

But how much do they actually take?

Post-discharge oxycodone use and handling in adult tonsillectomy patients

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Background:

Tonsillectomy is recognised as a very painful procedure, causing moderate to severe pain lasting several days. The state-wide medication formulary restricts oxycodone prescribing on discharge to a maximum of 10 tablets, however a local approval was obtained to allow 20 tablets on discharge post tonsillectomy.

Aim:

The aim of the project was to evaluate how much oxycodone adult tonsillectomy patients used post-discharge and their handling of unused medication.

Methods:

A prospective evaluation of tonsillectomy patients was conducted at an Australian metropolitan elective surgery hospital for a period of 12 months with patients phoned 14 days post-procedure to complete a survey.

Results:



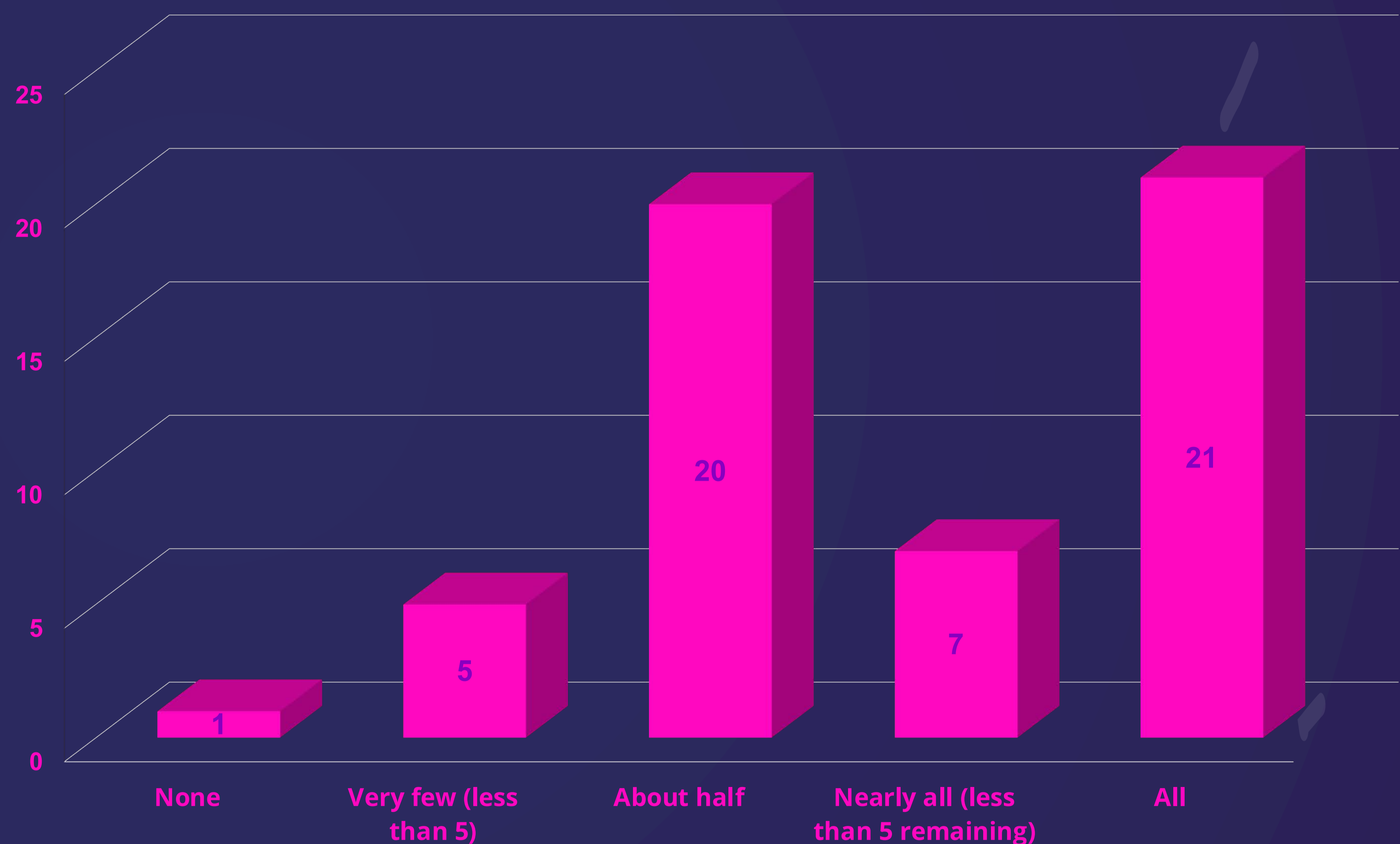
Avg age = 27.7 yrs (18-67yrs)

Worst pain = 8.67/10 (5-10/10)

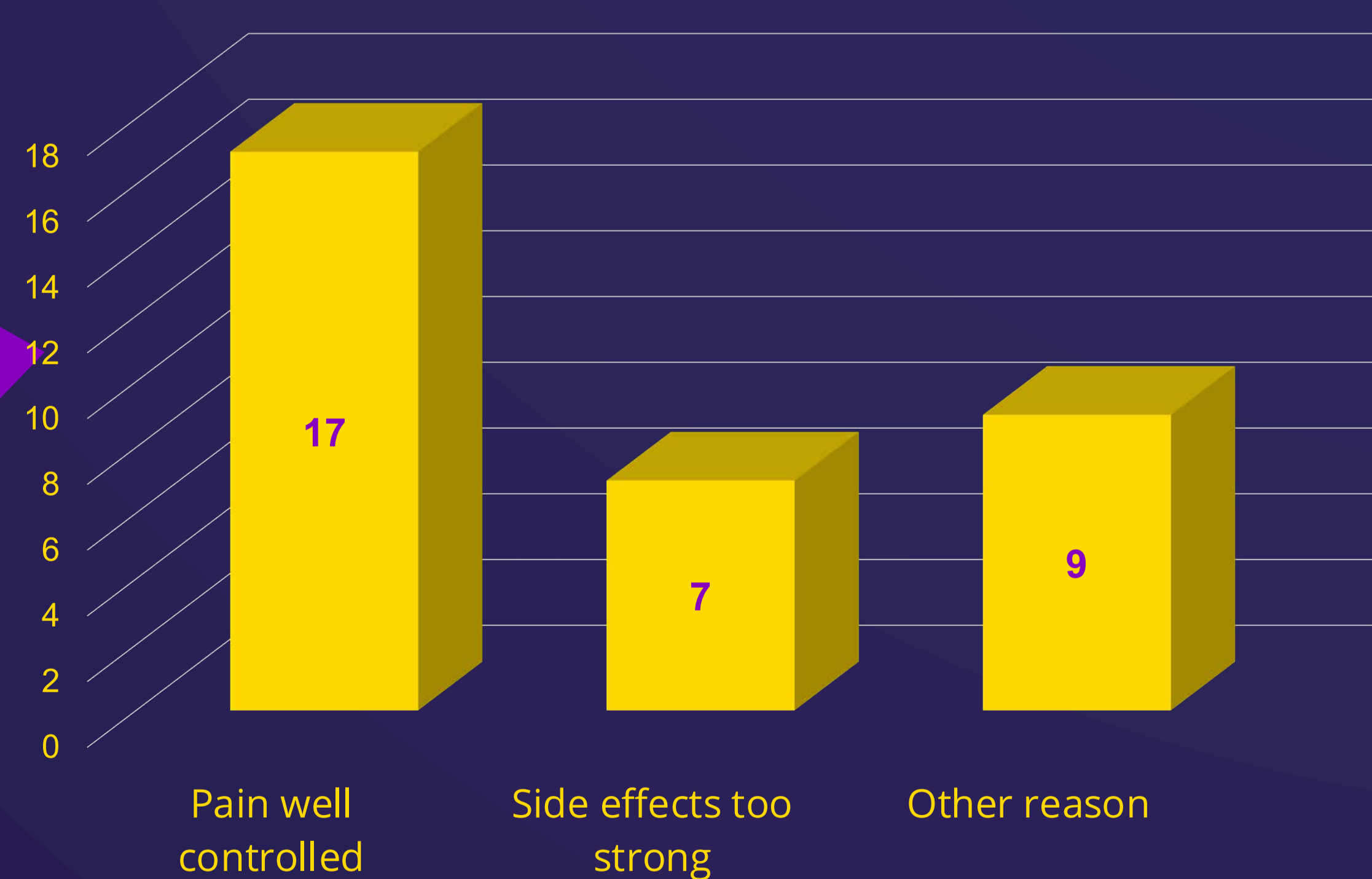
Day worst pain experienced:

Post-op day	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
n=	2	9	12	15	6	7	3

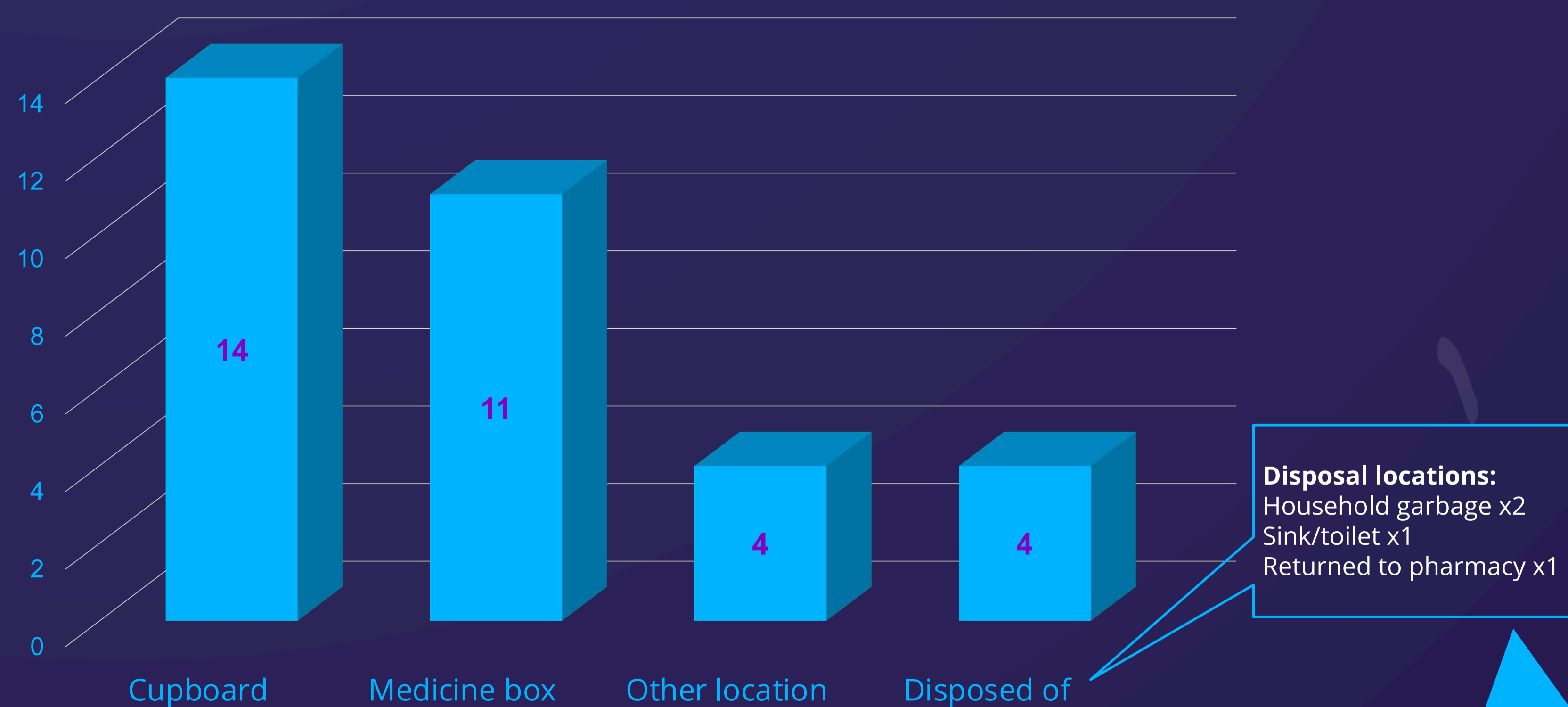
Amount of oxycodone tablets taken



Reason why all prescribed oxycodone tablets were not taken



Storage and disposal of leftover oxycodone tablets



Discussion:

There was a wide variety of oxycodone use following discharge. Most participants (61.1%) had left over tablets at the end of the 2-week period. Storage and disposal of leftover tablets in this context was suboptimal. There was insufficient number of patients to detect a relationship between any patient characteristics and oxycodone use. Further investigation is required to determine patient specific factors for analgesia requirements.