



Emergency department presentations with analytic confirmation of bromazolam across Australia.

**Presented by Courtney Weber
On behalf of the
Emerging Drugs Network of Australia**



Acknowledgements & Disclosure

I begin today by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

I have no conflicts of interest to declare.

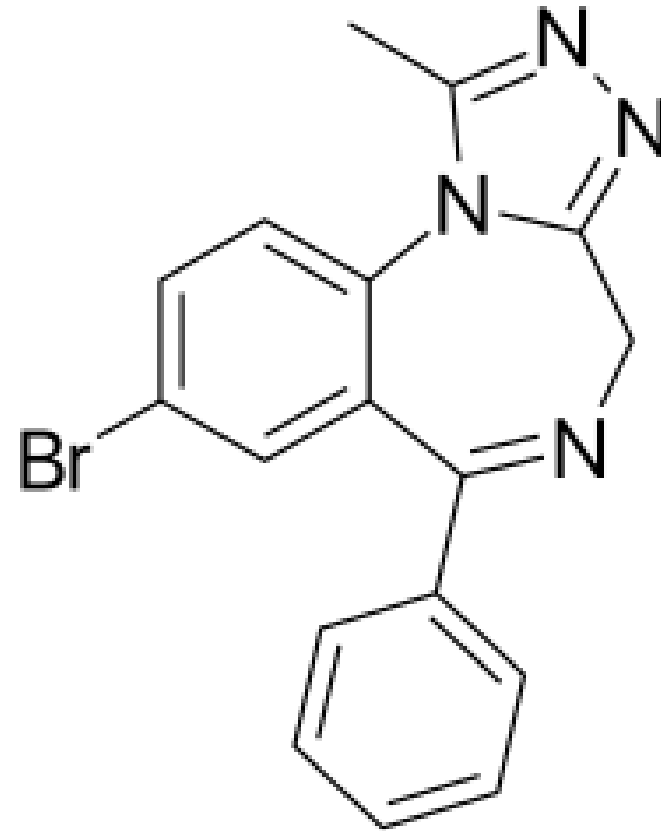
This work was supported by a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Ideas Grant (GNT2001107), and additional state-specific funding from the Department of Health, Victoria, and the Mental Health Commission & the Department of Health, Western Australia.



I live on
Whadjuk
Noongar land,
along with
these ducks
near my house.

Background

- Bromazolam is a novel benzodiazepine (NPS) that has been increasingly seen across the world.
- Public health concern, but information on exposure is limited.



**To describe emergency department (ED) presentations
with confirmed bromazepam exposure between April
2020 and March 2024.**

- Demographic, clinical, toxicology and outcome data from cases aged 16 years and older with analytical confirmation of bromazolam were extracted from the Emerging Drugs Network of Australia (EDNA) national dataset.
- All data were summarised using descriptive statistics.

- **141** ED presentations with confirmed bromazolam exposure.
- Median ED LOS: **5.1** hours (2.9-8.6 hours)

Characteristics

Sex – male, n (%)	112 (79%)
Age in years, median (min-max)	26 (16-59)
ATS, n (%)	
ATS 1	69 (50%)
ATS 2	49 (35%)
Mode of arrival, n (%)	
Ambulance	126 (89%)
ED disposition, n (%)	
ICU	58 (23%)
Home	115 (46%)

Co-detected Substances

Self-reported

25% did not report drug use

Any benzodiazepine: 50 (35%)

1 case reported bromazolam

27 (19%) cases specifically stated

“Xanax”

Analytic

Additional illicit/novel detected	117 (83%)
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Methamphetamine	74 (53%)
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GHB	26 (18%)
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Clonazepam	22 (15%)
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Any opioid	32 (30%)
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Pharmaceuticals

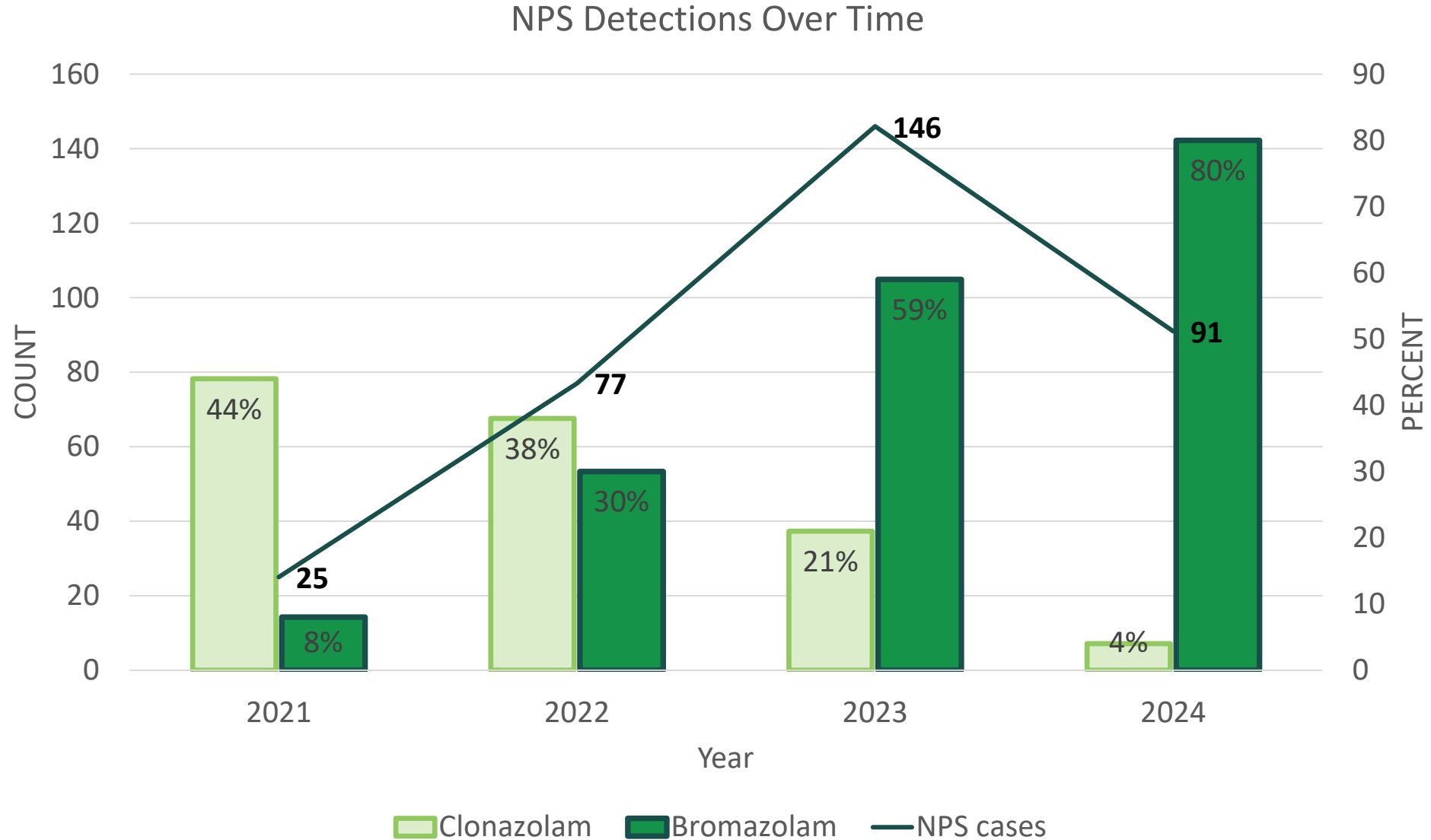
Additional benzodiazepines	100 (71%)
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Diazepam	47 (33%)
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Clonazepam	22 (16%)
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Alprazolam	17 (12%)
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Detections Over Time



Bromazolam is the most common novel substance detected nationally in EDNA

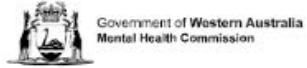
Will require continued monitoring.

“Lone” bromazolam is rare

Polydrug use is extremely common, particularly with opioids and stimulants.

Limitations

- Case series presented- no conclusions can be made.
- EDNA is a convenience sample and may miss other NPS.
- Significant polydrug use impedes ability to identify clinical implications of lone bromazolam use.



Please talk to me 😊
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