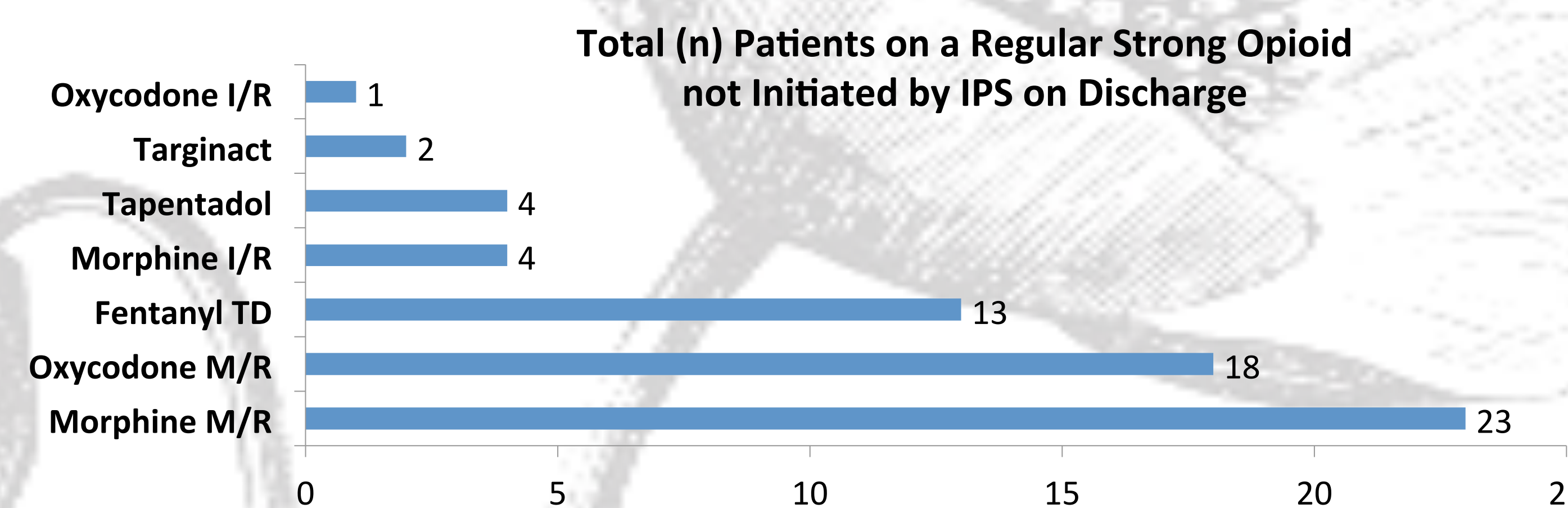
- Data are collected routinely by the IPS and entered retrospectively into the database.

Results

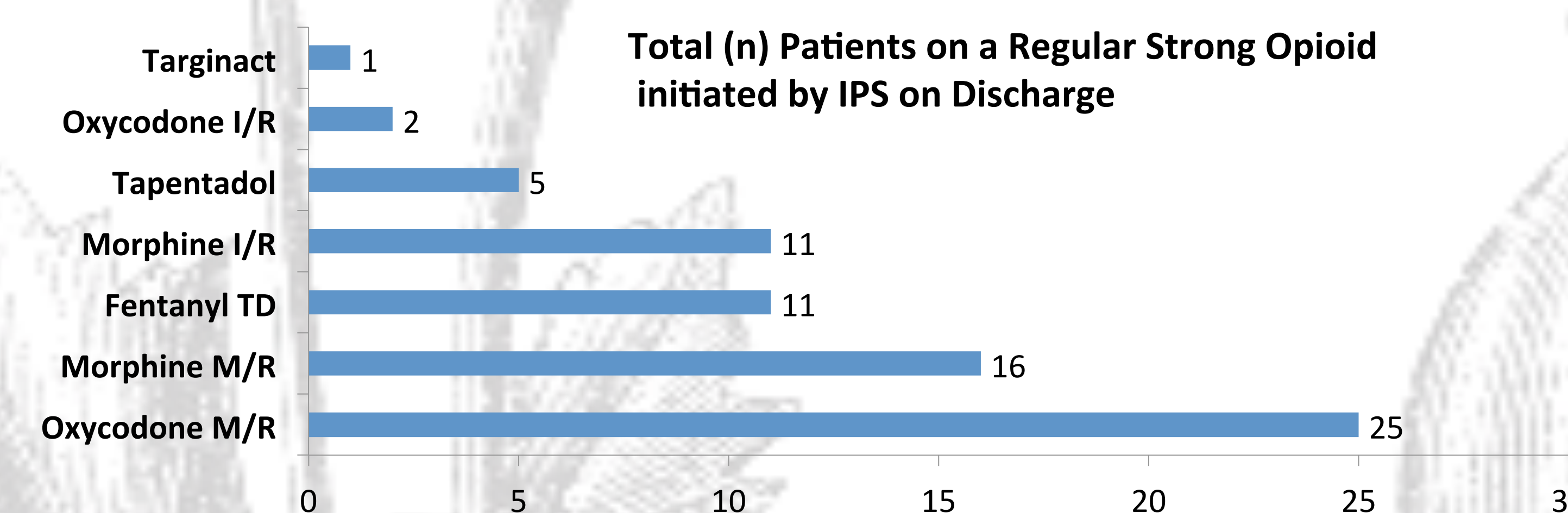
N= 136 were discharged on the following regular strong opioids by IPS :



N= 65/136 were on a regular strong opioid when first assessed by IPS:



N= 71/136 were initiated by PIS:



Results – Telephone Survey

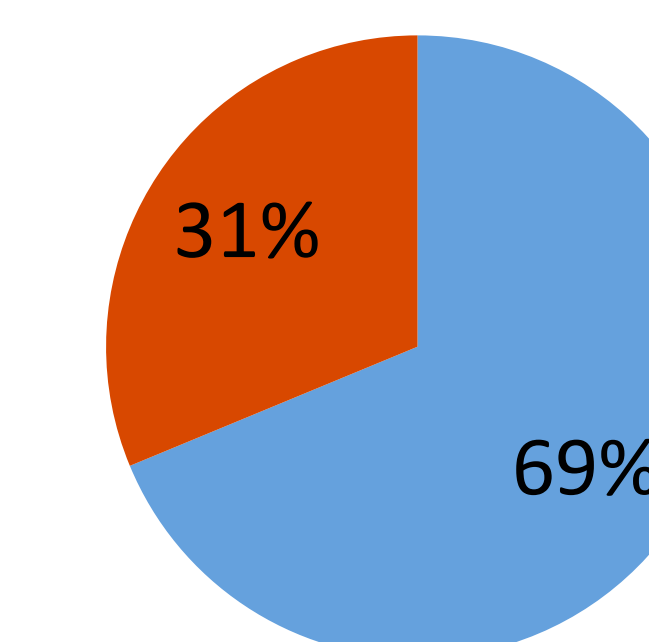
All patients were followed up via telephone after their discharge, to establish whether their strong opioid(s) had been discontinued.

N= 32/136 patients responded.

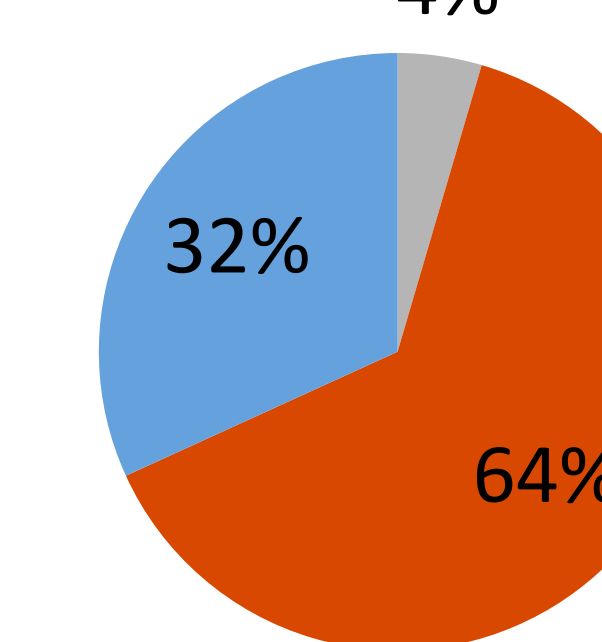
N= 102 / 136 did not take part in the survey:

- N= 21/136 incorrect contact details
- N= 7/136 deceased
- N= 7/136 declined
- N= 5/136 were in-patients
- N=2/136 poor understanding of English
- N= 62/ 136 did not answer the telephone

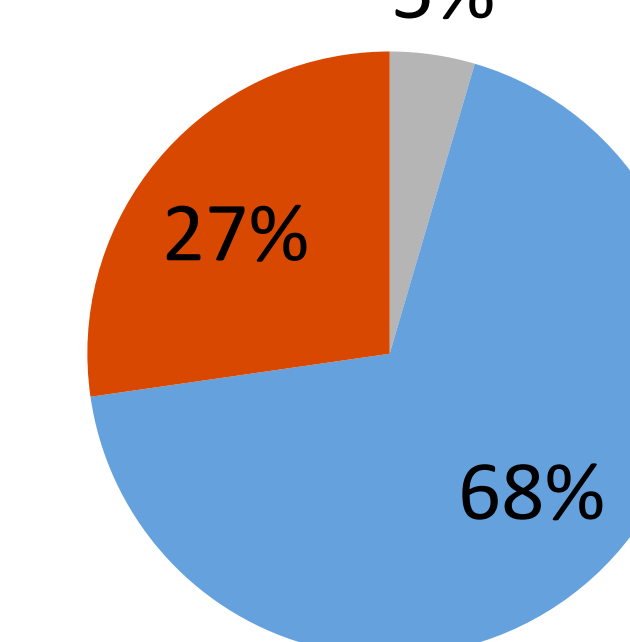
Discharge from Hospital on regular strong opioid (s)



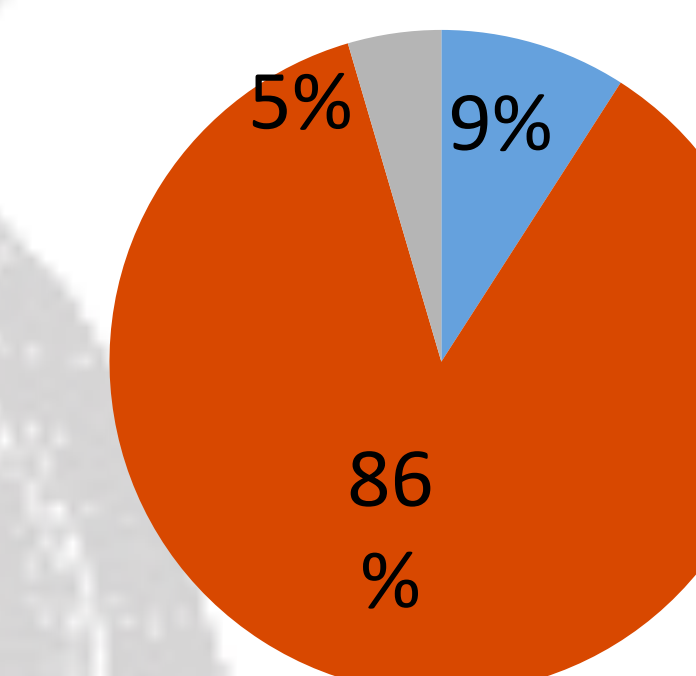
Strong Opioid Discontinued after Discharge from Hospital



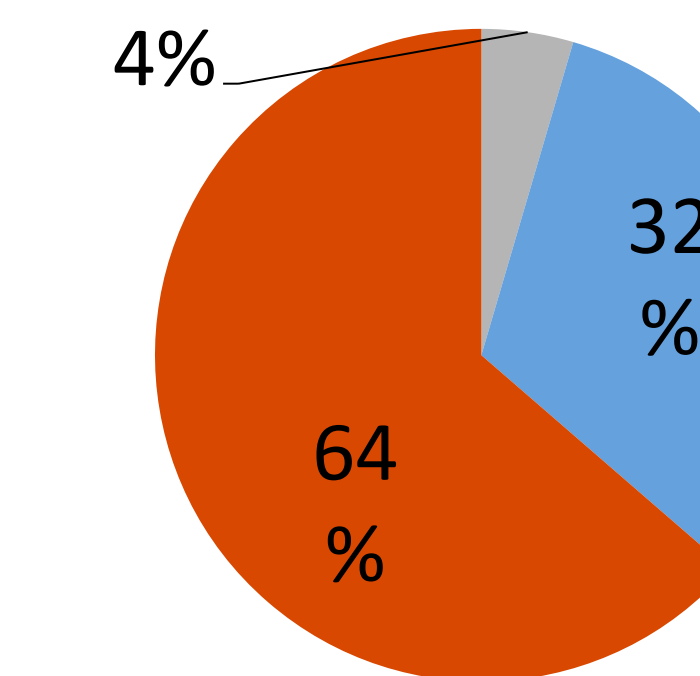
Are the opioid(s) effective?



Review of the Strong Opioid(s) in the community by GP

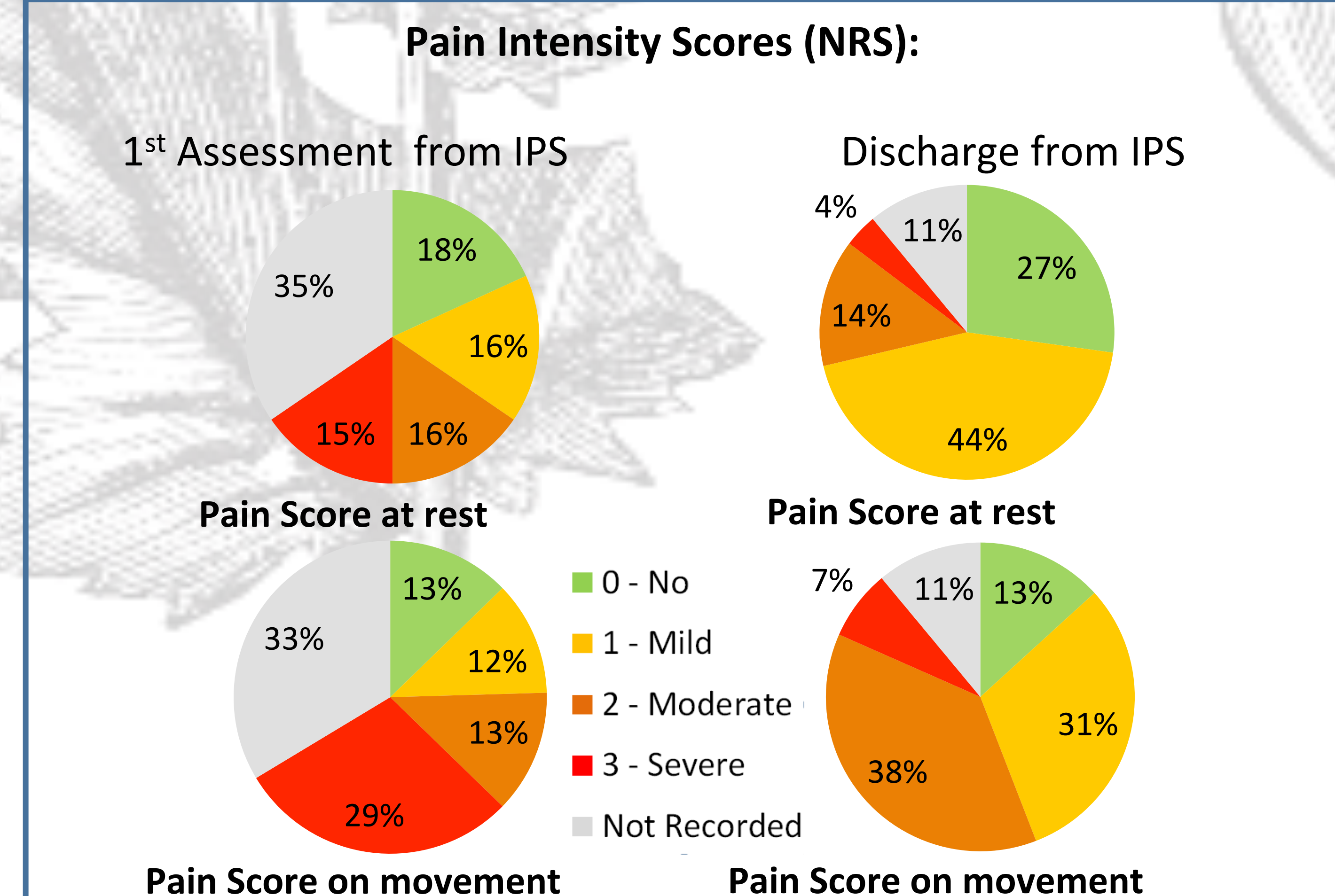


Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) Informed



Legend:
■ Missing (grey)
■ NO (orange)
■ YES (blue)

Conclusion



Results - Demographics

N= 784 patients were reviewed by the IPS
[01/12/15 – 01/08/16]

N= 507/784 (64.7%)
underwent a surgical procedure

N= 136/507 (27%)
postoperative patients were discharged on regular strong opioids

Gender	Male	Female	Missing
	N=329 (42%)	N=453 (58%)	N=2 (0.002%)

Age	Median	IQR
	54.5 years	40.5