

Bahamas National Household Drug Survey

United States Embassy

Organization of American States (OAS)


Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD)

Ministry of Health

Ministry of National Security

Department of Statistics

July 2017



Scope of the Drug Problem

Worldwide

- A quarter of a billion (5%) of adults have used drugs at least once in 2015
- 0.6 percent of global adult population suffered from drug use disorders
- Past year users:
 - 183 million cannabis
 - 17 million cocaine
 - 22 million ecstasy

Source: UNODC World Drug Report 2017

Caribbean Region

- Mainly secondary school student drug prevalence surveys
- Users in past month (current) 2010:
 - 37% alcohol
 - 5% cigarettes
 - 4% Inhalants
 - 5% marijuana
 - Cocaine and crack, less than 1% lifetime use


Source: CICAD Comparative Analysis of Student Drug Use in Caribbean Countries, 2010

Bahamas


- Again, most recent prevalence surveys were youth targeted
 - 2011 Secondary School Drug Survey; 2013 Global School Health Survey
 - Most common drug remains alcohol; about a third drank in past 30 days
 - 11%-14% ever used marijuana
 - 2%-5% smoked cigarettes in past month

Bahamas

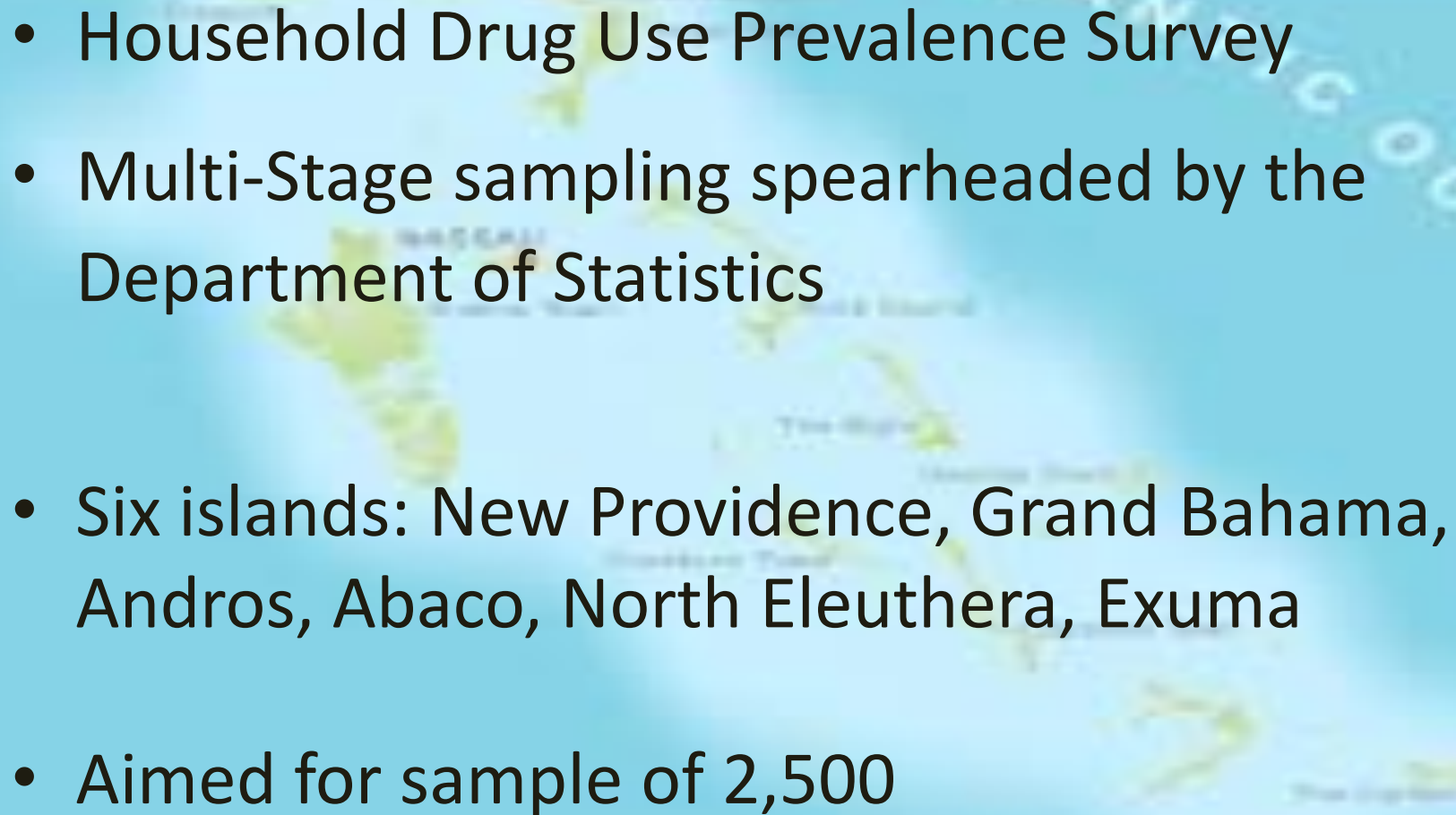
- Last adult household prevalence survey was in 1991 (16-59 Years); percent EVER using:
 - 74% Alcohol
 - 39% Tobacco
 - 14% Marijuana
 - 6% Cocaine
 - 1% Tranquilizers
 - 3% “Pills”
- Rates higher for young males 18-29 years

A map of the Bahamas archipelago is shown in the background, with the Atlantic Ocean labeled in the upper right. A compass rose is visible in the lower left corner. The title is centered over the map.

Bahamas National Household Drug Survey

A stylized map of the Atlantic Ocean, showing the continents of North and South America on the left and the outlines of Europe and Africa on the right. The ocean is a light blue color. The word "Methods" is written in a large, bold, black, italicized serif font across the center of the map. In the top right corner, the words "ATLANTIC OCEAN" are written in a white, sans-serif font, following the curve of the ocean's edge. In the bottom left corner, there is a small, stylized compass rose. In the bottom center, the text "facts101" is visible in a small, white, sans-serif font.

Methods

- 
- The background of the slide is a light blue map of the Bahamas archipelago, showing the main islands and surrounding waters. The text "ATLANTIC OCEAN" is written in a large, light blue, curved font across the top right. In the bottom left corner, there is a small, stylized compass rose logo. At the bottom center, the word "factwise" is written in a small, light blue font.
- Household Drug Use Prevalence Survey
 - Multi-Stage sampling spearheaded by the Department of Statistics
 - Six islands: New Providence, Grand Bahama, Andros, Abaco, North Eleuthera, Exuma
 - Aimed for sample of 2,500

Sampling Steps


Used constituencies on each island as
Supervisory Districts (SD)



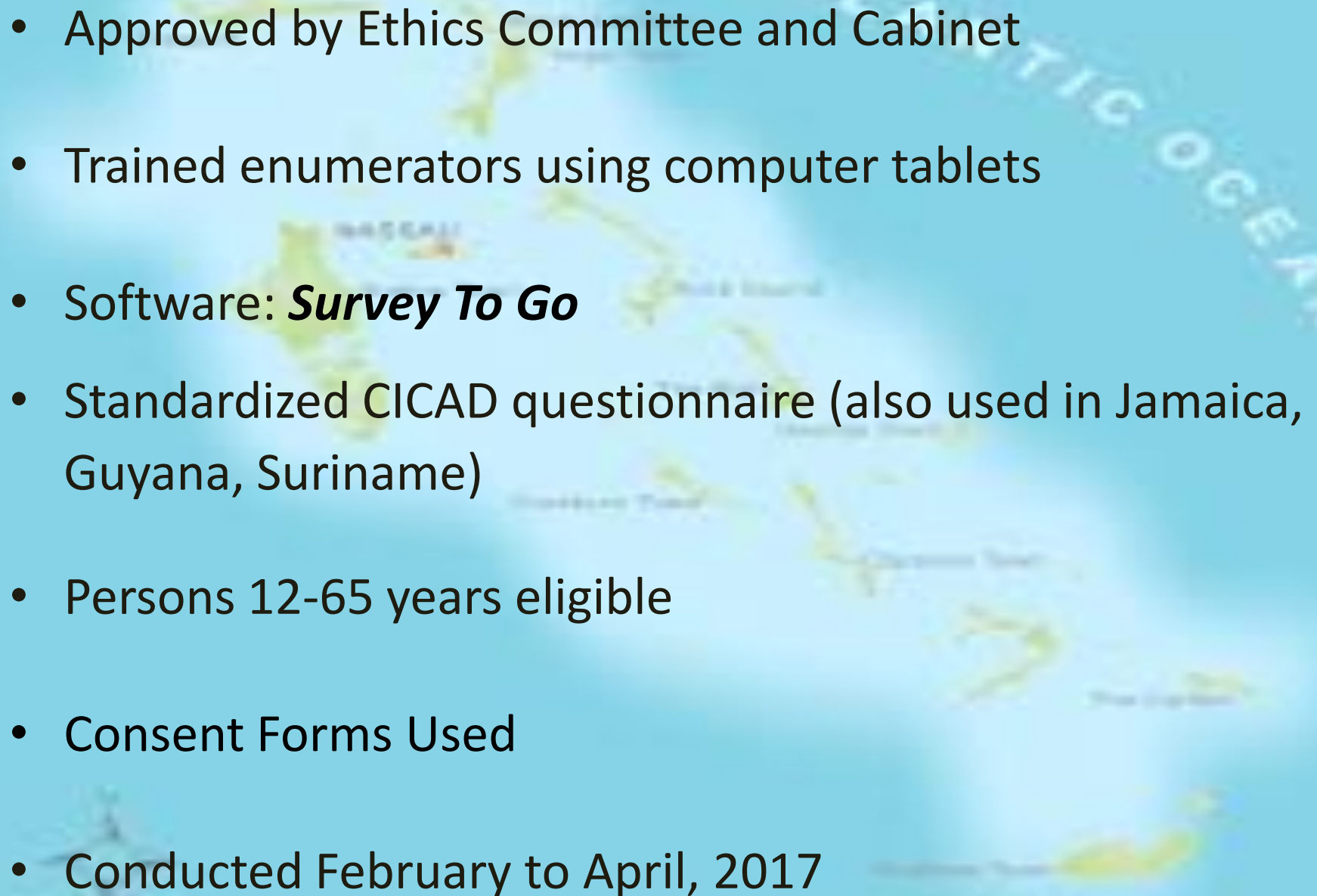
Randomly chosen Enumeration Districts
(EDs) within each SD



Systematically selected houses in each ED
(e.g. every 4th house, with a random start)



Randomly chosen individual 12-65 years in
each selected household (Kish method)

- 
- Approved by Ethics Committee and Cabinet
 - Trained enumerators using computer tablets
 - Software: ***Survey To Go***
 - Standardized CICAD questionnaire (also used in Jamaica, Guyana, Suriname)
 - Persons 12-65 years eligible
 - Consent Forms Used
 - Conducted February to April, 2017

Questionnaire

- Questionnaire consisted of 11 main sections:
 - Demographics
 - Perceived risk of alcohol and drug use
 - Use of alcohol and drugs
 - Frequency
 - Quantity
 - Expenditure
 - Age at first use
 - Perceived use by family, friends, and neighbourhood
 - Treatment
 - Opinion of government response and future possible marijuana laws

Analysis

- Analysis reflects survey design
- Data weighted to represent population
- Used Excel, SPSS and Stata software
- Present mainly descriptive statistics today

A map of the Atlantic Ocean, showing the continents of North and South America on the left and the Atlantic Ocean on the right. The word "ATLANTIC OCEAN" is written in large, white, capital letters along the top right edge. The word "Results" is written in a large, bold, black, italicized font in the center of the map. A compass rose is visible in the bottom left corner, and the text "facts.co" is at the bottom center.

Results

Demographics

- n = 2,533
 - Response rate of around 70%
- 52% Female
- Average age 36 years
- 94% Black; 90% born in The Bahamas
- 34% Baptist; 11% Catholic; 11% Anglican
- 56% Single, 31% Married, 6% Divorced or Separated

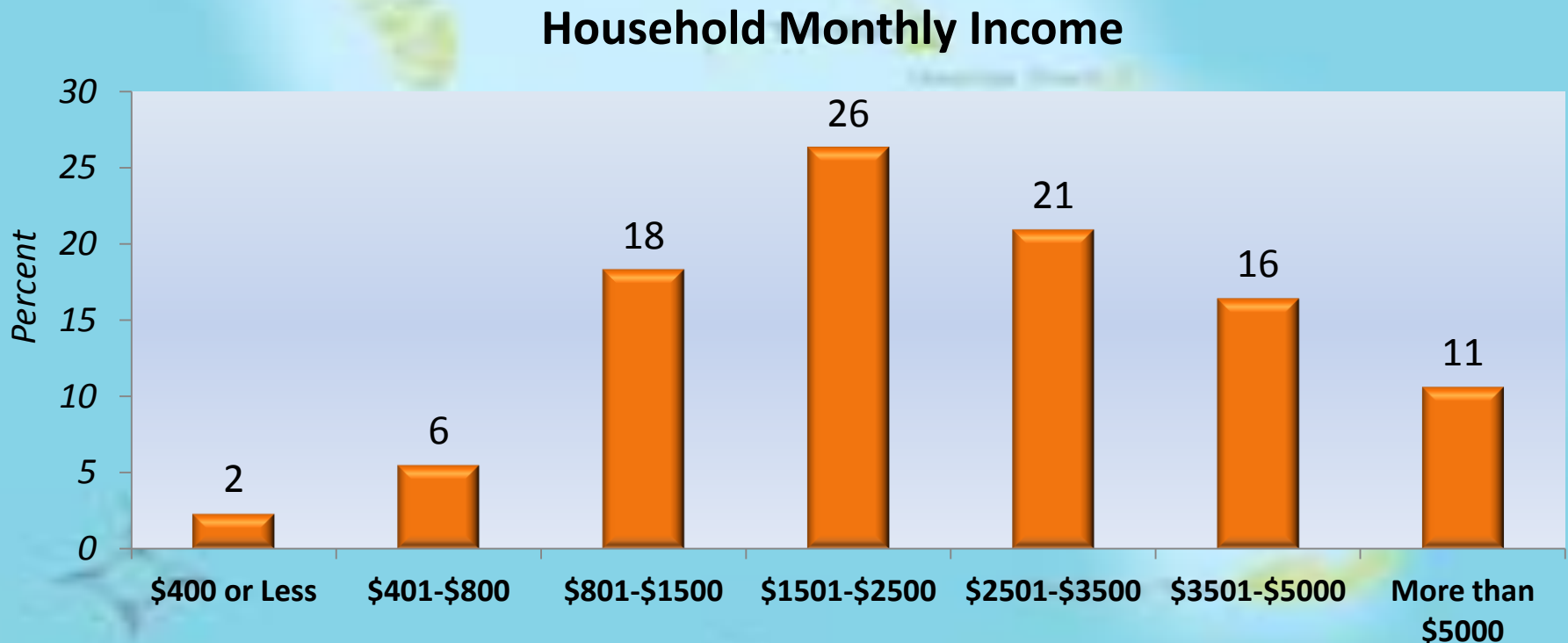
Socio-Economic Status

A faint, stylized map of the Atlantic Ocean and surrounding landmasses, including North and South America, Europe, and Africa, serves as the background for the slide. The map is rendered in light blue and yellow tones, with the words 'ATLANTIC OCEAN' visible in a large, curved font across the upper right portion.

- Highest Education
 - 54% Completed High School
 - 18% College/University
 - 10% Primary School
 - 4% Vocational Training
- Employment
 - 62% Working
 - 15% Unemployed
 - 14% Students
 - 4% Retired, independent, etc.

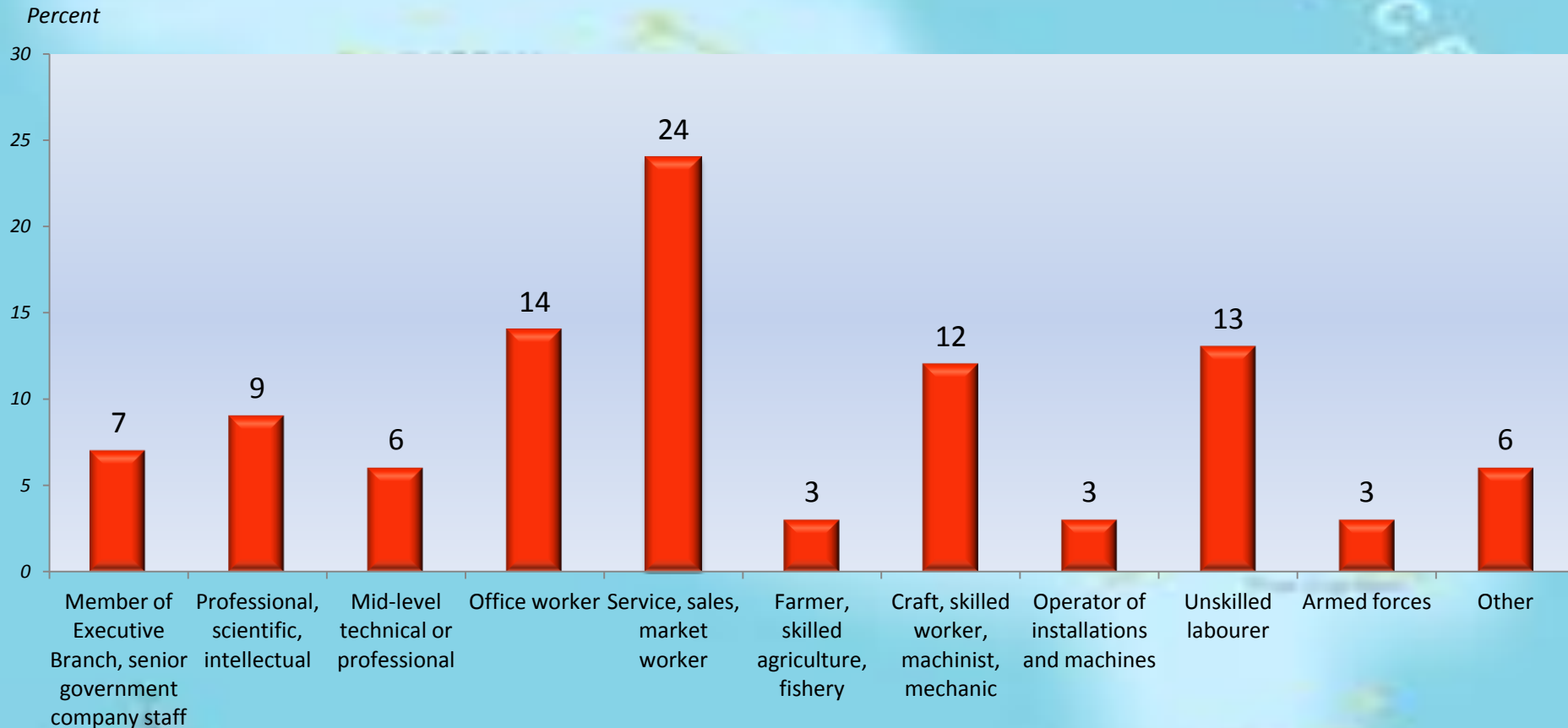
Socio-Economic Status

- 40% head of their household
 - Most (61%) heads of households were male
- Income



Socio-Economic Status

Percent of Job Groupings



A stylized map of the Caribbean region, showing the Atlantic Ocean to the north and east, and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. The map is rendered in a light blue and green color scheme. The text "Drug Use Prevalence" is overlaid in a large, bold, black serif font. The word "Drug" is on the first line, "Use" is on the second line, "Prevalence" is on the third line, and "Prevalence" is on the fourth line. The map includes labels for "ATLANTIC OCEAN" and "GULF OF MEXICO".

Drug Use Prevalence



Alcohol

Perceived High Risk of Alcohol Consumption

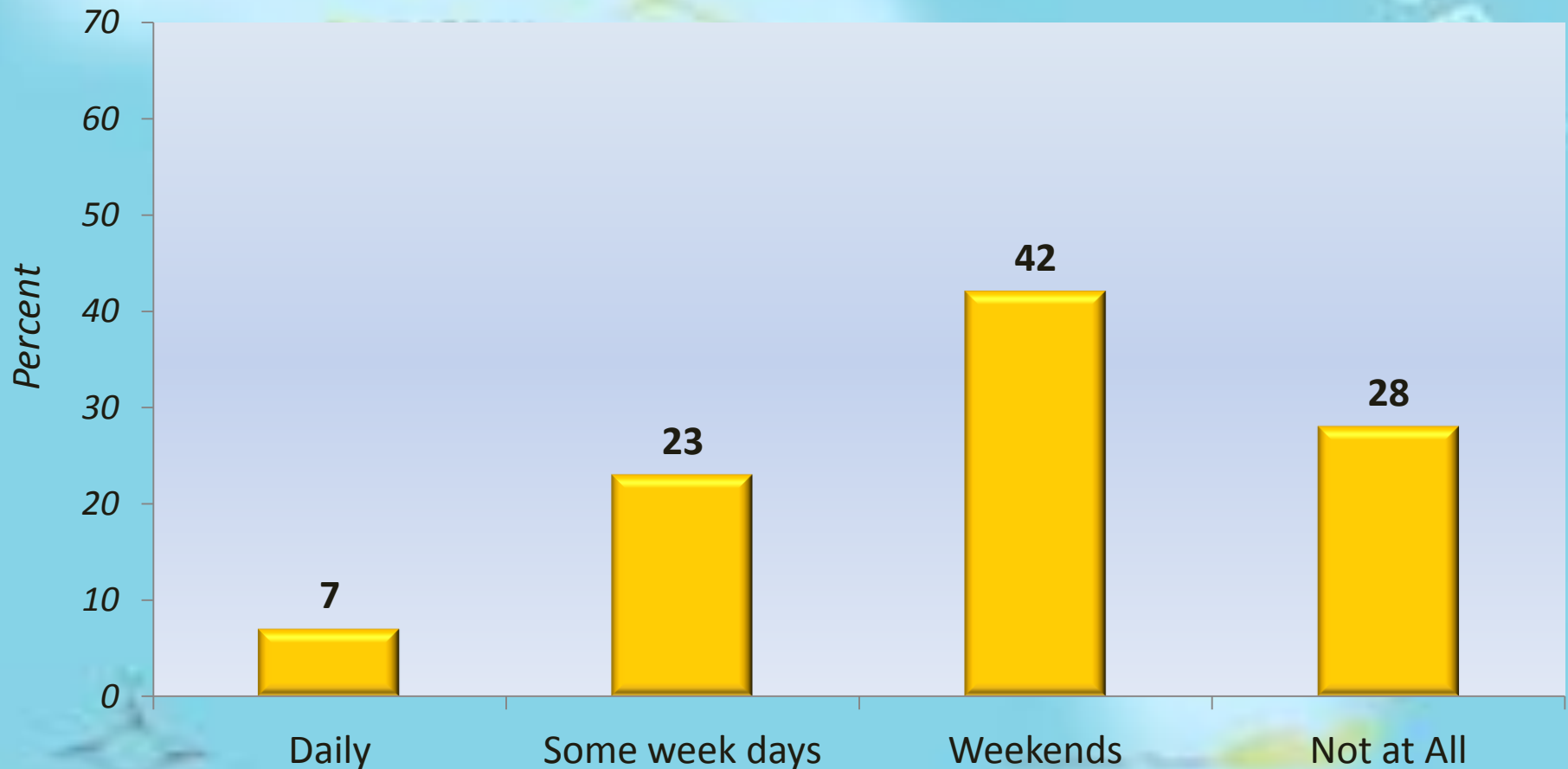


Alcohol

- 74% have drunk alcohol in their life
 - 78% Males, 71% Females
- Average age at first drink is 18 years
- 55% drank in the past year
- 43% are current alcohol consumers (drank in the past 30 days)
 - 52% Males, 34% Females

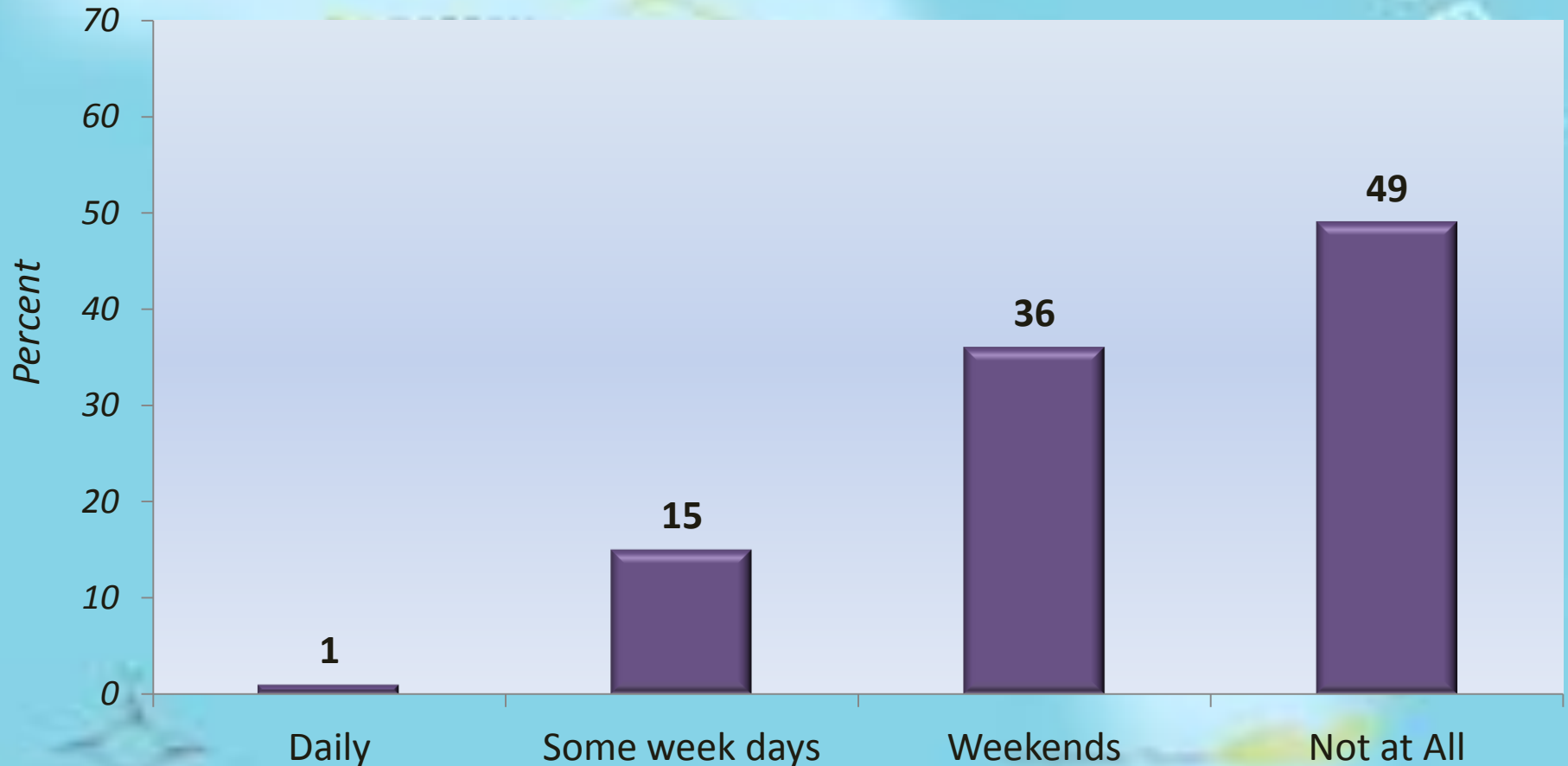
Beverage Types and Frequency

Low Alcohol Content (Beer, Guinness, Breezers)



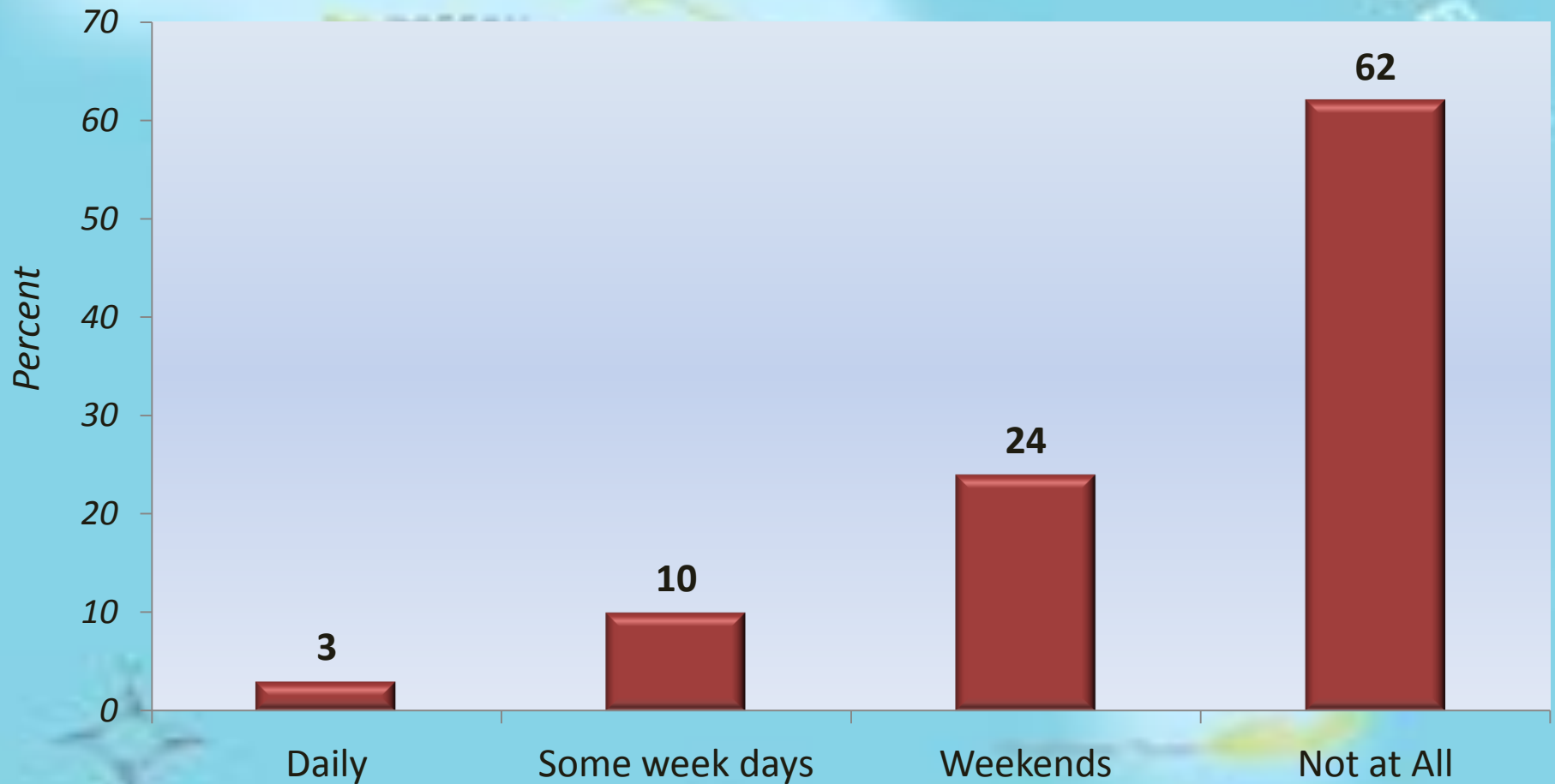
Beverage Types and Frequency

Medium Alcohol Content (Wine, Bailey's)



Beverage Types and Frequency

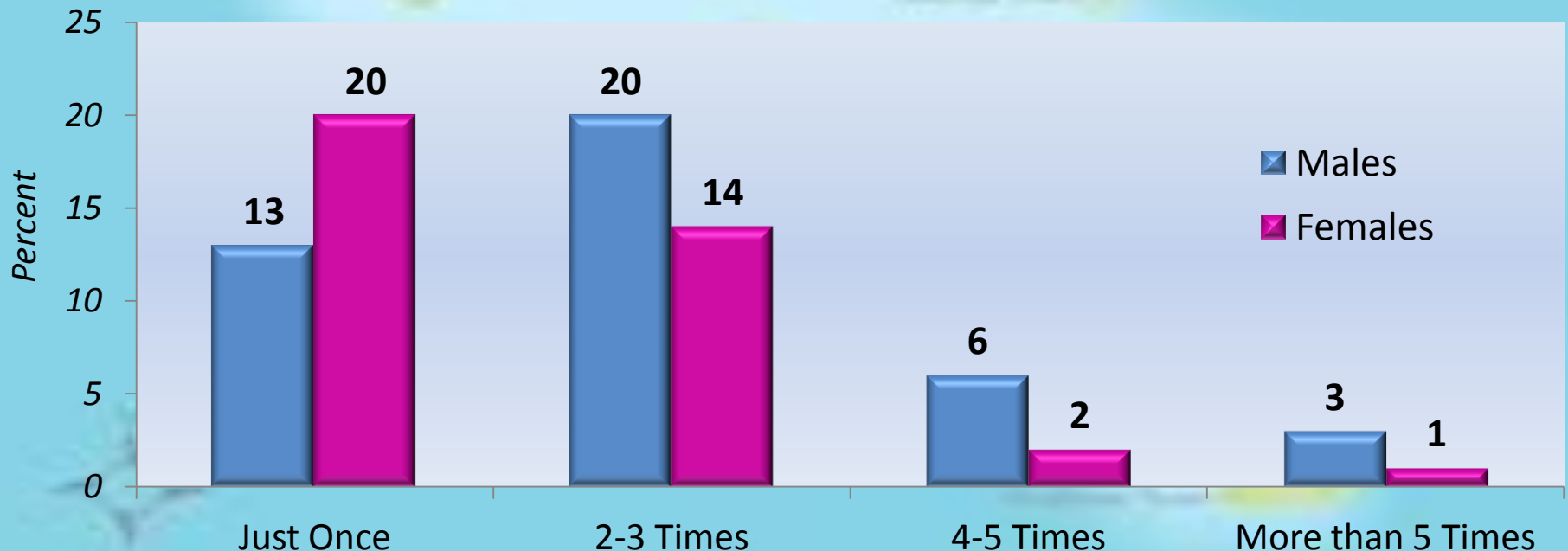
High Alcohol Content (Whiskey, Rum, Vodka, Gin)



High Consumption

- Around one out of five (22%) have gotten drunk at least one day in the past month
- Approximately one out of five (19%) spent more than \$50 on alcohol in the past month
- Binge drinking, 4 (females)/5 (males) or more drinks on one occasion:

Binge Drinking in Past Two Weeks



Alcohol Problems

Selected Alcohol Drinking Consequences Occurring at least Monthly



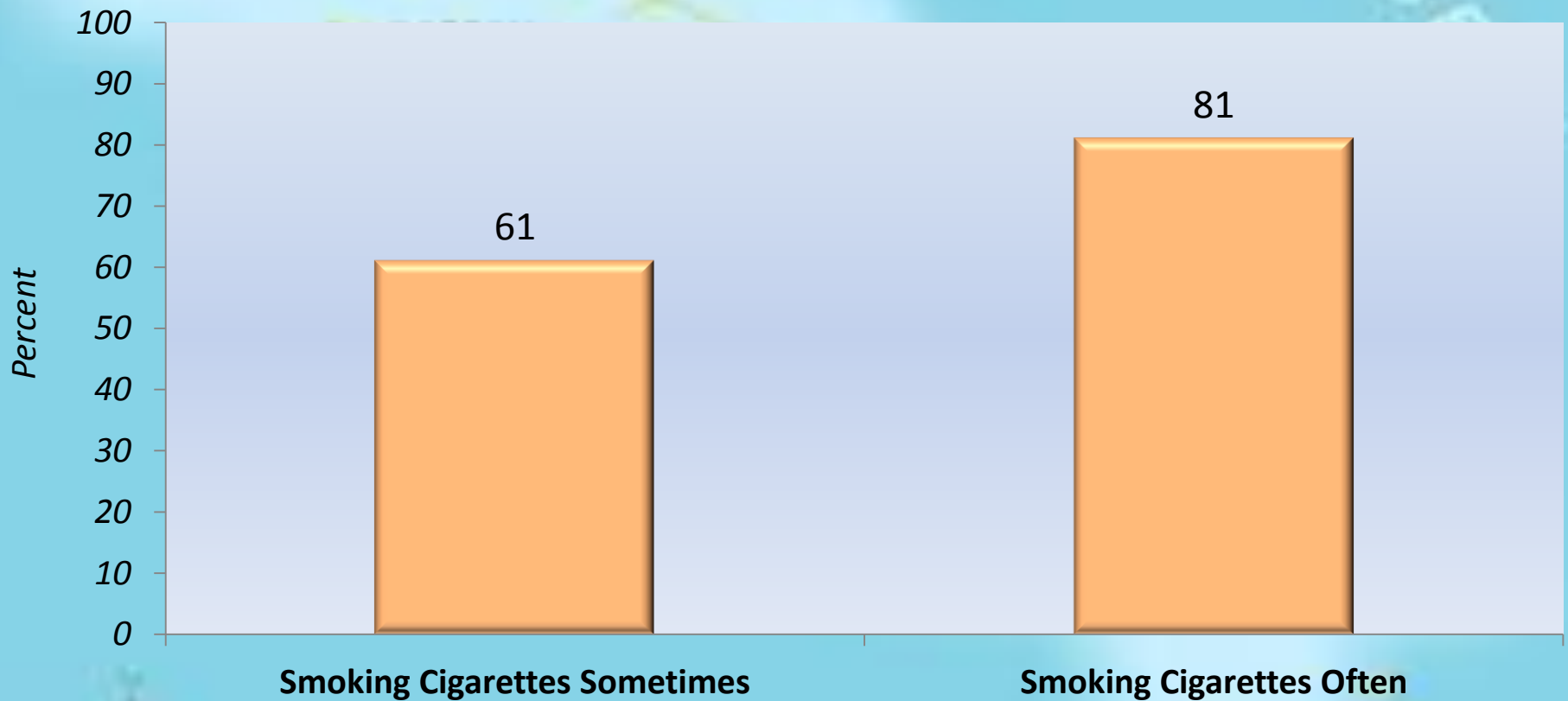
Alcohol Problems cont'd.

- 6% have injured themselves or someone else as result of drinking
 - At least 4,000 injuries a year
- 21% have driven a vehicle in past year while under influence of alcohol
- 7% had friends, relatives or a doctor concerned about their drinking
- 65% (of all persons) have relatives or friends who get drunk
 - Most know two or more



Tobacco

Perceived High Risk of Cigarette Consumption

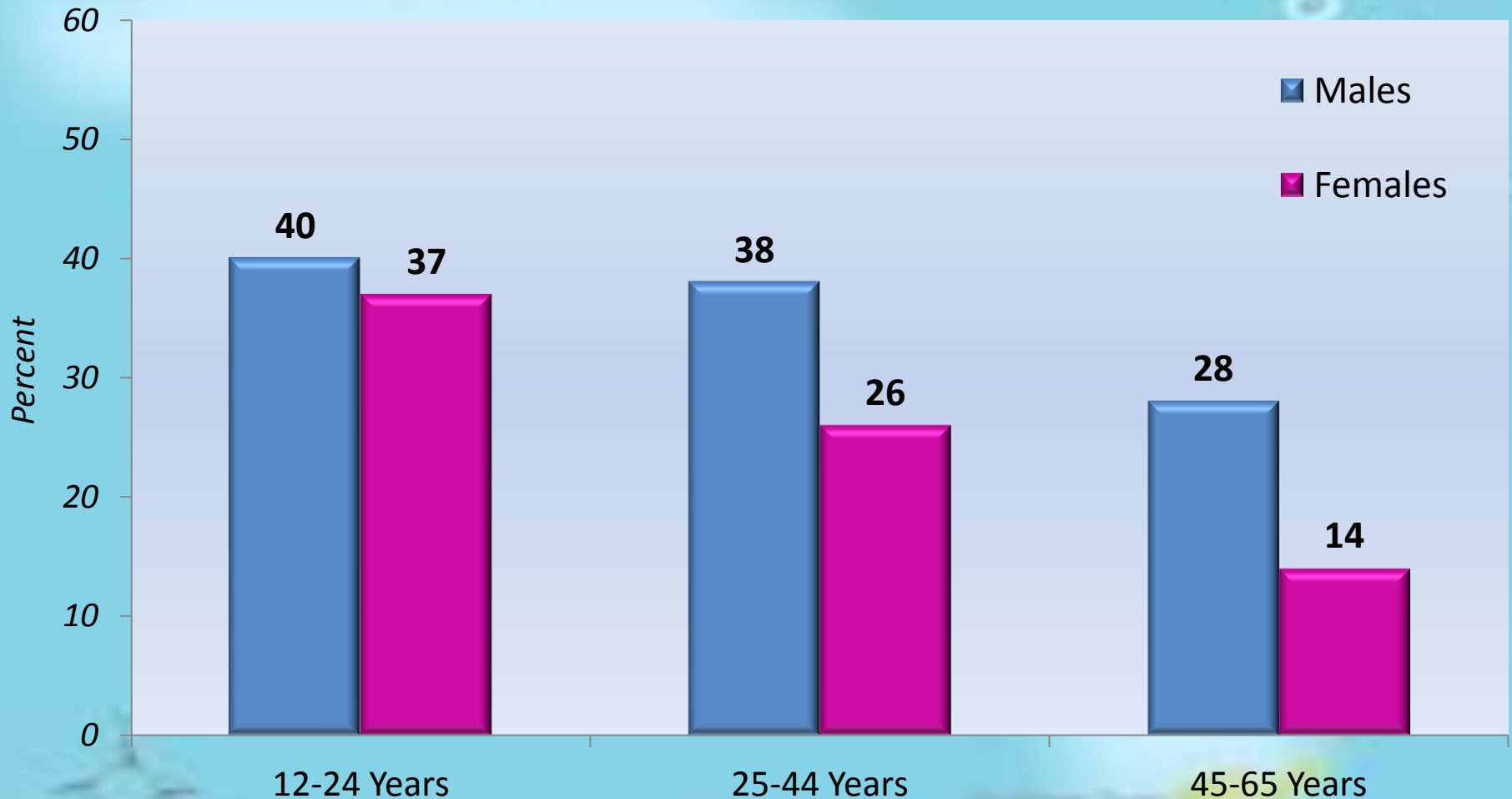


Tobacco

- 21% have smoked tobacco in their life
 - 33% Males, 9% Females
- Average age of first smoke is 18 years
- 7% are current smokers
 - 12% Males, 2% Females
 - Of current smokers, 56% smoke on a daily basis
- One out of seven smokers spend more than \$50 a month on cigarettes

Who are the Current Smokers?

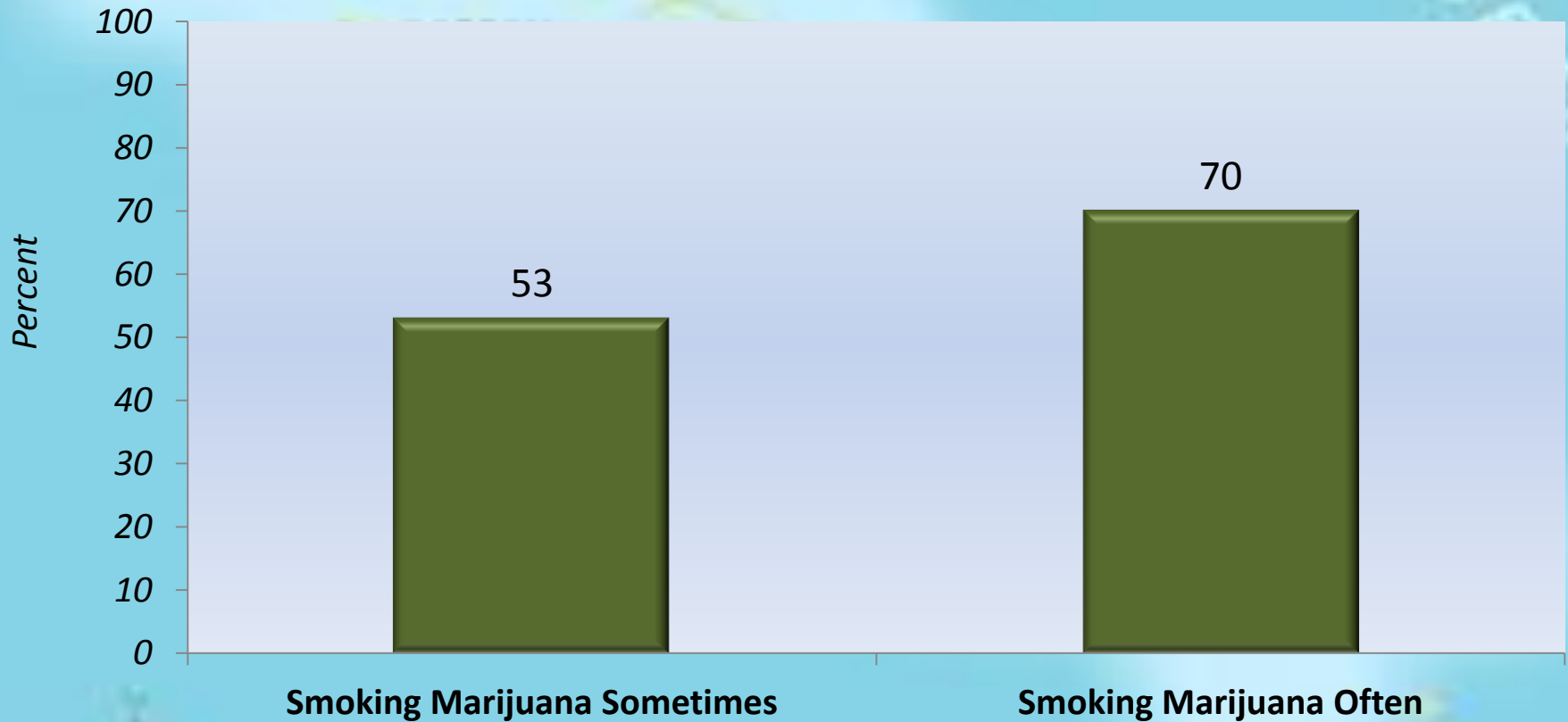
Percent of Tobacco Smokers who Smoked in Past Month by Age and Sex





Marijuana

Perceived High Risk of Smoking Marijuana

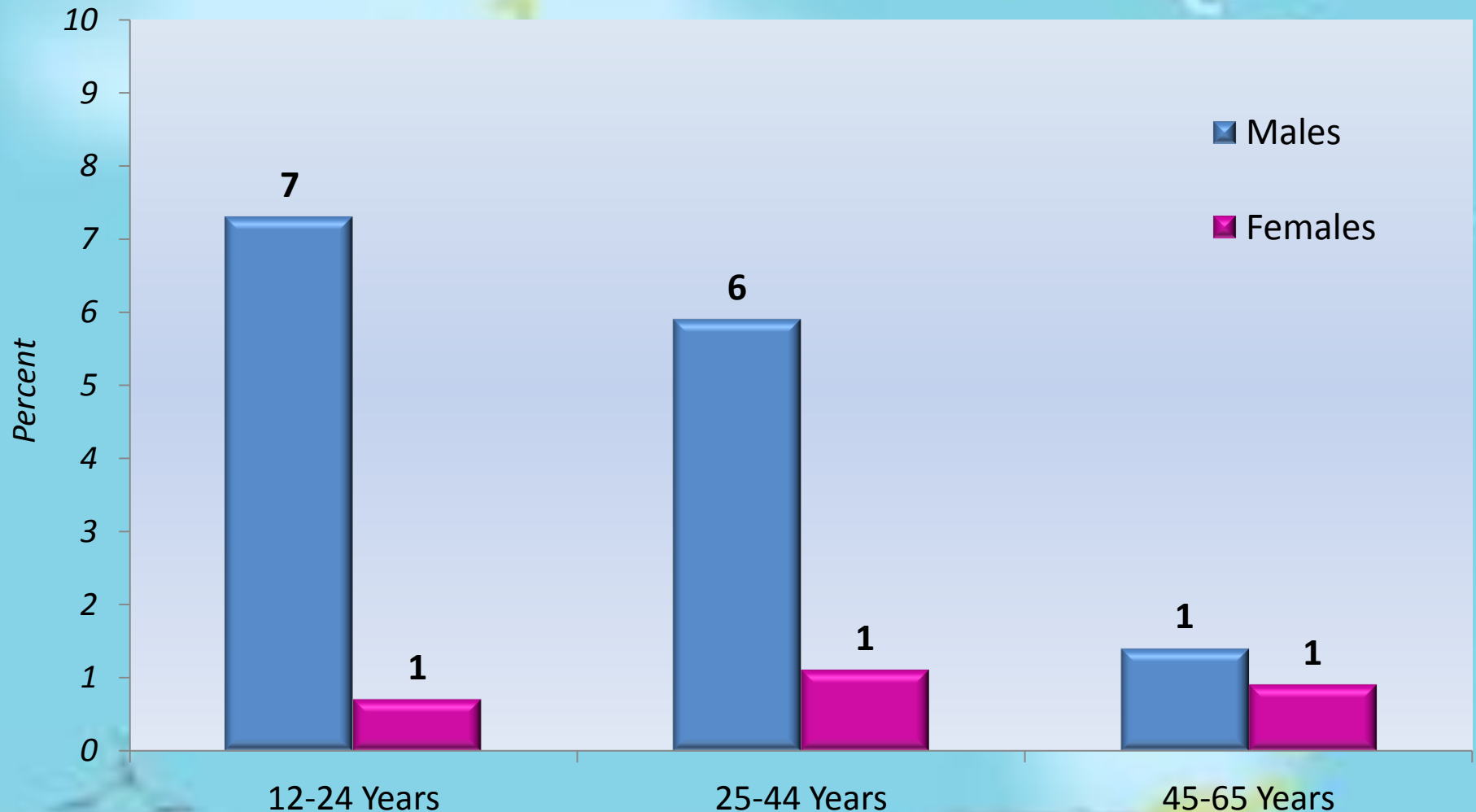


Marijuana

- 13% have smoked marijuana in their life
 - 20% Males, 7% Females
- Average age of first marijuana smoke is 17 years
- 3% smoked marijuana in the past year
- 3% are current marijuana smokers
 - 5% Males, 1% Females

Who are the Current Marijuana Smokers?

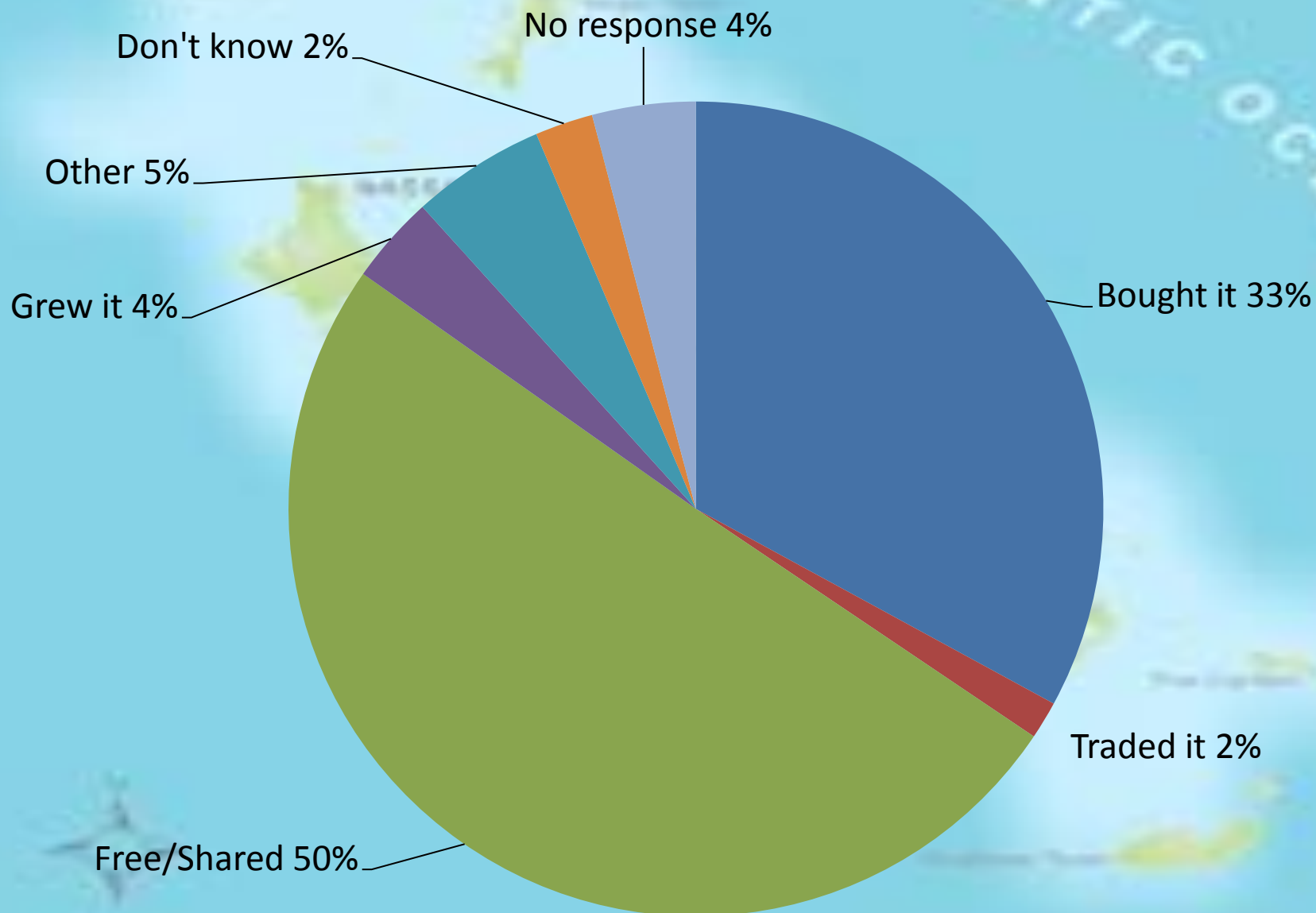
Percent of Males and Females who Smoked in Past Month



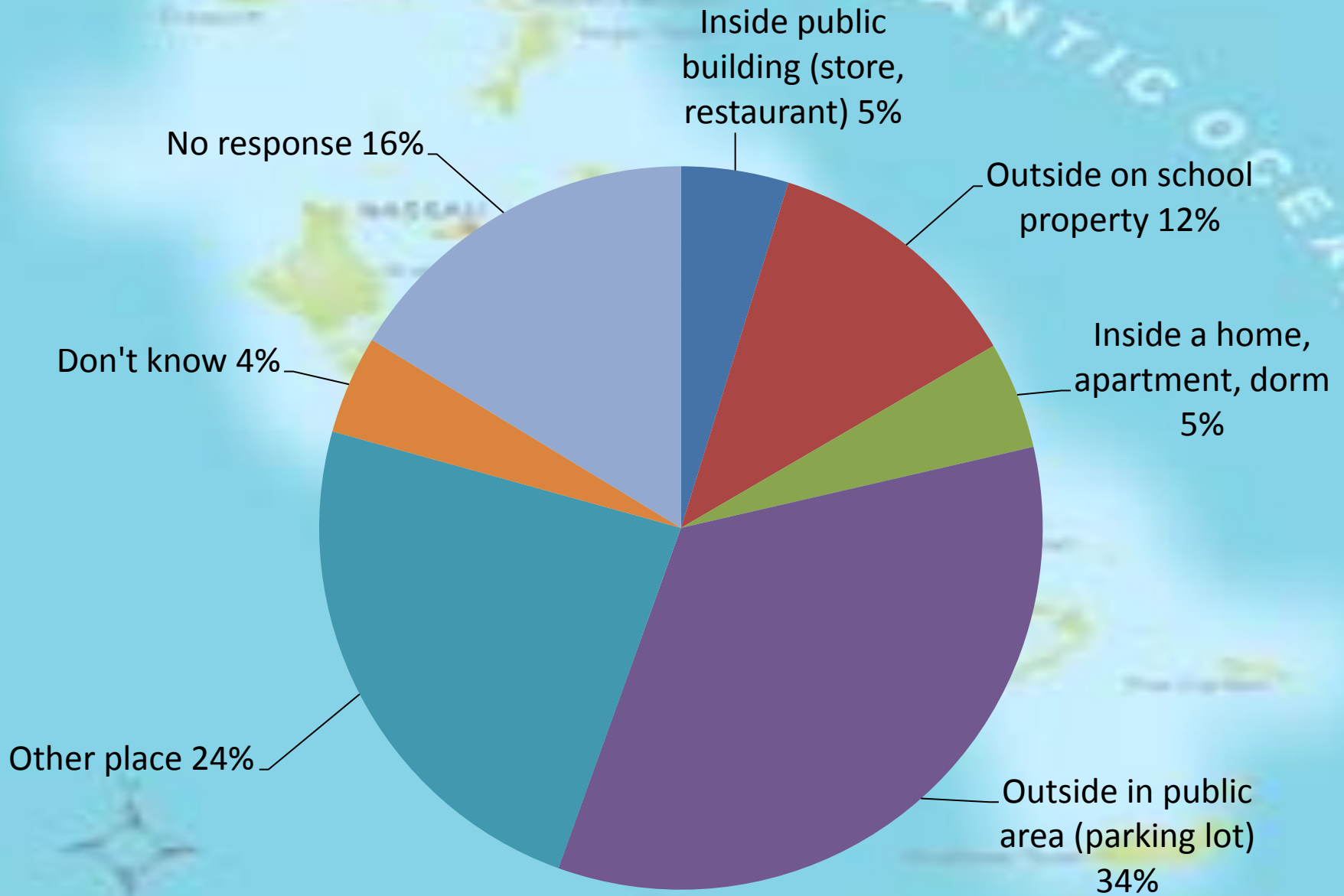
Marijuana Smoking Habits

- Marijuana smokers smoked an average of 17 days in the past month
 - Of these, 40% smoke on a daily basis
 - A monthly average of 11 joints
- Four out of ten spent more than \$50 in past month
 - Joint costs an average of \$7
- 43% of last joint (lifetime users) was “very strong/strong”

Method of Obtaining Marijuana (Last Time)

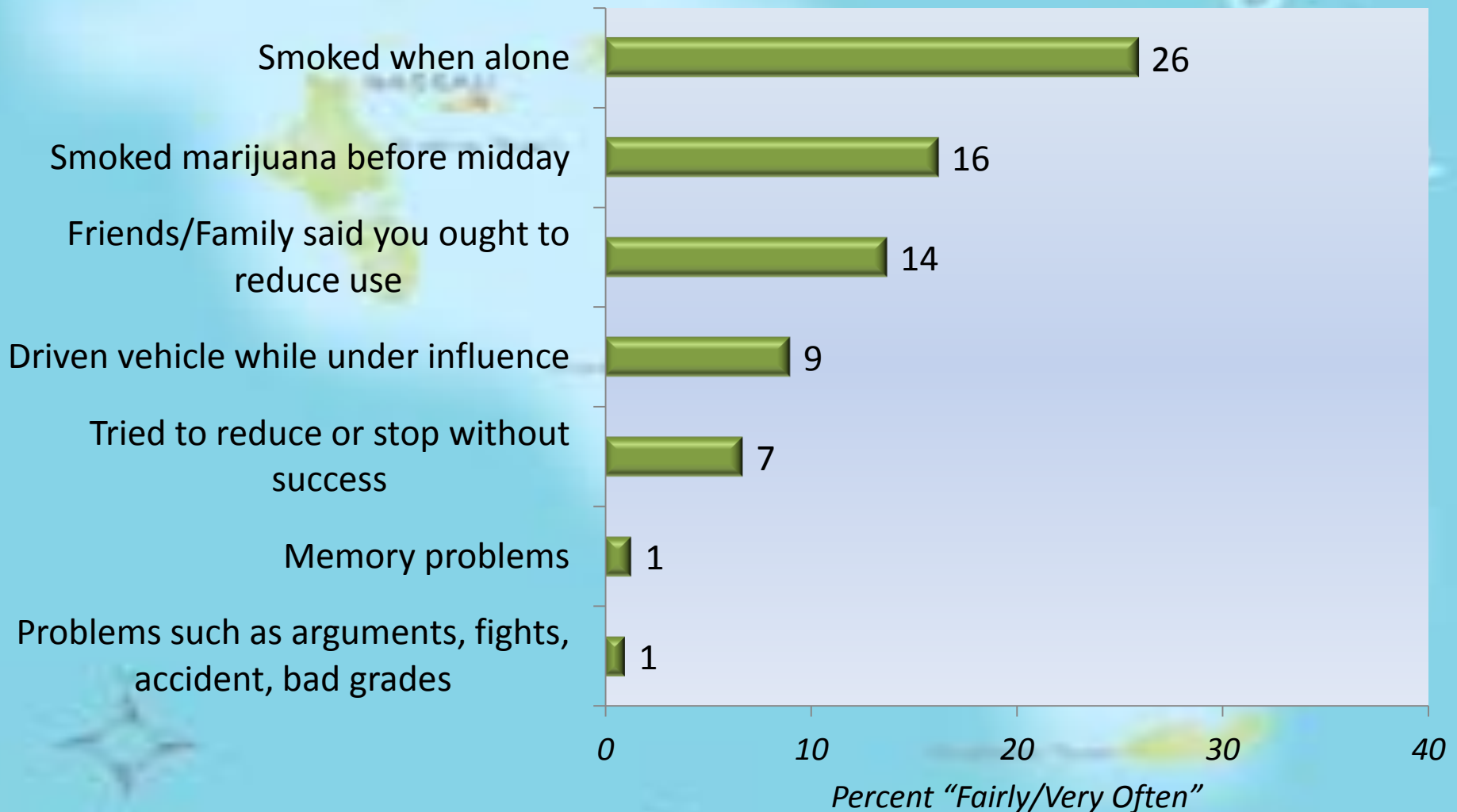


Place Where Last Bought Marijuana



Marijuana Abuse

Signs of Marijuana Abuse Occurring in Past Year

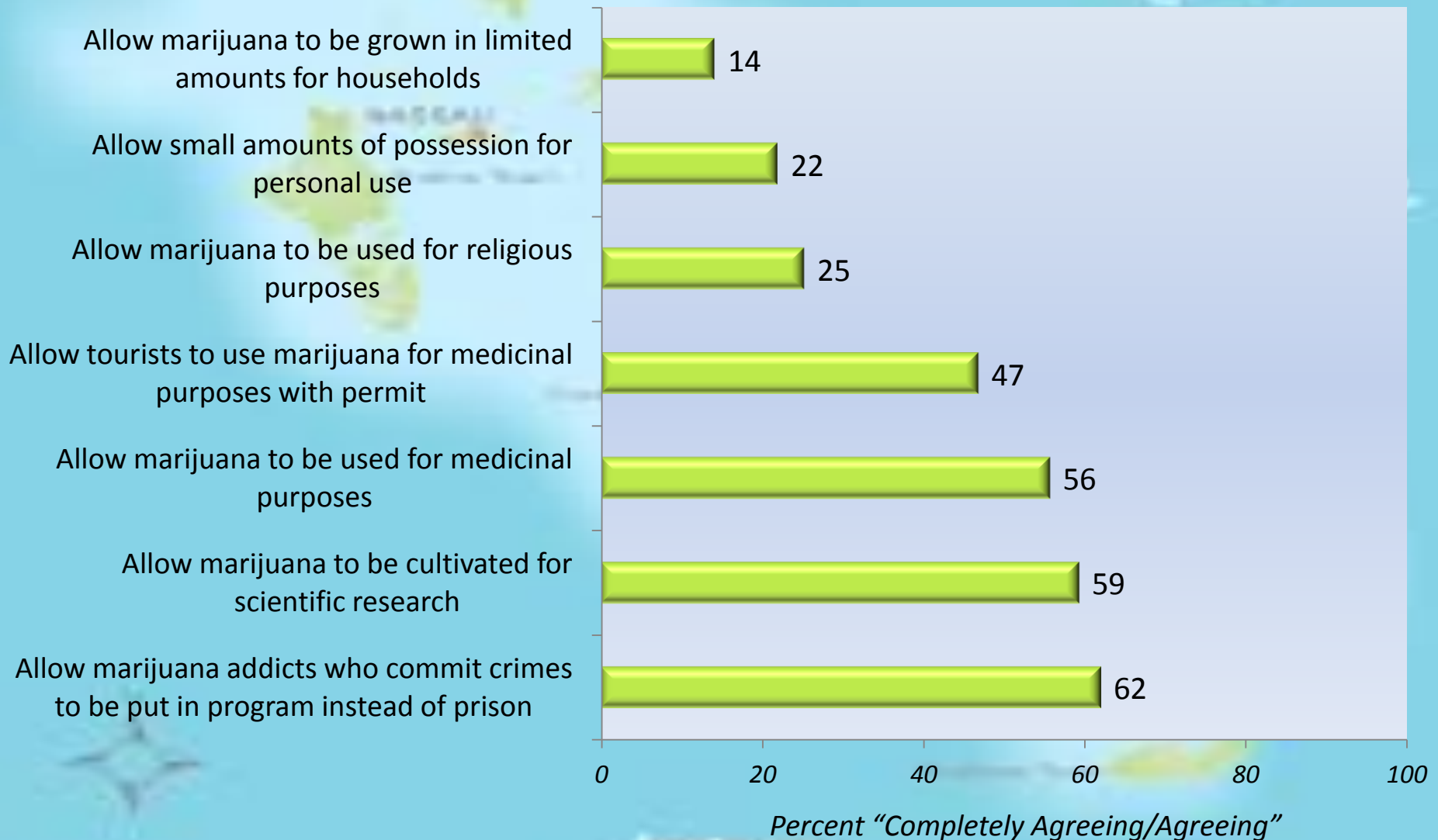


Marijuana as “Medicine”

- Many persons have used marijuana other than smoking:
 - Pastries, candies, sweets, etc. (7%)
 - Teas, juices (3%)
 - Oils, butter, wax, etc. (1%)
- 2% have used it for a medical condition, including:
 - Asthma
 - Flu
 - Back problems
 - Headaches
 - General sickness
 - Pain
 - Stress
 - Diabetes
 - Calms them

Marijuana Policies

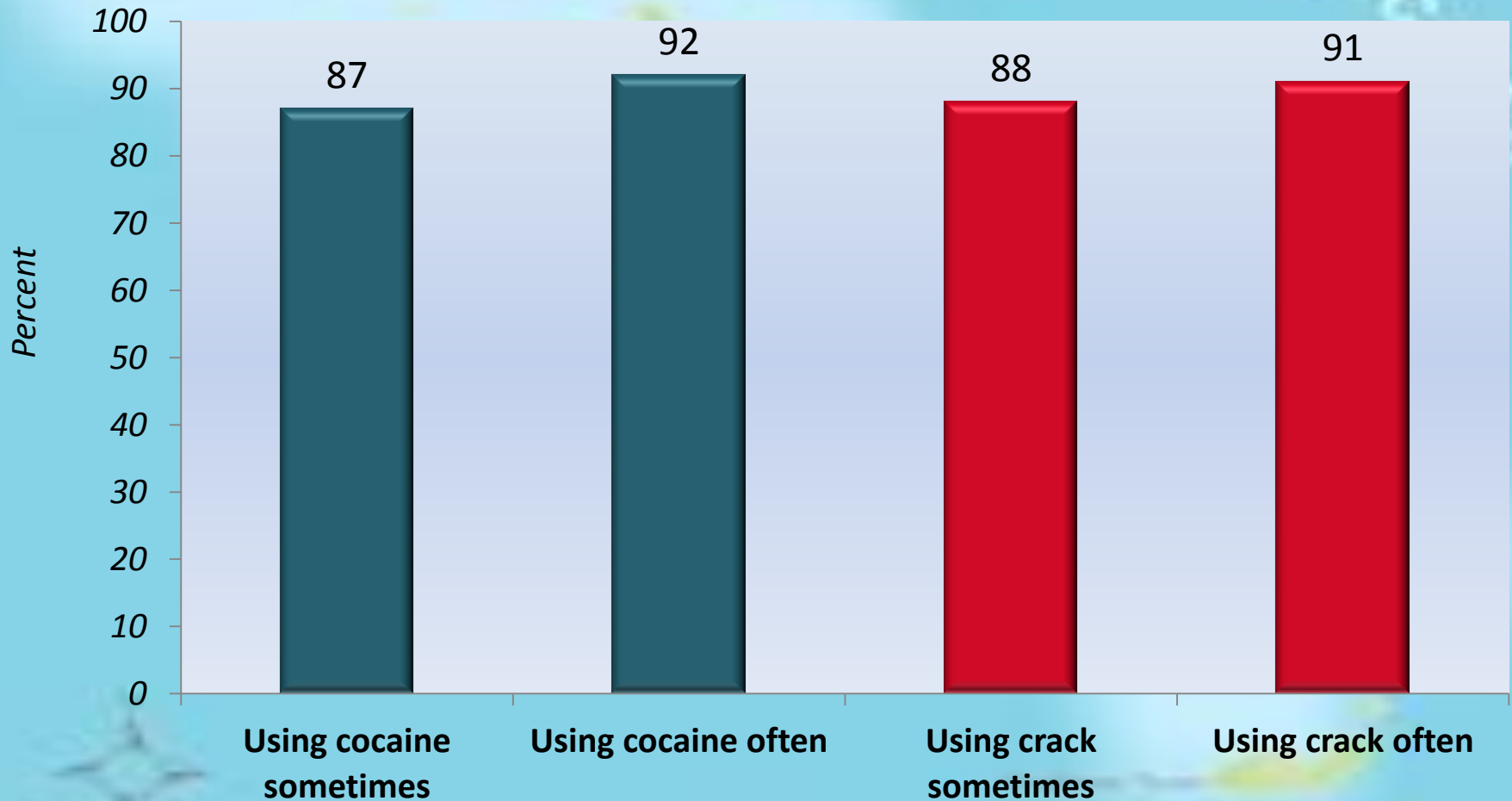
Opinions for Marijuana Laws and Policy





Cocaine

Perceived High Risk of Cocaine Use



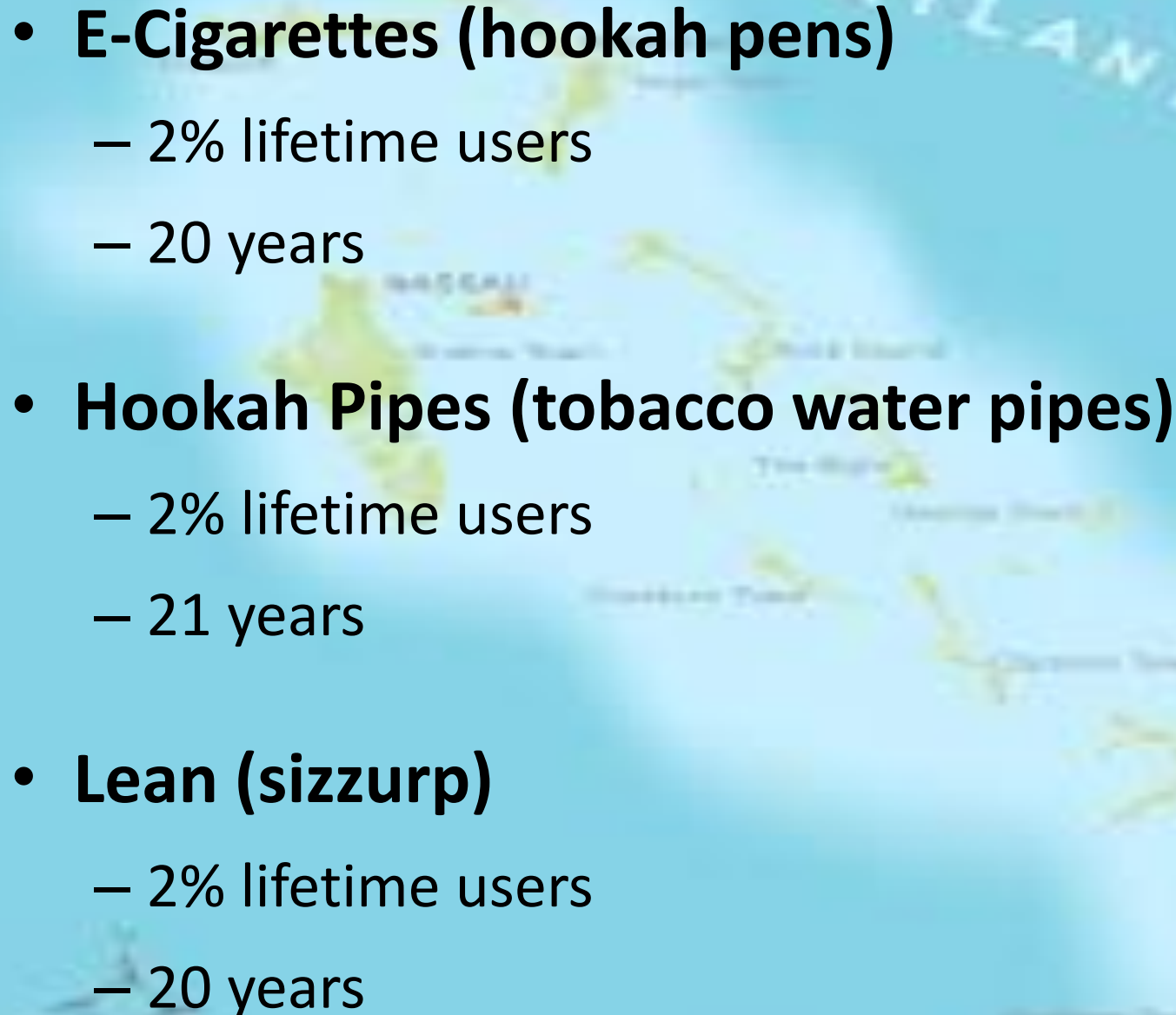
Cocaine

- 1% indicated ever using cocaine
 - 2% males, 0.4% females
 - Average age of first use is 25 years
 - 0.05% are current users of cocaine
- Around 1% have ever used crack cocaine
 - 1% males, 0.5% females
 - Average age is also 25 years for first use
 - 0.03% are current users



Emerging Drugs

-
- **Inhalants (glue, paint, varnish, gasoline)**
 - 0.3% are lifetime users
 - **Grabba**
 - 3% have used in their life
 - 22 years, average age of first use
 - **Beady/Bidi**
 - 5% have used
 - 20 years, average first use age

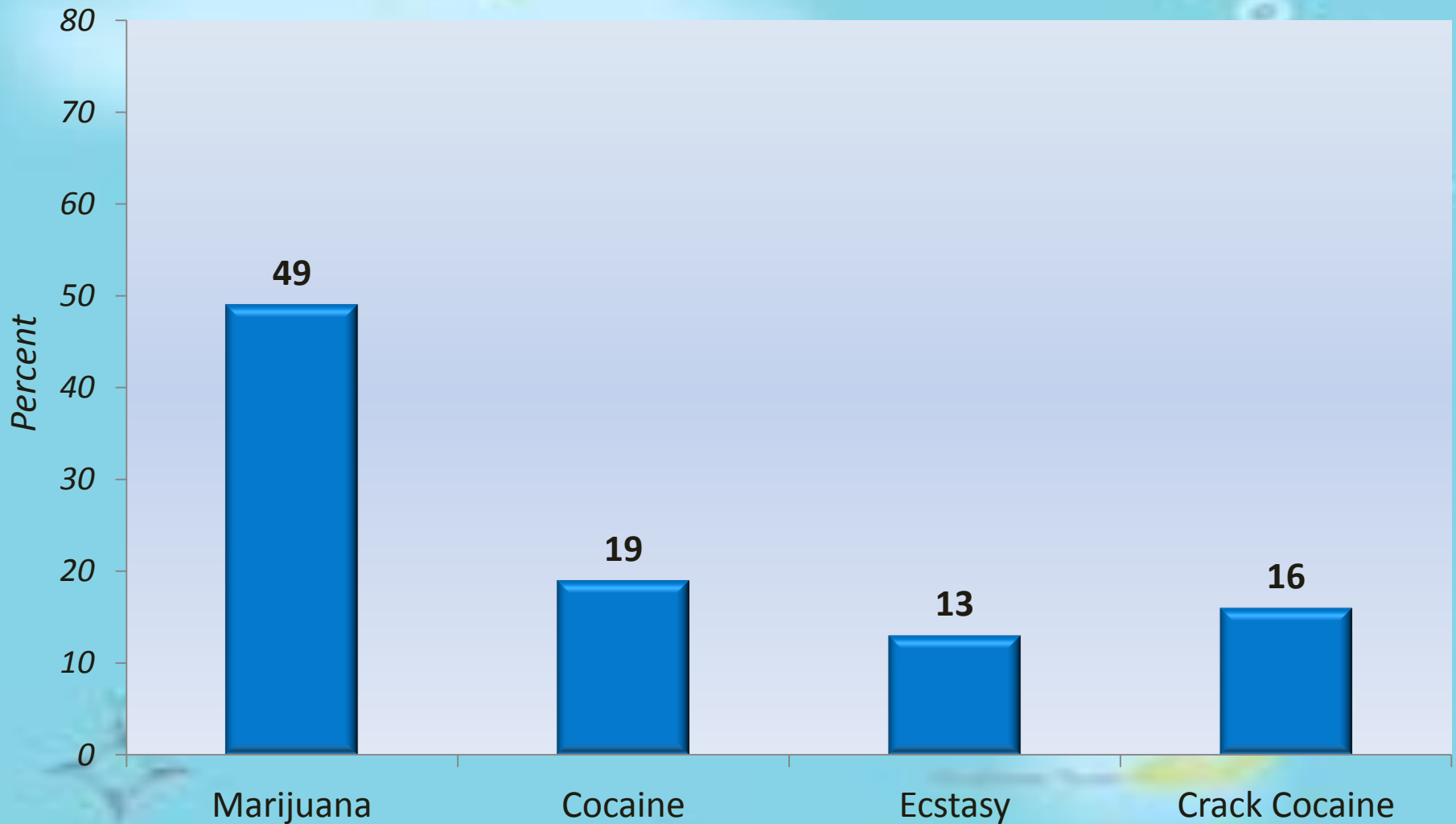
- 
- **E-Cigarettes (hookah pens)**
 - 2% lifetime users
 - 20 years
 - **Hookah Pipes (tobacco water pipes)**
 - 2% lifetime users
 - 21 years
 - **Lean (sizzurp)**
 - 2% lifetime users
 - 20 years

- **Prescription Drugs** (all less than 1%)

- Tranquilizers 0.4% lifetime users
- Stimulants 0.4%
- Pain-Killers 0.6%

Drug Access

Percent with “Easy” Access to Illegal Drugs

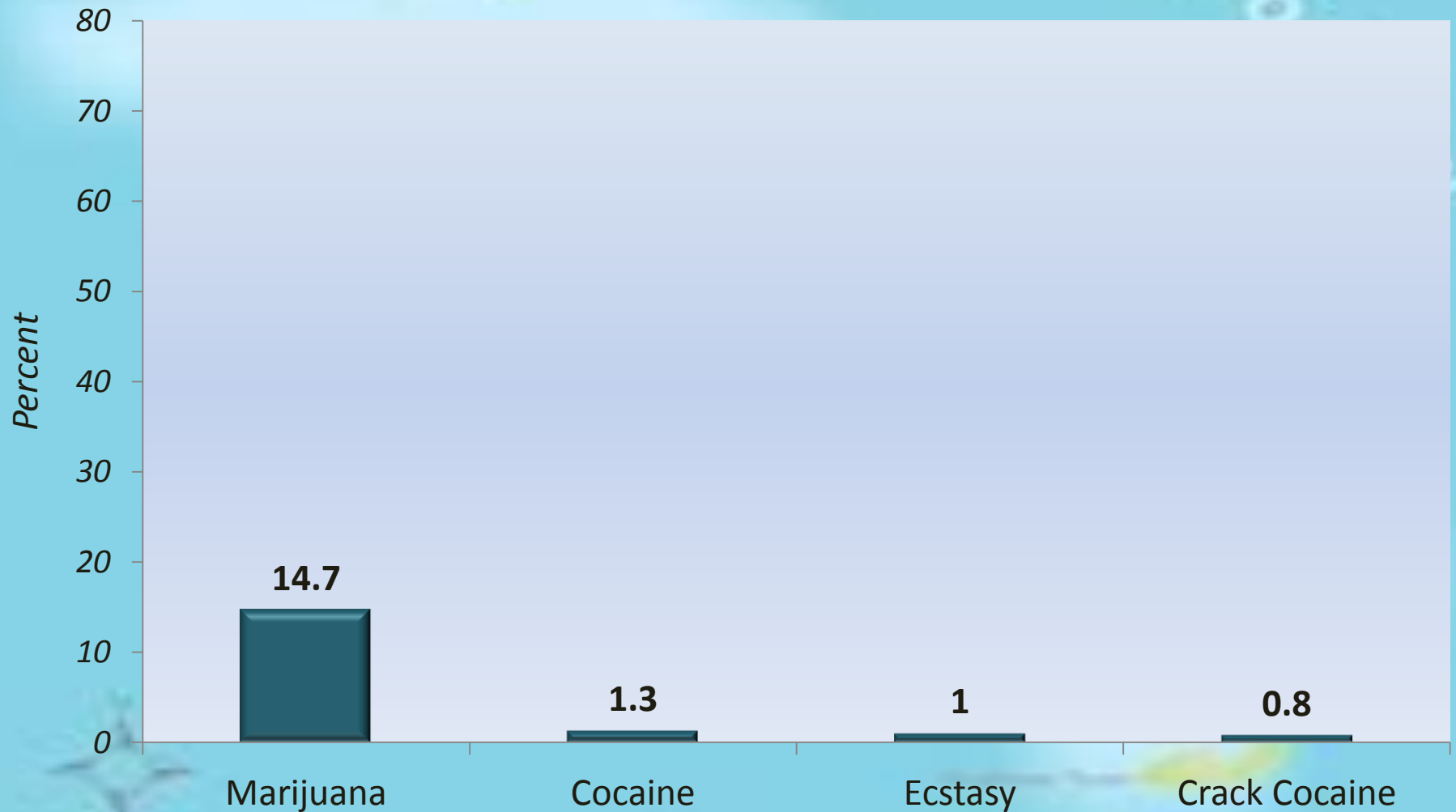


Drug Access cont'd.

- Four out of ten (42%) have friends/ family members who take illegal drugs
 - Most know two or more
- 36% had a chance to try an illegal drug
 - Eight out of ten two or more times
- One out of ten (10%) answered “maybe” or “yes” they are curious to try an illegal drug

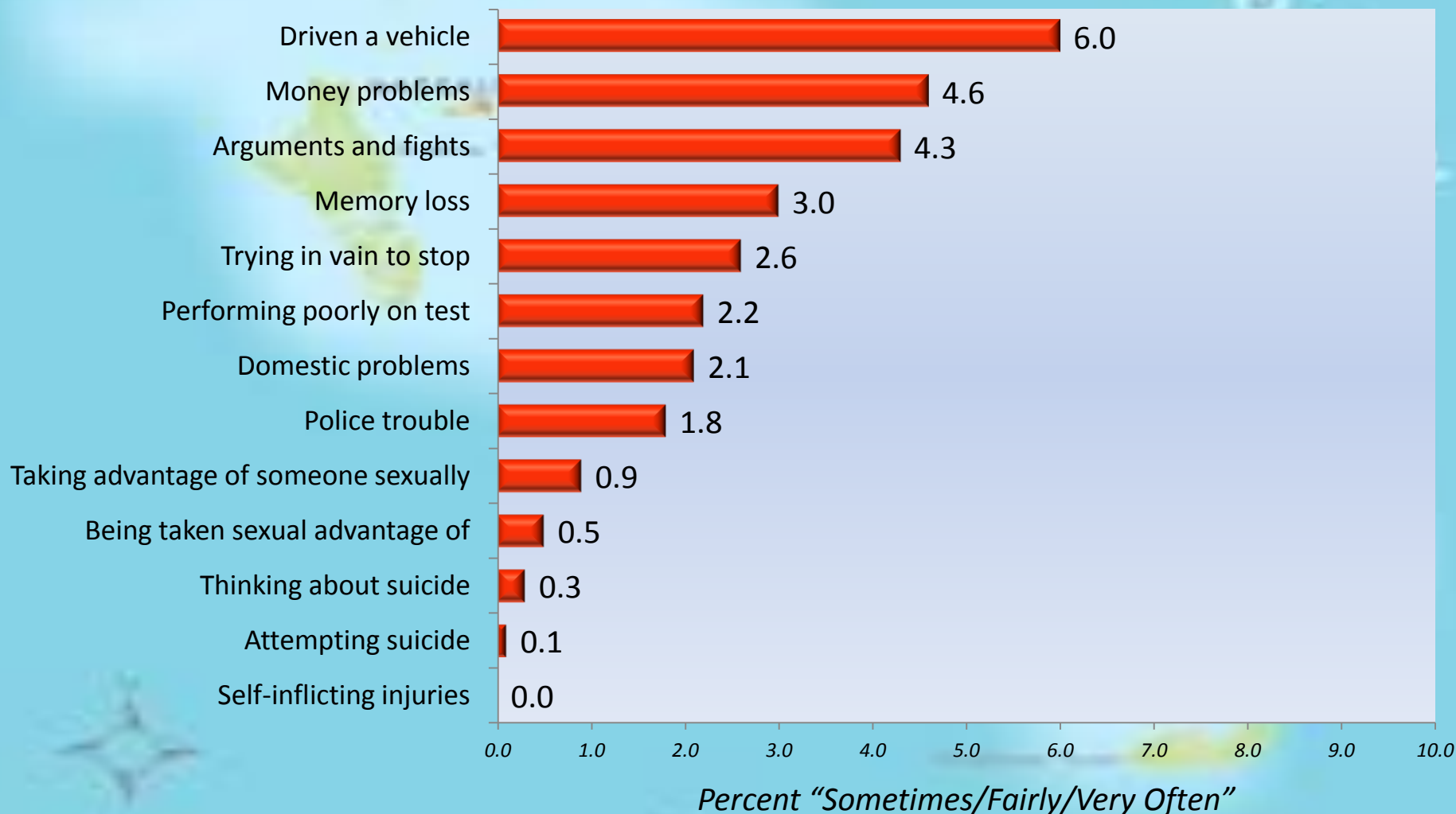
Drug Access cont'd.

Percent Offered Illegal Drugs at Least a Year Ago



Drug Use Problems

Users Experiencing Selected Consequences of Drug and Alcohol Use



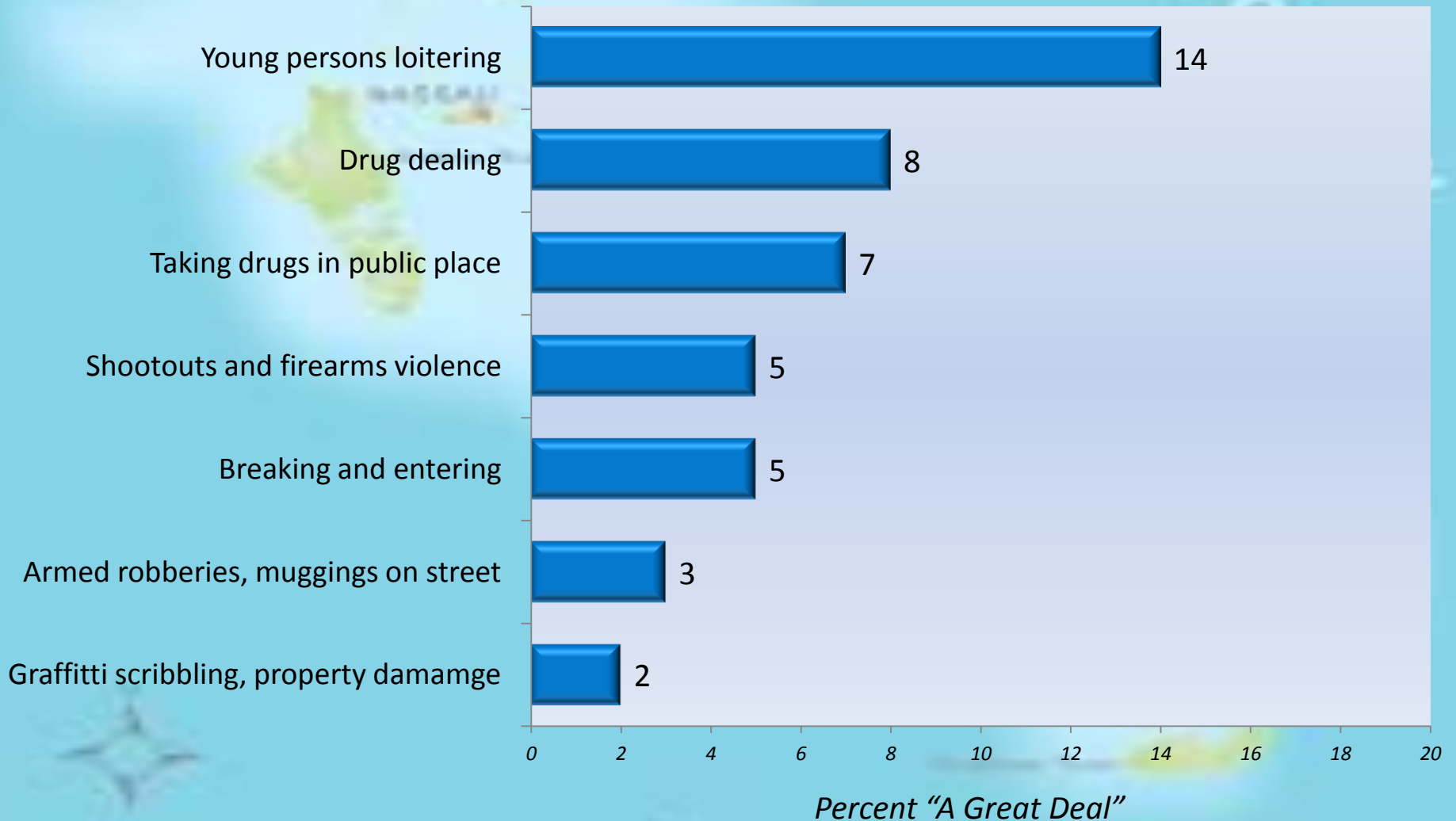
- 
- 2% ever received treatment
 - Of these, a third within the past year
 - 9% for only alcohol
 - 66% for only drugs
 - 19% both alcohol and drugs
 - Most admitted in a rehabilitation centre
 - Average of 4 months
 - 2% felt the need for treatment who did not get treatment
 - Not ready to stop using (most popular)
 - Don't know where to get treatment
 - No transportation
 - Could not afford
 - Negative effect on job

Workplace Alcohol and Drug Policies

- 48% reported NO existence of special regulations at their job controlling substance use among employees
- 63% did NOT receive information about drug and alcohol prevention and use
- 63% reported NO programs for employees with substance use problems

Neighbourhood Activities

Users Experiencing Activities in Their Community



Perceptions of Drug Situation and Government Response

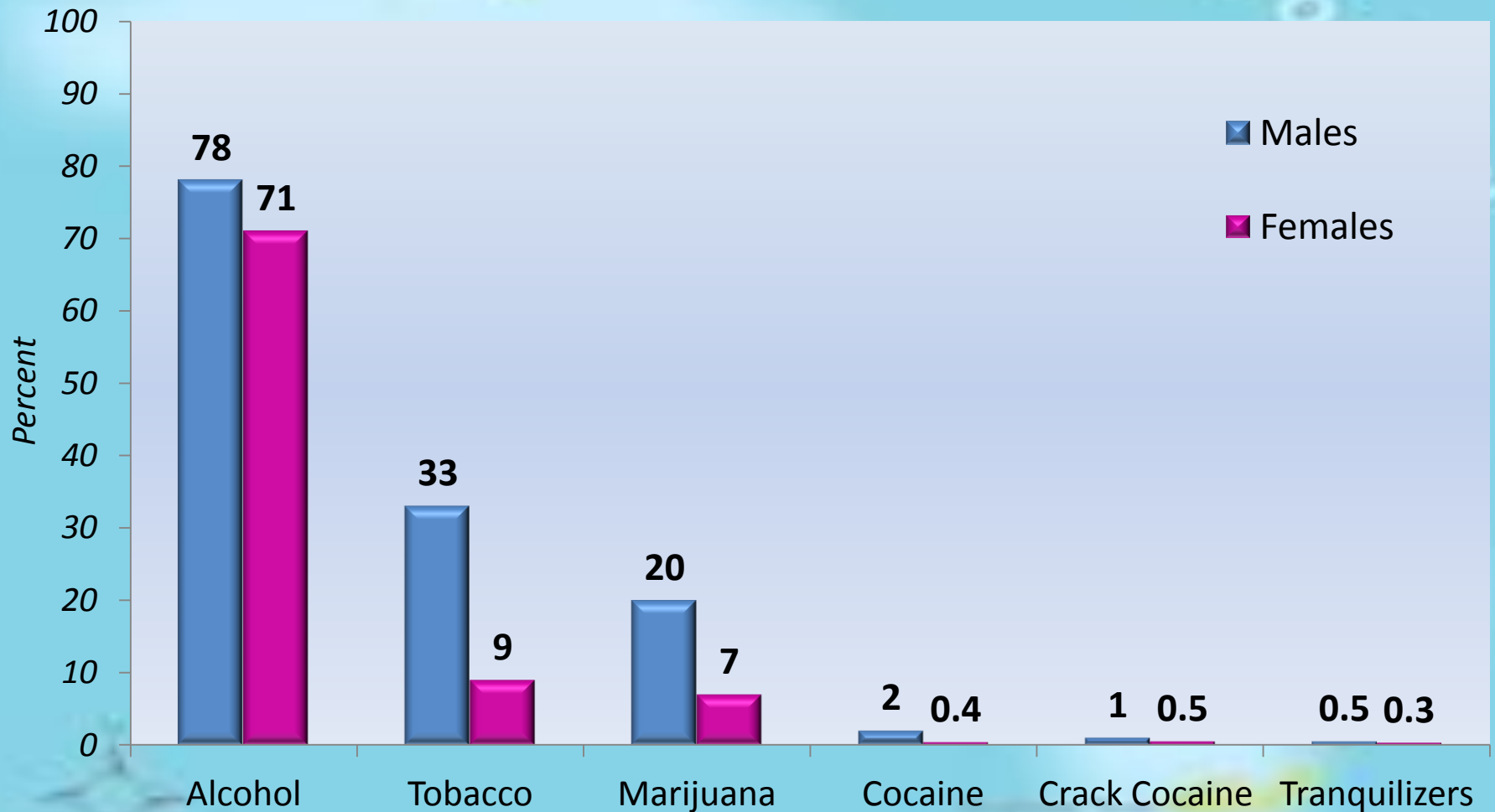
- Most (70%) believe drug use in The Bahamas has increased
- Around two out of three (64%) believe the drug situation will get worse
- 37% believe the drug issue is among important concerns of the government
- 3% know of drug prevention programs in their community
- 12% know the name of the country's drug control agency
- 9% know the name of the country's national drug prevention agency



Conclusions

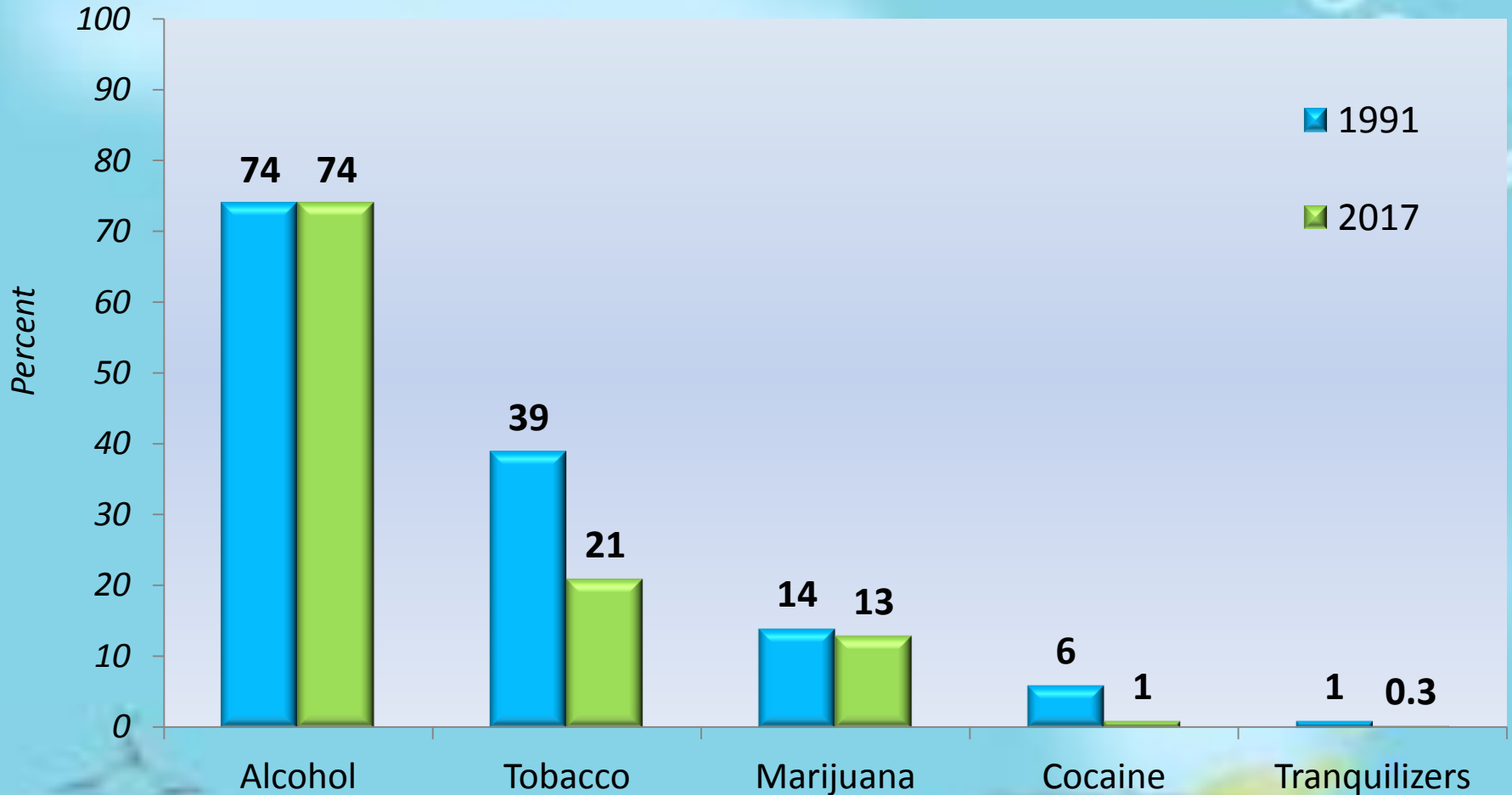
Summary

Percent of Males and Females Who Ever Used



Compared with 1991...

**Percent of Selected Drugs Ever Used – Comparison with
1991 Prevalence Survey**



Compared with 1991...

- Males are still more likely than females to use drugs
- The most prevalent drugs continue to be:
 - Alcohol
 - Tobacco
 - Marijuana
- Levels of alcohol and marijuana use remain the same

Compared with 1991...

- Declining use of drugs:
 - Tobacco
 - Cocaine
 - Tranquilizers
- Cocaine use appears to be very low in the current survey



Implications

- While use of these drugs (TOBACCO, COCAINE, TRANQUILIZERS) appear to be declining, ongoing prevention messages need to be maintained and continuously strengthened.
- Workplace policies regarding drug and alcohol abuse need to be established and/or strengthened.

Implications

- There appear to be emerging drug trends
 - Bidi (5%)
 - Grabba (3%)
 - Lean/Cough syrup, Hookah Pipes, E-cigarettes (each 2%)
- While use of fairly new drugs are at a minimal level, due vigilance is needed to identify gateways and monitor any shifts in trends.

Implications

- With the relative ease of access to marijuana, there is an urgent need to increase drug prevention education about marijuana abuse and its long-term harmful health effects.
- Places where drugs are purchased are key locations to target when launching prevention messages.

Implications

- Vulnerable groups (e.g., those with friends and family who use drugs or neighbourhoods where drugs are used) need to be targeted for education and prevention.
- Abuse of prescription drugs does not appear to be a problem. However, as worldwide concern increases about prescription drug abuse, we must remain vigilant about local patterns of use.

Recommendations...

- These will come from the workshop discussions





Thank you!