

XXI MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON DEMAND REDUCTION

Preliminary Results from the Report on Drug Treatment in the Caribbean

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Contents

- **Background and methods**
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- **Conclusions**



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The Standardized Treatment Data

Protocol (TDP) - Objective

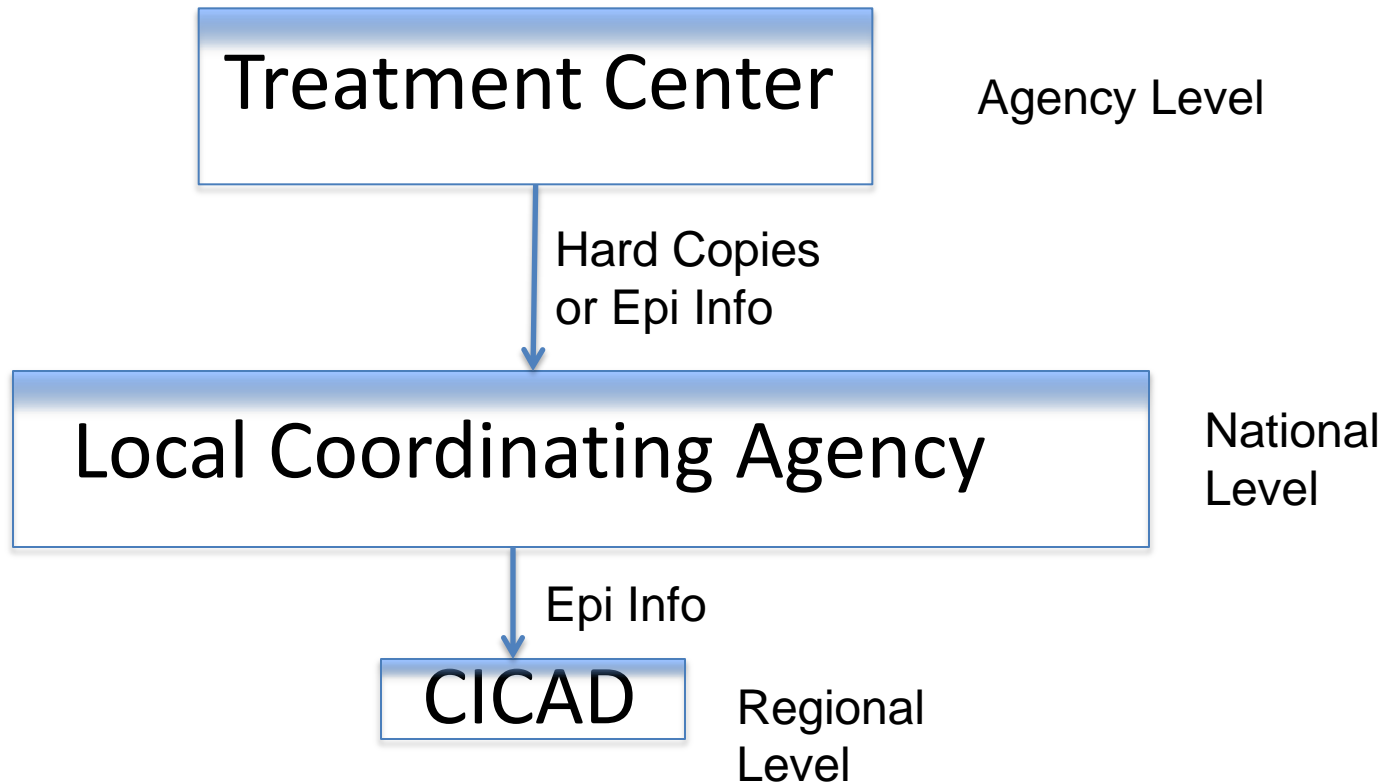
The objective of the TDP is to collect information on persons seeking treatment in all participating member states in a standardized way. This allows us to:

- Build a profile of the demographic characteristics, drug using behaviors, and treatment history, of these persons.
- Establish trends
- Identify risk factors for problematic drug use.

Implementation



Organization of
American States



Characteristics of persons seeking treatment in the Caribbean

- The treatment data system was piloted in three countries Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago 2012 - 2013.
- Today the system is operating in 11 countries in the Caribbean.
- We have 3 years of data that we are currently in the process of analyzing
- We plan to publish a comparative analysis report of this data this year



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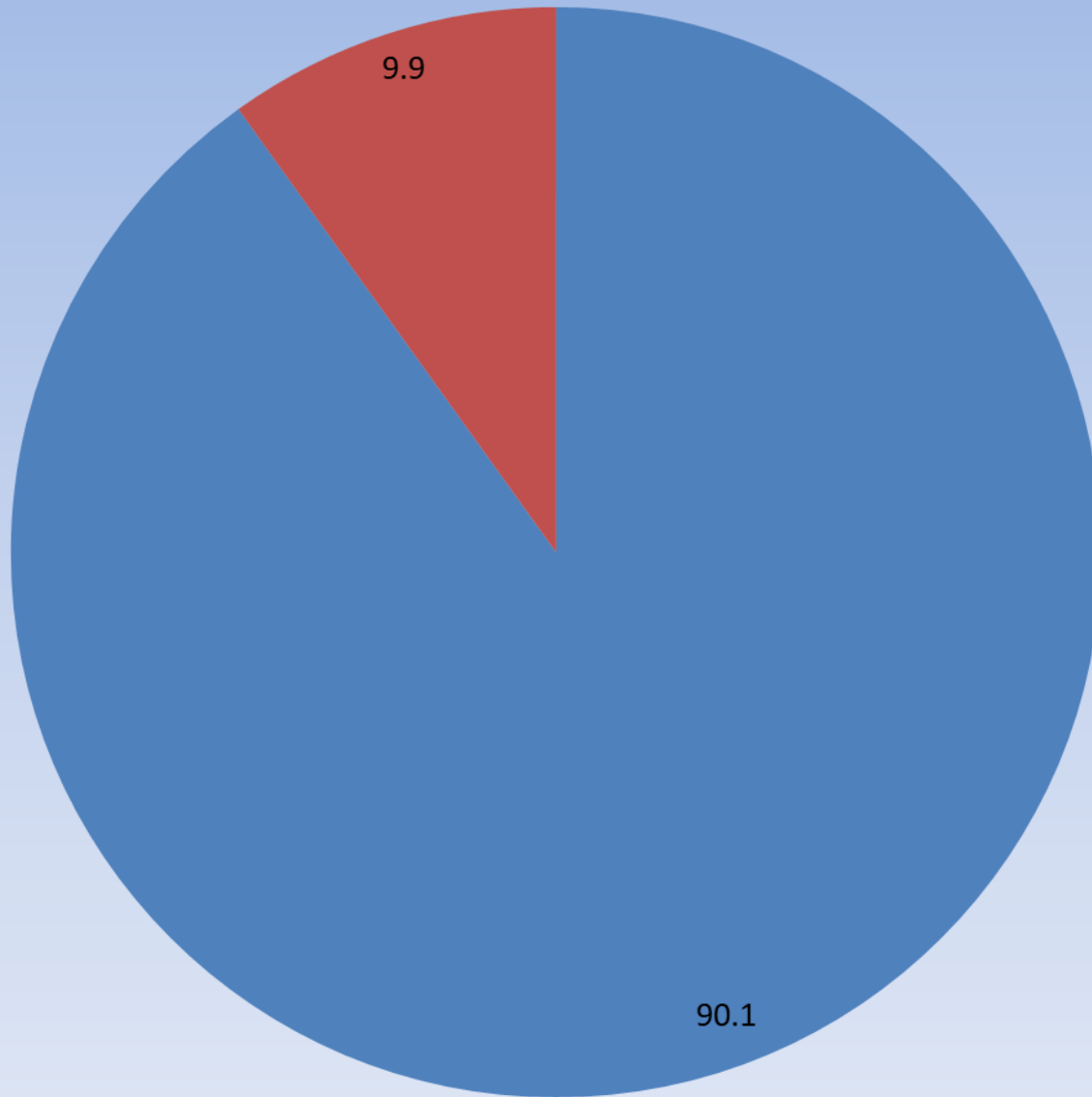
Preliminary Results



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Sex of Clients

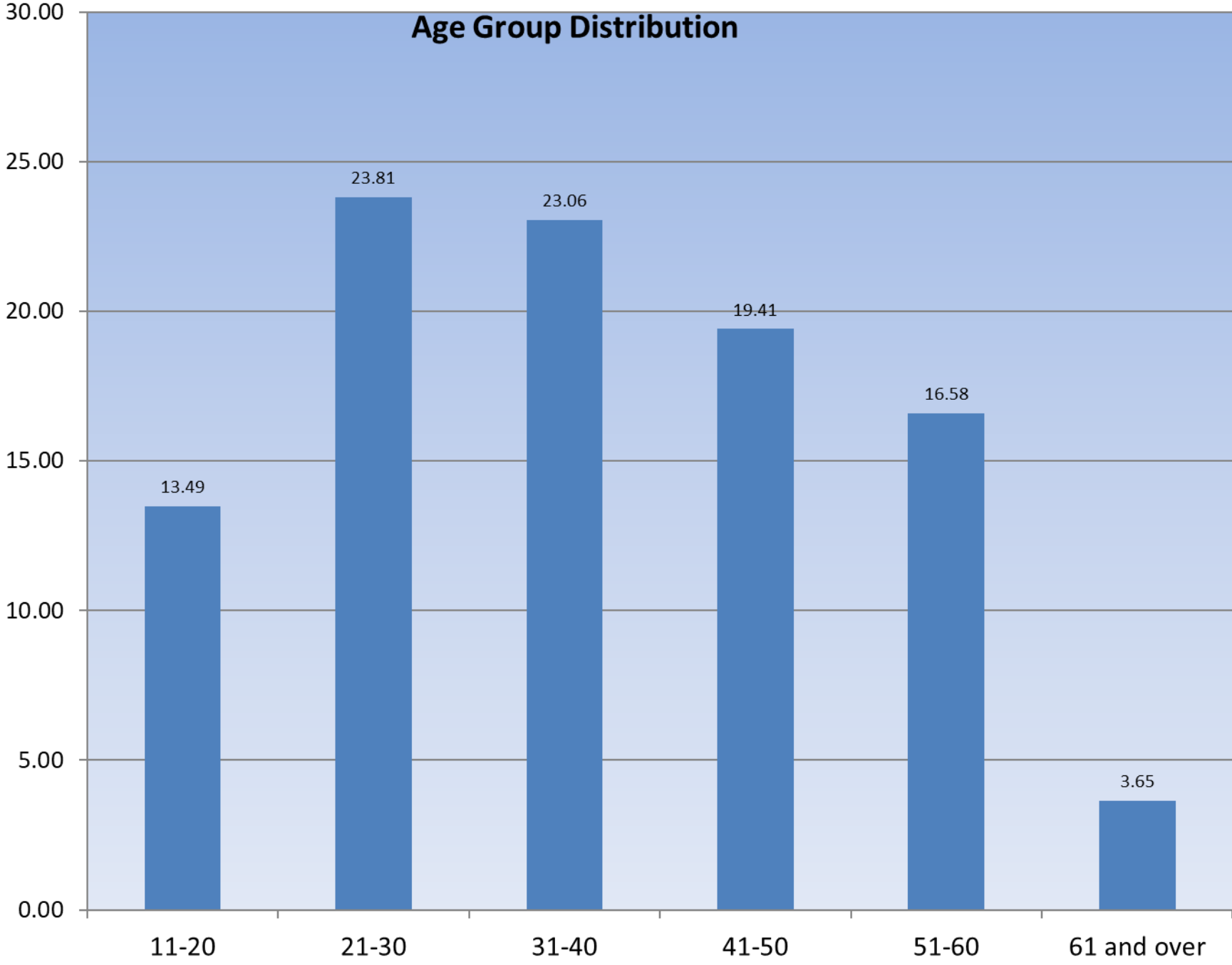


■ Male

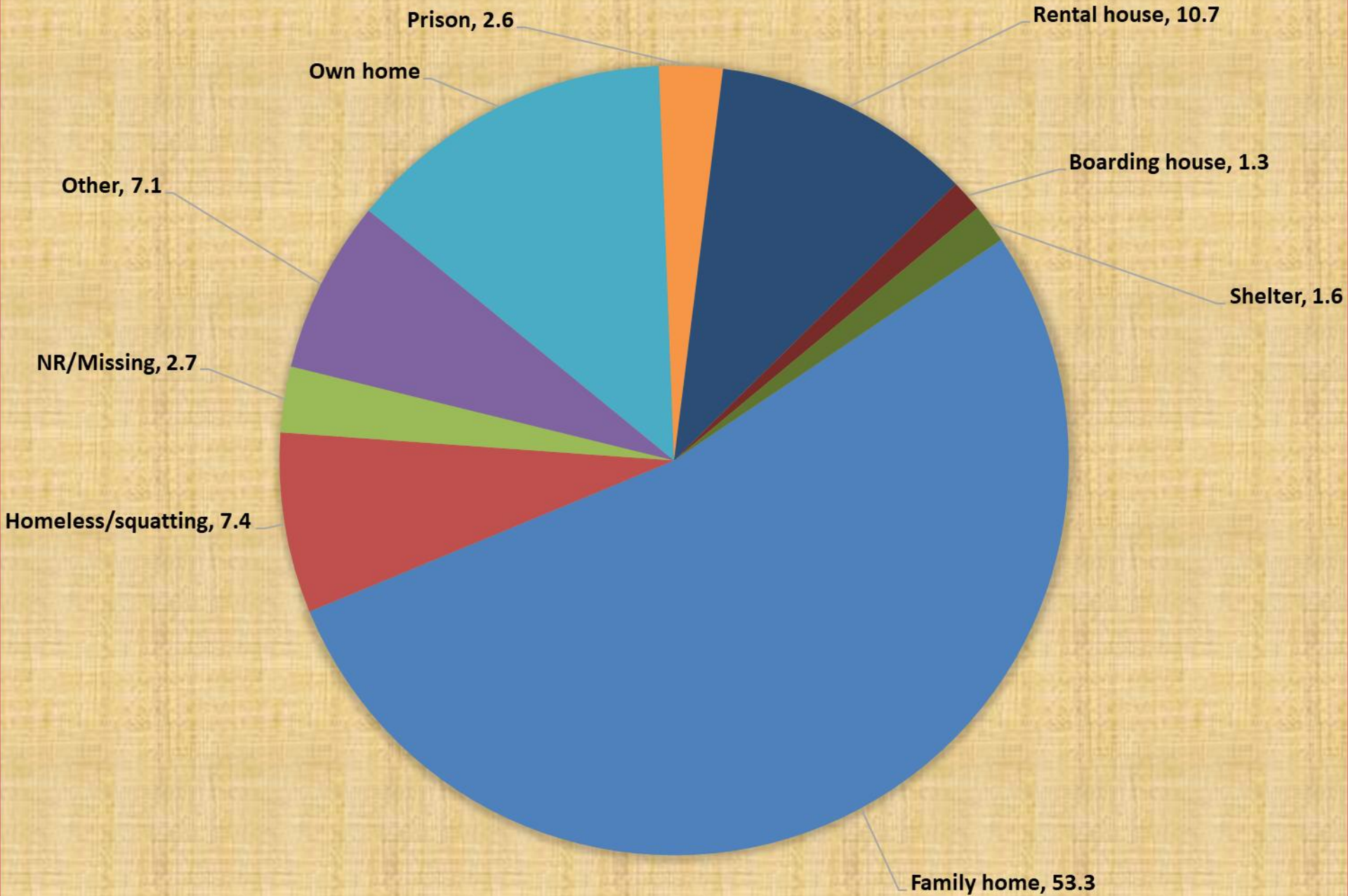
■ Female

Age Group Distribution

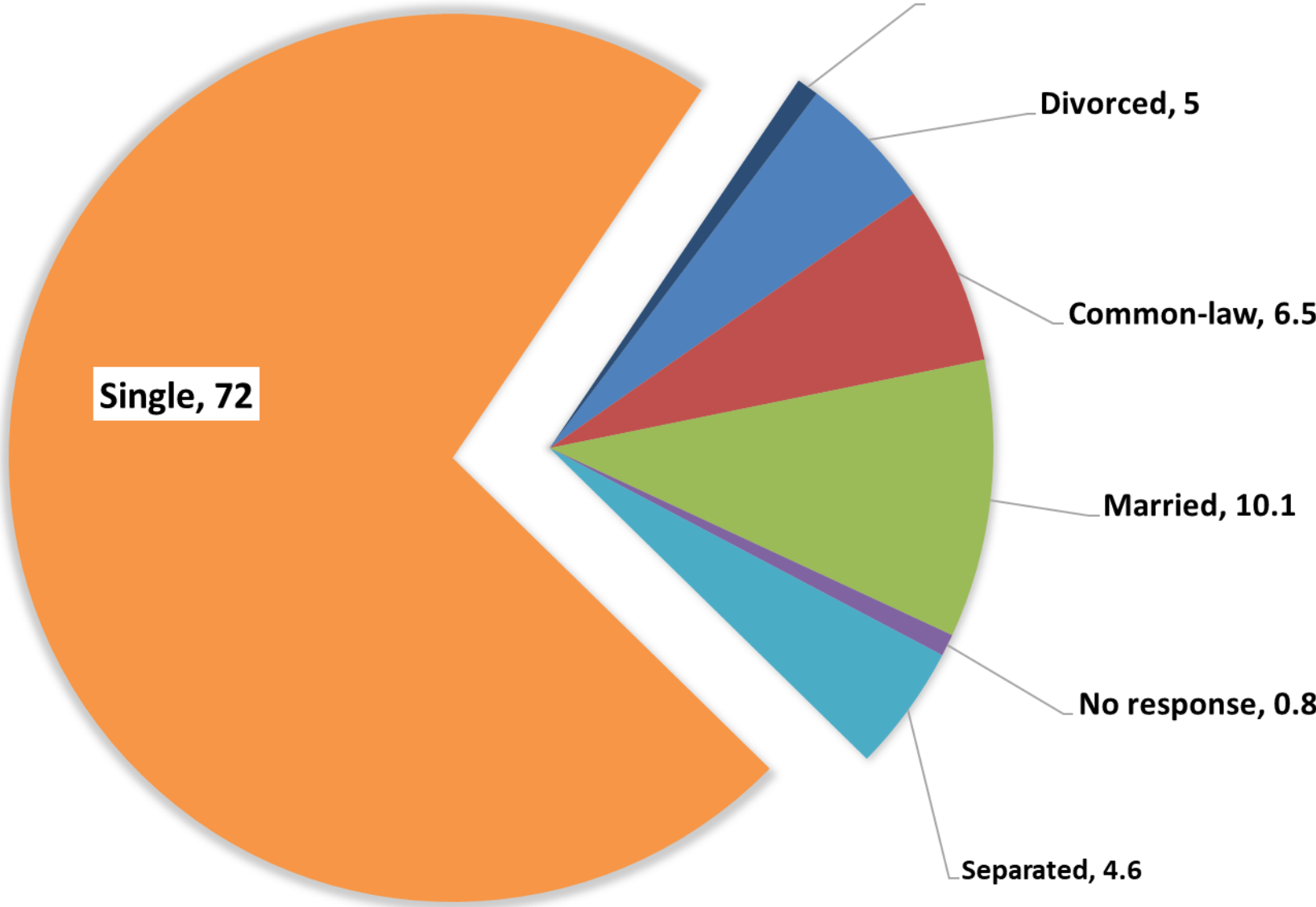
Percentage



Residence Last 30 Days

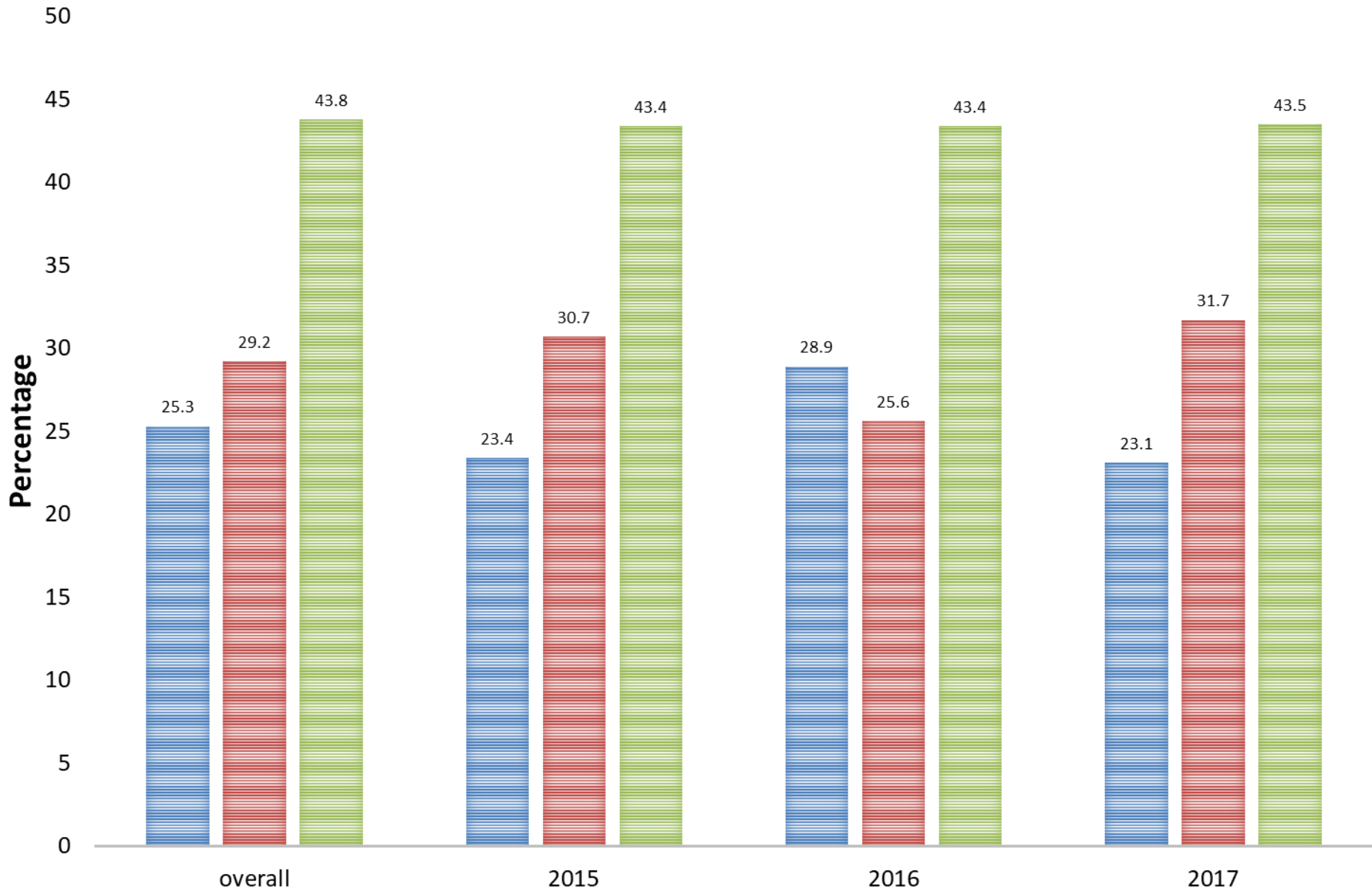


Marital Status Overall, (%)

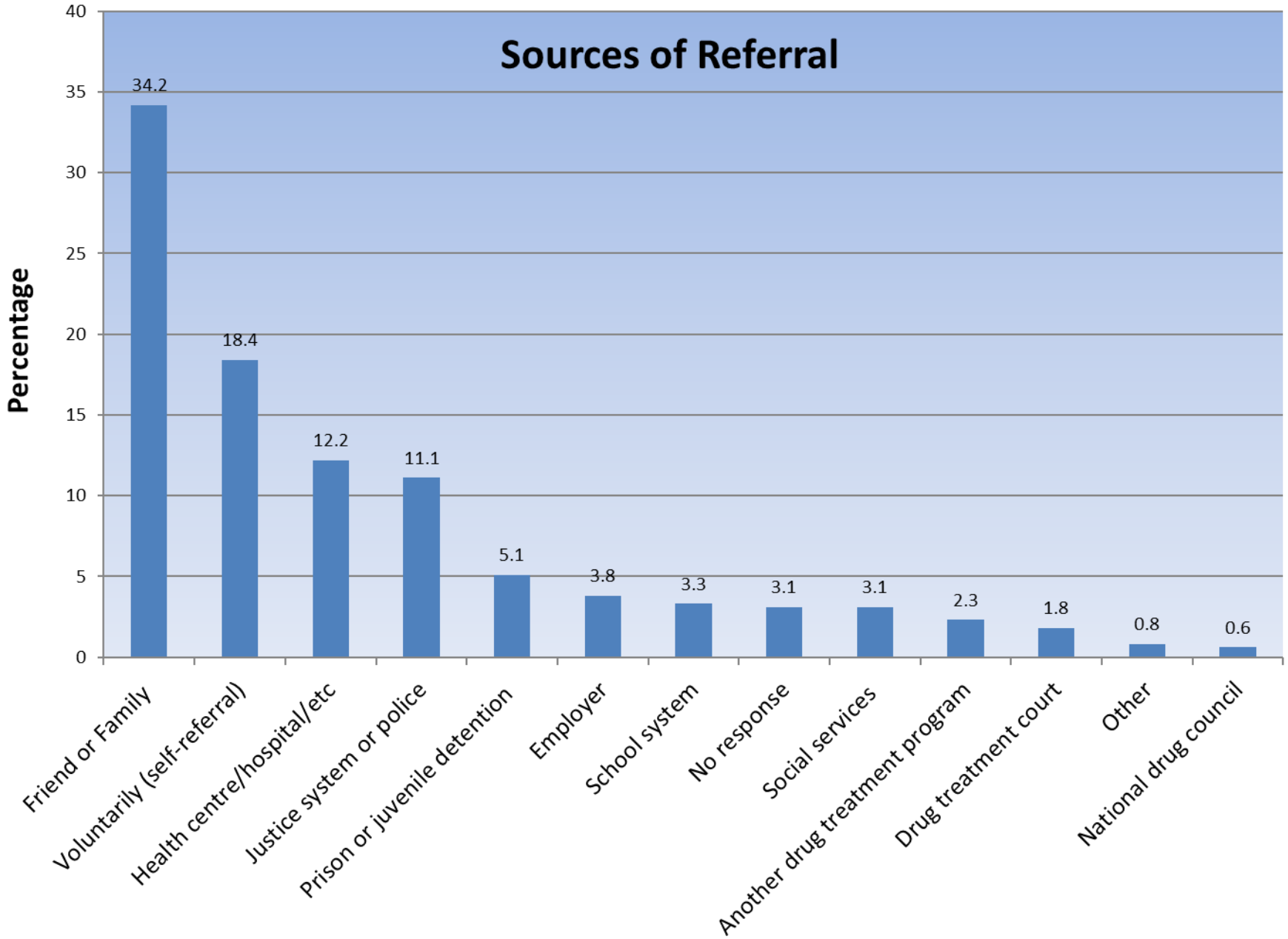


Employment Status

Not working Unemployed (looking for work) Working

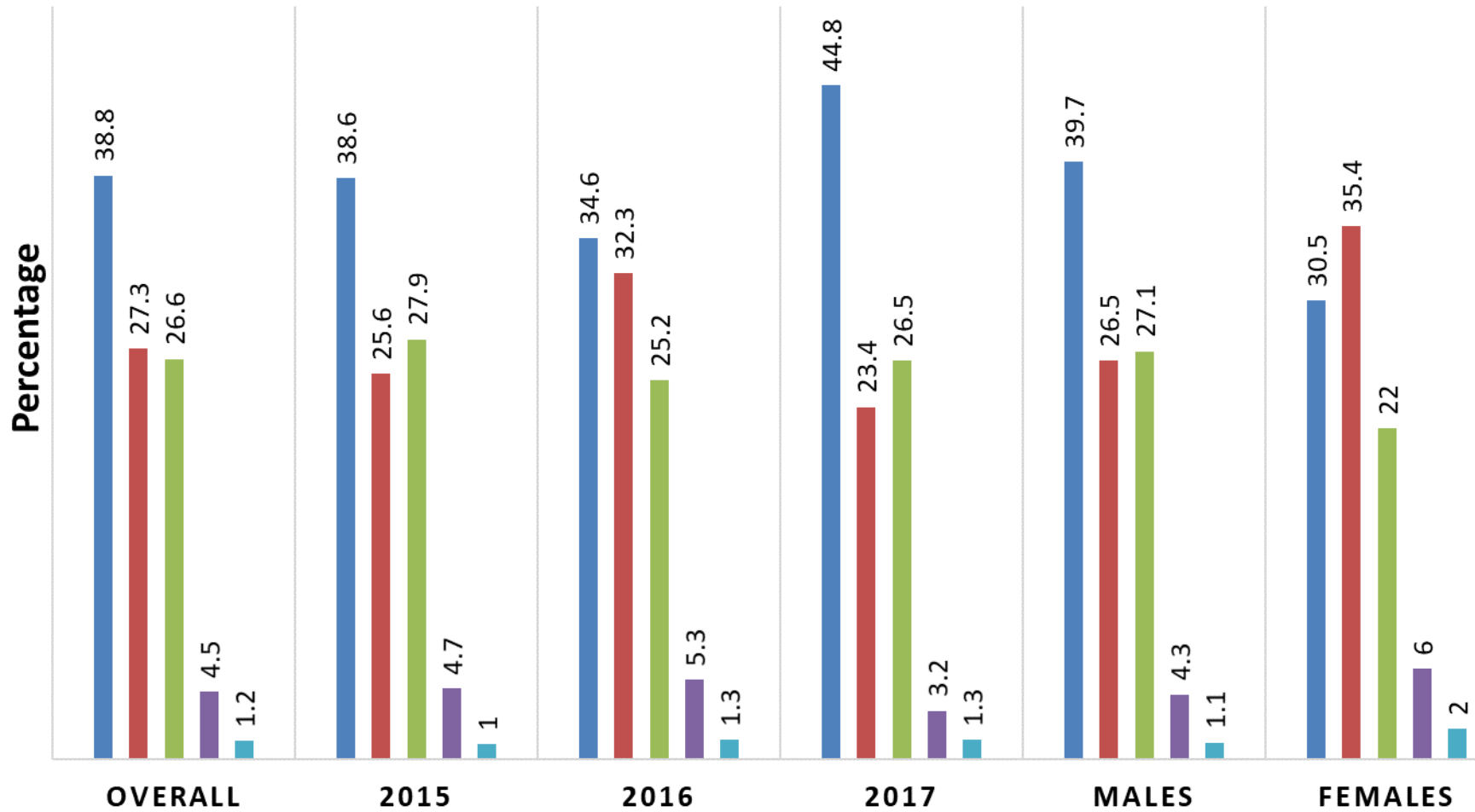


Sources of Referral

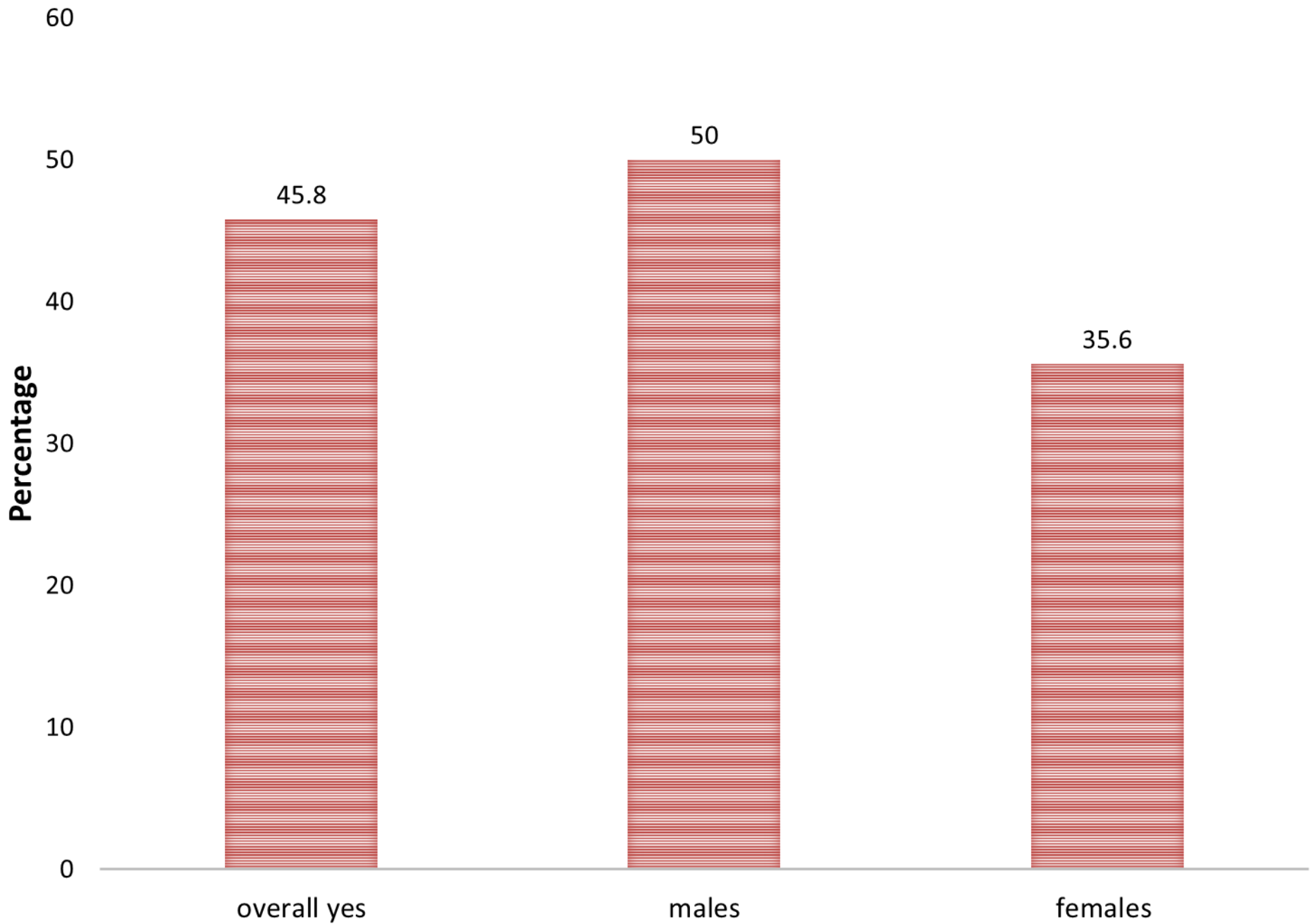


Main Substance Impacting Treatment

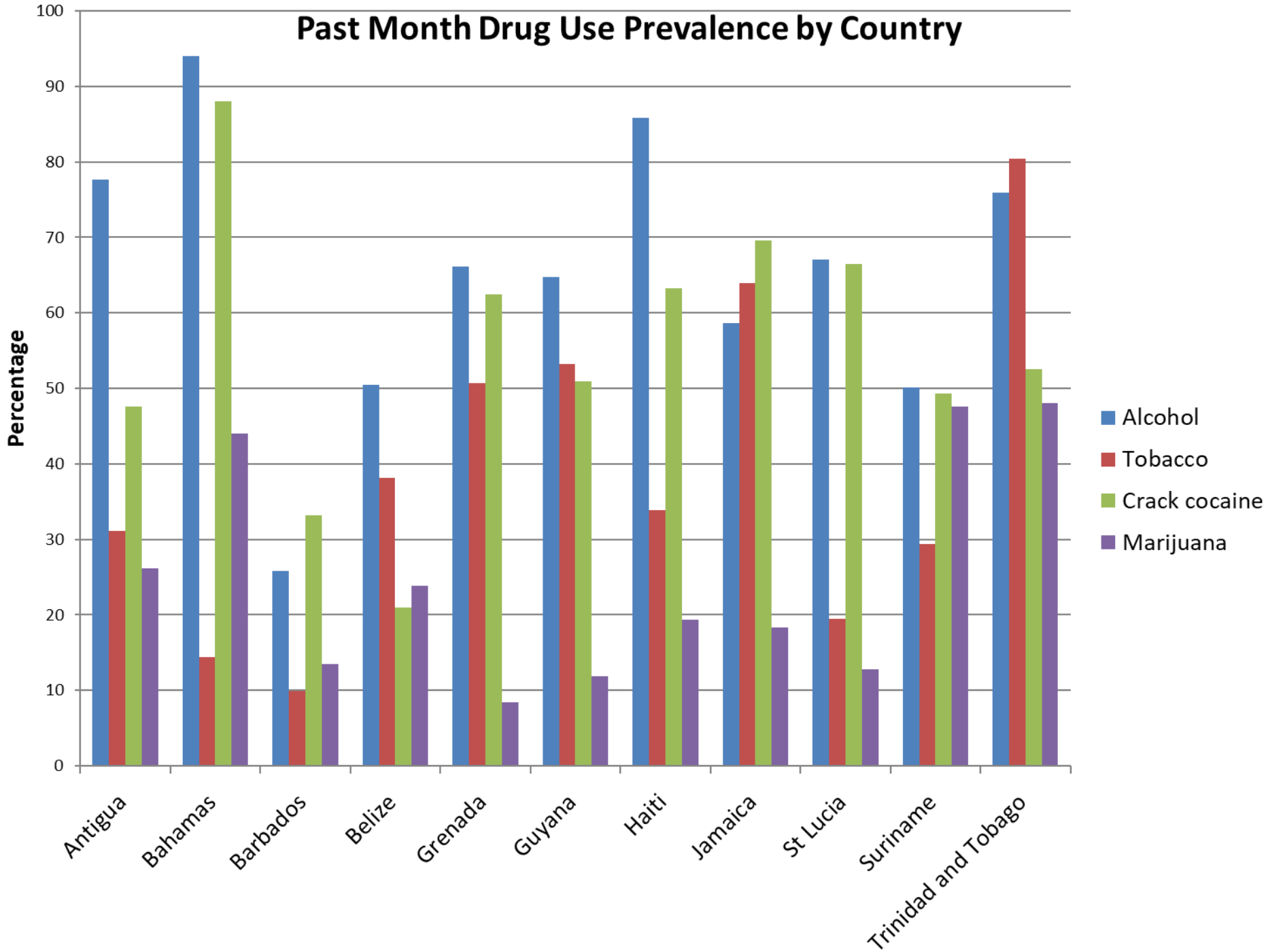
■ Marijuana ■ Alcohol ■ Crack ■ Cocaine (pwd) ■ Tobacco



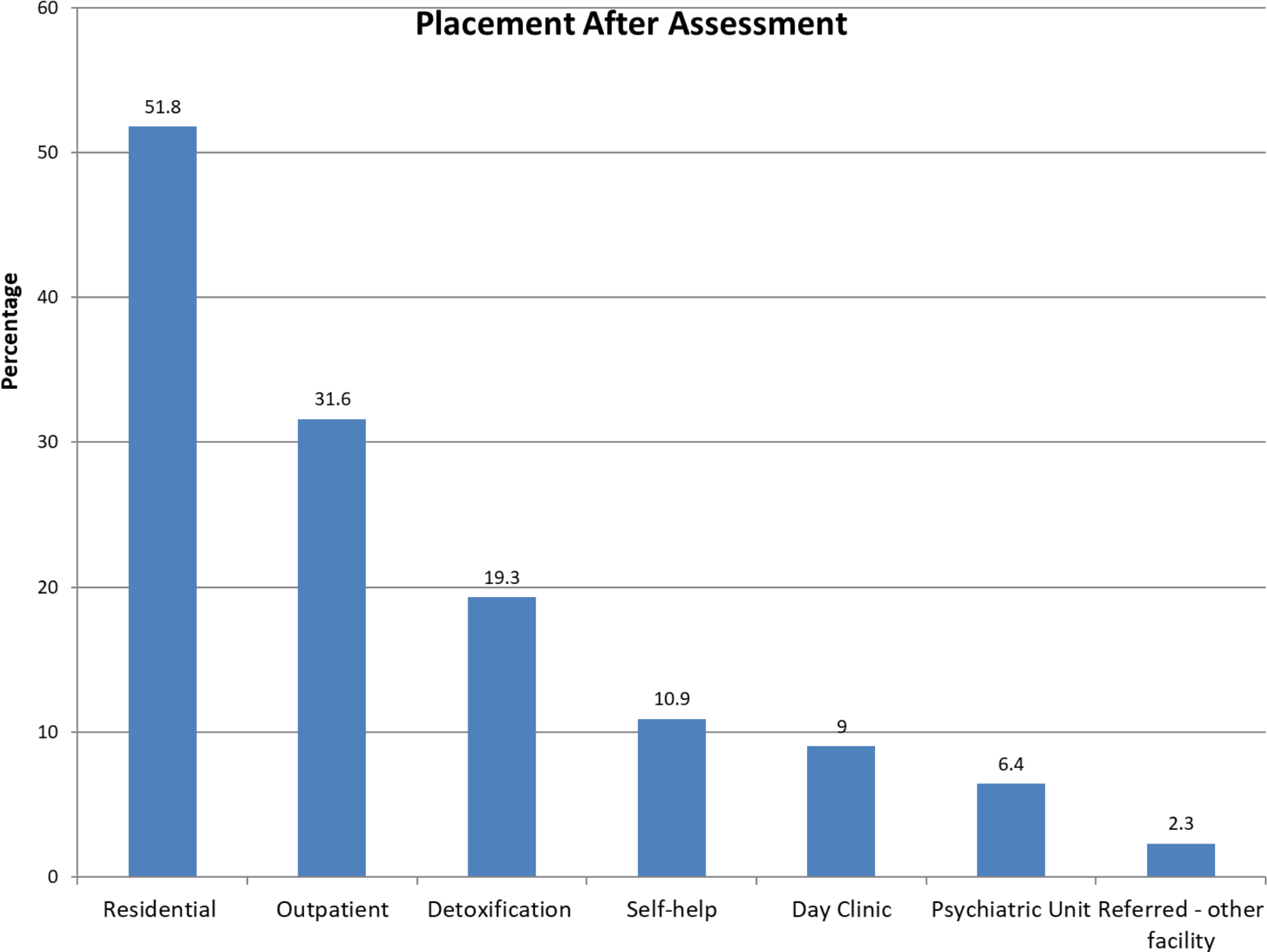
Arrests - Overall and By Gender



Past Month Drug Use Prevalence by Country



Placement After Assessment



Likely Profile of a Client

- **Single male between the age of 21 and 30 years**
- **National of own country**
- **With fixed place of abode**
- **Living in family home or own house**
- **Unlikely to have been deported**
- **Living with a family member**
- **Likely working or un-employed but looking for work**



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Likely Profile of a Client

- Most likely referred to treatment by a family member, a friend or self-referred
- Likely seeking treatment for the first time
- Impacted primarily by marijuana and secondarily by alcohol
- Initiated substance use around age 15 years
- Most likely used alcohol or Marijuana in the last 30 days
- Likely have been arrested at least once in the last year
- Recommended for residential treatment



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Future of the Treatment Data System

- The pandemic has resulted in a reduction in data collection in 2020 in some countries
- The plan is to re-engage with countries at the beginning of 2021 to get back on track with continuous data collection
- In the process of migrating the data collection system from Epi Info to Survey Monkey
- Include more countries from different regions.....maybe we will start with Central America
- Prepare future reports with data from more countries and with better trends
- Continuously improve the questionnaire



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Conclusions

- The treatment data system has proven to be a low cost but effective way to monitor the profile of persons seeking treatment
- The data collection tool is standardized, so comparisons can be made across borders
- It serves as a useful indicator for drug treatment
- Coverage varies from country to country
- A lack of standards means that not all facilities that call themselves 'treatment centers' are actually offering treatment for problematic drug use.
- The system does not capture treatment from private doctors, or other non-traditional facilities. The system therefore underestimates the true number of persons being treated for problematic drug use.



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Thank you

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