



# Improving Health in Agricultural Communities

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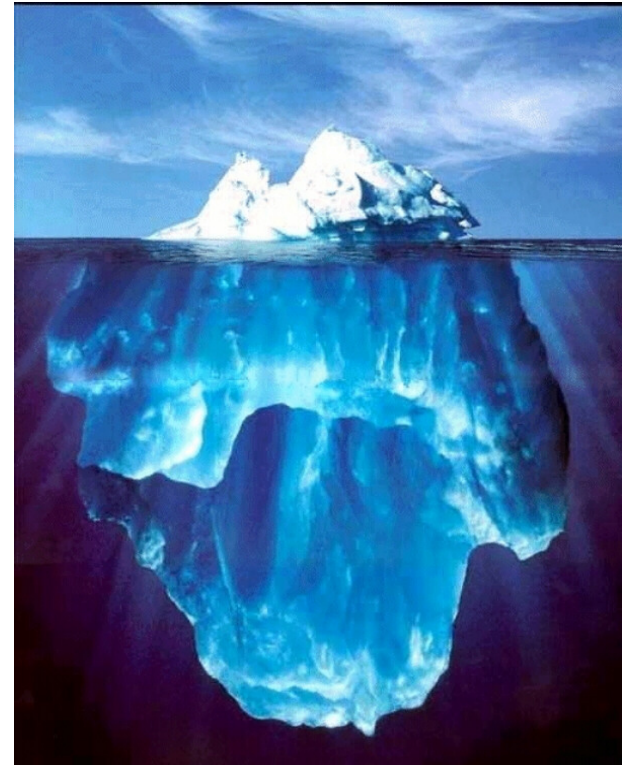
**Innovative agricultural  
occupational health screening**

# What do we know?

## ❖ Historically:

- Lower morbidity
- Less alcohol & smoking
- More exercise
- Healthier diet
- Fresh air

## ❖ Not the case any more



# Agriculture has changed

Then



Now



# How many Agricultural workers or managers die each year at work?

1. 0 - 30
2. 30 - 50
3. 50 - 80
4. 80 - 100



# What do we know about Agriculture?

- ❖ Agriculture is consistently ranked as one of the **top three most hazardous industries** in Australia
- ❖ Approximately 3.5% of the Australian workforce is employed in agriculture yet it accounts for **over 17% of workplace fatalities**

# Health issues for farming communities

## Increased risk of:

- ❖ Accidents
- ❖ Farm acquired illnesses (Zoonoses)
- ❖ Skin complaints
- ❖ Musculoskeletal disorders
- ❖ Chemical and pesticide exposures

Compounded by reduced access to  
health and social services

# Health issues for farming communities

## Increased risk of:

- ❖ Medical emergencies
- ❖ Hearing disorders
- ❖ Depression and suicide
- ❖ Stress and anxiety
- ❖ Domestic violence



Compounded by reduced access to  
health and social services



# Health issues for farming communities

## Increased risk of:

- ❖ Drug and alcohol abuse
- ❖ Respiratory diseases
- ❖ Cardiovascular disease
- ❖ Cancers
- ❖ Diabetes



## So how does AgriSafe™ improve health and safety on farms?

- ❖ AgriSafe™ Clinic visit for a comprehensive health screening.
- ❖ Agriculturally specific health education.
- ❖ Written referrals as required.

# Fit Testing



# Testing cholinesterase levels



# Without adequate PPE farmers can experience adverse central nervous system reactions.

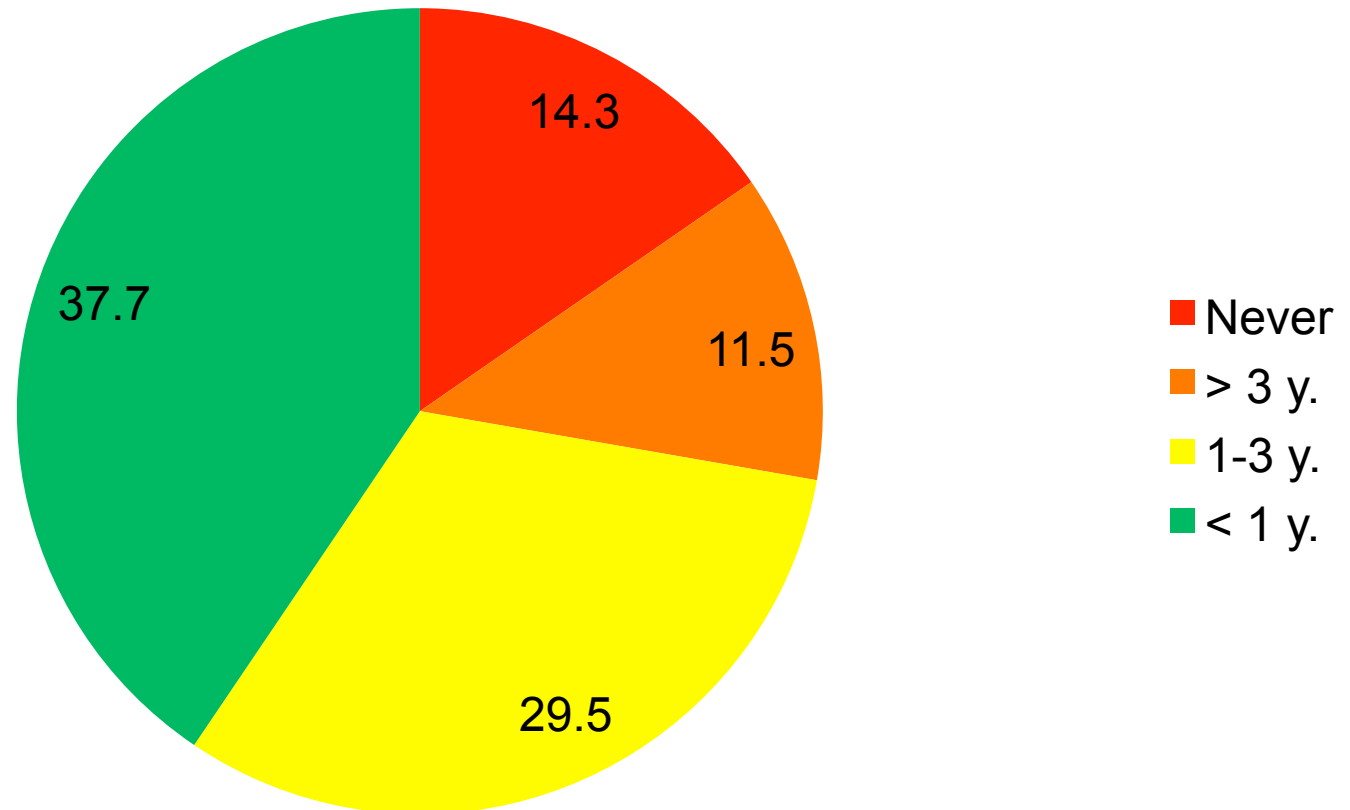
## Symptoms consist of:

- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Headache
- Sweating
- Pinpoint pupils
- Hypotension
- Twitching
- Vomiting
- Weakness
- Abdominal cramps
- Bradycardia
- Drooling

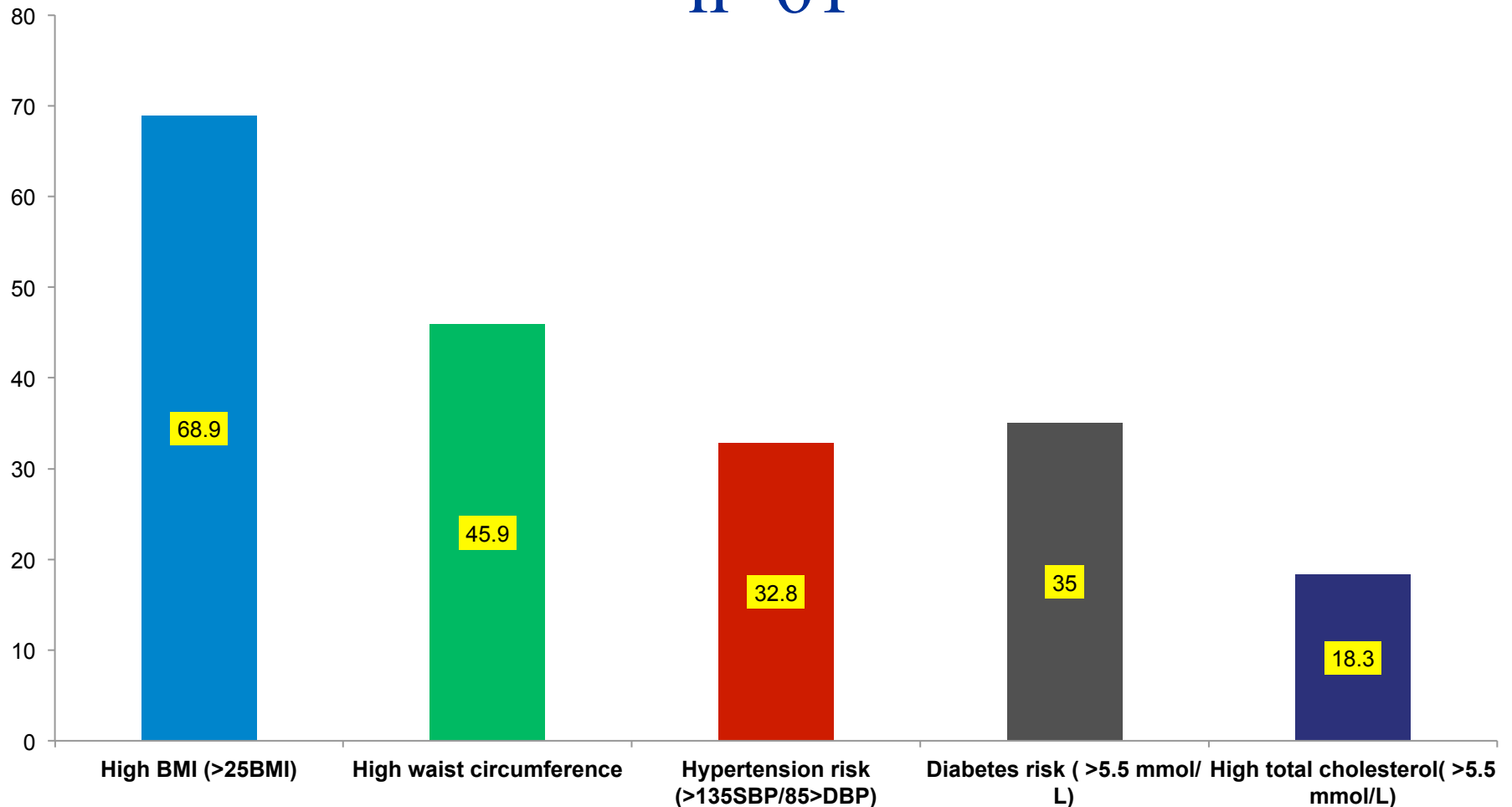


# Results

# AgriSafe™ Clients last routine check up (%), n = 56

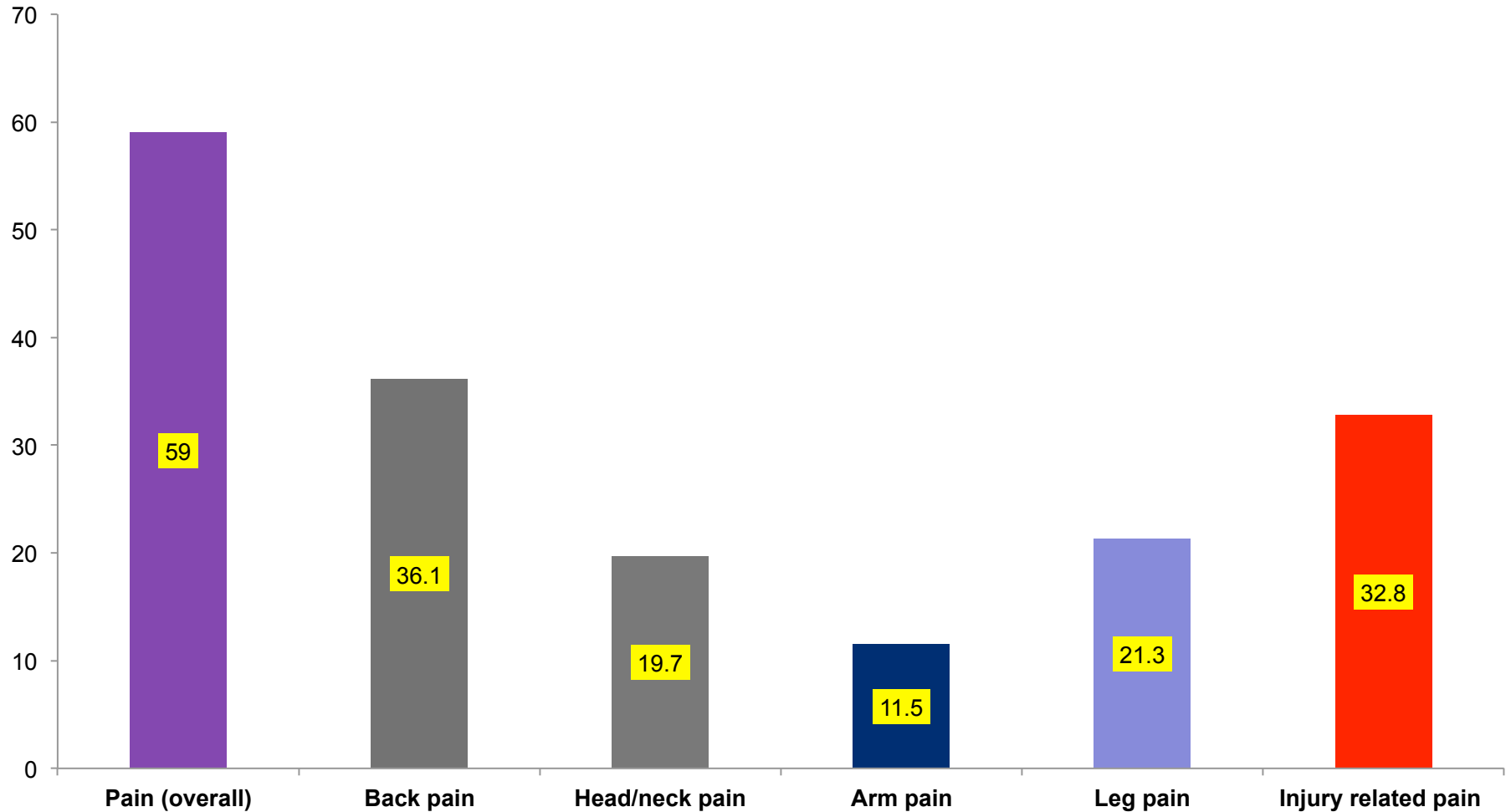


# Prevalence (%) of CVD risks n=61

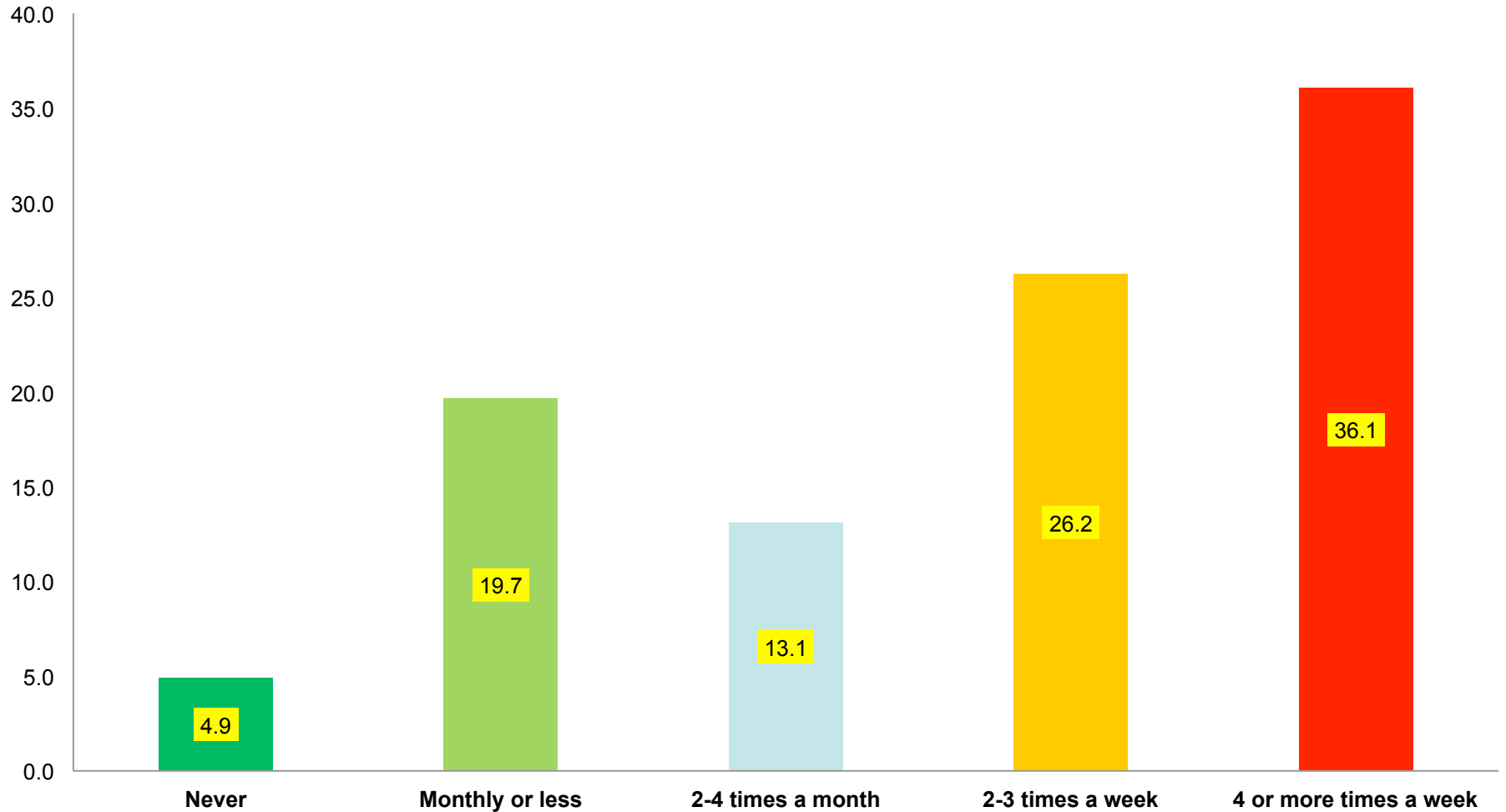




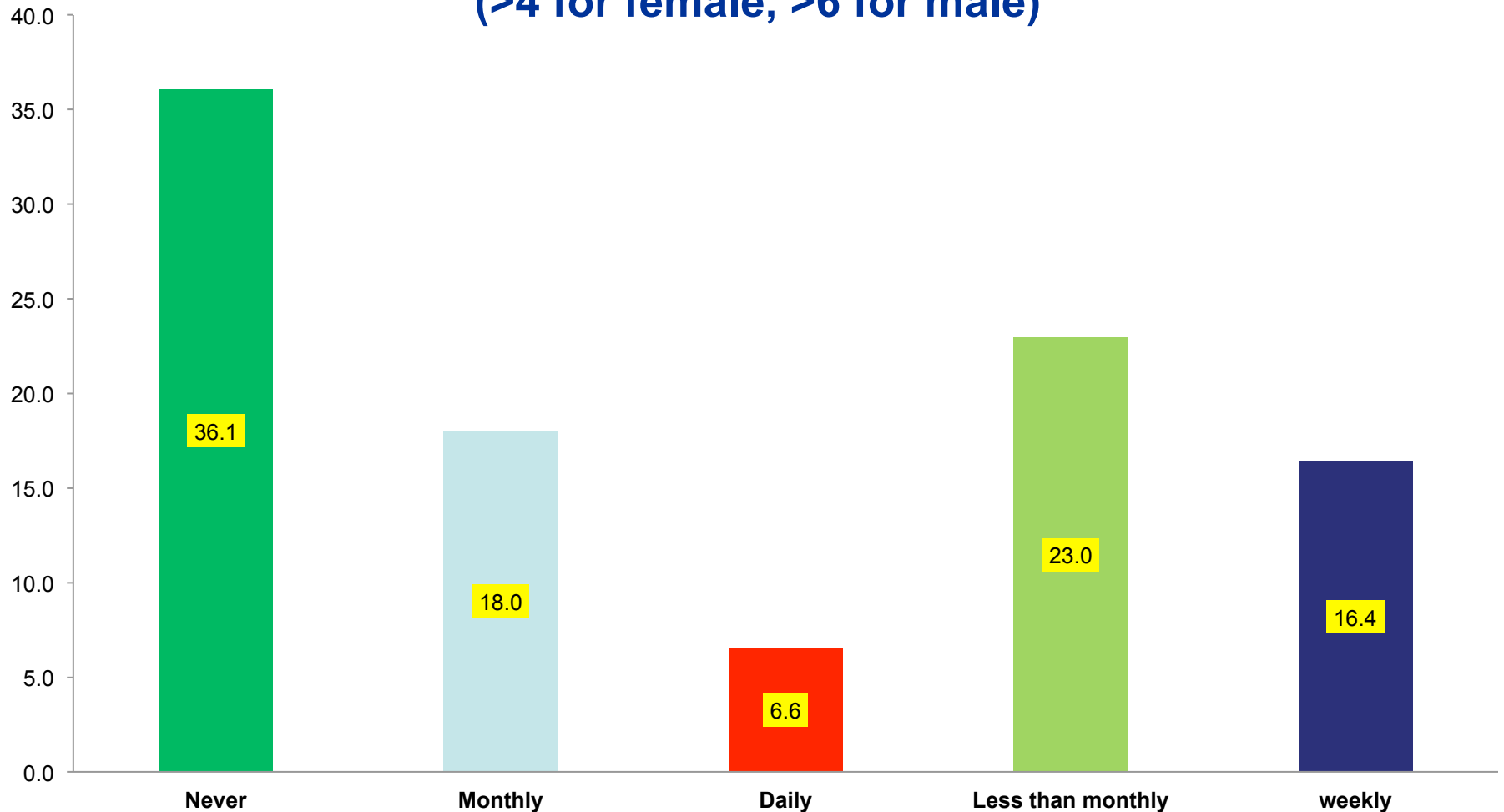
## Prevalence (%) of Pain n=61



## How often do you have a drink containing alcohol?



## How often do you consume alcohol at high risk levels (>4 for female, >6 for male)



# What does it take to be an AgriSafe provider?

1. Full AgriSafe Australia providers:
  - Full Service AgriSafe clinic
  - Limited AgriSafe services integrated within existing model of care
  - MBBS or RN Div. 1
2. Organisational members
3. Individual members

# AgriSafe operations manual

- ❖ AgriSafe Network
- ❖ Membership
- ❖ AgriSafe Model
- ❖ Feasibility Study
- ❖ Health Promotion
- ❖ Clinic policy and procedures
- ❖ Templates, forms and documents
- ❖ Education materials

## As you leave today

- ❖ Reflect on your work and your expertise
- ❖ How can you help to keep farm men and women farming healthily?
- ❖ Become an AgriSafe provider

[www.farmerhealth.org.au](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au)

For further information and enrolment details on the upcoming HMF 701 – Agricultural Health & Medicine and HMF702- Healthy & Sustainable Agricultural Communities.

Please visit:

[www.farmerhealth.org.au](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au)



# Professional training and education



HMF701- Agricultural Health and Medicine. Class of 2012. Hamilton, Victoria.



# Key Message

AgriSafe™ is an unique health screening clinic tailored to the health needs of Australian Agricultural workers/Farmers.

Thank you for your  
attention ! 😊