

**Younger, and male R/OI dog wardens
are bitten at higher rates during work
than older and female colleagues**

Factors associated with dog bites to dog wardens in the Republic of Ireland (ROI)

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Background

- ~75 dog wardens in ROI
- Dog bites = Dog warden occupational hazard
- Extent of risk due to age, sex and experience not quantified

Aim

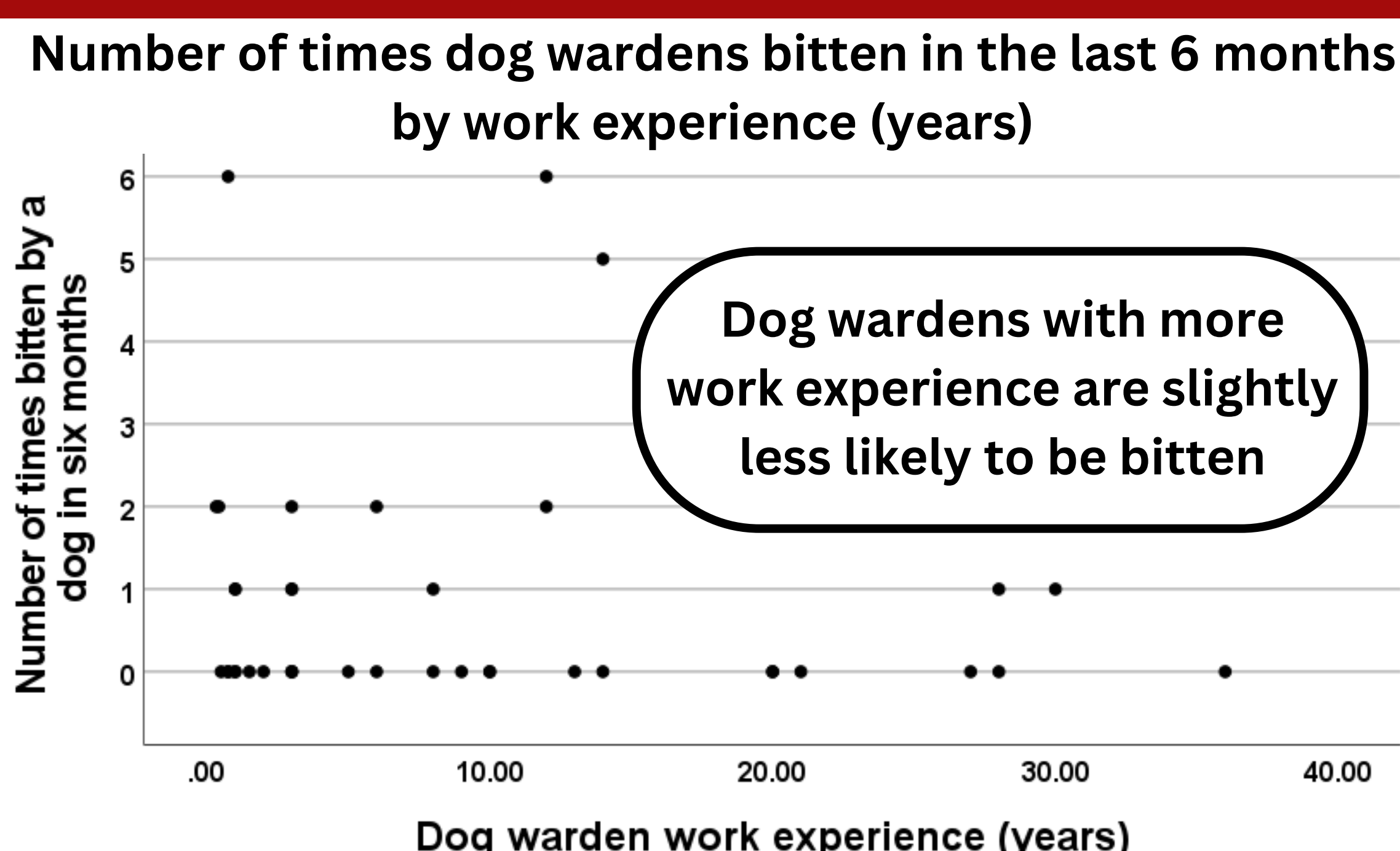
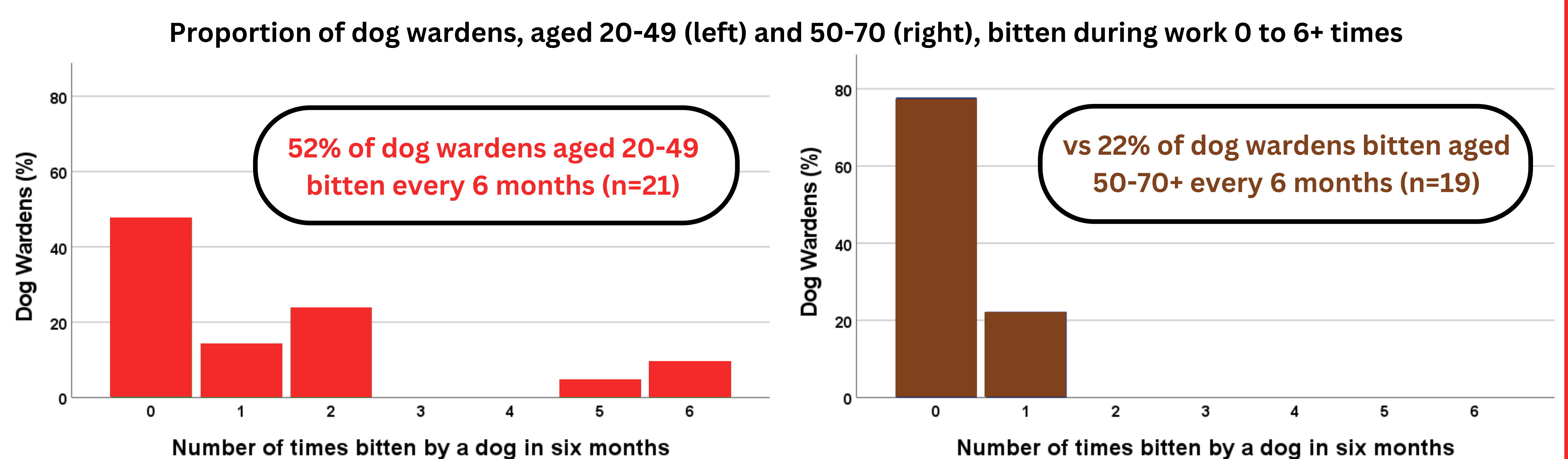
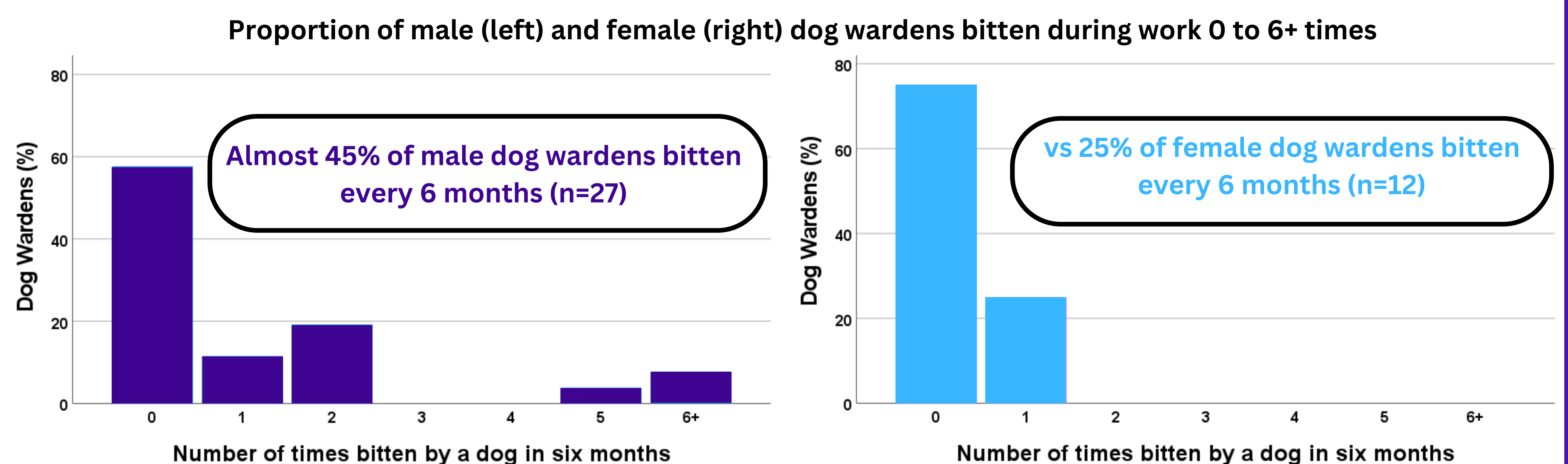
- Identify factors associated with dog bites to dog wardens in the ROI
- Dog bite: “Dog holding onto a part of dog warden’s body or clothes with its teeth during work in the last 6 months, whether it broke skin or not.”

Methods

- Retrospective cohort study (40 ROI dog wardens)
- Self-administered questionnaire: Dog Control Nat. Seminar (Oct. 2024)
- 6-mth dog bite history, work-days to first bite (ie at risk)
- Demographic data (age, sex, work experience)
- Neg-Binomial Regression – Offset = Work-days to first bite vs 6-mth risk period,
- Incidence Rate Ratios (IRR) with Robust Standard Errors (in R)

Results

(27 males, 12 females; 19 aged 50+, 21 aged 20-49; Response Rate = 89%)



Conclusions

- Rates not constant but vary by individual
- Age and sex likely important risk factors but not work experience
- Age and sex possibly correlated with job assignments
- Some non-bites possibly due to structural zeros (i.e. job assignment)