

Hazardous or harmful alcohol intake in Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) patients at Canterbury Drug Health Services (CDHS)

Susan Hines^{1 2}, Abdalvahed Razaghi¹, Kenneth Curry^{1 2}

¹Canterbury Drug Health Services, Sydney LHD, ²University of Sydney



Canterbury Health Services is located in a southwestern suburb of Sydney and has a multicultural population. As well as an opioid treatment program, it has outpatient detox management and counselling.

Alcohol risk category

Alcohol is reported to be consumed at a hazardous to harmful level (AUDIT score 8 or above) in 12.4% of patients.

AIM

To determine levels of alcohol consumption & prevalence of hazardous to harmful alcohol intake in OTP patients

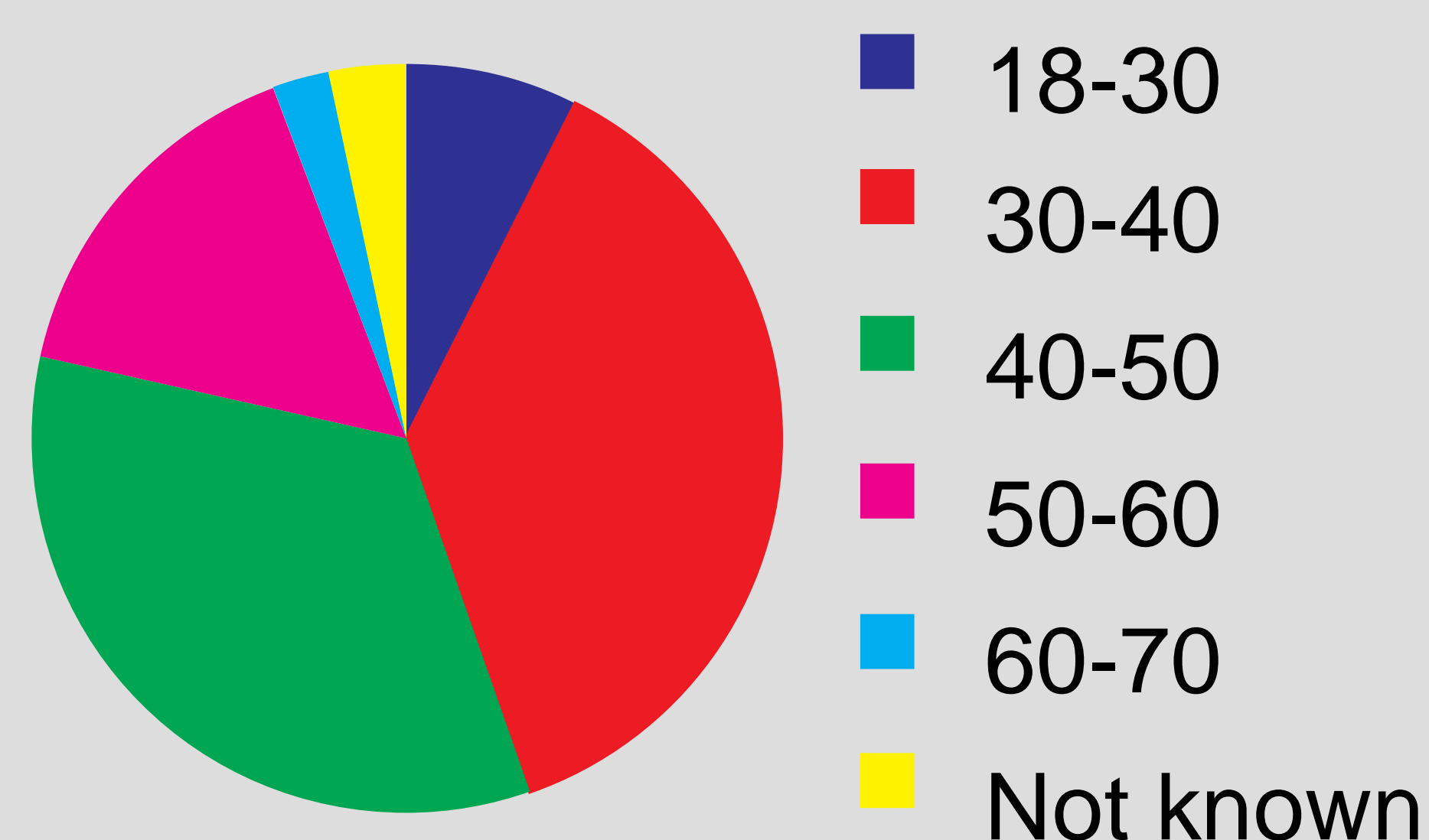
METHOD

Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT) was used. OTP patients were asked to complete AUDIT forms in a voluntary & confidential manner. 121 patients participated.

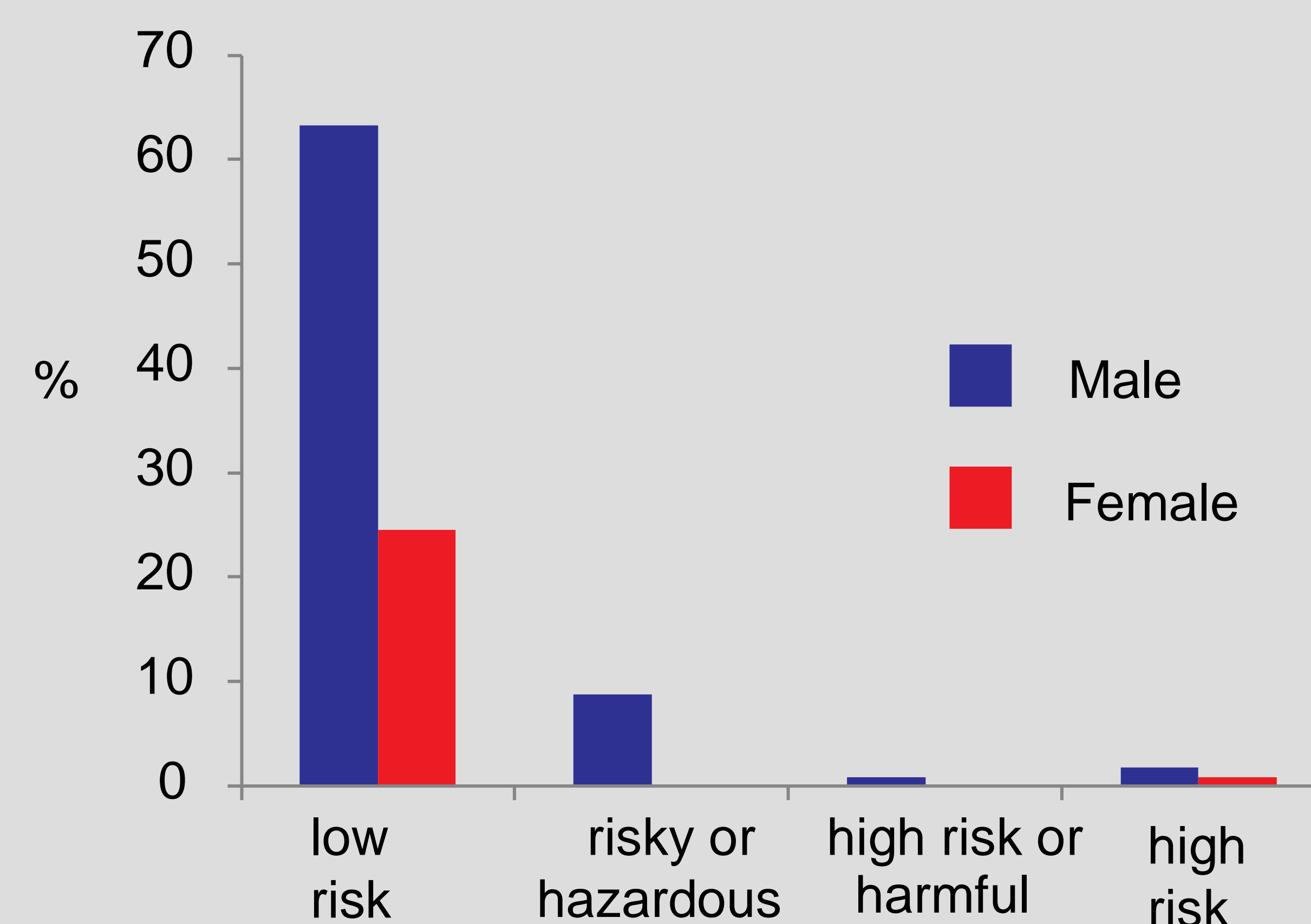
RESULTS

70% of patients were male, 24% female, and 6% did not provide data.

Age distribution of patients (years).



AUDIT Total Score	Risk Level	No. of Patients	(%)
0-7	Low Risk	106	87.6
8-15	Risky or Hazardous	11	9.1
16-19	High Risk or Harmful	1	0.8
20 or more	High Risk	3	2.5



CONCLUSION

It is important for OTP clinicians to address alcohol problems in their patients in view of the high prevalence of Hepatitis C and increased hepatic complications associated with alcohol. The risk of a drug overdose or an accident occurring is higher when alcohol is a factor. Brief interventions have been shown to be effective in reducing alcohol consumption.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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