

# Characteristics of frequent presenters to the Emergency Department.

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# Special thanks

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- Centre for Pre-hospital Research, University of Limerick,
- Department of Emergency Medicine at Connolly Memorial Hospital, Dublin,

# Location.

- This was a single site study undertaken at Connolly Memorial Hospital, Dublin.



# Objective of the study

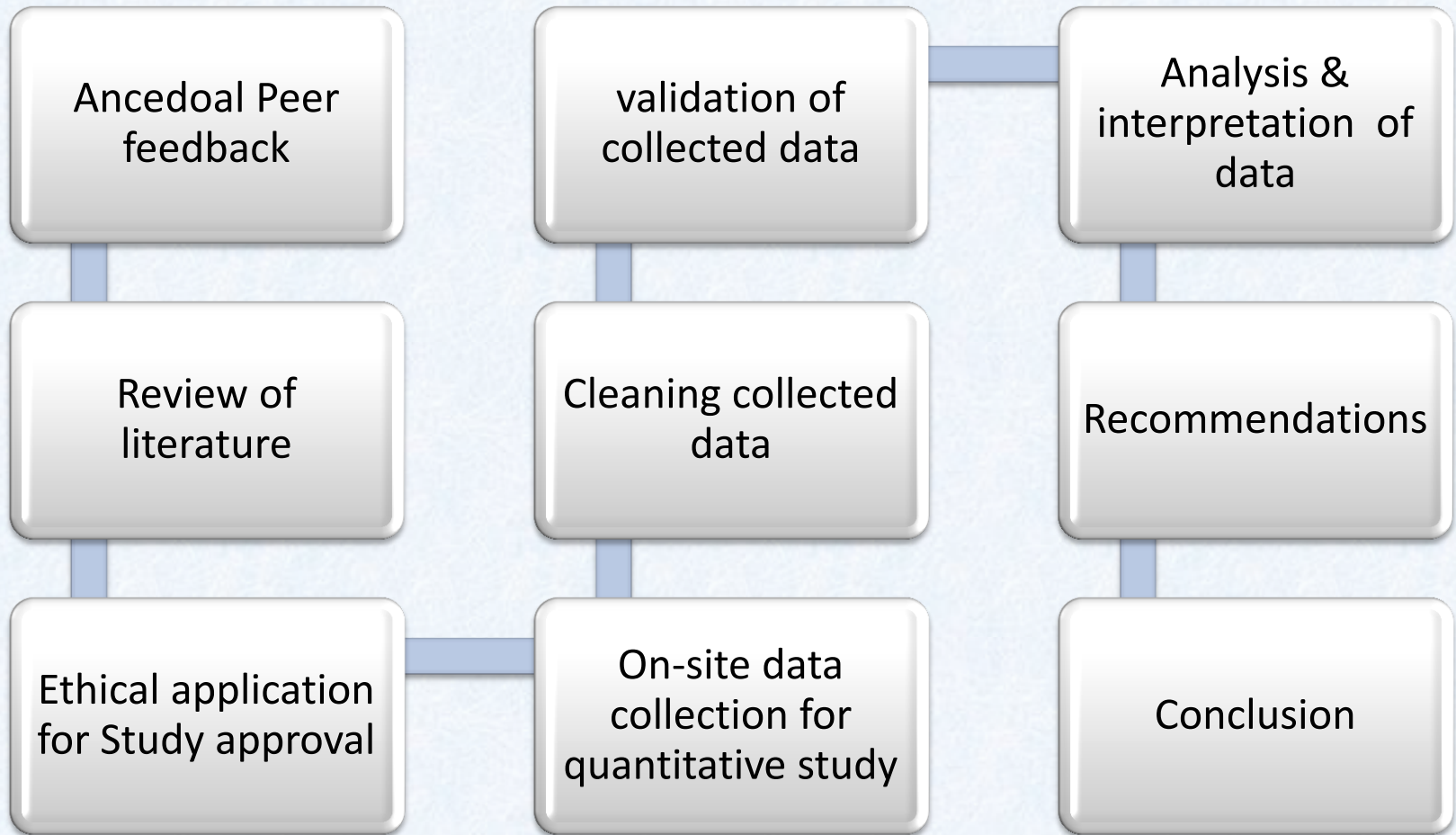
- To identify the characteristics of FPs to the ED.
- Establish if a small number of FPs account for significant ED attendances.
- Establish if sex or age are positively associated with increased ED attendance in the FP population.
- Establish preferred methods of arrival to the ED for FPs.
- Establish if eligibility for free healthcare account for significant attendance.
- Identify the most common presenting complaint.

# Identifying FPs

- In this study an FP was any patient making >4 attendances to the Emergency Department in 2012.
- Study participants were aged 19 years or older.



# Overview of research design

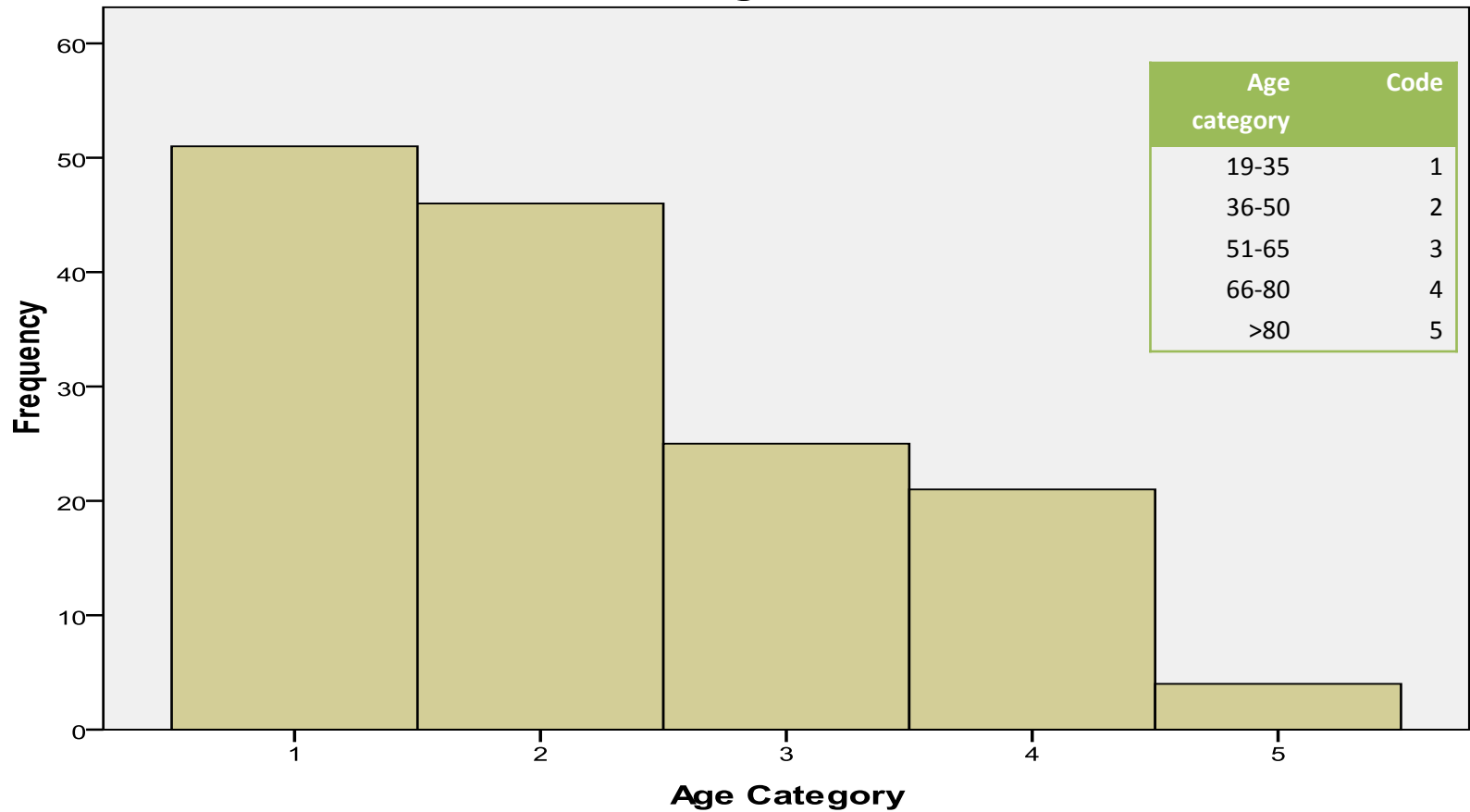


# Results

- 28,184 patients made 31,551 ED attendances,
- 0.53% (n=152) were categorised as FPs.
- 152 FPs accounted for 3.9% (n=1231) of total ED attendance.
- 85.5% (n=130) FPs made between 5 and 10 attendances to the ED.
- 14.5% (n=22) of FPs making 10 or more visits to the ED.
- The median number of attendances was 6 (SD 6.799, range 5-78).

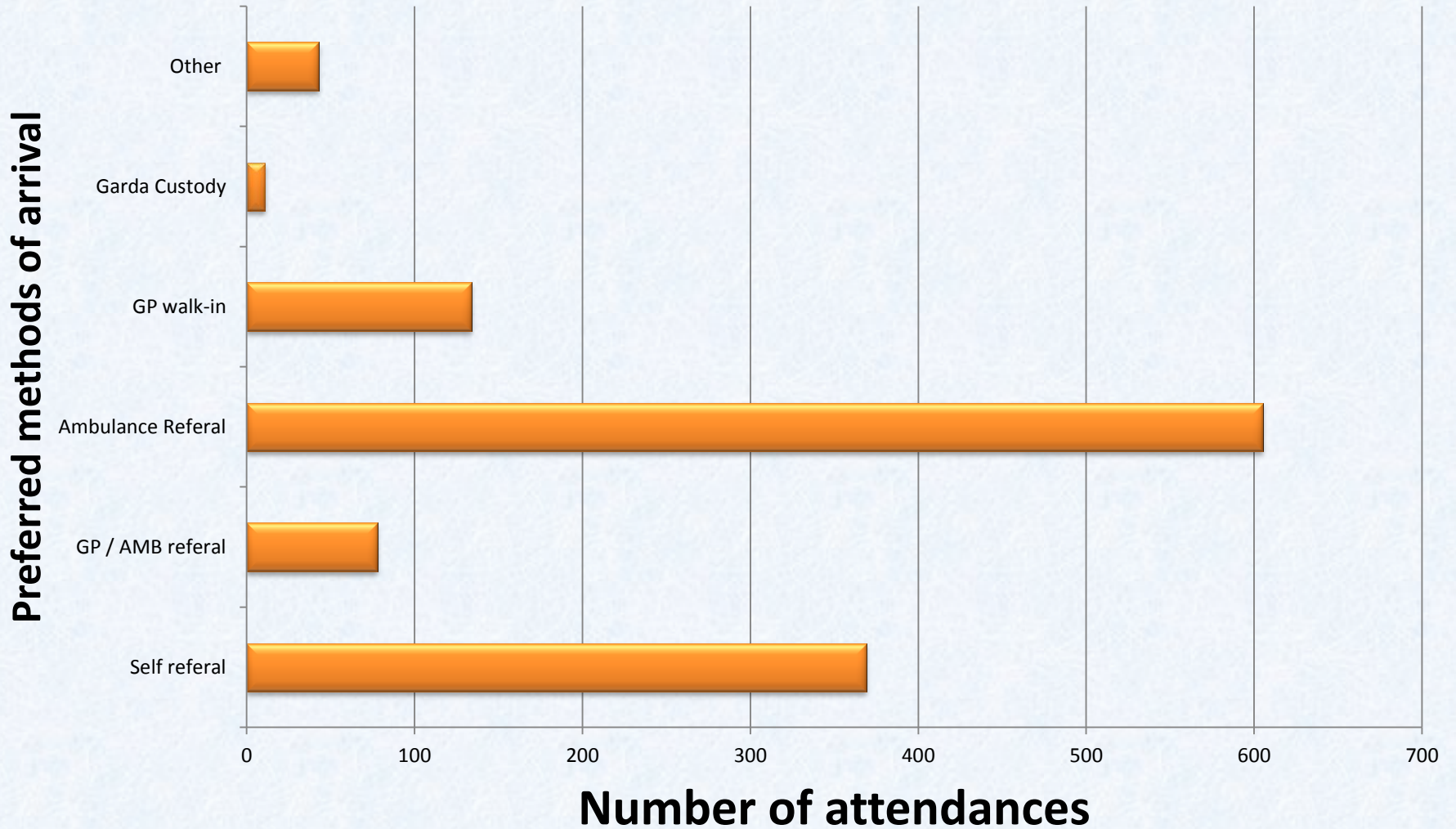
# Age & Frequent attendance

Histogram





# Methods of arrival



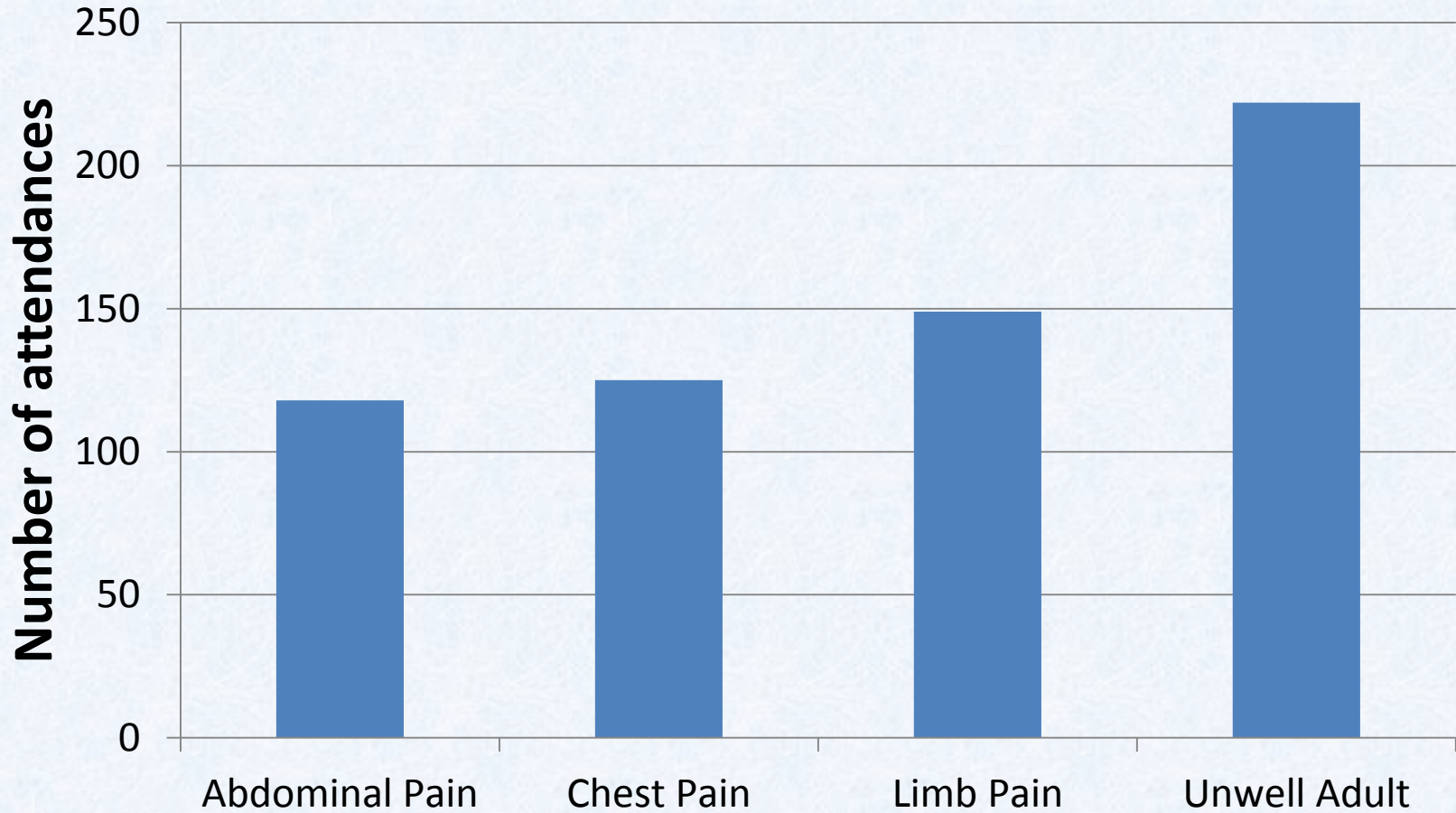
# Sex of FPs

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	77	50.7
Female	75	49.3

# GMS eligibility

- 50% of FPs in this study were eligible for general medical services.

# Presenting complaints



# Limitations

- Single Site. Some FPs here may have attended other Dublin EDs
- No Patient interviews.
- Co-morbidities not examined.
- Primary care attendance not examined for same time period.
- Income / education / postal code not examined



# Thank you

