

Syringe Exchange Survey: Injection Drug Use and Overdose



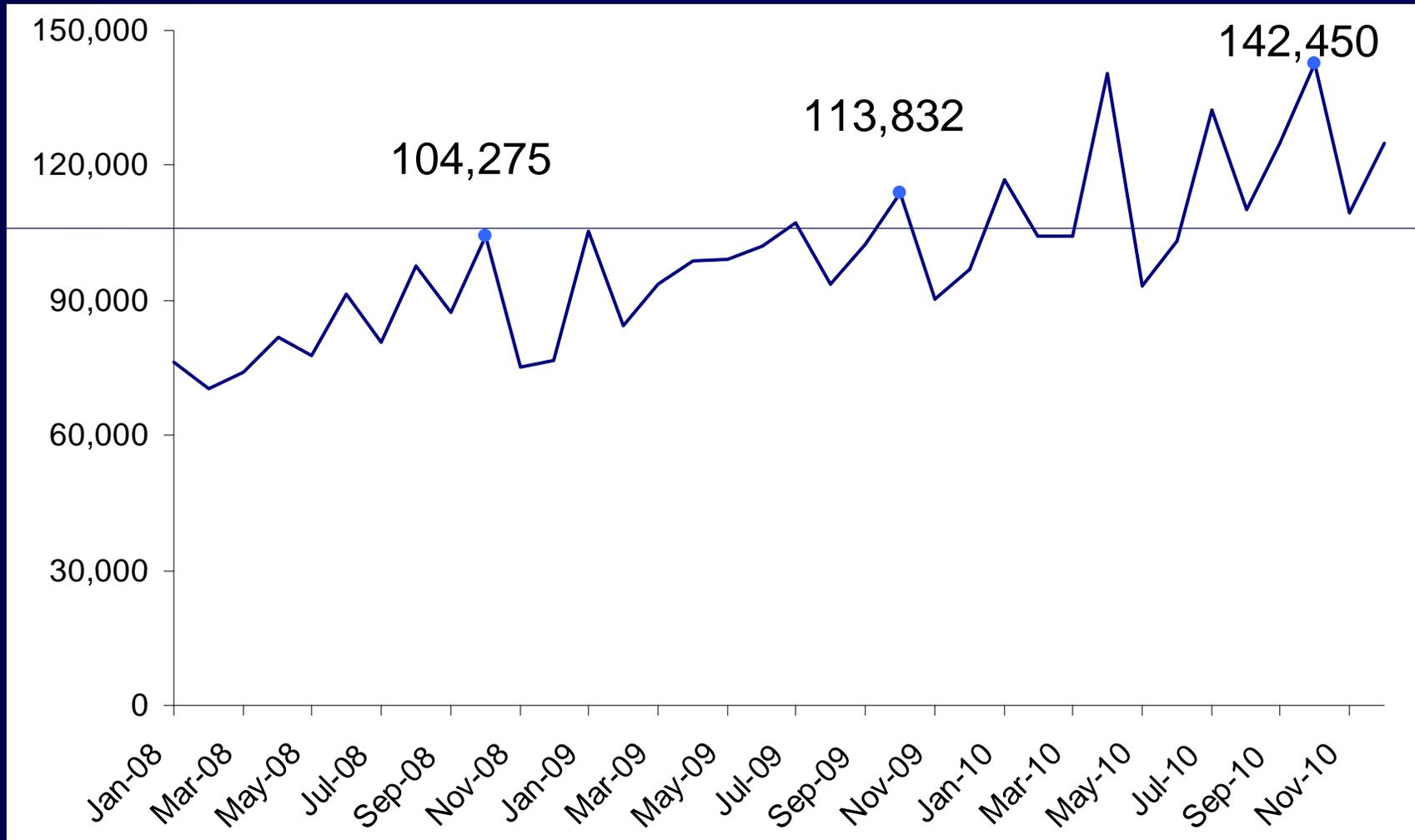
Kim Toevs, MPH
Program Manager
STD | HIV | Hepatitis C Division
Multnomah County Health Department

Local Syringe Exchange Programs

Prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and other blood-borne pathogens among IDU:

- New, sterile syringes in exchange for used ones
- Safer sex supplies
- Referrals to medical care and social services
- Harm reduction education and motivational interviewing

Syringes Distributed, by Month Jan 2008 – Dec 2010



Methods

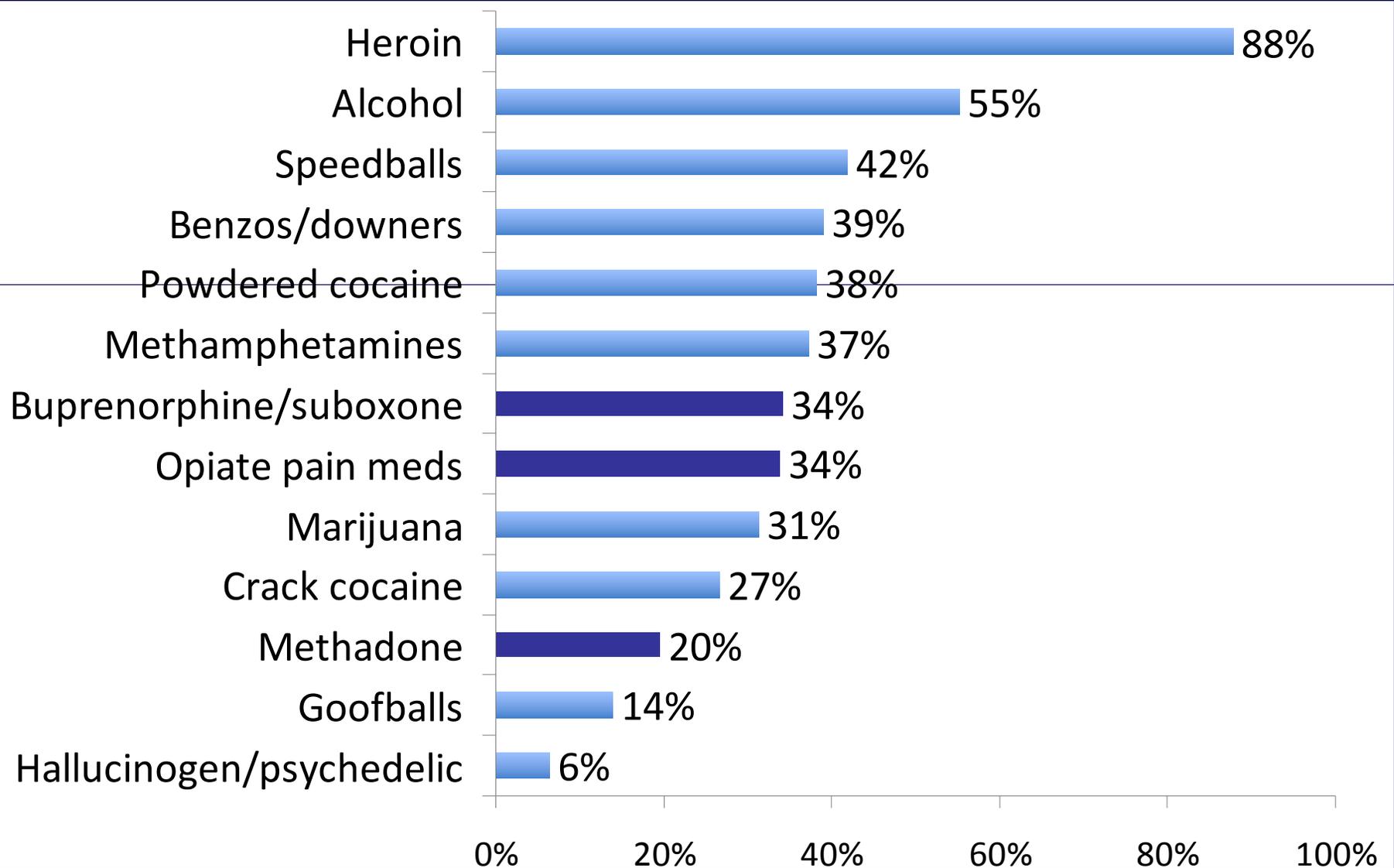
1. Five SEP sites (Outside In and MCHD)
2. Two weeks in early Dec 2010
3. Cross-sectional convenience sample (n = 437)
 - Clients approached in line
 - Anonymous
 - No repeat surveys
4. Brief face-to-face surveys
 - Demographics
 - Drug use, overdose
 - Injection history
 - Syringe access

Survey Sample Demographics

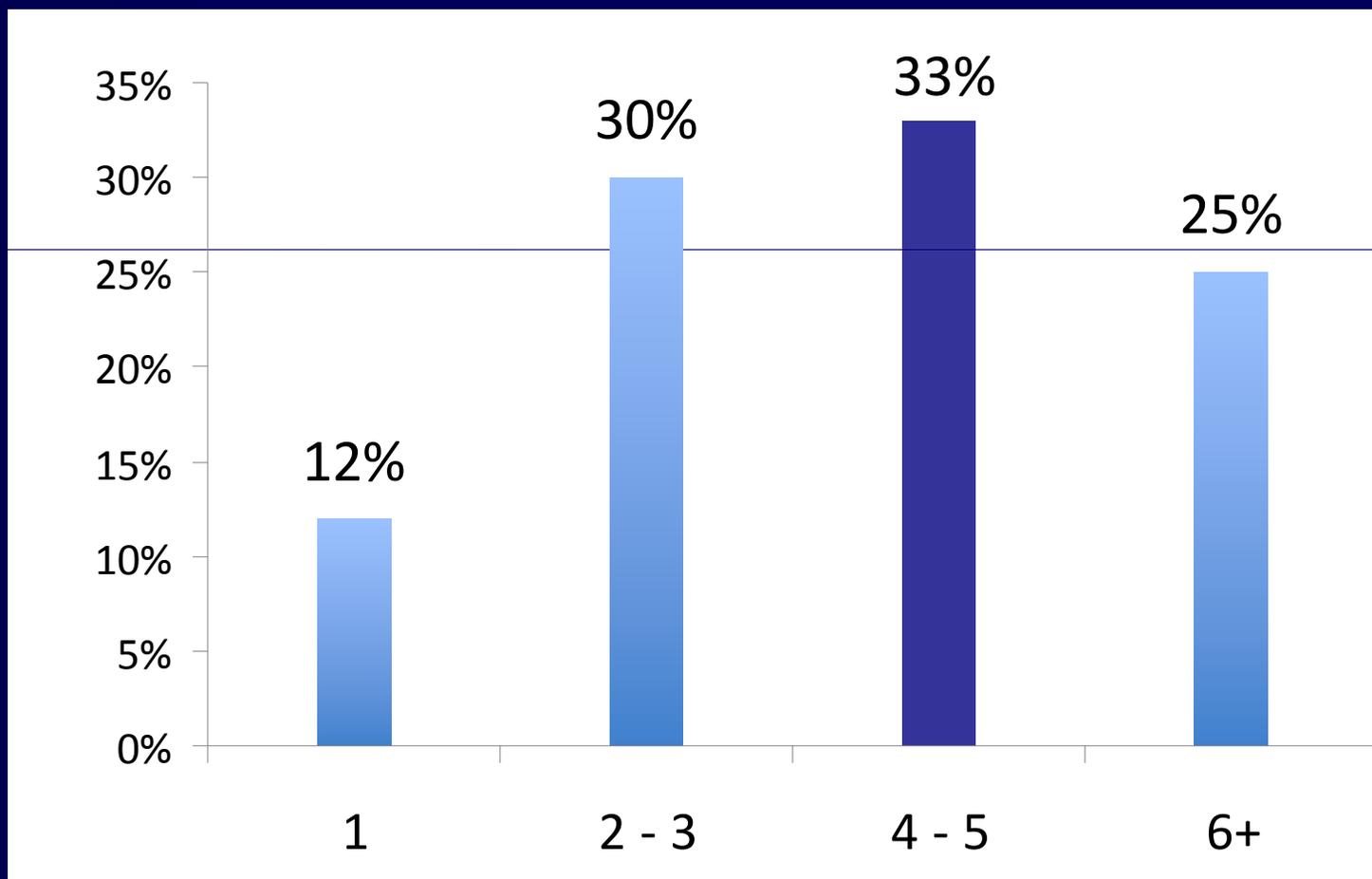
(n = 437)

1. Male (71%)
2. White (77%)
3. Mean age = 35
4. High school degree or more (84%)
5. Varied housing (42% = permanent)
6. Live in Portland (78%)
7. Used heroin in last 3 months (89%)

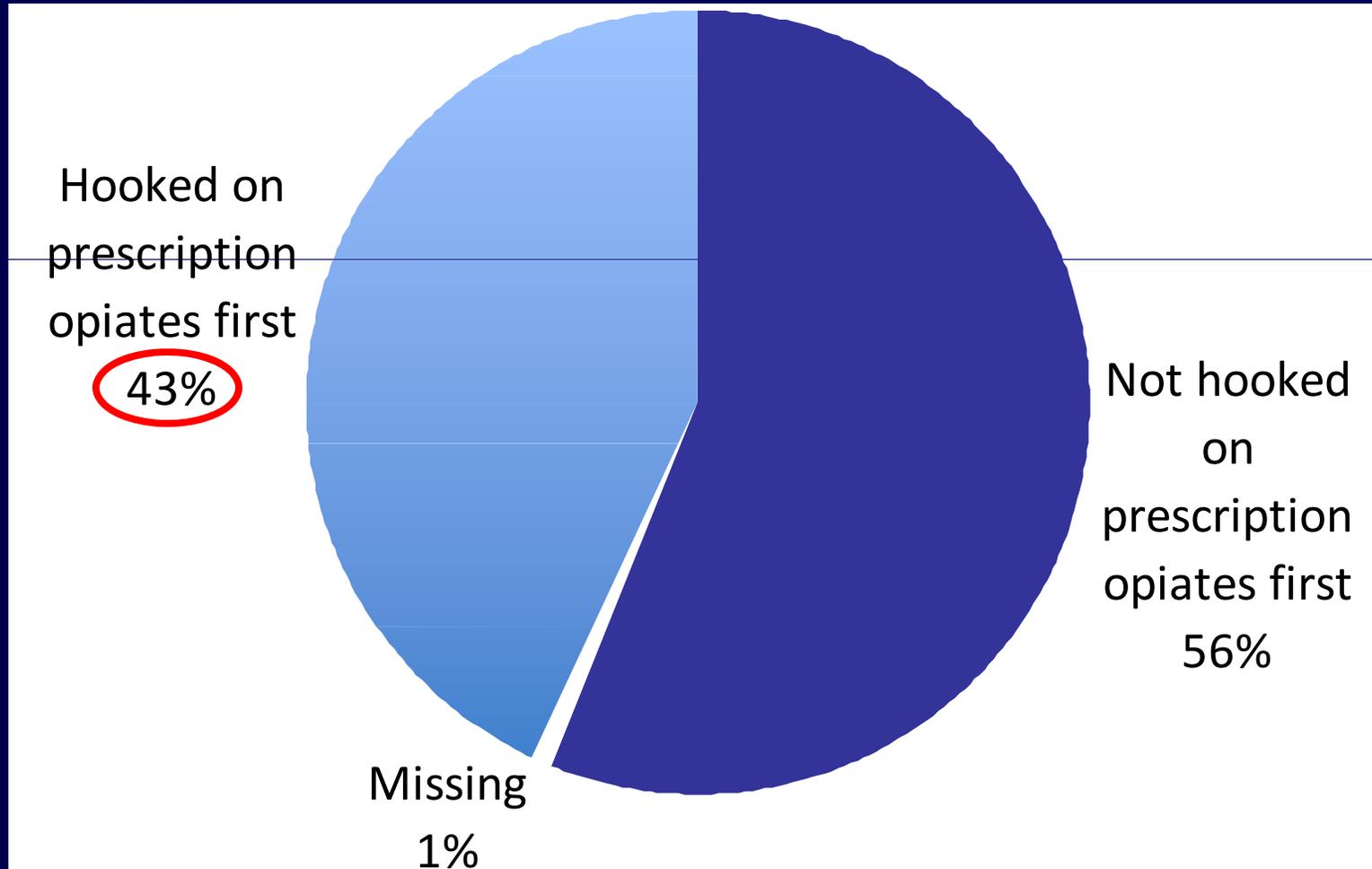
What drugs did they use? (n = 437)



How many drugs did they use? (n = 437)



Heroin users (n = 390)



Which heroin users were hooked on Rx opiates first? (n = 167)

1. Women
2. Younger users (under 35)
3. Currently in school
4. Have permanent housing
5. Live outside of Portland
6. Don't inject daily
7. Started injecting more recently

Overdose

All participants
N = 437

Used opiates
n = 401

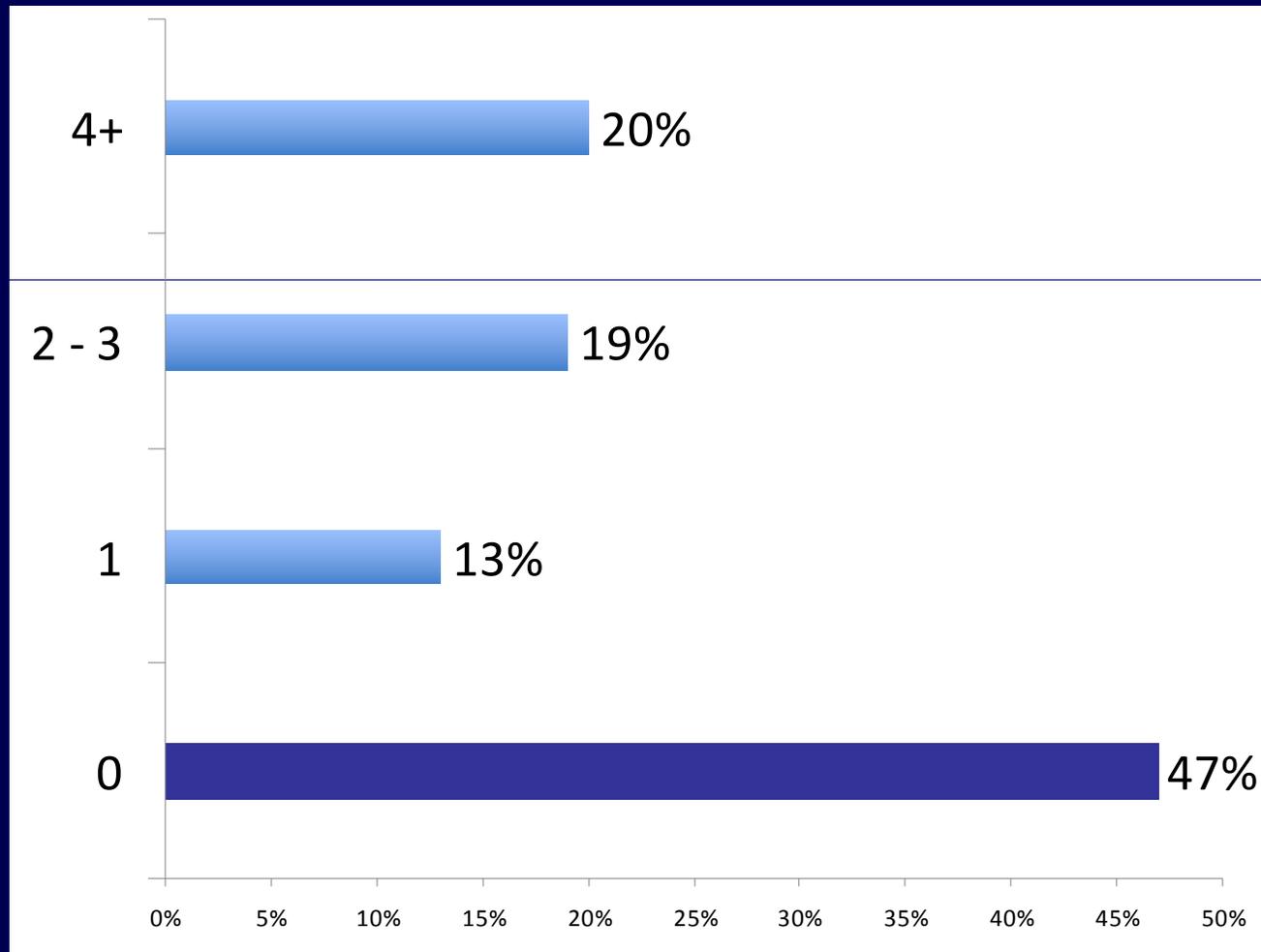
Overdosed in lifetime
n = 208

52%

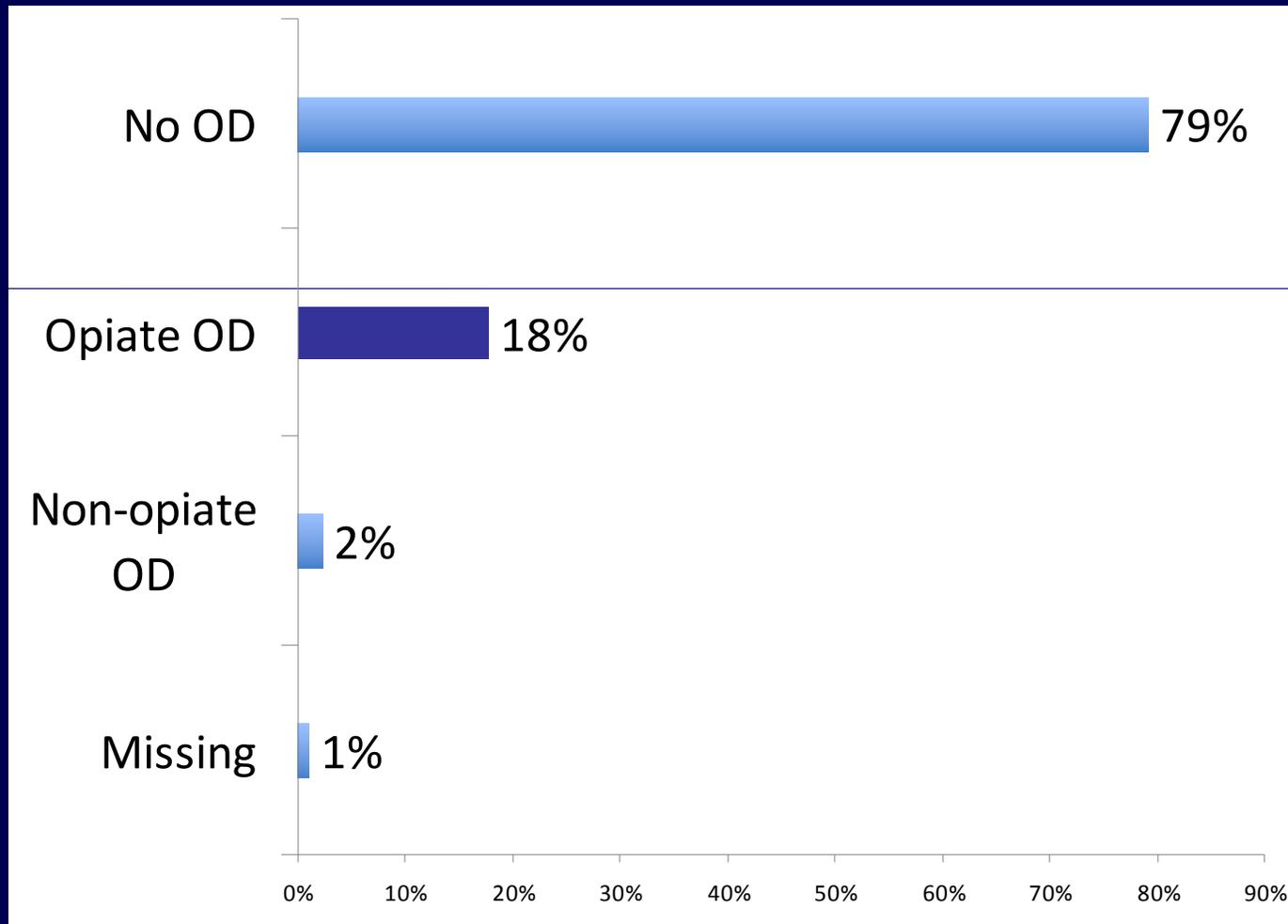
Overdosed in last year
n = 71

18%

How many times have they overdosed in their lifetime?



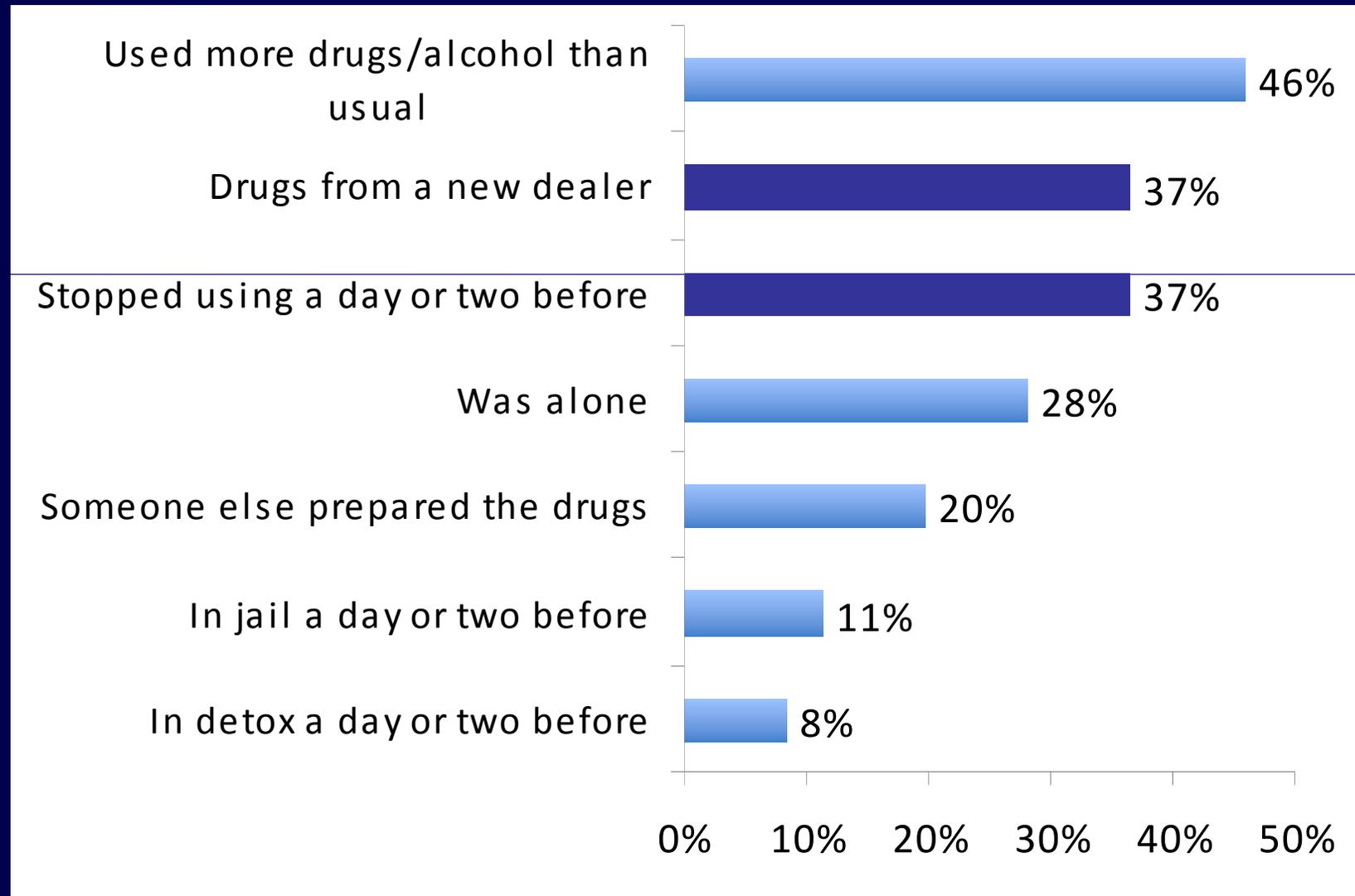
How many overdosed in the last year?



Who overdosed in the last year?

1. Youth under 26
2. Used 6+ drugs in the last 3 months
3. Injected in a hurry
4. Injected both indoors and outdoors
5. Saw others OD in last year
6. Had a prior history of OD

What happened before their last OD?



Questions?

Kim Toevs

Program Manager

kim.e.toevs@multco.us

Lindsay Jenkins

Research Analyst

lindsay.jenkins@multco.us

STD | HIV | Hepatitis C Division
Multnomah County Health Department