

Where did you go?

Who Doesn't Wait For A Mental Health Assessment In The Emergency Department?

A/Prof Judy Hope

A/Prof Paul Katz

Eastern Health

Monash University

The background

- Suicide is a leading cause of preventable death
 - Leading cause of death in men aged 40-45
- Many people experiencing suicidal thoughts will come to ED
- ED is a crucial point of prevention & intervention
- UK study of completed suicide (Da Cruz 2010):
 - 43% will attend ED in the 12 months prior
 - 15% of people will present to ED with self-harm/suicide attempt
 - 28% will attend ED at least 3 times

- Some people attend ED with mental health problems but do not wait to be seen
- Some come with suicidal thinking
- We don't know anything about these people, and what happens to them
- We think they leave because of long wait times
- **Our aim: to understand who comes but do not wait**
(...and why and what happens)

The literature review

- Medical student reviewed literature
- PRISMA framework
- 161 articles around DNW in the EDs around the world
- Three studies of persons with DSH who leave ED
 - 2004 – more likely to be male, D&A problems, history of DSH
 - 2004 – small study, more likely to self-poison
 - 2005 – UK study, more likely in men with substance use problems
- No studies with follow-up

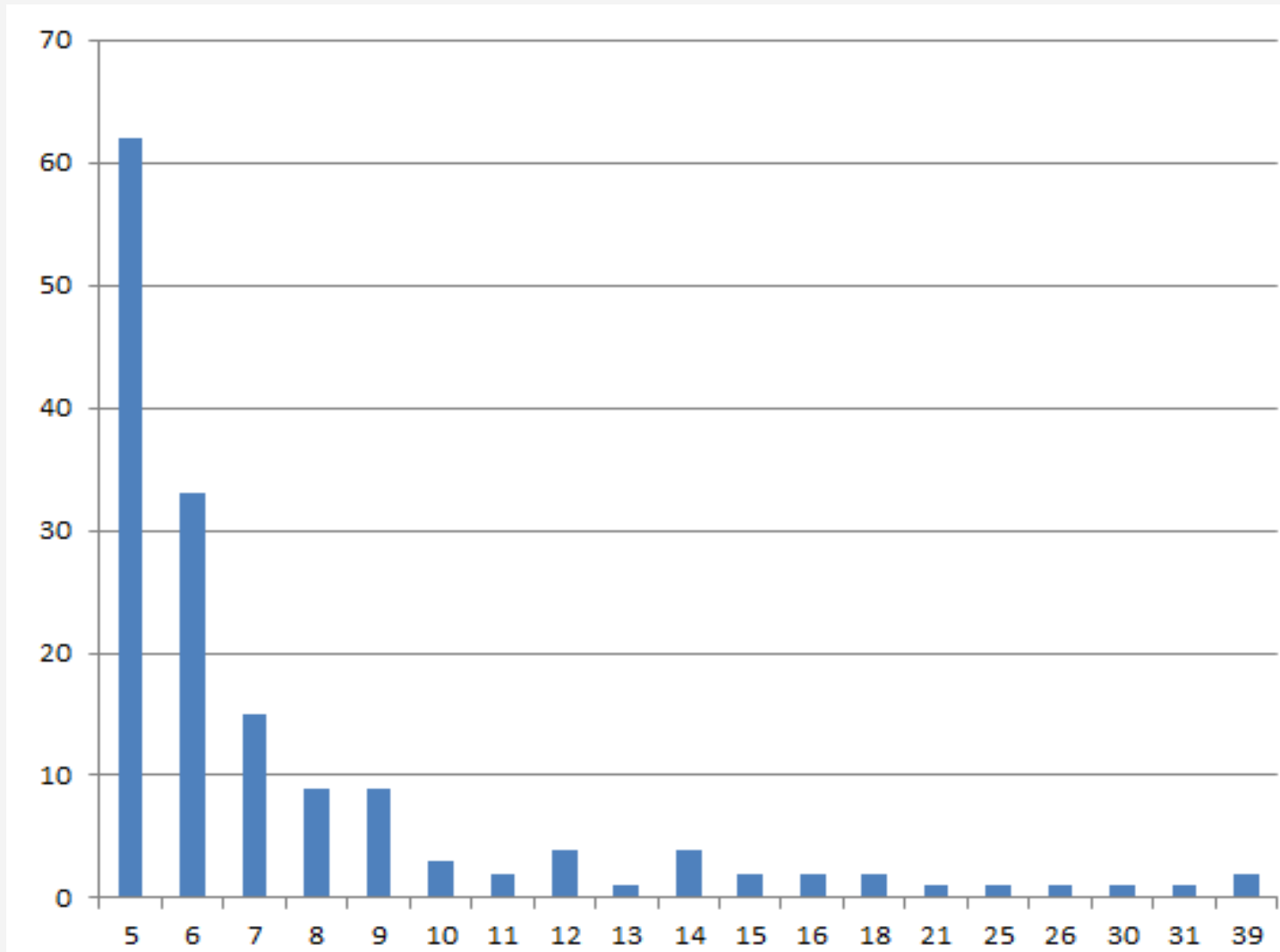
- EH Catchment 750,000, three EDs
- HREC approval
- Extracted VEMD data 2018-2019
- *All mental health related presentations*, deidentified
- Wait vs DNW
 - Demographic variables: age, gender
 - Mode of arrival, triage cat, time/date
 - Time waited to be seen
 - Number of presentations

- DNW definition
 - Clerked but did not wait for any nursing or medical review
 - Did not wait for full medical assessment
 - Did not wait for mental health assessment
 - Did not wait for completion of treatment

Results: whole cohort

- Total presentations n = 81,573
- **14,238 mental health presentations**
- **6729 (47.3%)** are brought by ambulance
- **571 (4%)** are brought by police
- **7561 (53%)** Referred *and* seen by mental health triage

Patients ≥ 5 presentations 2018-2019



9405 individual persons

155 people presented >5 times

27 people presented >10 times

13 people presented >15 times

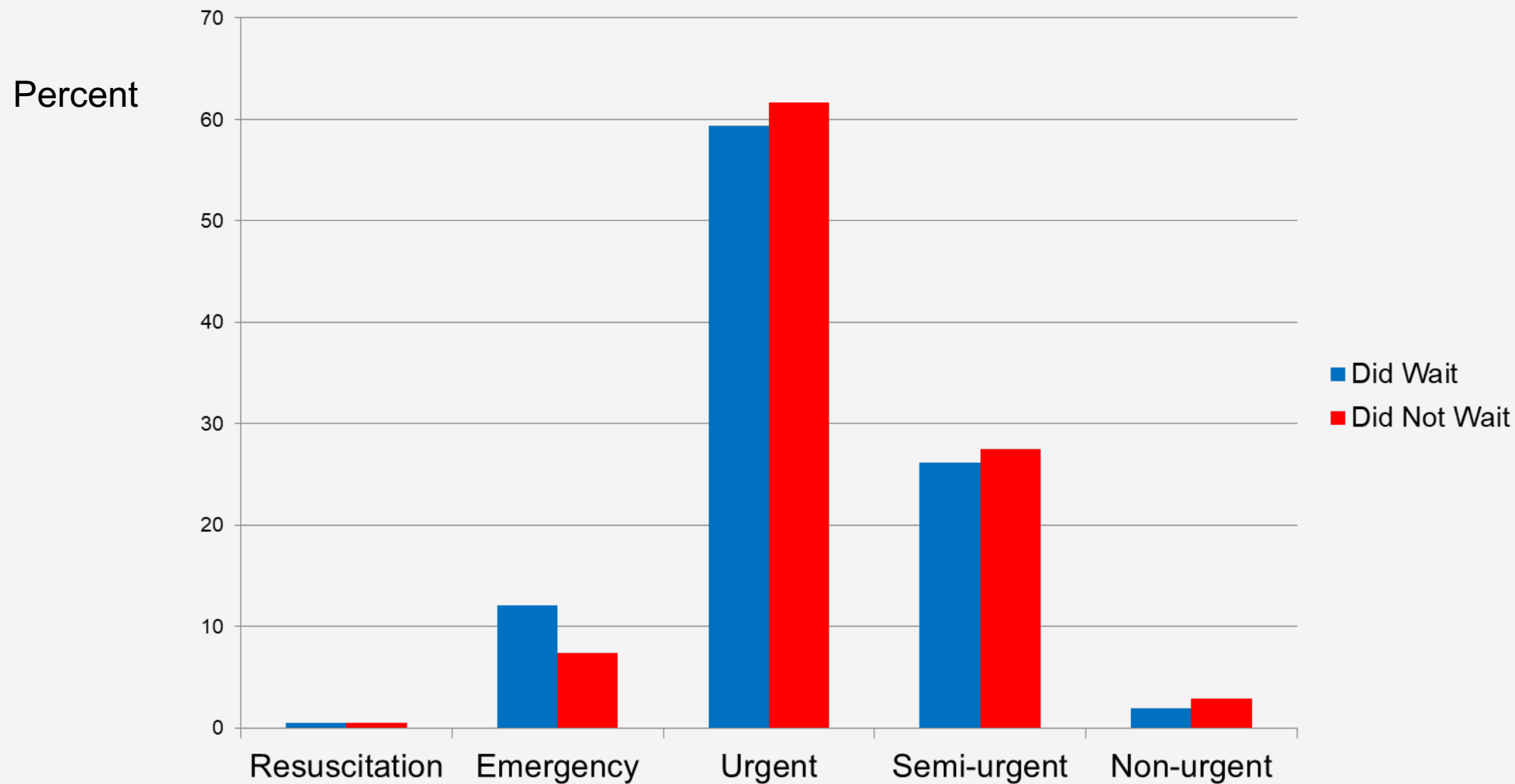
Results: persons who did not wait

- 585 episodes of left without being seen (**4.1%**)
- 315 individuals
- **146** people on **278** occasions (**47.5%** of all episodes) brought by ambulance
- **12** people on **34** occasions (**5.8%** of all episodes) brought by police

Did Wait vs DNW

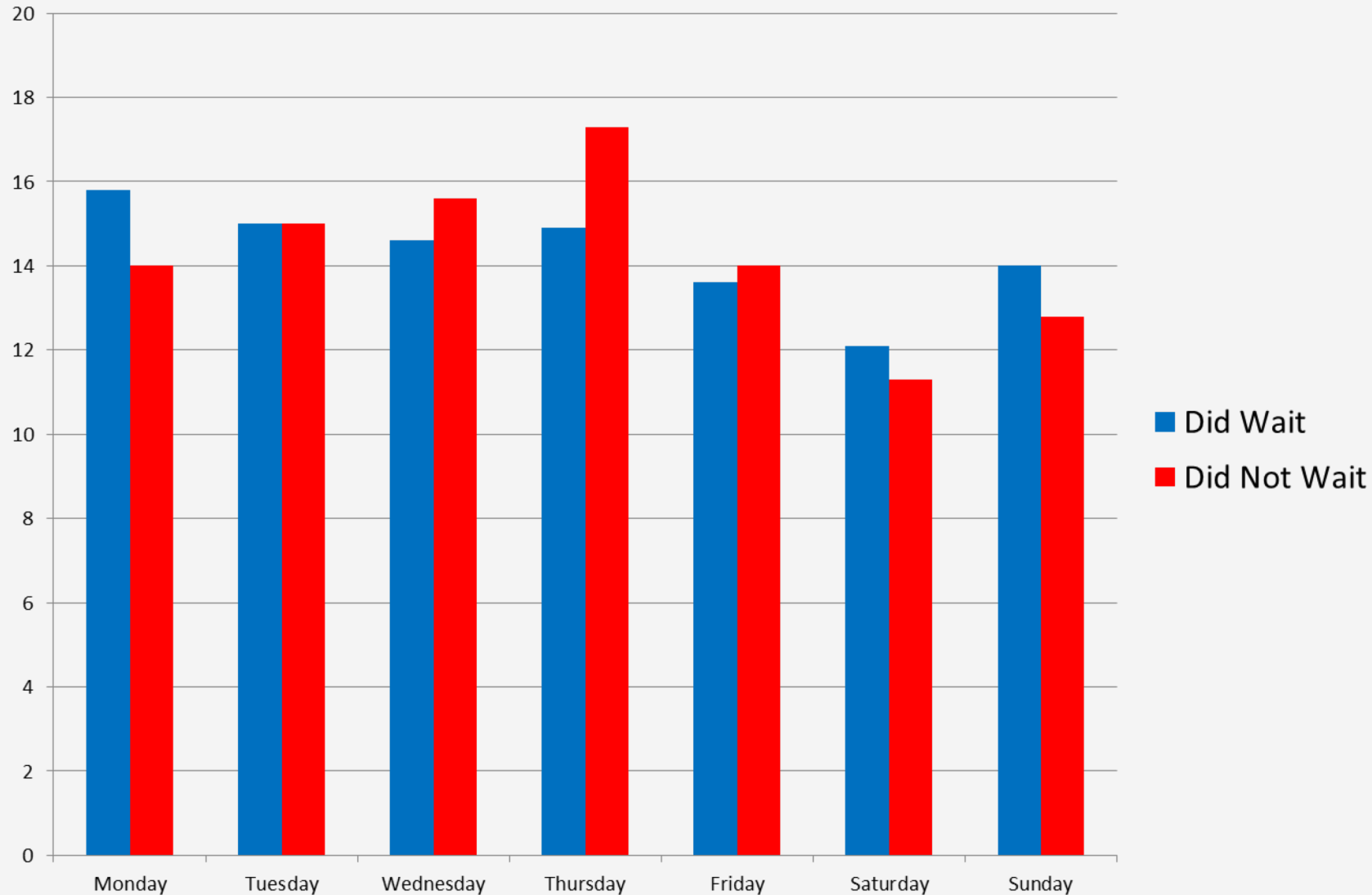
	Did Wait n = 13,653	DNW n = 585	
Age (years)	35.6	32.6	p<0.001
Percent male	43.1%	48.0%	p<0.05
Ambulance transport	47.2%	47.5%	NS
Police transport	3.9%	5.8%	p<0.05

Did Wait vs DNW – triage category



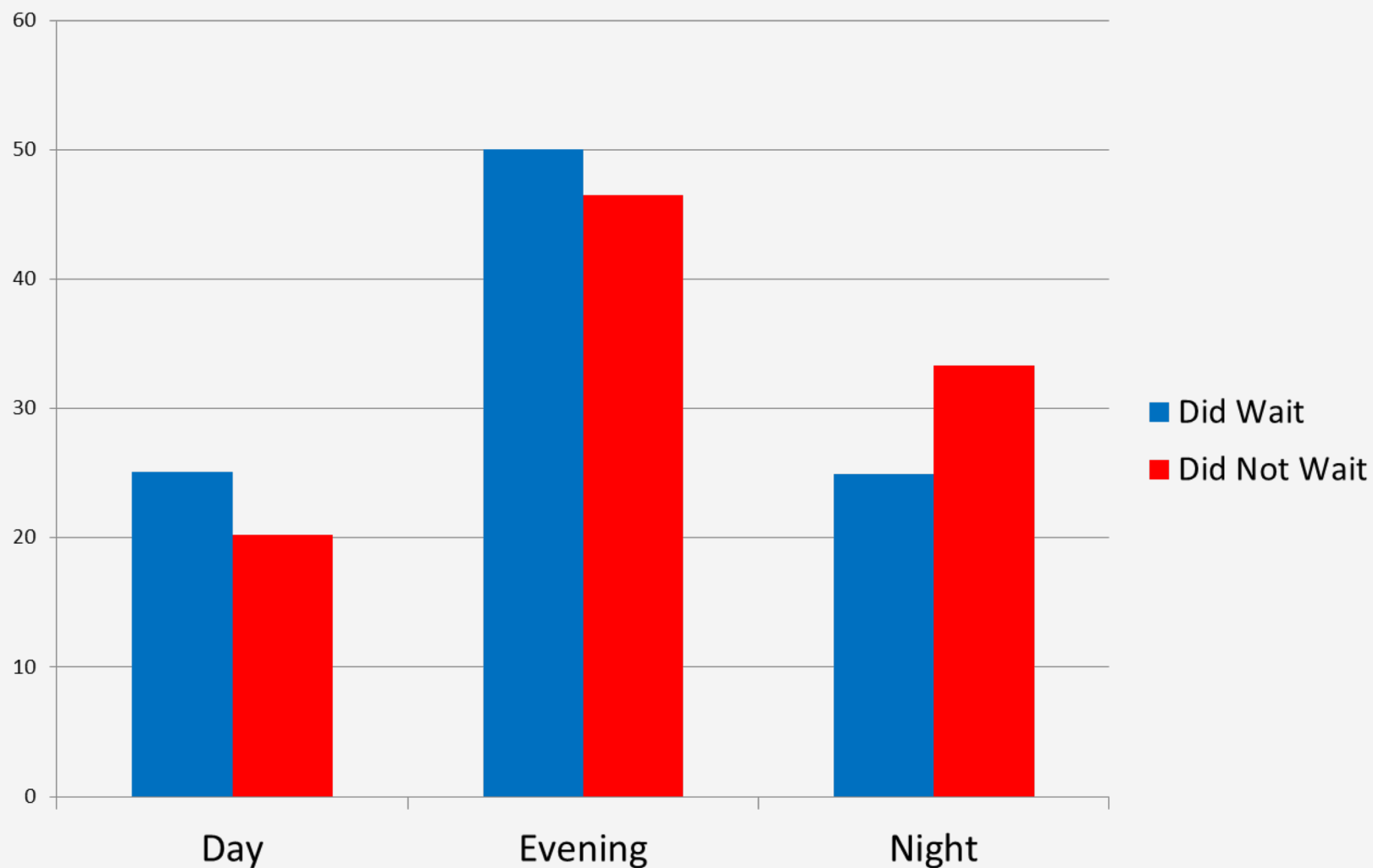
Did Wait vs DNW – day of week

Percent



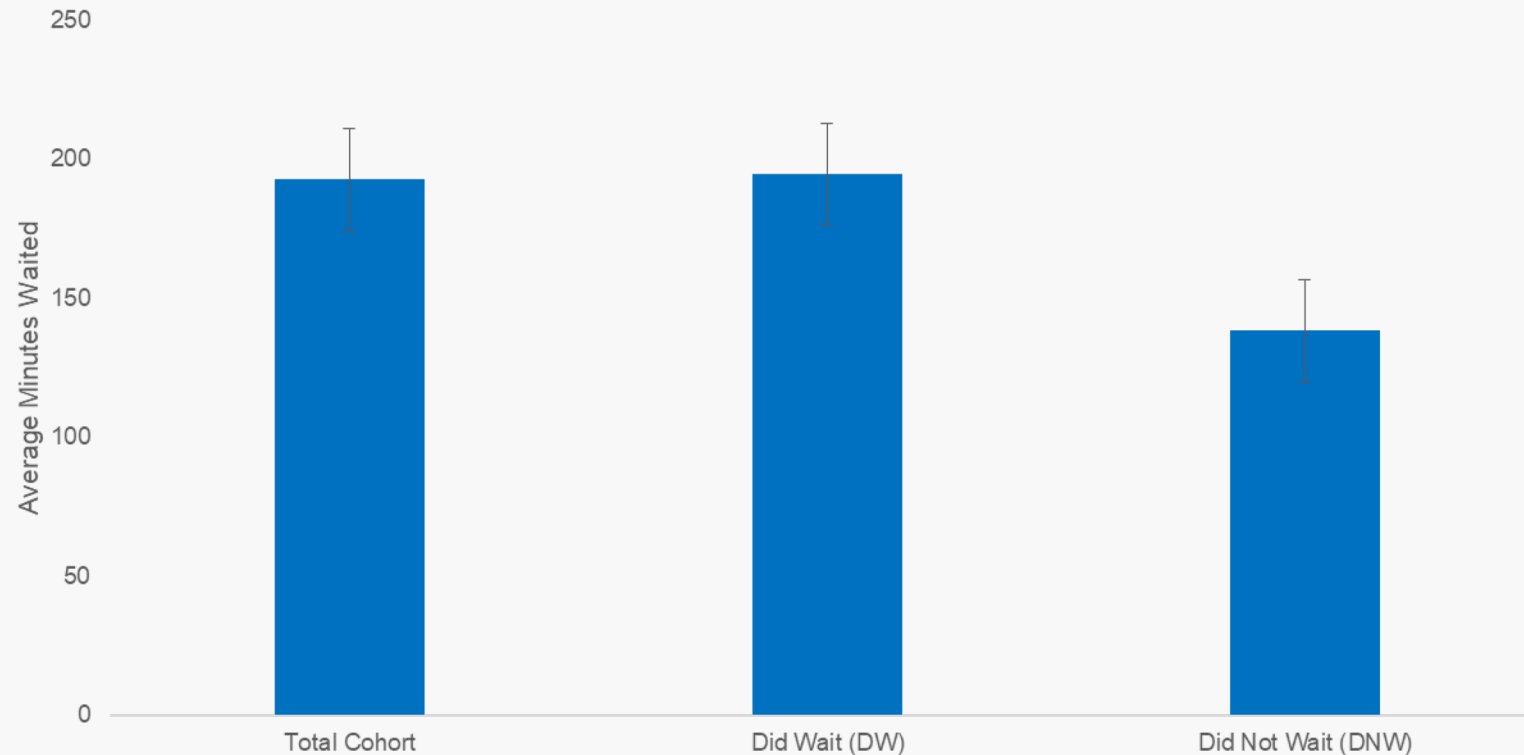
Did Wait vs DNW – time of day

Percent



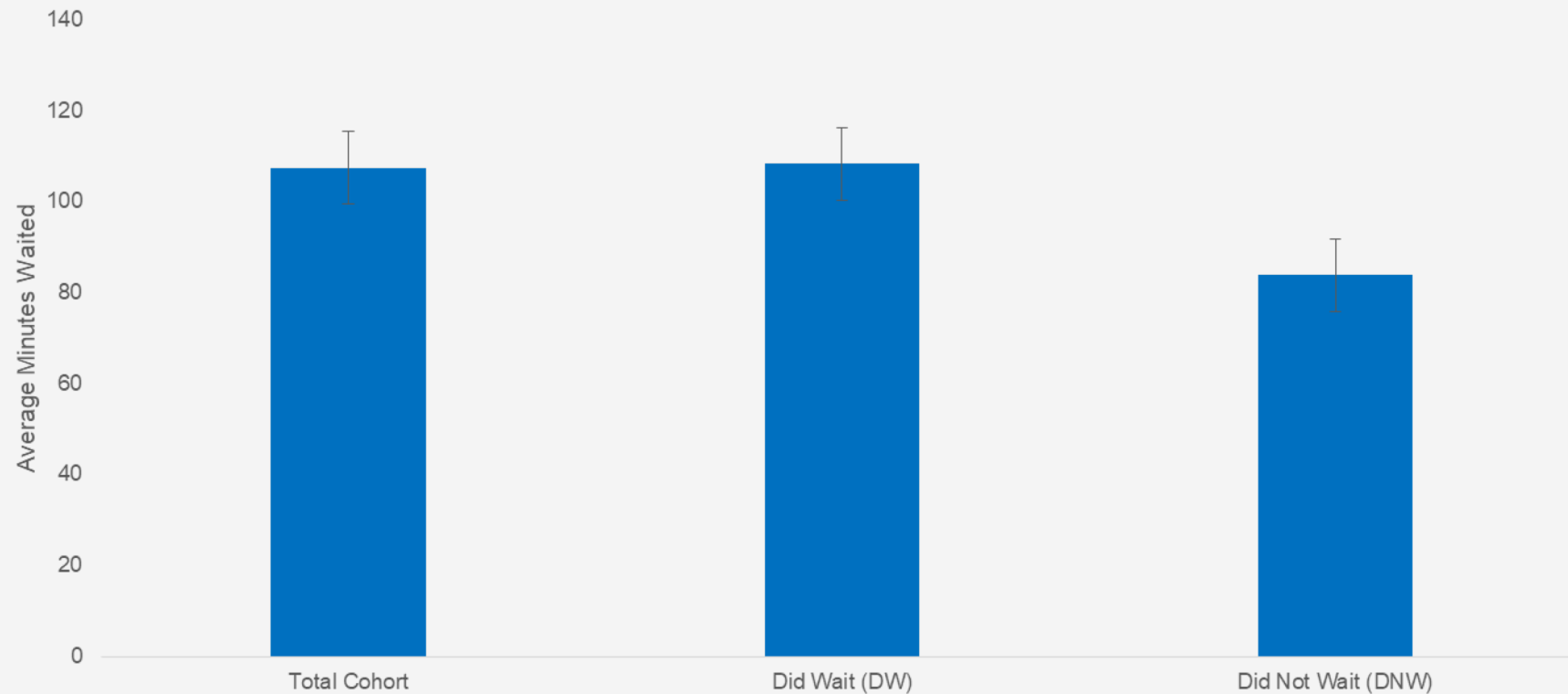
Did Wait vs DNW – time to wait

Average Wait Times for mental health clinician - Mental Health Presentations in Eastern Health Emergency Departments

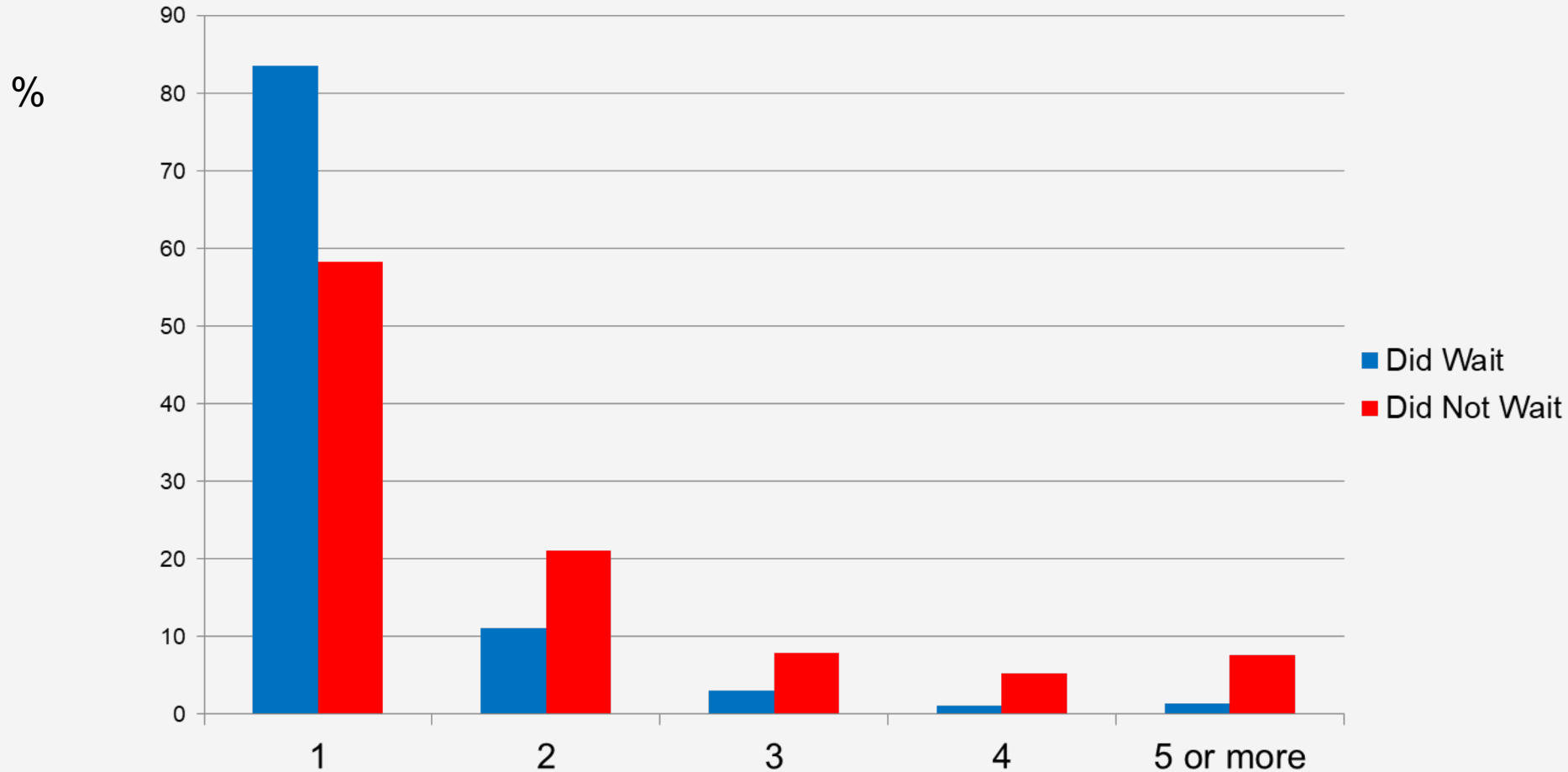


Did Wait vs DNW – time to wait

Average Wait Times for triage nurse/emergency physician/mental health clinician - Mental Health Presentations in Eastern Health Emergency Departments



Repeat presentations



Binary logistic regression analysis

	Significance	Exp (B)
Age	0.014	0.989
Gender	0.002	0.667
Triage category	0.007	3.044
Shift of arrival	.010	.615
Time to see MH practitioner	<0.001	0.998
Presentations per year	<0.001	1.046

Things we learned



14,238 people
over 2 years
came to ED



585 (4.1%)
left early



Around $\frac{1}{2}$
arrived by
ambulance
or police



More likely to
present
multiple times



Is there a difference in
early and late leavers?

Are high triage cat's
riskier?

Next, the project will
look at asking people
why they left and what
happened next.



Lower triage
category

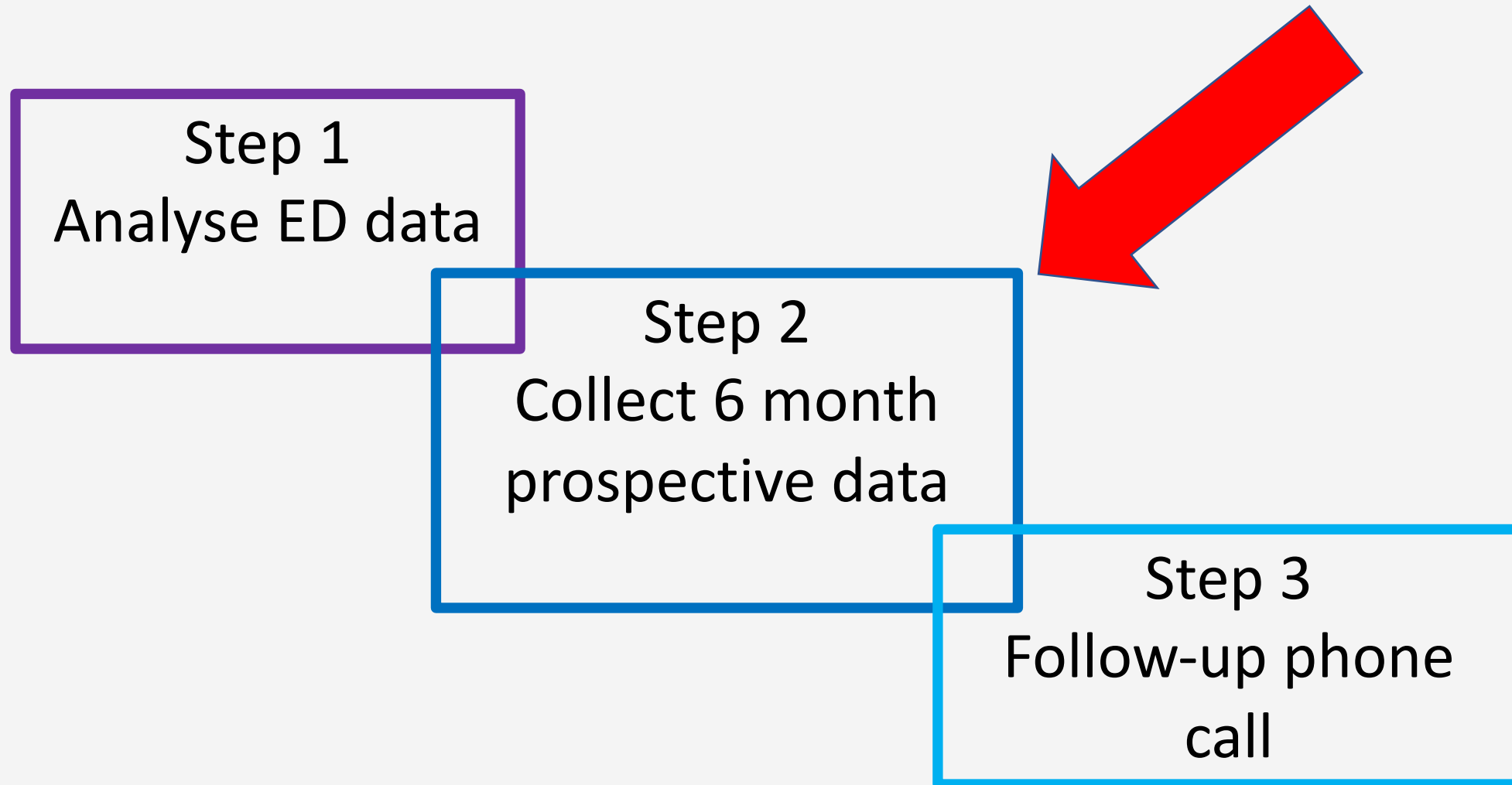


More likely to
arrive at night



People who left
early waited *less*
time to be seen

Next steps



Acknowledgements

- Prof Paul Katz
- BankVic Research and Innovation Grant
- Eastern Health Foundation
- Monash Uni Medical Students:
 - Dion Paul
 - Jacinta Zhu

