

**BLUELIGHT** 

# Census 2018

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# Introduction

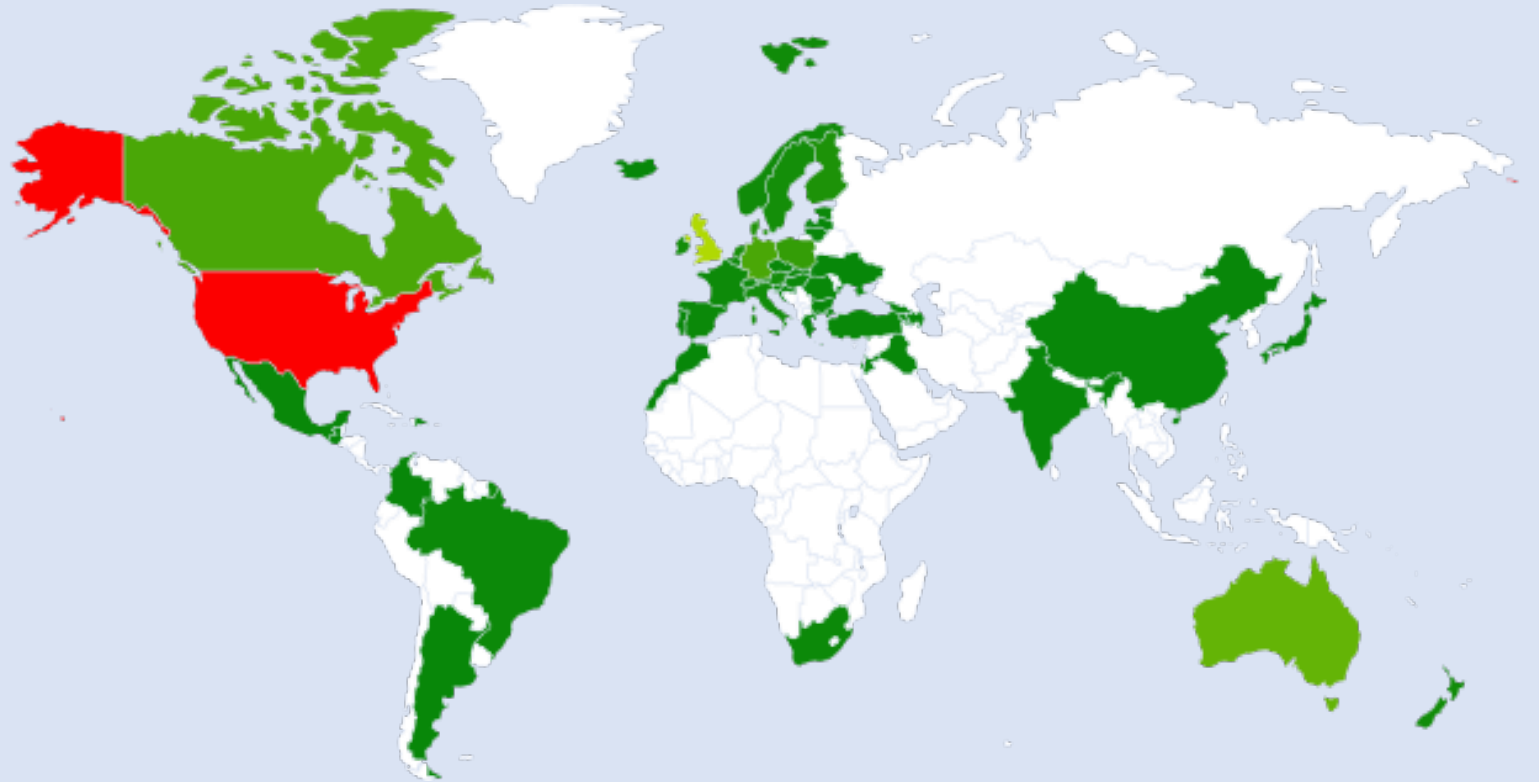
[Global Drug Survey](#) has partnered with Bluelight to create a sample of people who reported using Bluelight in the last 7 days.

This report is based on the data from 1480 people who used Bluelight in the last 7 days and completed GDS up to and including questions about novel substance use.

The survey was live in November-December 2017.

# Country of residence

Country	n	%
United States	604	40.8
United Kingdom	214	14.5
Australia	119	8.0
Canada	85	5.7
Germany	85	5.7
Poland	58	3.9
Denmark	34	2.3
Finland	29	2.0
Netherlands	23	1.6
Sweden	18	1.2
Austria	16	1.1
Ireland	16	1.1
Italy	14	0.9
New Zealand	14	0.9
Norway	12	0.8
Belgium	10	0.7

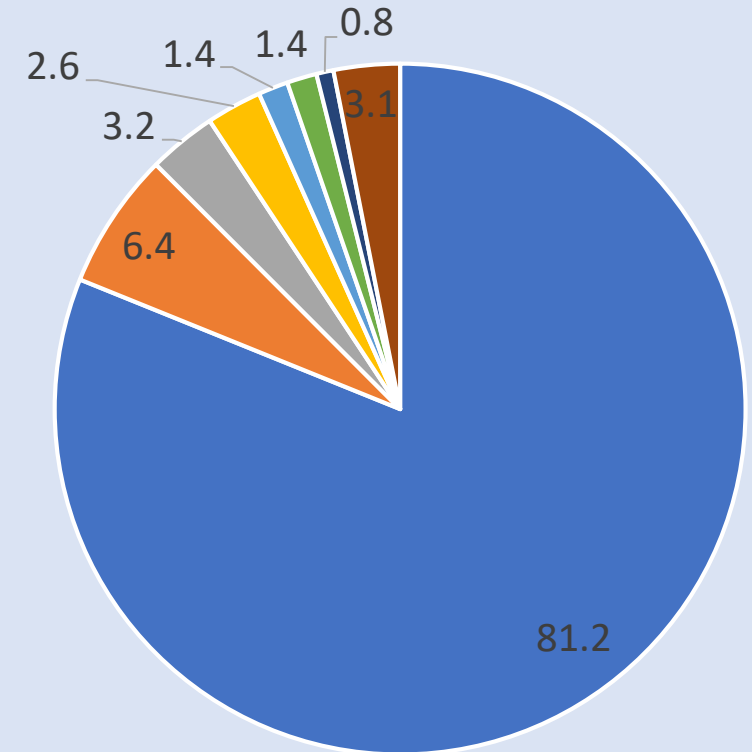


Countries with less than 10 participants not listed

# Language of survey completion

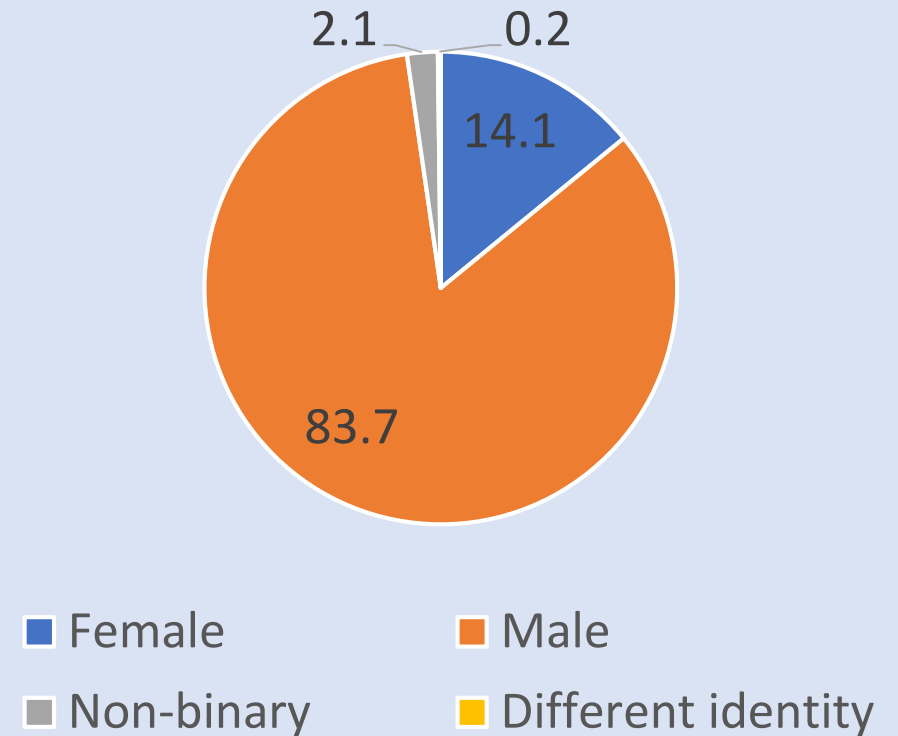
Language	n
English	1,202
German	94
Polish	47
Polish	47
Danish	39
Dutch	21
Finnish	20
Italian	12

Languages with less than 10 participants not listed

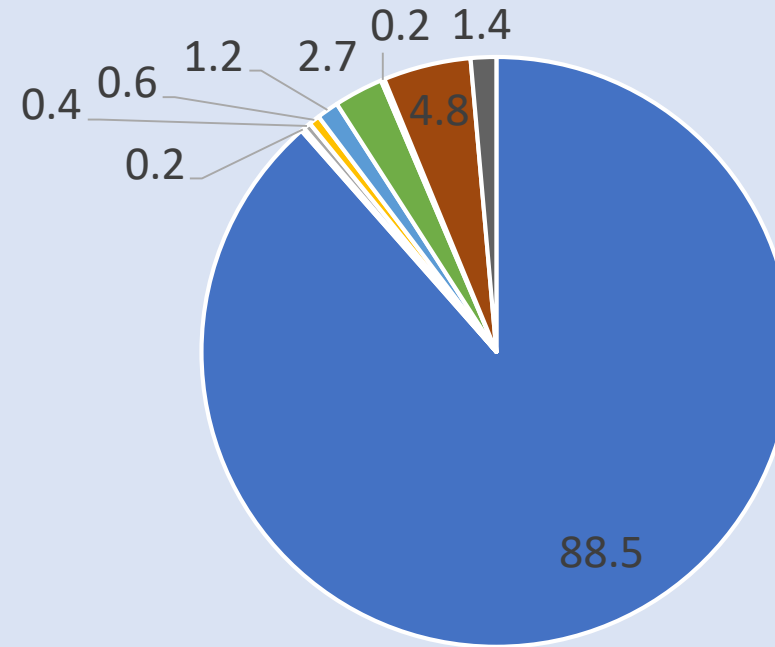


# Age and gender

- Median age 20 years
- 25% of sample aged 16-18 years
- 25% of sample aged 27-71 years
- Range 16-71



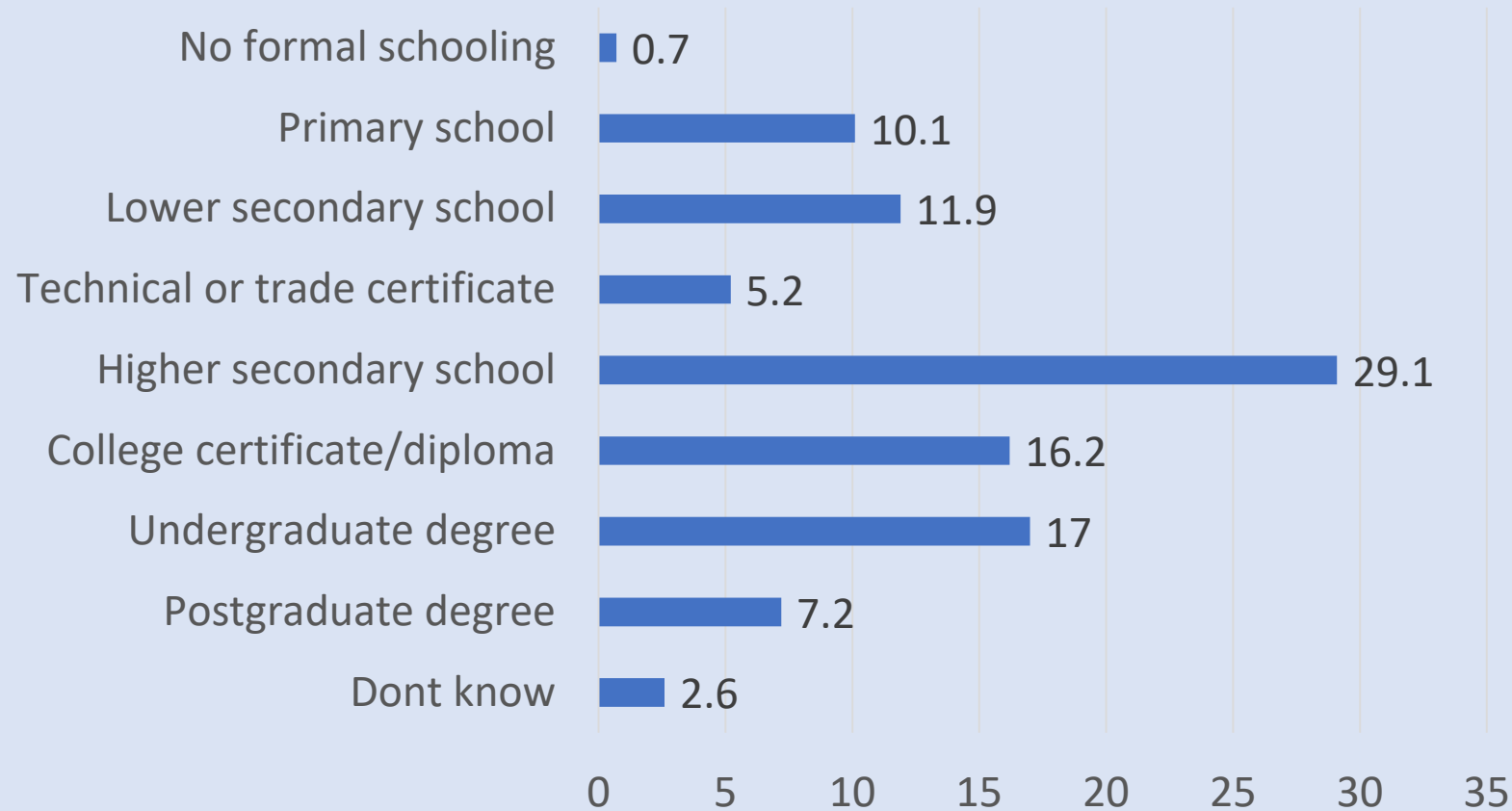
# Ethnicity (%)



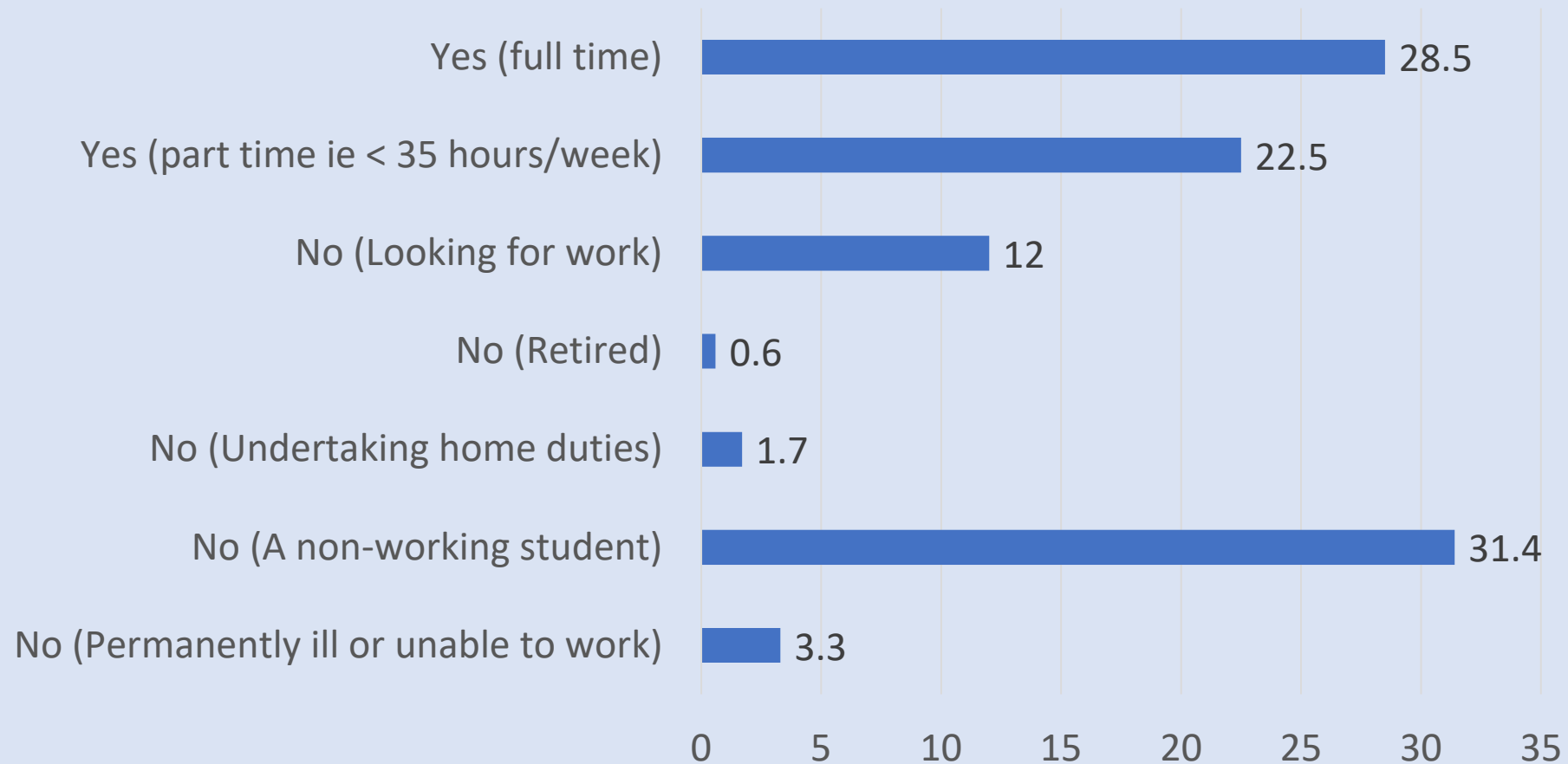
- White
- Black American
- Asian (Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi)
- Native American
- Other
- Black African / Black Caribbean
- South East Asian
- Hispanic / Latino
- Mixed

# What educational qualifications have you completed? (%)

Note: 56.5% are currently studying



# Are you currently in paid employment? (%)

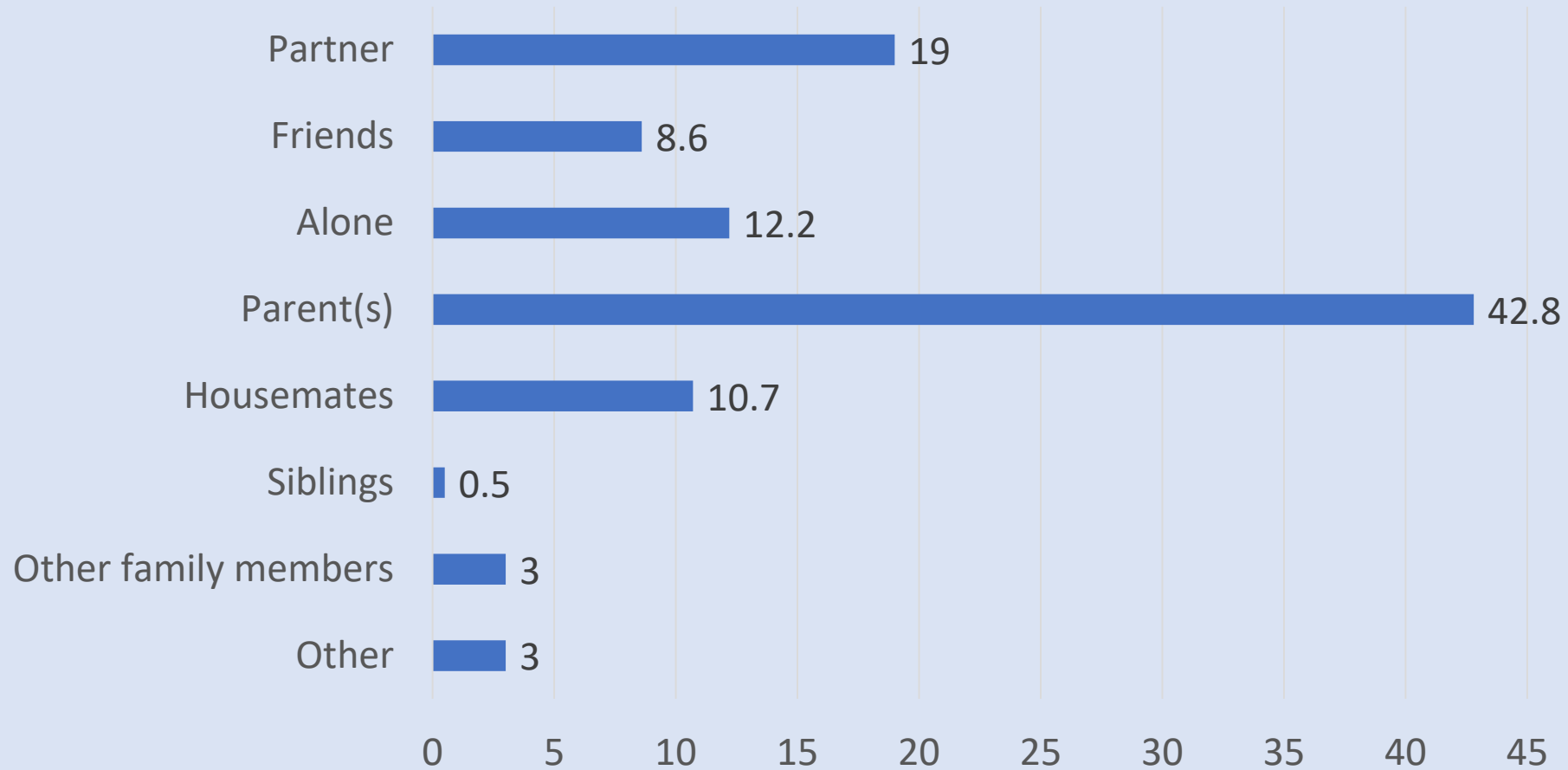




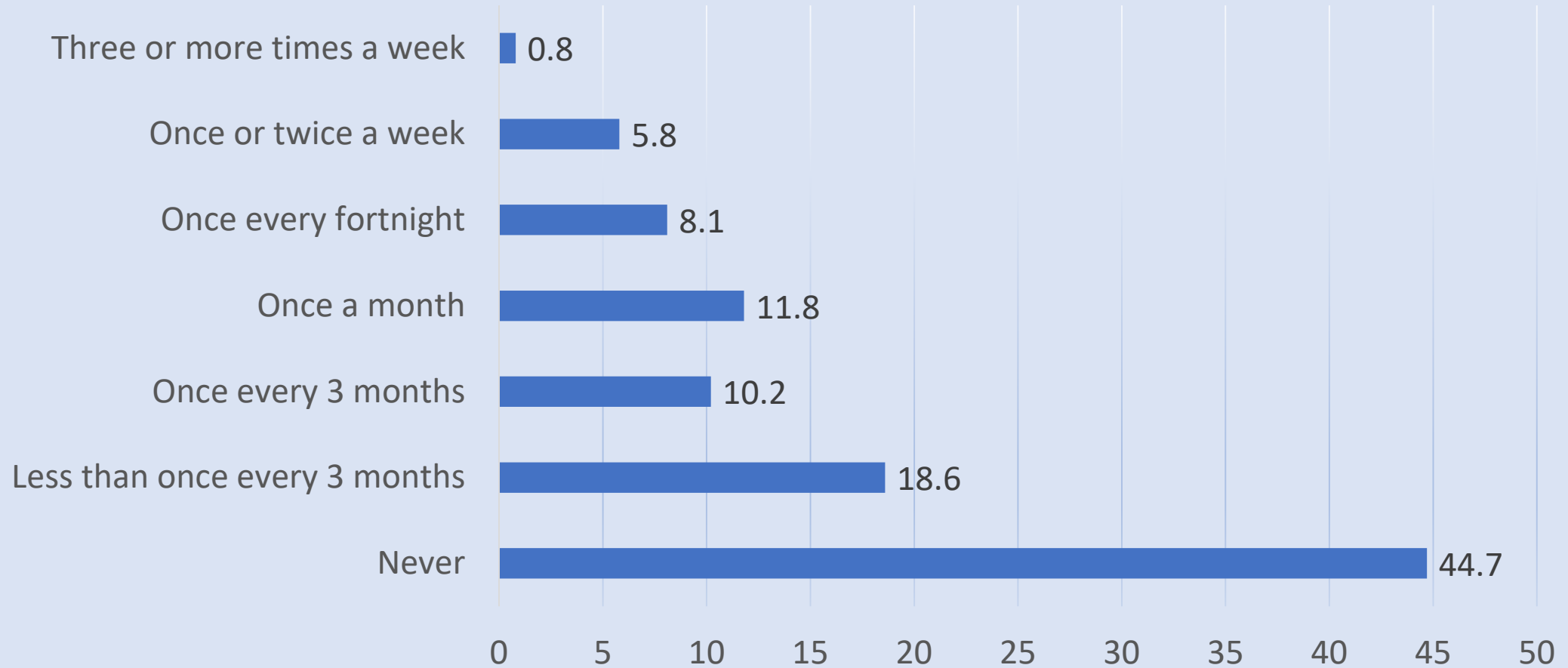
# What is (or was) your occupation? (%)



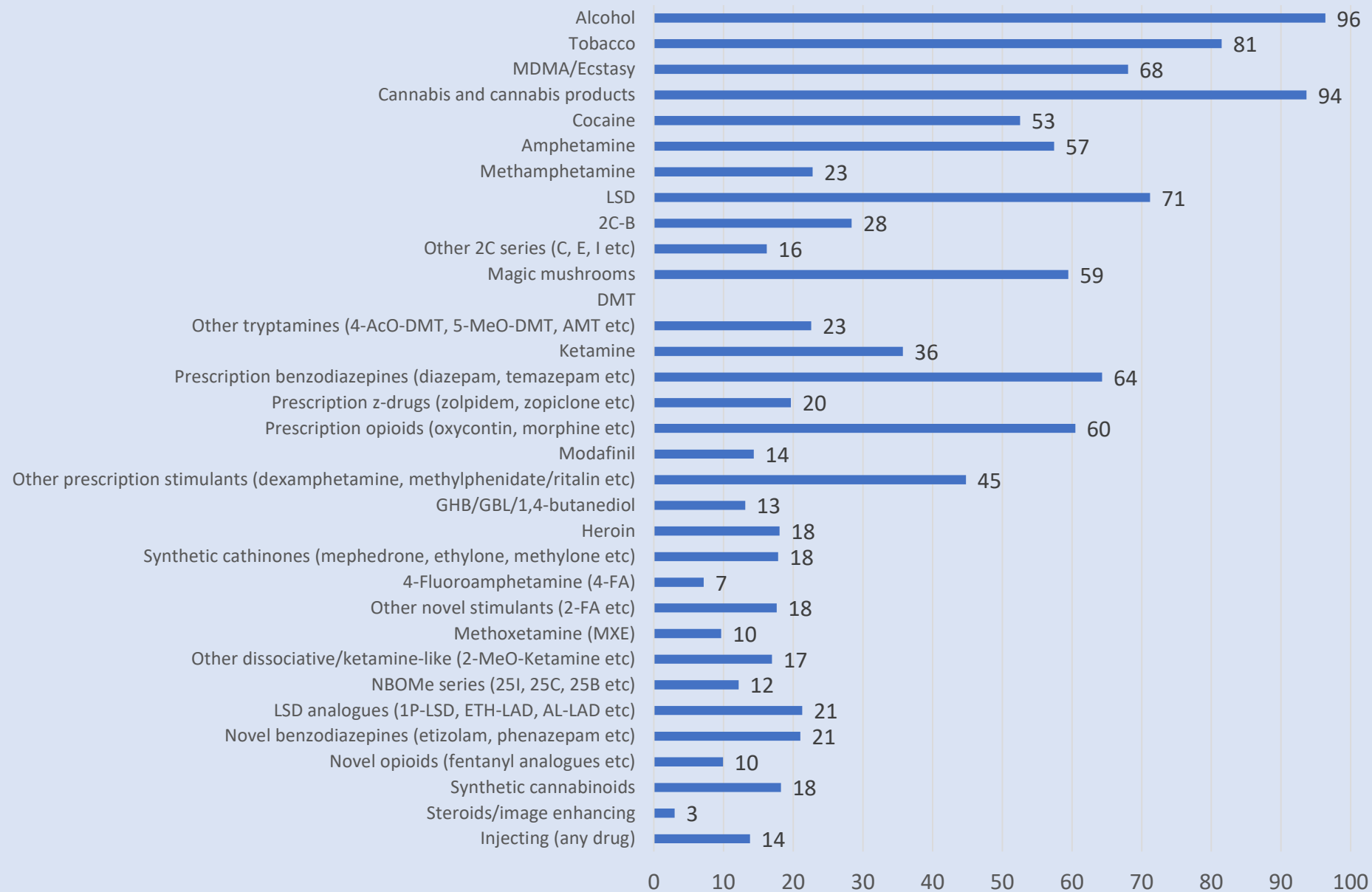
# Who do you live with? (%)



# How often do you go clubbing? (%)

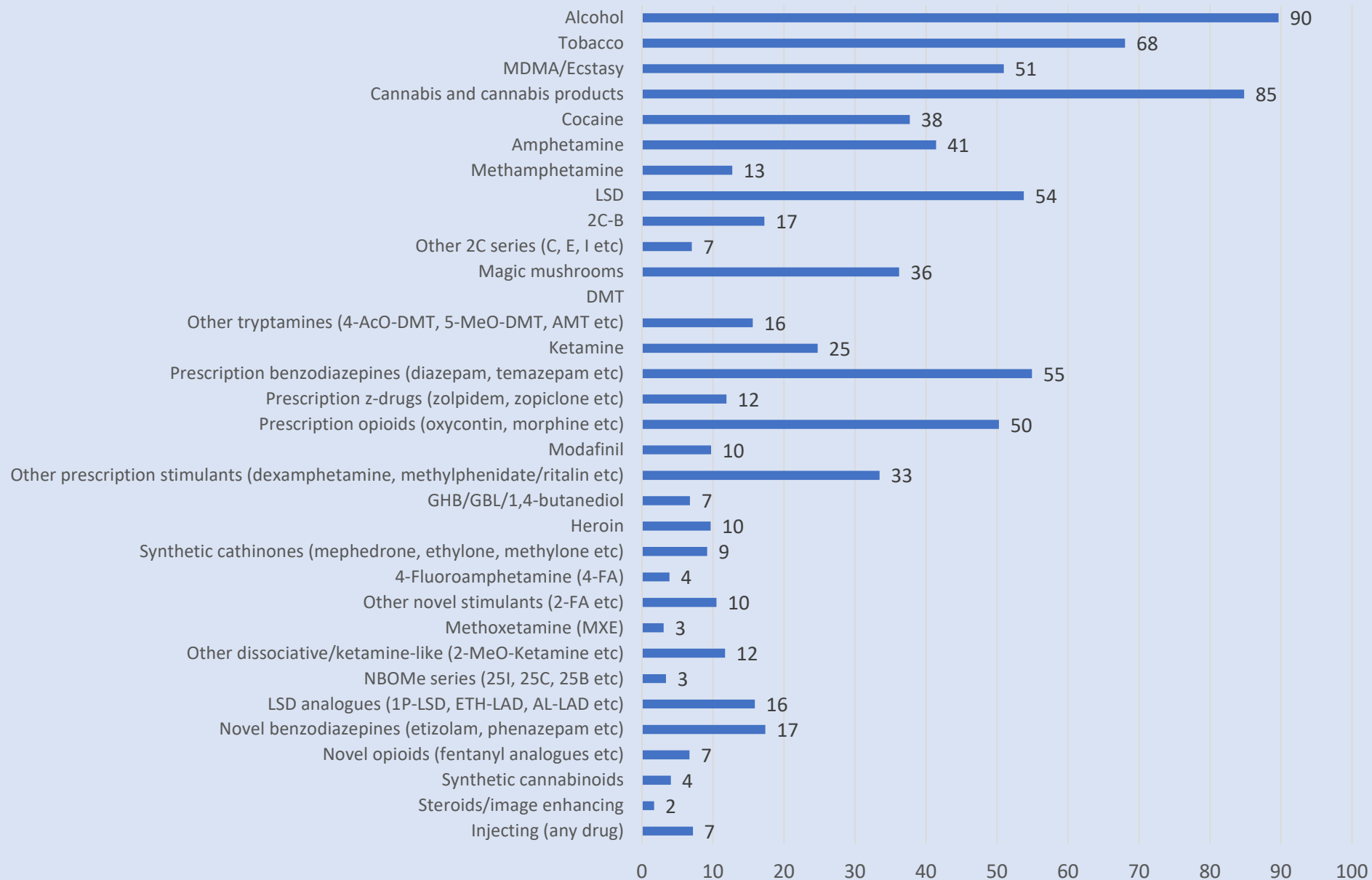


# Lifetime drug use rates (%)



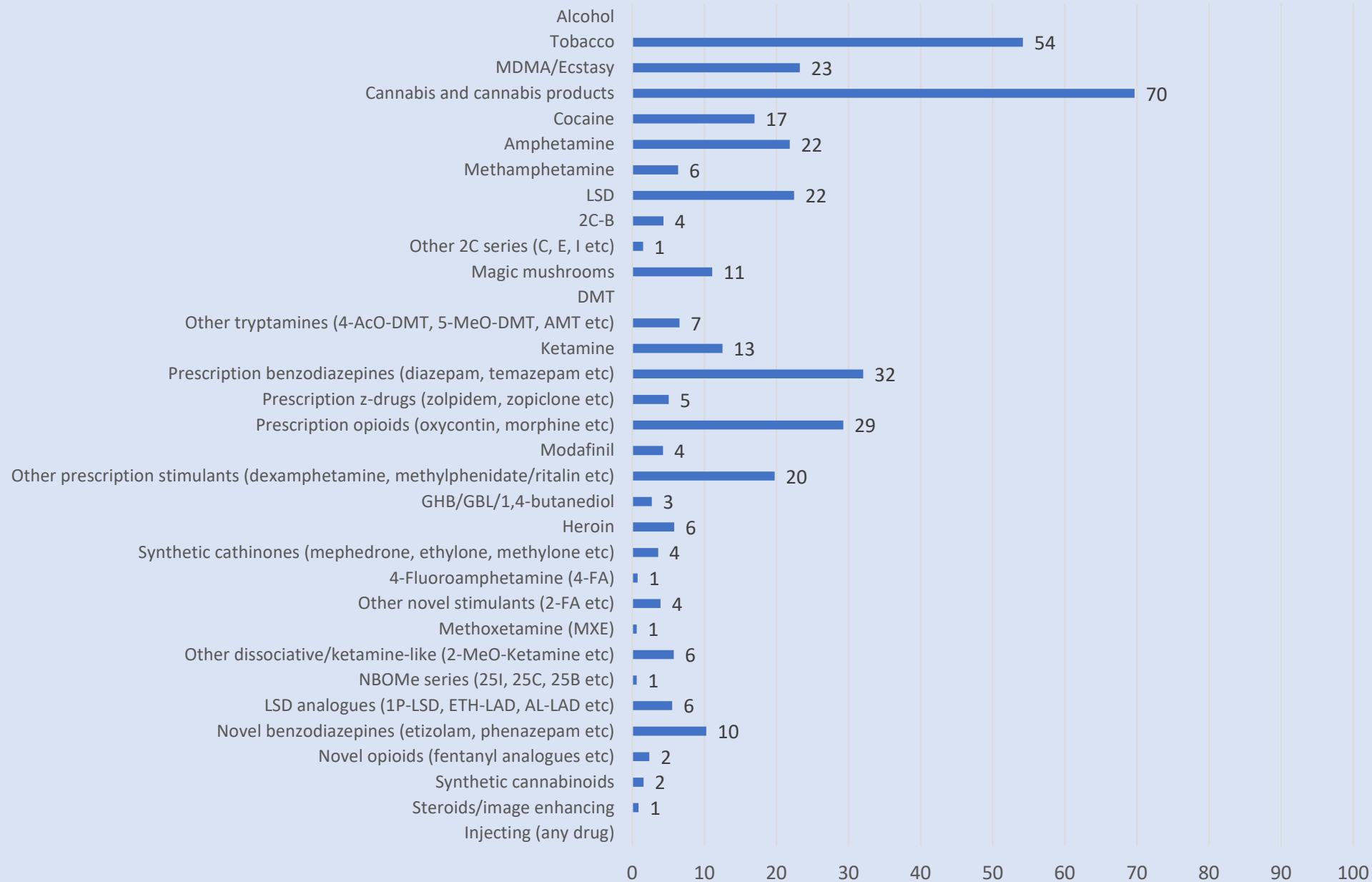
Note:  
GDS did not  
measure DMT  
use in GDS2018

# Last-12-month drug use rates (%)



Note:  
GDS did not  
measure DMT  
use in GDS2018

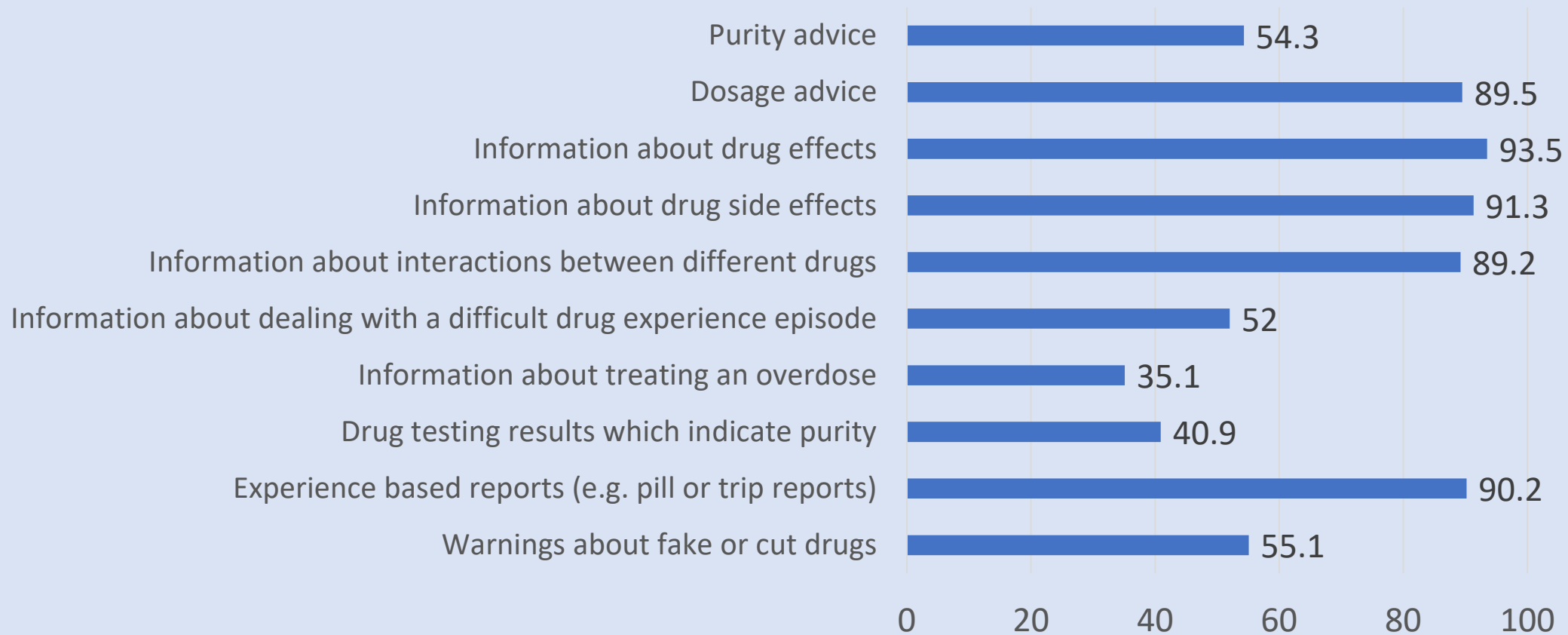
# Last month drug use rates (%)



Note:  
GDS did not  
measure DMT  
use in GDS2018

Last month use  
of alcohol and  
last month  
injecting drug  
use were also  
not measured.

# Have you used clearnet forums to find any of the following types of information? In the last 12m (%)

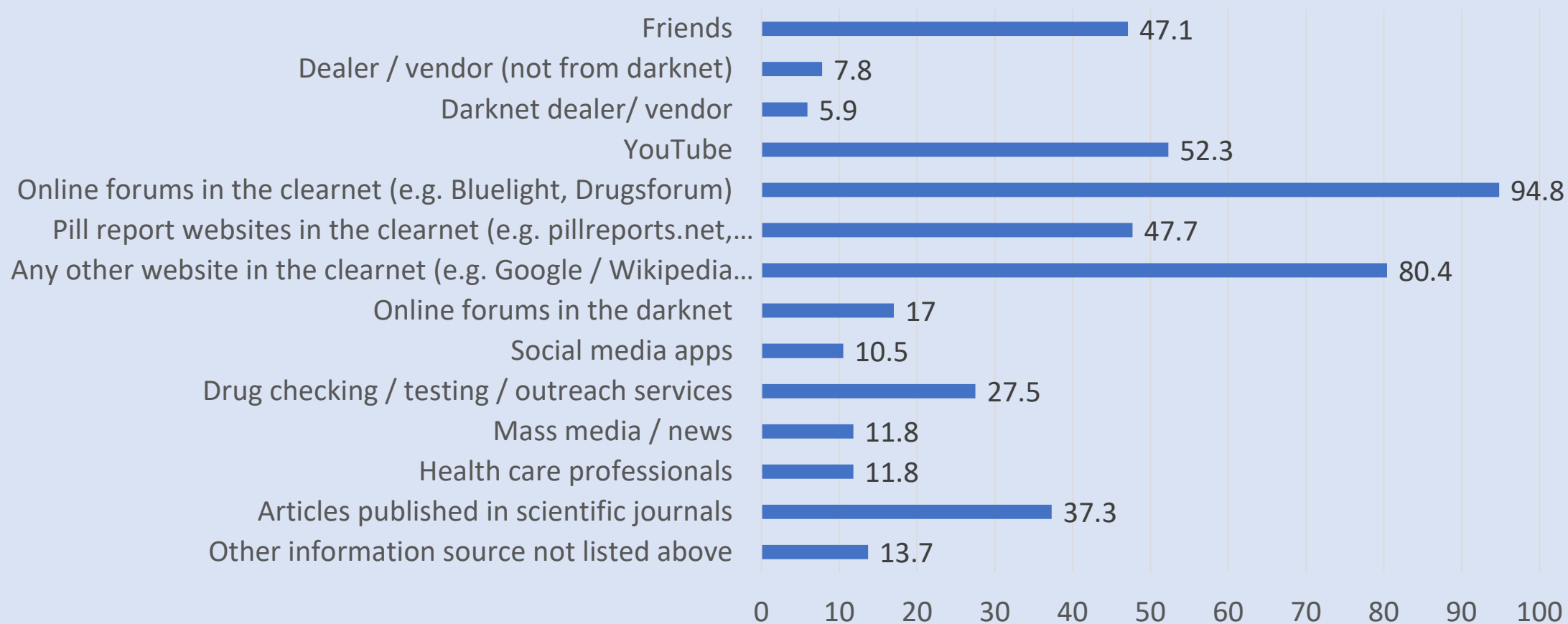


Note:  
N=806  
completed  
this optional  
question

# First time MDMA use

18.9% reported use of MDMA for the first time in the last 12 months.

**Before** you used **MDMA** for the first time what sources did you obtain this information from? (N=153)





# Summary of findings

- Most Bluelighters (70%) come from English-speaking countries (US, UK, Australia, Canada)
- Bluelighters are typically young 'white' males (median age 20, 84% male, 88% 'White')
- Over half of Bluelighters are currently studying (56%)
- A quarter (24%) have completed a university qualification
- Half (51%) report being in paid employment, including 28% that work full-time
- 20% report their occupation as 'professional'
- Almost half (45%) report 'never' going clubbing
- Lifetime drug use rates include 94% cannabis, 71% LSD and 68% MDMA
- Lifetime use of prescription benzodiazepines (64%) and opioids (60%) is significant
- Lifetime rates of novel drug use are high, e.g. LSD analogues (21%), novel benzos (21%)
- Clearnet forums (such as Bluelight) are used extensively for harm reduction information
- Almost all Bluelighters who reported trying MDMA for the first time in the last 12 months used Bluelight to research MDMA beforehand

# Limitations

- The sample may not necessarily represent the total Bluelight population
- We rely on people self-reporting behaviours – these self-reports may be inaccurate due to memory impairment, although it is unlikely that participants would deliberate deceive this survey as it was completely anonymous
- No material incentives, e.g. payments, were offered, which reduces chances of willful deception
- Read more about GDS and its strengths and limitations [here](#)

# Thank you

- Thanks to everyone who participated in the survey
- Thanks to GDS for partnering with Bluelight
- Thanks to all the GDS volunteers who translate and promote the survey, and Chris Parsons and Stuart Newman for programming

The GDS is run by Dr Adam Winstock: he is joined by Jason Ferris, Larissa Maier and Monica Barratt as the core research team.

See [www.globaldrugsurvey.com](http://www.globaldrugsurvey.com)

Citation: Barratt, M. J. (2018). Bluelight Census 2018. [www.bluelight.org](http://www.bluelight.org)