



An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh  
The Probation Service

YOUNG PERSONS PROBATION

# **Drug and Alcohol Misuse among Young Offenders on Probation Supervision in Ireland**

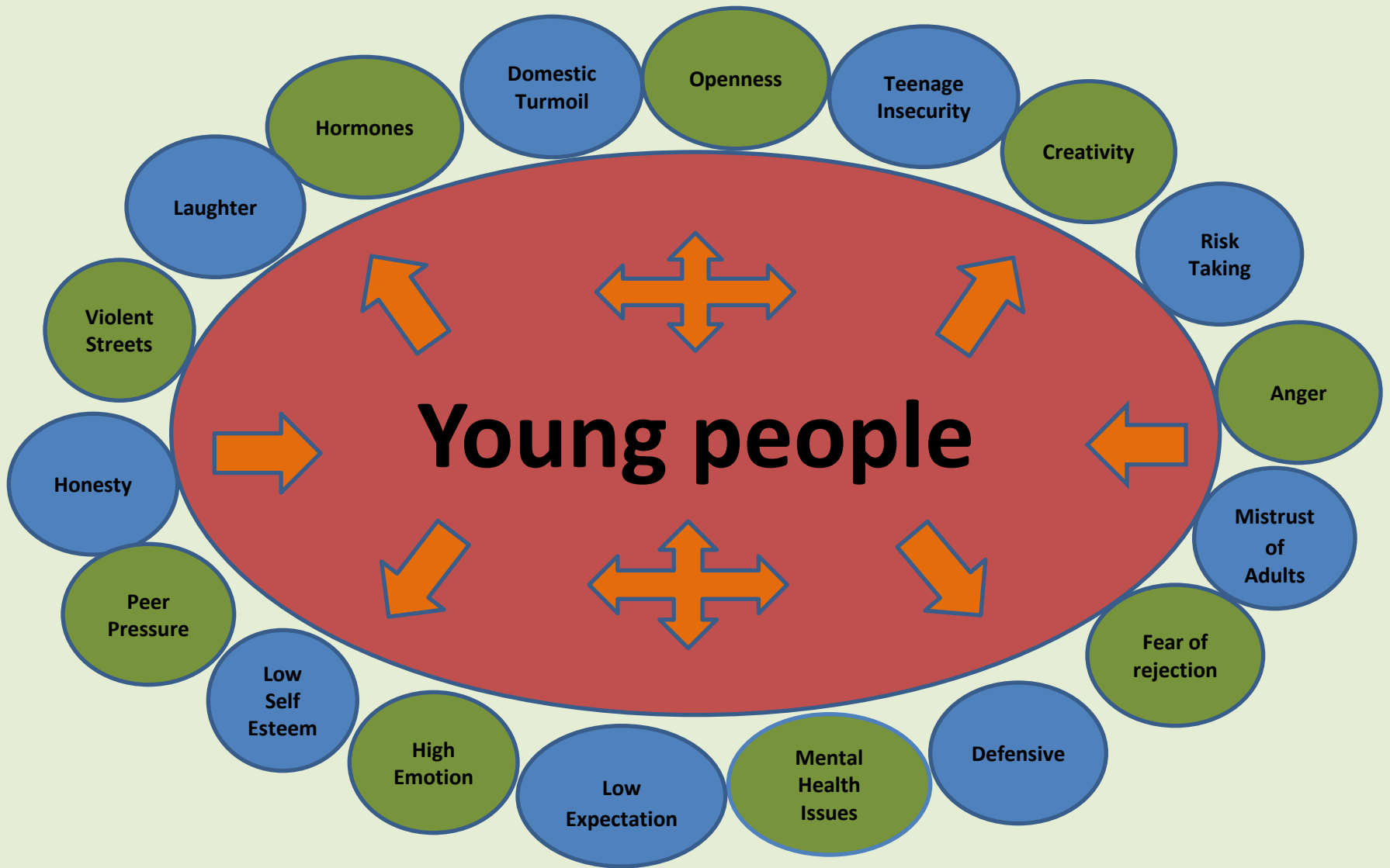
## **Findings from the Drugs and Alcohol Survey 2012**



# Young Persons Probation

- Division of the Probation service
- Work with Young People
- Pro Social modelling
- Personal Development
- Family Support
- Restorative practice





# Objective

- To establish:
  - Number drugs and/or alcohol misusers amongst young offenders on supervision
  - Nature and frequency of their misuse
  - Context of their misuse
  - Link between drug and/or alcohol misuse and offending
  - Engagement with drug and alcohol treatment services



# The study population

- Survey date - 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012,
- Aged 20 years or less on survey date and subject to supervision
- Anticipated population - 808 (from CTS)
- Returns received - 721 (647 M and 74 F)
  - a high rate of return (88%)
- Any misuse rate – 87% of the 721

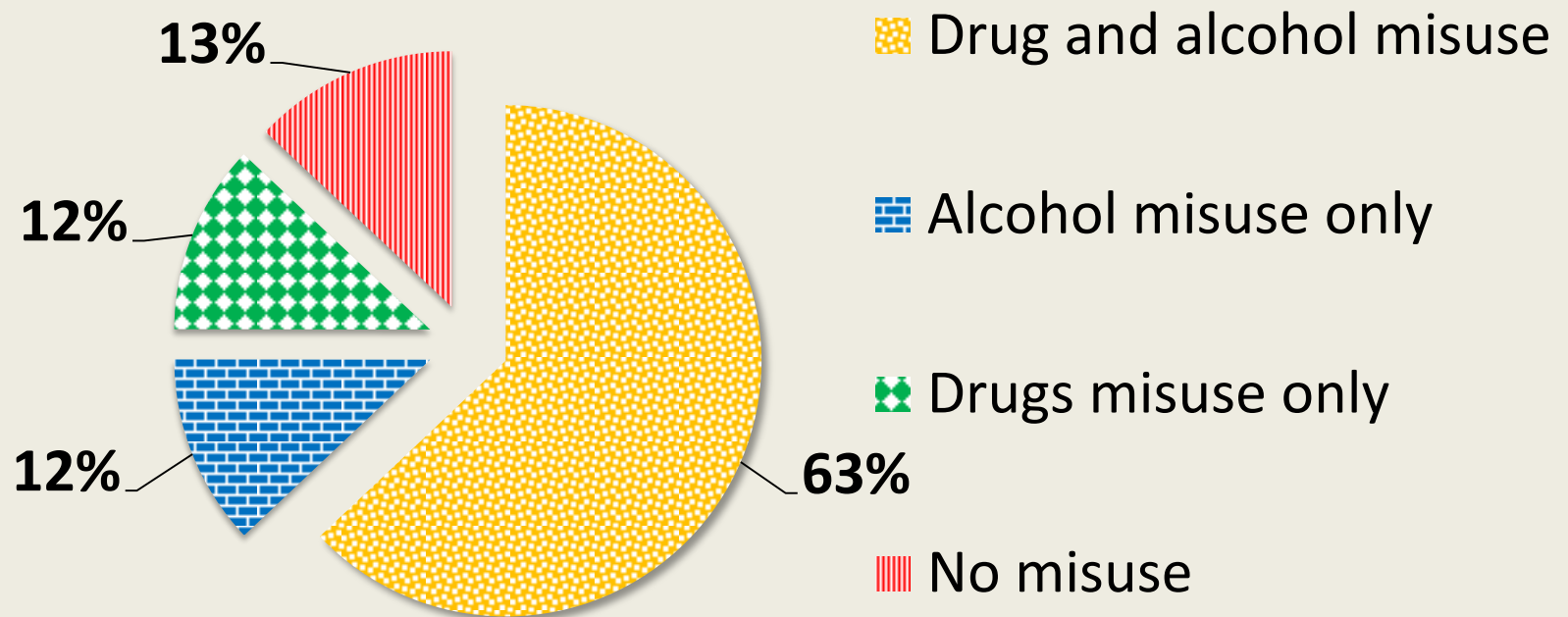


# Methodology

- Misuse: -
  - illegal, prohibited or harmful to oneself or others
- Questionnaire completed for anyone meeting the study criteria – full population study
- Questionnaires completed by the supervising probation officer based on
  - knowledge of the offender and
  - case file information.



# Overall Misuse Patterns of Offenders

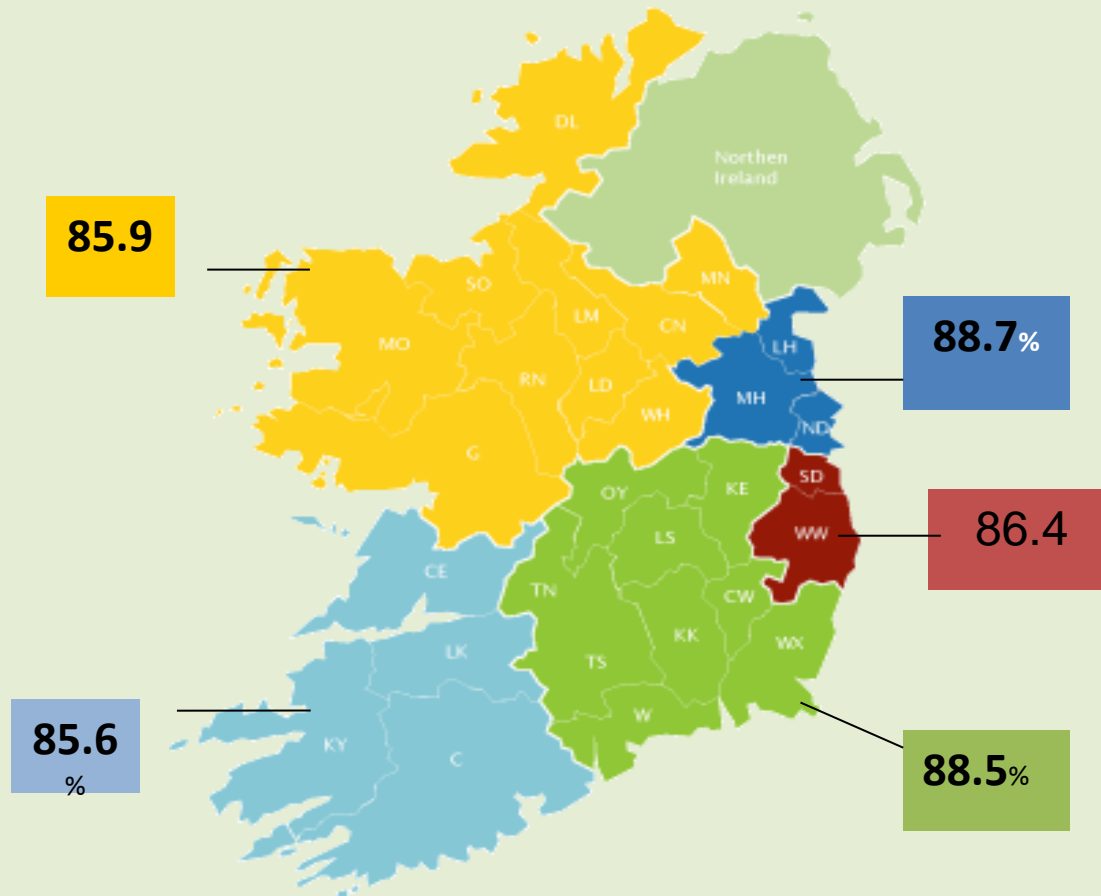


# Male and Female Misuse

	<b>Both Drugs and Alcohol</b>	<b>Drugs only</b>	<b>Alcohol Only</b>	<b>Total</b>
Males	63%	14%	12%	89%
Females	57%	1%	16%	74%



# Alcohol & Drug Misuse by Region



# Alcohol Misuse Only by Geographical Region

Region	Total Offender Population	Total Offender Population Misused Alcohol Only	Misusers as a % of Total Region Population
Dublin North and North East	186	18	9.7%
Dublin South and Wicklow	132	5	3.8%
Midlands and South East	130	16	12.3%
South West	195	34	17.4%
West - North West and Westmeath	78	14	17.9%
Total (ALL)	721	87	12.1%

# Drug Misuse Only by Geographical Region

Region	Total Offender Population	Total Offender Population Misused Drugs Only	Misusers as a % of Total Region Population
Dublin North and North East	186	38	20.4%
Dublin South and Wicklow	132	18	13.6%
Midlands and South East	130	15	11.5%
South West	195	12	6.2%
West -North West and Westmeath	78	8	10.3%
<b>Total (ALL)</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>12.6%</b>

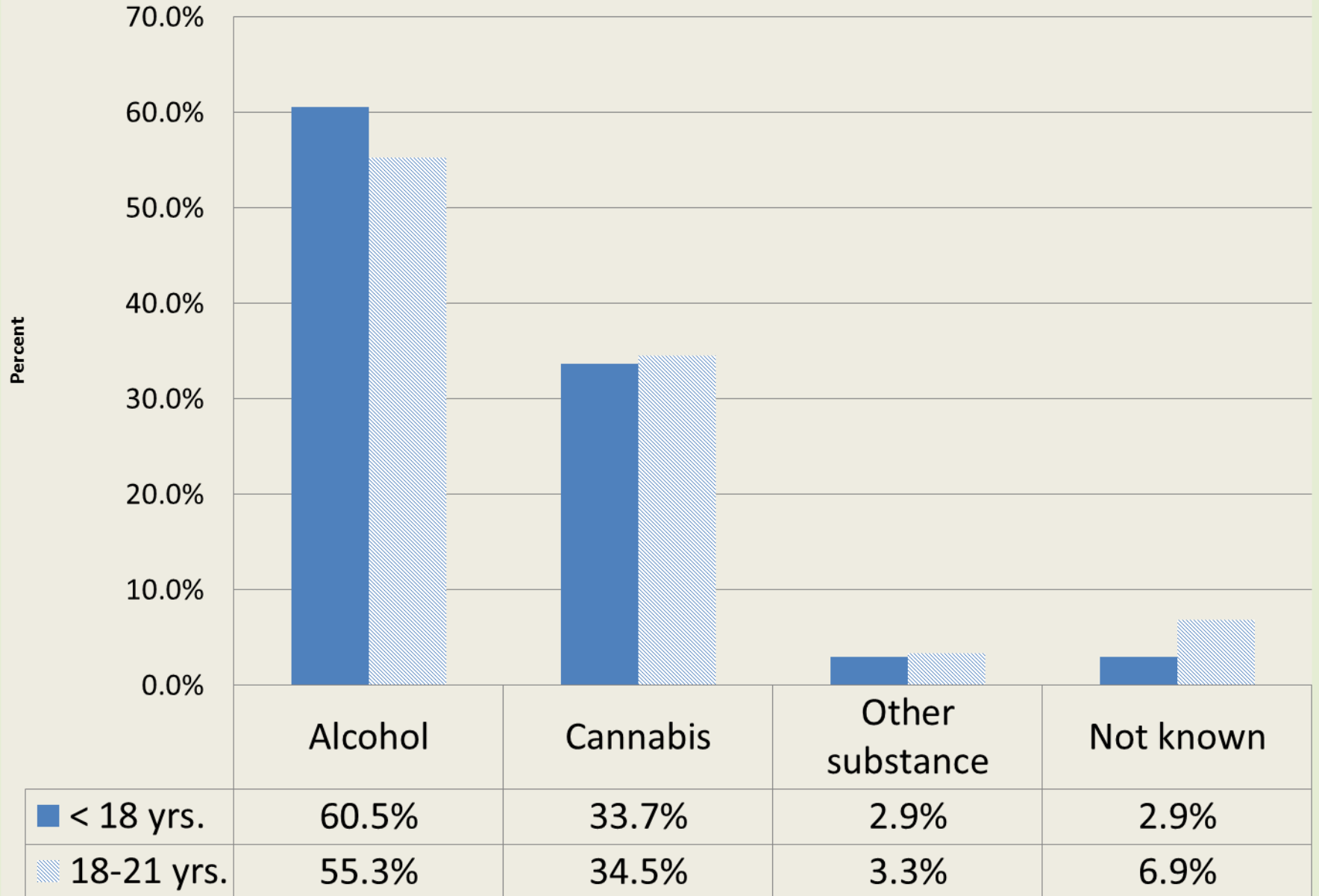
# Combined Drug and Alcohol Misuse by Region

<b>Region</b>	<b>Total Offender Population</b>	<b>Total Offender Population Misused Drugs and Alcohol</b>	<b>Misusers as a % of Total Region Population</b>
<b>Dublin North and North East</b>	186	109	58.6%
<b>Dublin South and Wicklow</b>	132	91	68.9%
<b>Midlands and South East</b>	130	84	64.6%
<b>South West</b>	195	121	62.1%
<b>West -North West and Westmeath</b>	78	45	57.7%
<b>Total (ALL)</b>	721	450	62.4%

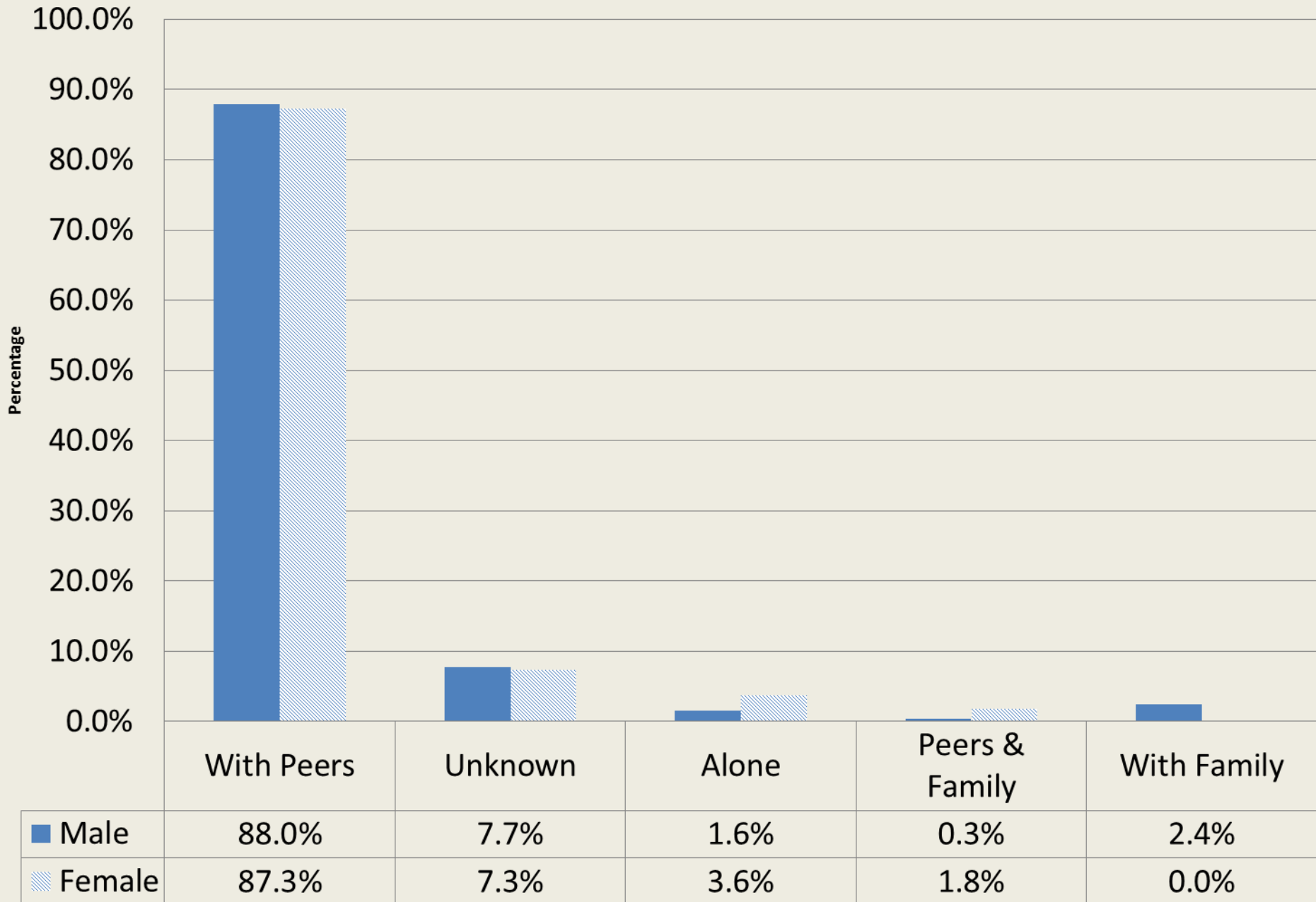
# Age of First Substance Misuse

Age	Males	%	Females	%
8	2	0.4%	0	0.0%
9	2	0.4%	1	1.9%
10	17	3.3%	0	0.0%
11	12	2.3%	1	1.9%
12	76	14.7%	9	16.7%
13	110	21.3%	9	16.7%
14	144	27.9%	15	27.8%
15	105	20.3%	7	13.0%
16	37	7.2%	4	7.4%
17	8	1.5%	1	1.9%
18	3	0.6%	2	3.7%
Unknown	1	0.2%	5	9.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

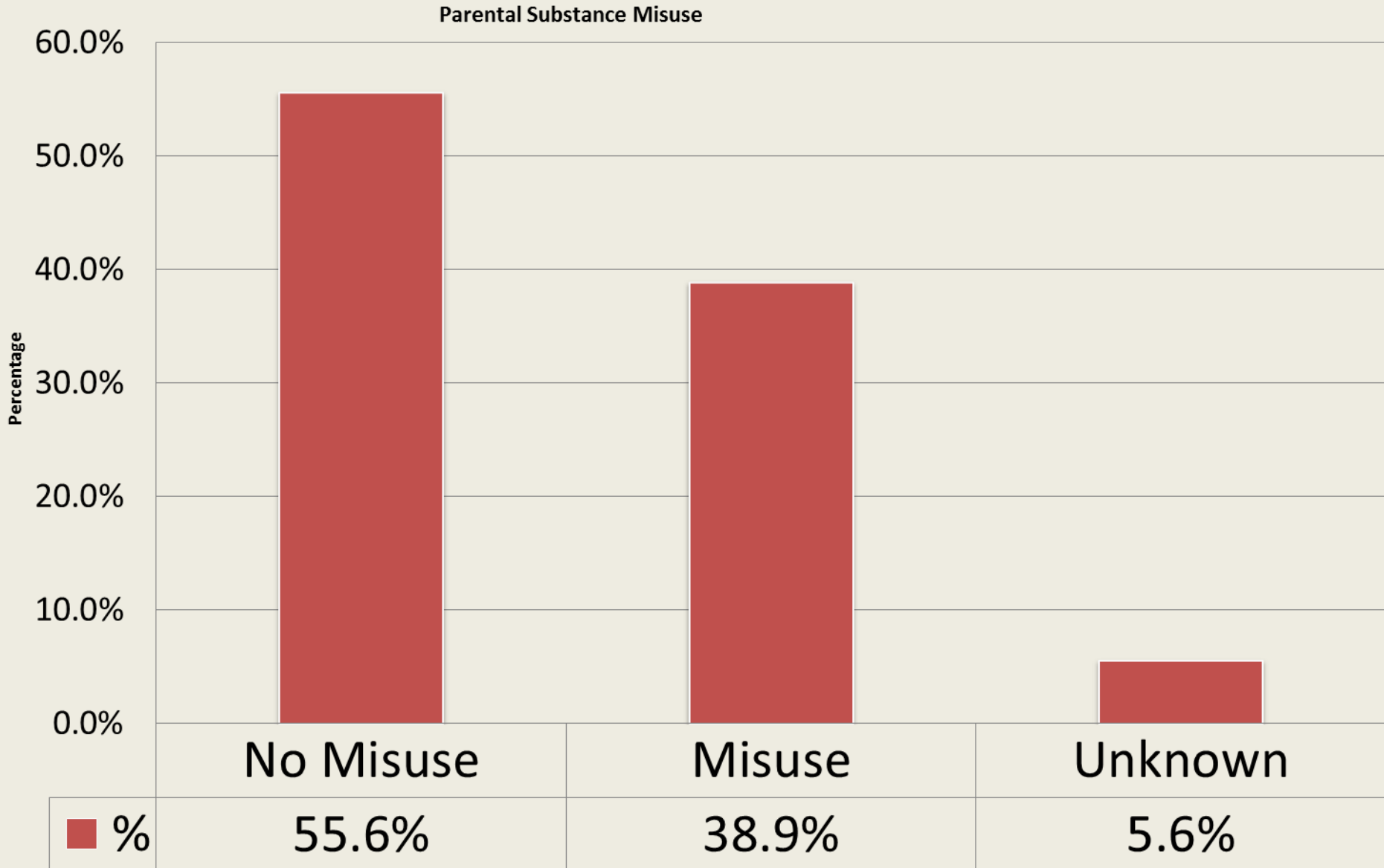
# First Substance Misused Categorised by Age Group



# Circumstances of first Use



# Parental Substance Misuse





## Substance Linked To Current Offence Male and Female

	n	Male	n	Female
Alcohol only	202	43.8%	29	61.7%
Both Alcohol and drugs	84	18.2%	9	19.1%
Drugs only	75	16.3%	4	8.5%
Misused prescribed drugs	35	7.6%	1	2.1%
Cannabis	34	7.4%	2	4.3%

# Treatment

- About half had attended some form of treatment,
  - ✓ higher for males (53.8%) than females (47.3%)
- Counselling was the most widely accessed treatment
  - ✓ (86.2%)
- Most offenders attended two forms of treatment
- Midlands and South East
  - ✓ Highest level of treatment attendance, (61.7%)
- Dublin South and Wicklow
  - ✓ Lowest level of treatment attendance (39.5%)
- More than two thirds (70%) of treatment attenders were in the older age category

# Summary of Findings

- 90% approx.. had misused one or other substance
- 60% approx.. had misused both substances
- Dublin North had the highest rate of drug misuse
- Western regions had highest alcohol misuse
- Overall similar pattern for males and females, but differences in the breakdown by substance
- Most started using between 12 and 15 years
- Most started misusing with peers
- Alcohol is the most commonly misused substance



# And after the Research.....

**Life Skills to reduce harm**

**Significant influences**

**Interventions/Treatment**

**Interagency Co-operation**

**Voice of the Young Person**

Thank you for your  
interest



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