

# Prevalence of Non-Medical Use of Prescription Opioids in Canada in 2017

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## Introduction

- Abuse of prescription opioids is a significant public health problem in both Canada and the United States (US).
- Specific substances and routes used among the Canadian general adult population are not well understood.
- The aim of this study was to determine the national prevalence and detailed characteristics of non-medical use (NMU) of specific opioids in Canada.

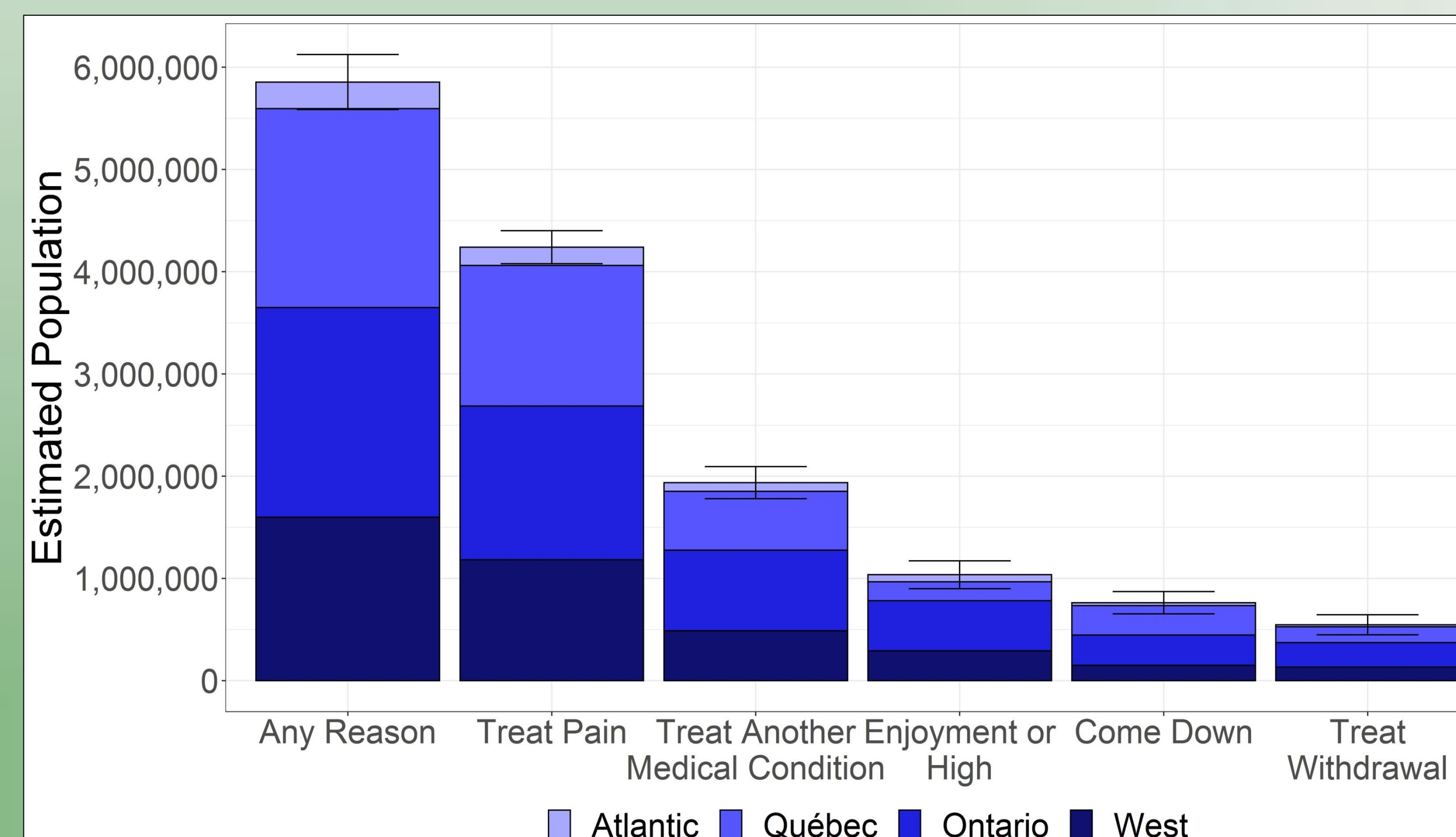
## Methods

- The Survey of Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs (NMURx) Program employs a cross-sectional, opt-in online survey that utilizes survey panels to contact respondents (n=10,007).
  - 5.2% Participation rate; 75.1% Completion rate
- The questionnaire is a self-administered, confidential survey completed by respondents on their own time, in their own setting, and on their own device.
- Post-stratification weights for 48 sex/region/age strata are used to better represent the national adult population.

## Non-Medical Use of Prescription Opioids from 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2017

Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient	Lifetime Non-Medical Use % (95% Confidence Interval)
Any Prescription Opioid	27.7 (26.7, 28.7)
Prescription Codeine	13.4 (12.69, 14.18)
Oxycodone	2.2 (1.85, 2.58)
Morphine	1.3 (1.01, 1.53)
Hydromorphone	1.2 (0.98, 1.51)
Hydrocodone	1.1 (0.83, 1.31)
Tramadol	1.1 (0.84, 1.38)
Oxymorphone	0.7 (0.48, 0.89)
Prescription Fentanyl	0.5 (0.34, 0.67)

## Estimated NMU by Reason for Use



## Results

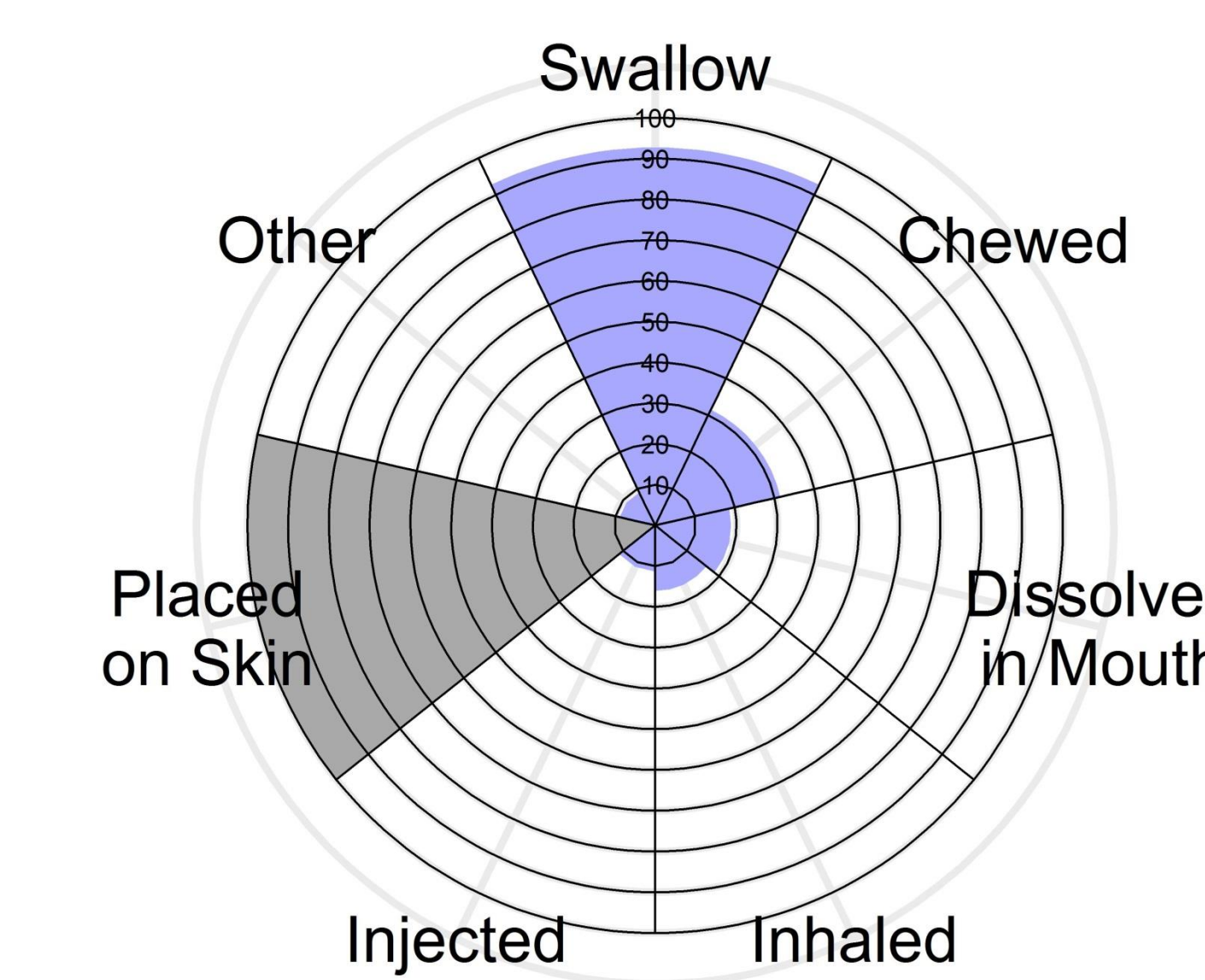
- Nearly 6 million Canadian adults (27.7%) have non-medically used a prescription opioid in their lifetime
  - A majority (79.3%, over 4 million adults) were estimated to have non-medically used to treat pain
  - Nearly 1 in 5 (19.4%, approximately 1 million) used for enjoyment or to get high
- Prescription codeine had the highest lifetime prevalence (13.4%)
- NMU of products not available in Canada were endorsed (tablet/capsule hydrocodone and oxymorphone)

## Conclusions

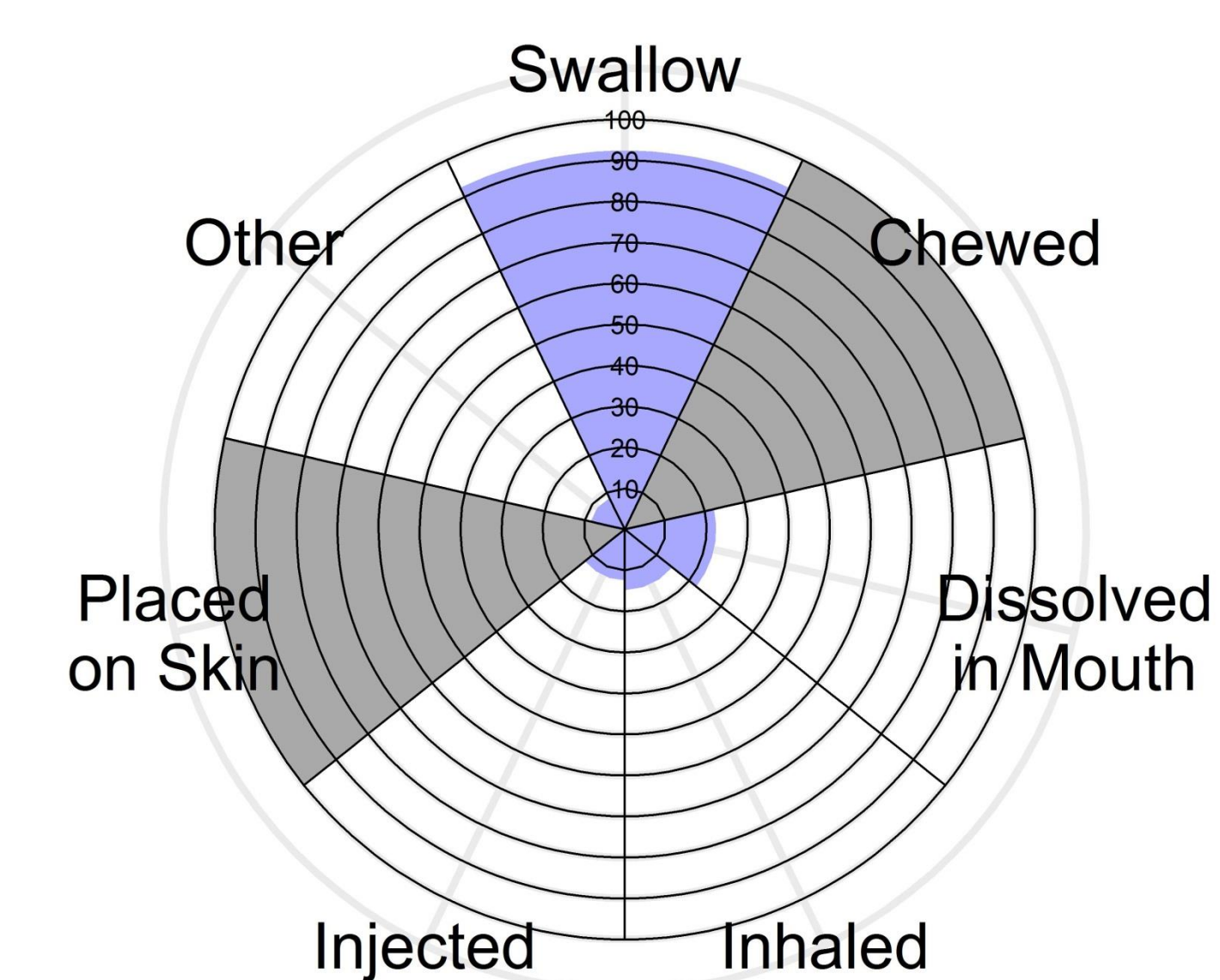
- High prevalence of NMU of prescription codeine and NMU of products not available in Canada are concerning
- A notable proportion of those who non-medically use do so utilizing an unintended route of administration

## Routes of Administration by Dosage Form

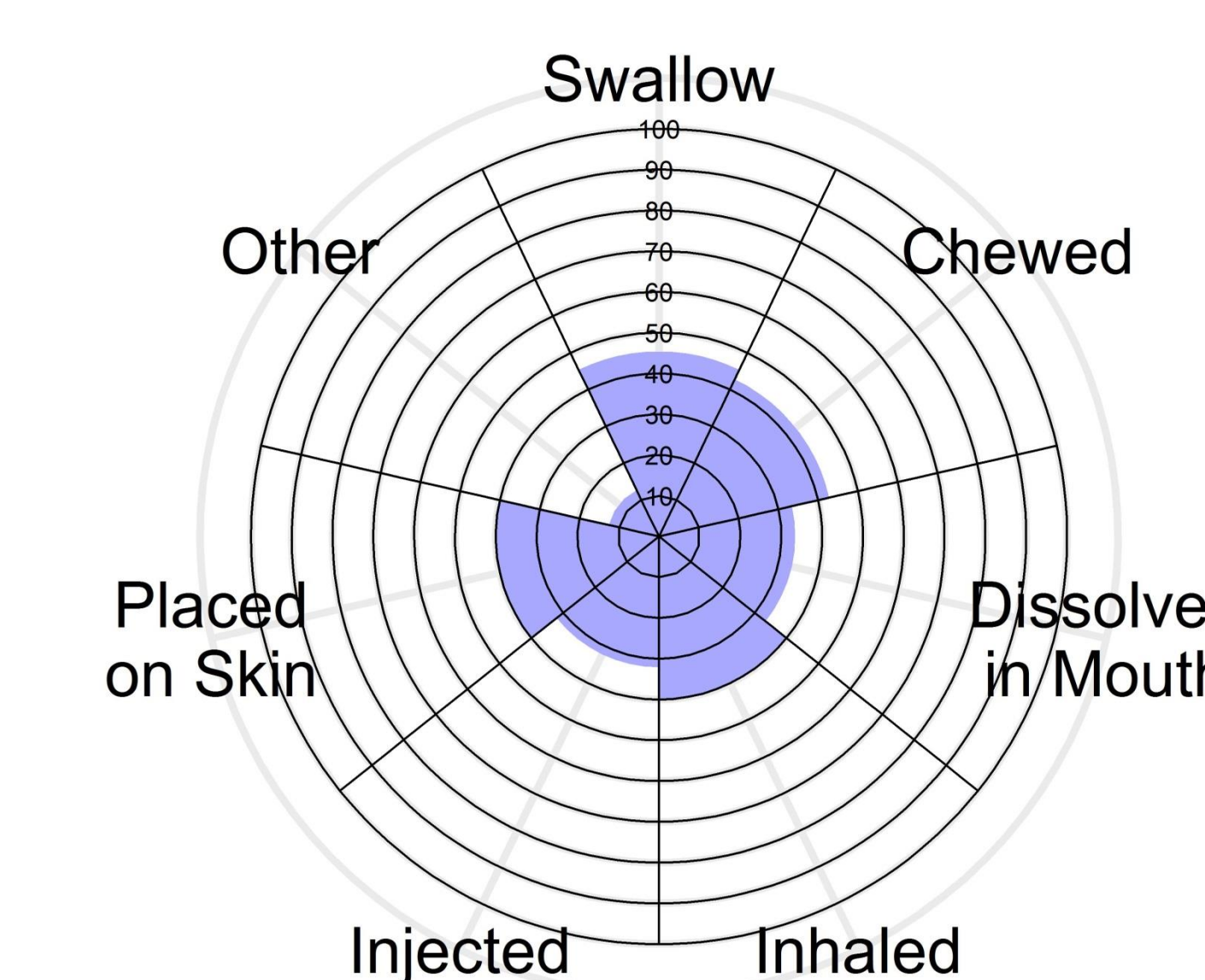
### Tablets/Capsules (n=1,642)



### Liquids (n=932)



### Patches (n=47)



## Limitations

- Non-probability sampling was used.
- Participation rate was low; however, this is the largest sample size studying Canadian NMU characteristics

## Disclosures

The System is supported by subscriptions from pharmaceutical manufacturers for surveillance, research and reporting services. The System is the property of Canadian Consumer Product and Pharmaceutical Safety Inc. which retains exclusive ownership of all data, databases and systems. Subscribers do not participate in data collection or analysis, nor do they have access to the raw data.

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