
SUSSEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY AND YOUTH SERVICES



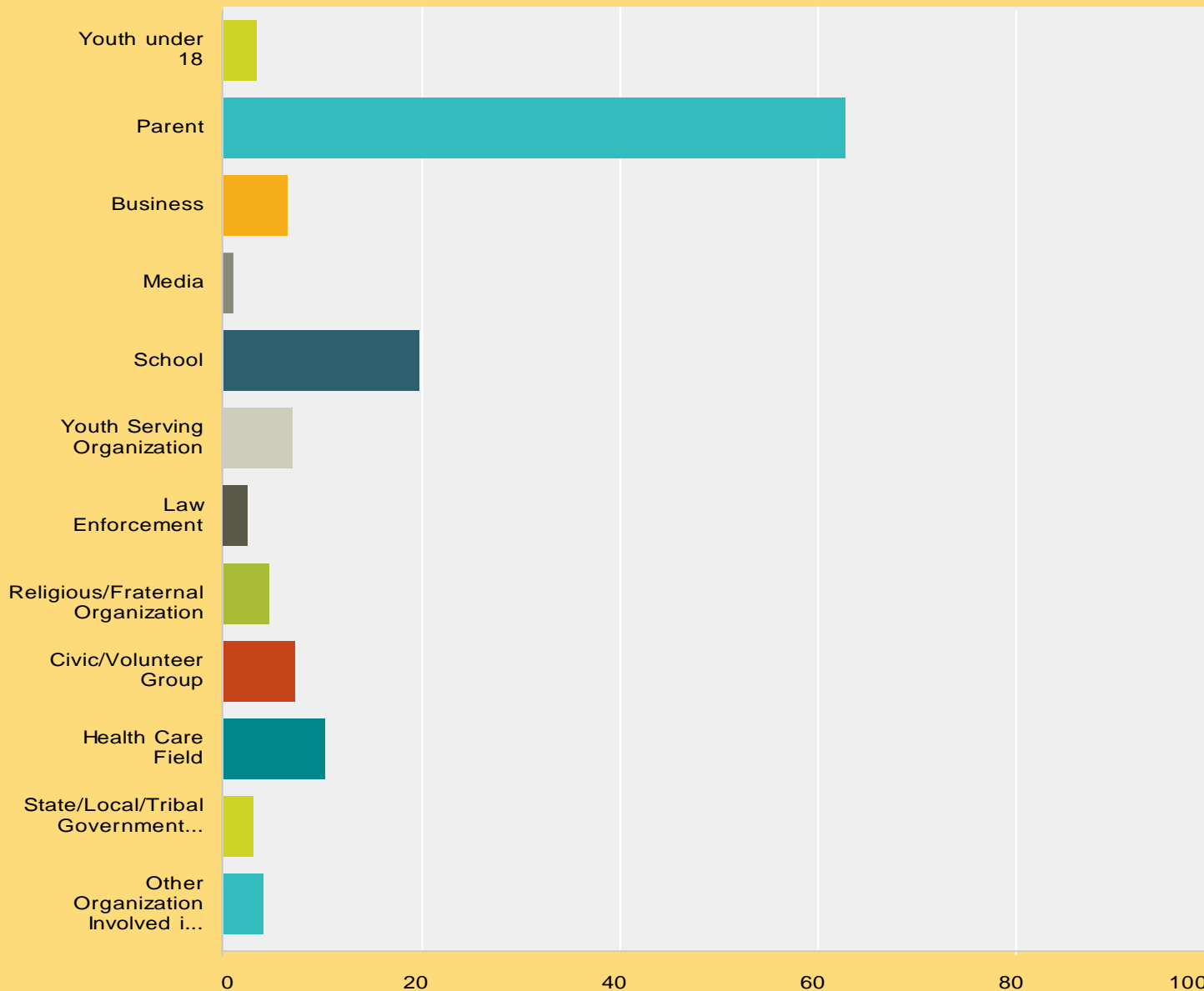
Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse

2013 NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

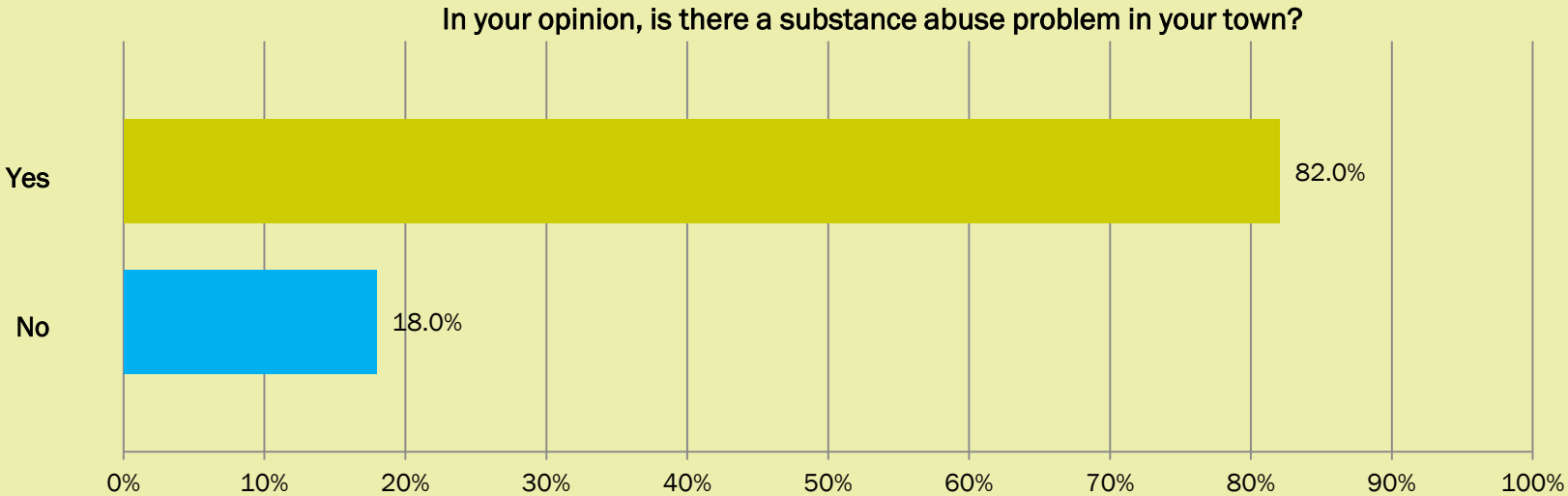


- Needs Assessments are done every 3-5 years
- Each Alliance is required to participate
- Part of this year's Assessment included a survey of Sussex County residents
 - *Online*
 - *Individualized for each Alliance*
 - *Each Alliance actively promoted and participated in the survey*

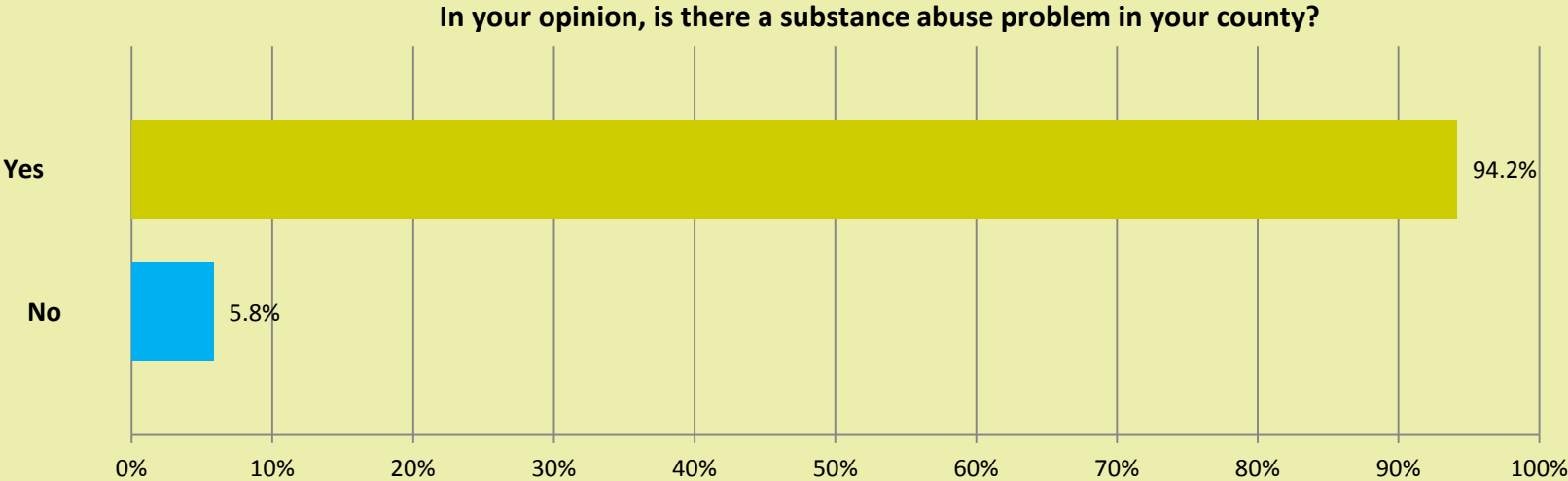
Respondents ranged in age from 13 to over 55. The largest group of respondents was in the 26-55 age group. Most of the respondents (74.9%) were parents.



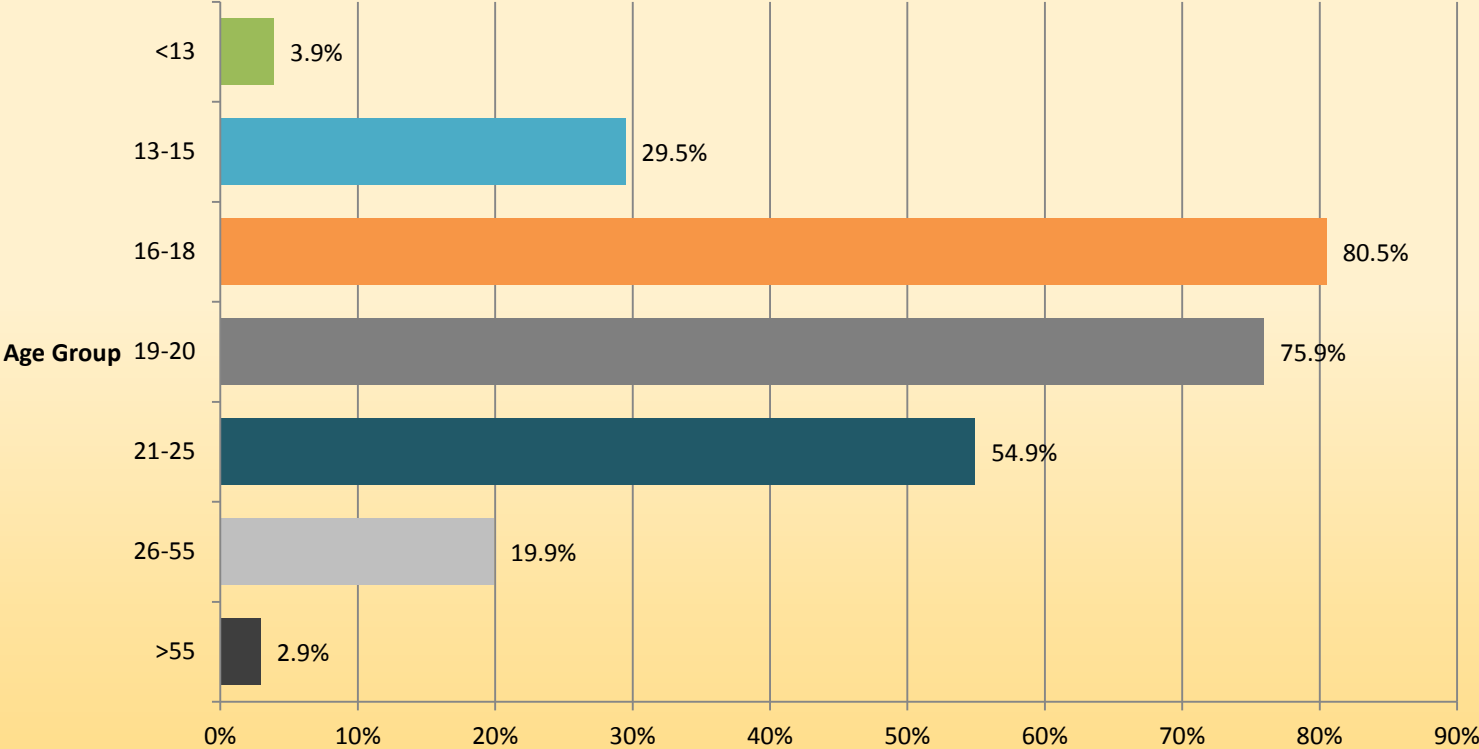
82.0% of the respondents believe there is a substance abuse problem in their towns



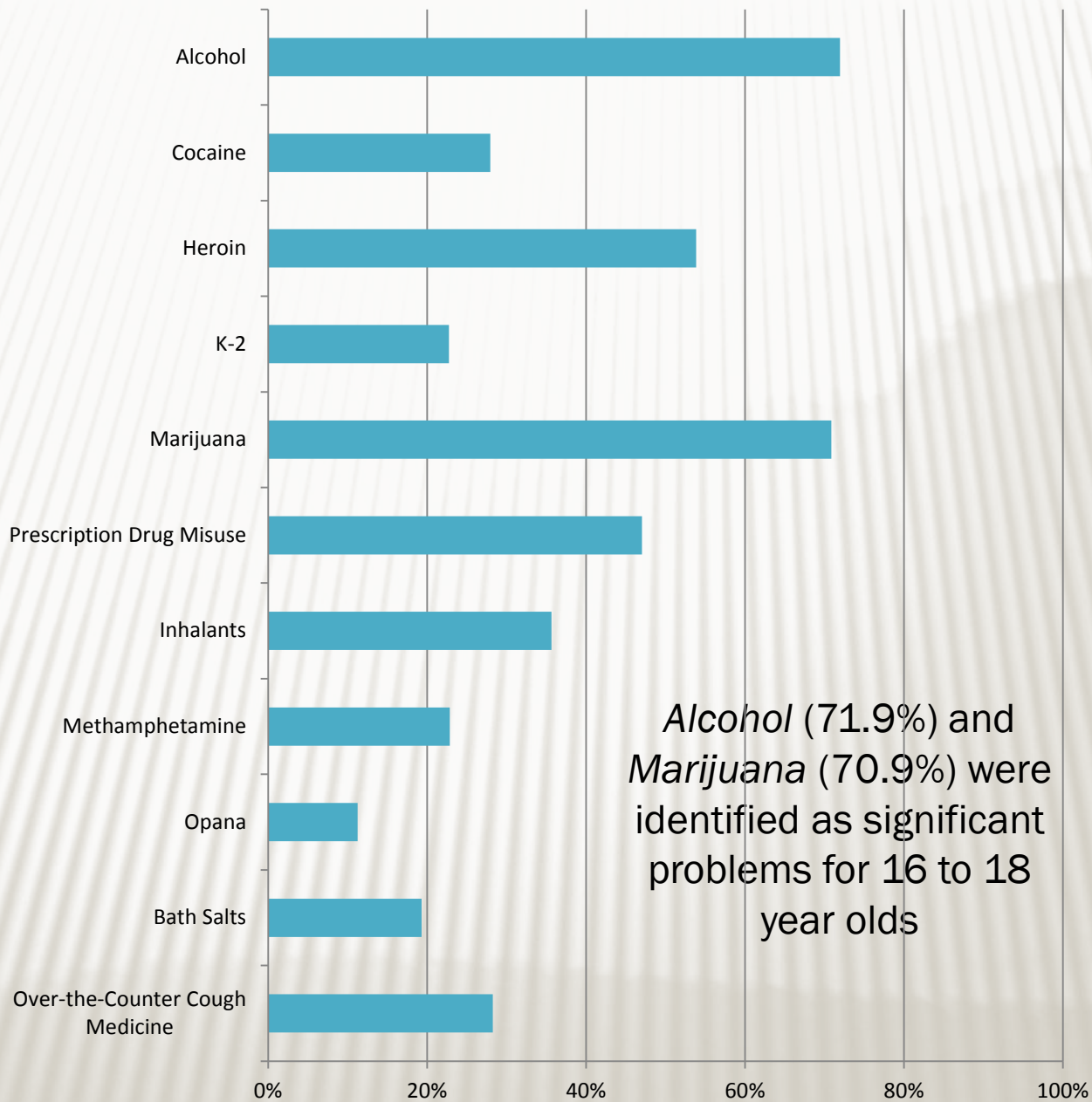
94.2% believe there is a substance abuse problem in the county



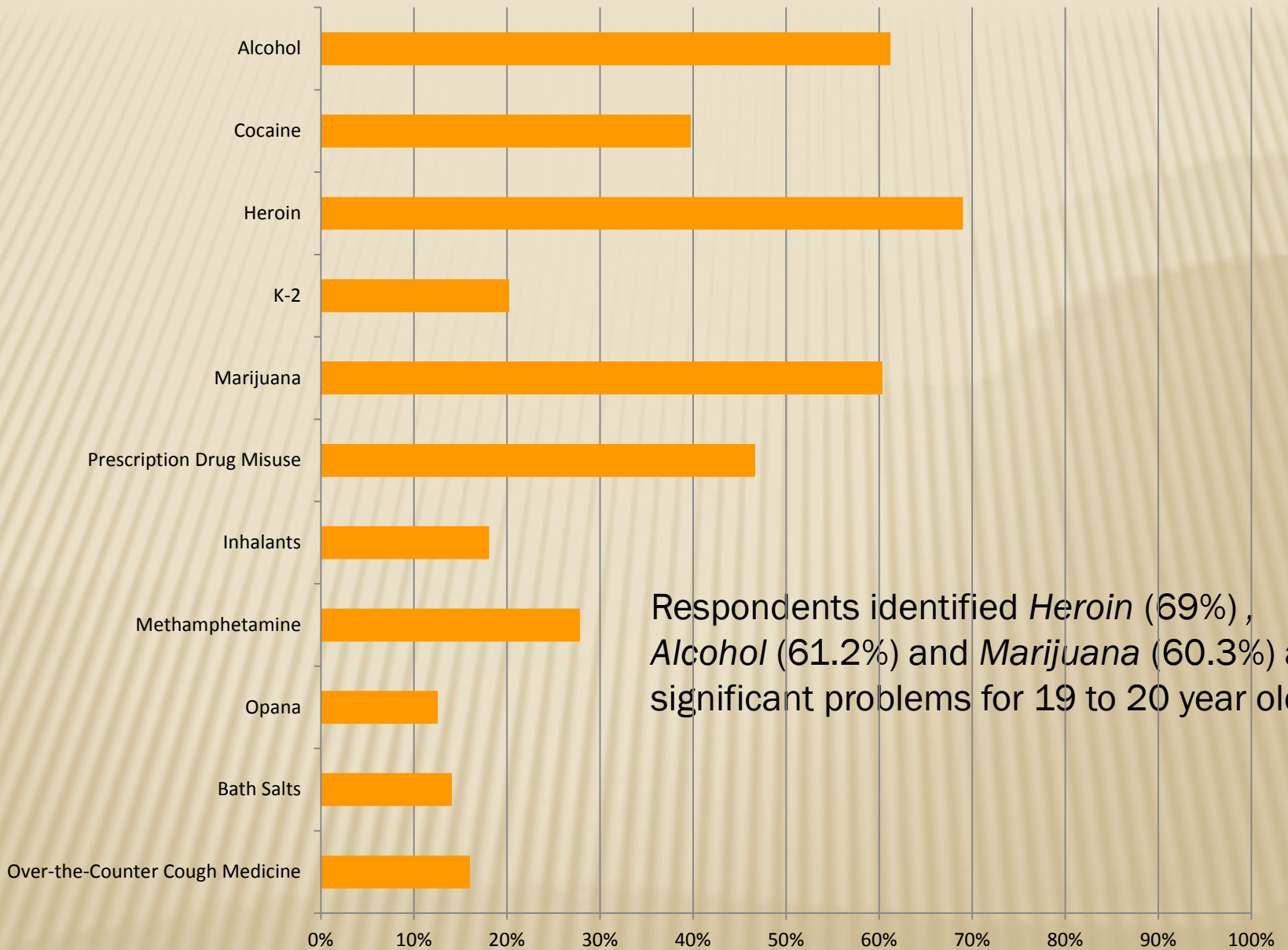
Those who believe it is a problem identified 16-18 year olds, 19-20 year olds, and 21-25 year olds as the three age groups having the most significant abuse problems



* Percentages are based on total number of respondents to survey (923), not the number of respondents to this particular question because we do not have that information.



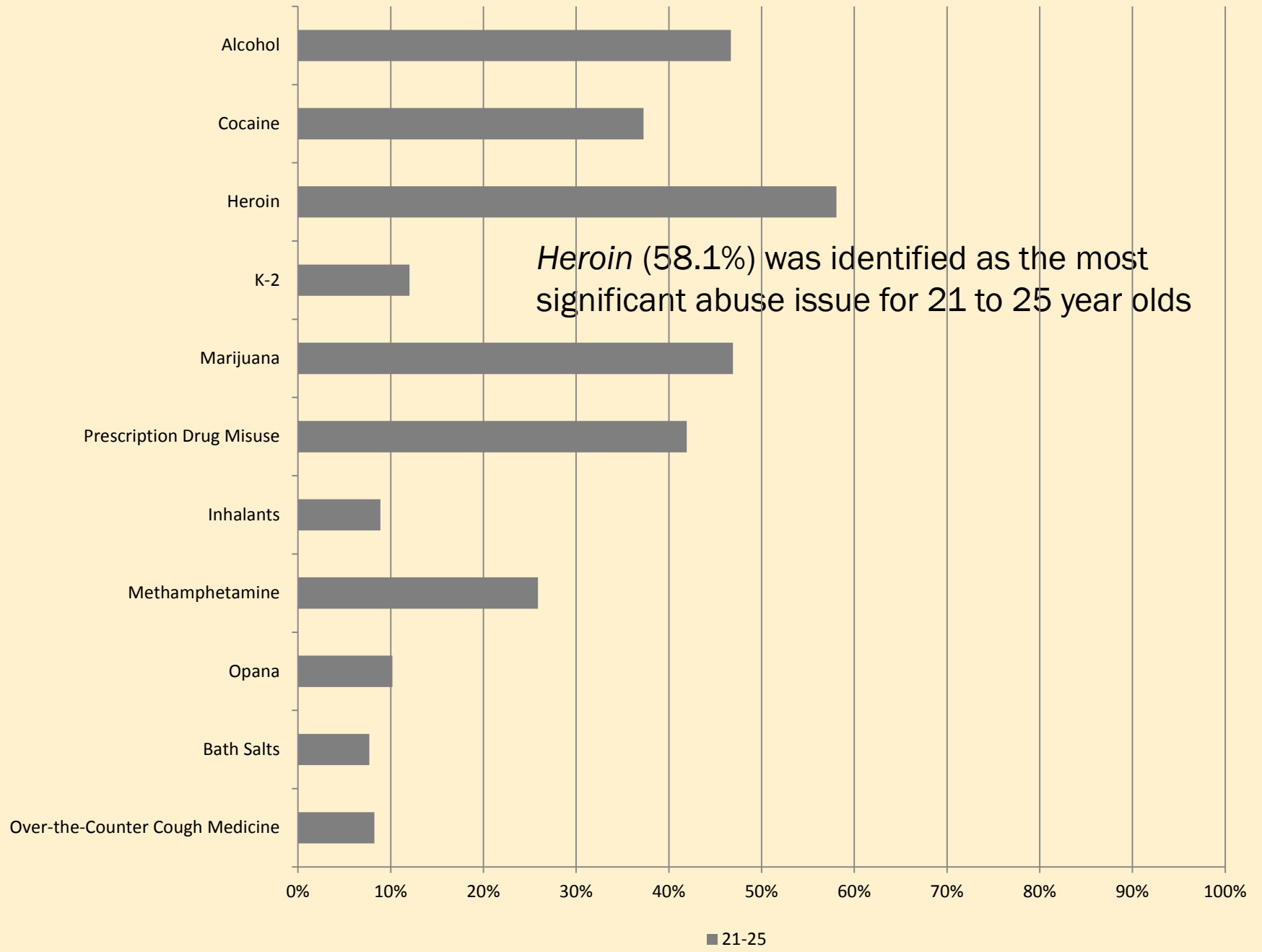
Alcohol (71.9%) and Marijuana (70.9%) were identified as significant problems for 16 to 18 year olds



Respondents identified *Heroin* (69%), *Alcohol* (61.2%) and *Marijuana* (60.3%) as significant problems for 19 to 20 year olds

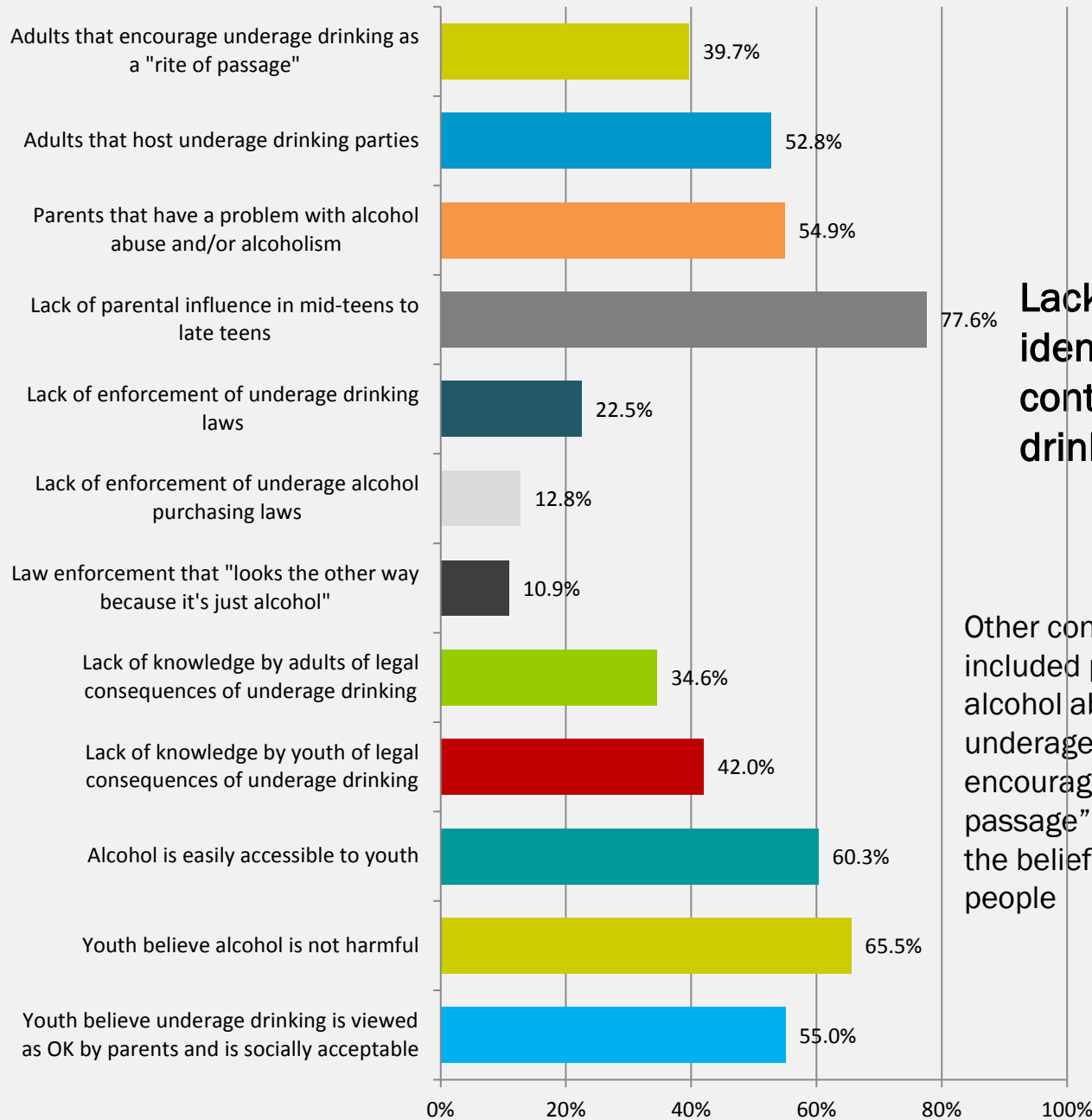
In your opinion, which of the drugs below are problems in your county? Show us by checking those that are a problem and indicating among what age group.

21-25



The overall substance of abuse, according to the responses given, for all age groups was *alcohol* at 92.5% and *heroin* was identified by 85.5% of the respondents as the second most prolific abuse problem.

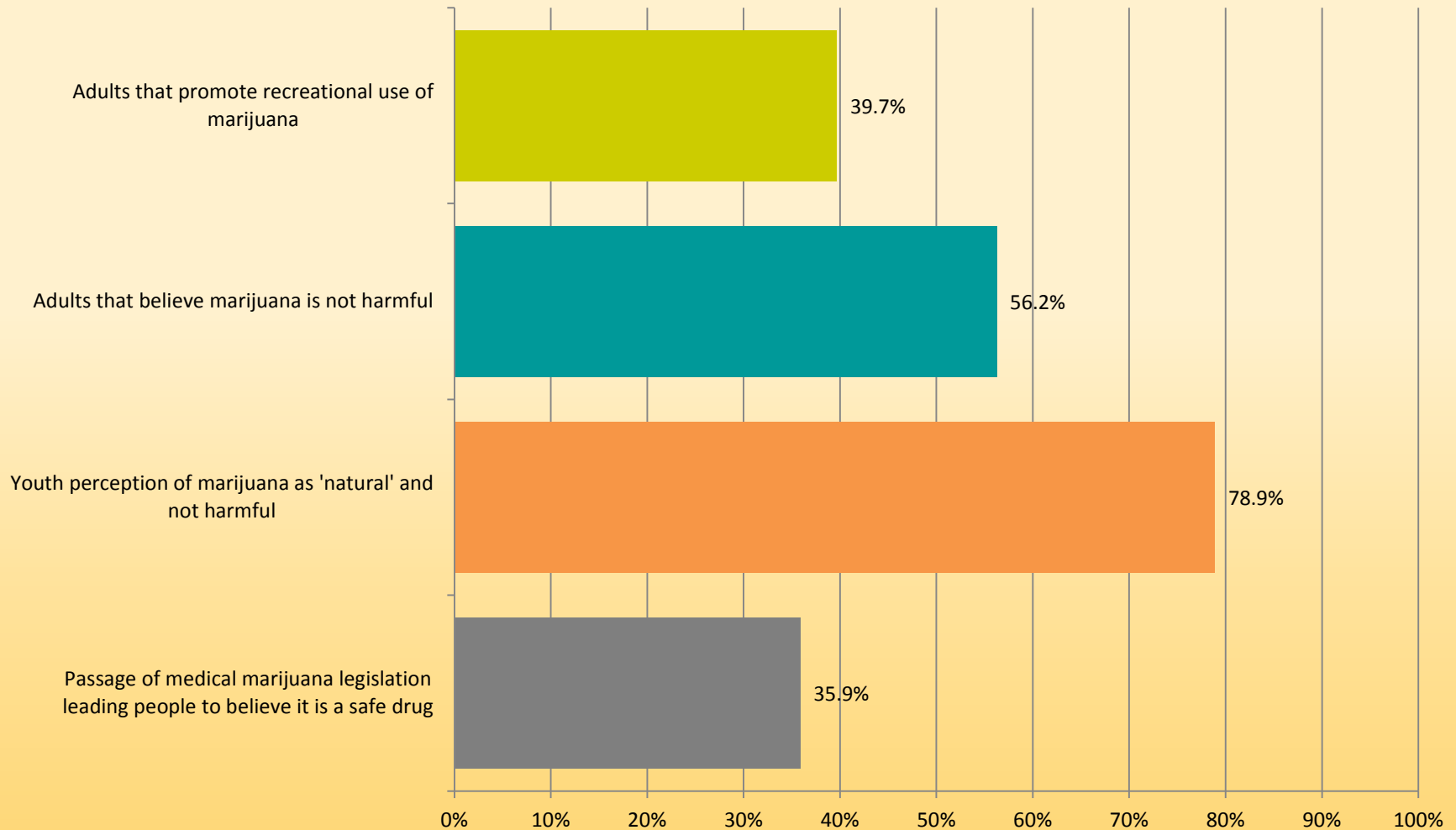
Underage drinking has been identified as a significant problem in Sussex County.



Lack of parental influence was identified as the leading contributing factor in underage drinking.

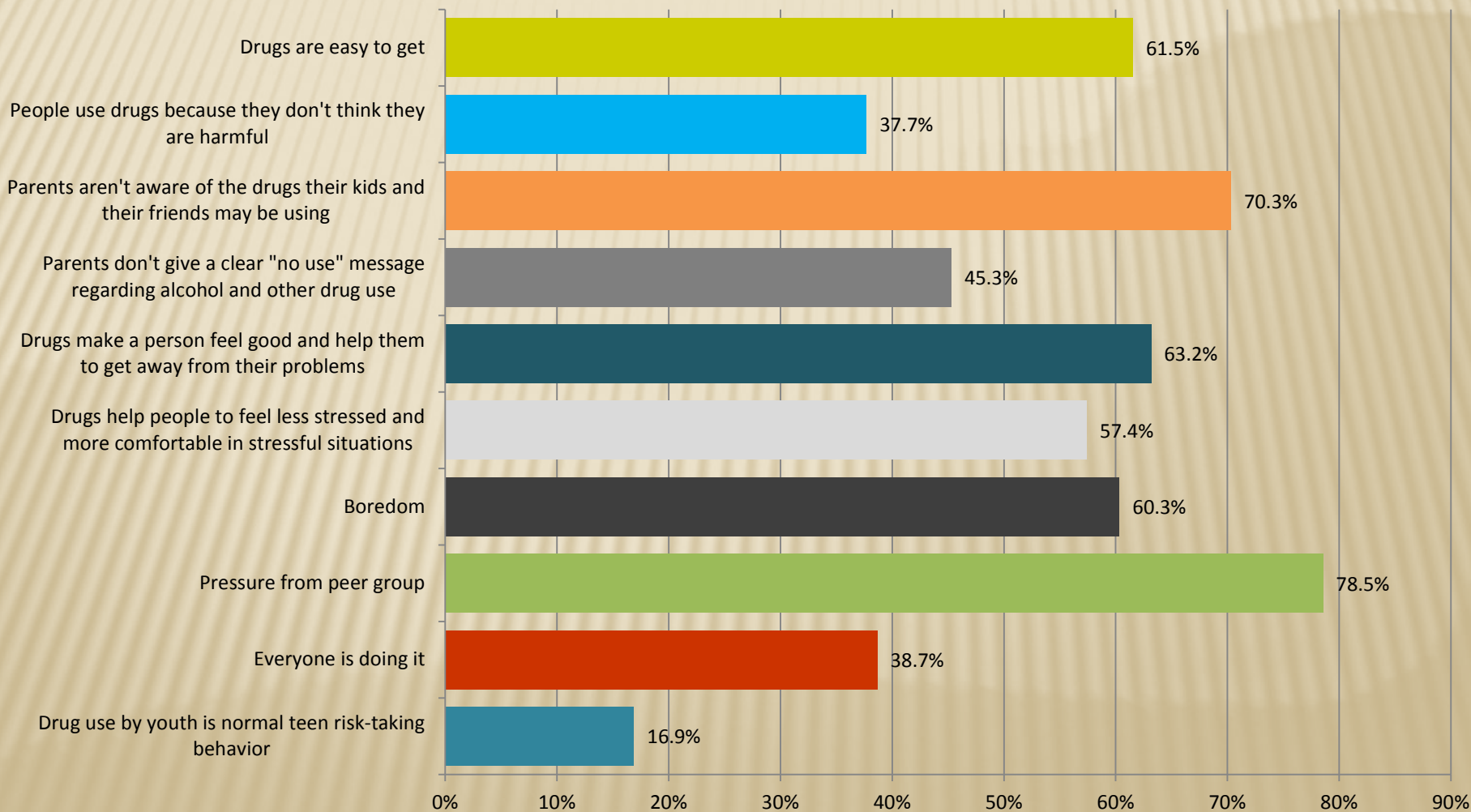
Other contributing factors that were identified included parents that have a problem with alcohol abuse or alcoholism, adults that host underage drinking parties, adults that encourage underage drinking as a "rite of passage", easy accessibility to alcohol, and the belief that it is not harmful by young people

Marijuana use by youth and young adults is contributed to the perception that it is “natural” and not harmful and the belief by adults that marijuana is not harmful. Despite evidence that suggests that marijuana use in adolescence affects brain development. (*National Institute on Drug Abuse, Dec. 2012)



*<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

Respondents identified Peer Pressure as the main contributing factor for why young people use drugs and abuse legal substances. The second most identified contributing factor is lack of parental awareness of the drugs that their kids are using. People also believe that drugs are used to make a person feel good or get away from their problems. The ease in which drugs can be obtained and boredom were the 4th and 5th most chosen contributing factors.





What Now?

- Each Alliance will review the results of their own surveys
- Develop new programs based on results
- Improve existing programs
- Additional Information for their Needs Assessments will come from;
 - DMHAS Chart Book
 - Key Informant Interviews
 - Focus Groups

Municipal Alliance Committees by the Numbers

11 (Committees)

21 of 24 (Municipalities represented)

122 (Active/Volunteer members)

Countless (facilitators & participants)

85 Current programs being conducted

1 (GOAL)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Stephen Gruchacz, Administrator – Department of Human Services

Melissa Latronica, Director – Division of Community and Youth Services

Ayla Satter, Survey Facilitator – Center for Prevention and Counseling -
Created the Charts used in this presentation

Municipal Alliance Committee Chairpersons, Coordinators, Members

Almost 1,000 respondents who took the time to answer our questions

Presented by: Nicholas Loizzi, Municipal Alliance Coordinator