

Outside of National Vaccination Days, lower delivery volumes of COVID-19 vaccines resulted in high opportunity costs, particularly at rural health units in the Philippines

The cost of delivering COVID-19 vaccines in the Philippines



Background

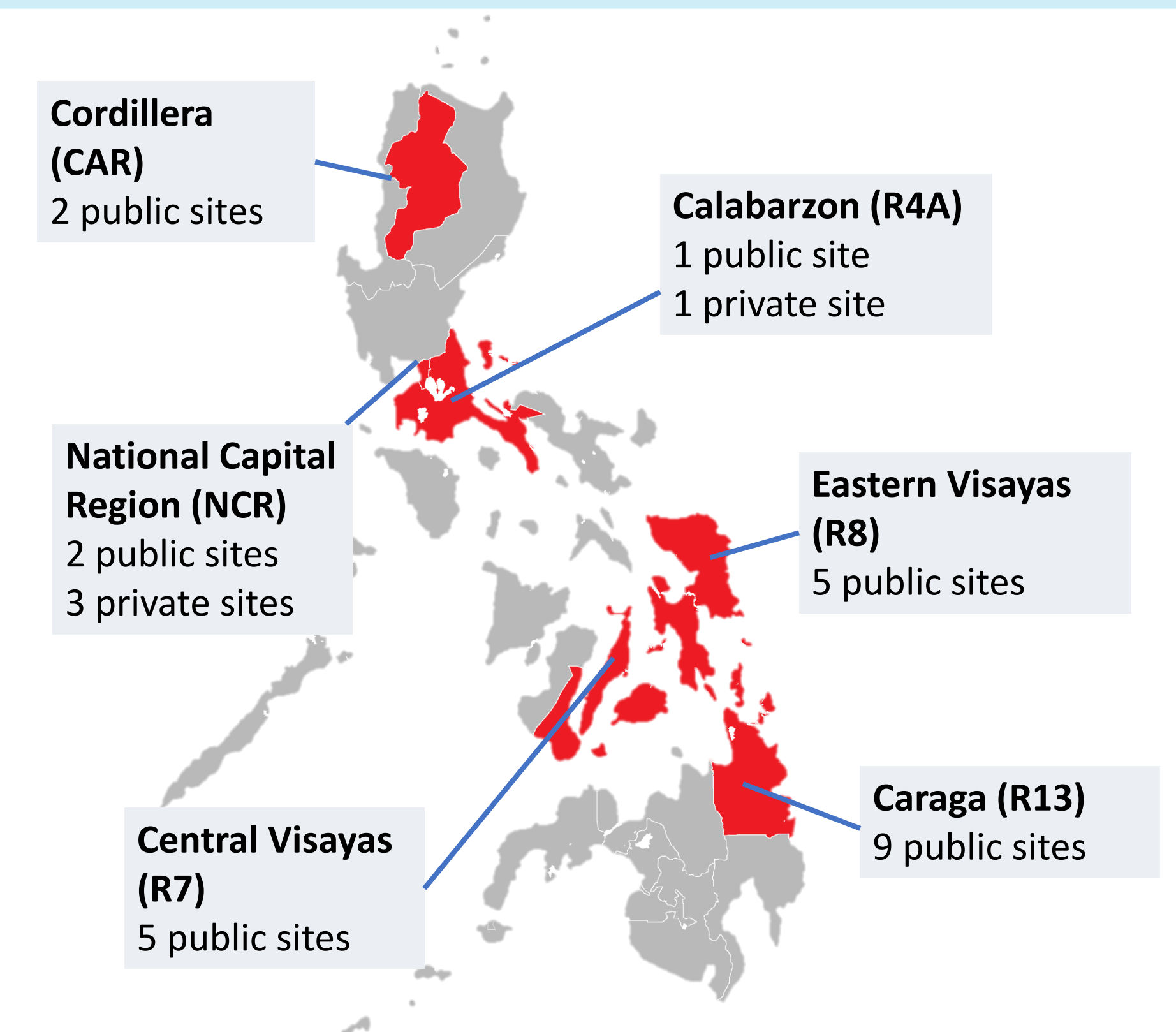
The Philippines began its COVID-19 vaccination program in March 2021, starting with healthcare workers and vulnerable populations, expanding to the wider adult population in 2021. The program was unprecedented in the country for its scope and vaccines were delivered at health facilities, schools, shopping malls and other temporary sites, and by mobile teams. Four mass vaccination drives, termed national vaccination days (NVDs) were held between November 2021 and March 2022. **The aim of this study was to estimate the actual cost of delivering COVID-19 vaccines in the Philippines**, for which evidence is currently lacking.

Key takeaways

- The cost per COVID-19 delivered in the Philippines varied widely across regions
- Delivery was most cost-efficient during National Vaccination Days, during which delivery volume was greater
- High opportunity costs were found outside of NVD periods, especially rural health units with very low delivery volume

Methods

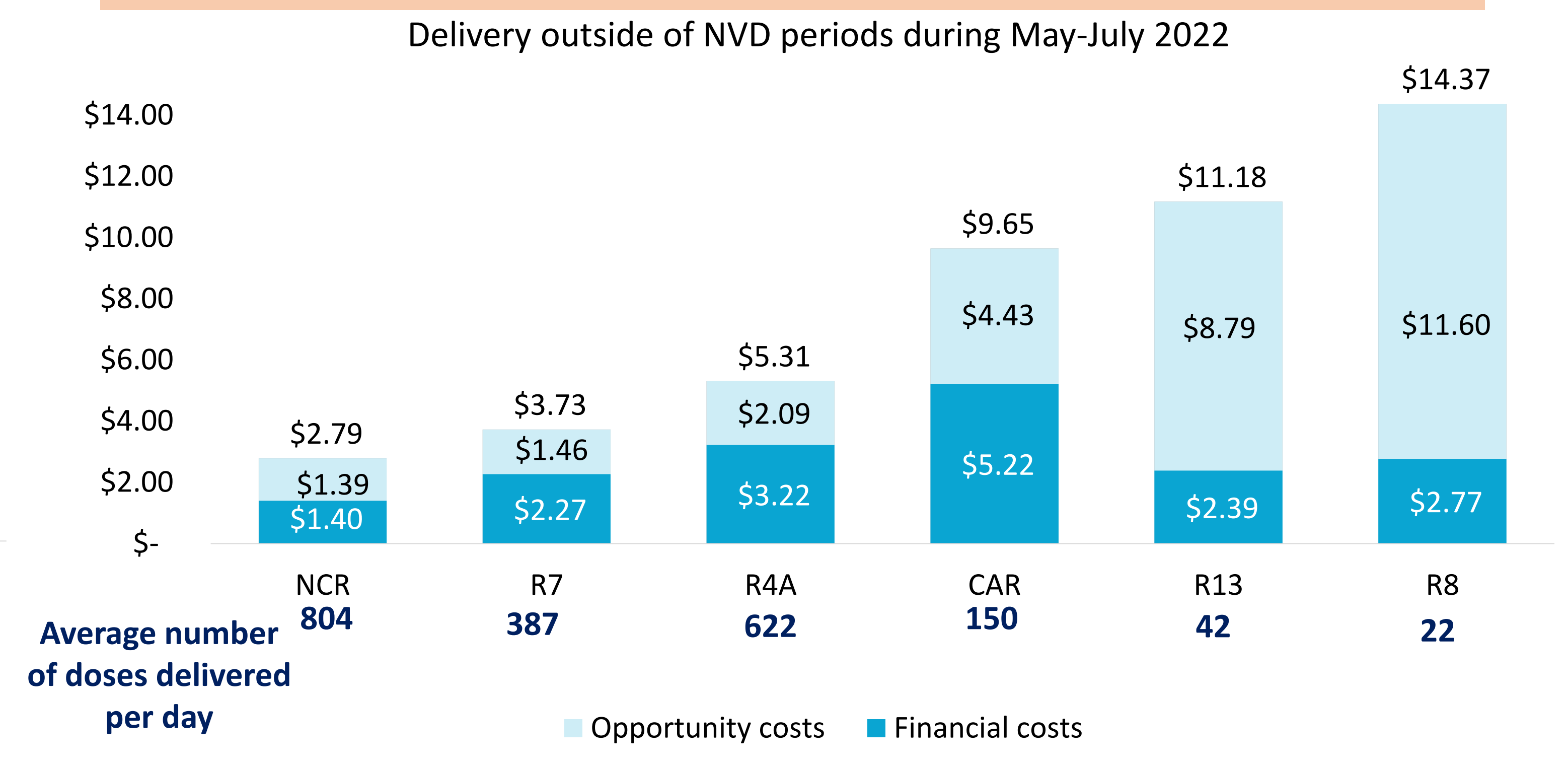
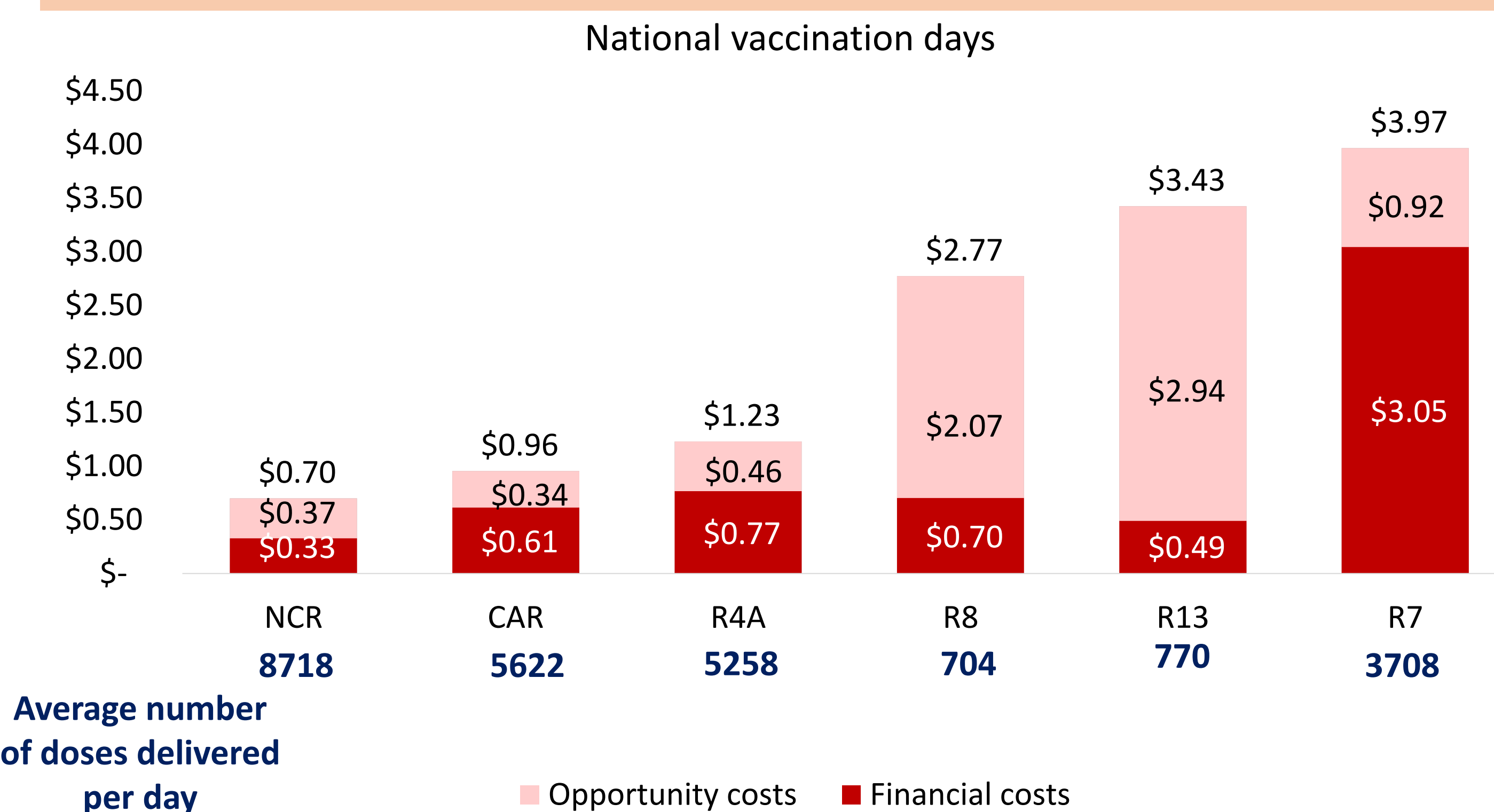
- Retrospective, bottom-up study of costs incurred from implementation sites to the national level
- Purposively sampled 28 vaccination sites from 6 regions, including both private and public sector sites.
- Costs were also collected from six provincial offices in three provinces, three regional offices, and the National Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC). NVOC costs include staff time but do not include expenditures on meetings, trainings, cold chain, transport and other costs.
- Collected costs for the first NVD in November/December 2021 (NVD1), and a period of continuous delivery outside of NVDs from May-July 2022.
- The study estimated the delivery cost per dose, weighted by volume delivered and shown in USD 2022



Findings

Wide variation in the cost per dose across the six regions, largely explained by differences in delivery volume

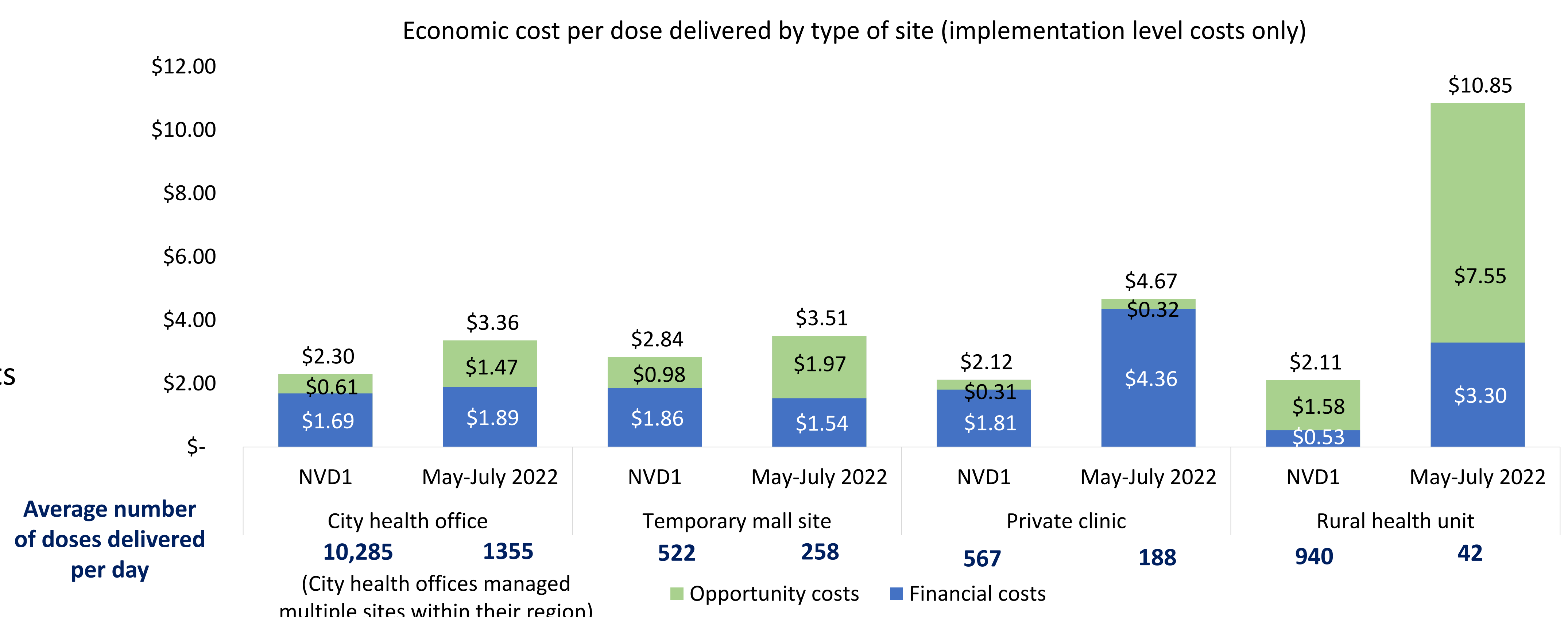
Delivery costs outside of National Vaccination Days were 3-4 times higher compared with NVDs due to the lower volume



Labor main economic cost driver

- Labor accounted for the largest proportion of the economic cost per dose
- The main financial cost drivers include paid labor, vaccine injection and safety supplies (including personal protective equipment), worker refreshments and IEC and other printing costs

Low delivery volume outside of the National Vaccination Days resulted in high opportunity, particularly at rural health units



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