

# Non-medical use of codeine products in Canada



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LESLIE DAN FACULTY OF PHARMAC

Beth Sproule<sup>1,2</sup>, Joshua Black<sup>3</sup>, Richard Dart<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Addiction and Mental Health, <sup>2</sup>University of Toronto, <sup>3</sup>Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center, <sup>4</sup>Canadian Consumer Product and Pharmaceutical Safety Inc. (CCPPS)

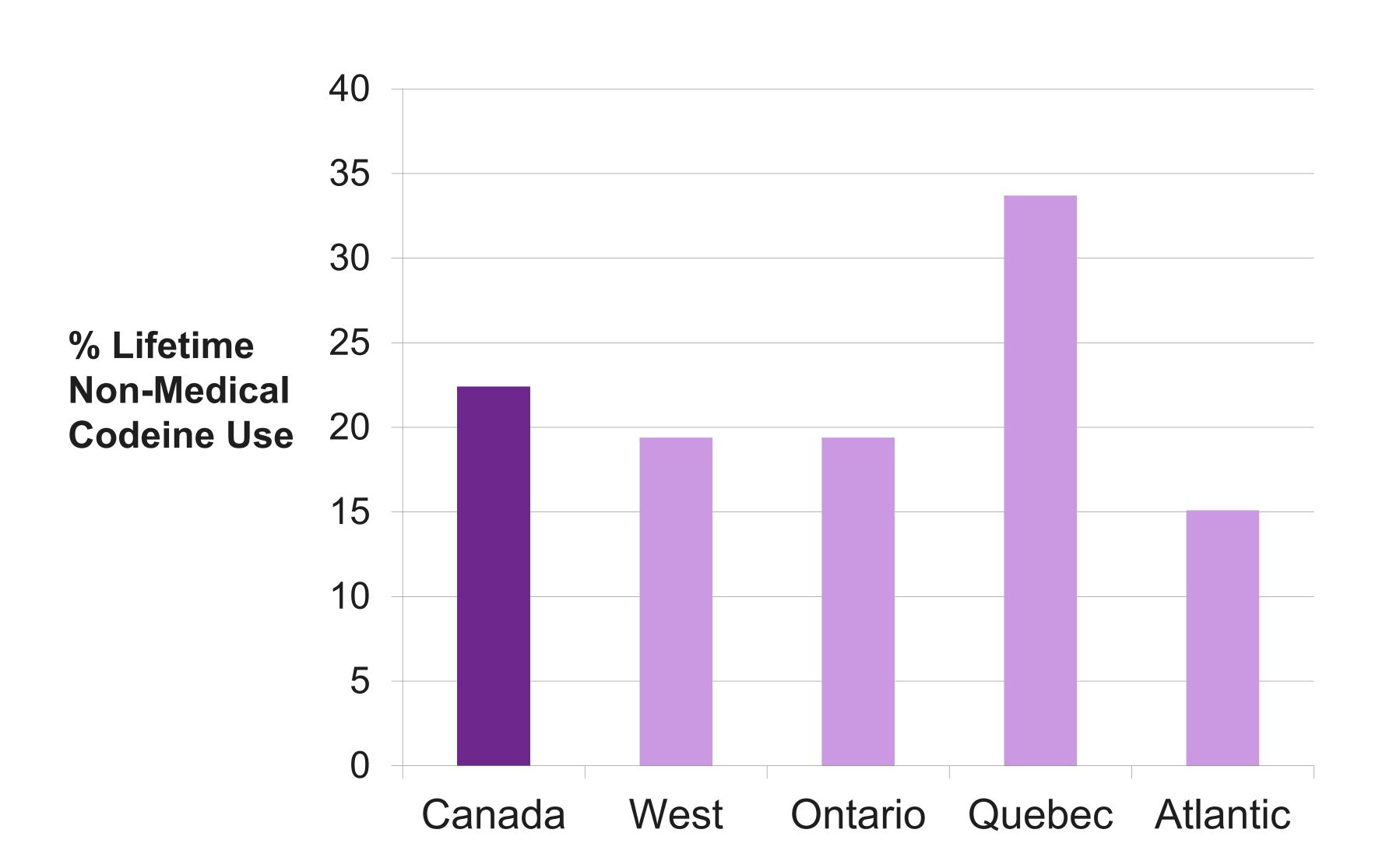
# Background

- Codeine is one of the most commonly dispensed opioids in Canada.
- Low dose codeine combination products are available without a prescription, although the value of this has been questioned.
- Little is known about the non-medical use of codeine in Canada.

#### Methods

- The Survey of Non-Medical Use of Prescription Drugs Program is a cross-sectional online survey of the general adult population in Canada.
- Non-medical use = "without a doctor's prescription or for any reason other than what was recommended by your doctor/dentist/pharmacist?"
- Data for 10,007 respondents were collected during 3rd quarter 2017, and weighted to provide national prevalence estimates.

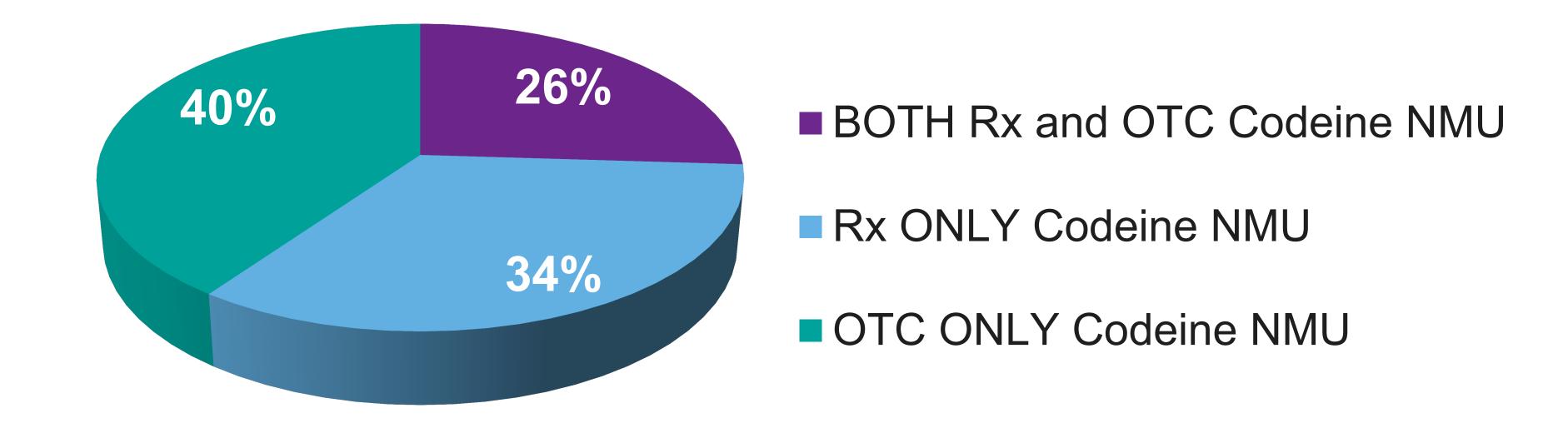
Demographics		
	Total Sample N=10,007	Codeine Non-Medical Users N=2,515
Weighted N	30.5 million	6.8 million
Gender	51% Female; 49% Male	48% Female; 52% Male
Age (median)	46 years (IQR 31-61)	47 years (IQR 31-60)
Student	12%	13%
Veteran	4%	5%
Healthcare Worker	5%	5%
First Nation/Métis/Inuit	5%	5%
Income < \$40,000	26%	27%



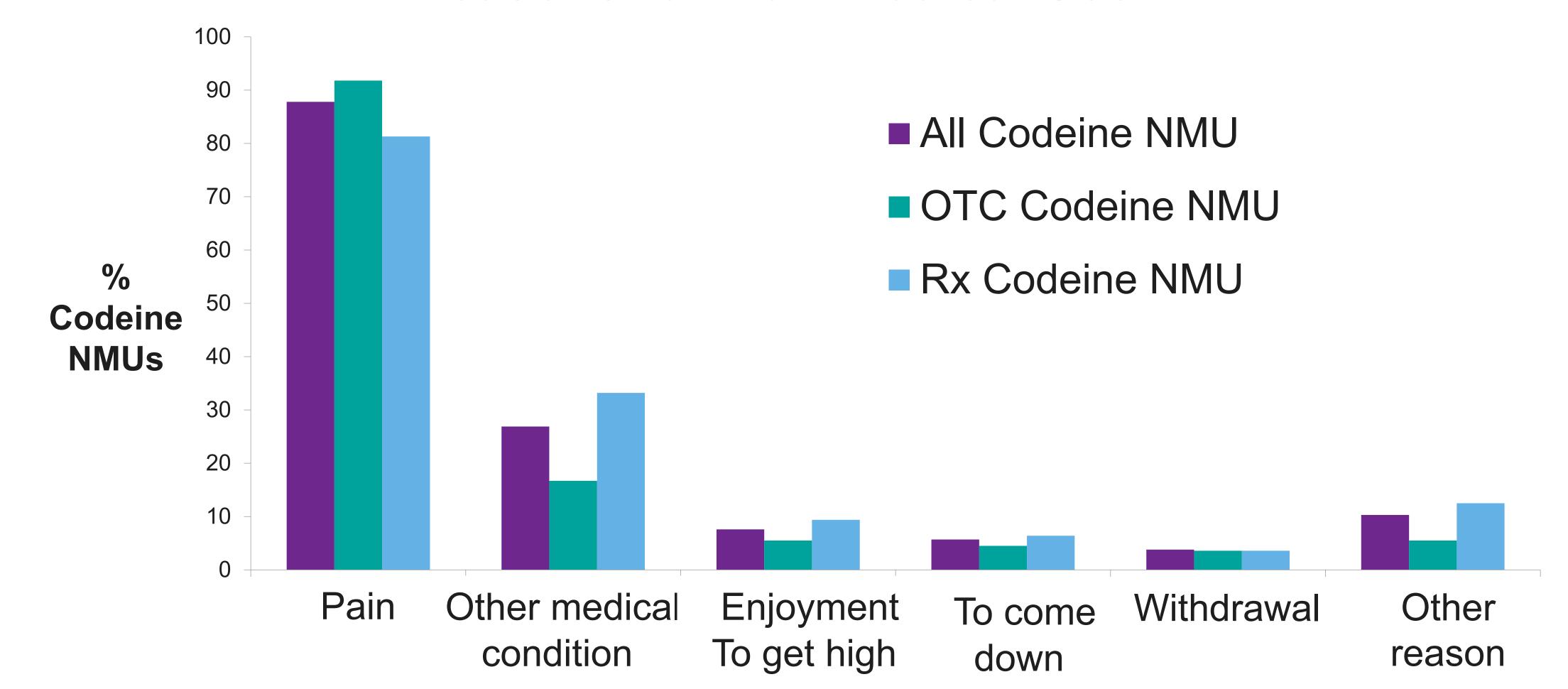
#### Codeine Non-Medical Users National Prevalence

- 22% using Rx &/or OTC products
- 13% using Rx products
- 14% using OTC products

# **Among Codeine Non-Medical Users**

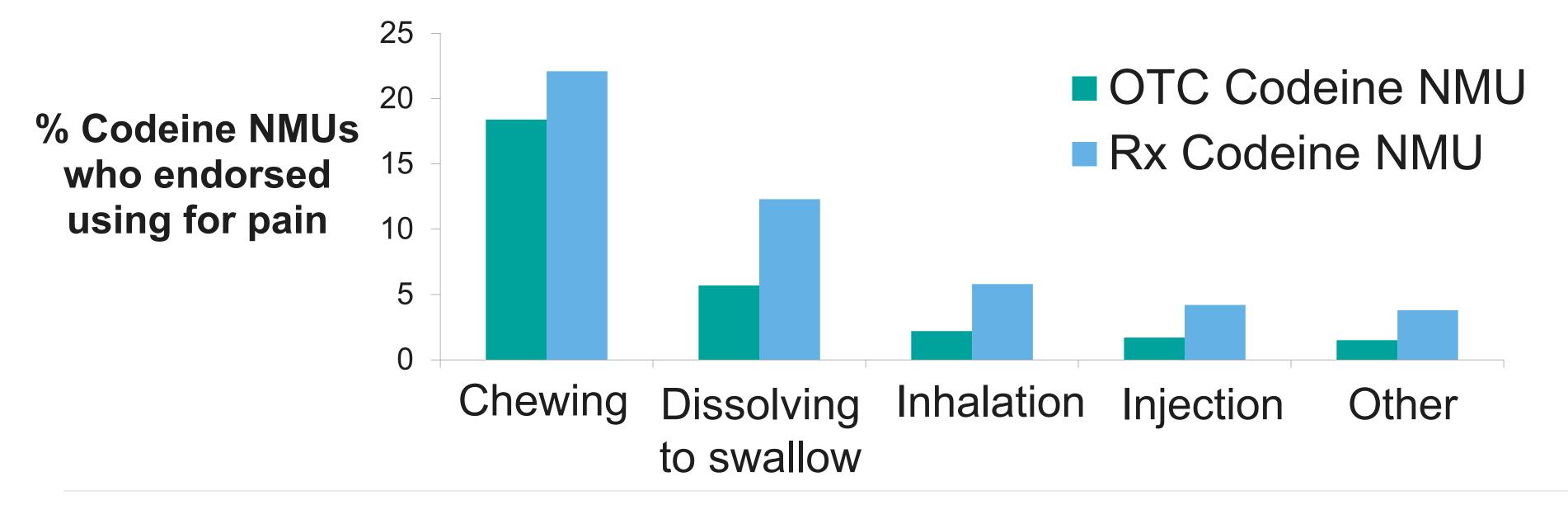


### Reasons for Non-medical Use



## Routes of Non-medical use

96% swallowing (of those who endorsed treating pain as a reason)



# Lifetime Non-medical Use Compared to Other Opioids

Lifetime Non-Medical Use		
Proportion among reports of Lifetime Use		
Weighted % (95% CI)		
Codeine Rx	21.5% (20.4, 22.6)	
Codeine OTC	23.4% (22.2, 24.5)	
Morphine	7.2% (5.9, 8.5)	
Oxycodone	13.8% (11.7, 15.8)	
Hydromorphone	13.2% (10.7, 15.7)	
Fentanyl	14.5% (10.3, 18.7)	
Tramadol	14.5% (11.4, 17.6)	

#### Conclusions

- Non-medical use of codeine products is prevalent in Canada with regional differences.
- Non-medical use of codeine for pain requires further inquiry.
- A substantial proportion of non-medical use involved low dose codeine non-prescription products, which helps inform the risk profile associated with these products.

