



MINISTRY OF  
**HEALTH &  
WELLNESS**



A Department of the  
Ministry of Health and Wellness

**2023**

# National Drug Prevalence Survey Dissemination



# About the Survey

Centre for Leadership & Governance (CLG), UWI, Mona



Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/CICAD) Protocol

Representative at the national and parish levels  
4991 respondents – interviewer administered

Cross sectional survey – stratified multi-stage cluster sampling

Socio-demographics, substance use, risk perception, access, treatment, driving under the influence, attitudes towards drug policies



Determine the prevalence of psychoactive substances use among Jamaicans 12-65 years

# Background



✓ Lifetime, past year & current prevalence



✓ Comparison 2016 to 2023



✓ Gender comparisons



✓ Parish comparisons



✓ Harmful use & driving under the influence



✓ Risk perception & access

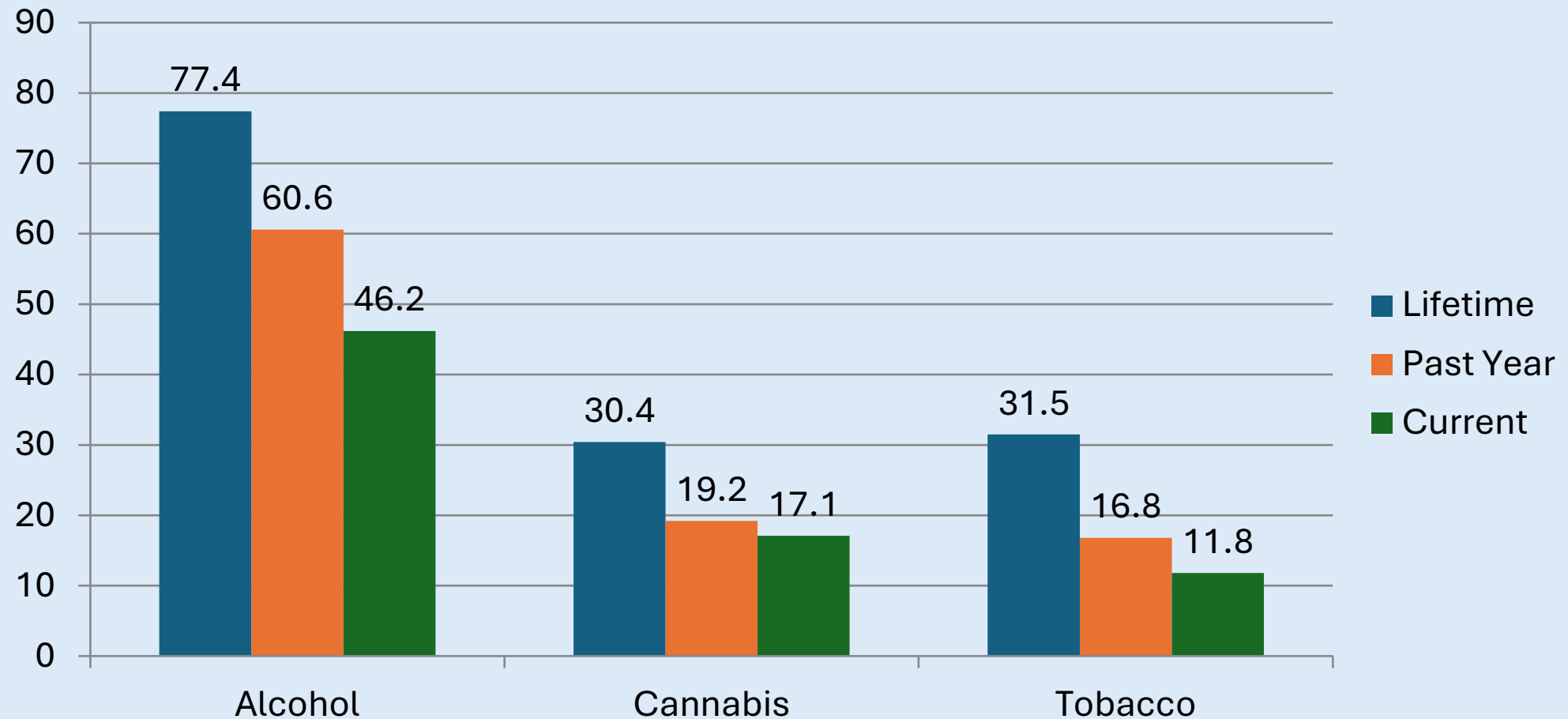


✓ Treatment

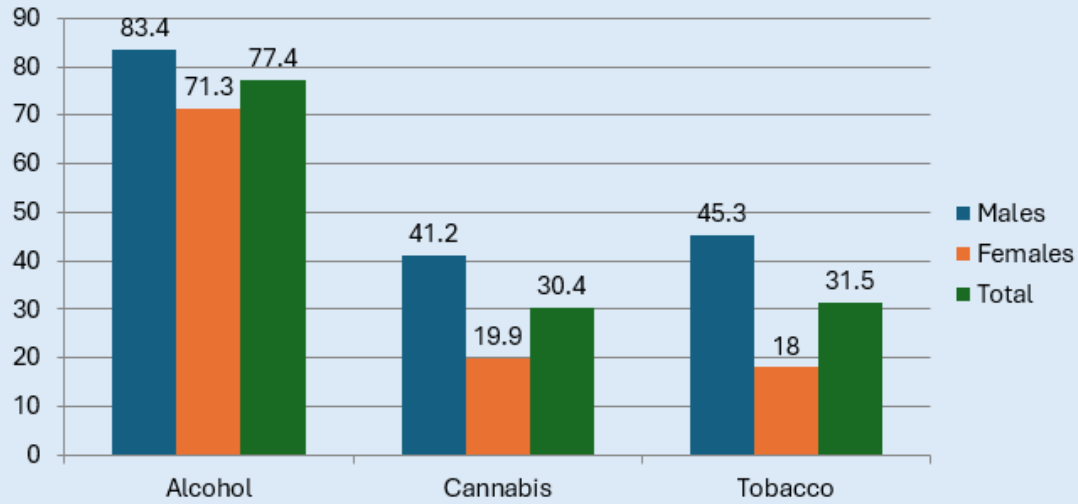


✓ Next Steps

# Prevalence (%) of Lifetime, Past Year & Current Use (2023)

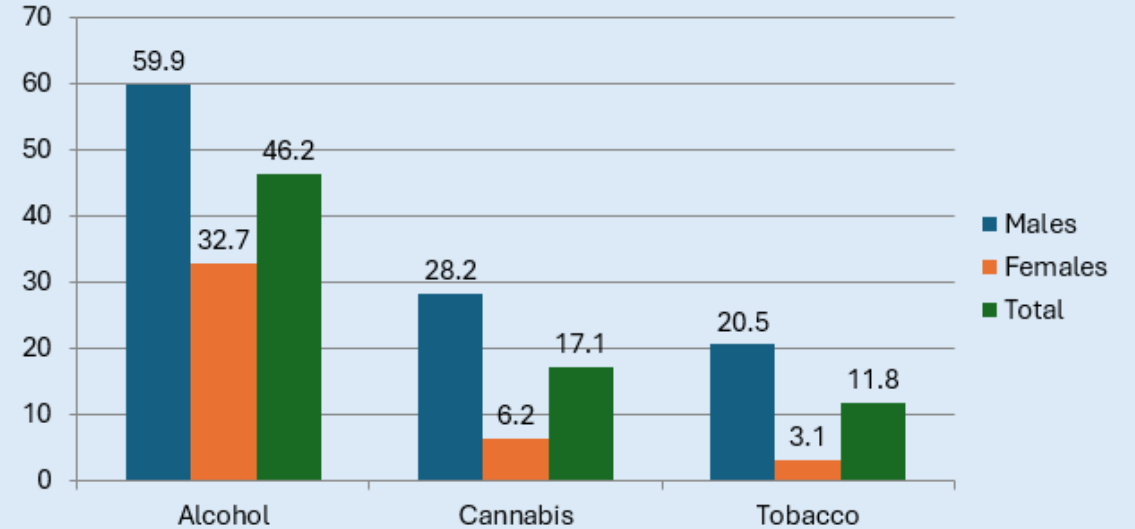


## Prevalence (%) of Lifetime Use (2023)

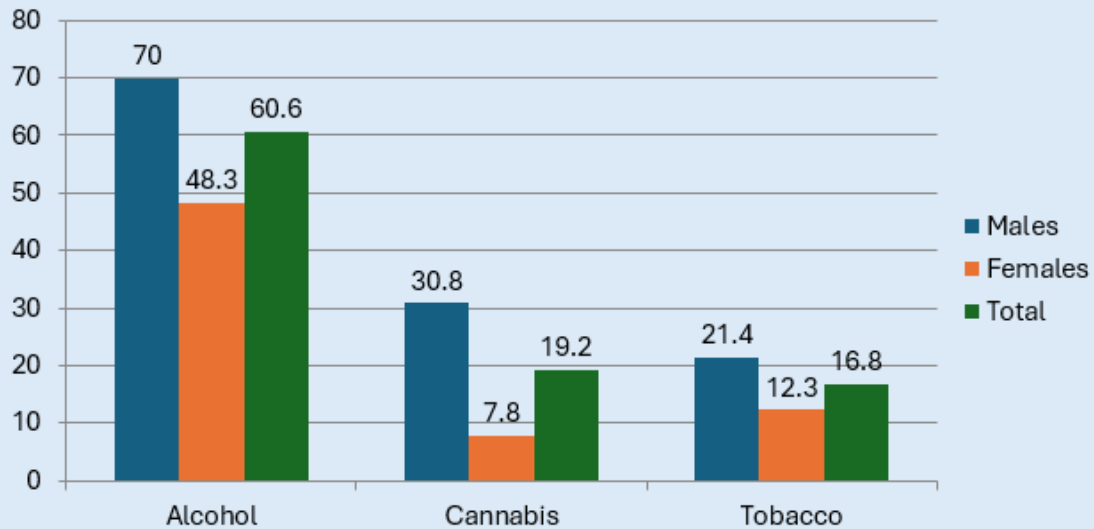


## Prevalence by Gender

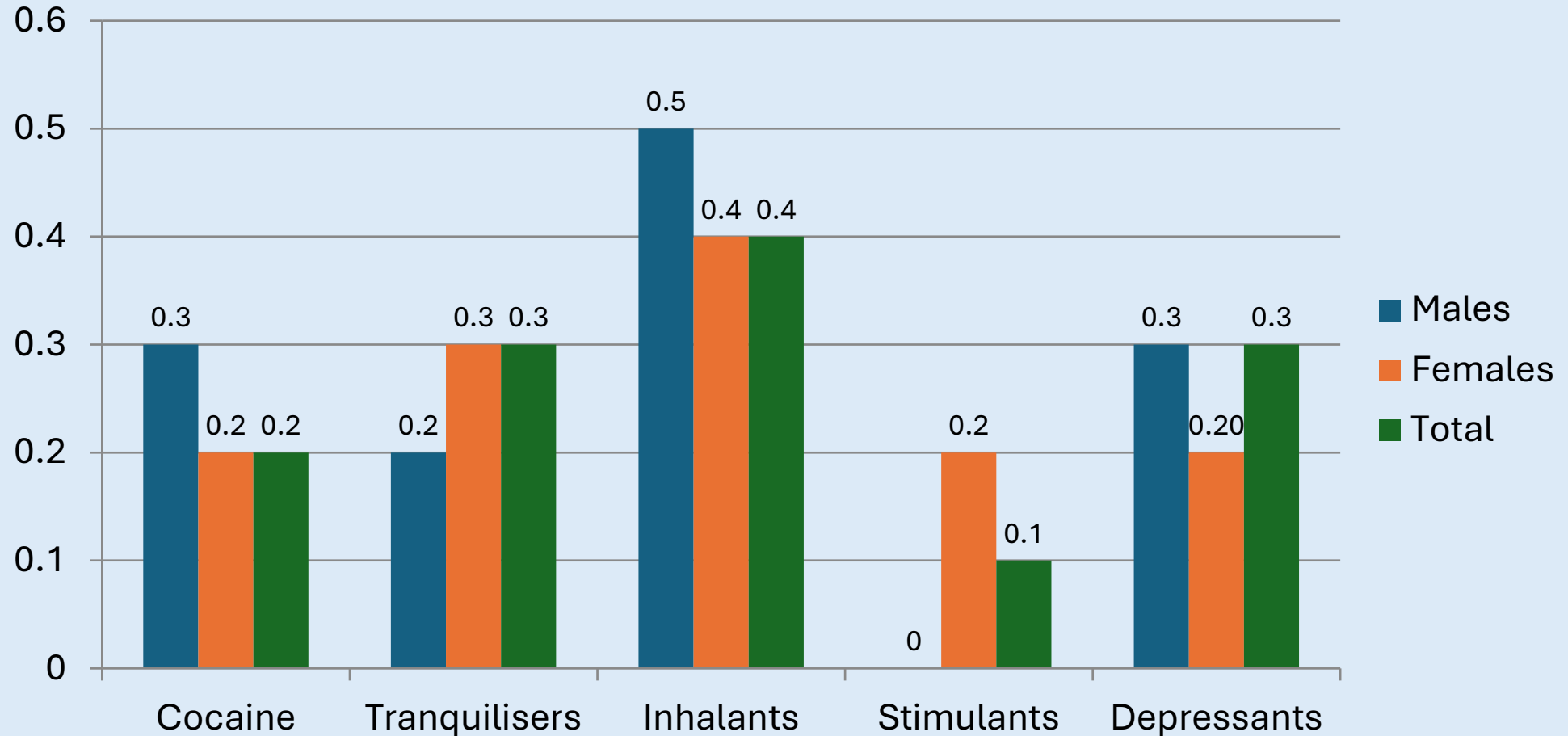
## Prevalence (%) of Current Use by Gender (2023)



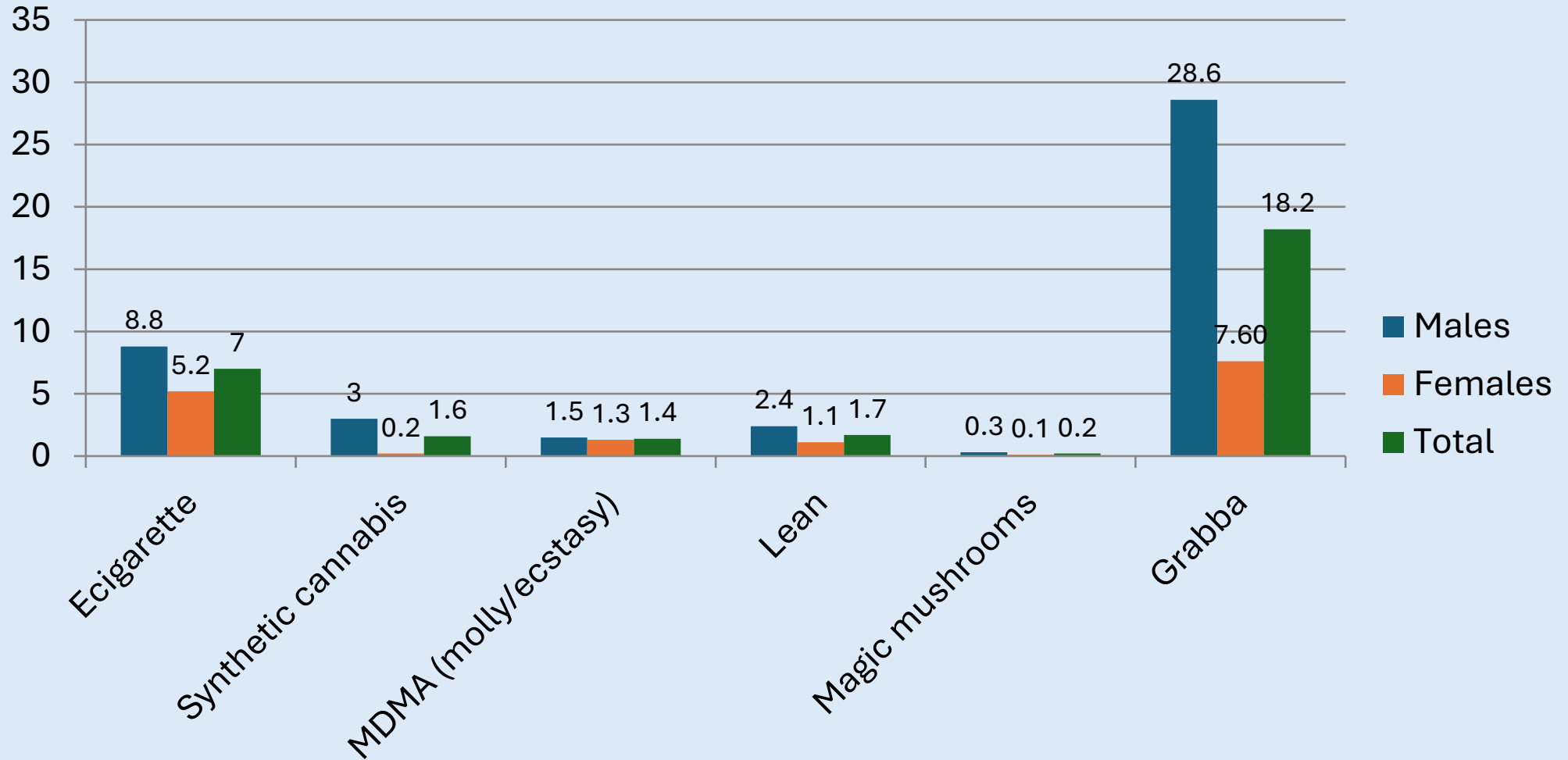
## Prevalence (%) of Past-Year Use (2023)



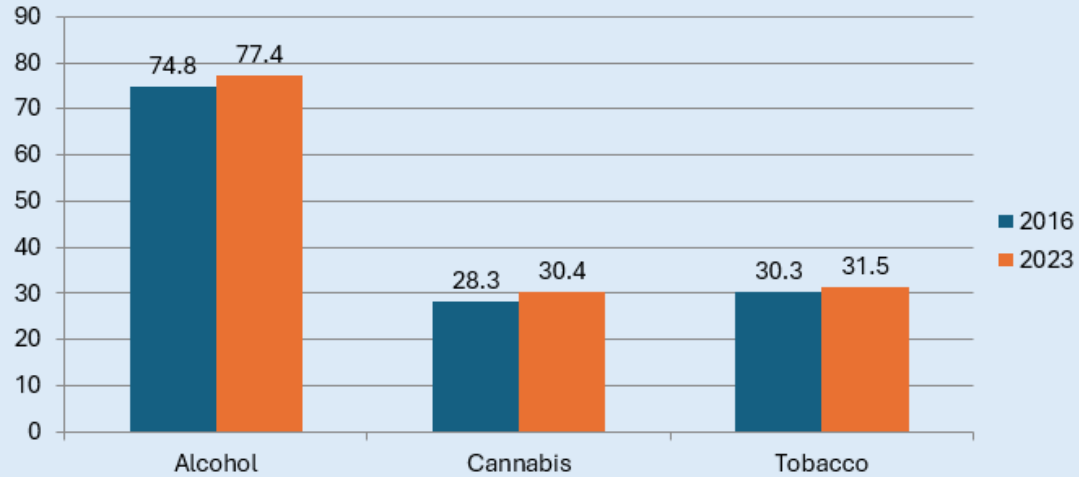
# Prevalence (%) of Lifetime Use (Less Popular Substances)



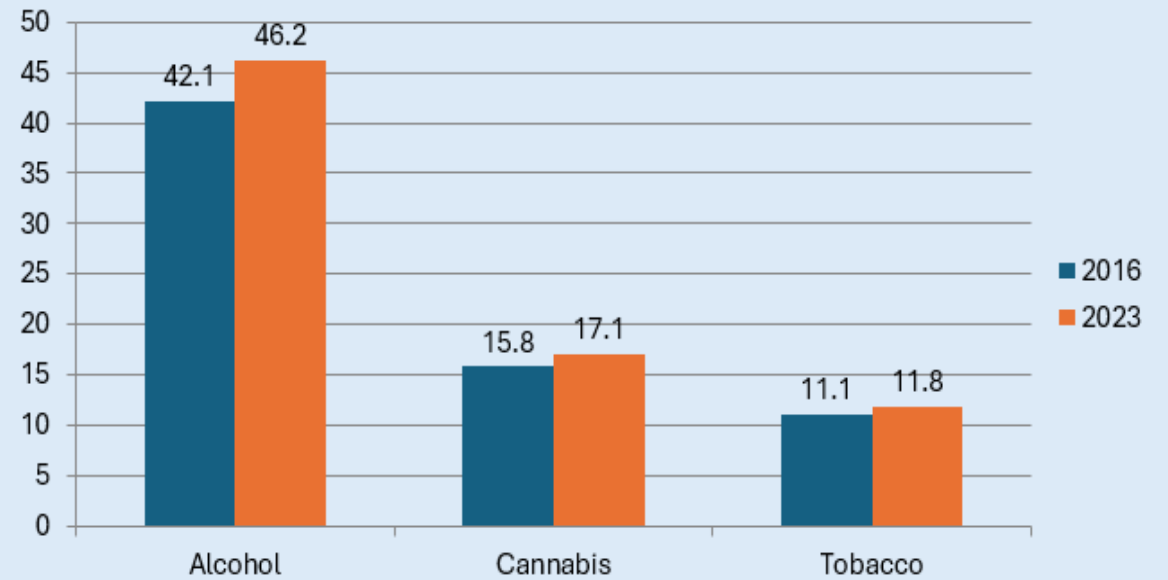
# Prevalence (%) of Lifetime Use – (Less Popular Substances)



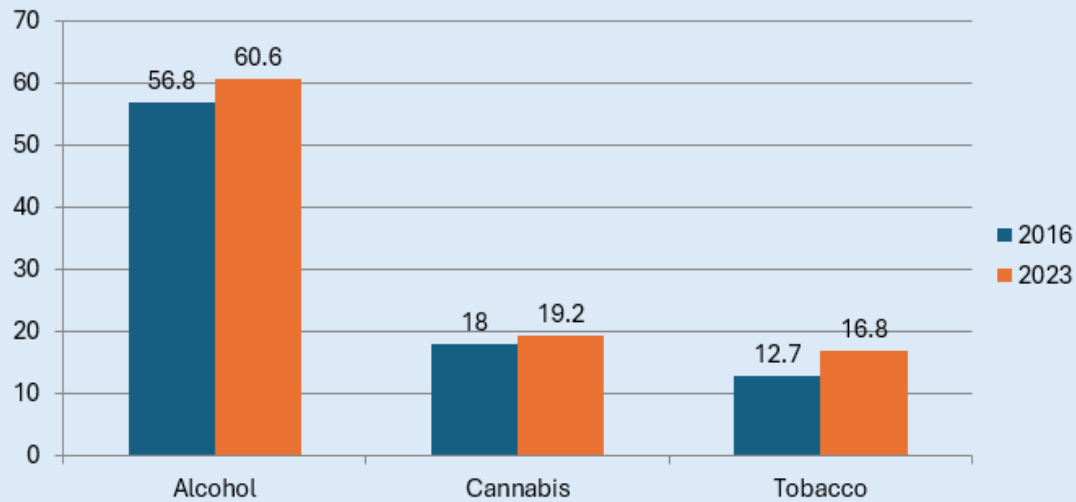
## Comparison of Lifetime Prevalence (2016 & 2023)



## Comparison of Current Prevalence (2016 & 2023)



## Comparison of Past-Year Prevalence (2016 & 2023)





# JAMAICA DRUG PREVALENCE STATISTICS 2023

Current Use by Parish

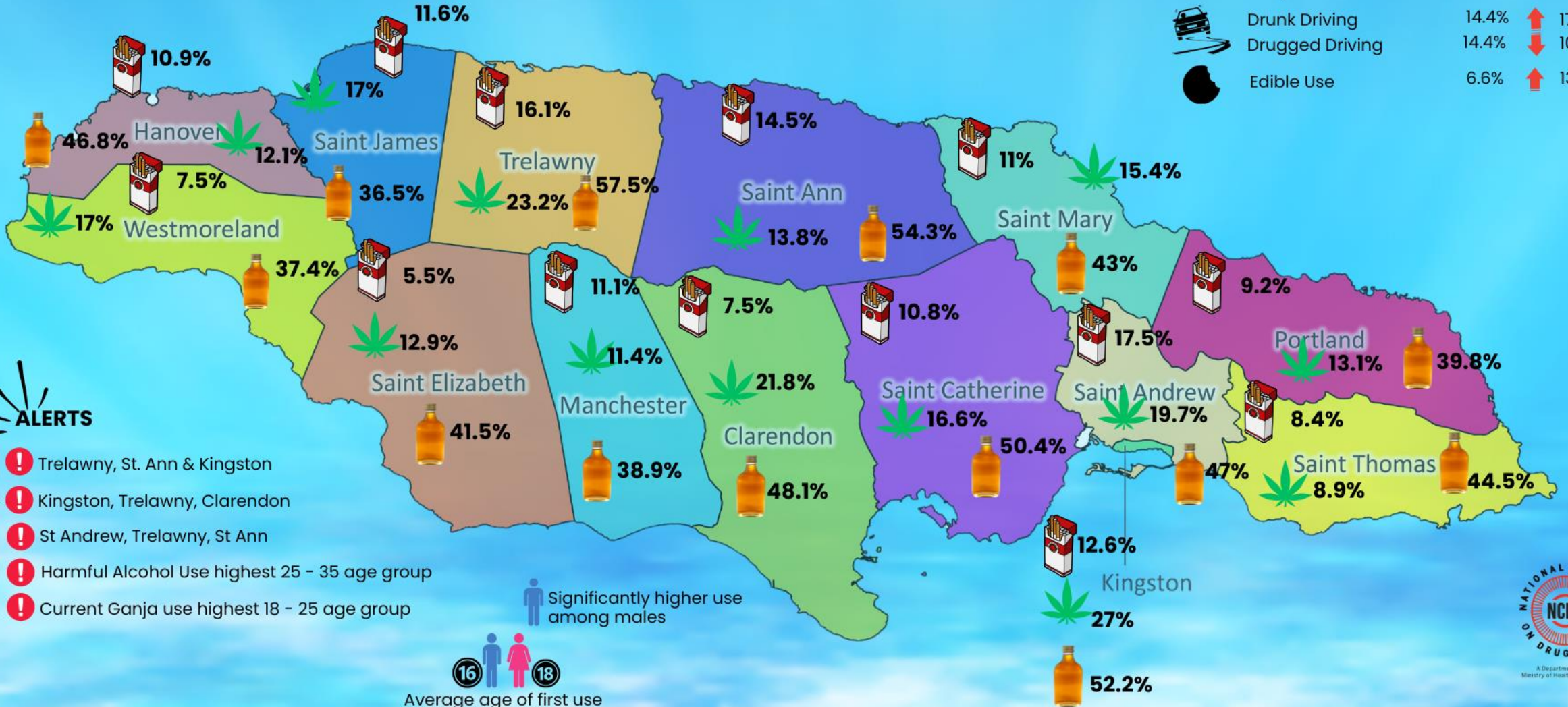
4,991 respondents

2016 2023

National Prevalence for Current Use (use in the last 30 days)

46.2% 17.1% 11.8%

	Harmful Use of Alcohol	16.3%	➔	15.7%
	Daily Use of Tobacco	7.0%	➔	11.6%
	High Risk Use of Ganja	49.6%	➔	65.9%
	Drunk Driving	14.4%	➔	17.5%
	Drugged Driving	14.4%	➔	10.3%
	Edible Use	6.6%	➔	13.3%



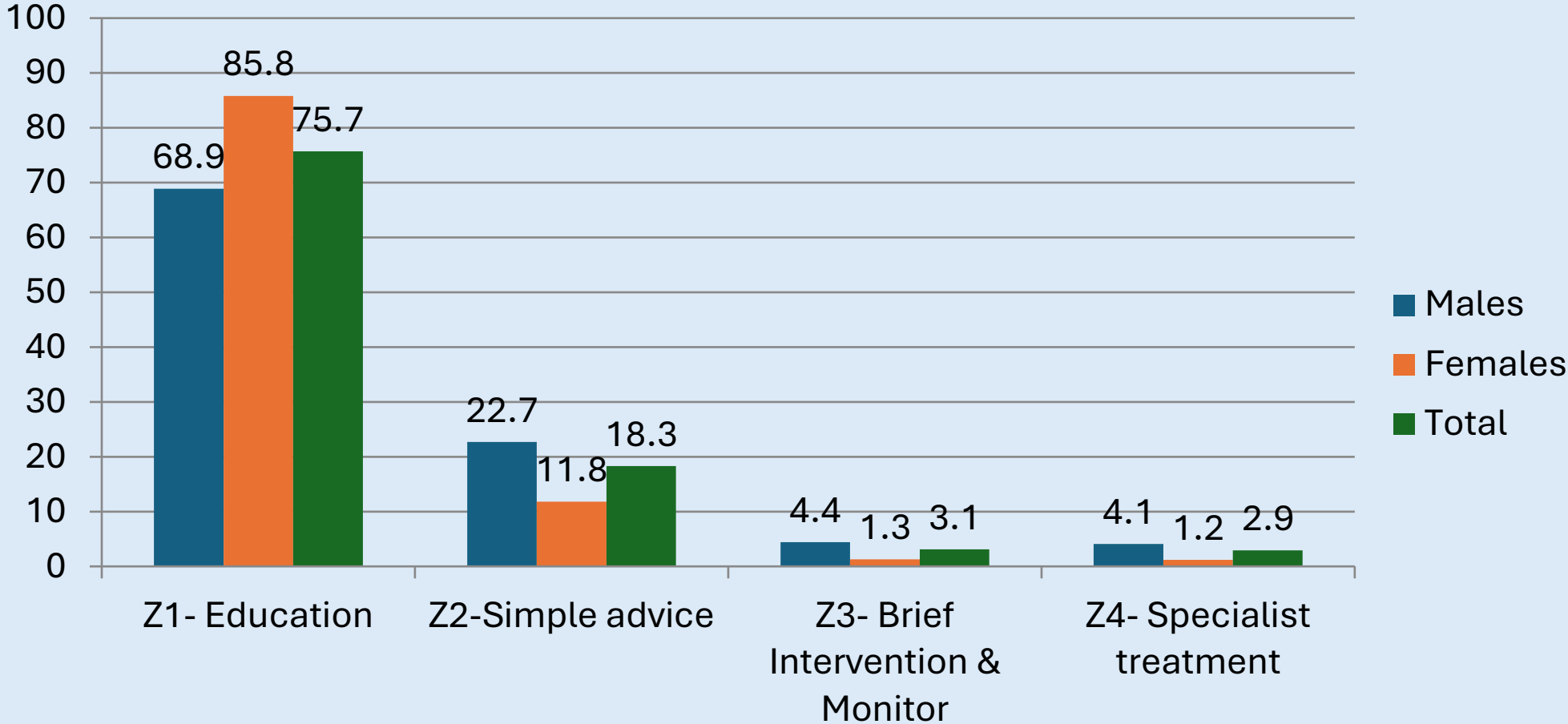
## ALERTS

- Trelawny, St. Ann & Kingston
- Kingston, Trelawny, Clarendon
- St Andrew, Trelawny, St Ann
- Harmful Alcohol Use highest 25 - 35 age group
- Current Ganja use highest 18 - 25 age group

Significantly higher use among males

Average age of first use

# Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT) Zones (Risk Level) by Gender





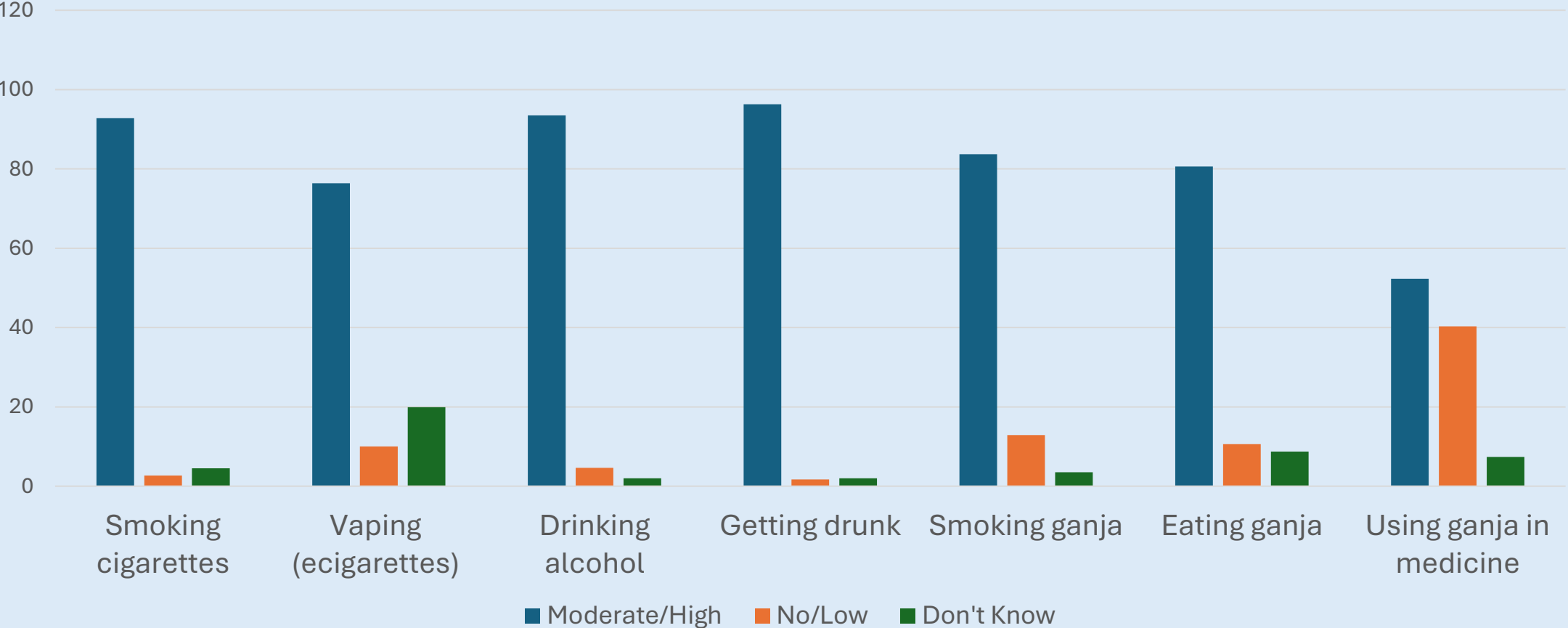
**Driving Under the  
Influence of  
Alcohol & Drugs**

**17.5% of drivers have driven  
under the influence of alcohol**

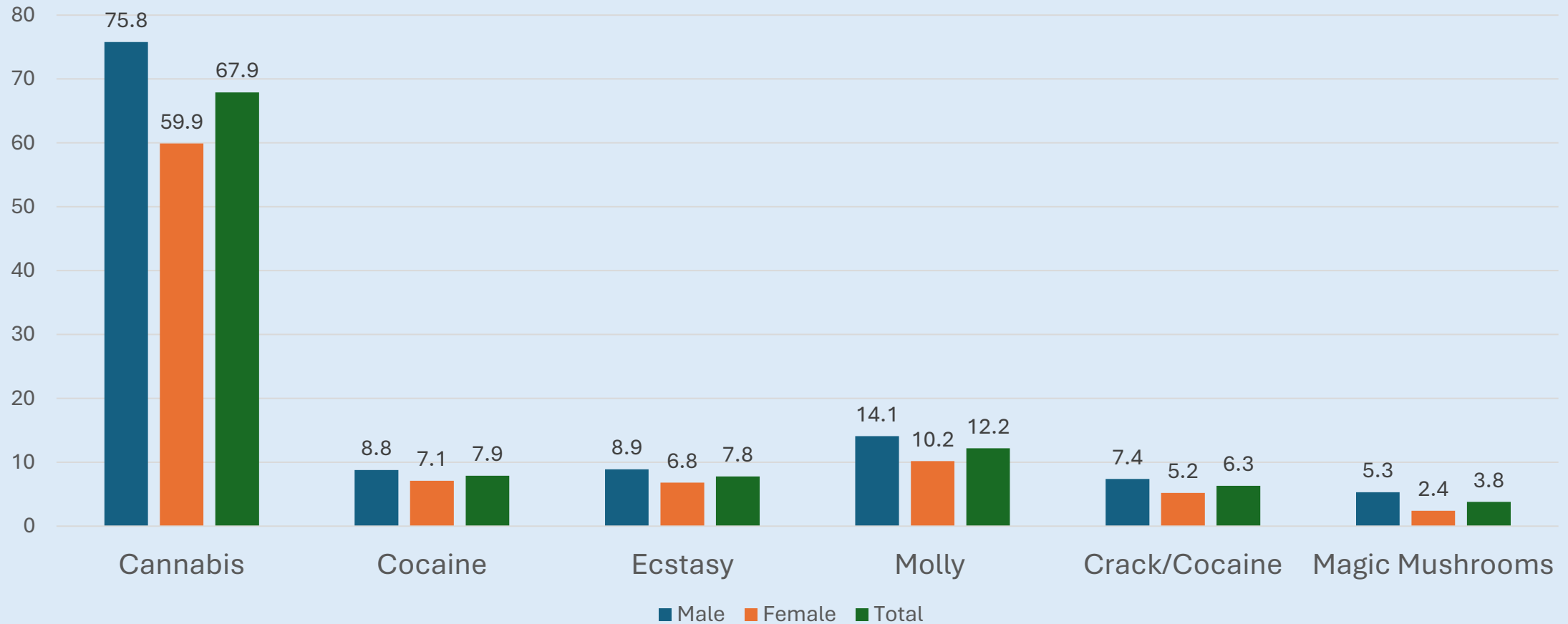
**Males (23.9%) nearly four times  
higher than females (5.2%)  
Highest in 25-34 (32.3%)**

**10.3% under the influence of  
illegal drugs (Males - 15.1% and  
females-1.3%)**

# Risk Perception by Substance (Using Often)



# Ease of Access by Gender and Drug

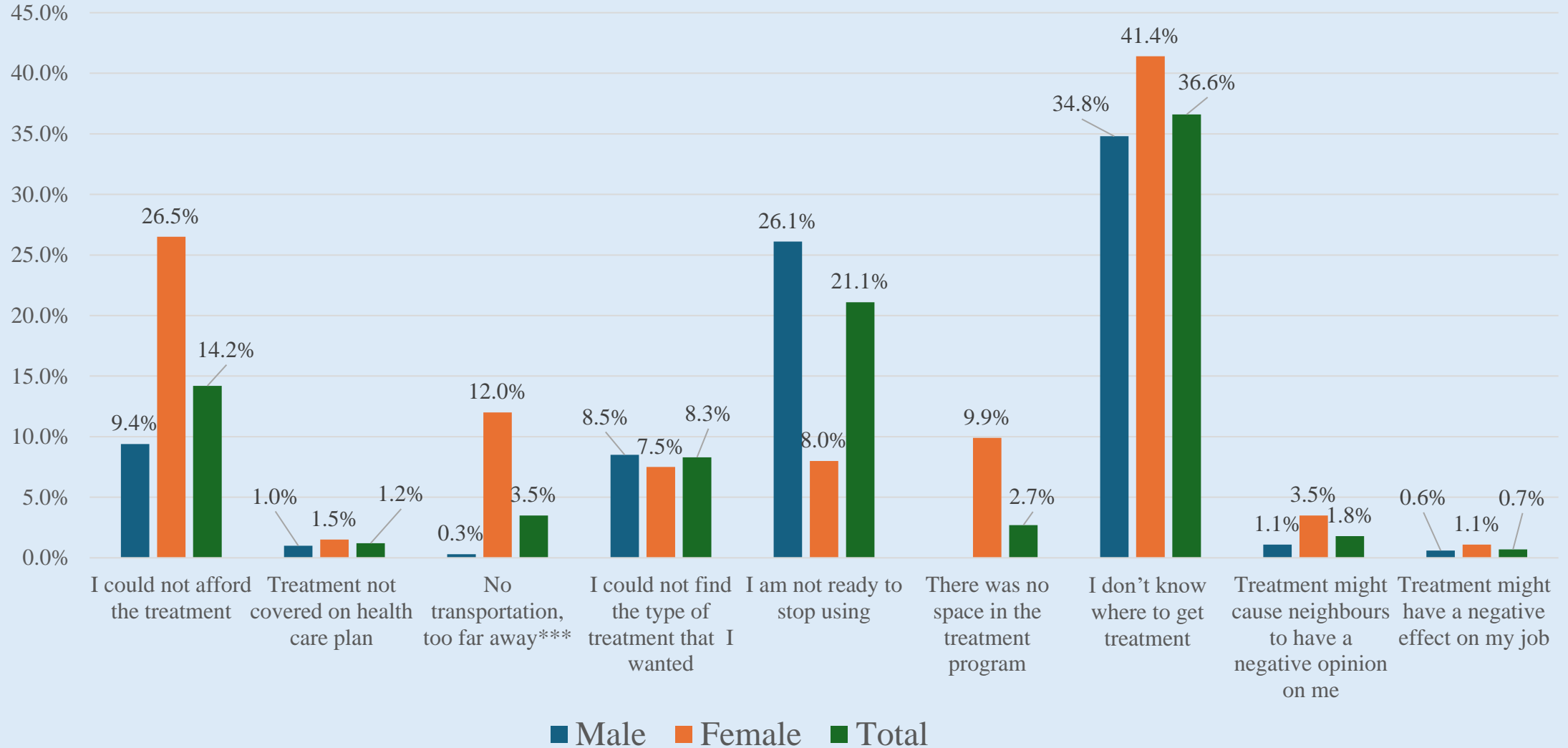


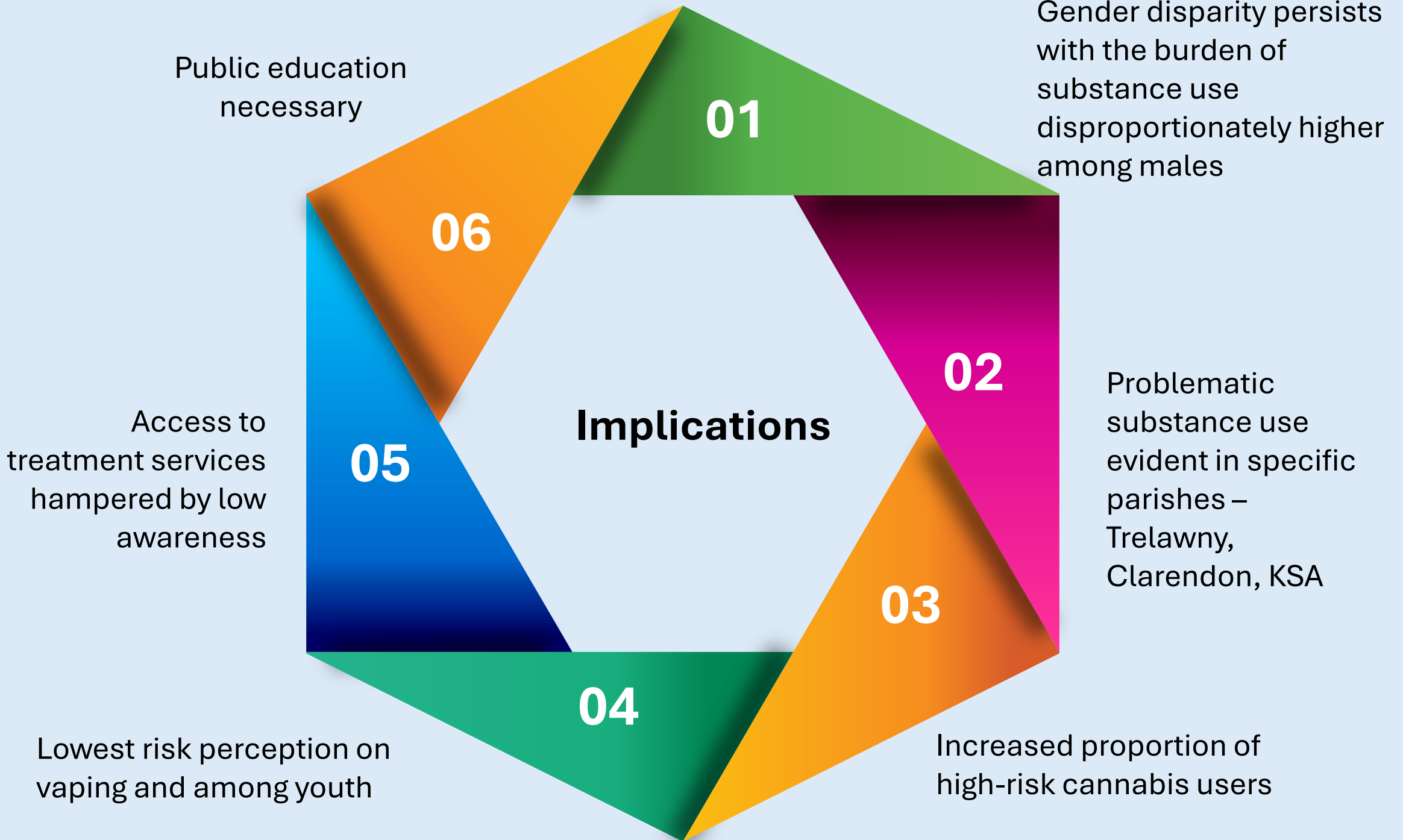
## **Treatment for Substance Use**

Approximately 3%  
(2.8%) felt a need for  
help to reduce or stop  
using alcohol or drugs,  
(Males - 4.10%, females  
1.5%) – Estimated  
60,000 persons



# Reasons for Not Accessing Treatment







# Next Steps

---

Sustained public education



---

Synthetic Drug Study Dissemination to explore the emergence of new drugs

---

Development of a national drug research network and agenda for more in-depth drug studies



---

Evidence-based actions to address high risk/vulnerable groups and areas – Harmful alcohol use, high-risk cannabis use



---

Multi-level dissemination of findings



---

In-depth engagement at the parish level to increase awareness of the status of drug use to generate partnership and support for interventions



A Department of the  
Ministry of Health and Wellness

# Thank You

