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SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITY EPIDEMIOLOGY NETWORK ON DRUG USE

Treatment Demand Data • Service Quality Measures (SQM)
• Community-Based Harm Reduction Services

GAUTENG SYMPOSIUM: TREATMENT DEMAND DATA

Ms Nancy Hornsby

Phase 59 | July – December 2025

24 March 2026, Virtual



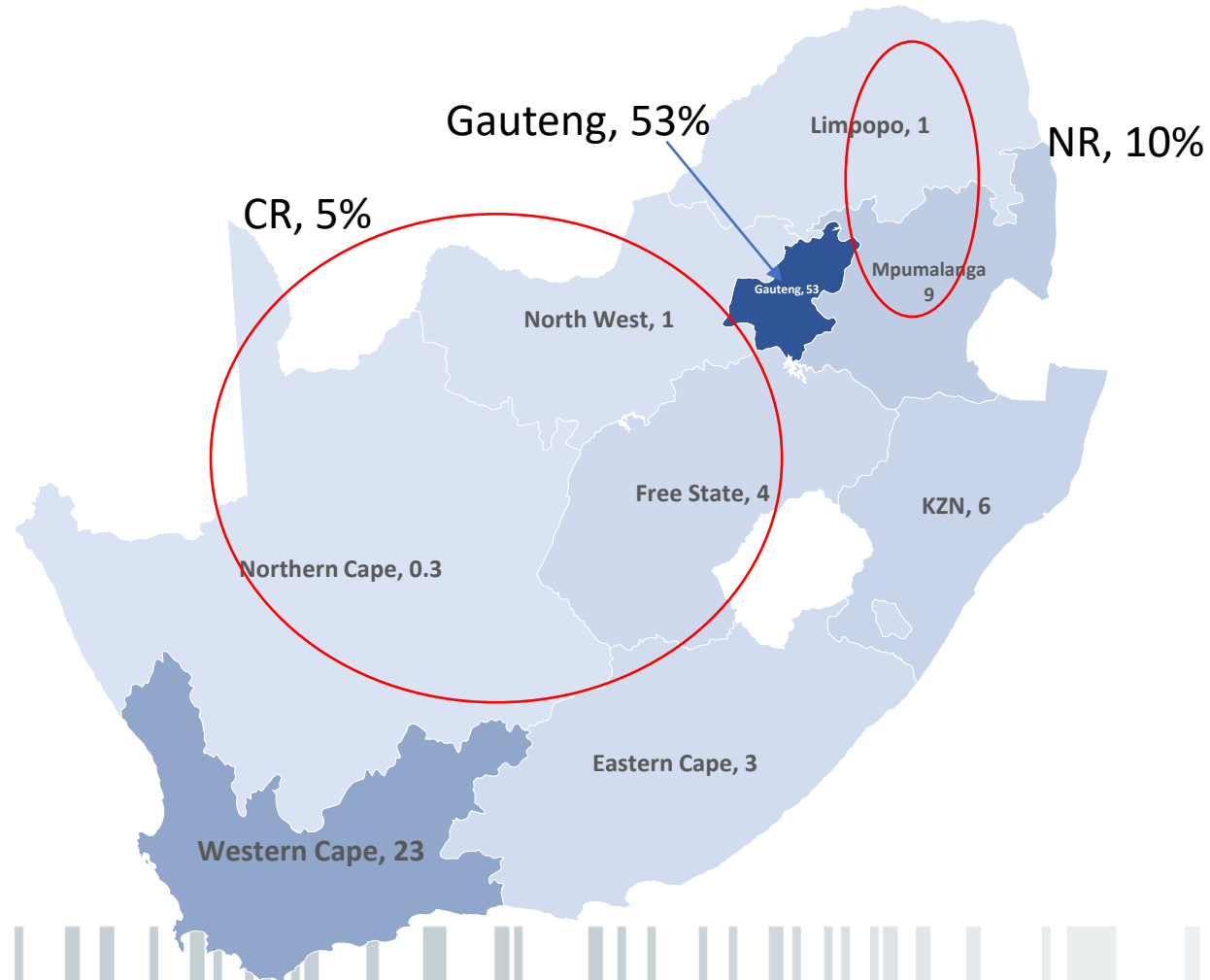
National overview: 2025B



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Percentage (%)



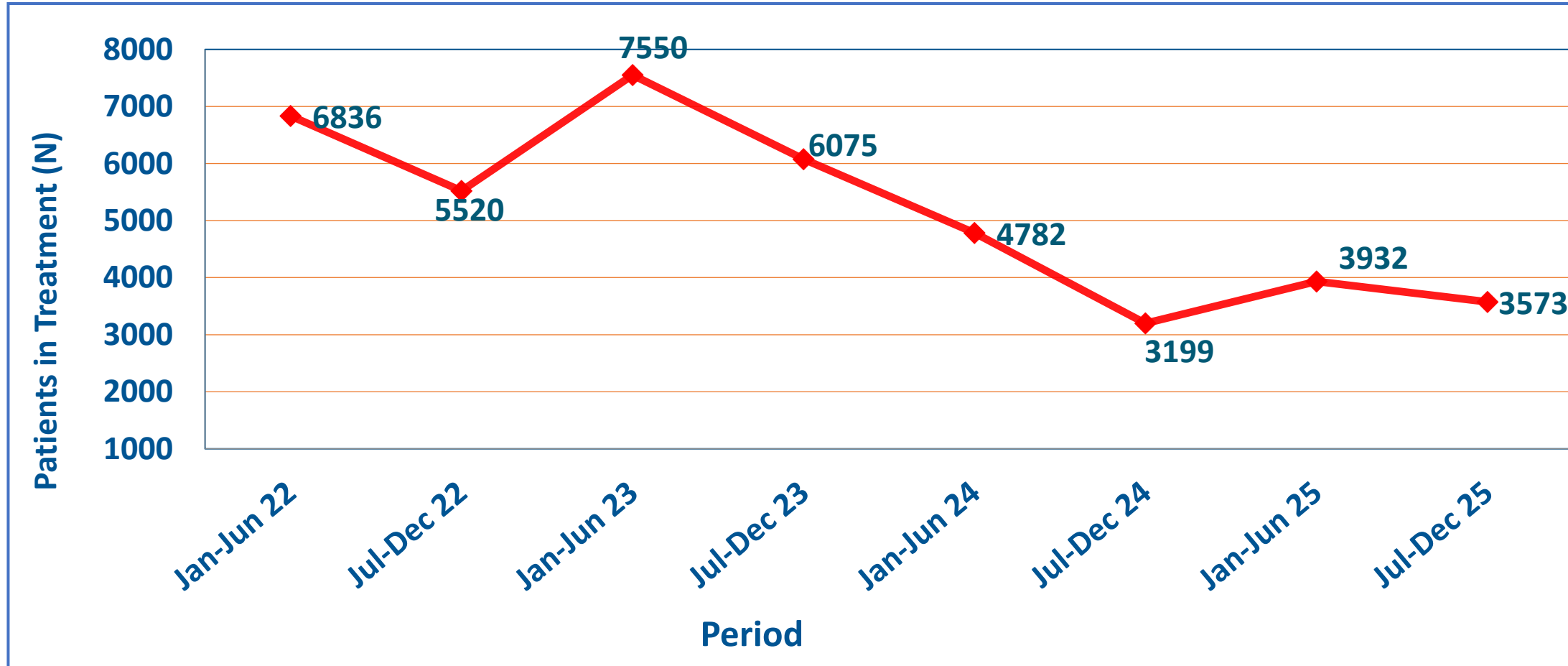
Number of patients in treatment



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TYPE OF TREATMENT RECEIVED (%)

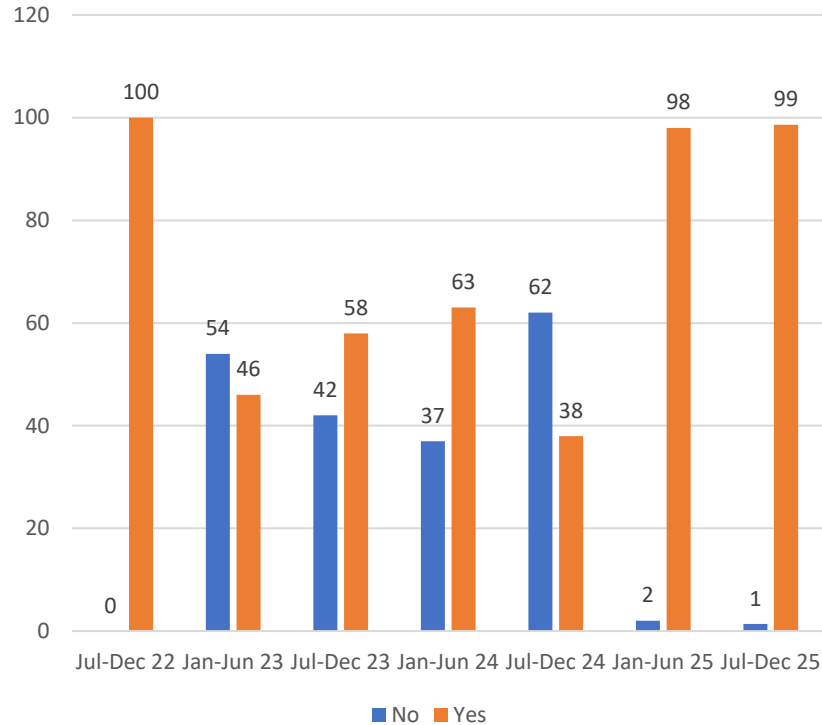


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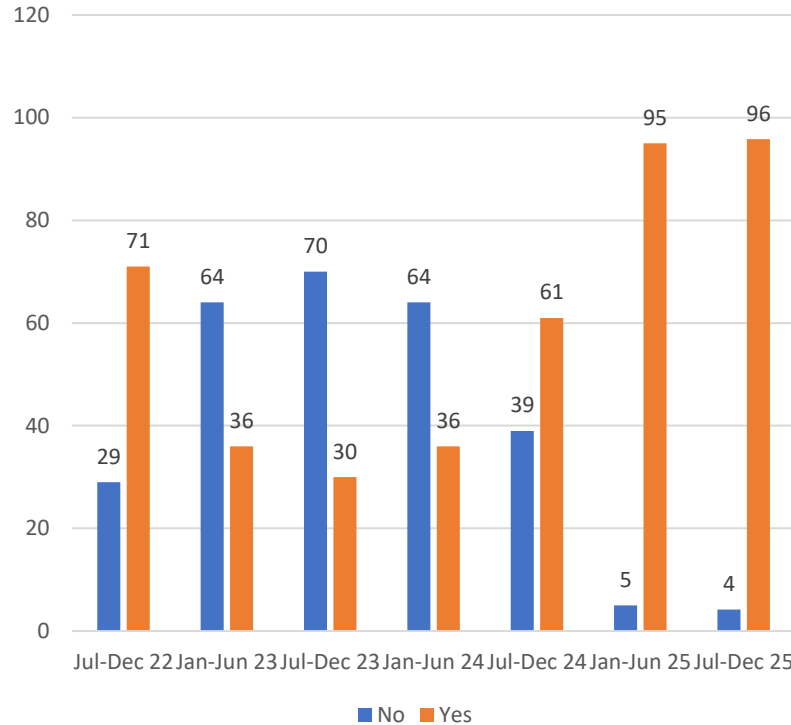
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Treatment Demand Data • Service Quality Measures (SQM)
• Community-Based Harm Reduction Services

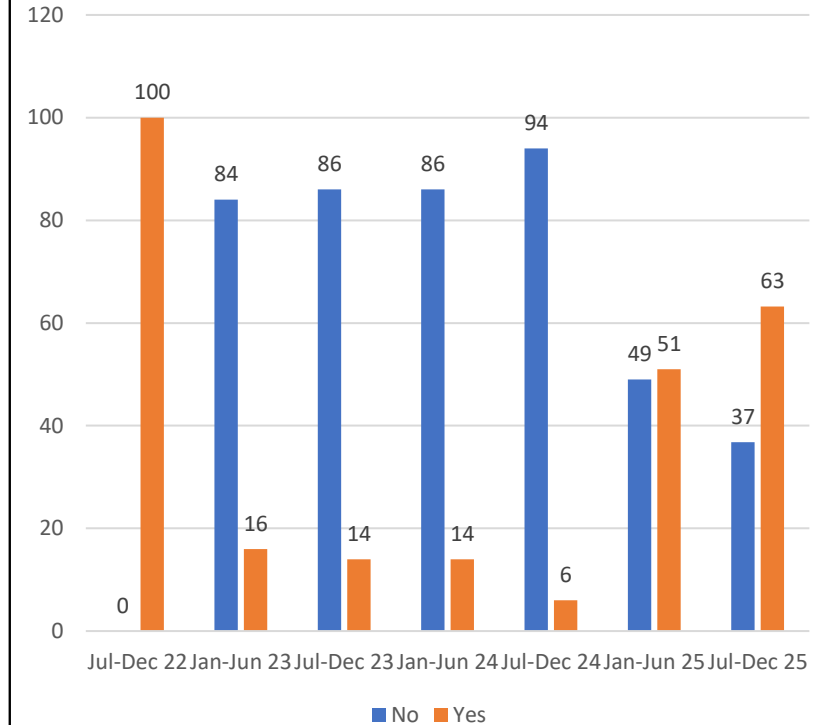
Inpatient



Outpatient/Comm-Based



Detox



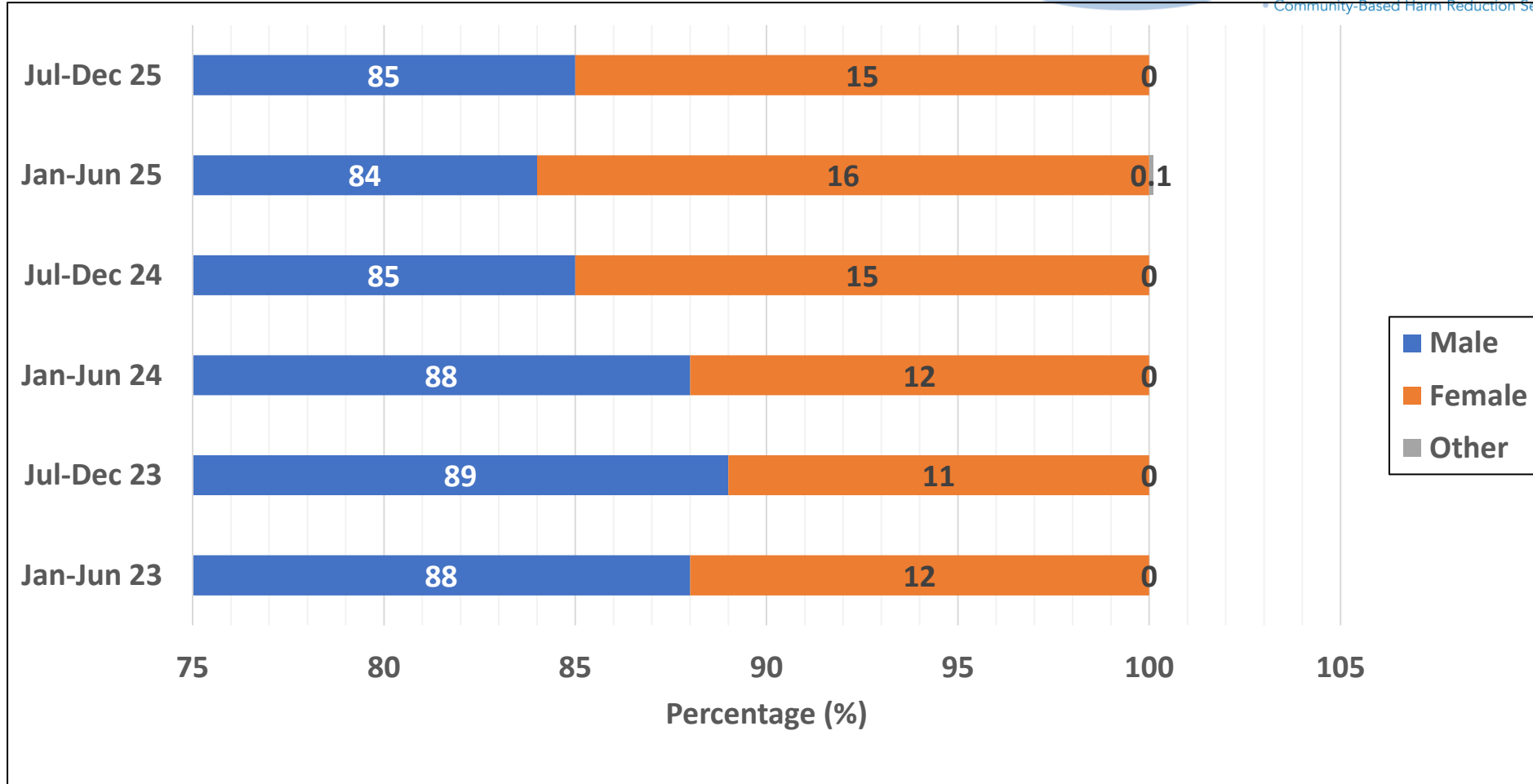
GENDER



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Treatment Demand Data • Service Quality Measures (SQM)
• Community-Based Harm Reduction Services



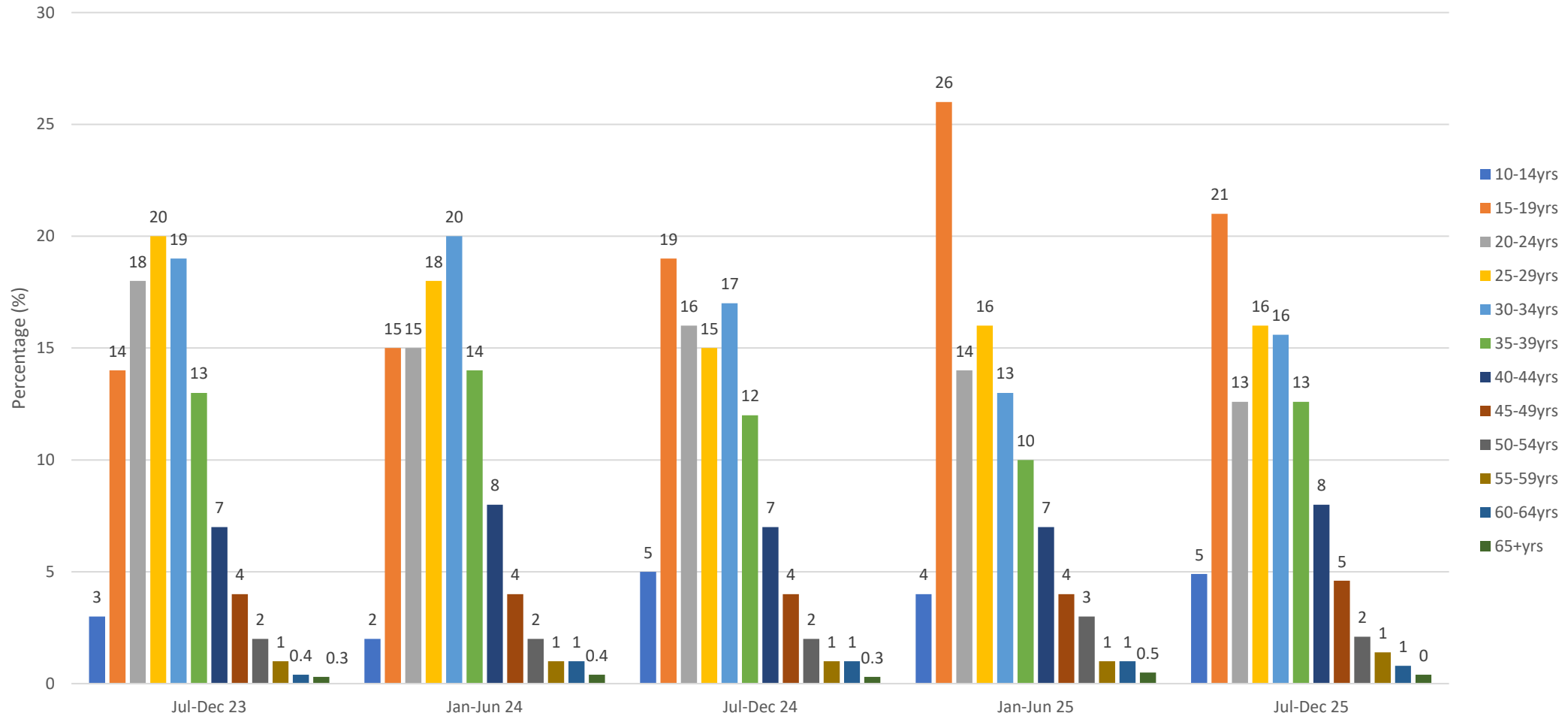
AGE DISTRIBUTION



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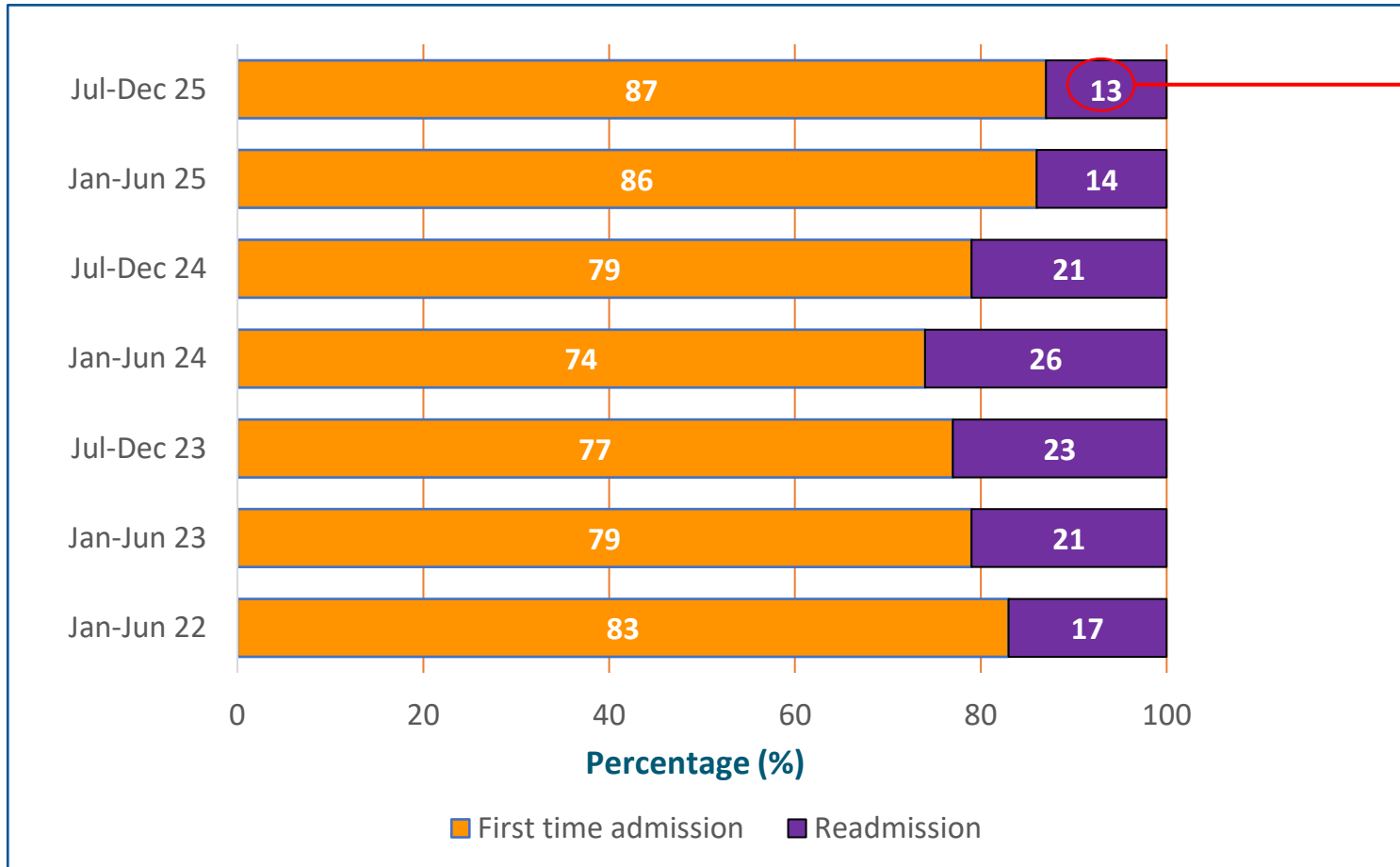
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FIRST TIME ADMISSIONS vs READMISSIONS



	n
1-5 times	391
6-10 times	15
>10 times	7

	In-patient (n)	Out-patient/CB (n)	Detox (n)
1-5 times	341	101	20
6-10 times	13	2	1
>10 times	7	0	0
Total	361	103	21

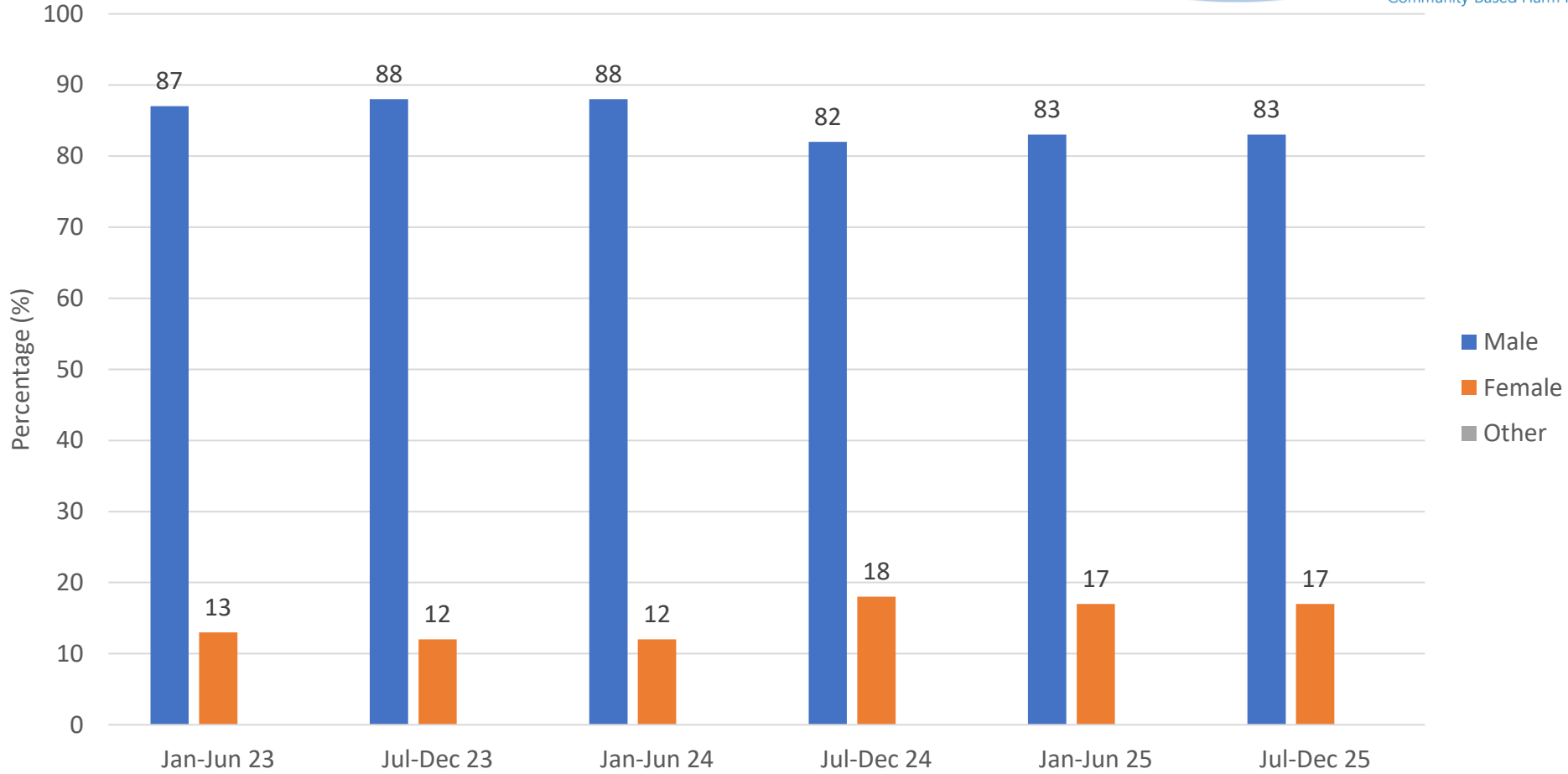
READMISSION BY GENDER



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Treatment Demand Data • Service Quality Measures (SQM)
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READMISSION BY AGE

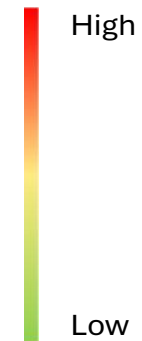


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	Jul-Dec 23	Jan-Jun 24	Jul-Dec 24	Jan-Jun 25	Jul-Dec 25
<10yrs	0	0	0	0	0
10-14yrs	0.2	1	2	0.4	0
15-19yrs	9	7	11	8	6
20-24yrs	22	12	18	14	11
25-29yrs	25	20	17	19	19
30-34yrs	17	27	21	16	19
35-39yrs	16	16	13	14	15
40-44yrs	8	8	8	14	13
45-49yrs	2	4	4	4	9
50-54yrs	1	3	3	6	3
55-59yrs	0.4	1	2	2	4
60-64yrs	0	1	1	1	2
65+yrs	0	0.4	1	1	1



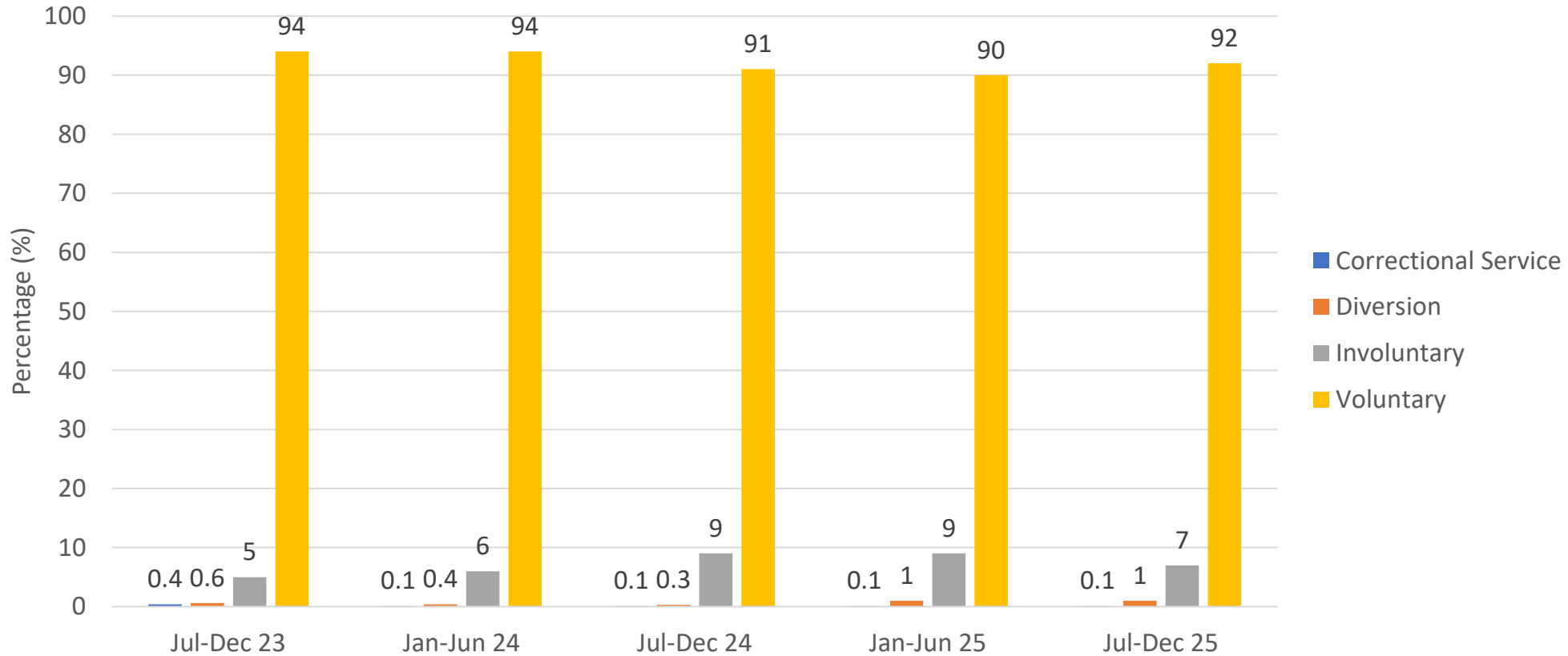


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TYPE OF ADMISSION



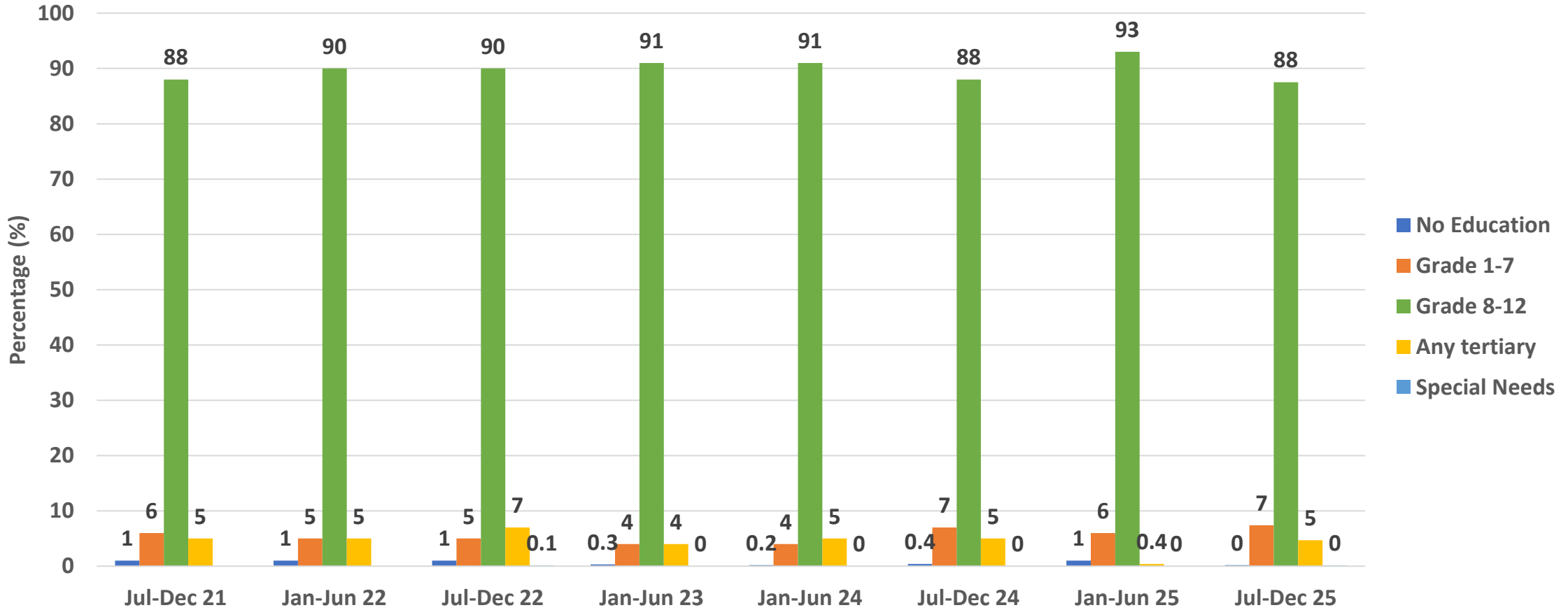
EDUCATION LEVEL



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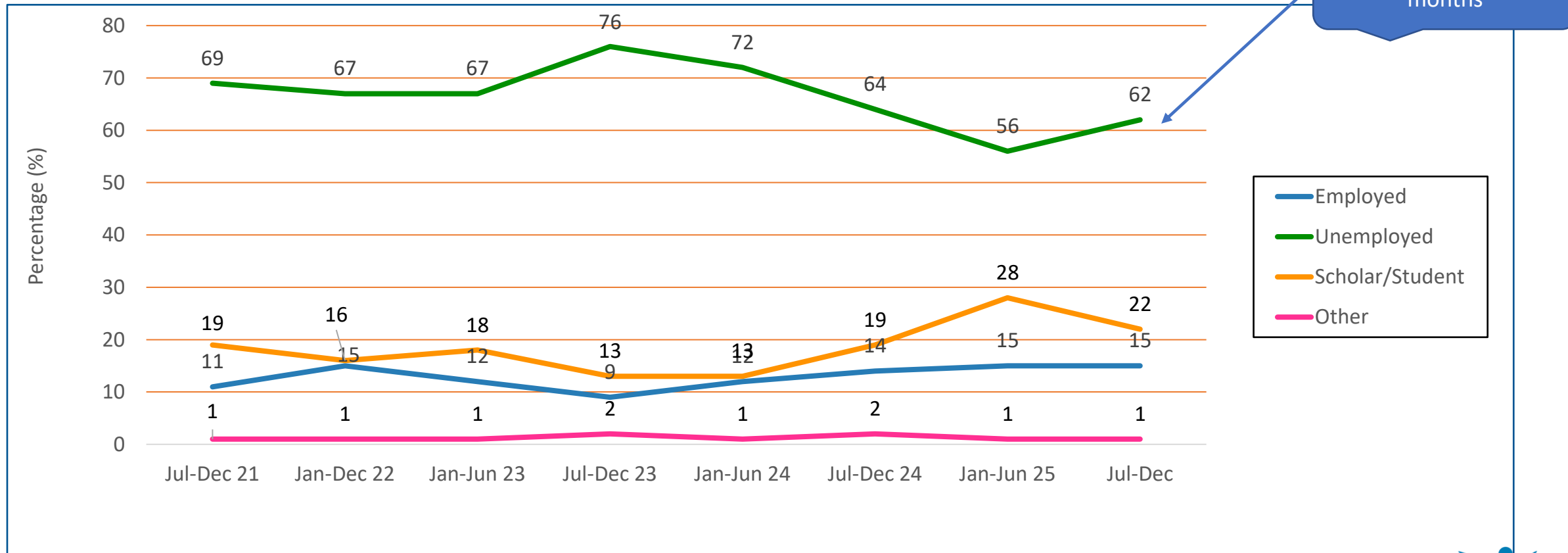
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• Community-Based Harm Reduction Services





EMPLOYMENT STATUS



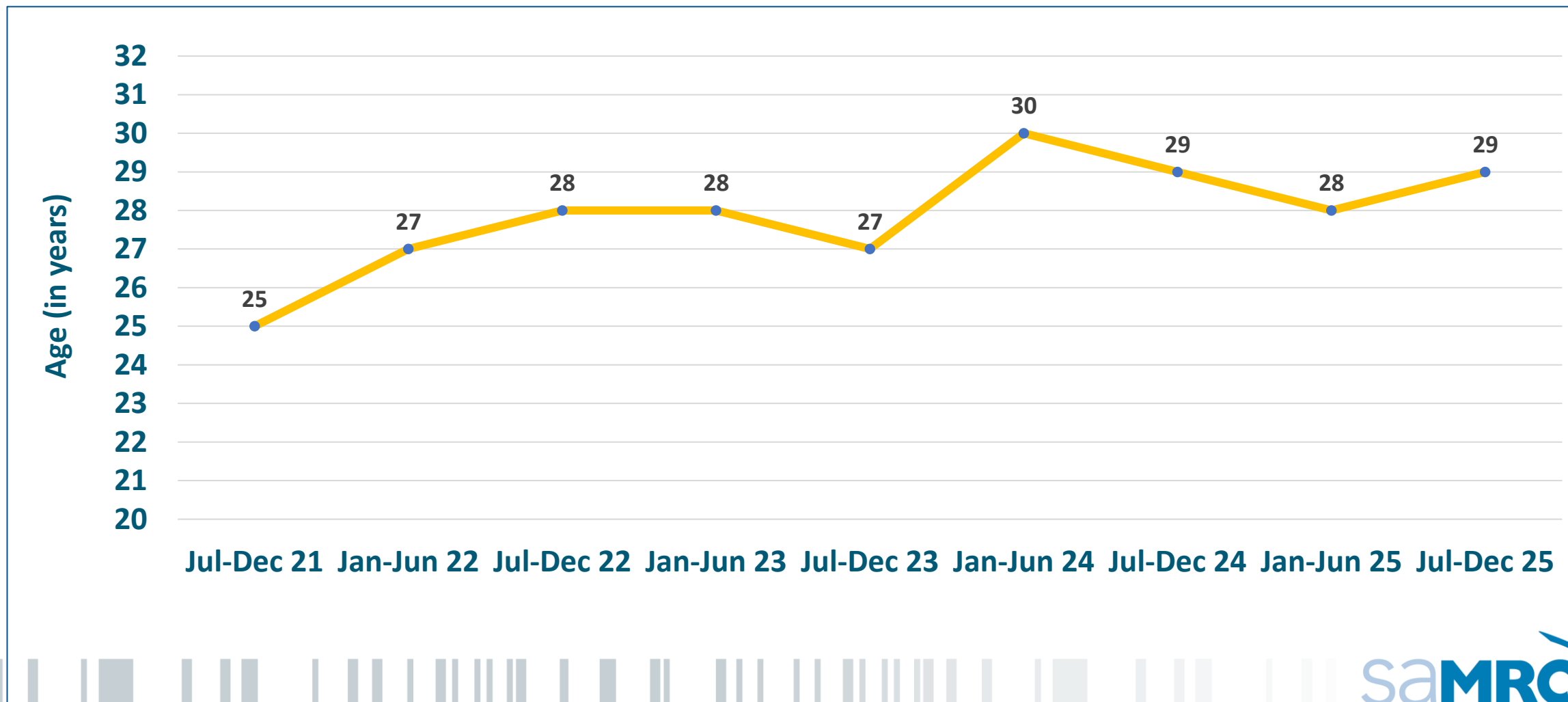
MEAN AGE



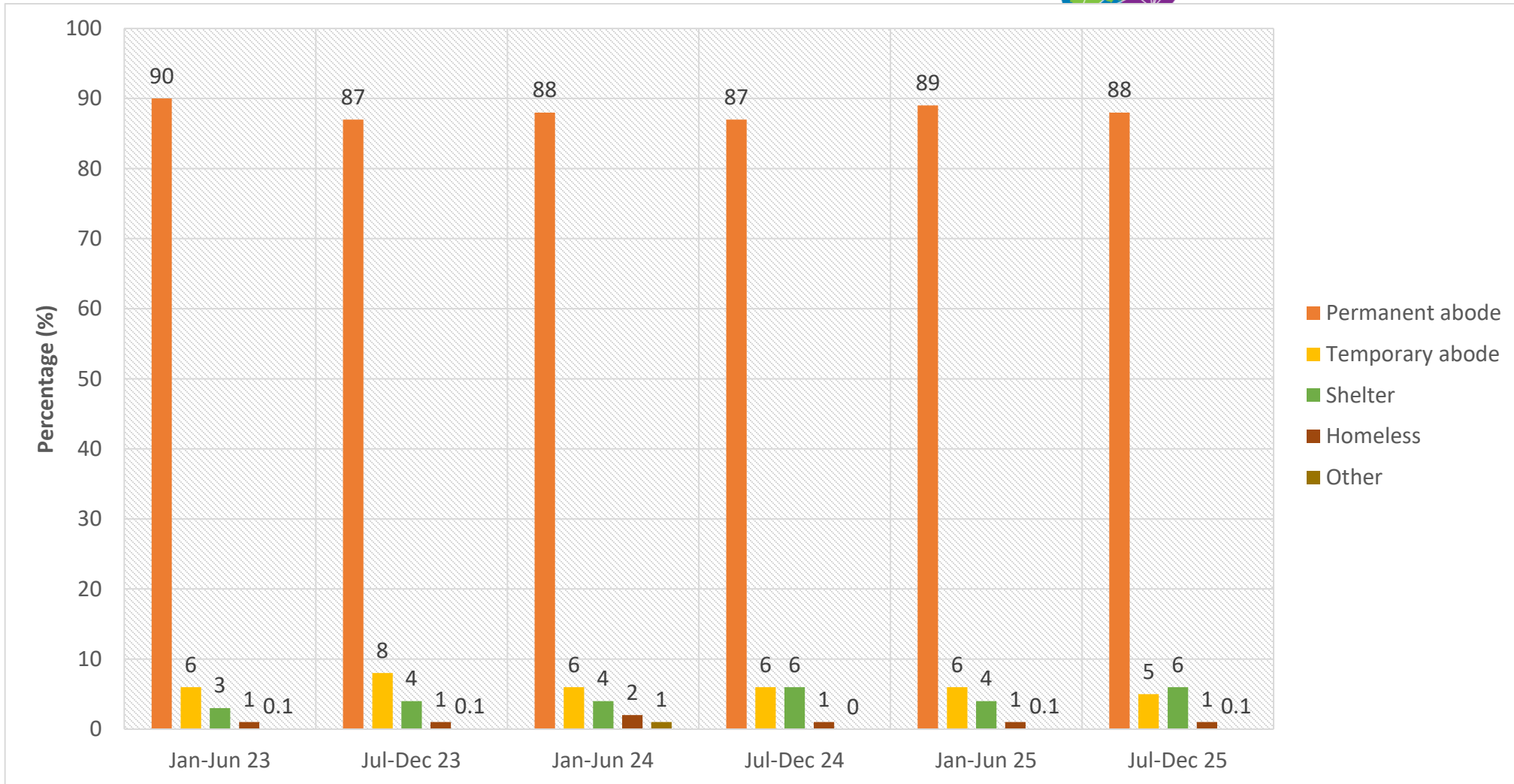
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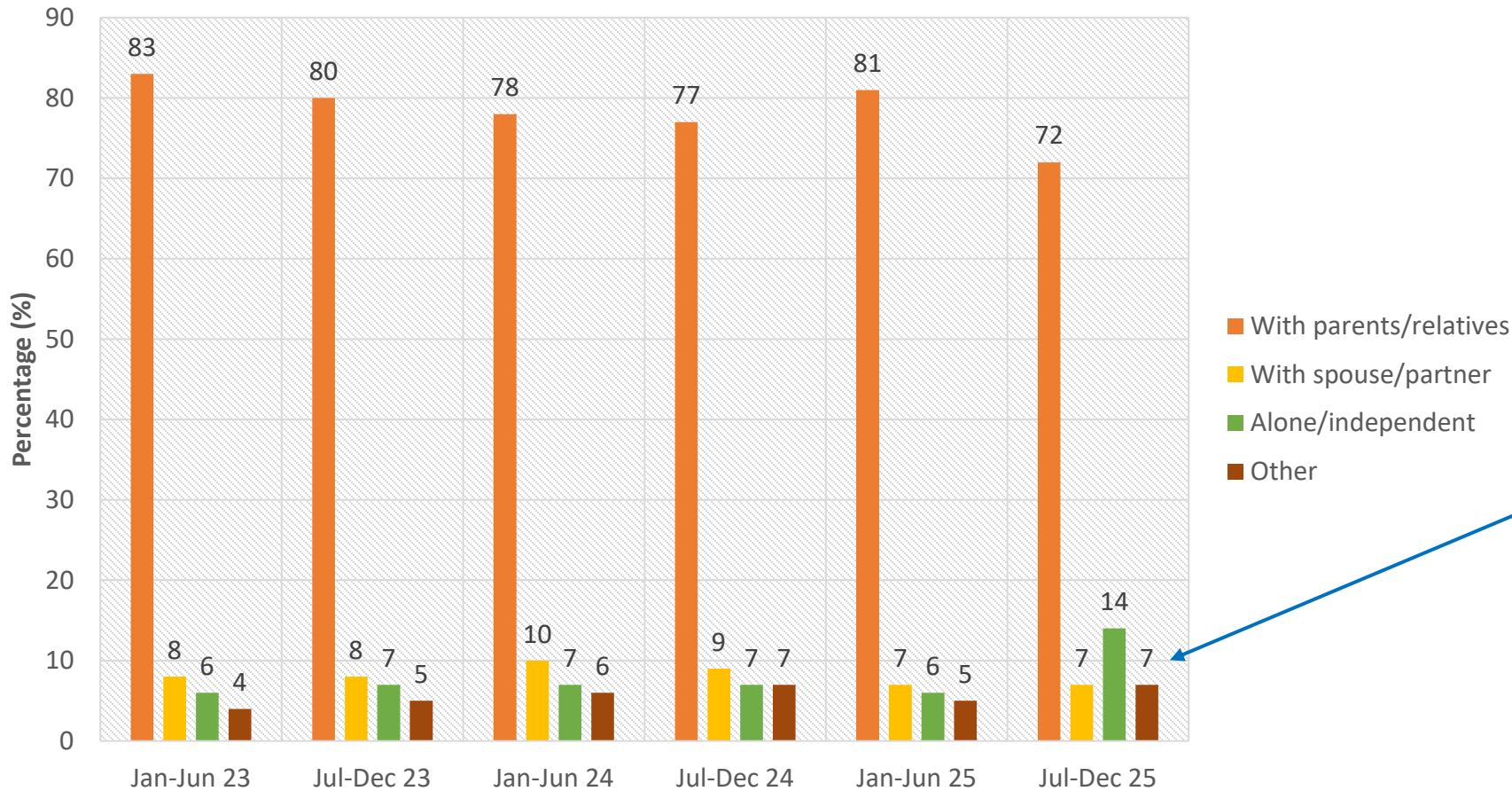


TYPE OF RESIDENCE



Measures (SQM)
es

WHO CLIENT RESIDES WITH



Other specified	n
Homeless/Shelter/Unstable	236
Aftercare facility	8
Friends	6
School/Youth hostel	1
Children's home/Youth centre	1



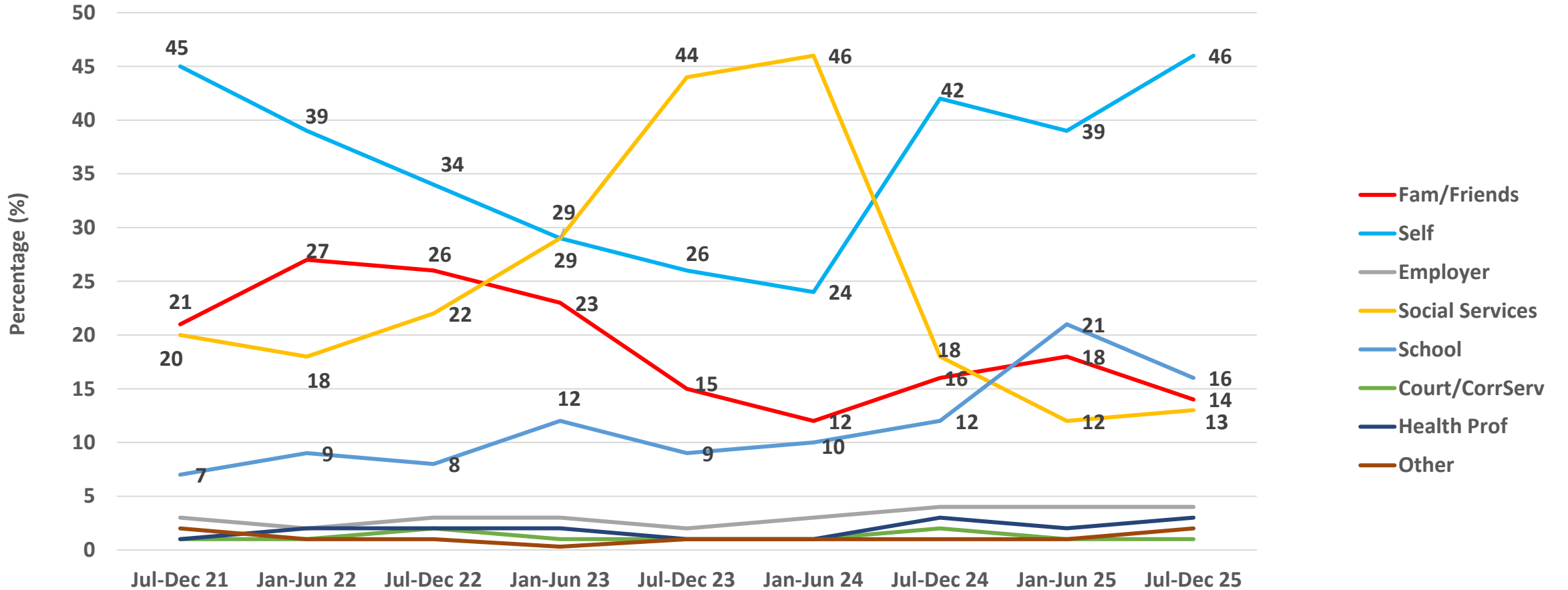
REFERRAL SOURCE OVER TIME



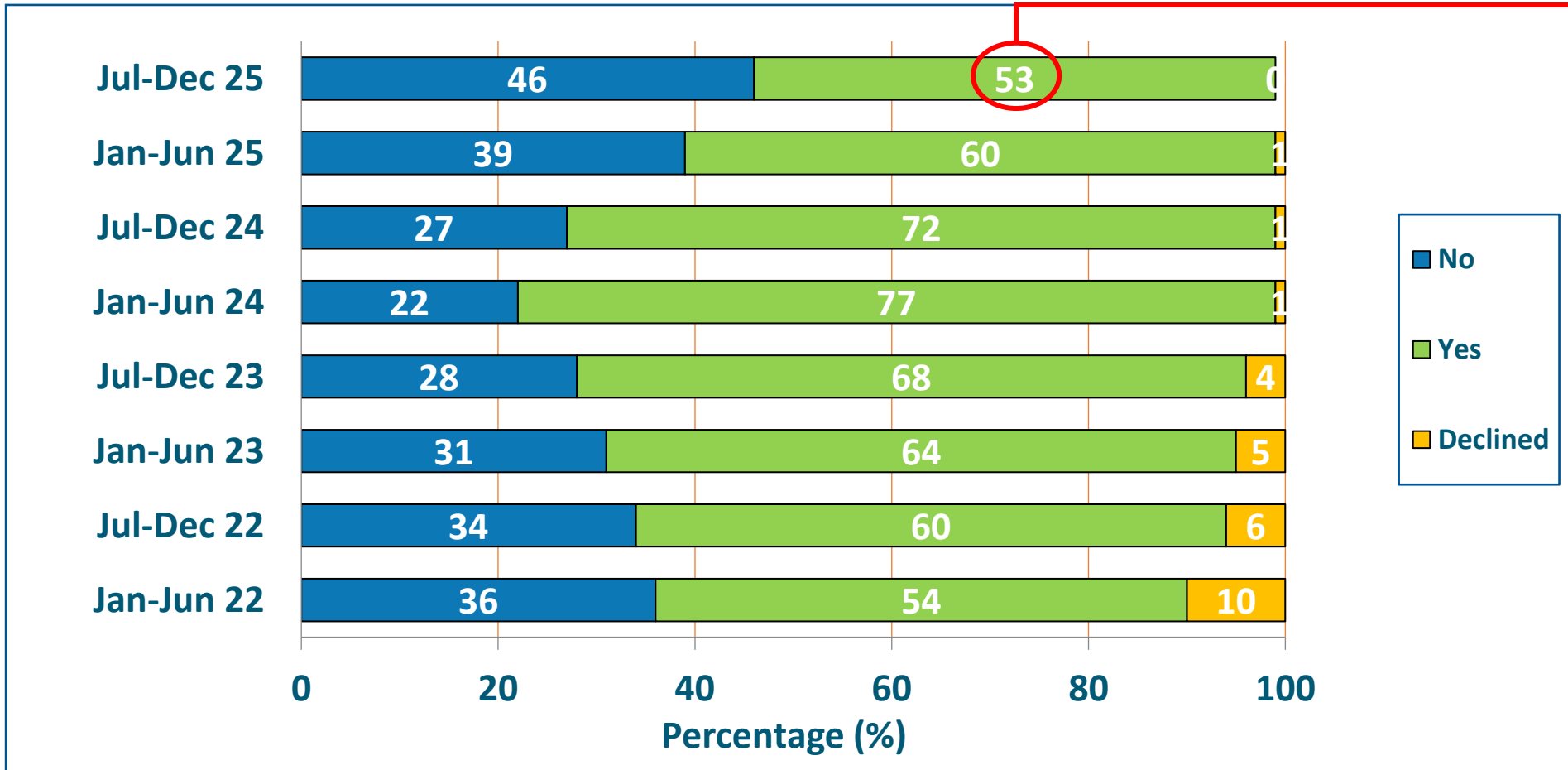
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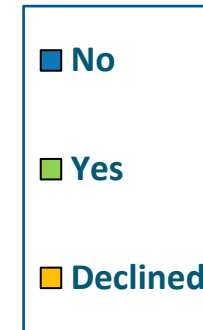
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HIV TESTED OVER PTM



Yes, in past 12 mths	36%
Yes, not in past 12 mths	17%



PRIOR HIV TEST BY AGE

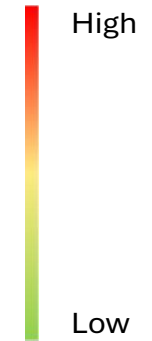


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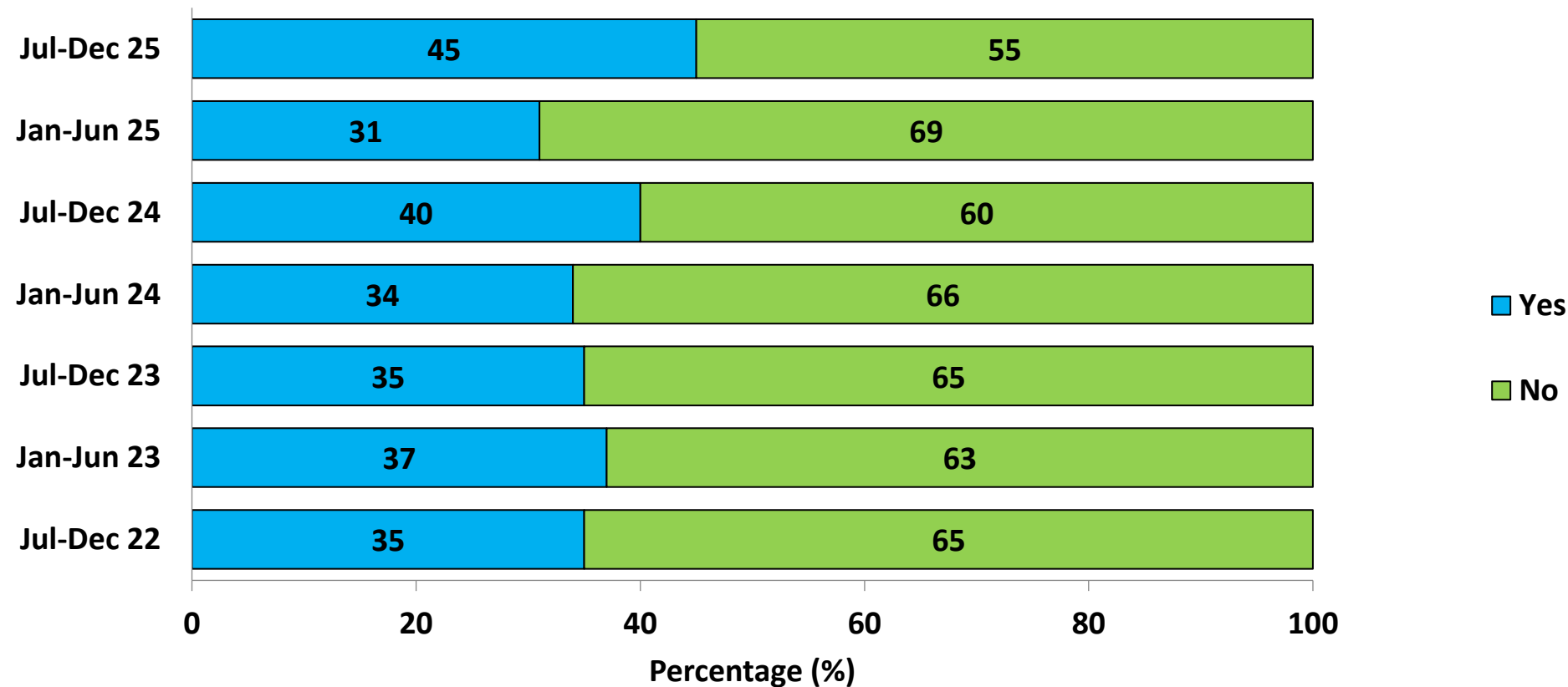
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Treatment Demand Data • Service Quality Measures (SQM)
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	Jul-Dec 23			Jan-Jun 24			Jul-Dec 24			Jan-Jun 25			Jul-Dec 25		
	Yes	No	Dec	Yes	No	Dec	Yes	No	Dec	Yes	No	Dec	Yes	No	Dec
<10yrs	0	0	0	0	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-14yrs	1	7	1	1	7	1	2	14	13	2	9	6	1	9	19
15-19yrs	8	30	15	13	38	8	13	36	15	17	40	23	10	34	13
20-24yrs	19	14	14	18	15	12	18	12	15	15	12	13	15	10	13
25-29yrs	22	15	17	21	12	21	17	10	3	19	11	21	19	13	13
30-34yrs	21	13	18	21	13	14	21	8	8	16	10	12	19	12	19
35-39yrs	14	11	18	14	7	21	14	9	10	13	7	2	15	9	0
40-44yrs	8	5	9	7	4	9	7	6	10	9	4	8	10	5	6
45-49yrs	4	3	4	3	2	4	4	2	8	4	3	2	5	4	13
50-54yrs	2	2	4	1	1	5	2	1	8	3	2	8	2	2	0
55-59yrs	1	1	0.4	1	0.4	3	1	1	5	1	1	2	2	1	6
60-64yrs	0.2	1	1	0.4	0.4	1	1	1	5	1	1	0	1	1	0
65+yrs	0.3	0.2	0	0.3	1	2	0.3	0.1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0



FUTURE HIV TESTING



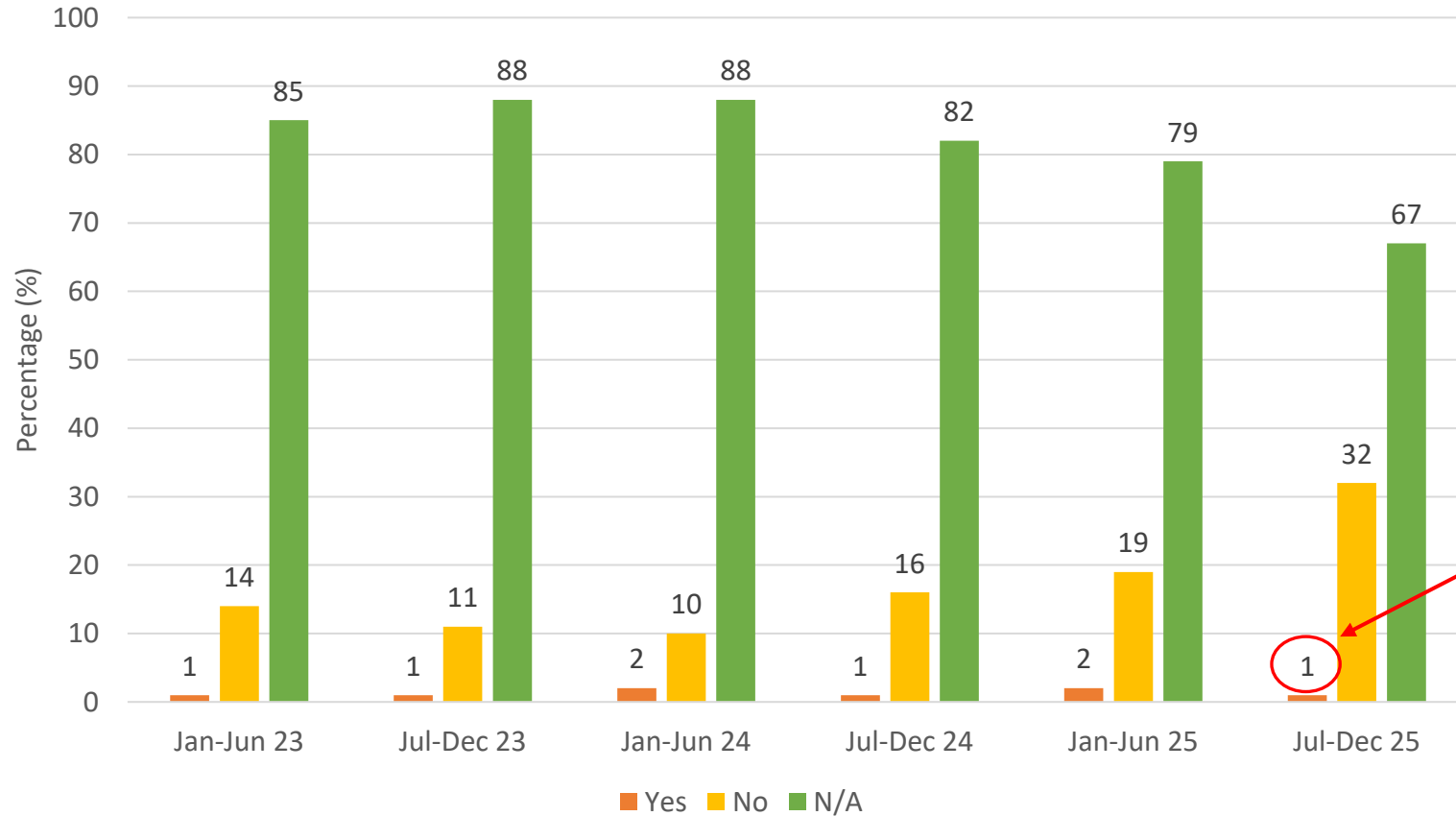
SUBSTANCE USE DURING PREGNANCY



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Substances Used	%
Alcohol	20
Dagga	6
Crystal MA	5
CAT/KHAT	2
Dagga/Mx	1
Crack/Cocaine	1
OTC/PRE	1
Total	36





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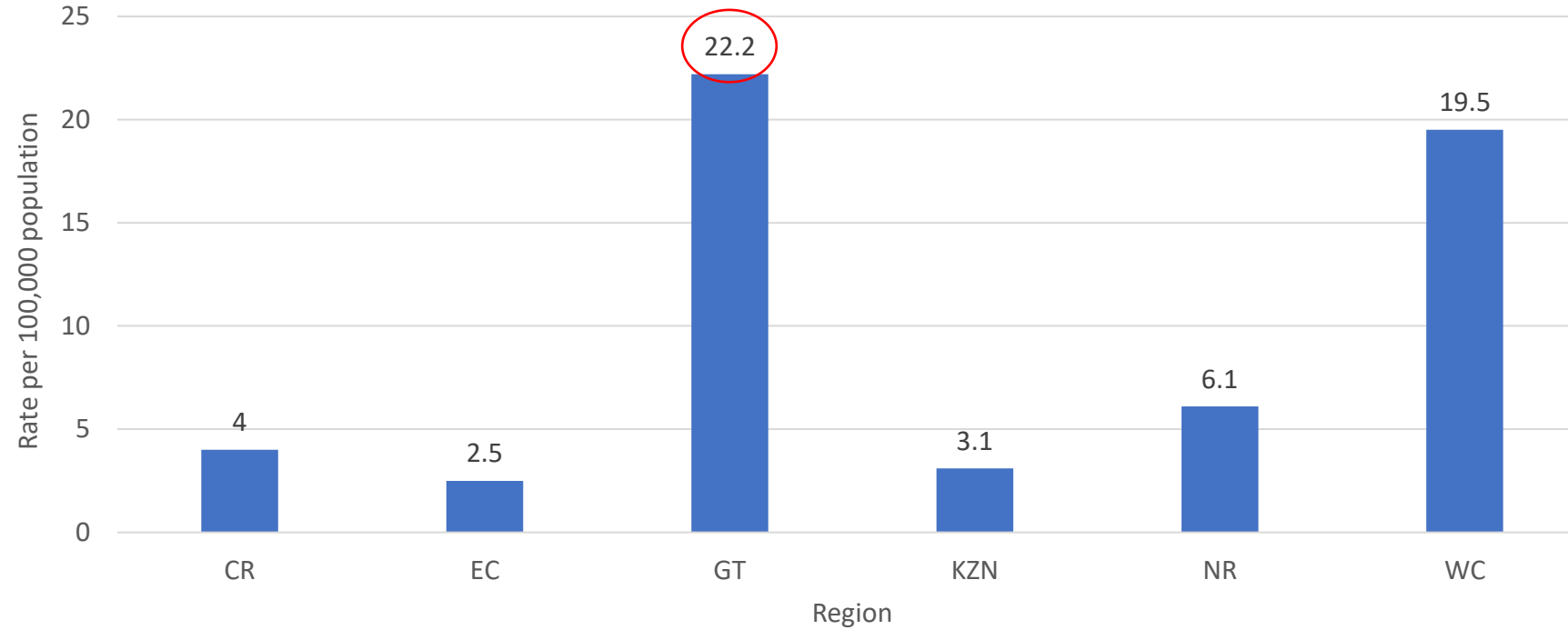
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POPULATION-ADJUSTED ESTIMATES



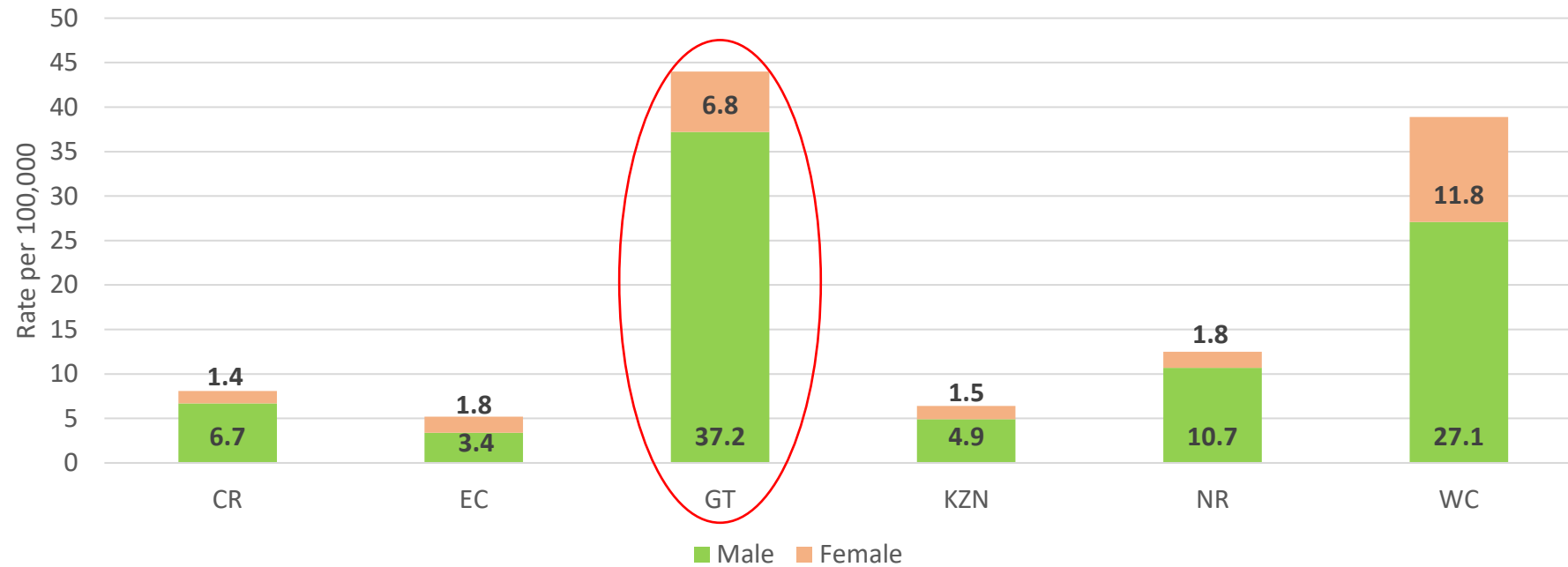


Age and Sex-adjusted rate per 100,000
All Admissions





Age-adjusted rate per 100,000
Gender





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SUBSTANCES OF USE



SELECTED PRIMARY SUBSTANCES OF USE

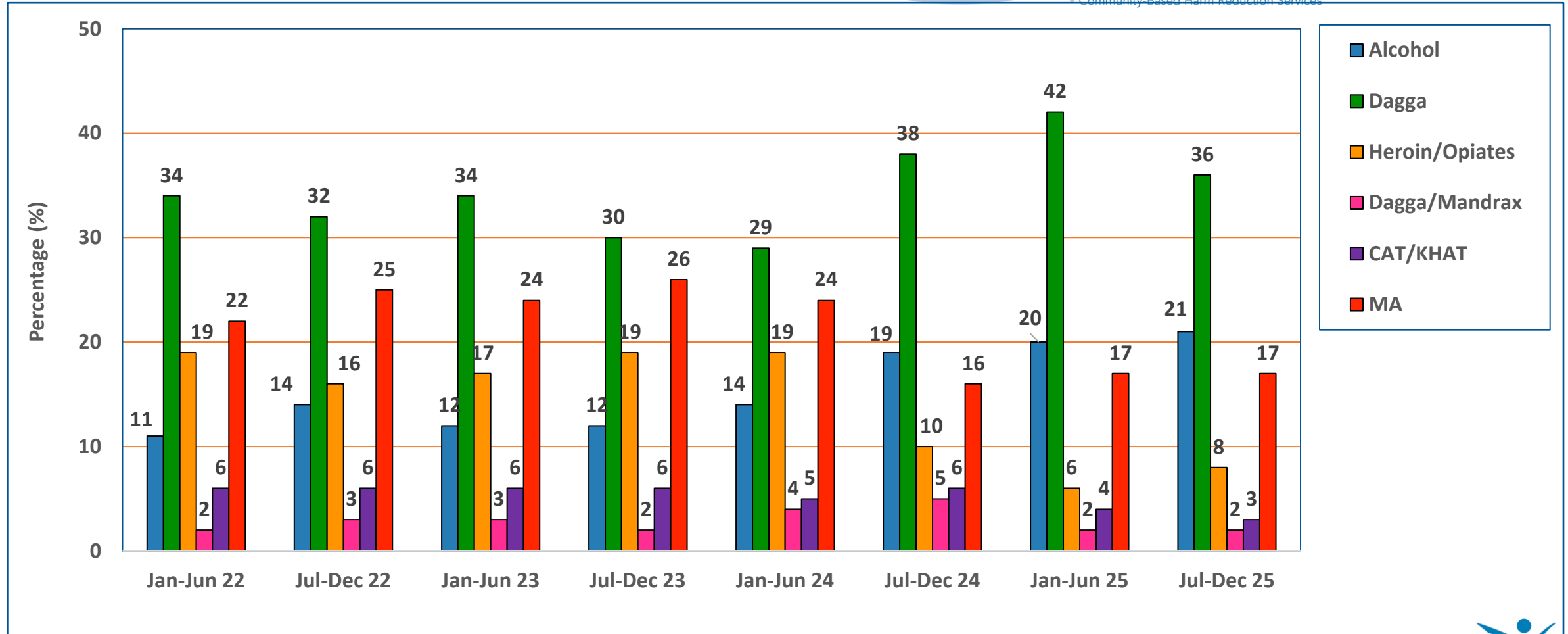


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• Community-Based Harm Reduction Services



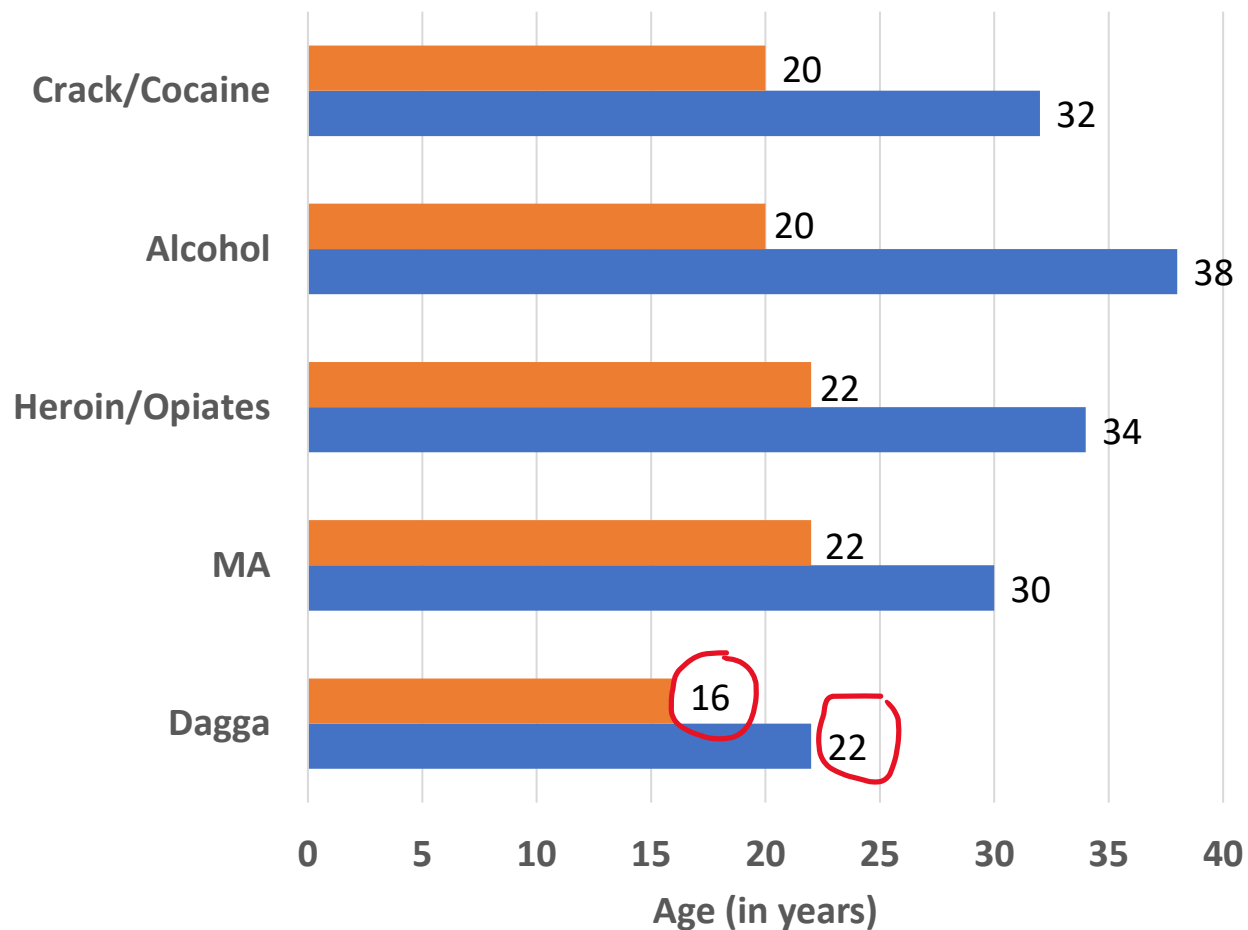
SELECTED PSOA BY MEAN AGE/MEAN AGE OF INITIATION



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Jul-Dec 25

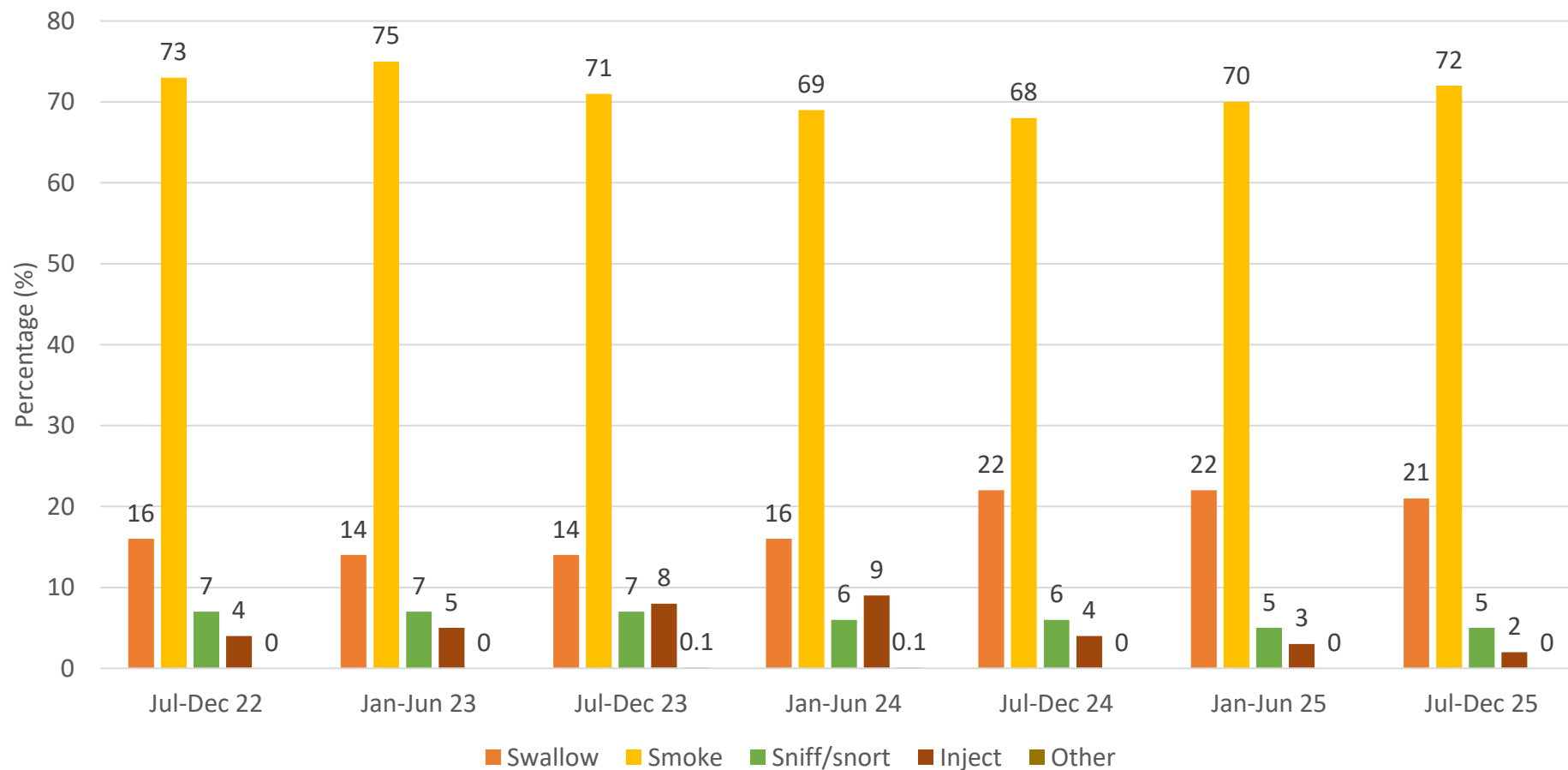
■ Mean Age of Initiation
■ Mean Age

Treatment Delay

	No of yrs
Dagga	6
MA	8
Her/Op	12
Alcohol	18
Crack/Coc	12



ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION (ALL SUBSTANCES)



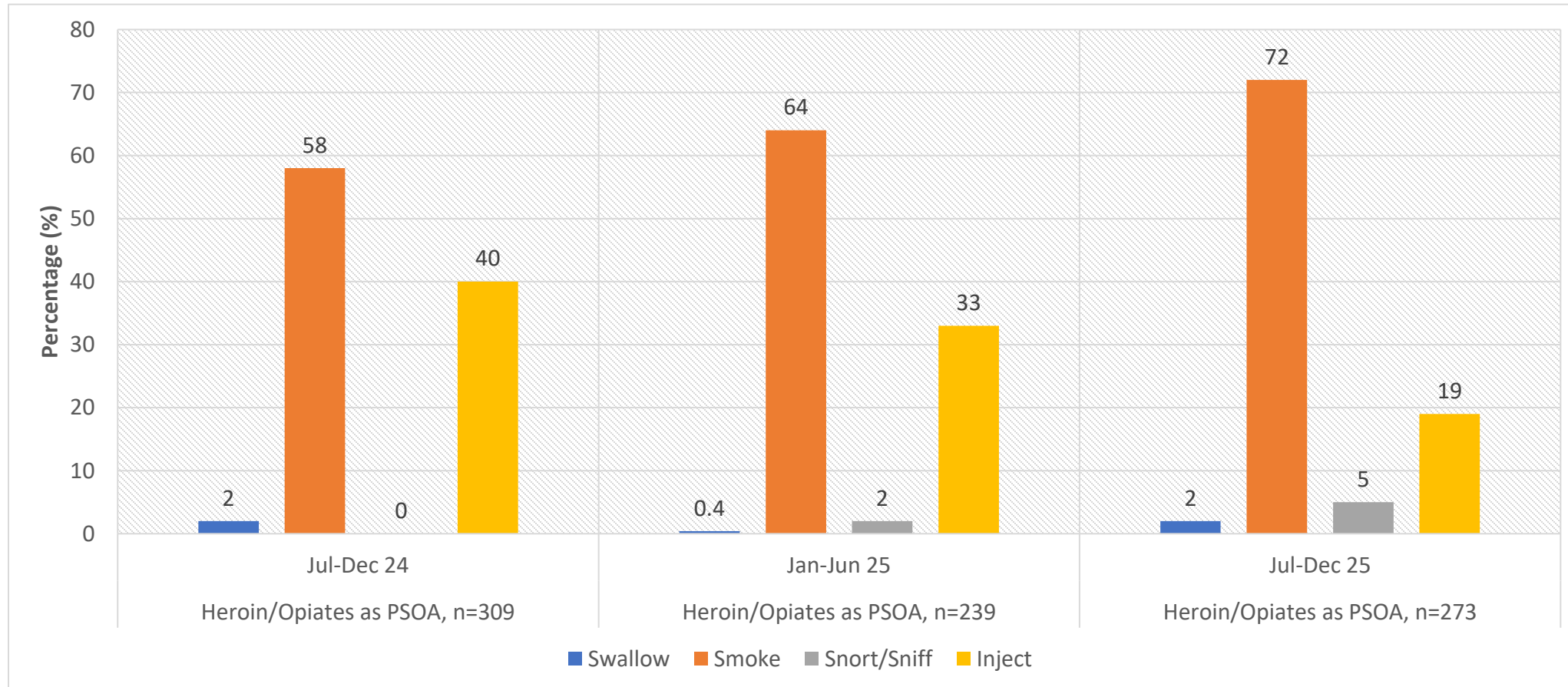
ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION (HEROIN/OPIATES)



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READMISSION BY SELECTED PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF USE

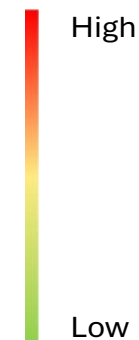


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	Jul-Dec 23	Jan-Jun 24	Jul-Dec 24	Jan-Jun 25	Jul-Dec 25
Alcohol	10	11	16	23	21
CAT/KHAT	5	6	7	5	5
MA	29	24	21	24	35
Dagga	16	18	30	24	16
Dagga/Mx	2	6	6	3	1
Crack/Cocaine	2	3	2	2	4
Heroin/Opiates	33	29	12	10	12
Inhalants	1	0.1	1	1	0
OTC/PRE	1	2	3	3	4
Methaqualone	0	0	0	0	2
Other	1	2	2	0.4	0



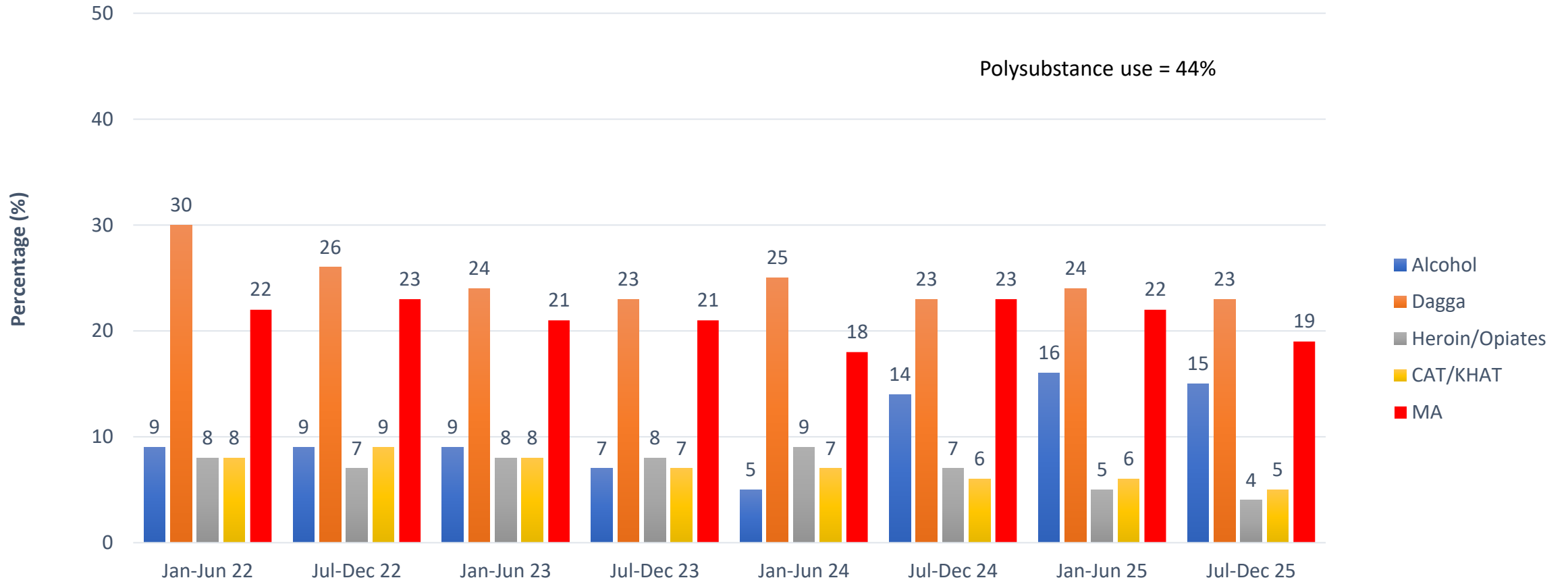
SELECTED SECONDARY SUBSTANCE OF USE



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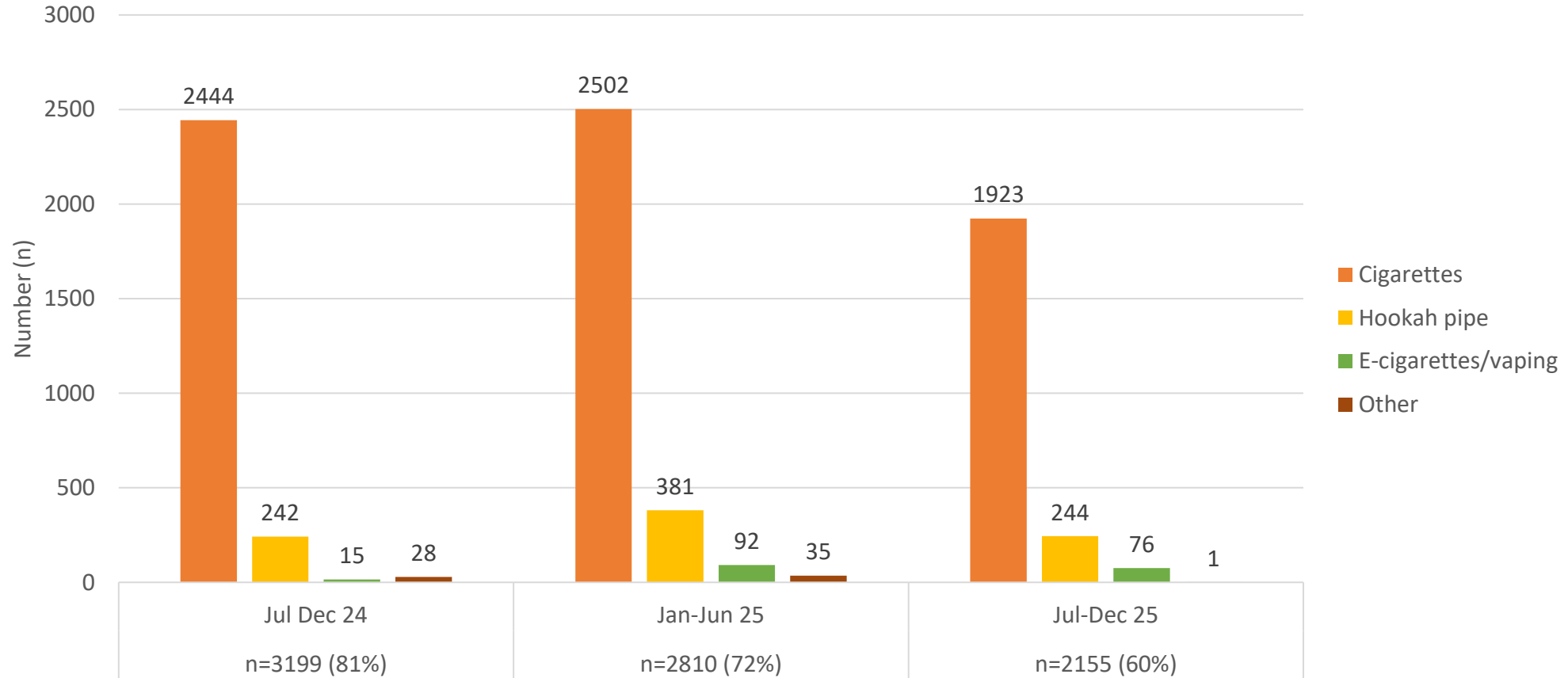
TOBACCO PRODUCTS



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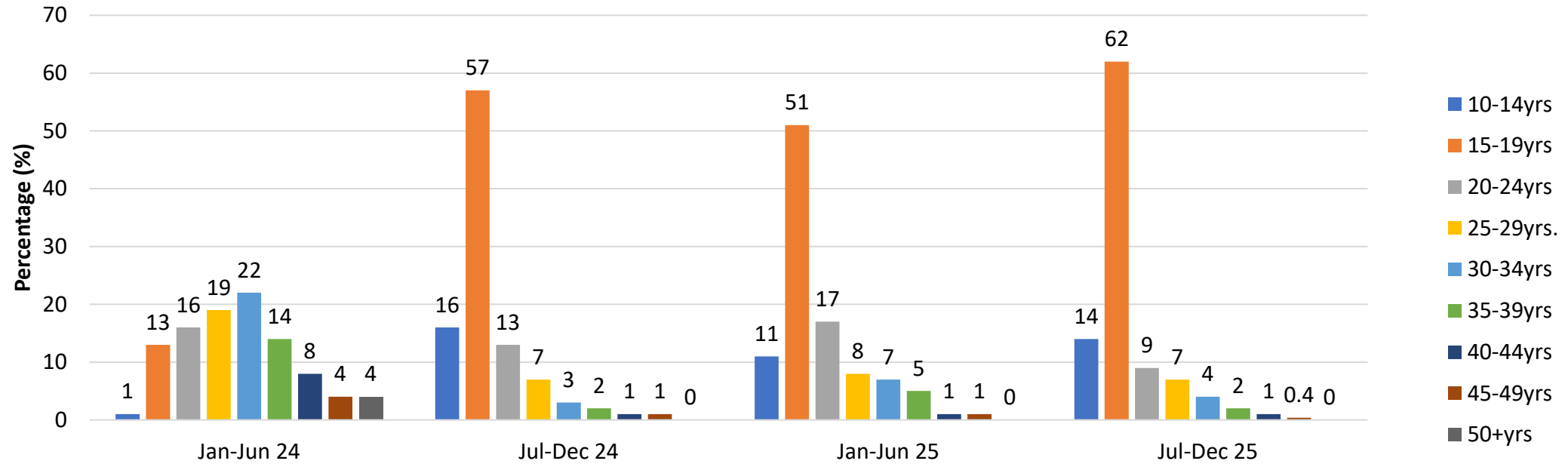




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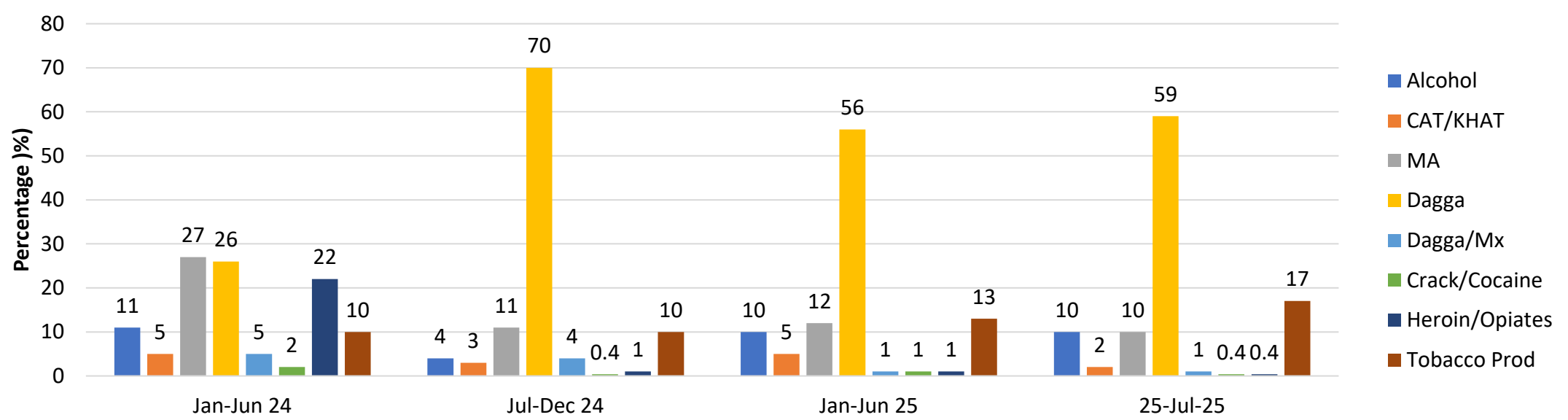




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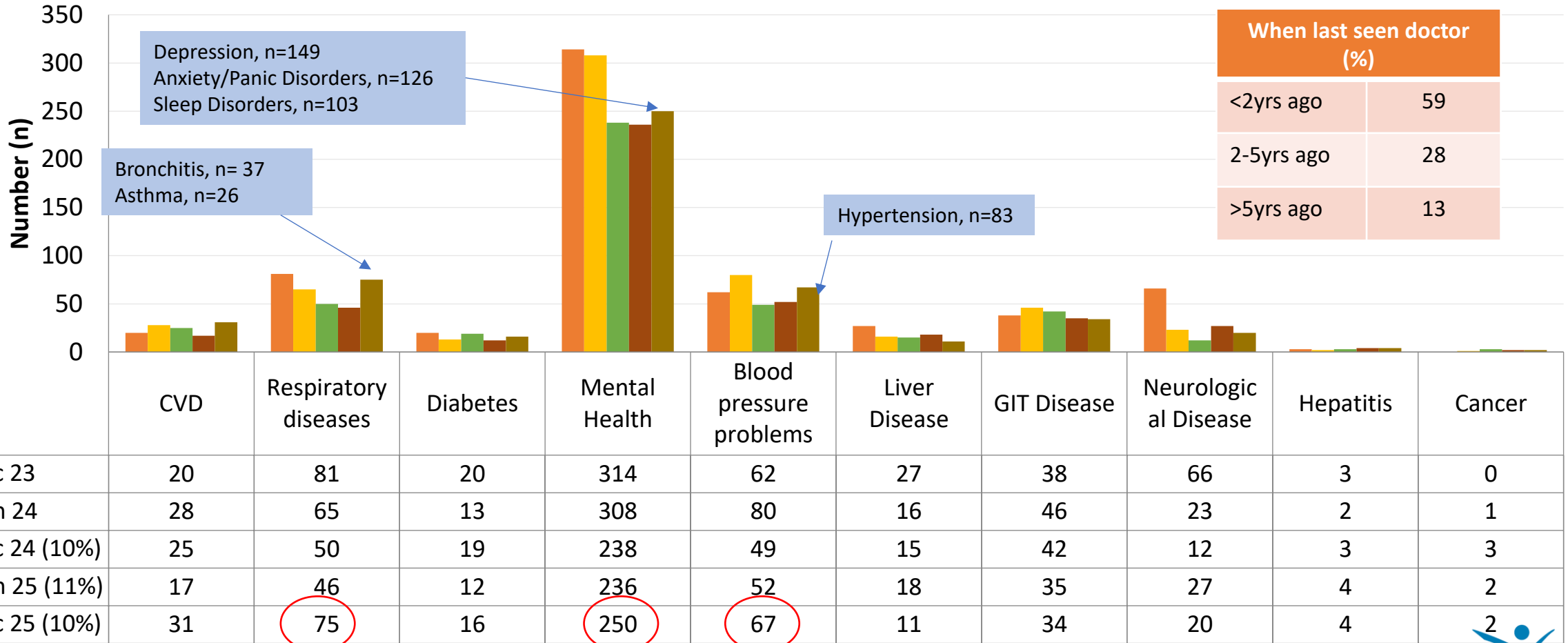
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HEALTH-RELATED CONSEQUENCES/OTHER



Number of NCDs (n=370, 10%)



When last seen doctor (%)	
<2yrs ago	59
2-5yrs ago	28
>5yrs ago	13

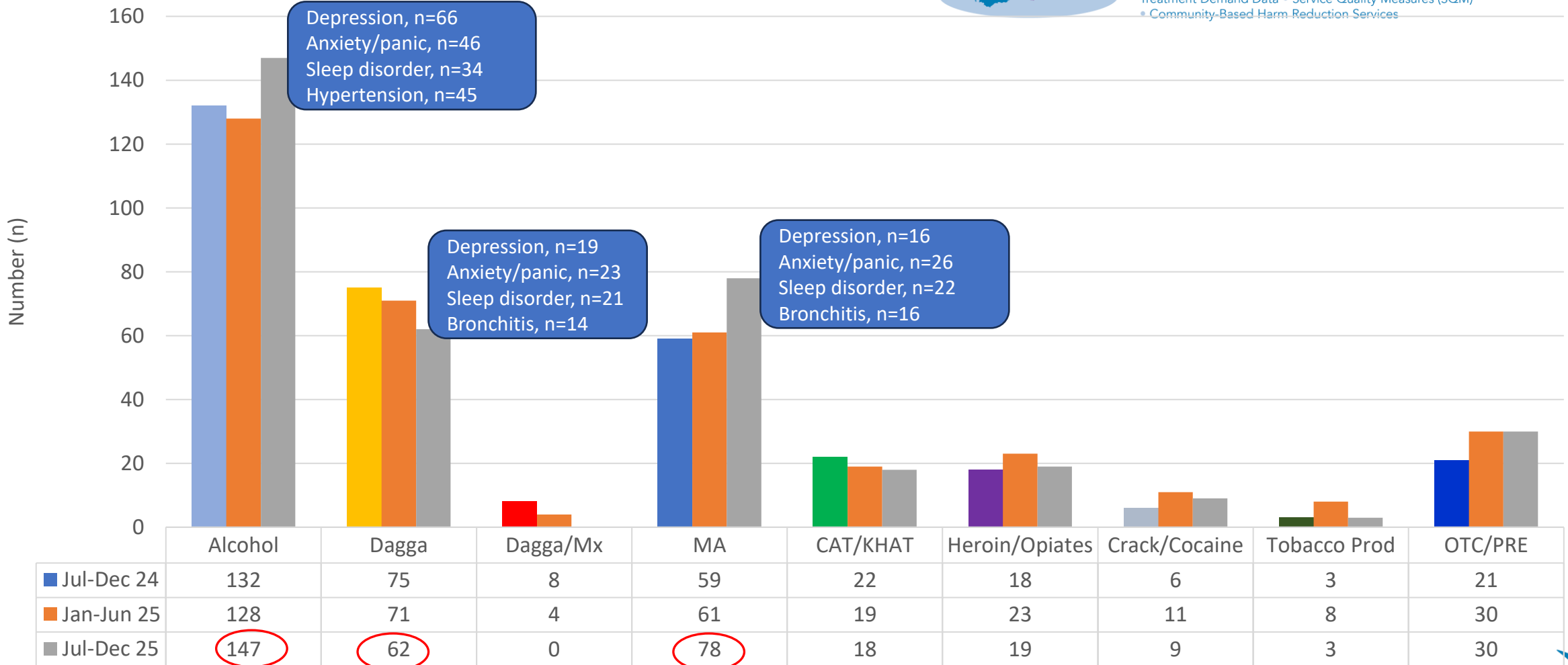
NCD BY SELECTED PRIMARY SUBSTANCE



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Depression, n=66
Anxiety/panic, n=46
Sleep disorder, n=34
Hypertension, n=45

Depression, n=19
Anxiety/panic, n=23
Sleep disorder, n=21
Bronchitis, n=14

Depression, n=16
Anxiety/panic, n=26
Sleep disorder, n=22
Bronchitis, n=16



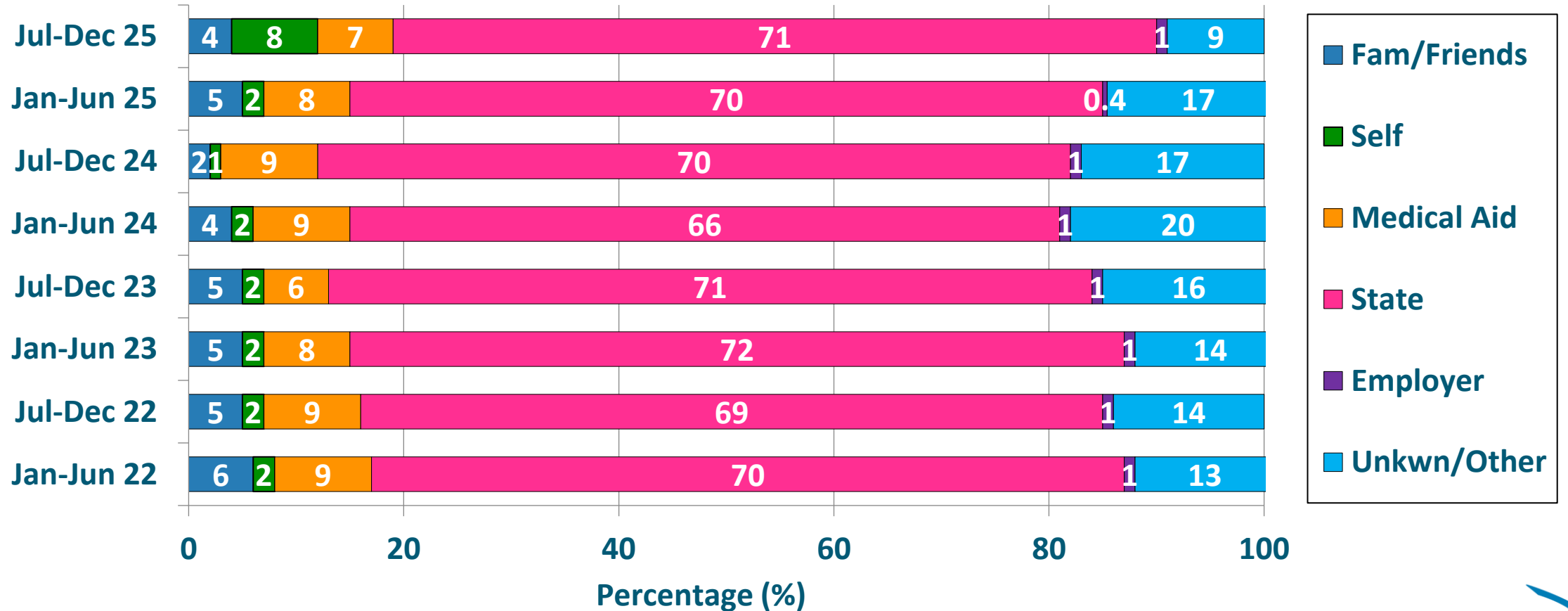
Profile of Individuals who use Codeine (n=160, 5%)	Percent (%)
Gender:	
Males: Females	85:15
Ages:	
15-19 years	24
20-24 years	29
25-29 years	19
Employment status:	
Unemployed	52
School learner	22
Codeine product:	
First product: tablets, followed by syrup Second product: tablets, followed by syrup	
Type of codeine-containing medication:	
Mybulen, Adcodol, Stilpane, Napacod, Synaleve, Salterpyn → Tablets	
Bronchleer, Benylin with codeine, Lenazine, Medipyn, Astrapain → Cough syrup	

41% >6mths





SOURCE OF PAYMENT





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PERSONS ≤ 18 YEARS



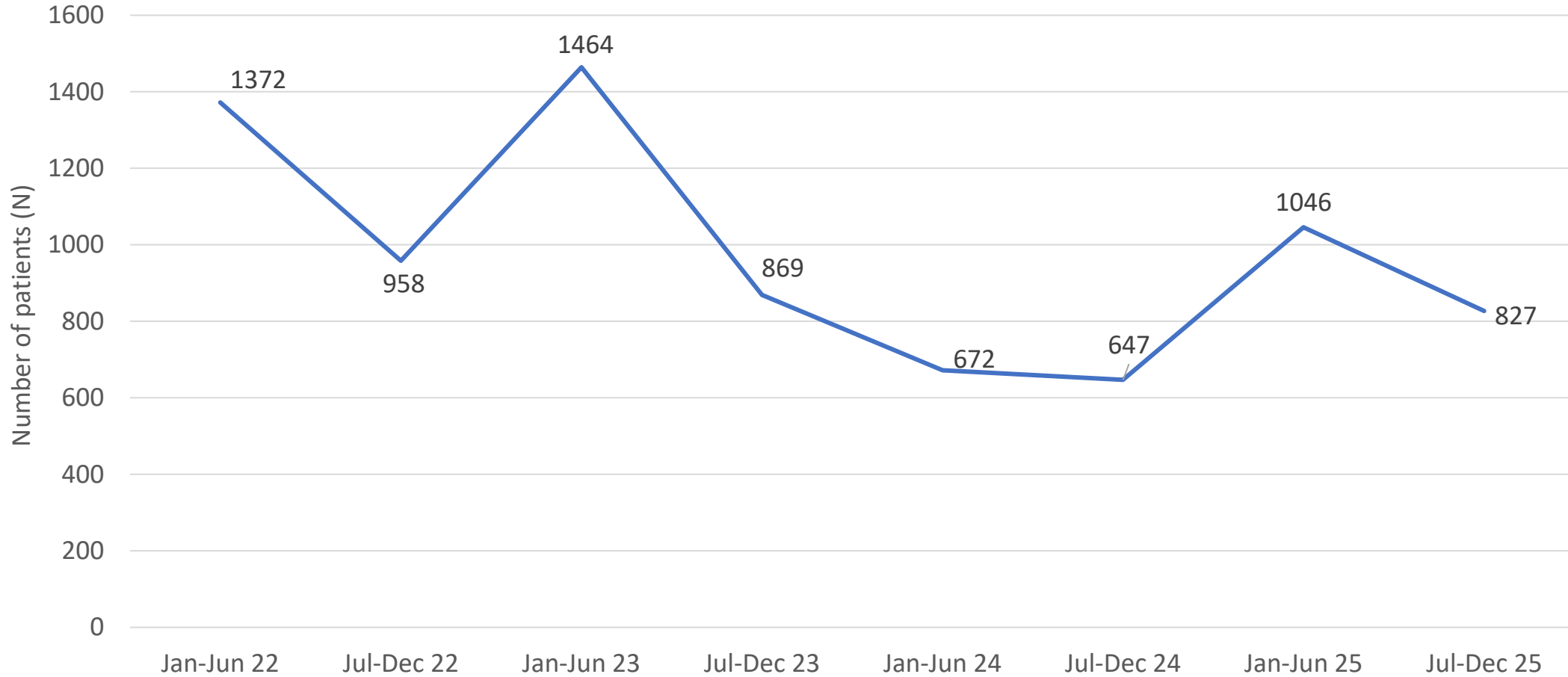
NUMBER OF PATIENTS (n=23%)



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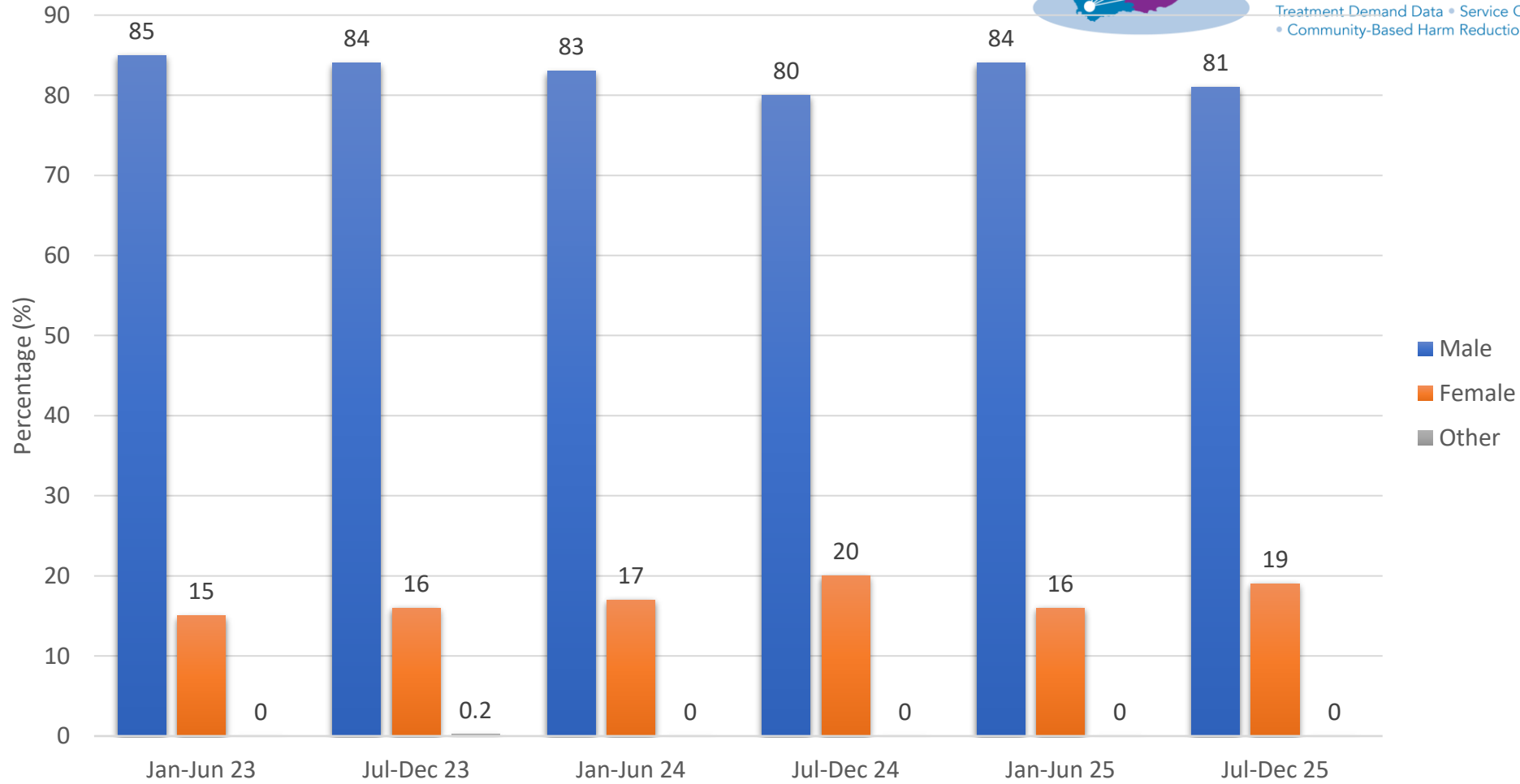
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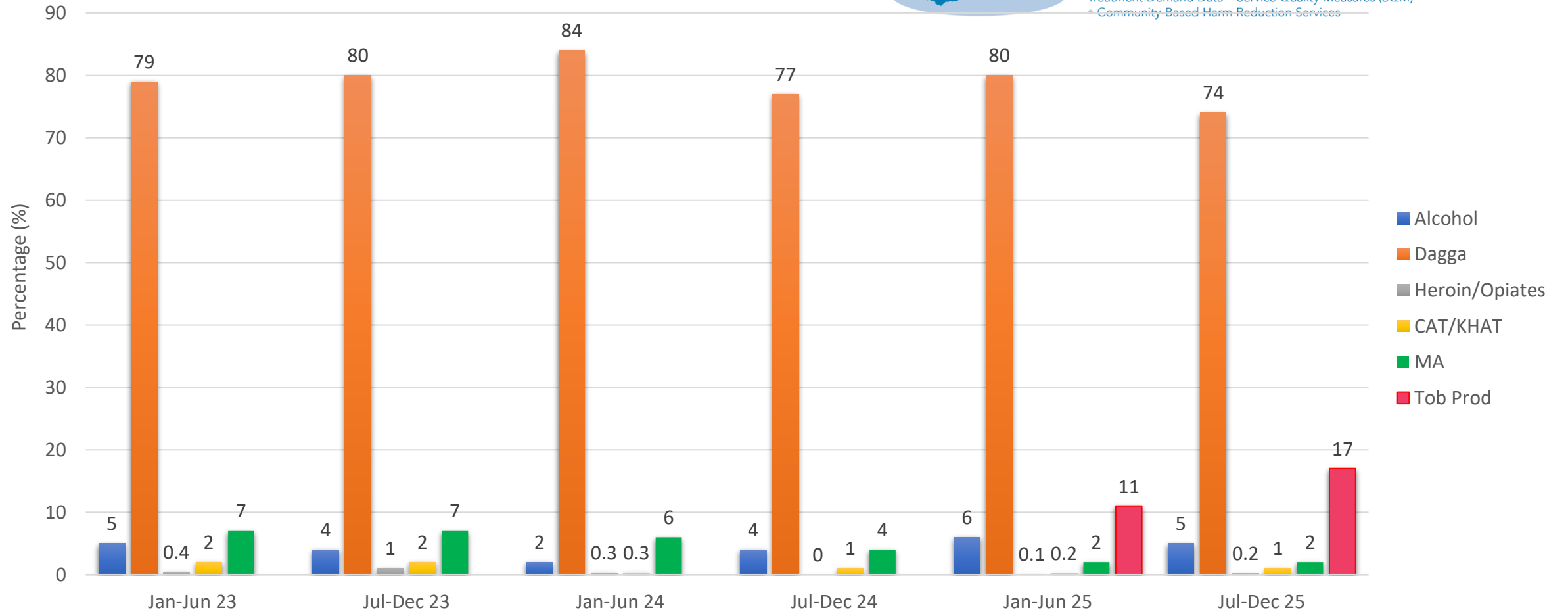
SELECTED PRIMARY SUBSTANCES OF USE



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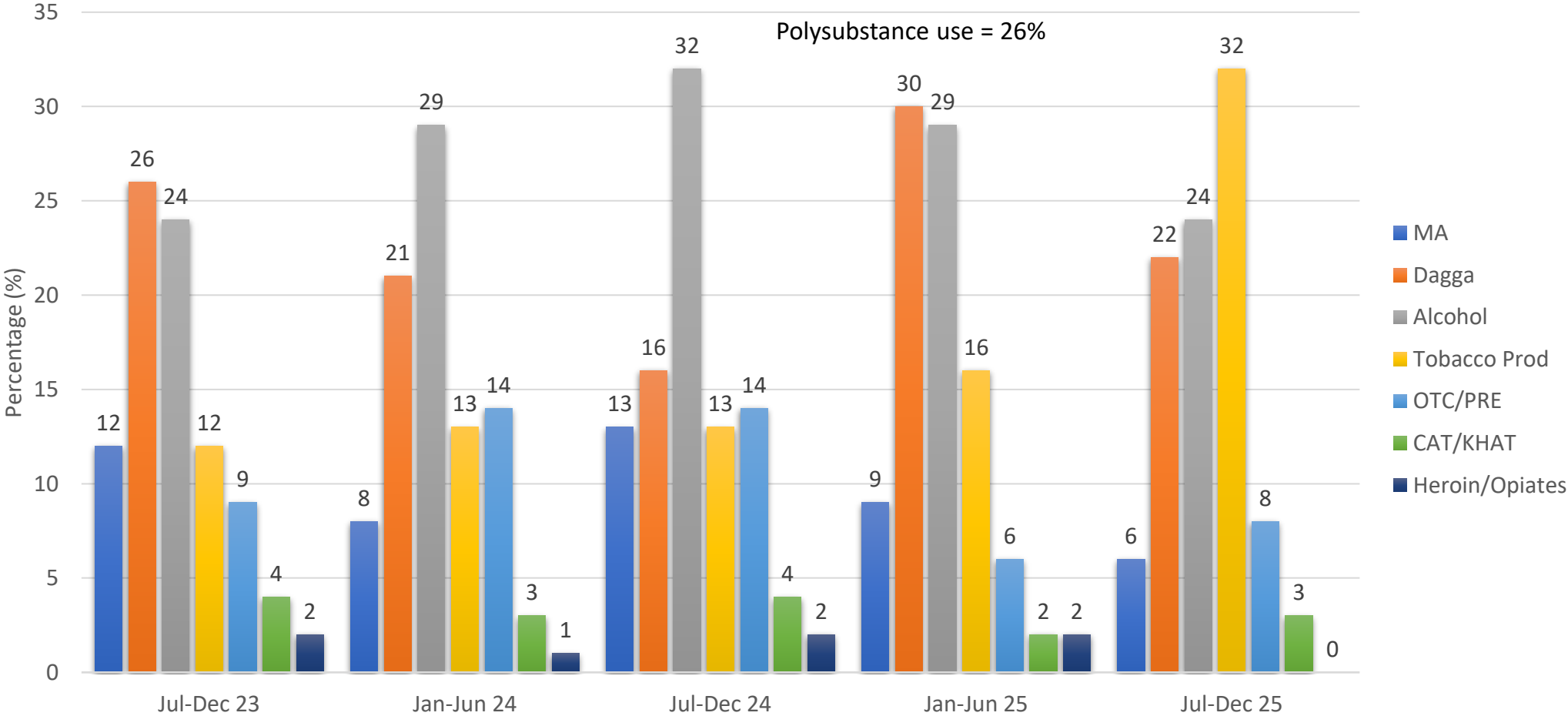
SELECTED SECONDARY SUBSTANCES OF USE



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SUMMARY

- Nationally, GT comprised 53% of all admissions. Age-and sex-adjusted population estimates demonstrate that GT had more people accessing treatment (22.2 per 100,000 population) compared to other regions.
- Admissions constant over the last two periods.
- Admissions were mainly first-time on a voluntary basis.
- Mostly inpatient and outpatient/cb treatment access, although an increase in access to detox services.
- The majority of individuals accessing treatment were males aged 15-19 years; decline among youths aged 15-19 years.
- Age-adjusted rates confirm that treatment access for males (22.2 per 100,000) is more than 3 times the rate for females (6,8 per 100,000) in GT.
- Individuals were predominantly unemployed (over half unemployed >6 months) with a high school-level education.
- Readmissions were mainly among males aged 25-34 years presenting with MA misuse. Most readmissions were in-patient with 1 readmission episode.
- Service-users had stable living conditions, living in a permanent abode with parents/relatives.
- Referral to treatment were largely self-referral increasing from 39% to 46%.
- HIV testing rates remain suboptimal (53% declining from 60%); 55% did not want to be tested in the future, decrease from 69% in previous period.
- Highest HIV testing rates for adults 25-34 years; testing among youths 15-19 years dropped from 17% to 10%.
- Proportions for substance use during pregnancy remained low. Of the 1% who indicated substance use during pregnancy, the majority reported the use of alcohol.
- Dagga was the most common primary substance of use (36%, declining from 42%), followed by alcohol (21%) and crystal MA (17%).
- Polysubstance use at 44%.

SUMMARY

- Consistent with previous periods, dagga was associated with the youngest age at time of admission (mean age: 22 years) and age of initiation (mean age: 16 years). Alcohol had the longest treatment delay (18 years) while dagga had the shortest delay (6 years).
- Longer delay in treatment access seen for heroin/opiates over the last 2 periods (13 yrs in 25a and 12 years in 25b).
- Higher readmission rates associated with MA (35% increasing from 24%), alcohol (21%) and dagga (16% decreasing from 24%).
- Relatively higher HP use rates in GT versus other regions.
- Rates for hookah pipe (HP) use particularly high among youth aged 15-19 years increasing from 51% (25a) to 62% (25b).
 - Mainly dagga and tobacco products as primary substance when HP indicated.
 - Alcohol as primary substance also indicated, unchanged from 10% in previous period.
- Mental health issues (mainly depression, anxiety/panic, and sleep disorders) reported as comorbidity at the time of admission.
 - Alcohol, dagga and MA reported as most common primary substances of use with co-occurring mental health problems (depression, anxiety/panic, sleep disorder), respiratory disease (bronchitis), and hypertension.
- Treatment was mainly state subsidised (partly/fully).
- *Adolescents ≤18 years:*
 - Drop in youth admissions.
 - Mostly males accessed treatment during this period.
 - Admissions predominantly for dagga as primary substance; tobacco products most common secondary substance, followed alcohol and dagga.
 - Polysubstance use 26%

REFERENCES:



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Treatment Demand Data • Service Quality Measures (SQM)
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Thank You
Baie Dankie
Enkosi Kakhulu
Ngiyabonga

