



SACENDU

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITY EPIDEMIOLOGY NETWORK ON DRUG USE

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

NORTHERN REGION SYMPOSIUM: TREATMENT DEMAND DATA

Ms Nancy Hornsby

Phase 58 | January – June 2025

4 Nov 2025, Protea Hotel, Nelspruit



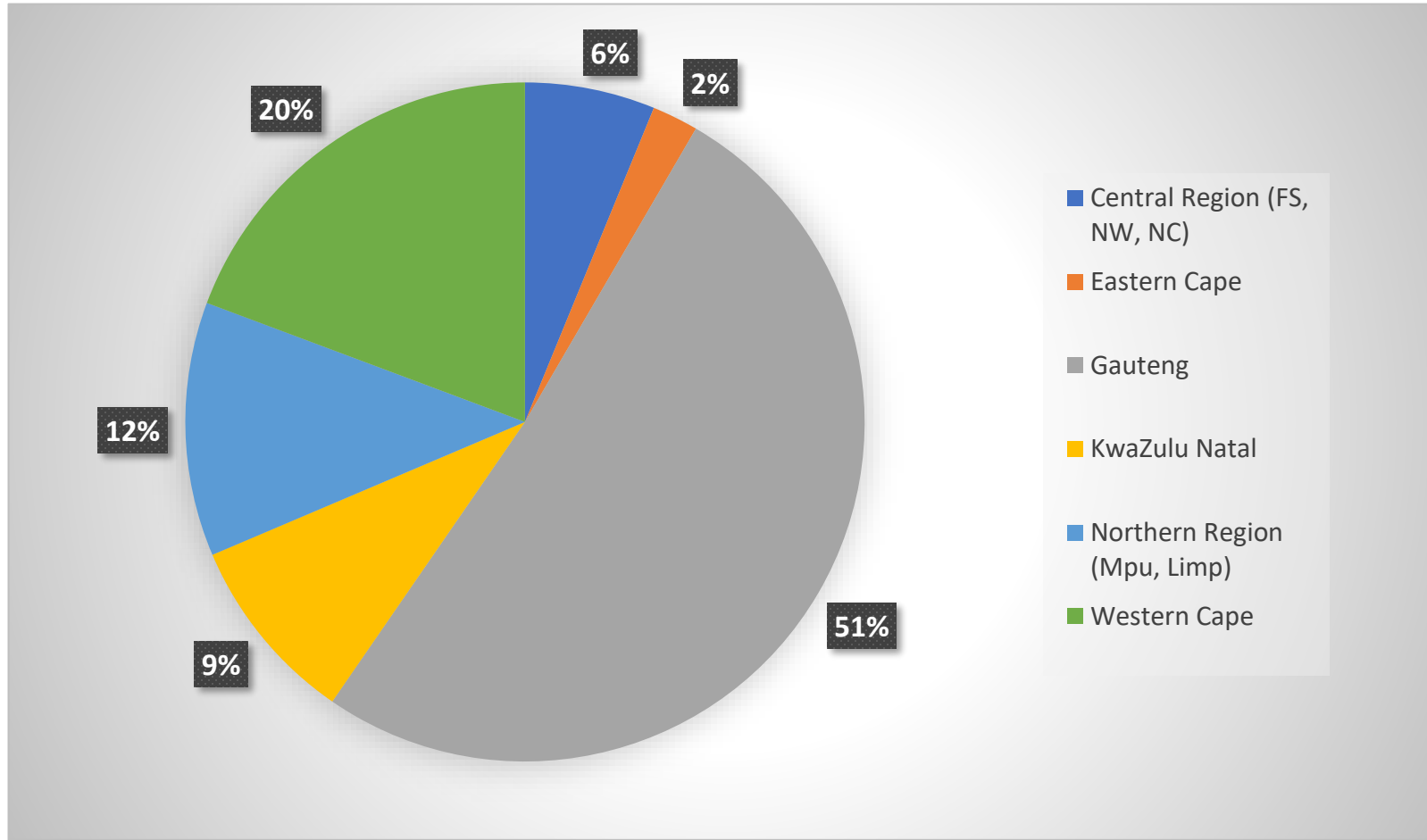
National overview



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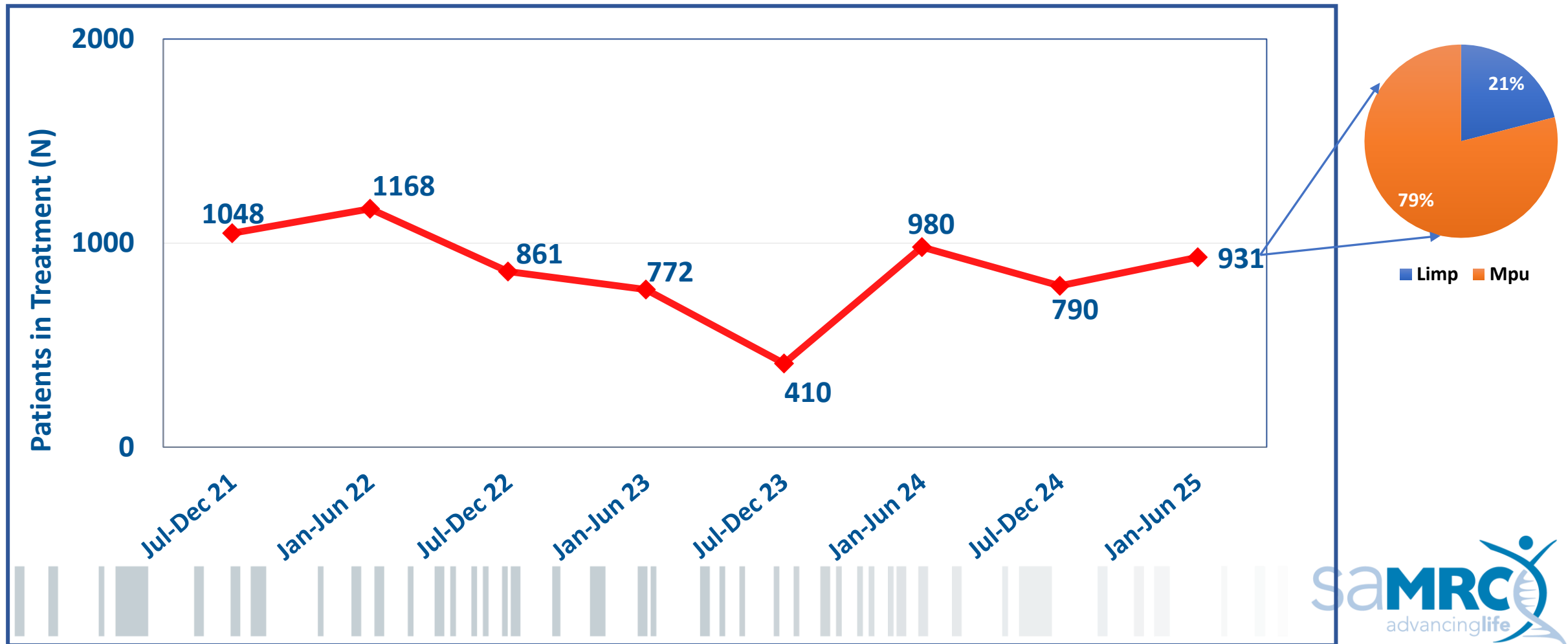


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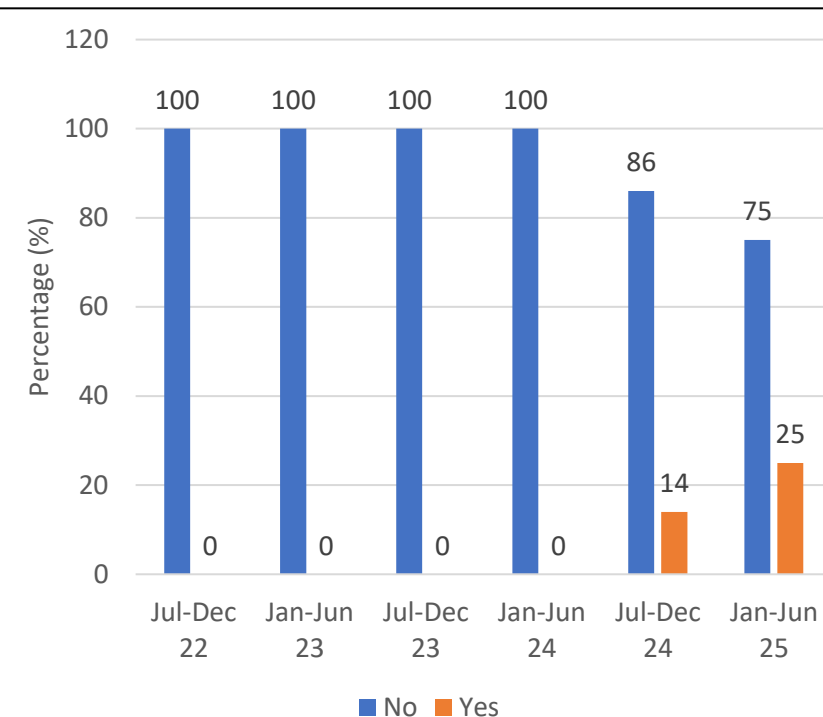
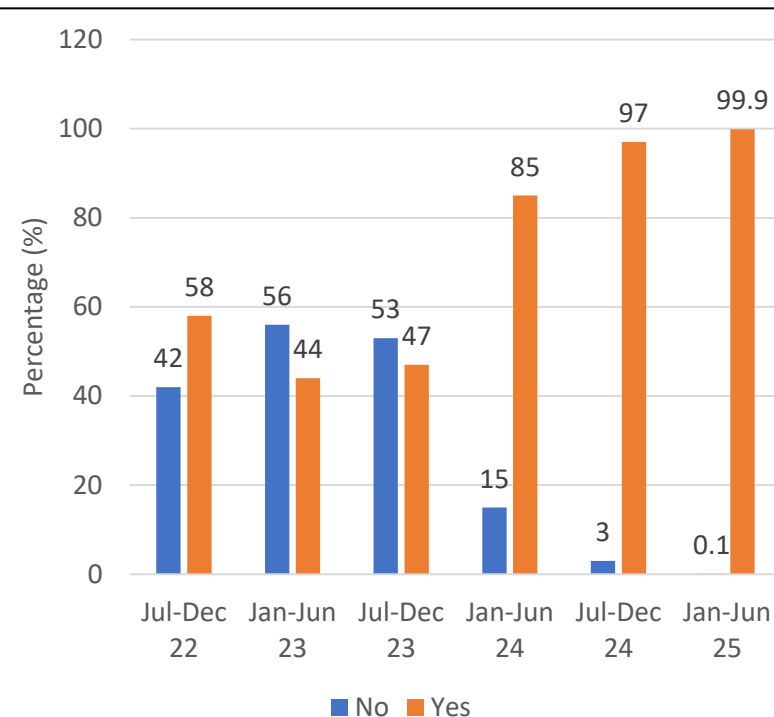
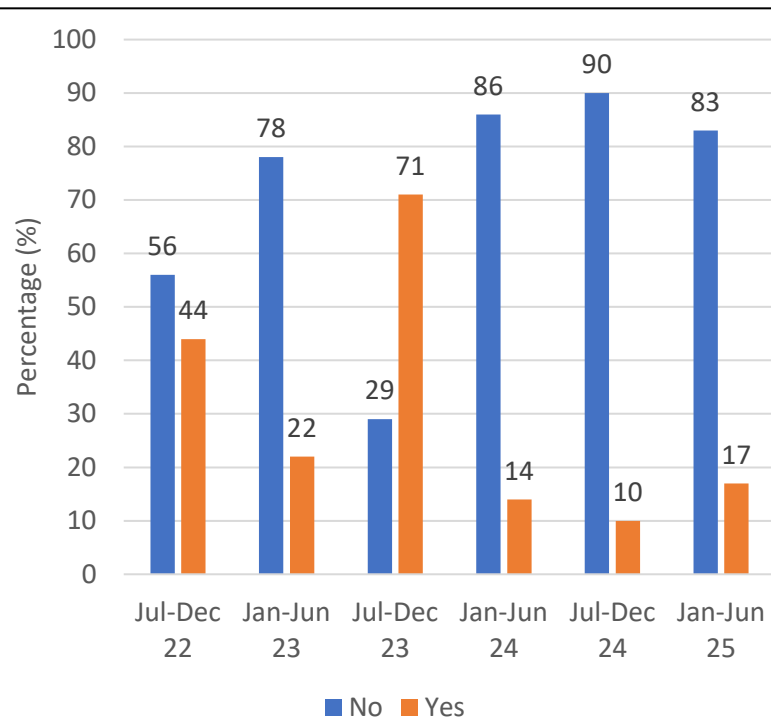
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NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN TREATMENT





TYPE OF TREATMENT RECEIVED



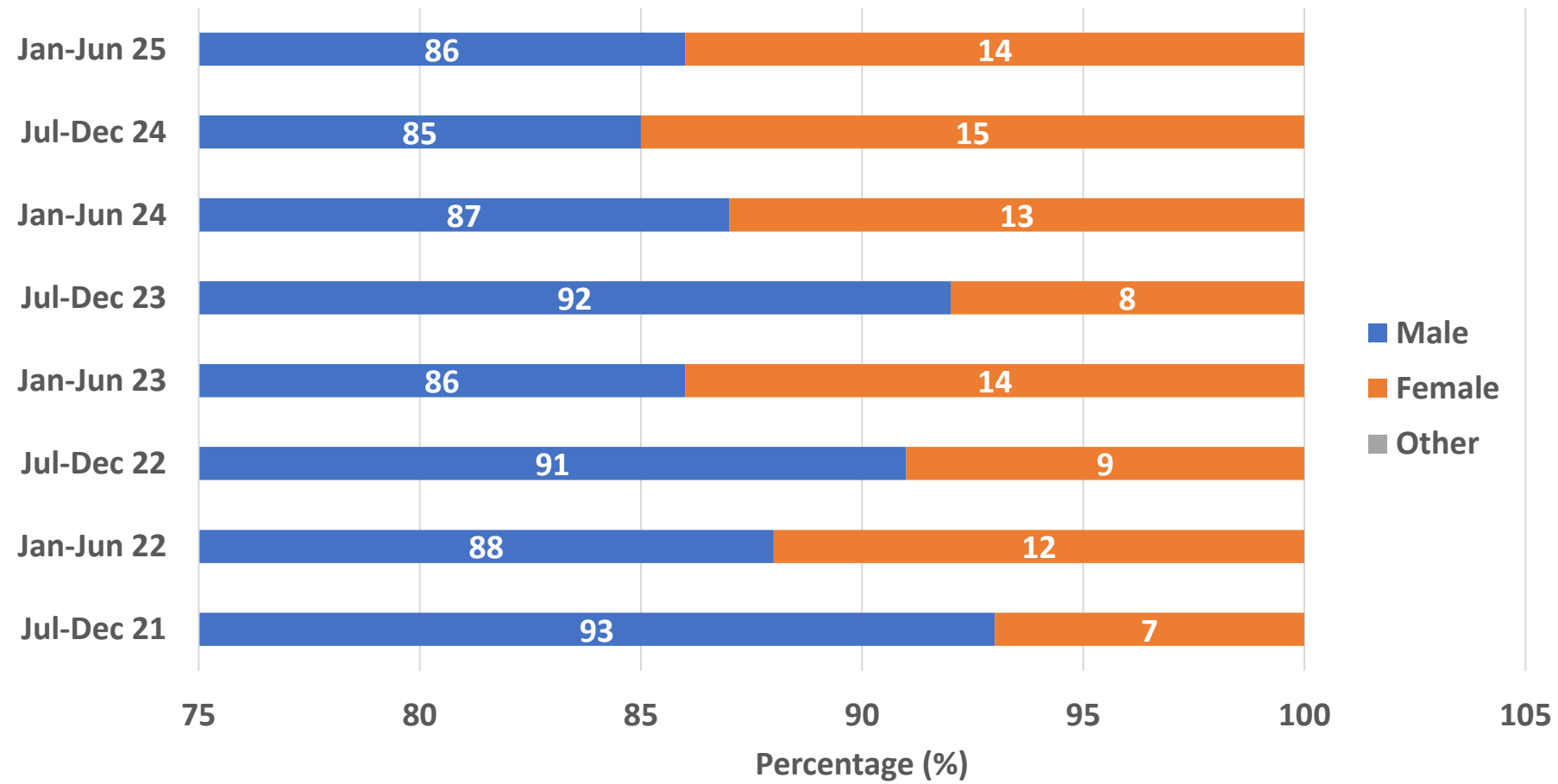
GENDER



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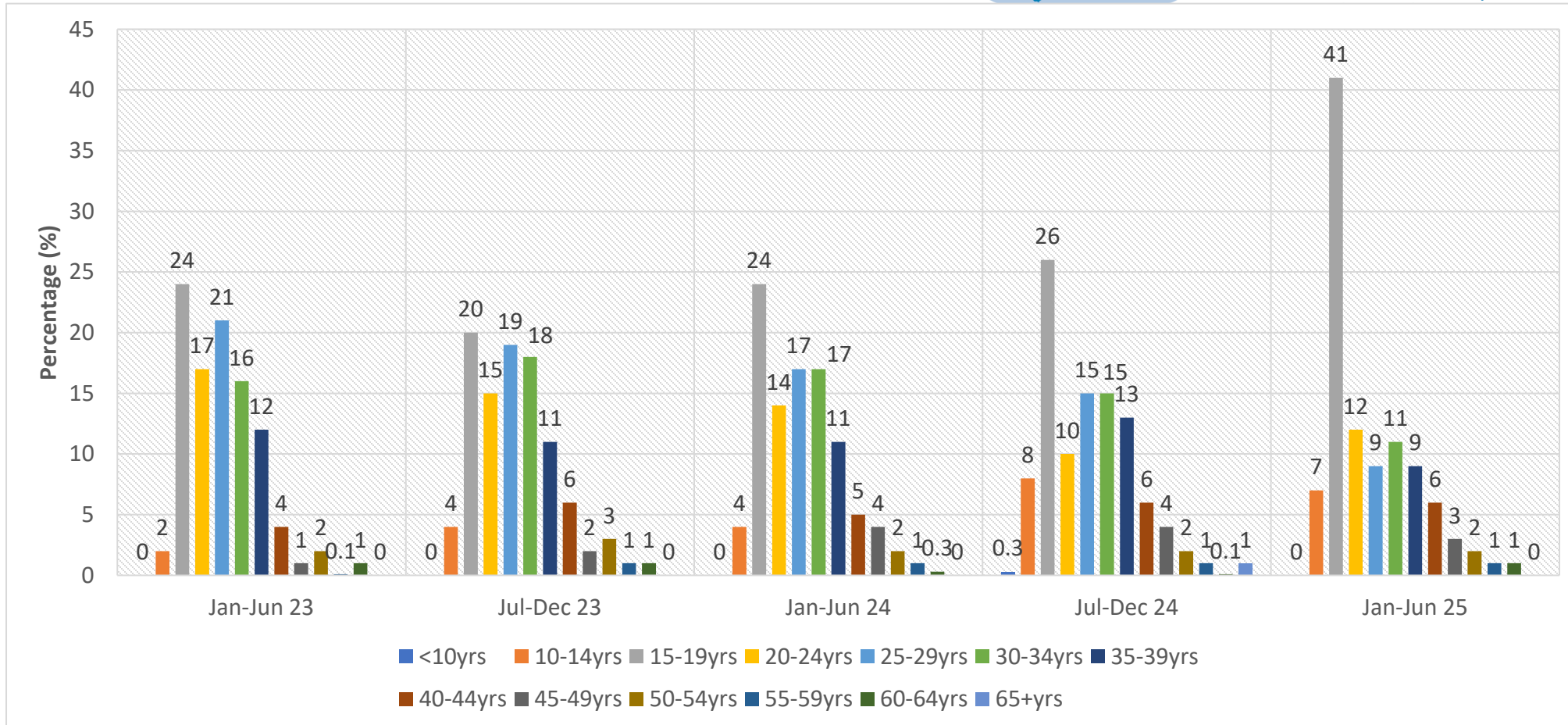
AGE DISTRIBUTION



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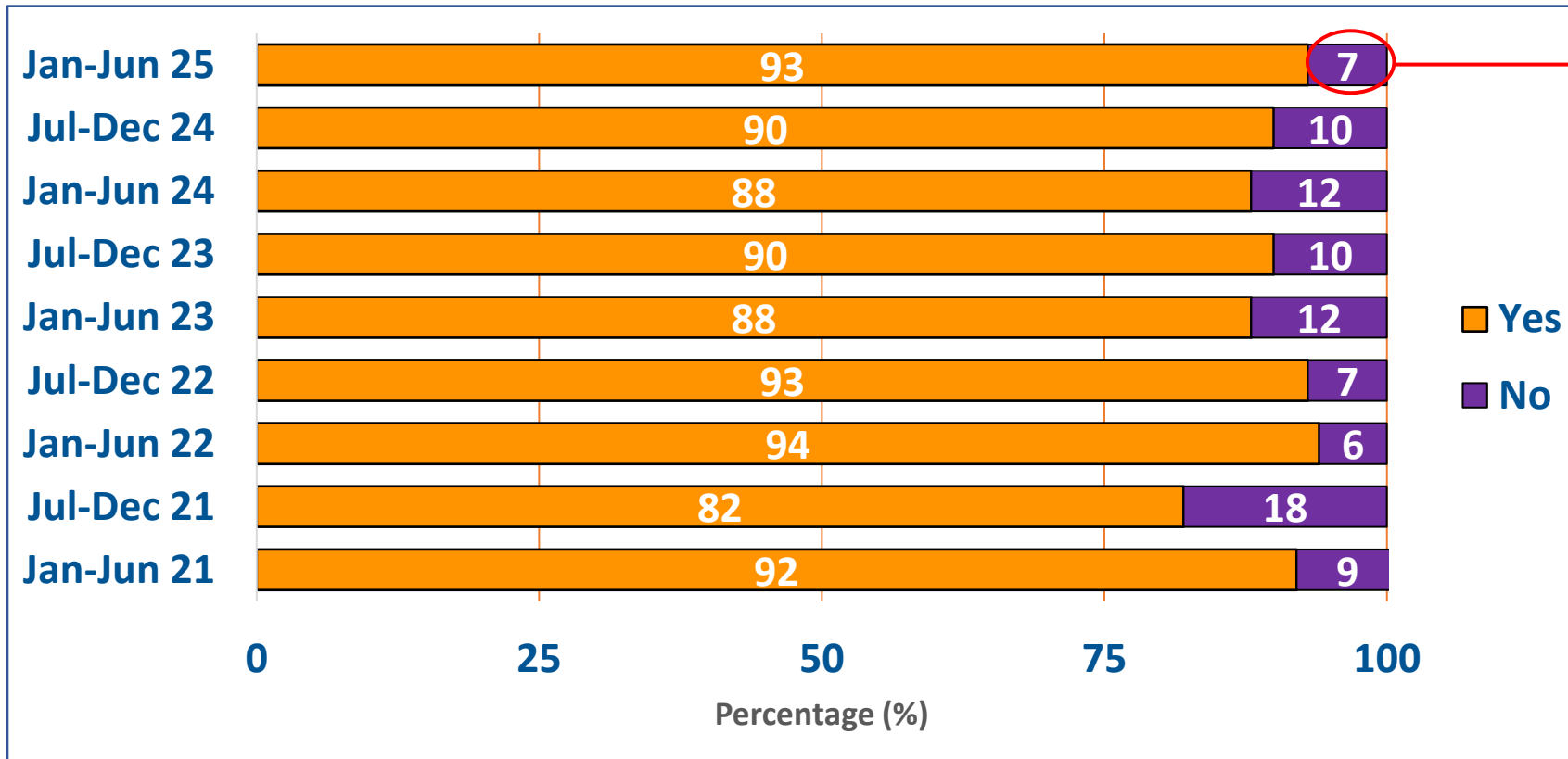


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FIRST-TIME ADMISSIONS VS READMISSIONS



Number of times	n
1 time	24
2 times	6
4 times	1
5 times	14
6 times	4
7 times	16

	Inpt (n)	Outpt/CB (n)	Detox (n)
1 time	2	13	1
2 times	1	2	1
Total	3	15	2



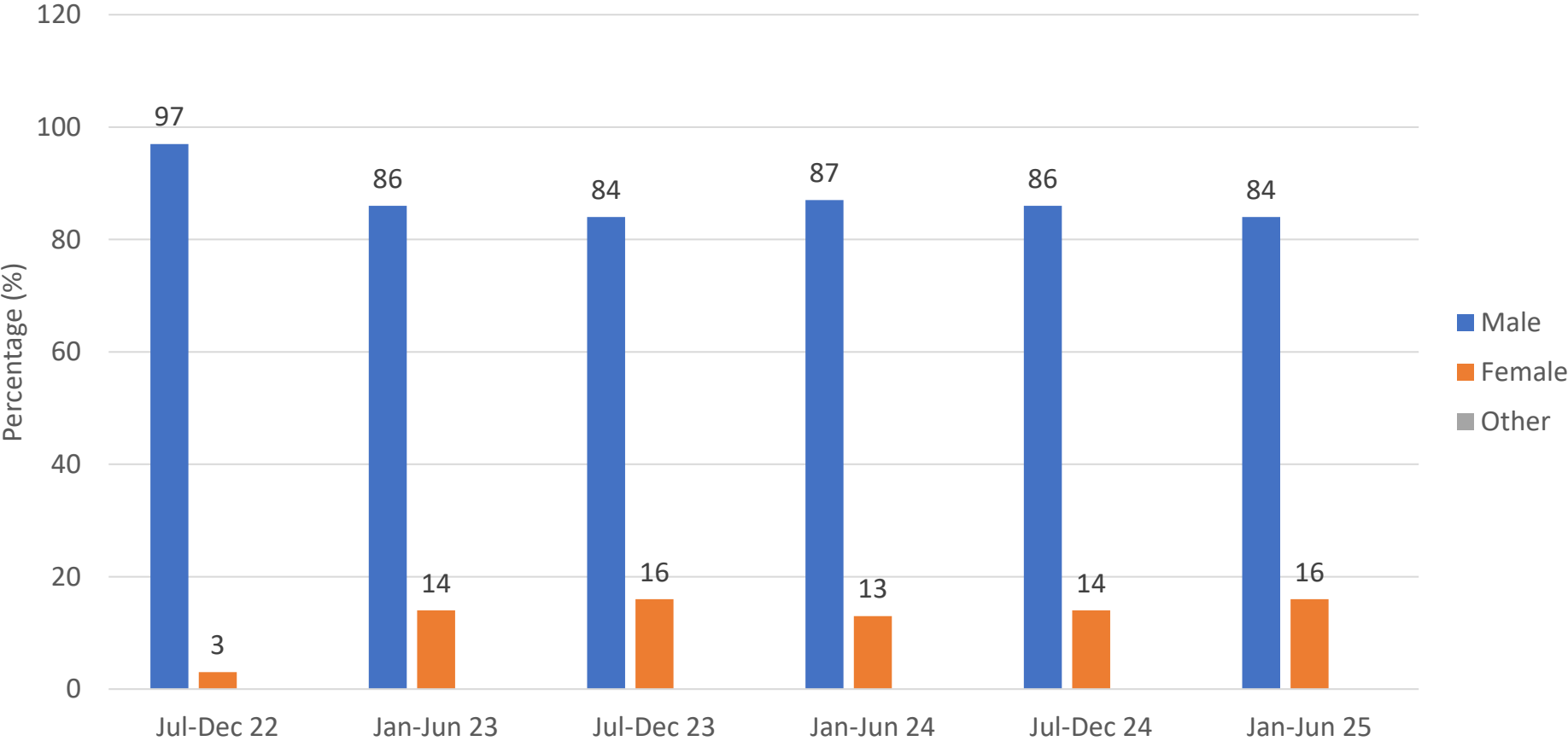
READMISSION BY GENDER



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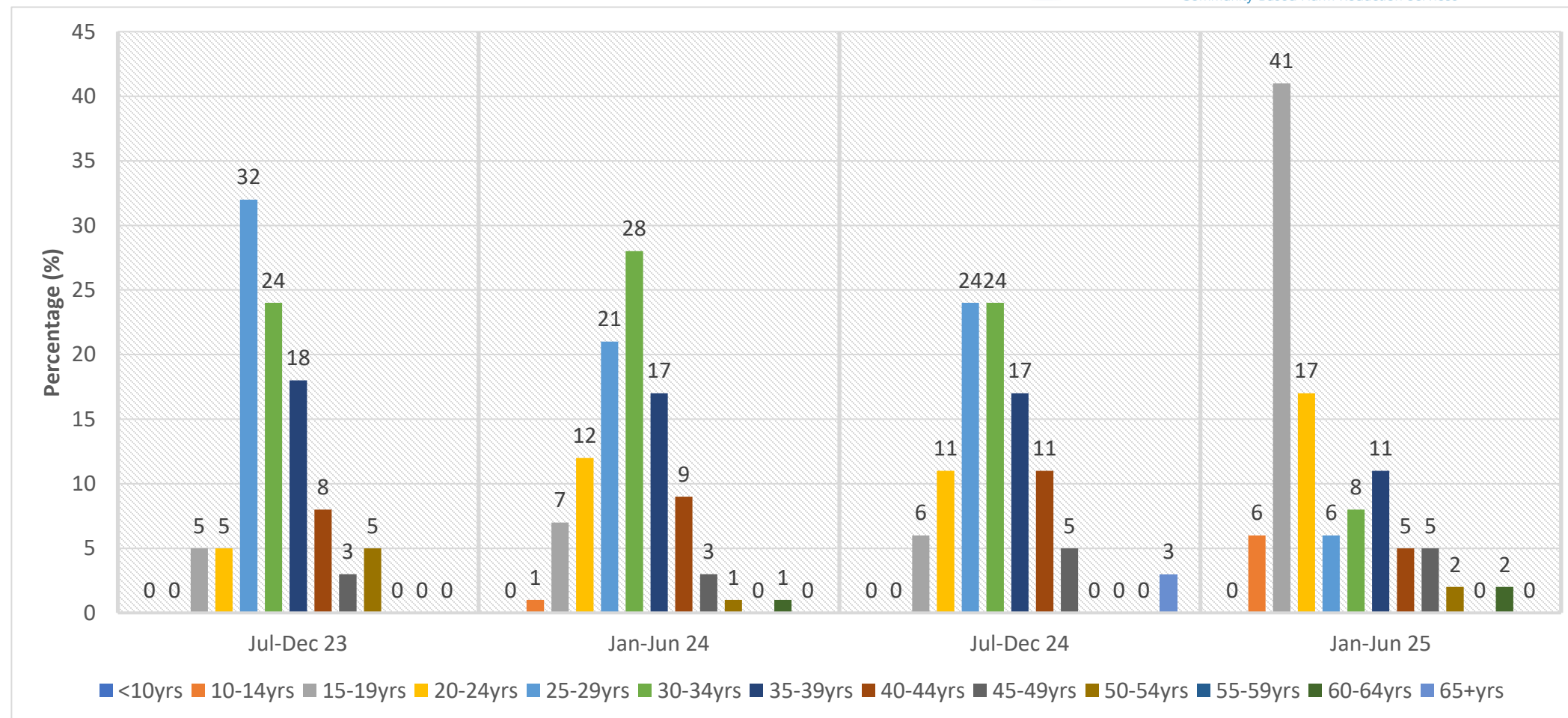


READMISSION BY AGE



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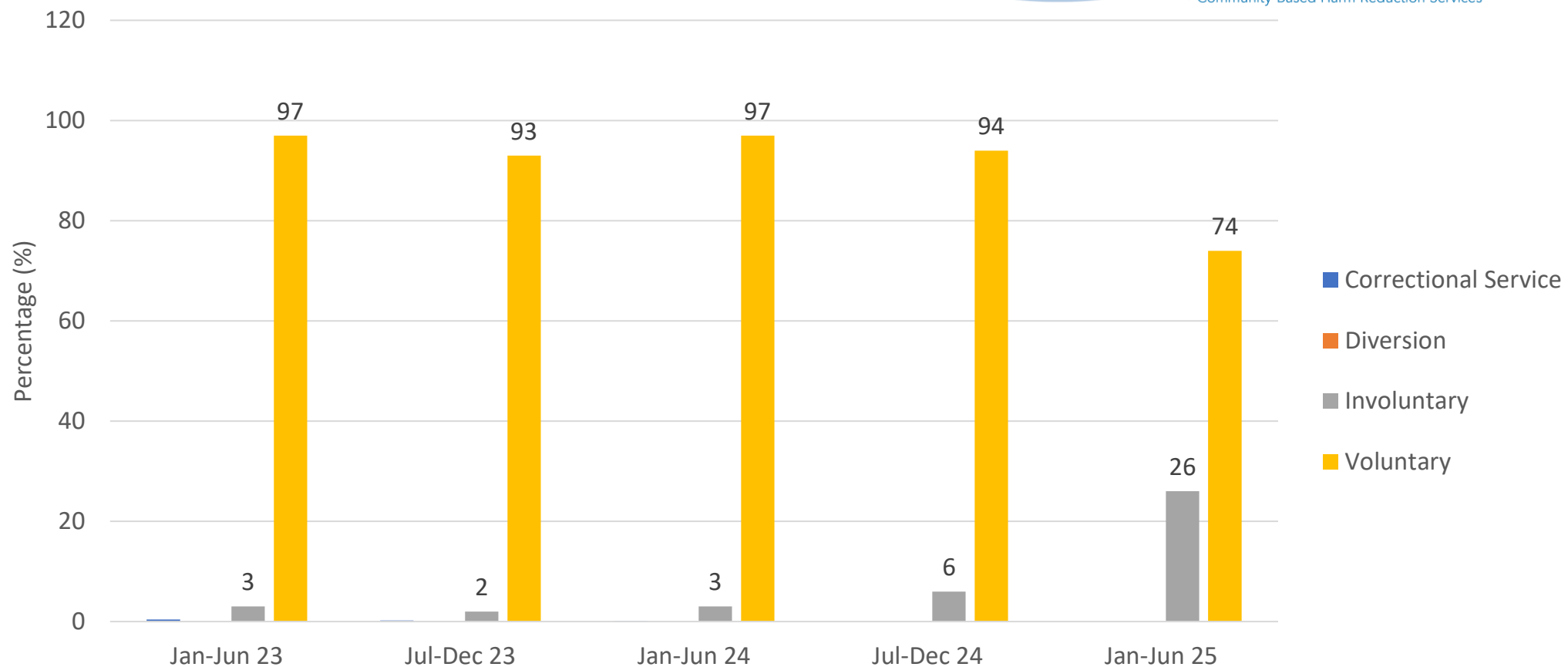
TYPE OF ADMISSION



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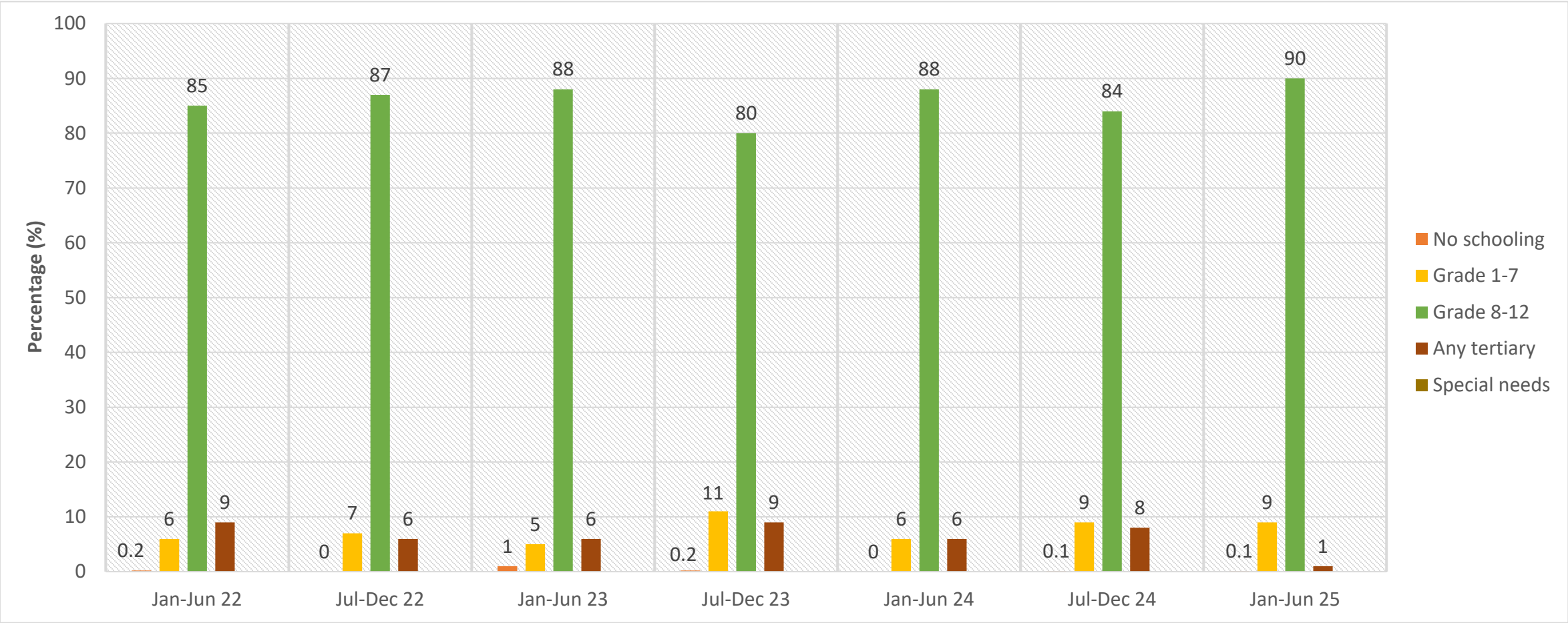


EDUCATION LEVEL



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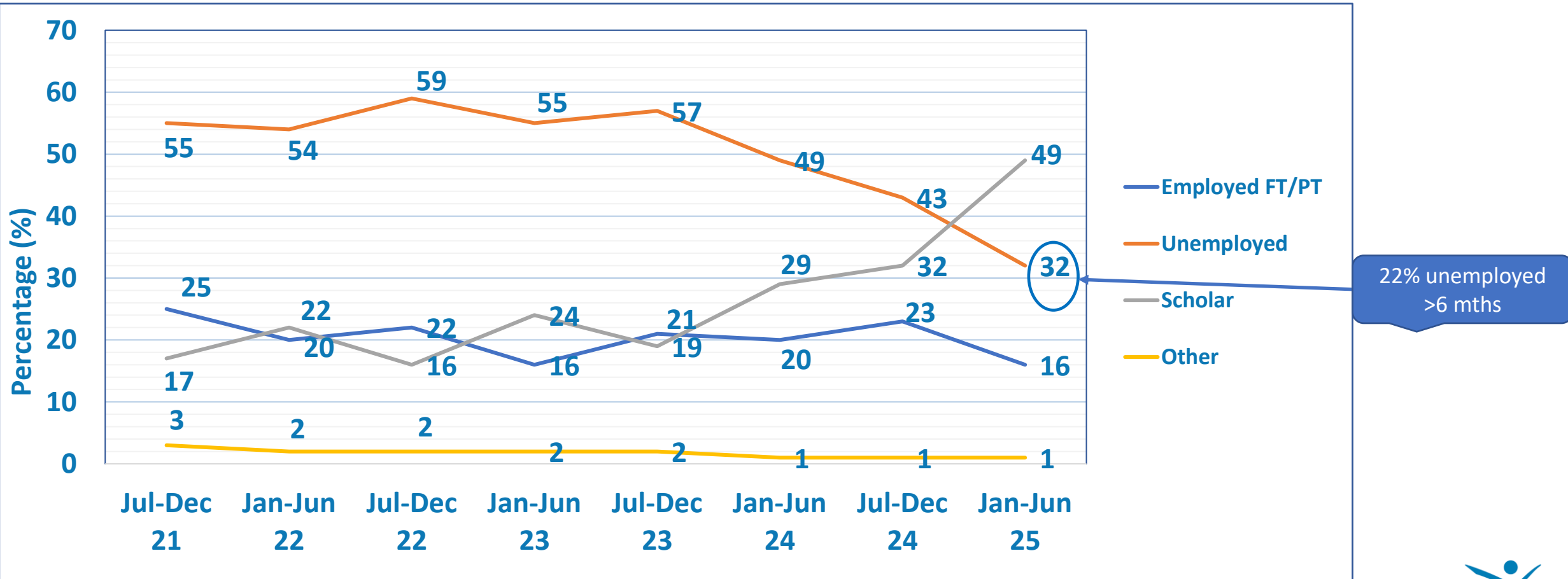


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EMPLOYMENT STATUS



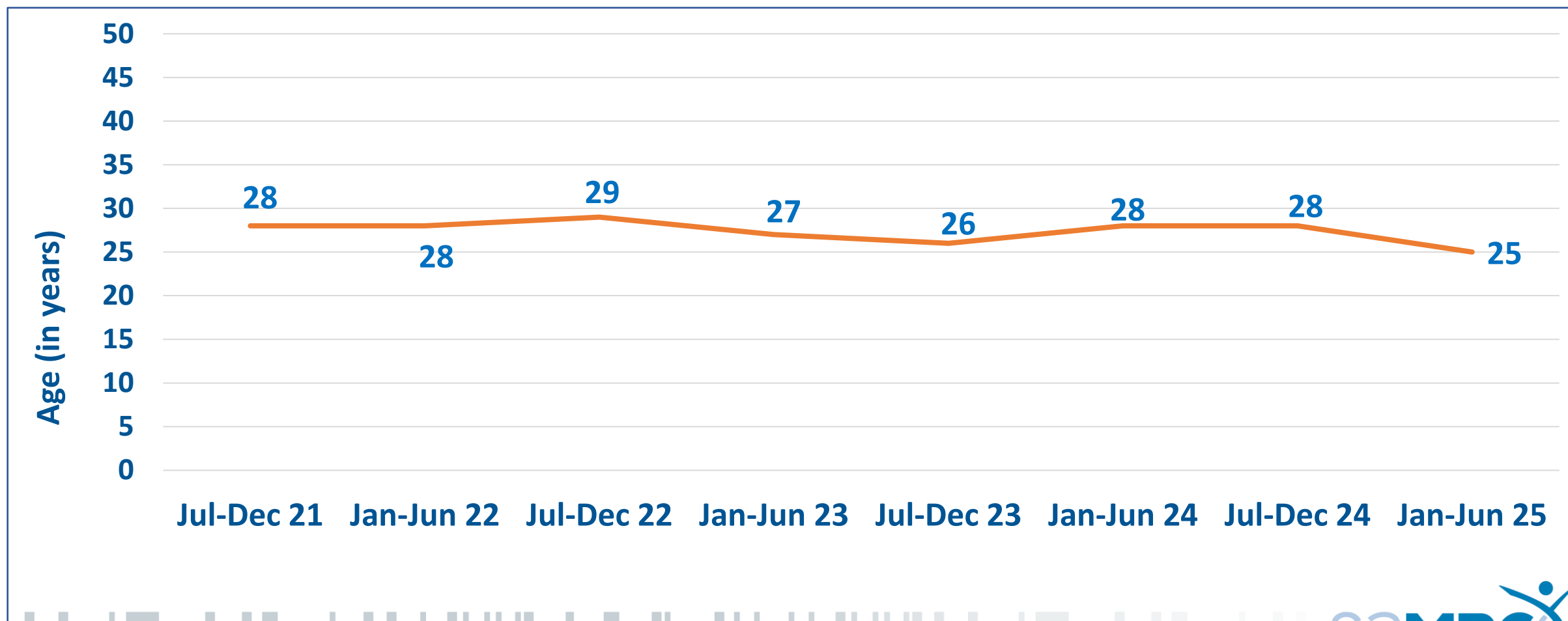
MEAN AGE ACROSS PERIODS



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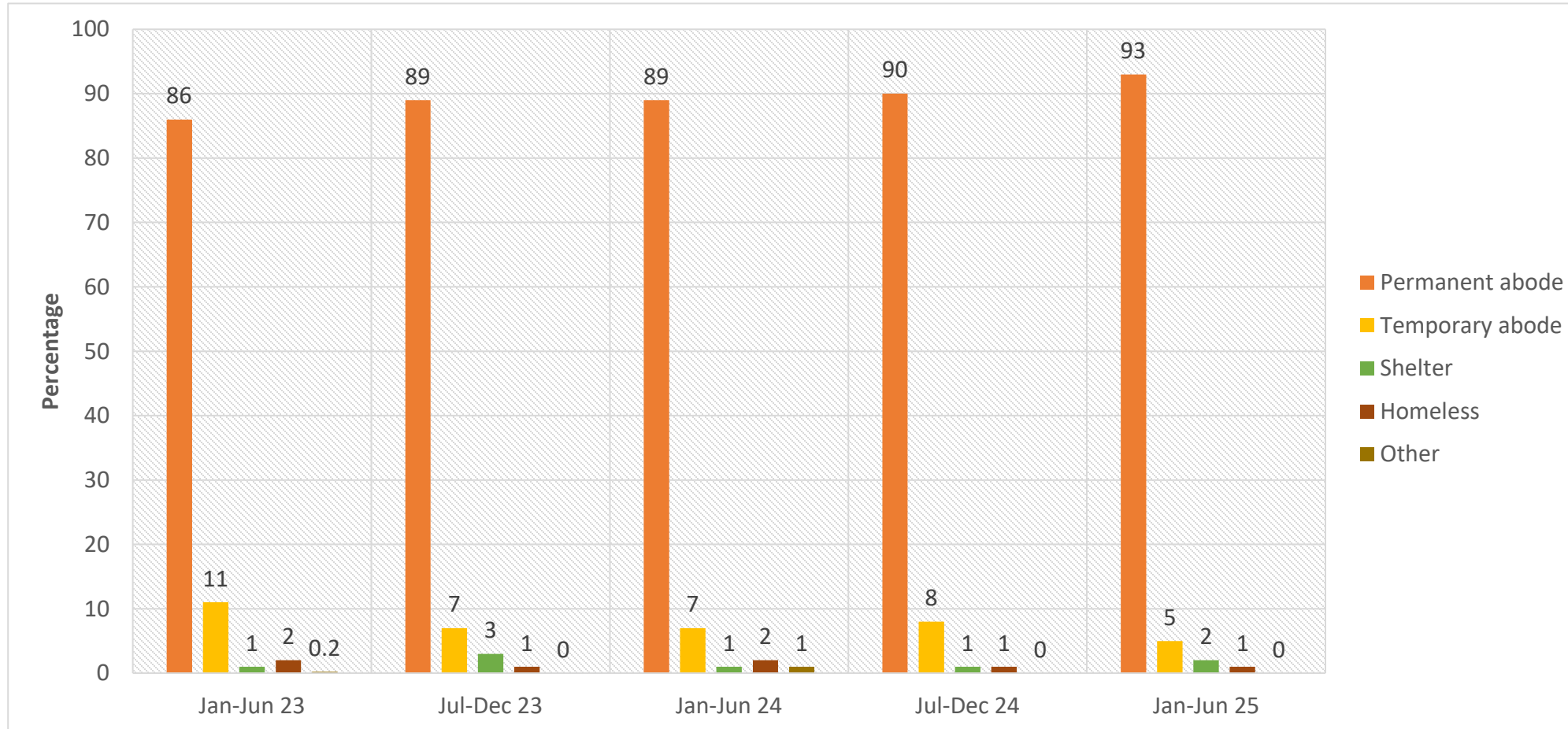
TYPE OF RESIDENCE



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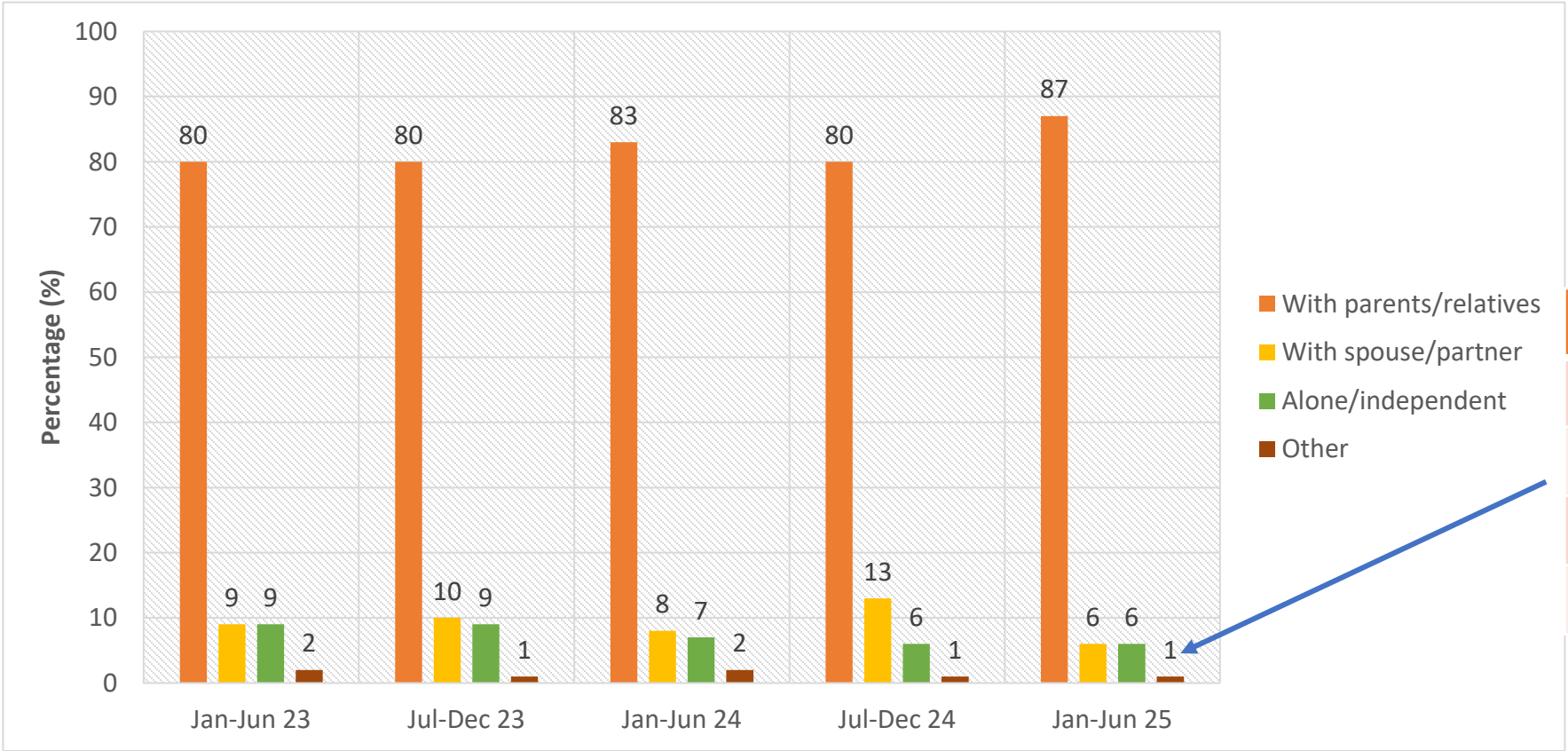
WHO CLIENT RESIDES WITH



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Other (specify)	n
Friends	2
Caregiver	1
Homeless	1
Prisoner	1



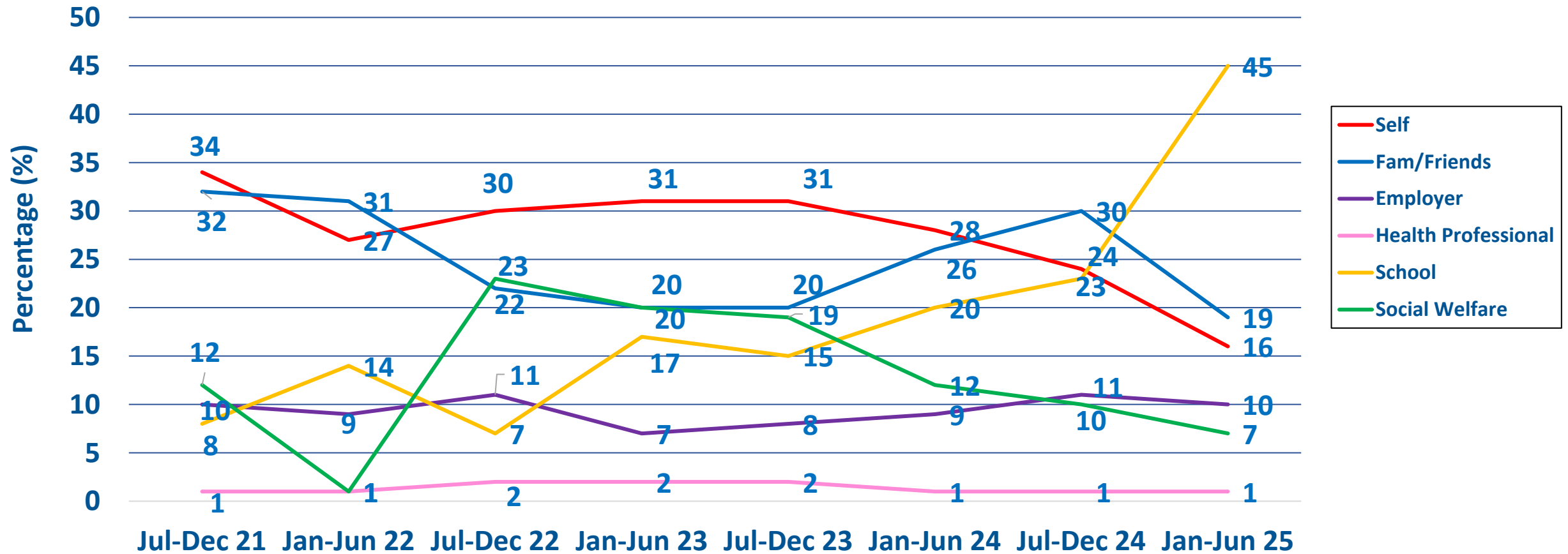
REFERRAL SOURCE OVER TIME



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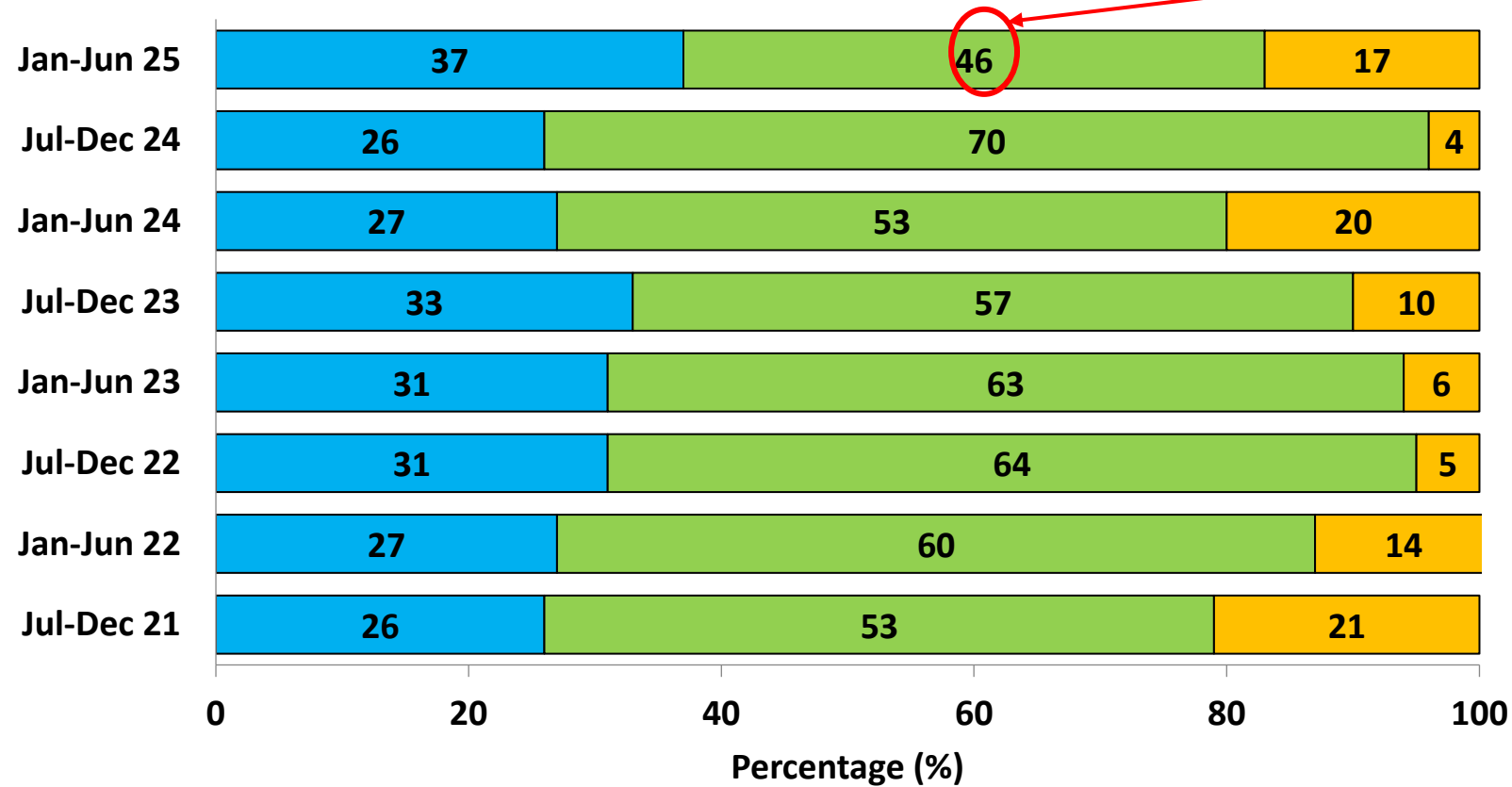
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HIV TESTED OVER PTM



Yes, in past 12 mths	32%
Not in past 12 mths	14%

■ No

■ Yes

■ Declined

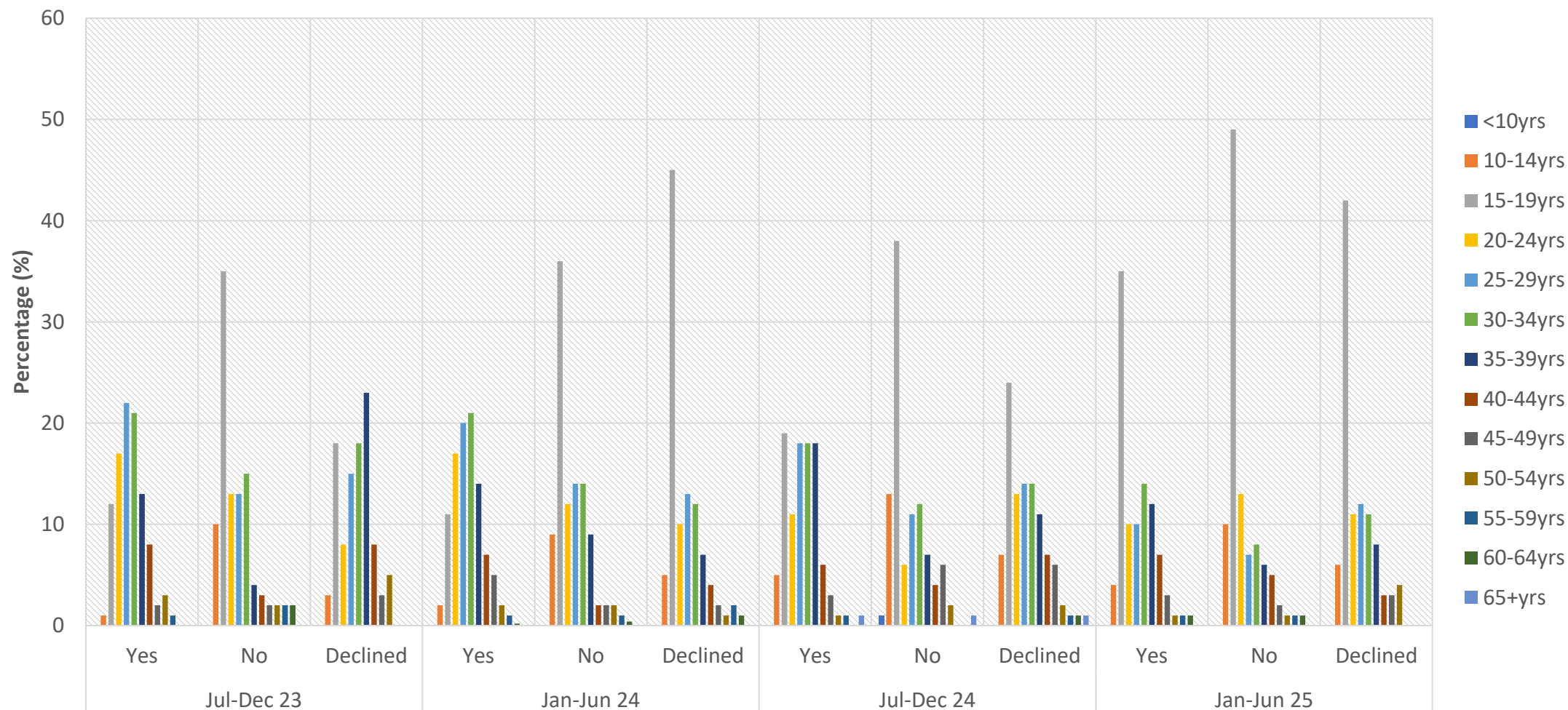


PRIOR HIV TEST BY AGE



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Treatment Demand Data • Service Quality Measures (SOM)

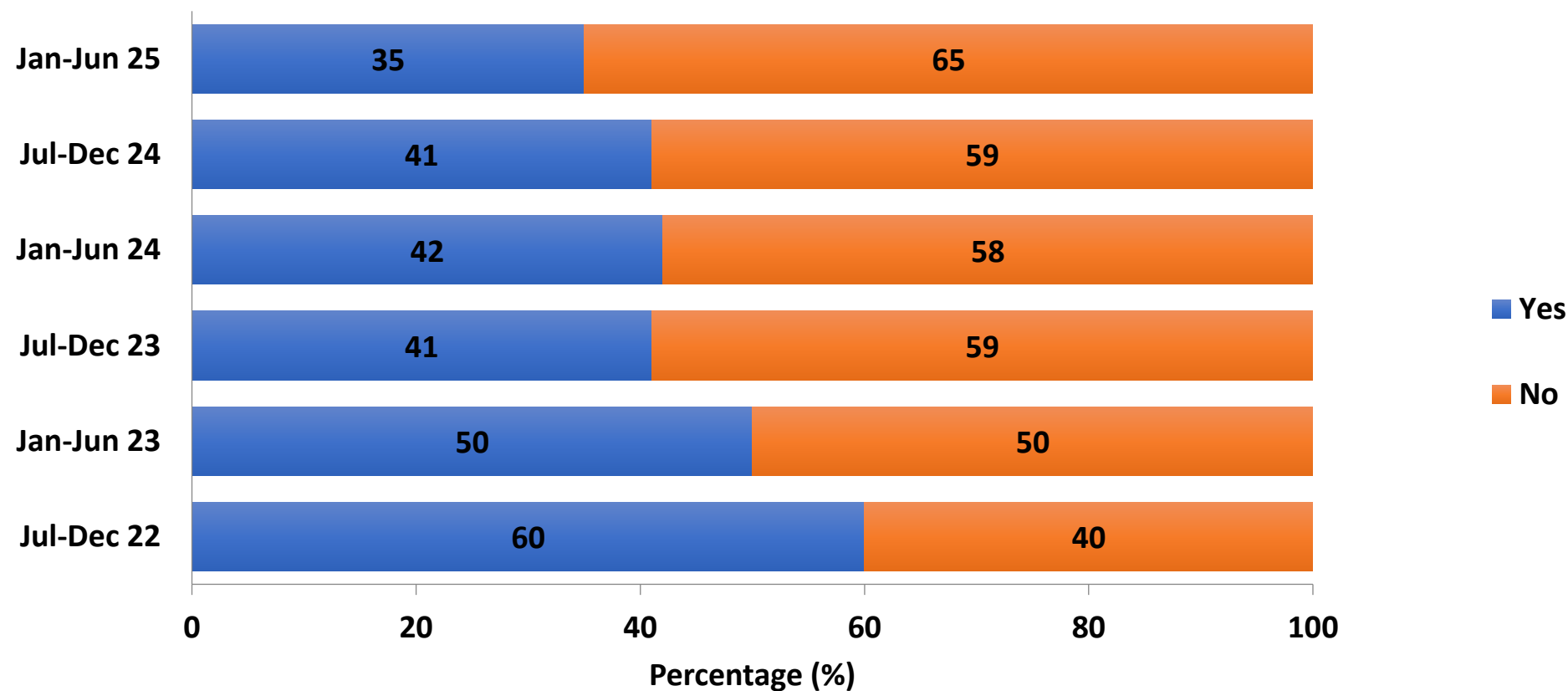


FUTURE HIV TESTING

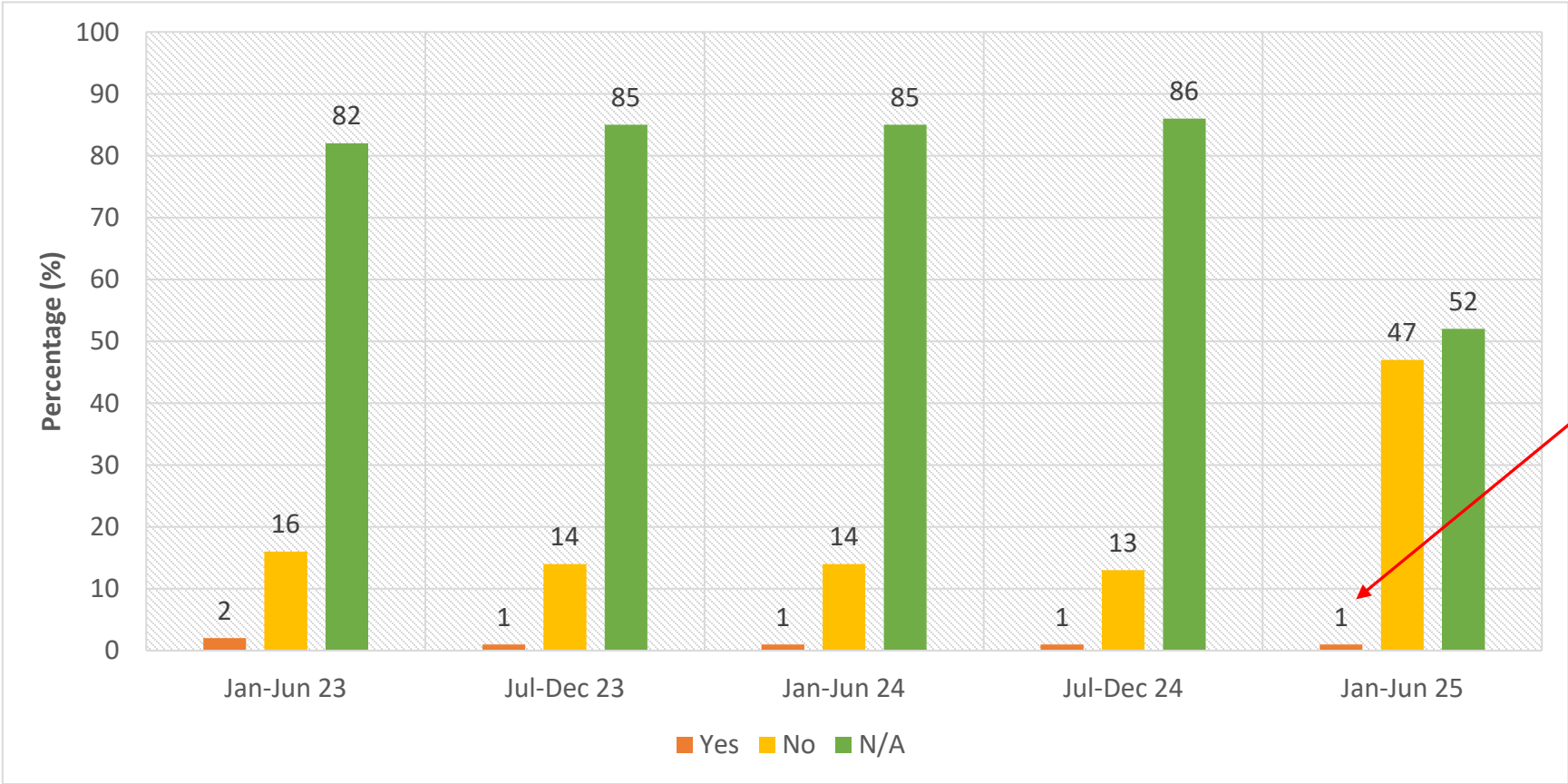


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SUBSTANCE USE DURING PREGNANCY



Substances used	n
CAT/KHAT	3
MA	2
Dagga	1
Tobacco Products	1





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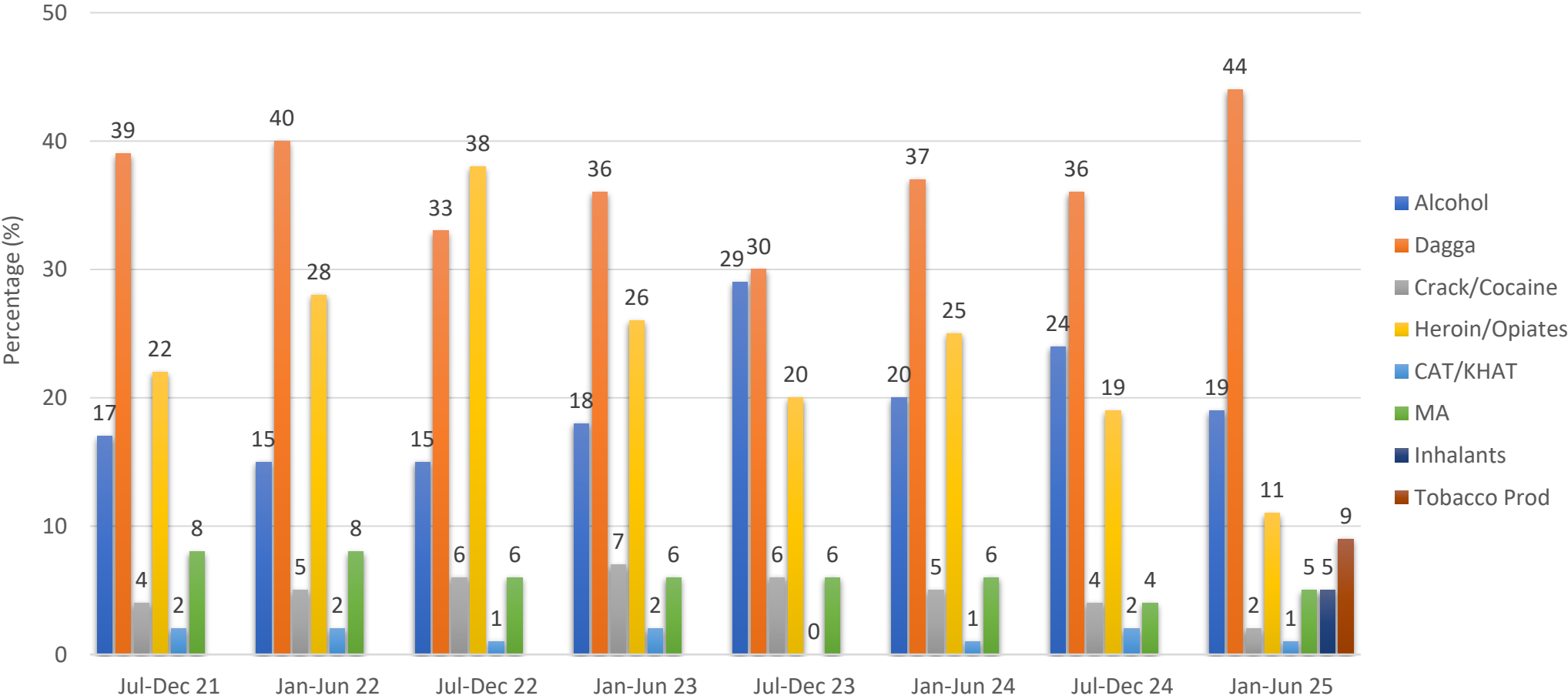
SUBSTANCES OF USE



SELECTED PRIMARY SUBSTANCES OF USE



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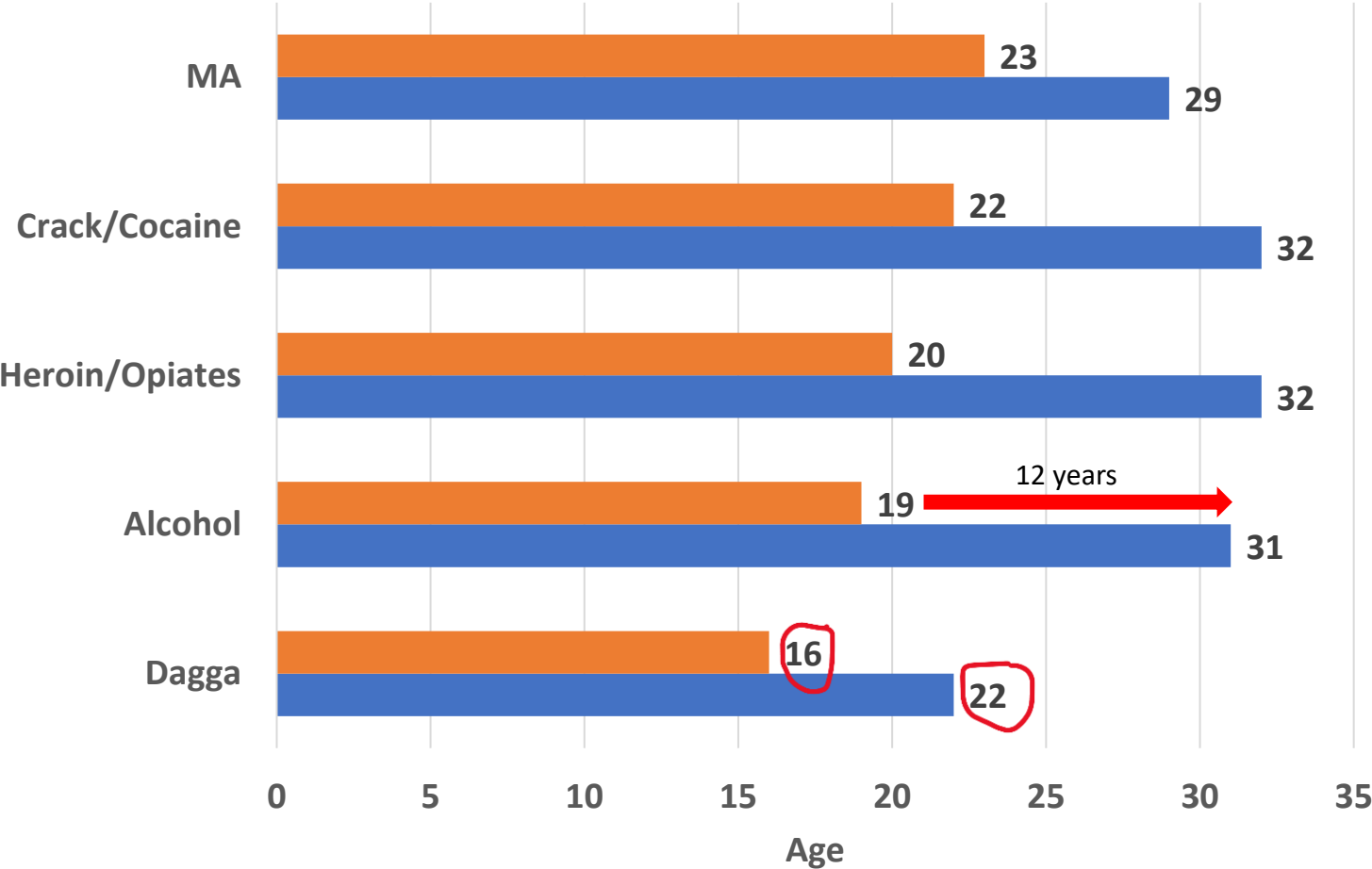
SELECTED PSOA BY MEAN AGE/MEAN AGE OF INITIATION



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Jan-Jun 25

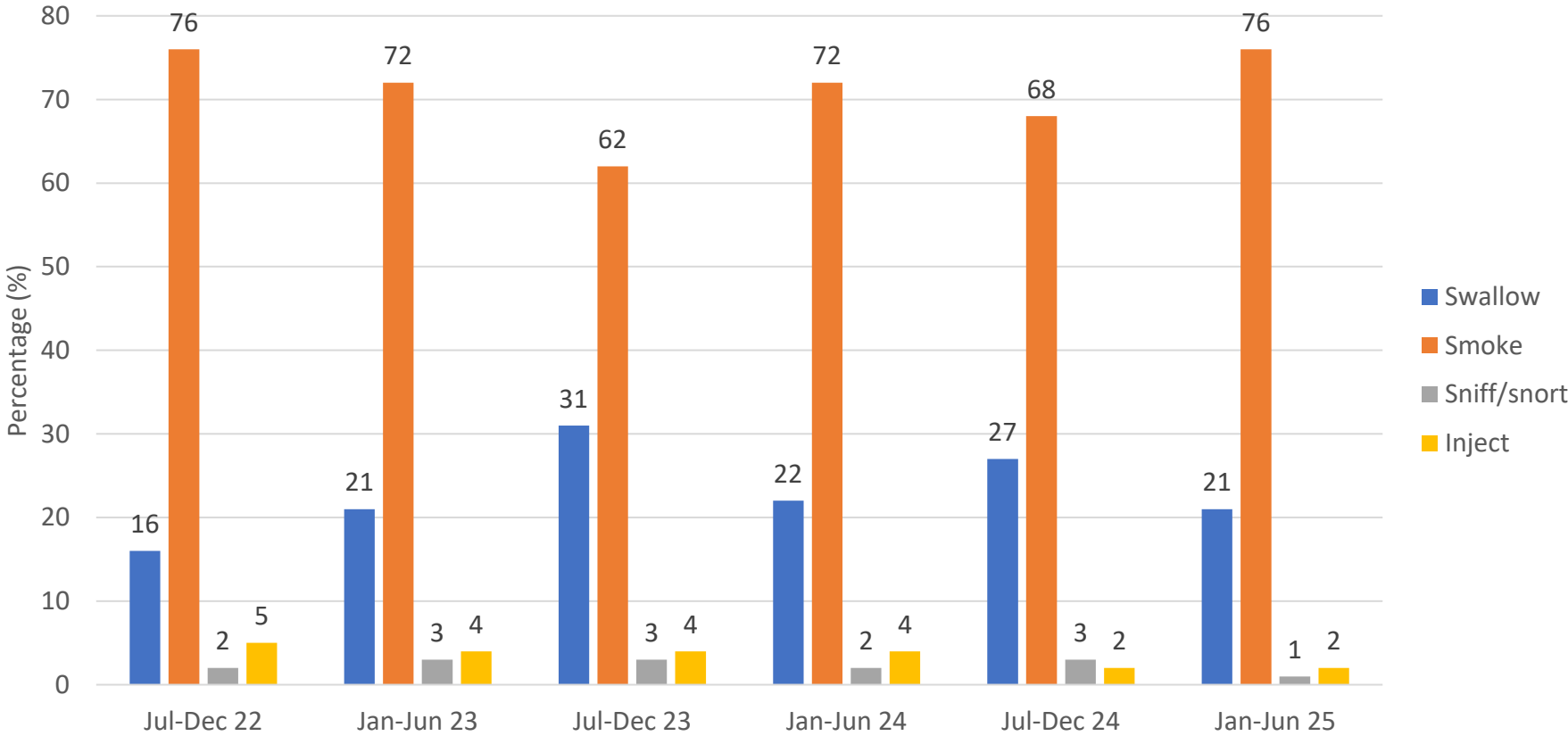
Mean Age of Initiation
Mean Age



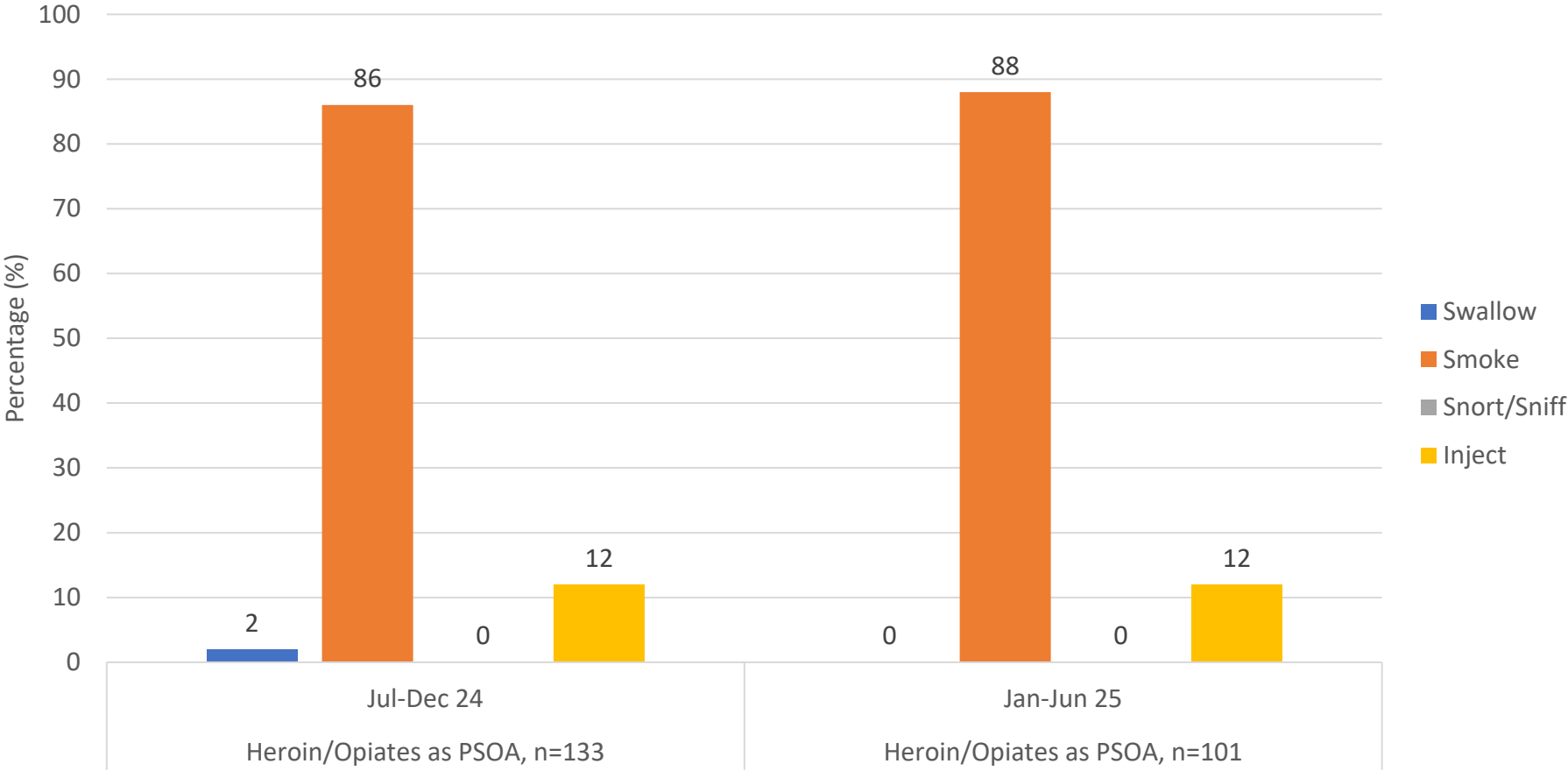
ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION (ALL SUBSTANCES)



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ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION (HEROIN/OPIATES)



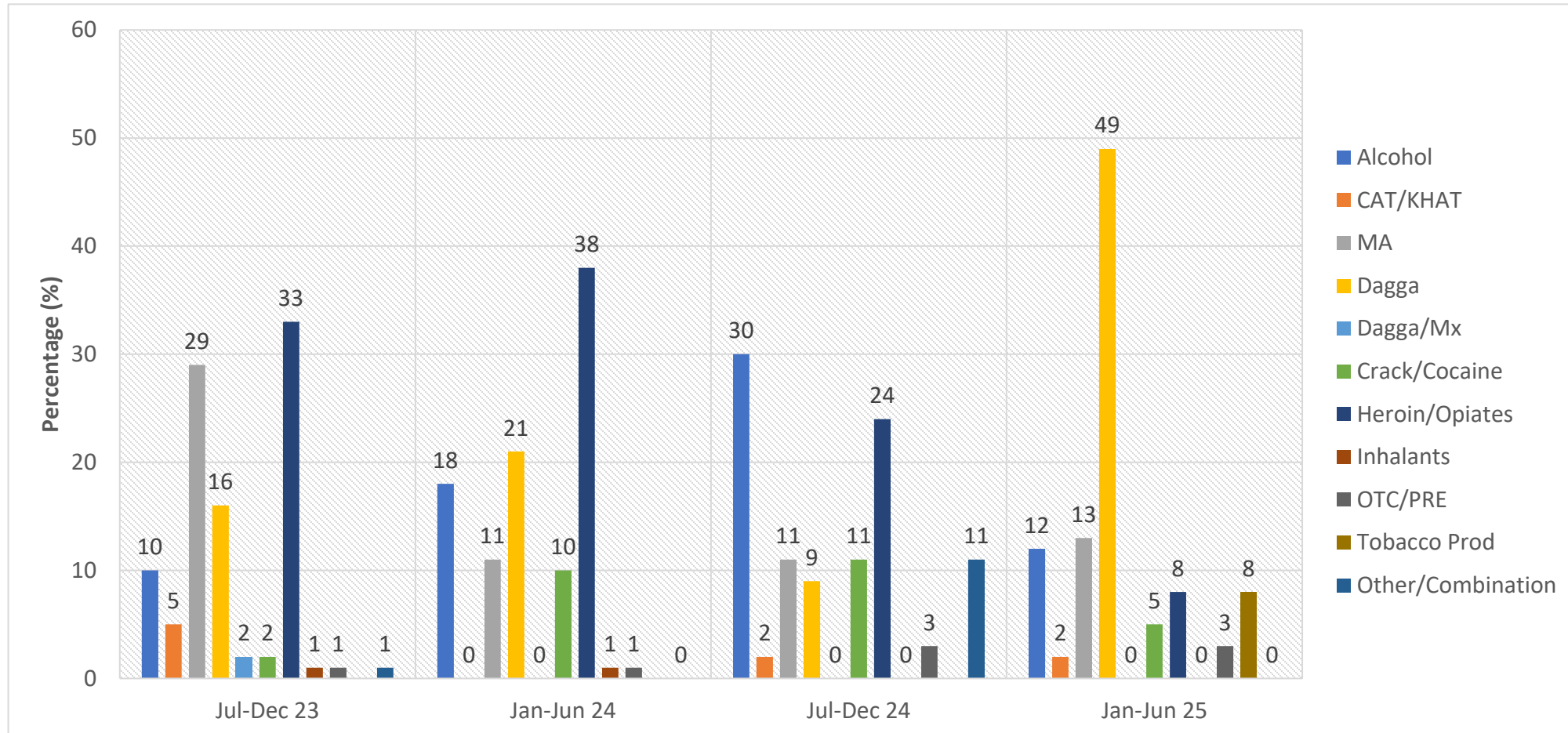
READMISSION BY SELECTED PRIMARY SUBSTANCE OF USE



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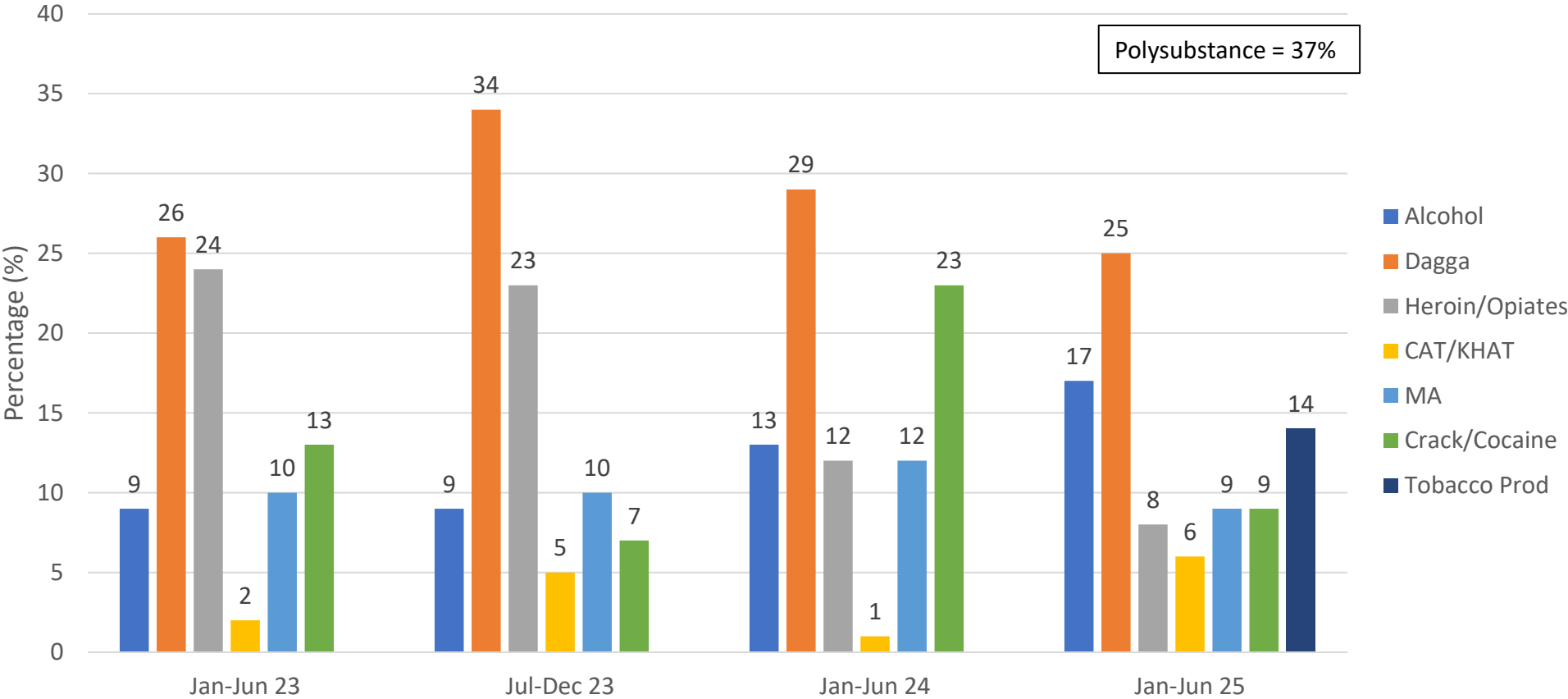
SELECTED SECONDARY SUBSTANCES OF USE



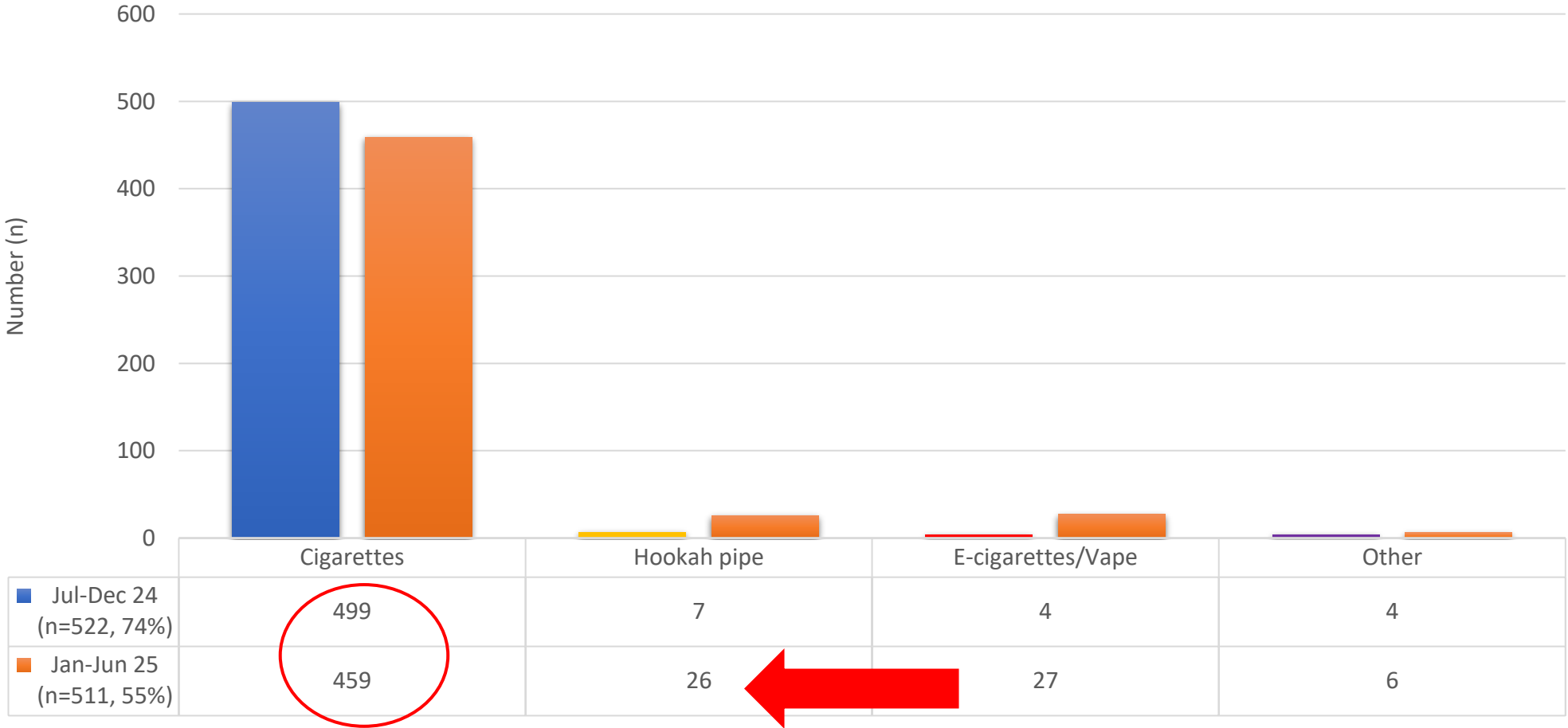
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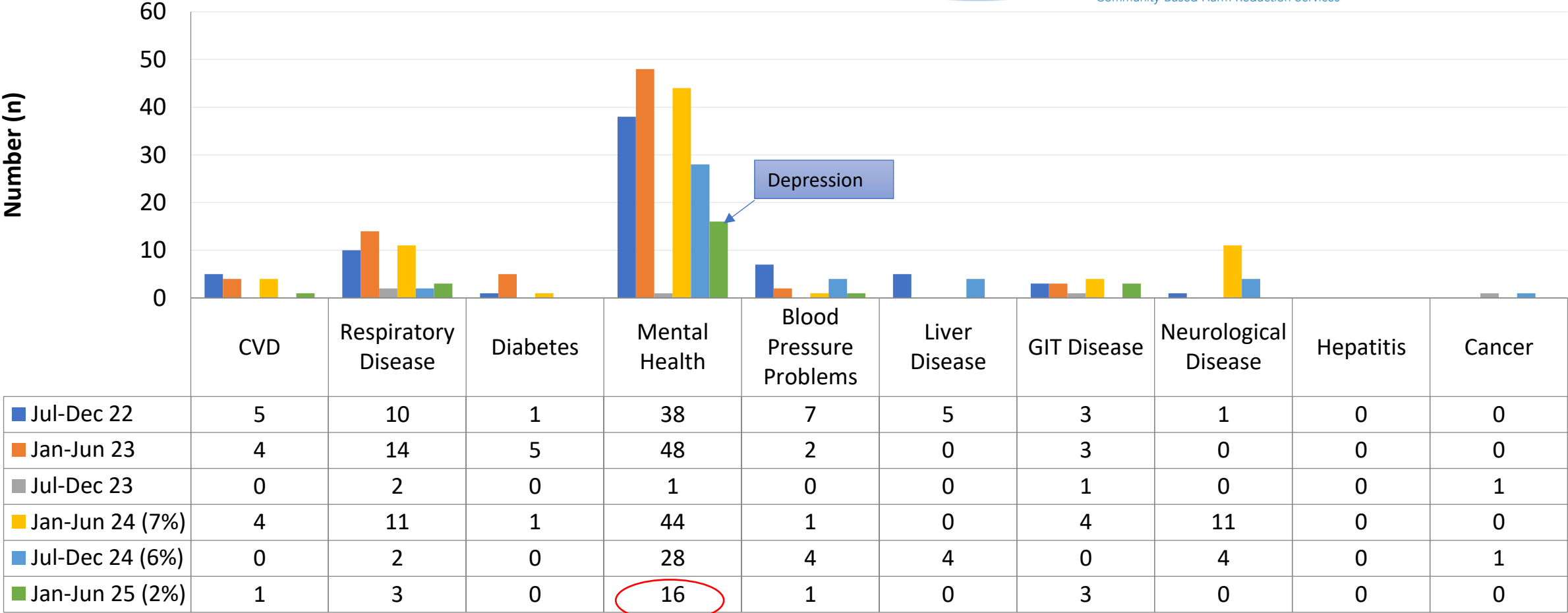
TOBACCO PRODUCTS



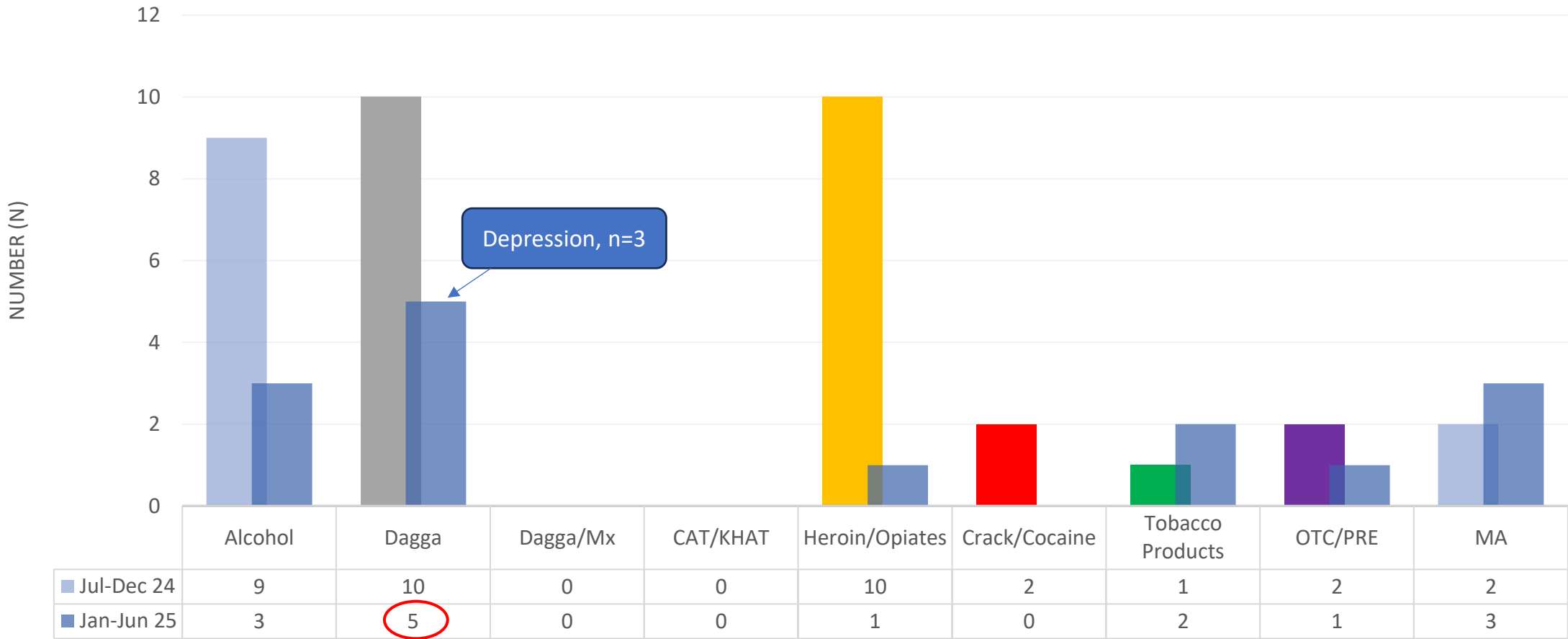
Number of NCDs



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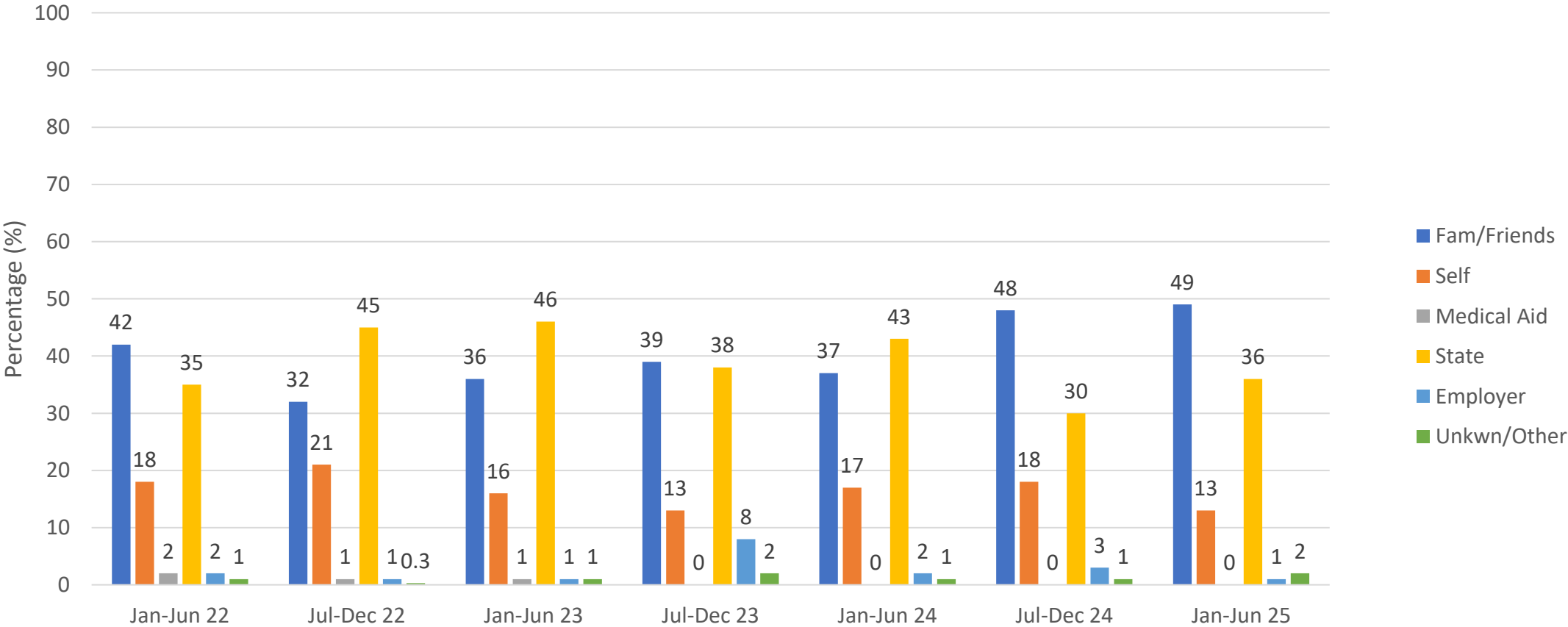
NCD BY SELECTED PRIMARY SUBSTANCE



SOURCE OF PAYMENT



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PERSONS ≤ 18 YEARS



NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN TREATMENT

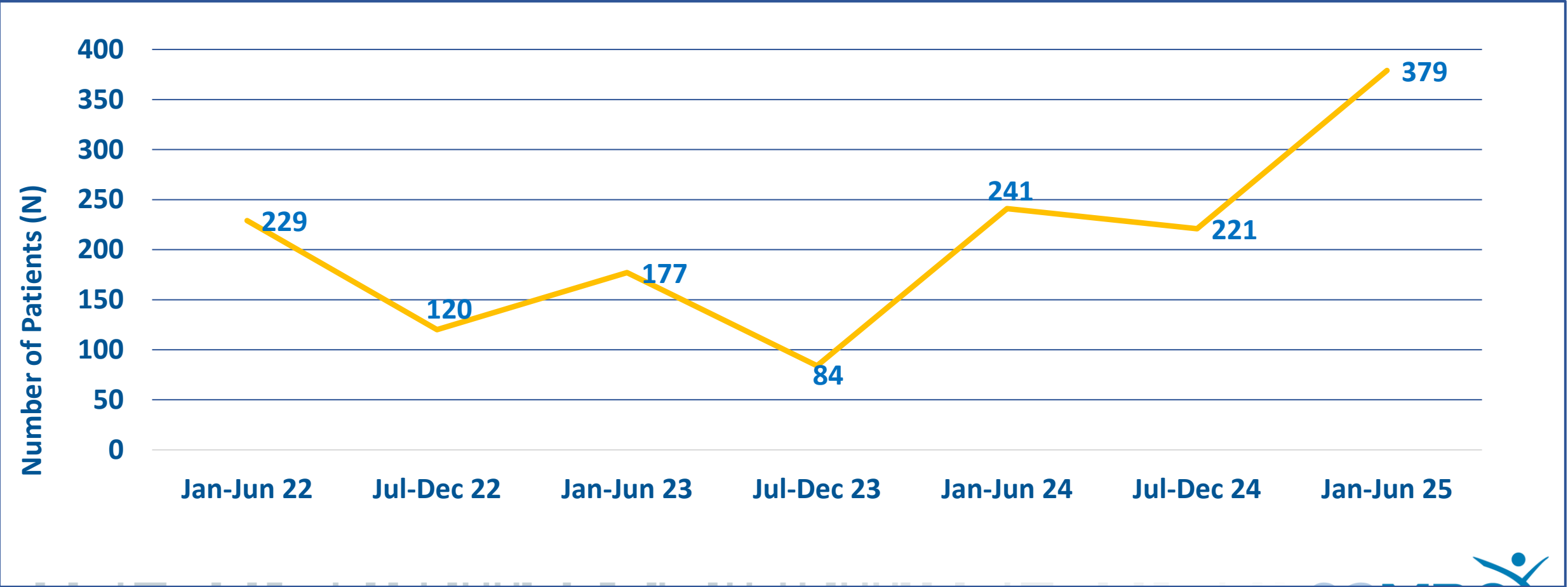
(n=379, 41%)



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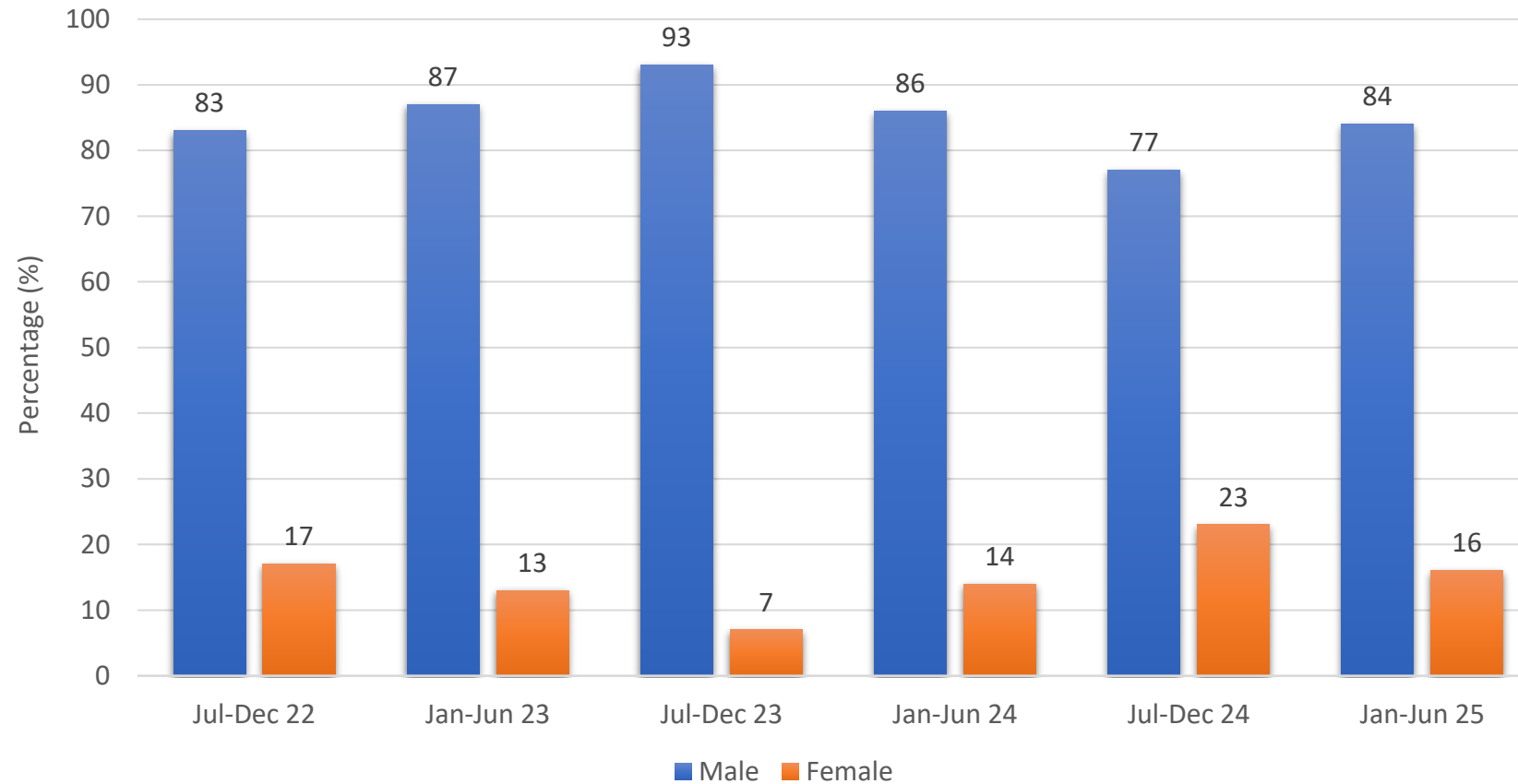
GENDER



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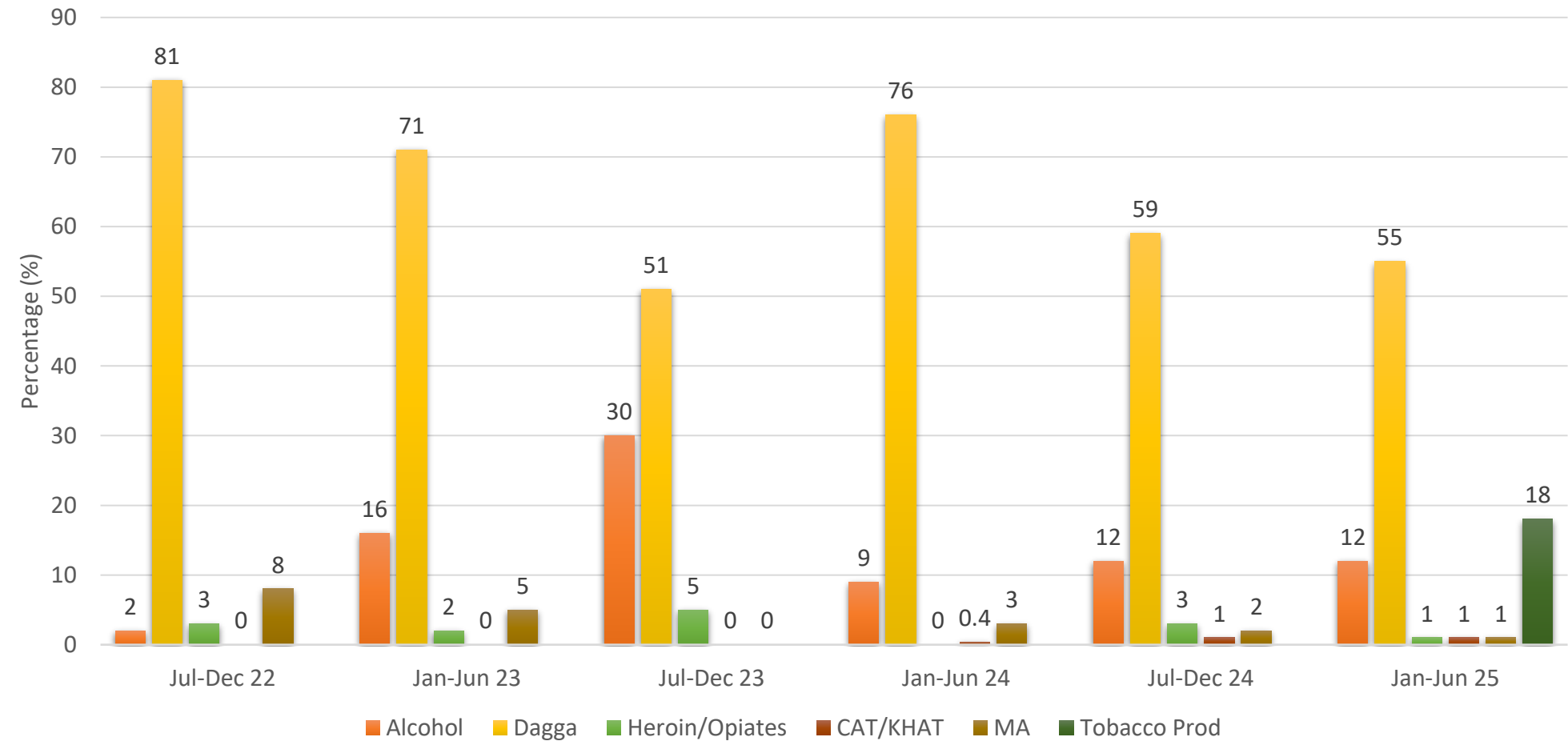
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SELECTED PRIMARY SUBSTANCES OF USE



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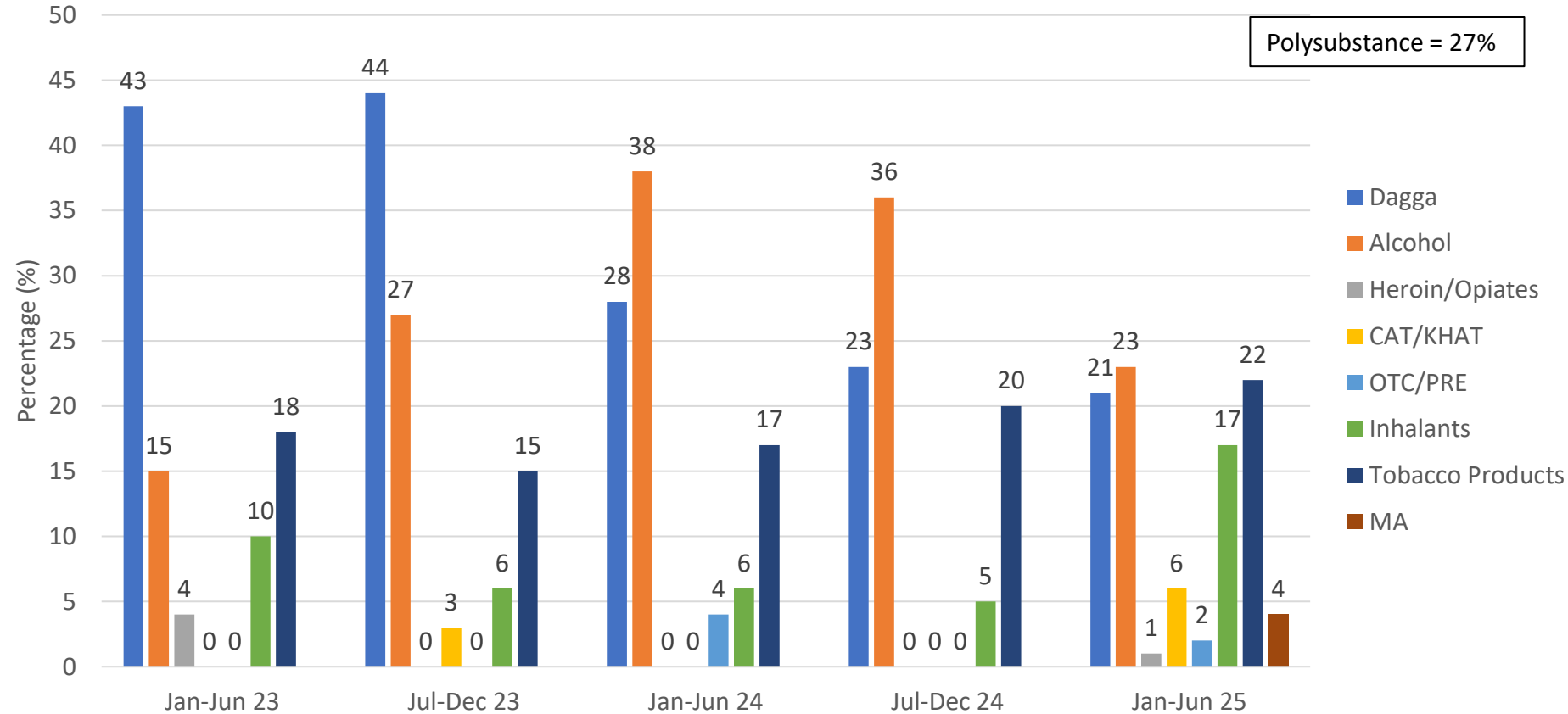
SELECTED SECONDARY SUBSTANCES OF USE



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SUMMARY

- Nationally, NR accounted for 12% of admissions;
- Increase in number of admissions from 790 to 931 – Mpu 79% and Limp 21%.
- Mostly males aged 15-19 years. Admissions for persons 15-19 years (all genders) increased from 26% to 41%.
- Majority were scholars increasing from 32% to 49%. Admissions among unemployed decreased from 43% to 32%.
- Admissions were mainly first-time admissions and on a voluntary basis. Increase in involuntary admissions from 6% to 26%.
- Repeat treatment episodes were mostly experienced once through outpatient/community-based services.
- Majority of readmissions were for males aged between 15-19 years for dagga misuse.
- Most persons in treatment had stable living conditions and lived with parents/relatives.
- Referrals were mainly school-referrals (ties in with mainly scholars admitted to tx), doubling from 23% to 45%.
- For all ages, substantial drop in persons who have been tested for HIV in the past from 70% to 46%. Low prior testing rates particularly among youths 15-19 years.
- Dagga (44%), alcohol (19%) and heroin/opiates (11%) remain the top 3 primary substances of use. Tobacco products the fourth most common primary substance (9%) at time of admission.
- Dagga (25%), alcohol (17%) also the main secondary substances of used followed by tobacco products (14%); polysubstance use reported by 37% of individuals in tx.

SUMMARY

- Rates for substance use during pregnancy remain low but this is most likely an under-representation.
- Similar to previous periods, dagga was associated with the youngest age at time of admissions (mean age: 22 years) and youngest age of initiation (mean age: 16 years).
- Alcohol was associated with the longest treatment delay (12 years) – consistent trend.
- The use of tobacco products reported by 55% of persons accessing treatment, down from 74% in 24b.
- NCDs reported in 2% of admission; decrease from 6% in 24b. Mental health problems (depression) were mainly indicated as a comorbidity at time of admission.
- Depression mainly linked to dagga but very low numbers.
- Consistent trend with treatment mainly funded by family/friends (49%), followed by state (36%); state-subsidised treatment increased from 30% to 36% over the last two periods.
- Adolescent ≤ 18 years:
 - Increase in admissions for adolescents ≤ 18 years from 221 to 379. Majority were males.
 - Dagga, alcohol and tobacco products remained the substances of choice (both primary and secondary substances)
 - 27% indicated polysubstance use.

REFERENCES:



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- 1) Swanepoel L. The causes of relapse amongst young African adults following in-patient treatment for drug abuse in the Gauteng Province. Social work (Stellenbosch. Online) vol.52 n.3 Stellenbosch, 2016.
- 2) Pinedo M, Zemore S, et al. Women's barriers to specialty substance abuse treatment: a qualitative exploration of racial/ethnic differences. J Immigr Minor Health. 2020; 22(4): 653-660. doi: 10.1007/s10903-019-00933-2
- 3) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Addressing the Specific Needs of Women for Treatment of Substance Use Disorders. Advisory. Publication No. PEP20-06-04-002.
- 4) Opsal A. et al. Readiness to change among involuntarily and voluntarily admitted patients with substance use disorders. Subst Abuse Treat Prev Policy. 2019; 14:47. doi: 10.1186/s13011-019-0237-y
- 5) Stats SA. Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) Q1: 2024
- 6) Kamarulzaman A, Altice F.L. The challenges in managing HIV in people who use drugs. Curr Opin Infect Dis. 2015; 28(1): 10-16. doi: 10.1097/QCO.0000000000000125
- 7) Muravha T, Hoffman CJ, et al. Exploring perceptions of low-risk behaviour and drivers to test for HIV among South African youth. PLOS ONE. 2021; 16(1): e0245542. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0245542>
- 8) WHO. A technical brief: HIV and young people who inject drugs. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization, 2015.





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For more information, contact us:



<https://www.samrc.ac.za/intramural-research-units/ATOD-sacendu>



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Thank You
Baie Dankie
Enkosi Kakhulu
Ngiyabonga

