

# Feasibility, consumer acceptability and behavioural outcomes associated with take-home fentanyl test strips

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# Aims

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- 1. Determine the feasibility, consumer acceptability, and behavioural outcomes associated with take-home FTS**, providing an evidence base for implementation and expansion across services in Australia.
2. Inform features of a take-home FTS distribution program that reflect consumer needs and wants.
3. Examine support for other drug checking mechanisms.

**NCCRED**

National Centre for Clinical  
Research on Emerging Drugs

# Eligibility

**Sample:** Eighty people who are:

- at least 18 years of age;
- have used heroin in the past 6 months;
- consent to participate in naloxone training program or engagement in naloxone training in the previous two years (mitigate the risk of false negatives);
- consent to provide contact details, to enable follow-up.

**Setting:** Rankin Court; Kirketon Road Centre (40 participants per site).



Rankin Court Treatment Centre



# Process

## Baseline

- Short training session on how to use and interpret the strips
- Baseline survey (~10minutes)
- Naloxone training (if applicable)
- Distribution of 10 fentanyl test strips + naloxone
- \$10 reimbursement



## Follow-up

- Four-week follow-up survey (20 mins; \$50 reimbursement)
- Bring back/take photo of used strips (optional)

# How to use a fentanyl test strip to help prevent overdose



A deadly opioid called **fentanyl** is being added to drugs like **heroin, cocaine, and pills**.

Fentanyl test strips can tell you whether or not you have fentanyl in your drugs. You can follow these steps to use a fentanyl test strip to prevent overdose.

## Step 2 - Test



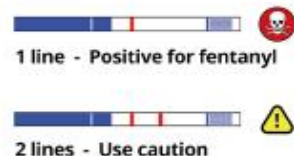
Hold the blue end of your test strip and dip it into the water for 15 seconds. Be sure you only dip up to the wavy lines.

## Step 3 - Wait



Wait two minutes until you can see lines show up in the middle.

## Step 4 - Results



Read your test results. One line means that your drugs have fentanyl in them. **No drugs are 100% safe.**

## Step 1 - Add water

Testing residue



Add 10 drops of sterile water to your spoon after you have drawn your shot and stir well.

Testing pills or powder



Add water to an empty bag with residue in it and mix well. If you have pills, break a piece off and stir it into water.

OR

Unused strip



C = control line  
T = test line

Results



Fentanyl detected



Not detected  
(use caution)



Invalid  
(re-test)

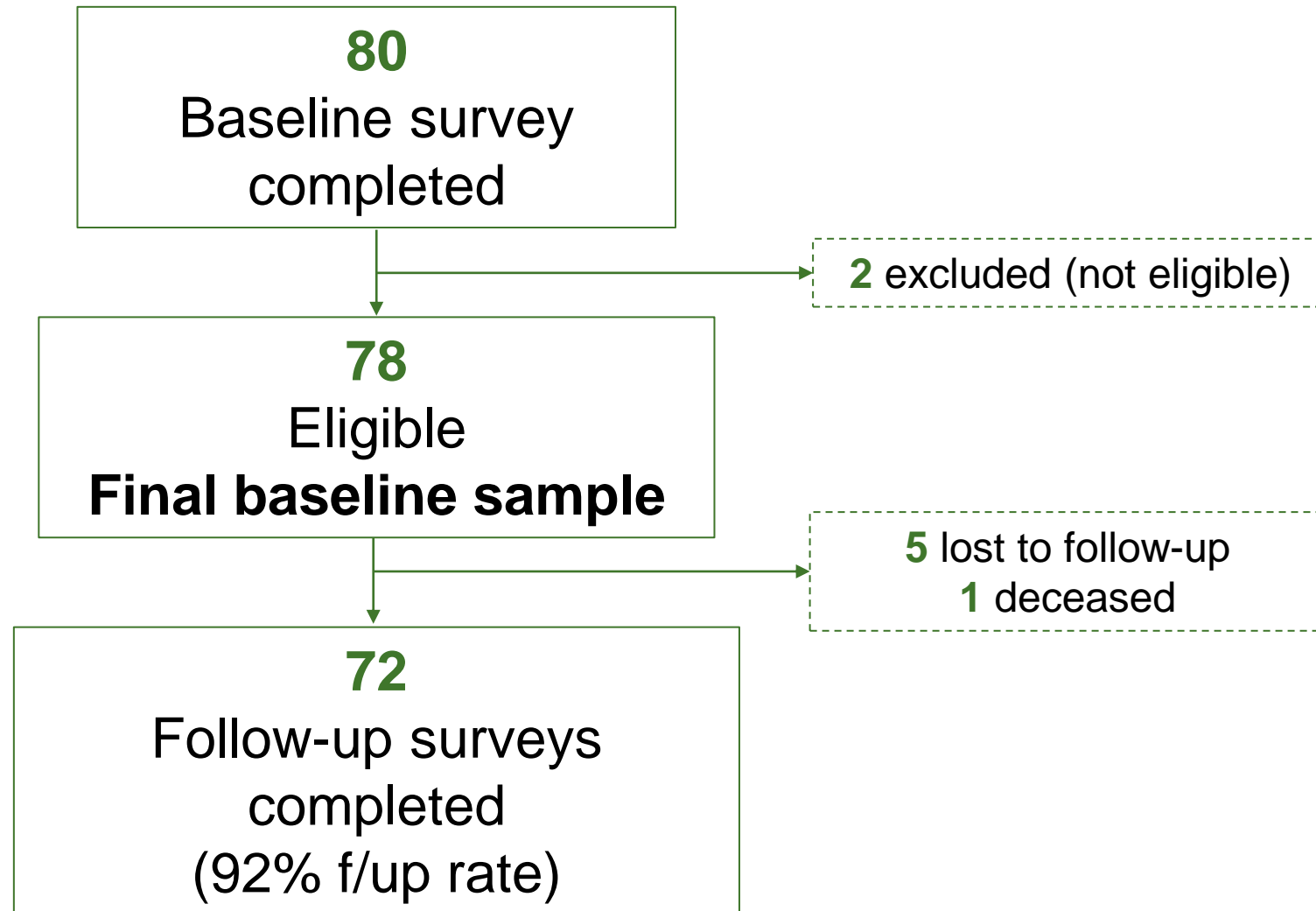


**These strips are not 100% accurate.**

**No drug use is 100% safe.**

**Use with someone else around and always have naloxone**

# Flow Chart: KRC & Rankin Court



# Results: Consumer acceptability (n=72)



## 4 in 5 participants

Had used the fentanyl test strips (81%; 58/72)

Median of six strips used (1-10)

- 97% would recommend to peers (56/58)
  - 95% would use again (54/57)
- 93% would like to be able to access drug checking services (67/72)



# Results: Feasibility (n=72)

**342**

The total number of strips used across all participants

**72**

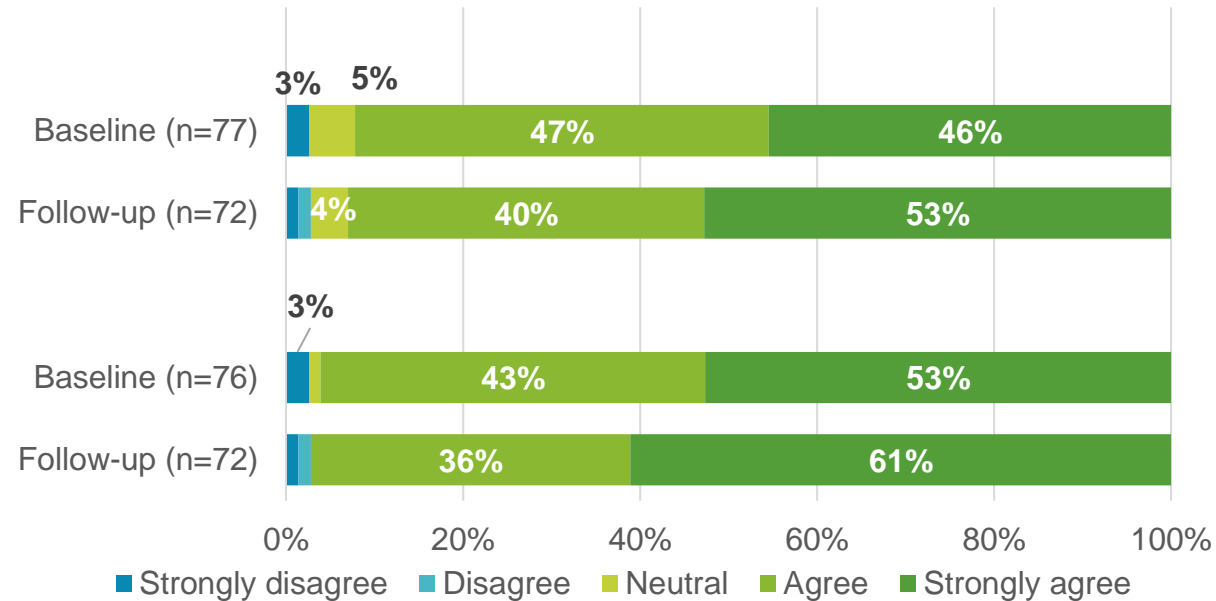
The total number of strips that were given away by participants

## Strips that returned each result (n)

<b>Negative result</b>	269 of 342
<b>Positive result</b>	56 of 342
<b>Invalid result</b>	15 of 342

*1 participant reported 'Don't know' for n=2 of their strips  
Note: test strip results are self-report and have not been validated.*

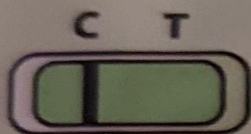
"I feel confident in my ability to read the results of the fentanyl test strips"



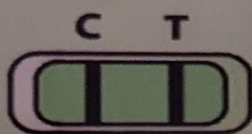
"I am confident in my ability to use fentanyl test strips to detect if fentanyl is in my drugs"



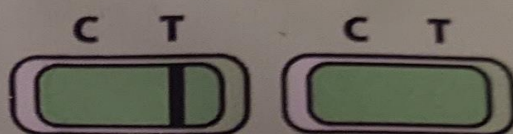
## Result Interpretation



Positive



Negative



Invalid

Fentanyl (FYL) Test Strip  
For Forensic Use only

FYL-1548 - Fentanyl (FYL) - Cut off 20 ns

**LOT** D0A2101018



2023-01-07



Do not reuse



Consult accompanying document

86°F  
(30°C)

BTNX Inc.

570 Hood Road Unit 23

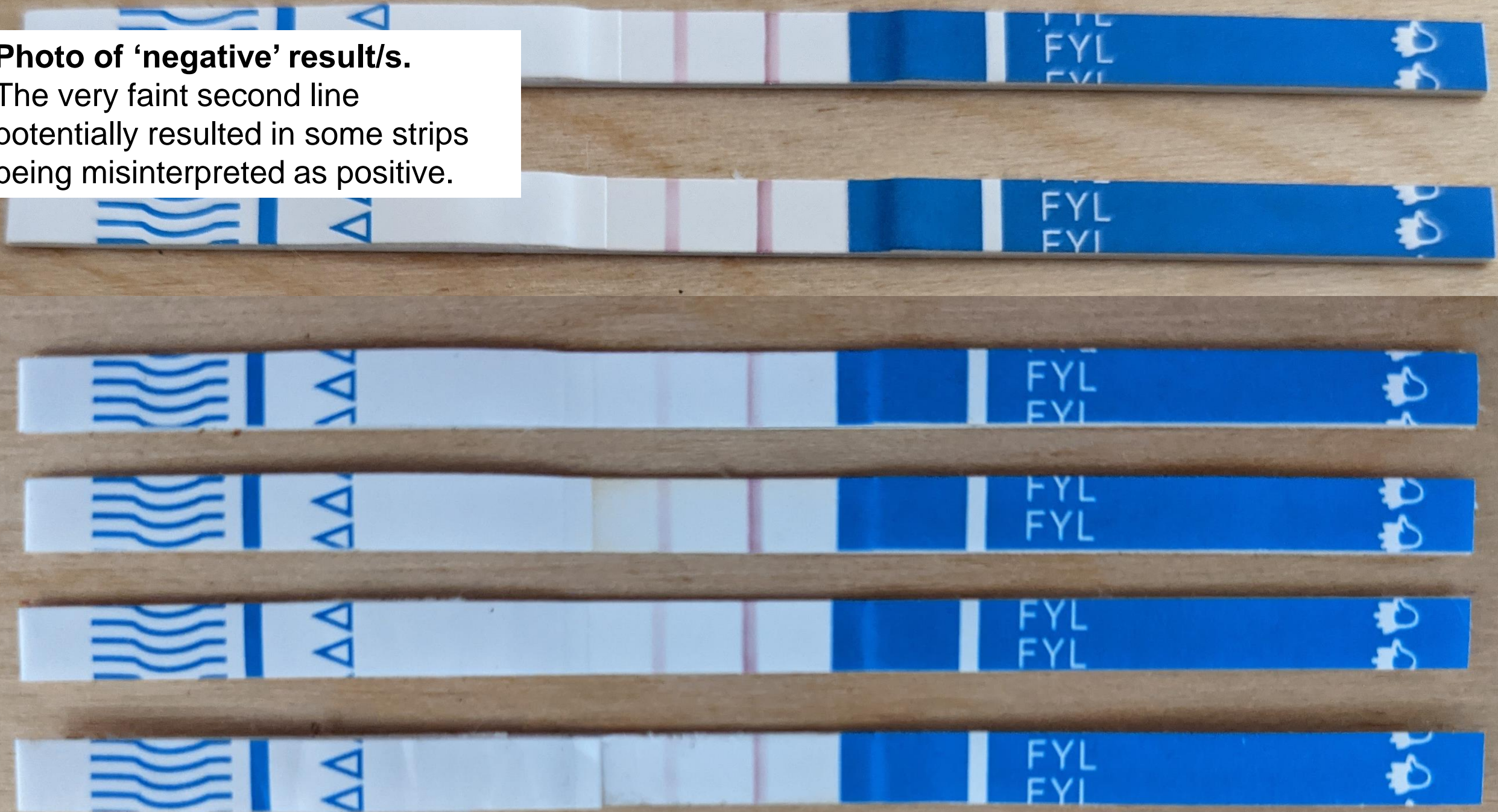


The lower red line here may be lighter than the upper red line. That is still a negative result.

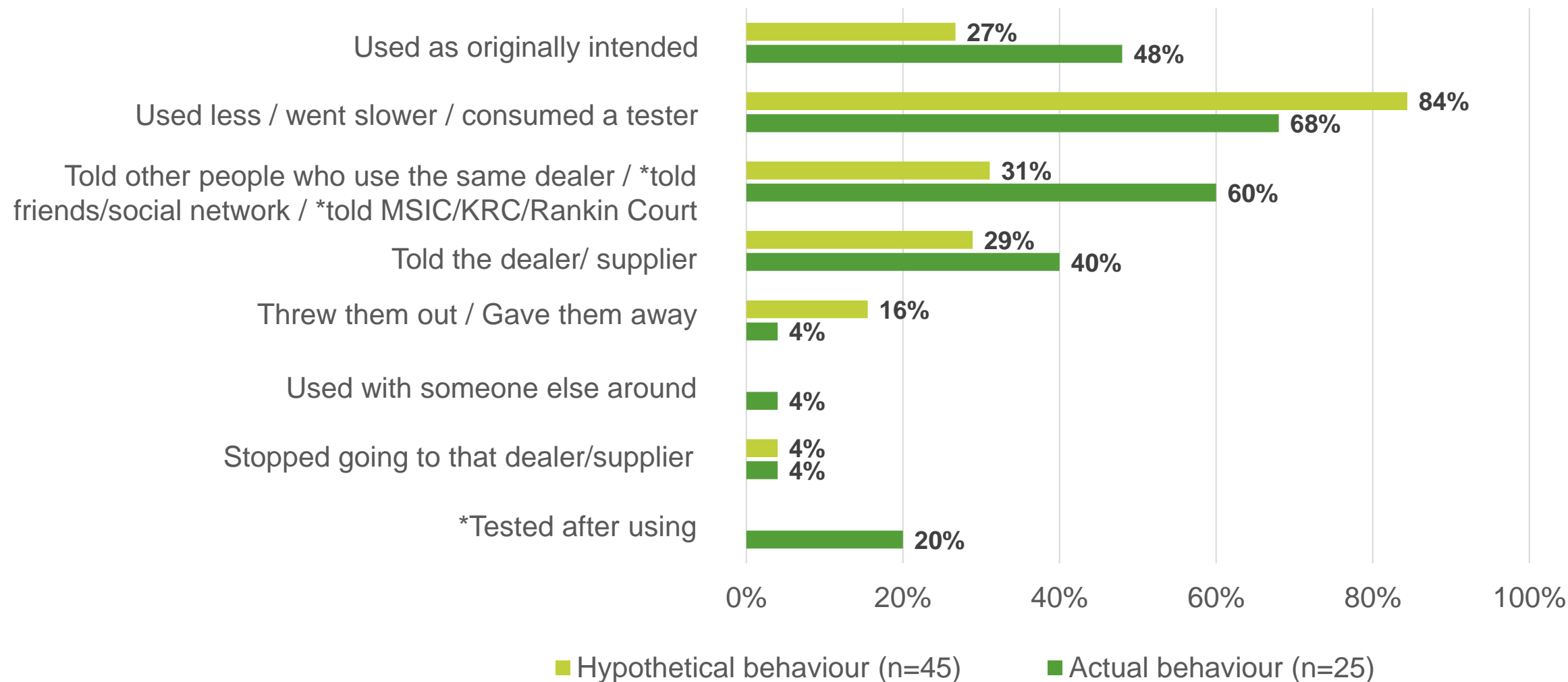


**Photo of 'negative' result/s.**

The very faint second line  
potentially resulted in some strips  
being misinterpreted as positive.



# Results: Behavioural outcomes



\* Options were obtained from 'other' responses

# Summary

## Early thoughts..

Consumer acceptability	Good uptake Recommend to peers Would use again	✓	
Feasibility	Cheap (1USD/strip) Easy to use Scalable	✓	✗ Concerns around misinterpretation
Behavioural change/ empowerment	Most took precautions	✓	

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