

Head Shop Psychoactive Substance Use among Adolescents Attending Substance Misuse Treatment Services

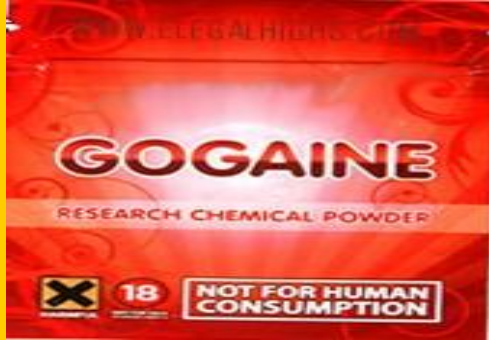


**Ann Campbell RGN MSc
Systemic Family Therapist
YoDA (HSE Youth Drug & Alcohol Service)**

Head Shop Psychoactive Substances (HSPS)?

- Alternatives to illicit drugs
- 'legal highs' / 'new psychoactive substances'
- 'plant food' & 'not for human consumption'
- Safer alternative to illicit drugs?
- fewer shops – readily accessible on-line





Types HSPS



Smokable

'Smoke' / 'Spice' = herbs impregnated with synthetic cannabinoids

(Griffiths *et al.* 2010)

Snortable

Mephedrone = A cathinone, powder, cocaine alternative. Amphetamine and/or ecstasy-like effect

(Morris 2010)

Party Pills

BZP (Benzylpiperazine) & TFMPP taken orally, ecstasy-like effect

(Wilkins *et al.* 2007)

Background to the Study



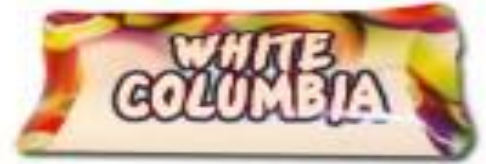
Adolescents who use drugs problematically:

- **Do poorly academically**
- **Legal consequences**
- **Mental health related difficulties**
- **Homelessness**



- **Little research into adolescent HSPS use**
- **> unknowns with HSPS**
- **> 90 new psychoactive substances identified (EMCDDA)**

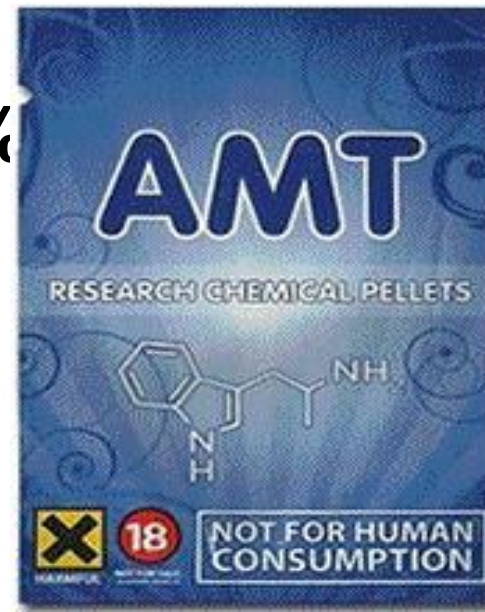
Drug use among Irish Adolescents



Irish 15-16 yr olds in school

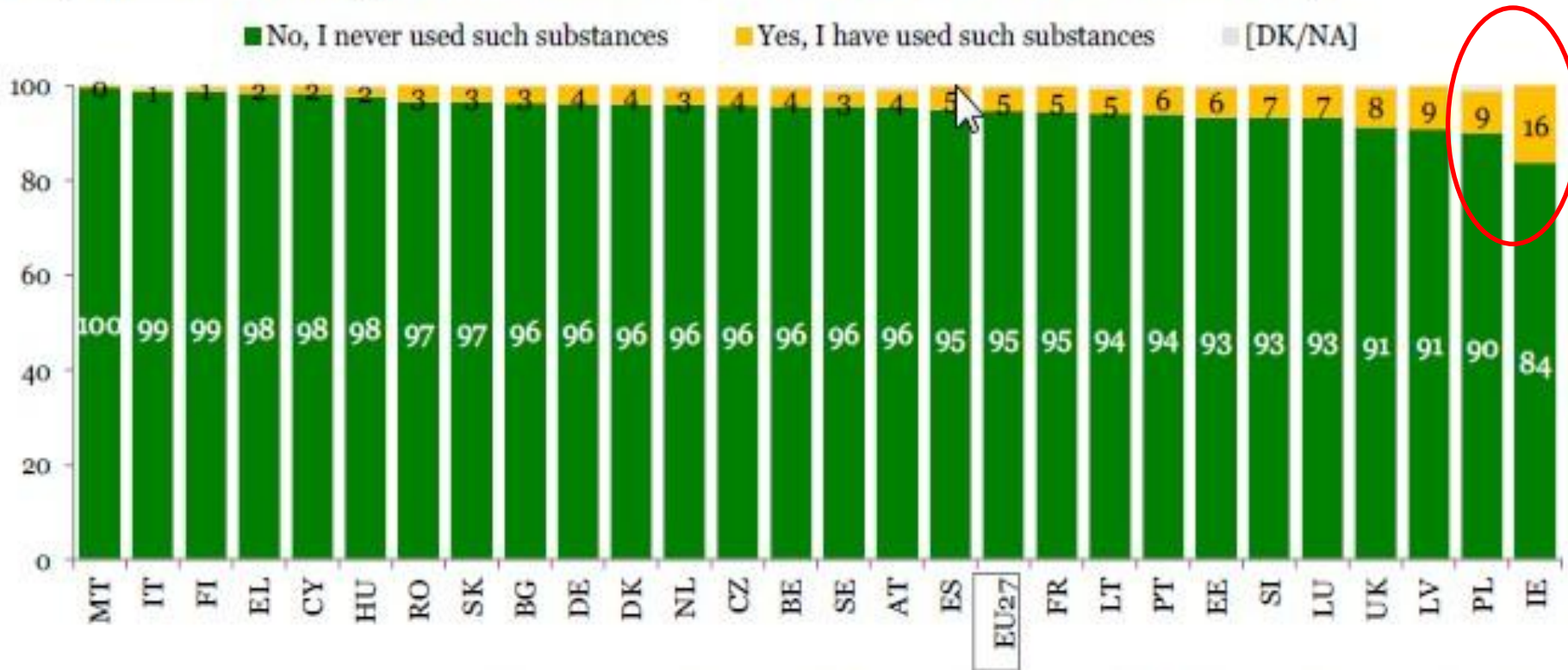
- Lifetime use of any illegal drug = 22%
- Lifetime use of cannabis = 20%
- Cannabis use in the last year = 13%

(ESPAD 2009)



Use of HSPS in Europe among 12 – 24 yr olds

Experience with legal substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs



Q5. In certain countries some new substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs are being sold as legal substances in the form of - for example - powders, tablets/pills or herbs. Have you ever used such substances?

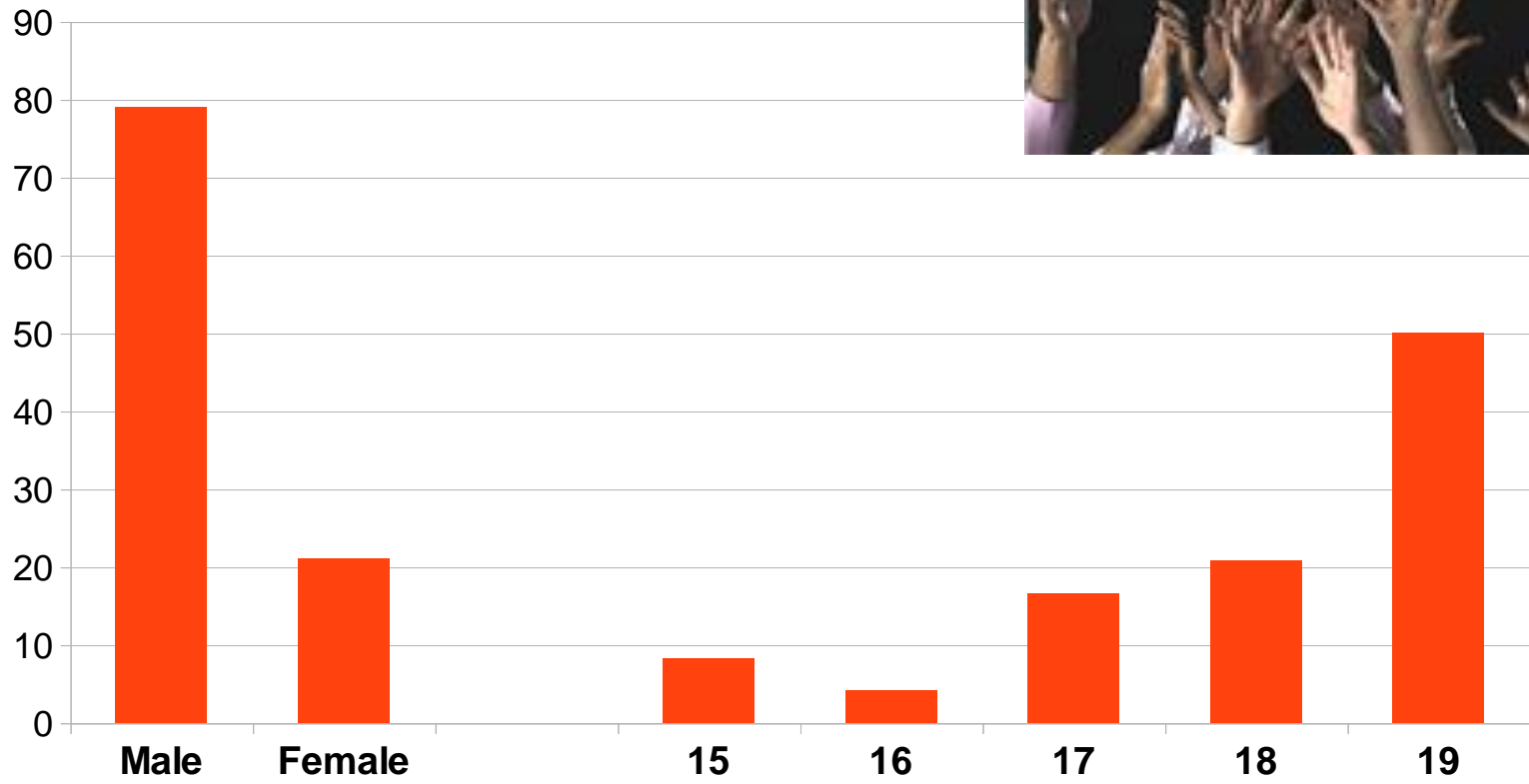
Base: all respondents, % by country

Flash EB Series #330 - Youth attitudes on drugs - Survey
 conducted by The Gallup Organization, Hungary upon the
 request of Directorate-General Justice

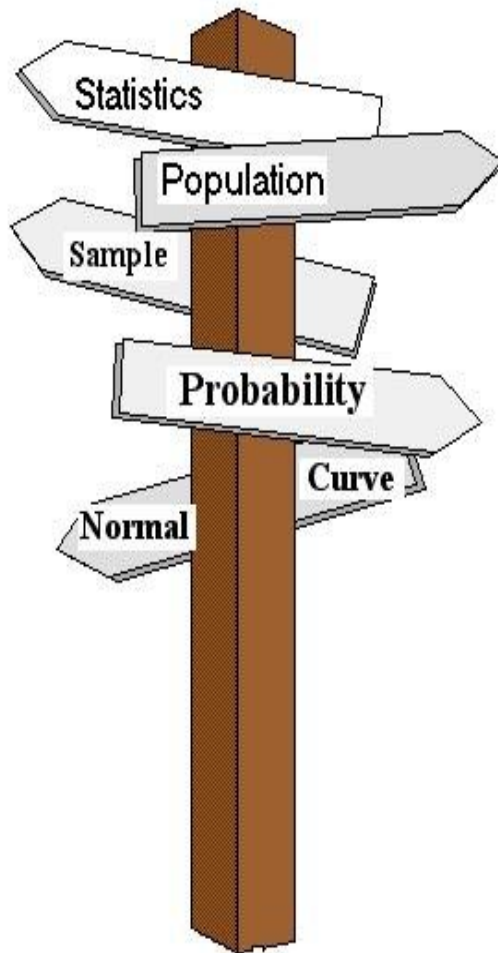
Aims & Methodology

- **Prevalence & motives**
 - **Social & psychological impacts**
 - **Participants' perceptions' of parent's attitudes**
 - **Impact of government legislation**
-
- **Quantative - Adapted ESPAD questionnaire (Hibell *et al.* 2009)**
 - **Cannabis Abuse Screening Test (CAST) (Legleye *et al.* 2007)**
 - **Read in face to face interviews (n=24), 5 and 25 minutes**
 - **April – June 2011**
 - **Participants (n=24), 4 adolescent treatment services**
 - **Parental consent needed < 18's**

Gender and Age



RESEARCH RESULTS

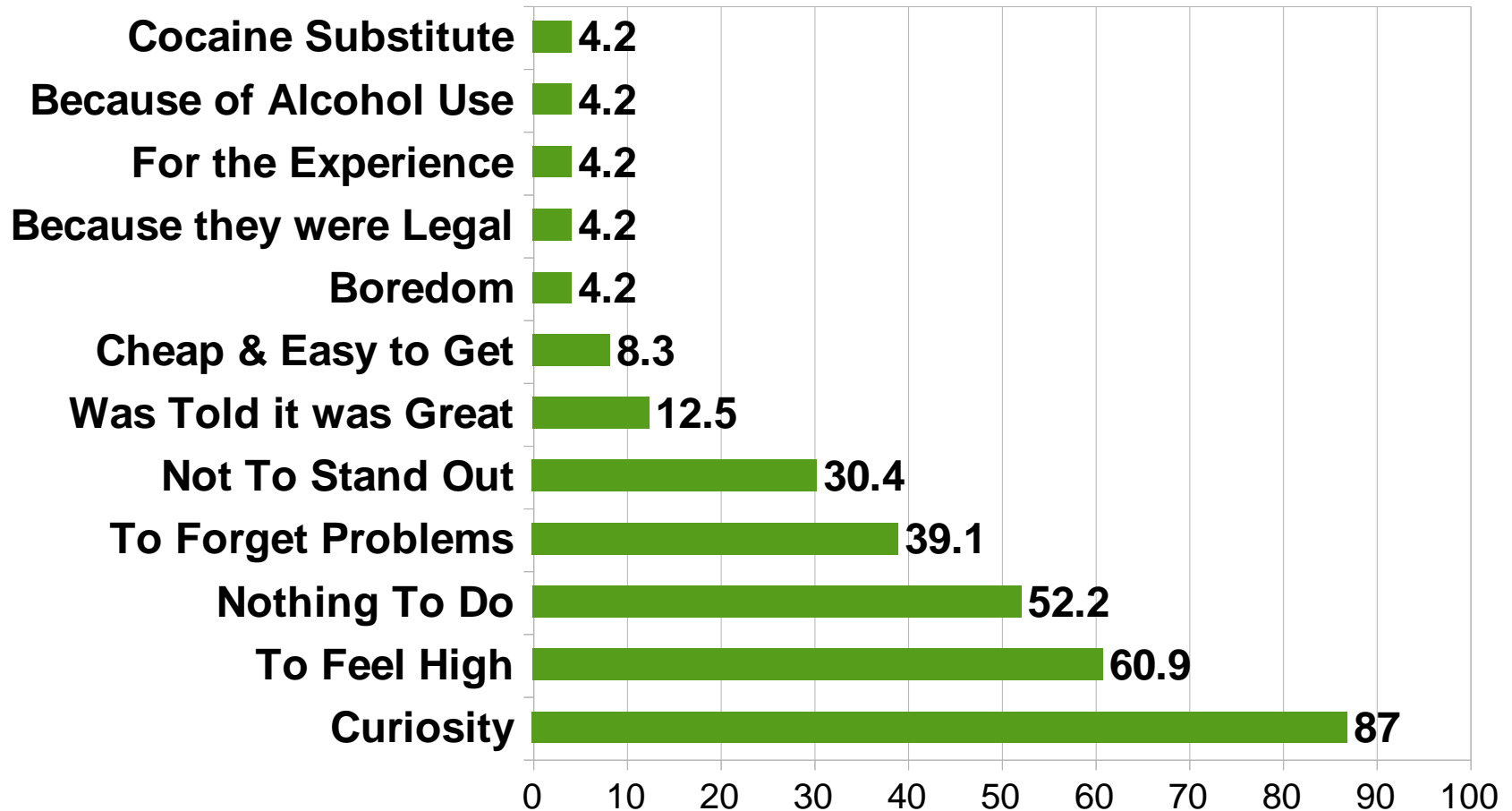


Motives for use?

Where
accessed?

Prevalence?

Motives for Use of HSPS



Where accessed?

Shared among a group of friends 73% (n=17)

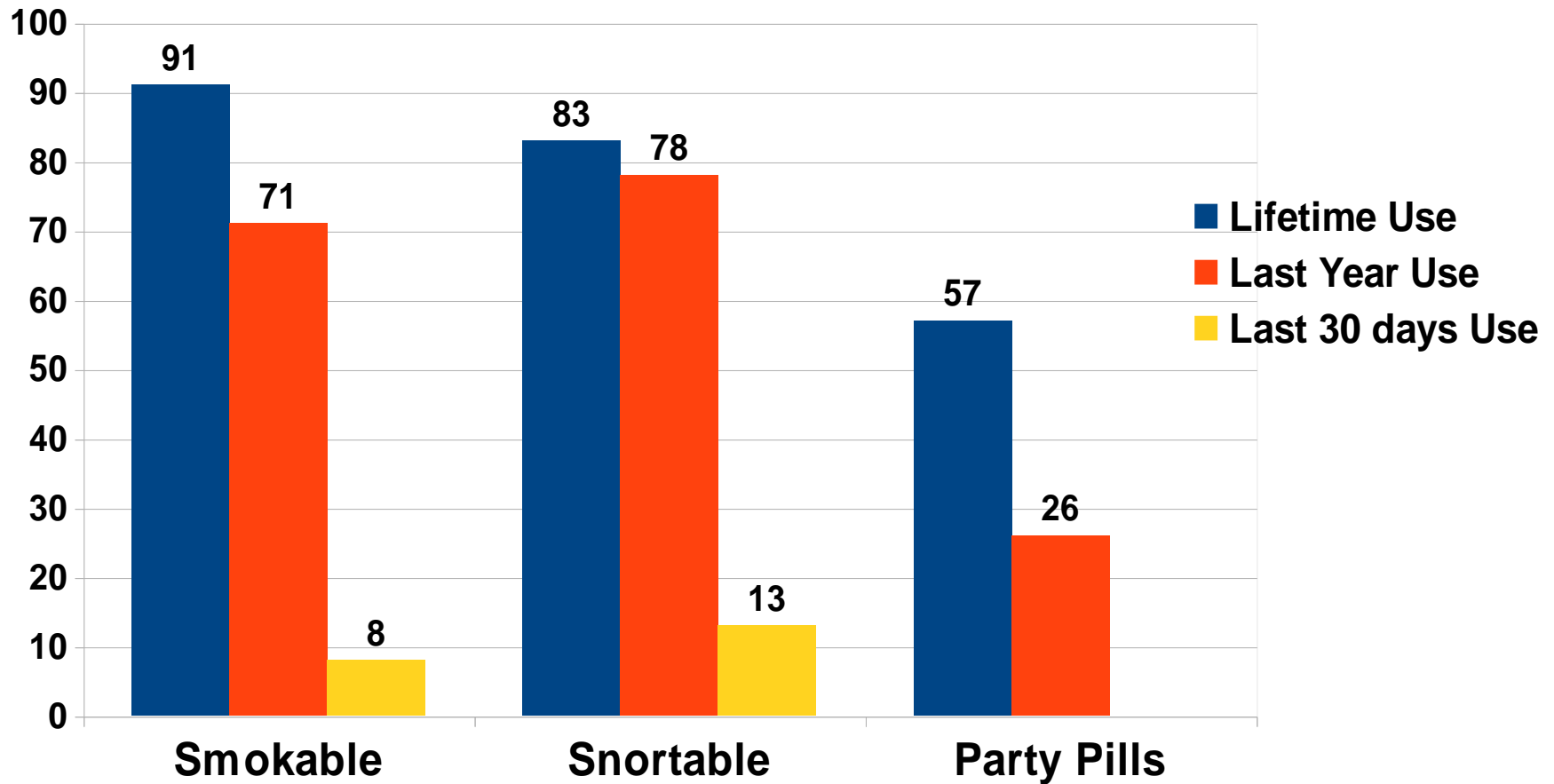
*61% (n=14)
Bought from a friend*

*32% (n=8) bought in Head Shop,
2 asked over 18 yr old to buy*

*46% (n=11) were never refused
service in a Head Shop*

Where might you Access now?
*70% on the street, 66% dealer ,
25% on internet, 20% in school*

Prevalence of Use of HSPS



Variety of Snortable

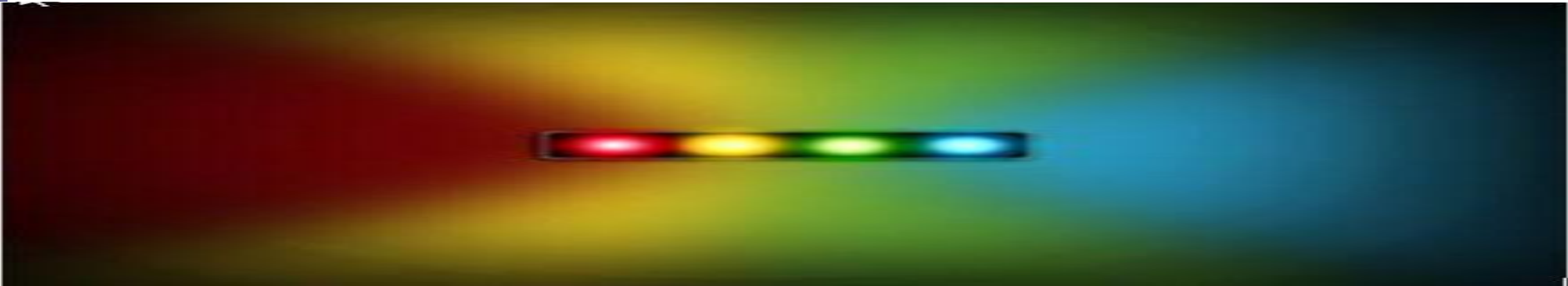
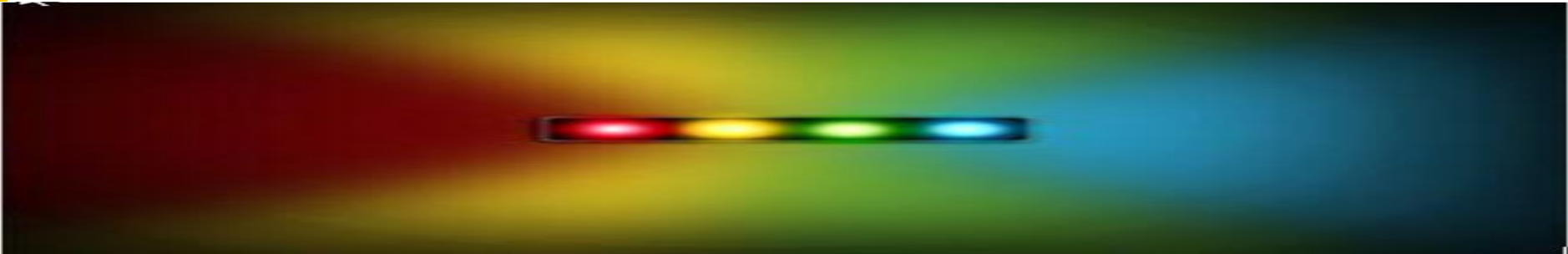
79% (n=19) lifetime use

Mephedrone	11	57.9%
Wild Cat	5	26.3%
Snowstorm	3	15.8%
Pure Gold	3	15.8%
Blow	3	15.8%
Snow blow	2	10.5%
Ivory Wave	2	10.5%
Plan B	2	10.5%
Charge	2	10.5%

Knowns

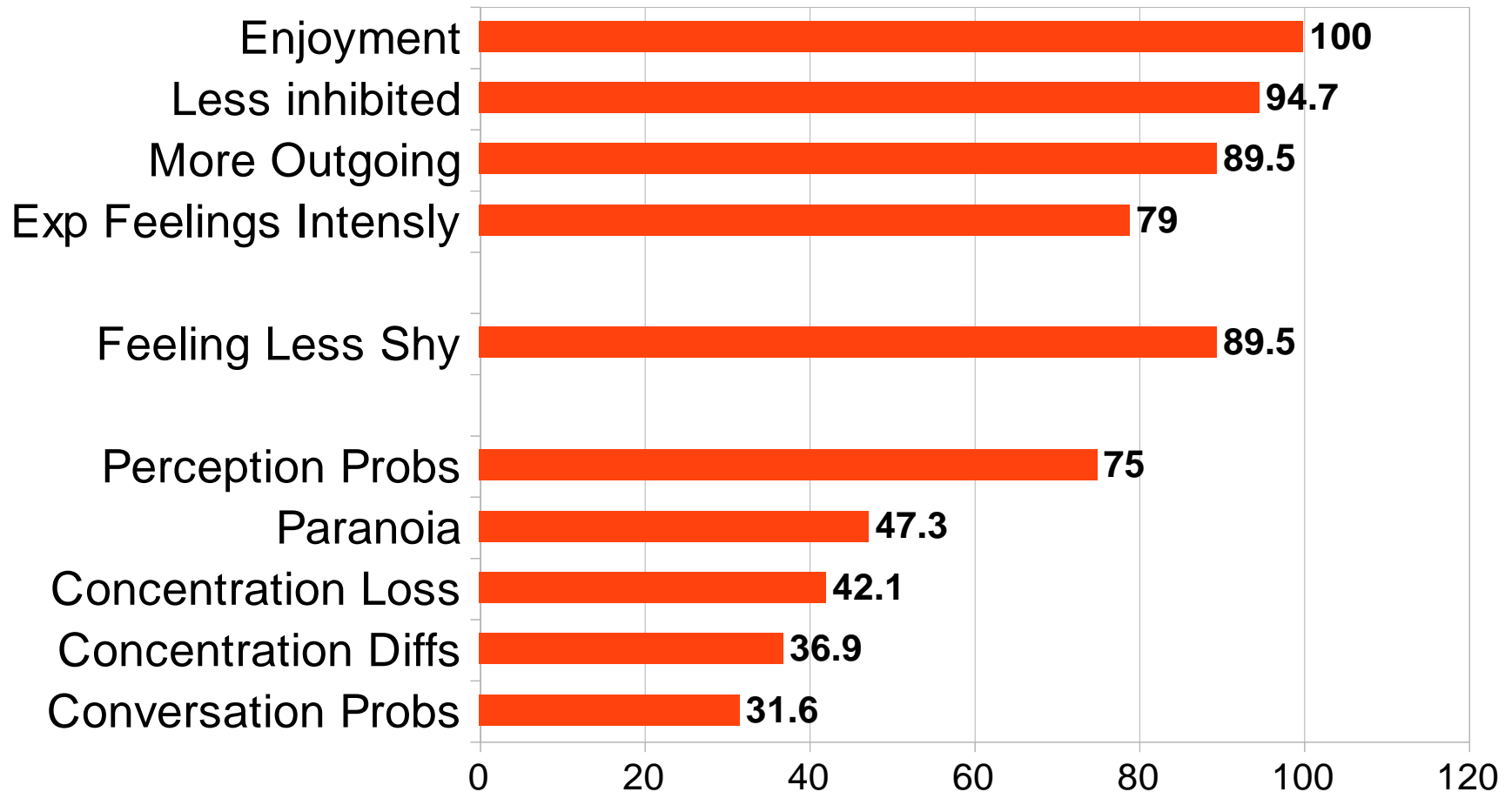
&

Unknowns



Perceived Psychological & Social Impacts of HSPS Use

Perceived Psychological Effects of Snortable HSPS Use



Any thing else you would like to add?

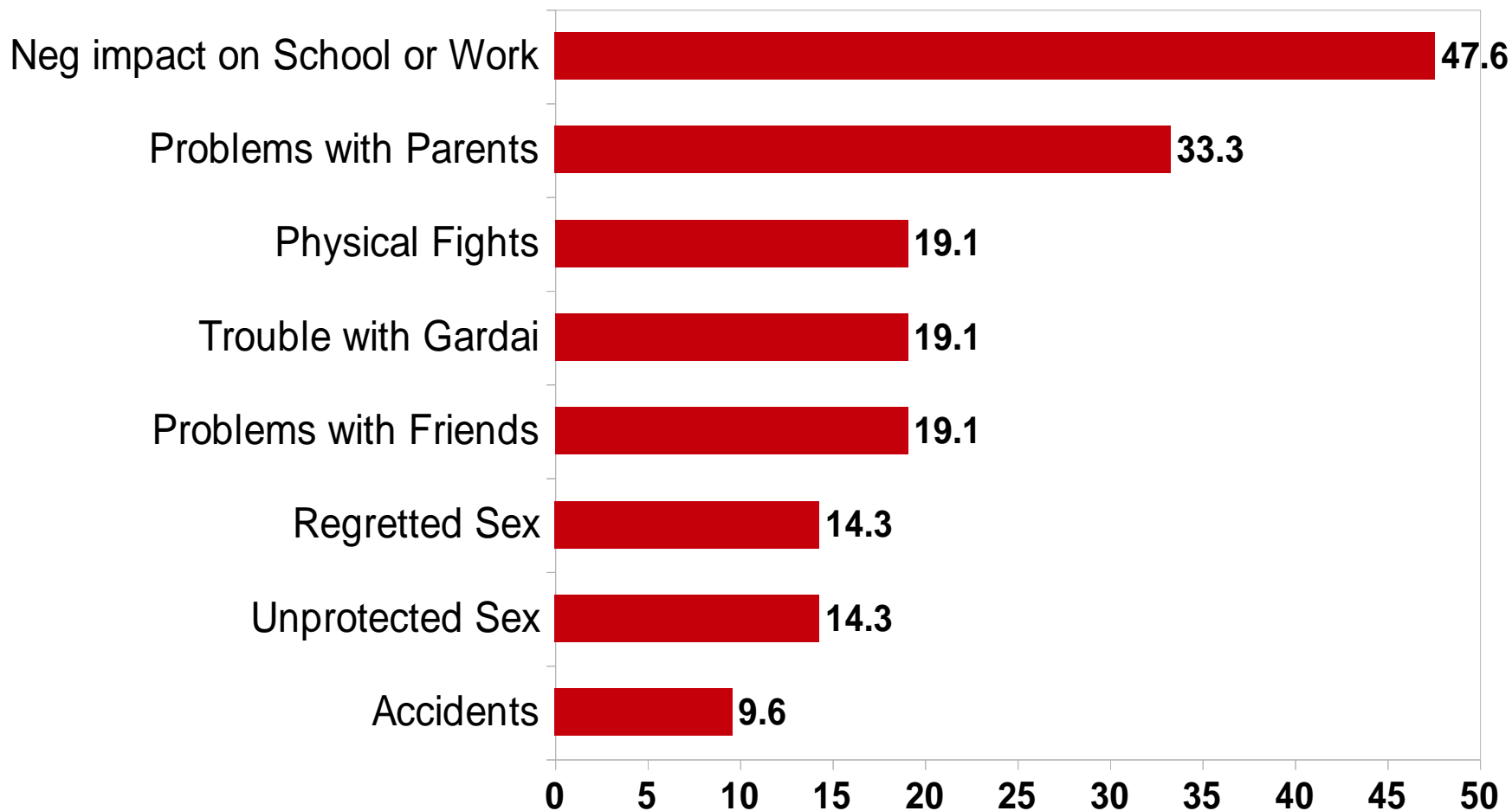
Feedback on HSPS use

“Worse comedown than from illegal drugs. Once I thought I was going to die - an awful experience”.

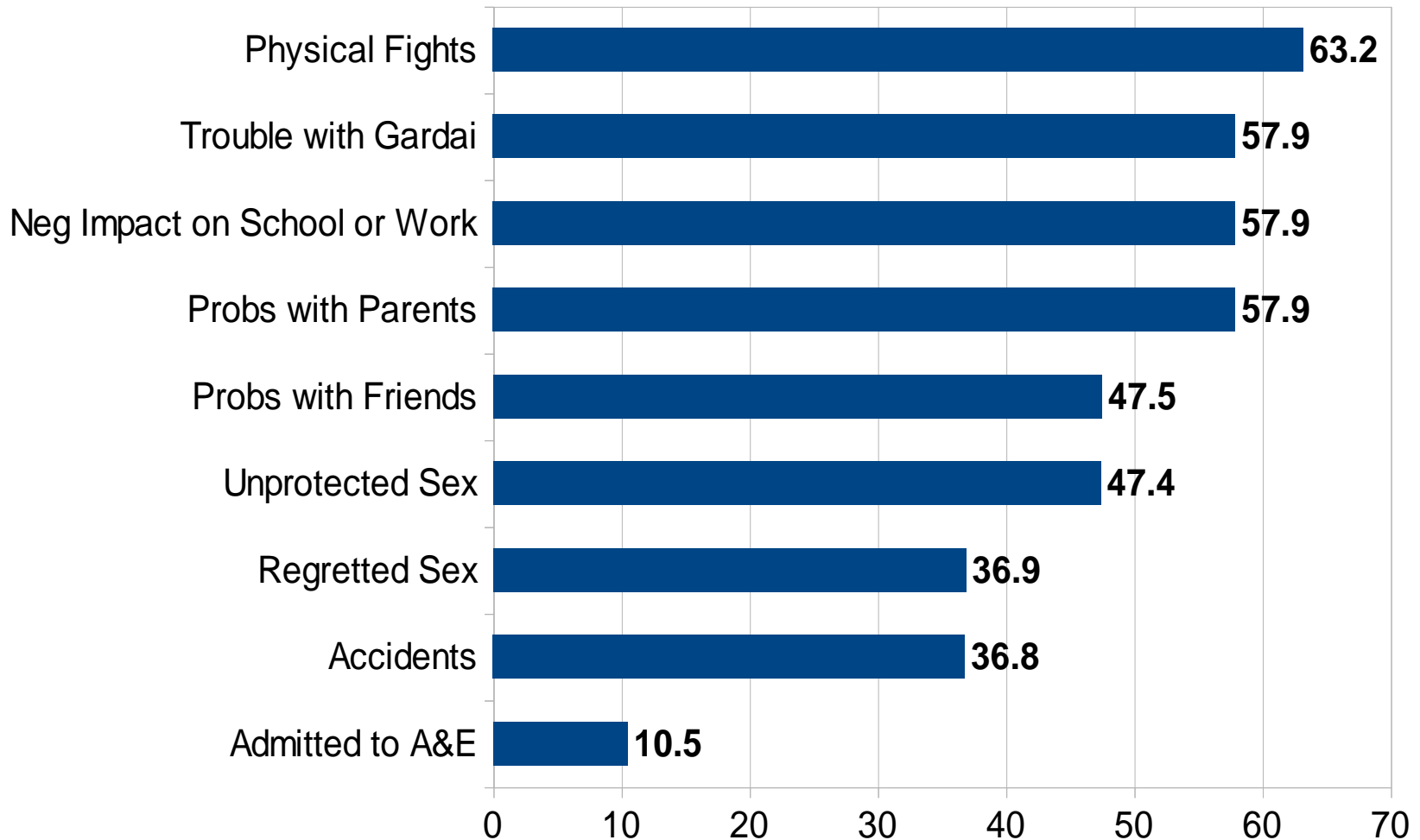
“Mood swings and very emotional after using Mephedrone ”

“They make you hallucinate, especially the salvia”
“Panic attacks from smoking head shop stuff”

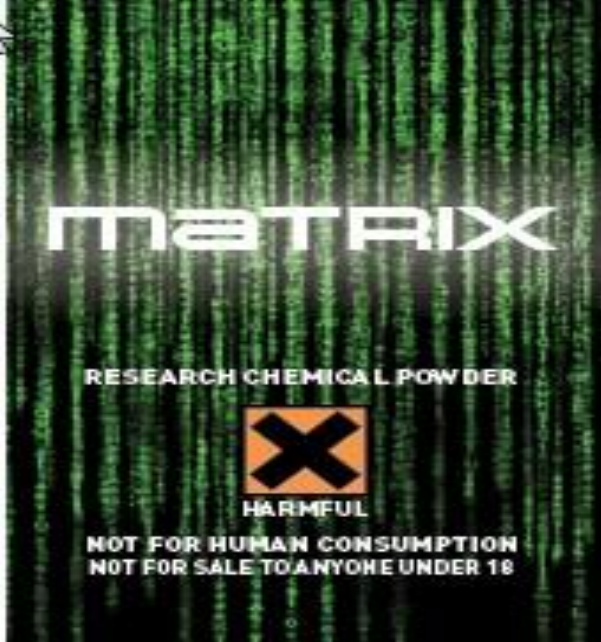
Negative Social Consequences Attributed to Smokable HSPS use



Negative Social Consequences Attributed to Snortable HSPS Use



Comparison of Impacts



	Smokable HSPS	Snortable HSPS	Party Pills
Negative Social Consequences	19%	46%	17%
Negative Psychological Consequences	67%	42%	36%

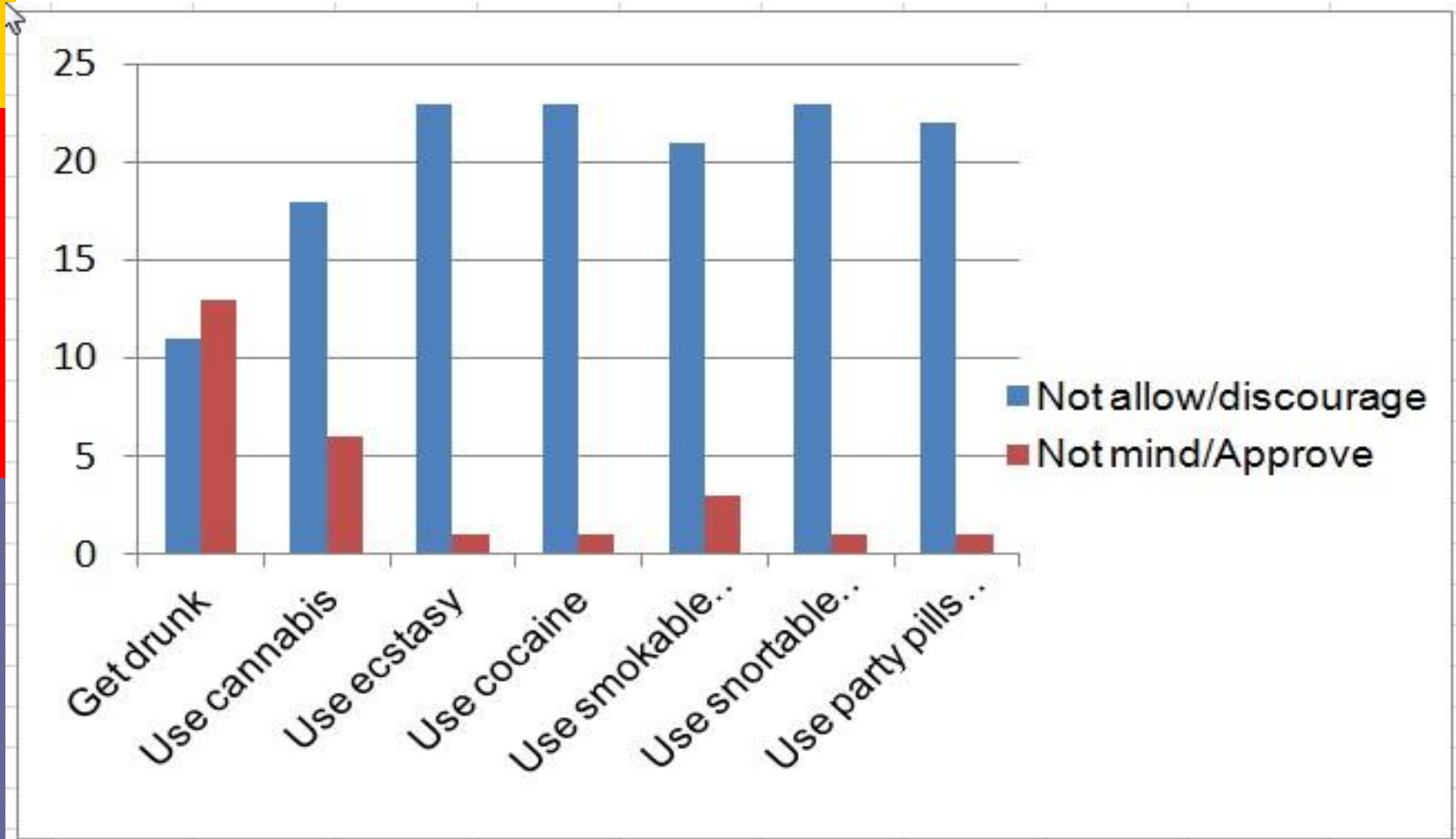
Feedback on Snortable & Mephedrone Use

“Mood swings and very emotional after using Mephedrone - I’d advise people not to use them”

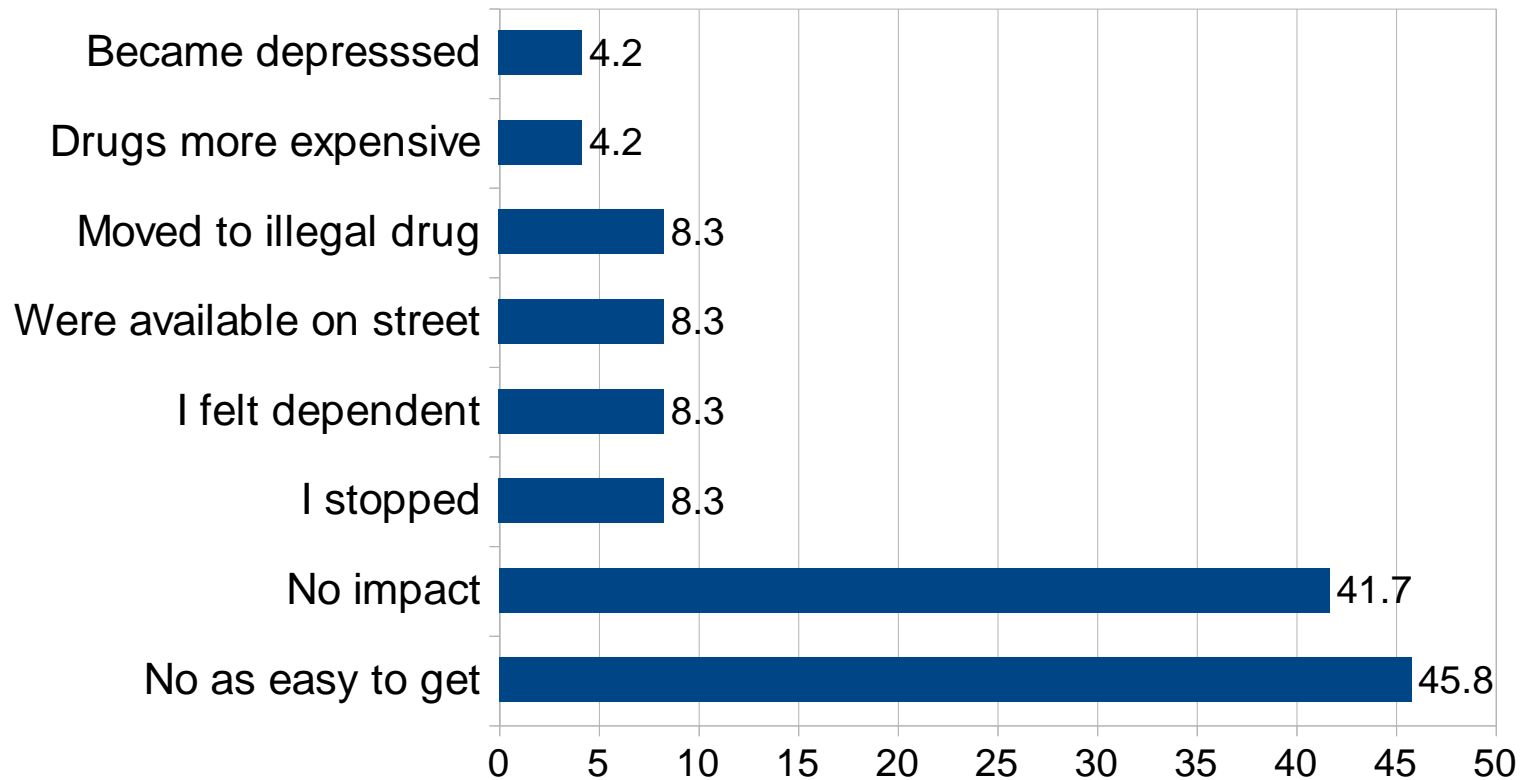
“They f--k you up big time. 1 in 5 chance that you’d commit a crime, assault, or killing yourself with snortable, you think you are an artificial character and your worst fears come to life”

“Heart palpitations from Snortable the next day”

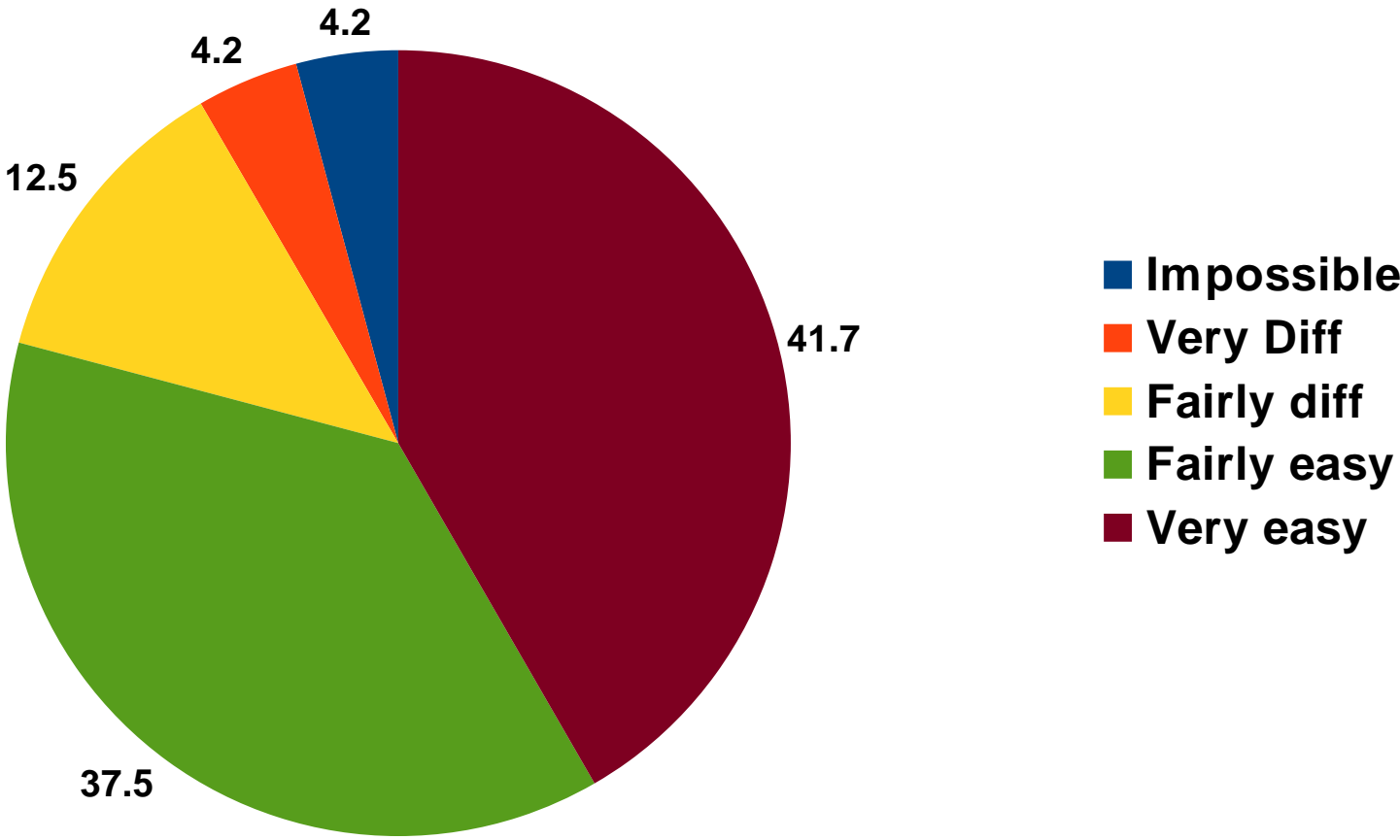
Perceptions of Paternal Reactions to Use of Mood Altering Substances



Impact of the Ban



How Difficult are HSPS to Buy now?



References

- Griffiths P., Sedefov R., Gallegos A. & Lopez D. (2010) How globalization and market innovation challenge how we think about and respond to drug use: 'Spice' a case study. *Addiction*. **105**, 951-953
- Hibell B., Guttormsson U., Ahlström S., Balakireva O., Bjarnason T., Kokkevi A. & Kraus L. (2009) *The 2007 ESPAD Report. Substance Use Among Students in 35 European Countries*. The Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs. Sweden.
- Kelleher et al. (2011) An Overview of New Psychoactive Substances and the Outlets Supplying Them. Centre for Social and Educational Research, Dublin Institute of Technology. NACD.
- Long J. (2010) a Conference on psychoactive drugs sold in head shops and online. *Drugnet Ireland*. **33**. Spring 2010
- Morris, K. (2010) UK places generic ban on mephedrone drug family. World Report. *The Lancet*. Vol **375**. 1333-1334.
- Wilkins C., Girling M., & Sweetsur P. (2007) The prevalence of use, dependency and harms of legal 'party pills' containing benzylpiperazine (BZP) and trifluorophenylmethylpiperazine (TFMPP) in New Zealand . *Journal of Substance Use*. **12** (3), 213 – 224,
- Winstock A. R. & Ramsey J.D. (2010) Legal highs and the challenges for policy makers. *Addiction*, **105**, 1685-1687.



Thank you for listening

Questions, comments?

email

[ann.campbell1 @hse.ie](mailto:ann.campbell1@hse.ie)