



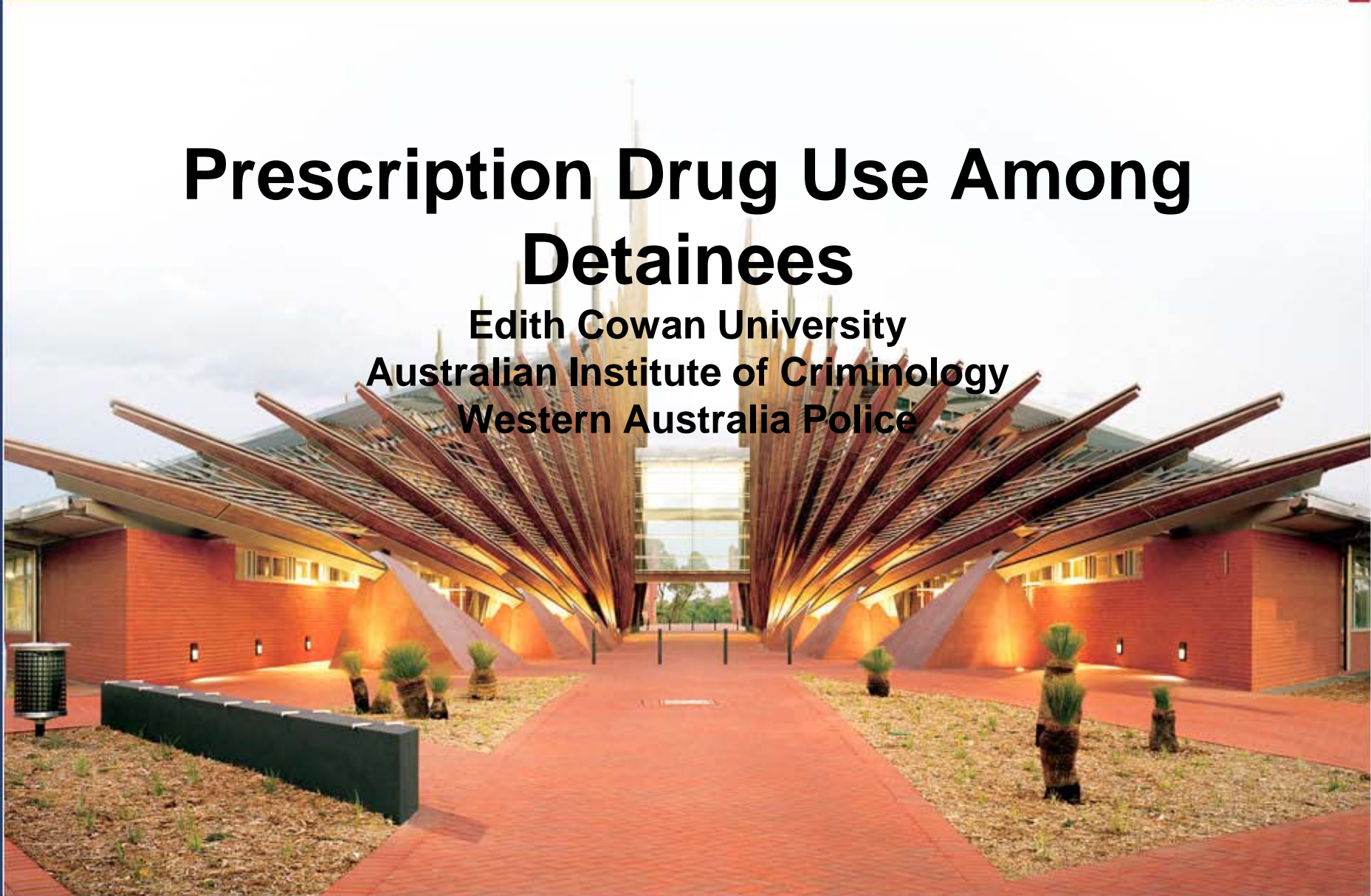
Australian Government

Australian Institute of Criminology



Prescription Drug Use Among Detainees

Edith Cowan University
Australian Institute of Criminology
Western Australia Police





Australian Government

Australian Institute of Criminology



Prescription Drug Use Among Police Detainees

Natalie Gately, Jenny Kessell &
Catherine McGregor

Public attention



Combined drug
intoxication of
various
prescription drugs

Oxicodone
(morphine)
Hydrocodone
Tamaxapain
others



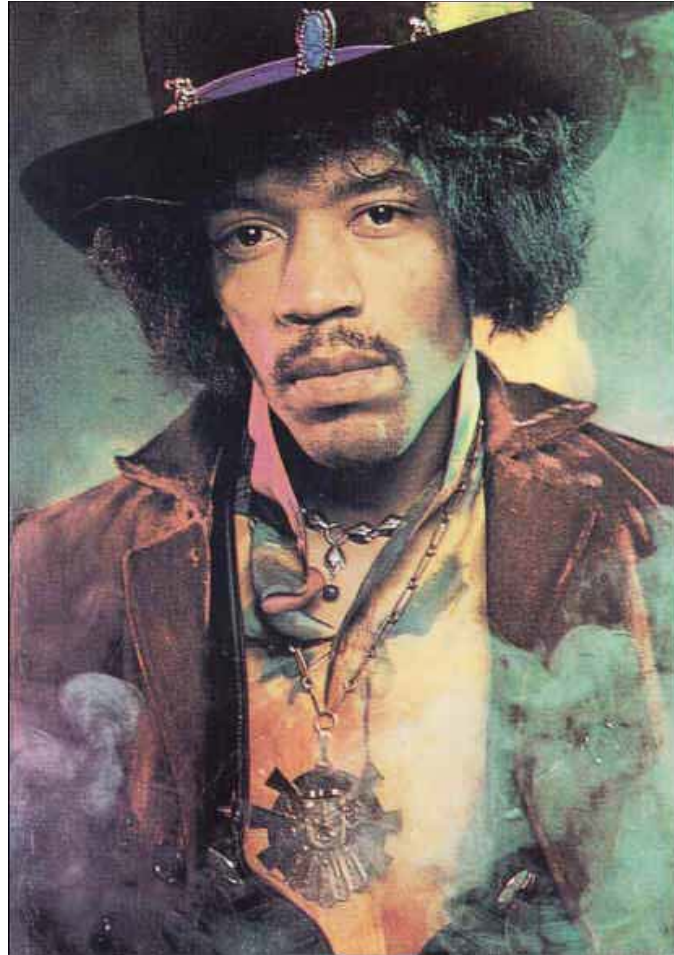
Public attention



Lethal amount of
the anesthetic
Propofol and
alprazolam



Public attention

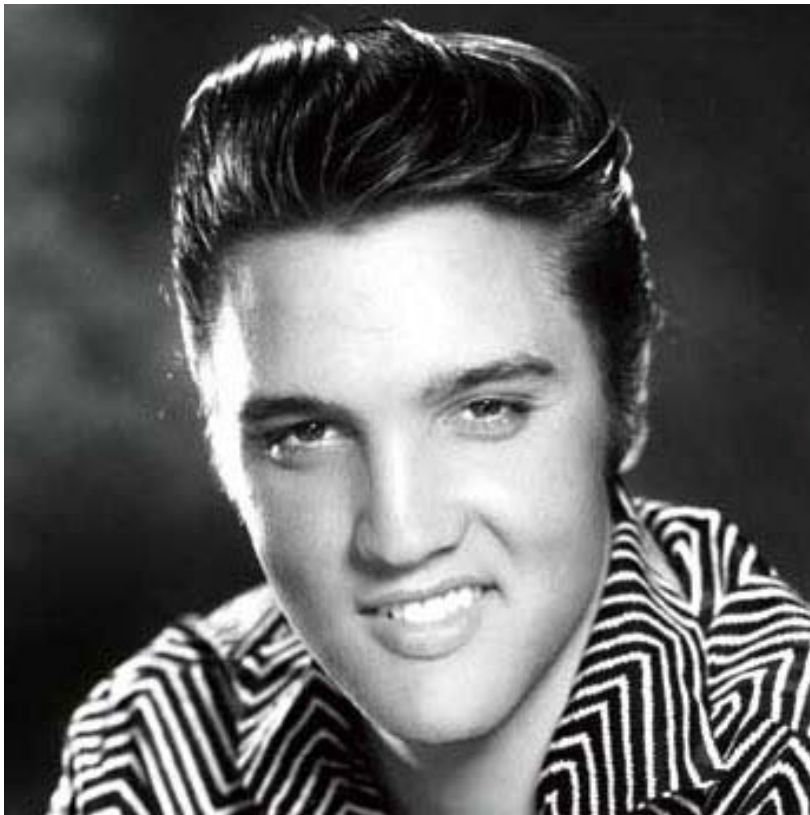


Concerns related to use

- Individual



Public attention



"He felt that by getting [pills] from a doctor, he wasn't the common everyday junkie getting something off the street."

Dr George C Nichopoulos
Presley's Doctor



Concerns related to use

- Individual
- Policing
- Wider community



Public attention



iatrogenic
dependence?



National research

- Limited
- Suggest PD illegal use in a number of ways including:
 - Prescription fraud
 - Doctor shopping
 - Persuading doctors to over-prescribe
 - Theft
 - Identity fraud
 - Diversion of pharmaceutical drugs
 - Online transactions, such as through internet pharmacies



Background to The addendum

- WA Police & Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs
- Viability of National Prescription Drug Strategy
- WA Police requested addendum
- Particularly of concern was the misuse/abuse of opiates; benzodiazepines; stimulants; and steroids



The addendum

- Questions asked about
 - Use of prescription drugs/medication for non medical purposes in the last 12 months;
 - The types of drugs/medication usually used;
 - The types preferred to use; and
 - The manner of acquiring the drugs/medication

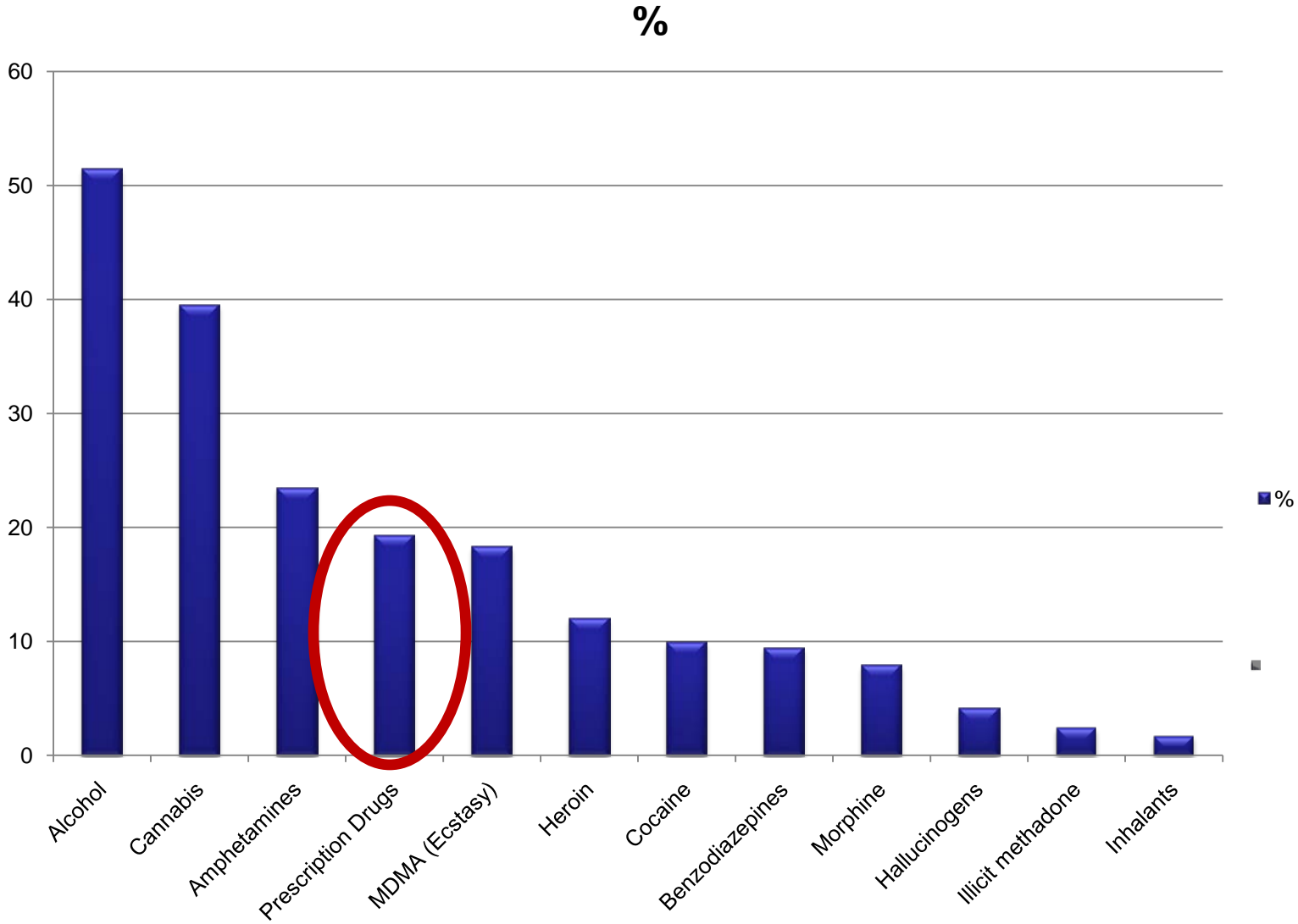


Sample

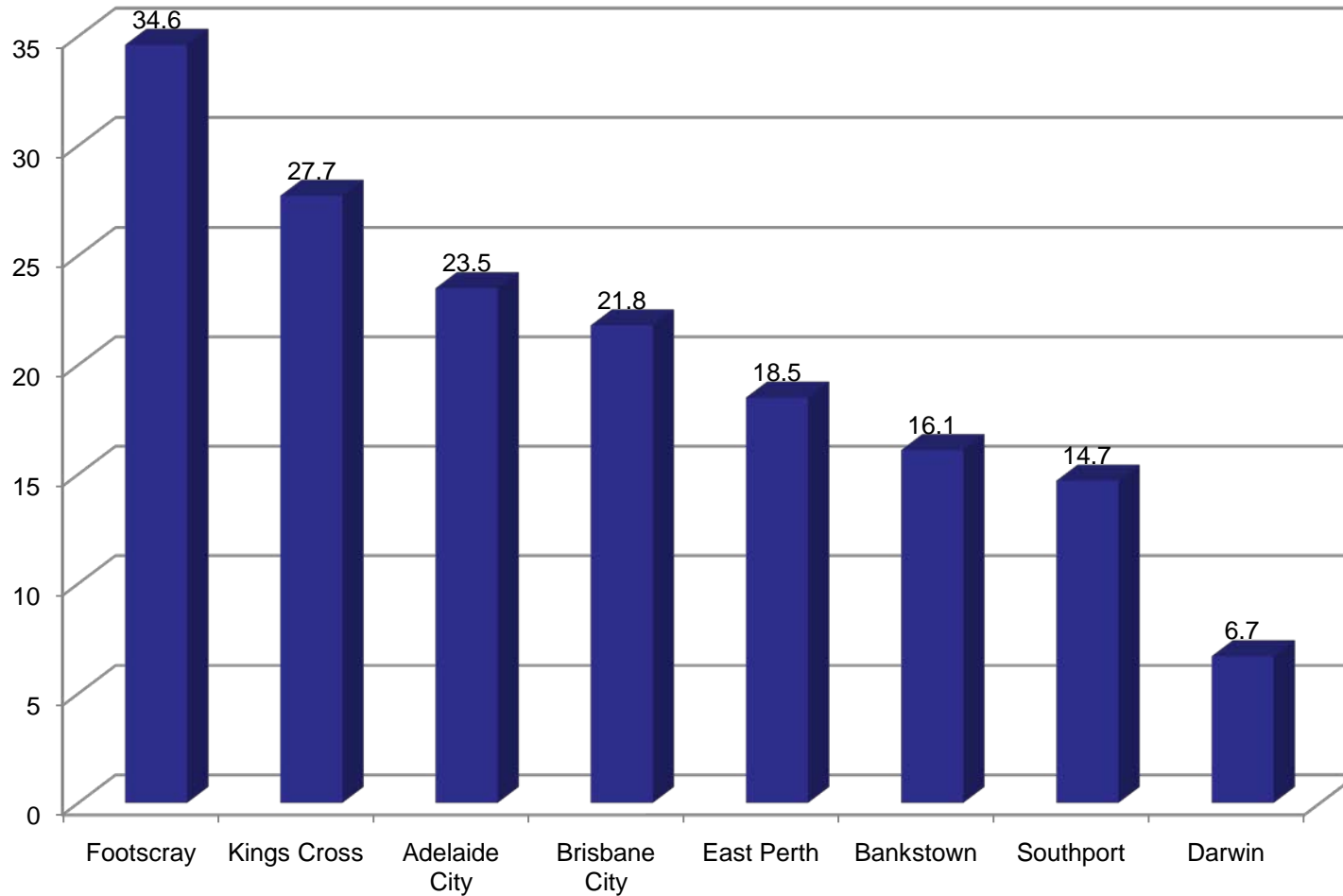
- 1614 individuals interviewed
- 986 (61.1%) administered addendum
- 190 (19.3%) had taken prescription drugs for non-medical purposes in the previous 12 months
- Females significantly higher usage



In perspective...



Usage by site (%)

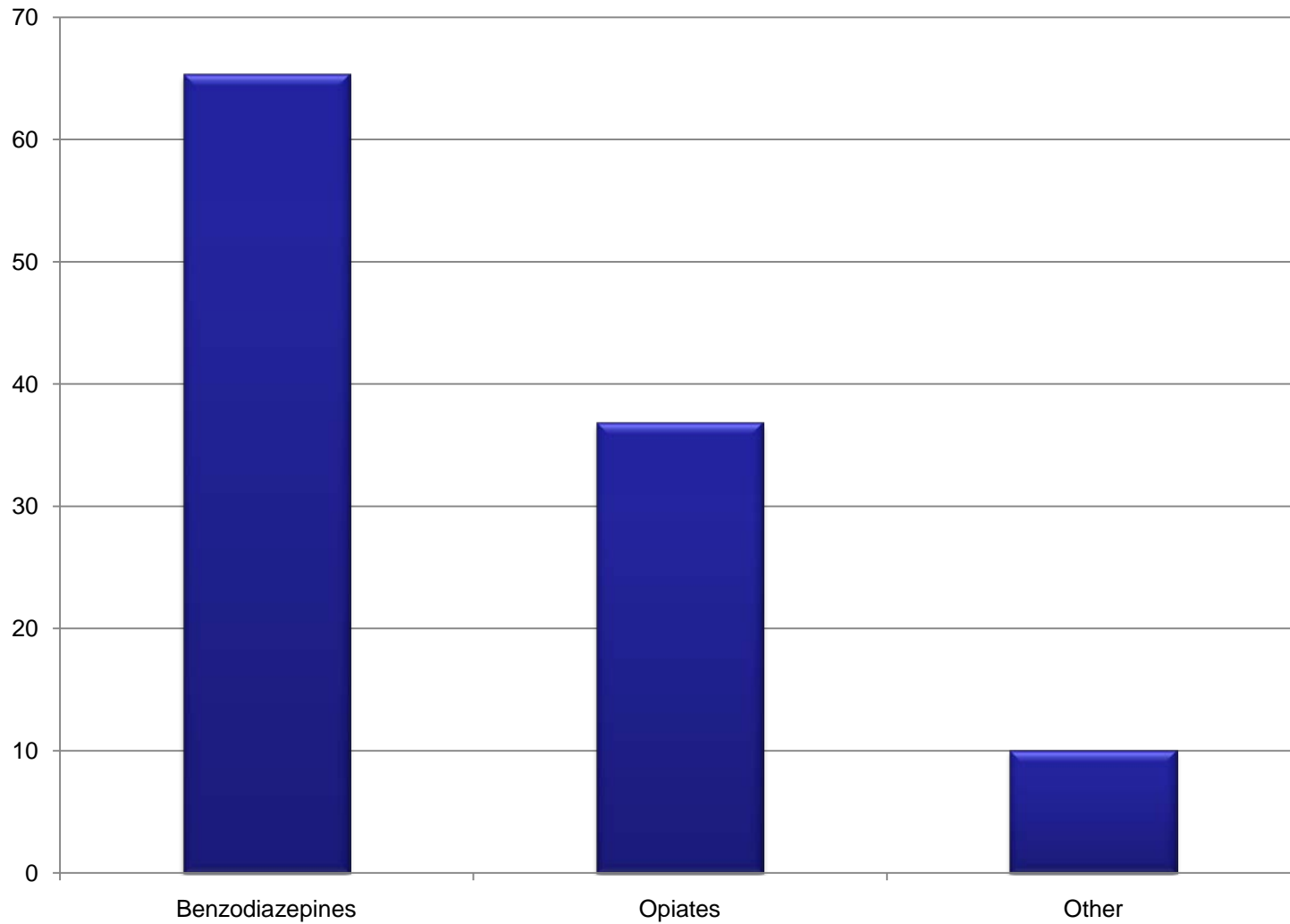


Types of prescription drugs used

Benzodiazepines (sedatives)	Opiates (pain killers)	Other drugs (mood stabilisers / stimulants)
Diazepam	Morphine *S8	Miscellaneous drugs
Alprazolam	Unspecified opiates	Antipsychotics
Oxazepam	Buprenorphine *S8	Dexamphetamine *S8
Temazepam *S8	Methadone *S8	Antidepressants
Other BZD	Codeine	
Nitrazepam		
Clonazepam		
Flunitrazepam *S8		



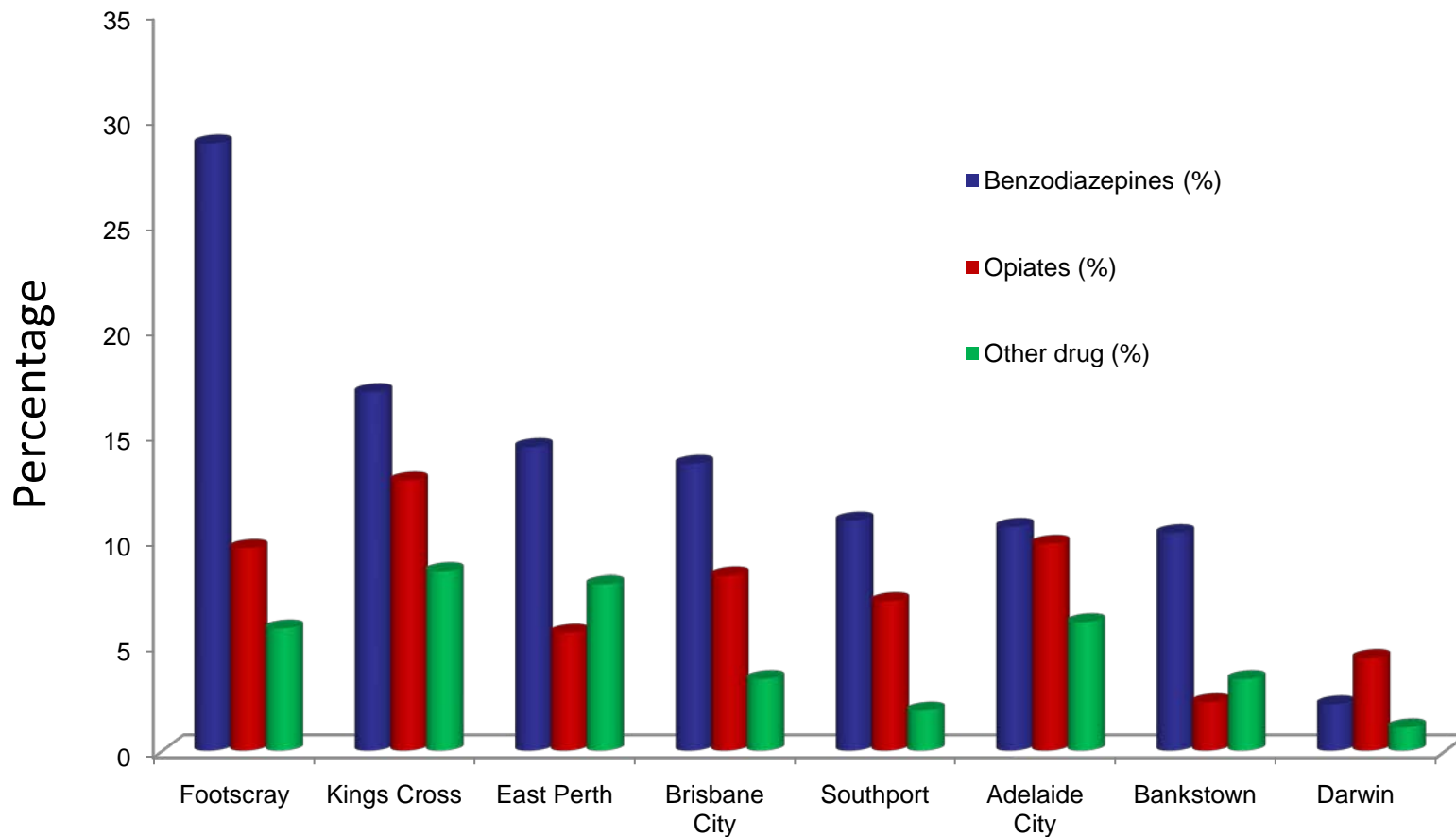
Categories of drugs



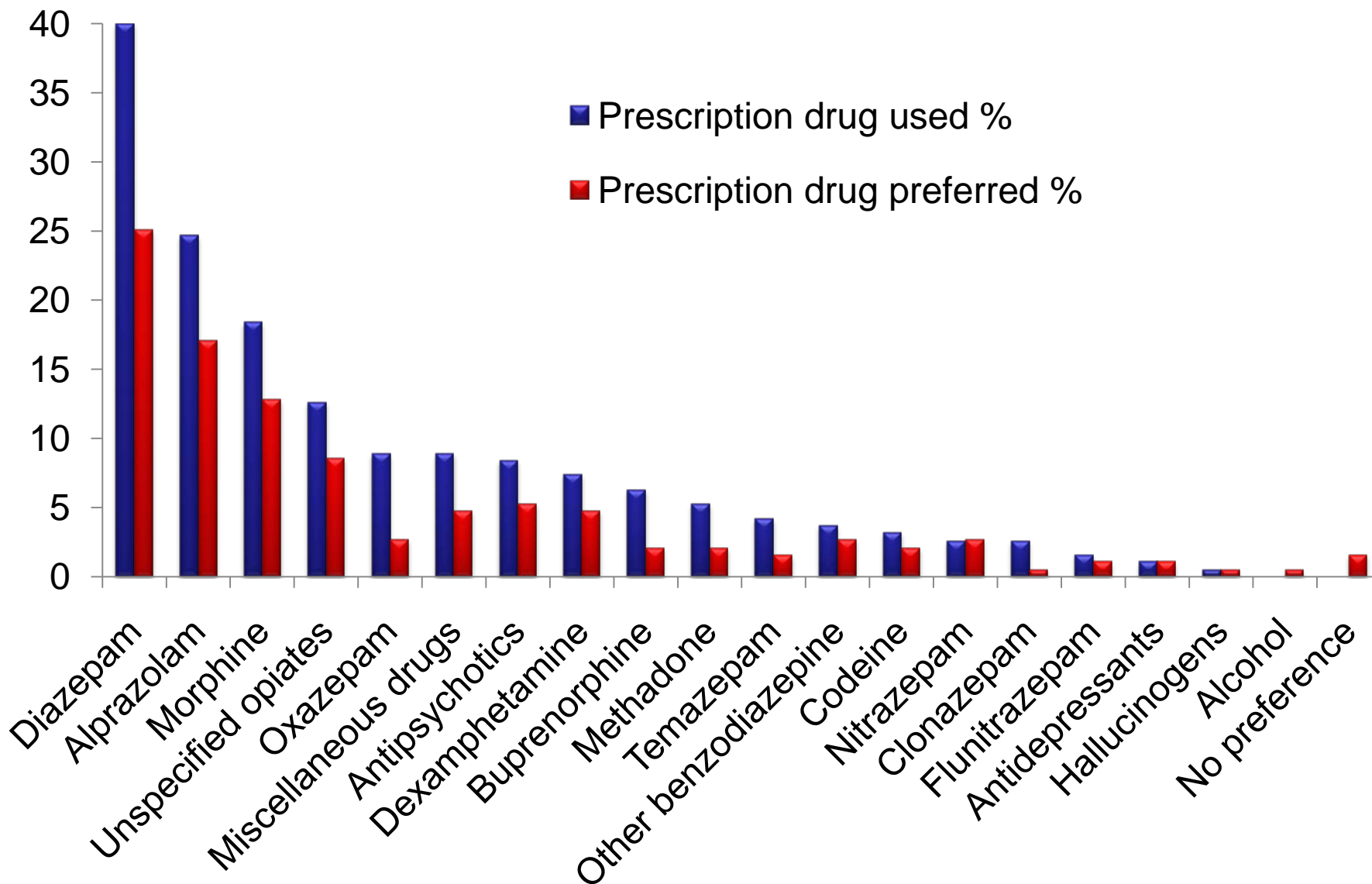
Respondents could nominate more than one substance



Use by DUMA site



Usage v preferred

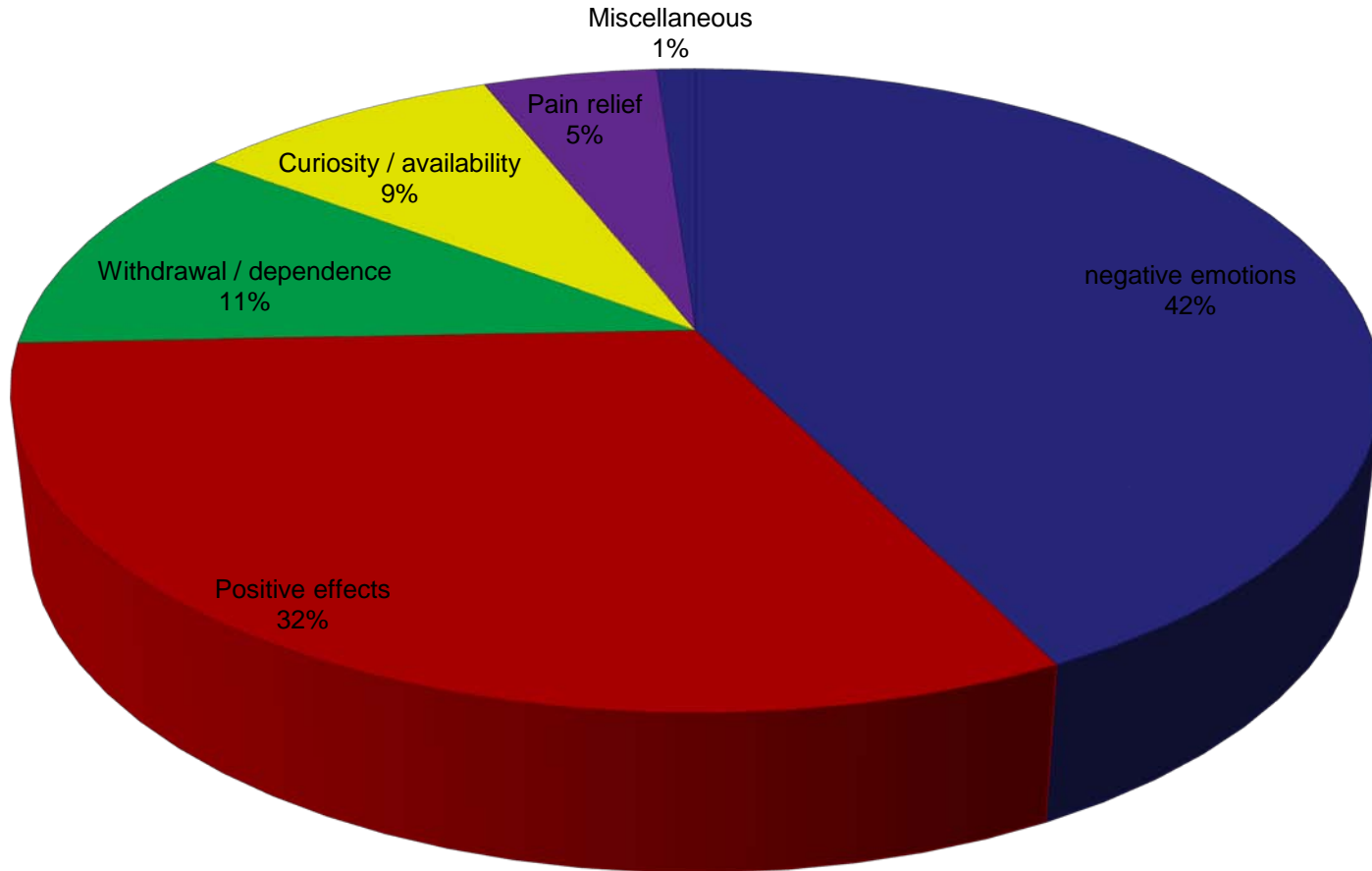


Reasons given for use

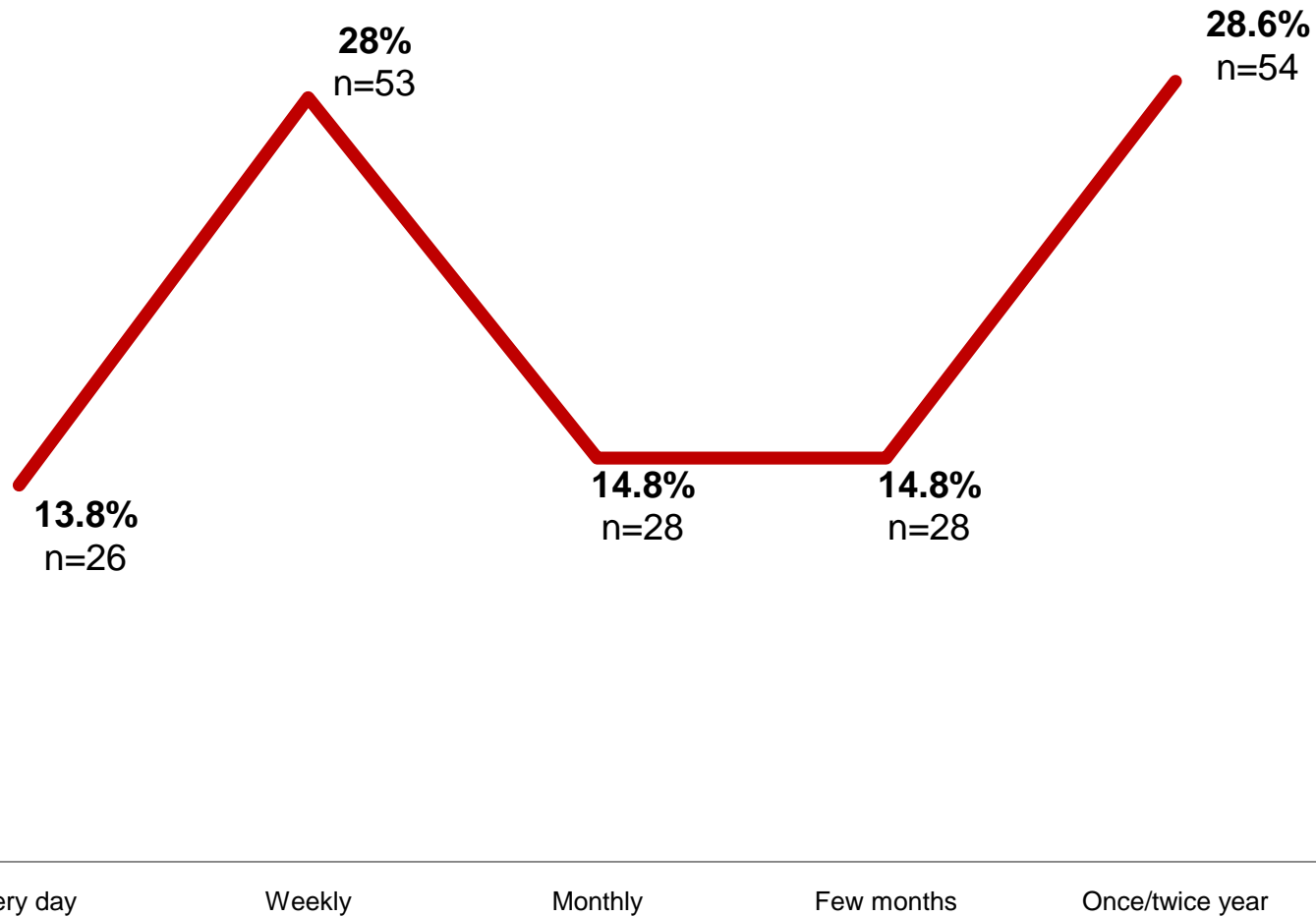
- Qualitative analysis
 1. Relief of negative emotional states or insomnia
 2. Desire for positive effects
 3. Withdrawal, drug dependence, drug craving or drug substitution
 4. Curiosity or availability
 5. Pain relief



Reasons given for use



Frequency of use



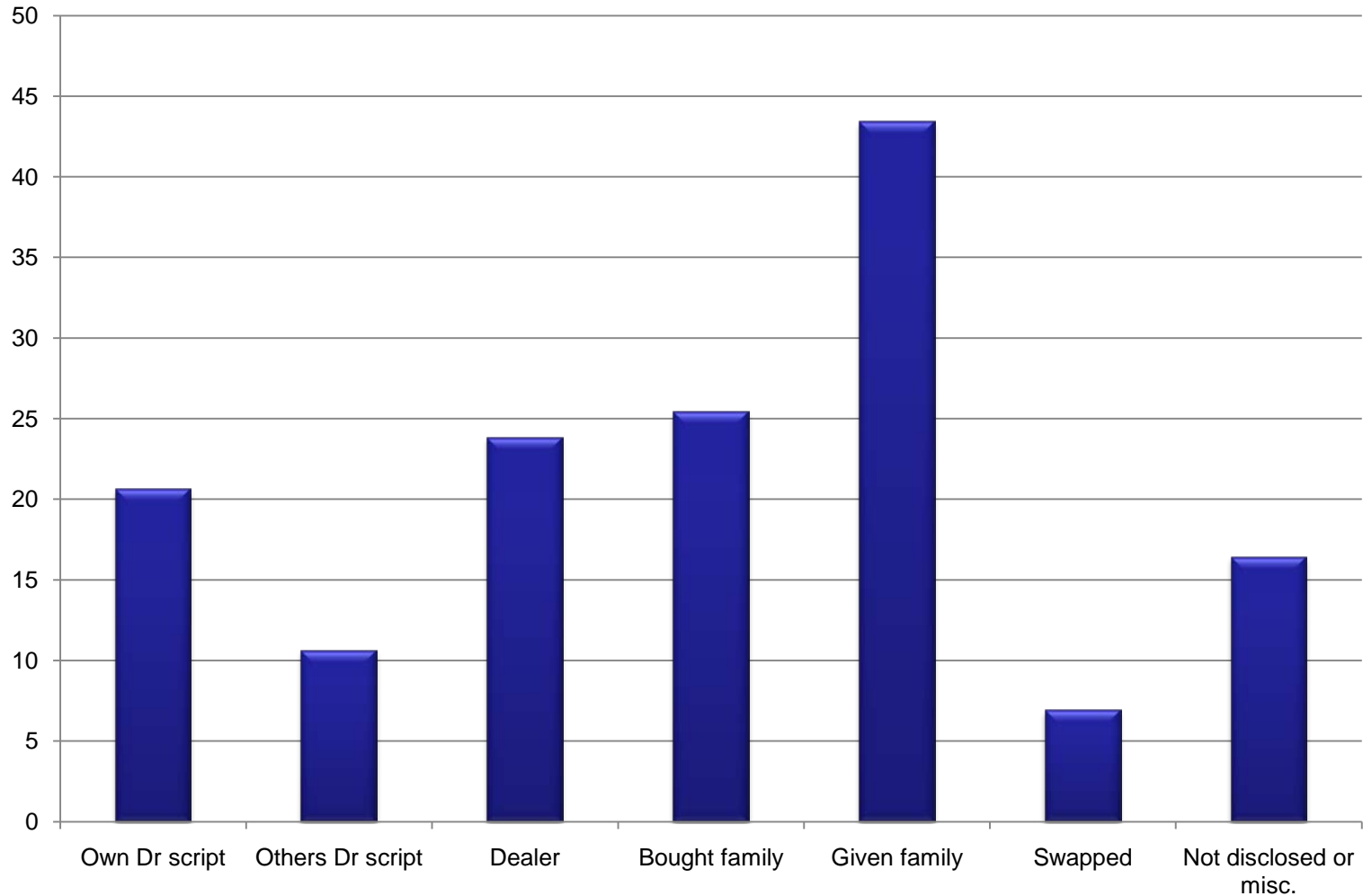
Drugs used in combination

Drug combined with prescription drugs	<i>n</i> *	Percent
Alcohol	77	57.5
Cannabis	41	30.6
Heroin	38	28.4
Methamphetamine	15	11.2
Amphetamines	13	9.7
Methadone	7	5.2
Morphine	4	3.0
Cocaine	2	1.5

Respondents could nominate more than one substance



Obtaining prescription drugs

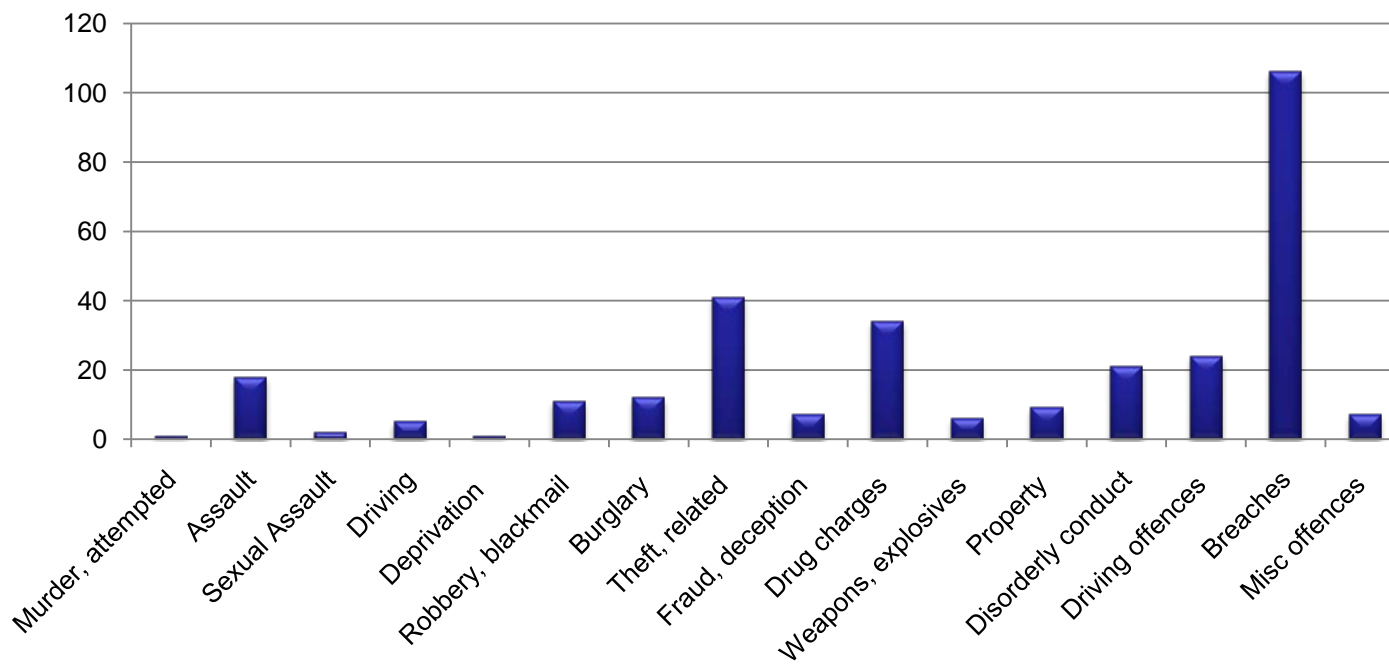


Respondents could nominate more than one method

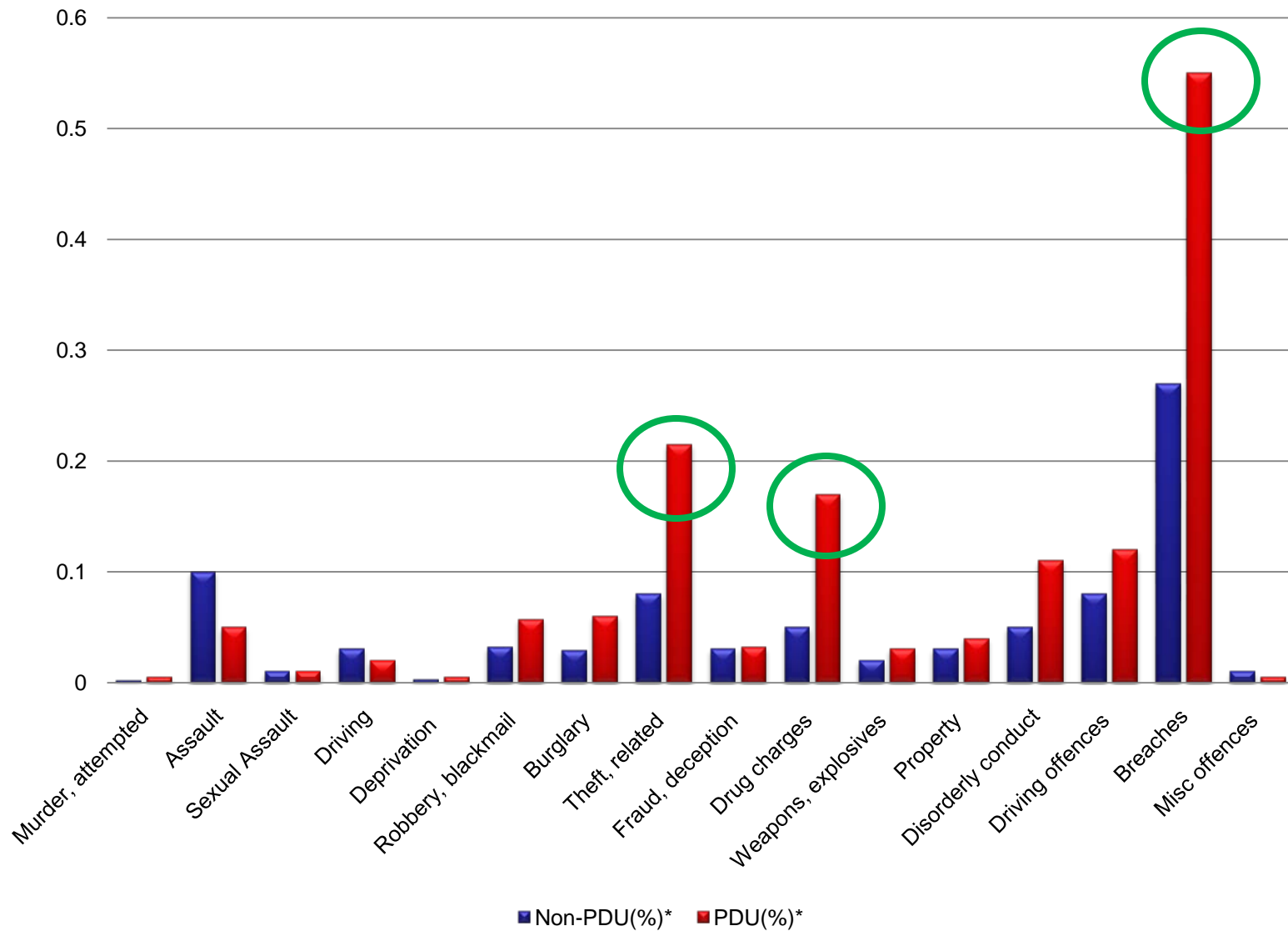


PDU Offences

PDU(n)*



Offences



Conclusion

- Who?
 - 19.3% detainees
 - 26.7% female
 - 17.8% male
 - Mean age 27 years (16-55)
- What?
 - Benzodiazepines most common drug used
 - Principally 'diazepam'
 - Relieve negative affect
- How?
 - Most sourced from family and/or friends
 - Little Doctor shopping
 - Little forgery or stealing





Australian Government

Australian Institute of Criminology



Natalie Gately –
n.gately@ecu.edu.au
(08) 6304 5930

Jenny Kessell –
j.kessell@ecu.edu.au