

## Billings City Administration Weekly Report

June 28, 2019

- 1) **Public Safety Levy** – Determining the scope of our 2020 public safety levy will be a challenge. Our team is working to present a “scope” of the project for the city council to review, change, adopt etc. We need to resist the temptation to define the problem and solutions prior to answering several questions and reviewing the data that currently exist:
  - a. How safe is Billings? How does our crime and safety data compare to peer cities around the country? What data will we use to measure safety?
  - b. Specifically define the problems and solutions.
  - c. What programs and systems need to change to improve outcomes?
  - d. At a minimum, we are looking at the criminal justice system (PD, Legal, courts etc.); Code Enforcement system; FD systems; 911/Communication.
  - e. Until answers to a, b and c are narrowed, we cannot reasonably estimate the cost. The 2020 budget deficit is not a clear indication of the needs.

I suspect investments need to be made in PD, FD, legal, courts, code enforcement, addiction, homelessness, rehabilitation, incarceration etc.

The purpose of items 2 and 3 in this report is to review feedback our citizens have given the City over the past decade regarding public safety. I also included a 2019 presentation that is loaded with statistical data on substance abuse.

- 2) **2016, 2012, 2009 National Citizen Survey (NCS) Data** – See the results from the linked statistically valid 2016, 2012, 2009 NCS <https://ci.billings.mt.us/1506/Citizen-Survey-Results>. In 2016 Billings chose cities with a population of 85,000 – 115,000 in the Western US as our Benchmark communities for the survey.

### 2016 NCS Conclusion:

**Residents are positive about their quality of life.** A vast majority of residents rated their overall quality of life positively and about three-quarters rated Billings as an excellent or good place to live. Around 7 in 10 respondents are pleased with their neighborhoods and think Billings is an excellent or good place to raise children. Most respondents plan on remaining in Billings for the next five years and would recommend living in Billings to others.

**Economy is an important area of focus for the community.** Billings respondents indicated that Economy should be an important area of focus over the next two years. About 6 in 10 residents reported they were pleased with the overall economic health of the city, the quality of business and services, shopping opportunities and Billings is a good place to work. More than half of residents rated employment opportunities in Billings as excellent or good, a rating higher than seen in comparison communities and a rating that increased from 2012 to 2016. Almost all residents had purchased goods or services in Billings in the last 12 months and roughly a quarter of residents indicated that they were optimistic that the economy would have a positive effect on their income. Additionally, around 7 in 10 residents indicated that they worked within the boundaries of Billings, a level higher than other communities across the nation.

**Safety is a priority.** Residents indicated that Safety is an important facet for Billings to focus on in the coming years. Respondents felt safest in their neighborhoods and the least safe in Billings overall. A majority of residents felt safe overall in Billings and in Billings’ downtown/commercial area (a rating that decreased since 2012); however, these ratings were lower than what was reported in other communities across the nation. Safety services such as fire and ambulance/EMS were rated positively by 8 in 10 residents and similar to comparison communities. Meanwhile, other Safety related services such as police, crime prevention and fire prevention were rated lower than seen elsewhere. When asked about the most pressing issue in Billings to be addressed in the coming year, nearly 4 in 10 residents stated public safety concerns.

## 2016 Technical Appendices

I extracted “Safety” data from the survey appendices.

Table 72: Community Characteristics by Facet

Safety	% Positive	Rank	# benchmark cities	Comparison
Overall feeling of safety in Billings	55%	231	257	Lower
In your neighborhood during the day	92%	205	316	Similar
In Billings’ downtown/commercial area during the day	68%	251	268	Lower

Table 74: Governance by Facet

Safety	% Positive	Rank	# benchmark cities	Comparison
Police services	61%	375	406	Lower
Fire services	86%	287	330	Similar
Ambulance or emergency medical services	85%	264	313	Similar
Crime prevention	42%	300	320	Lower
Fire prevention and education	62%	234	255	Lower
Animal control	50%	258	305	Similar
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	46%	215	253	Similar

Table 76: Participation by Facet

Safety	% Positive	Rank	# benchmark cities	Comparison
Stocked supplies in preparation for an emergency	31%	95	149	Similar
Did NOT report a crime to the police	63%	152	165	Lower
Household member was NOT a victim of a crime	79%	226	242	Similar

## 2012 and 2009 NCS Public Safety Results

Public Safety Results pages 22 – 26 <https://www.ci.billings.mt.us/DocumentCenter/View/21652/City-of-Billings-Report-of-Results-FINAL-2012-2?bidId=>

- 3) **Substance Use in Yellowstone County** – the attached data was presented May 10, 2019 to the Substance Use CONNECT group.
- 4) **Montana Infrastructure Coalition (MIC)** – Billings hosted the MIC Annual Meeting today. The board voted to conduct its own research on the effects of tax reform. This will allow MIC to be proactive in HB 35 interim study. Councilmember Clark attended the interim committee meeting in Helena yesterday while I covered today's MIC meeting. This may be the best opportunity for Billings to influence meaningful tax reform in MT over the past 20 years.
- 5) **Meetings/Task Forces/Presentations etc.**
  - a. SBURA, Tuesday, July 2 7:00 PM Billings Sports Plex, 5000 Southgate Drive.

Have a great weekend!

Substance Use CONNECT Meeting| May 10th, 2019

# SUBSTANCE USE IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

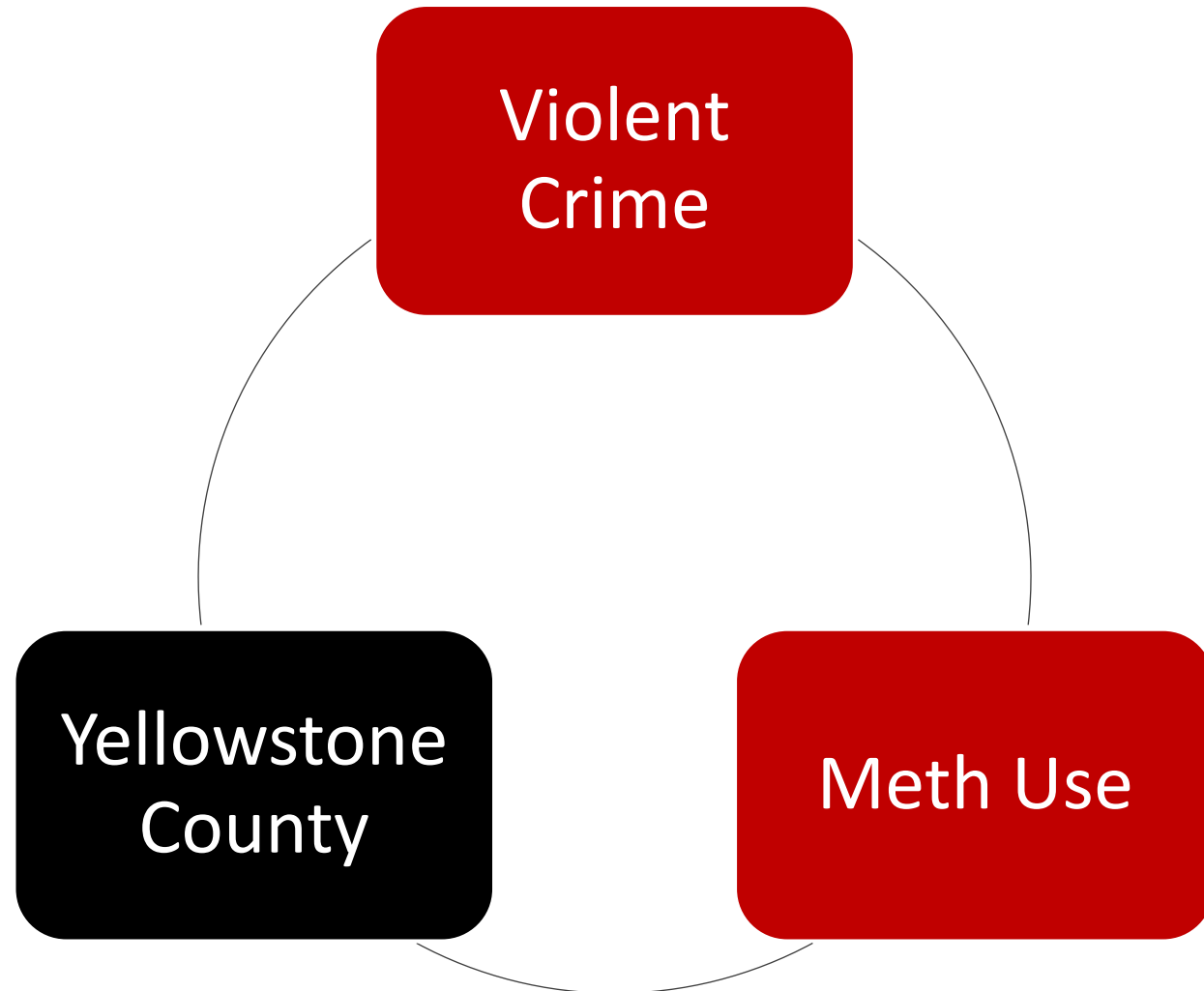
With a focus on methamphetamine related violent crime

presented by

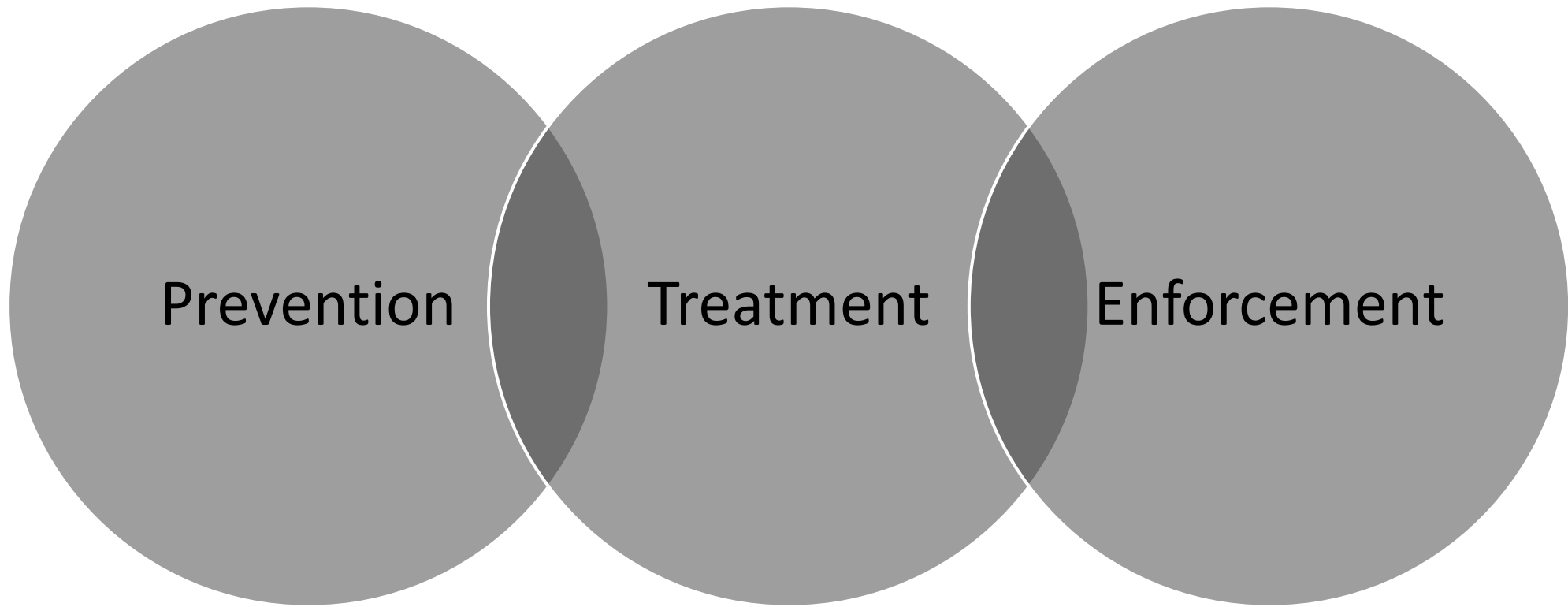
**KATIE LOVELAND MPH, MSW**

Loveland Consulting LLC

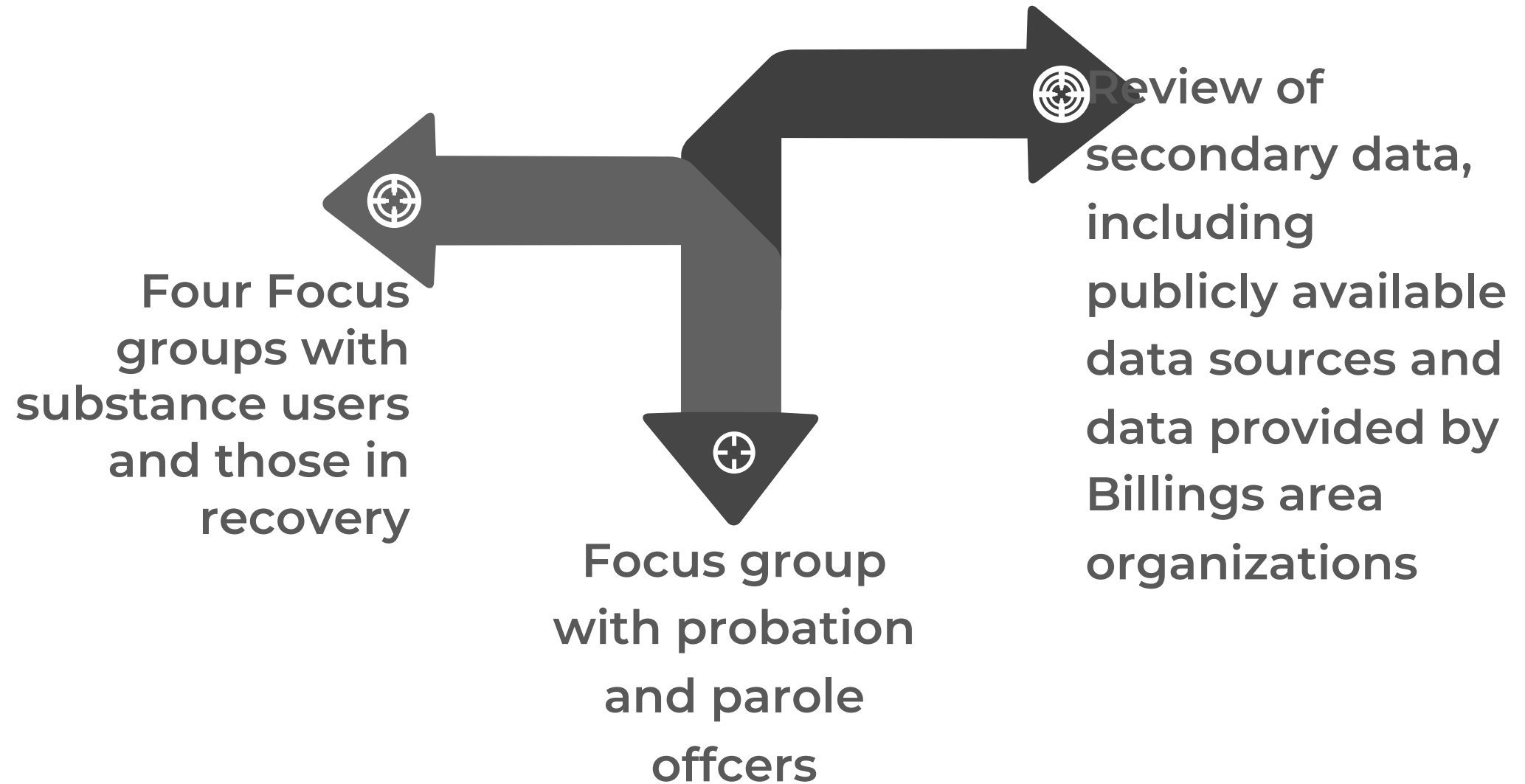
# Substance Use CONNECT



# Substance Use CONNECT



# METHODOLOGY



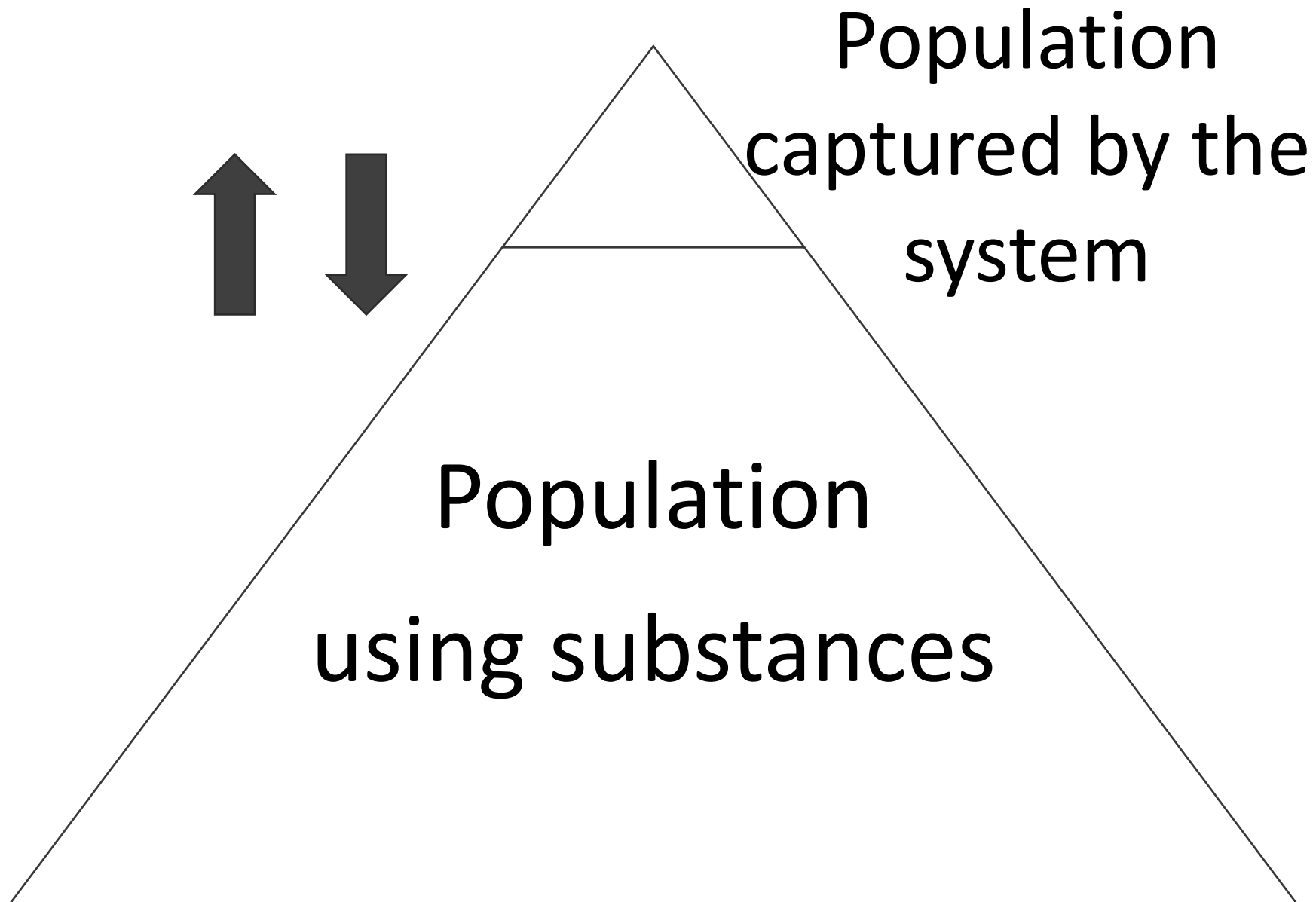
# Acknowledgements

- All organizations who provided data
- Chris Evans, Jan Begger, Lenette Kosovich, and Shelley Thomson for arranging focus groups
- Nick Fonte and Amy Trad

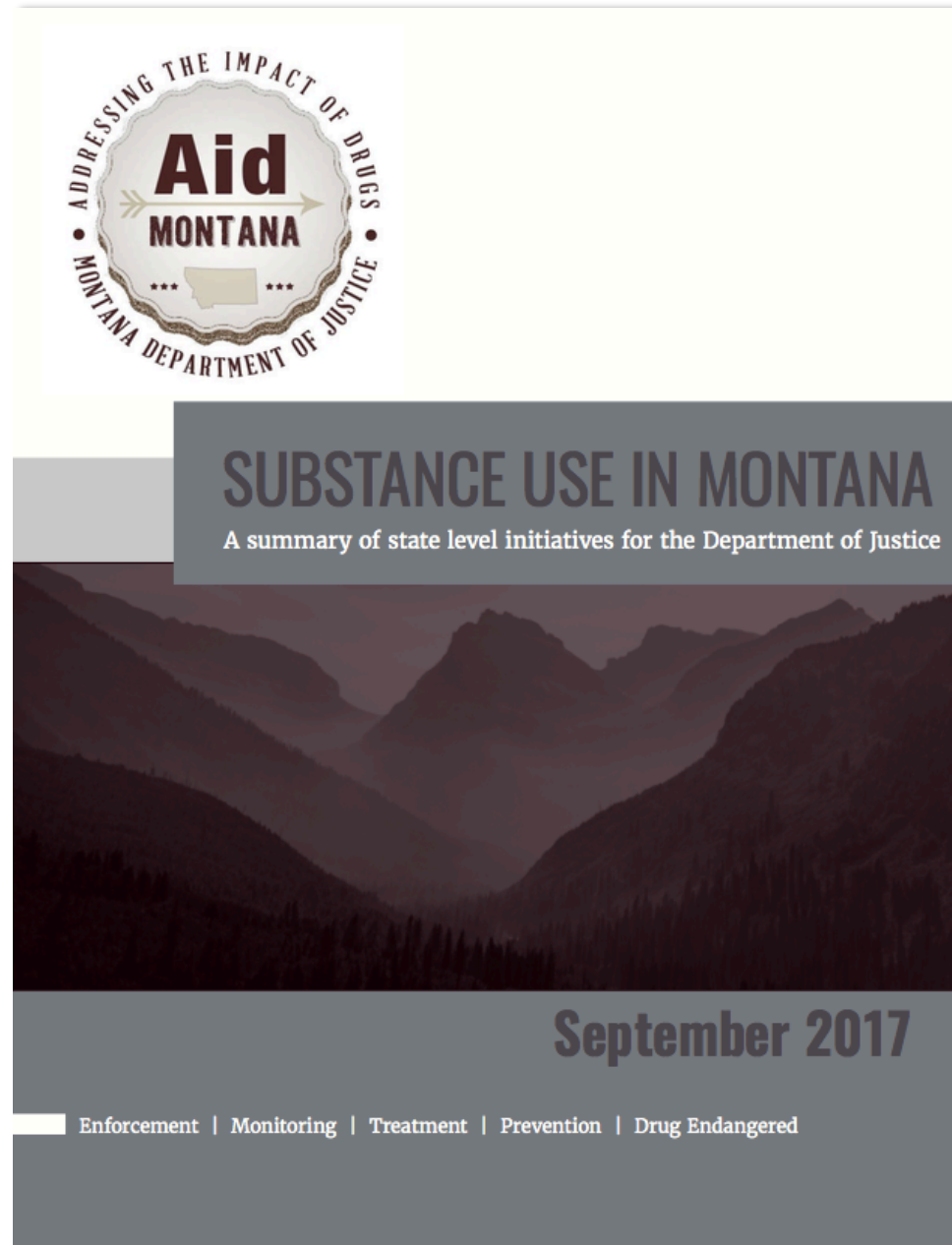


# Limitations

- Preliminary analysis-final report to be published in July- *help me with accuracy*
- Not all systems represented-*help me fill in the gaps*
- For some systems, we need to improve DATA QUALITY and CASE IDENTIFICATION
- Teasing out SYSTEMS issues versus UNDERLYING causes and rates

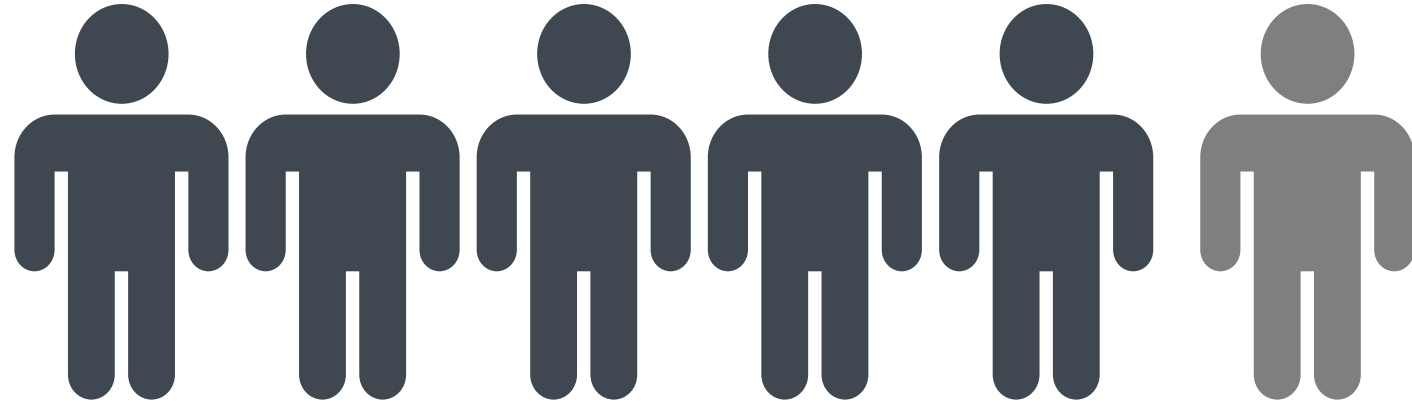


For more  
informati  
on at the  
state level





# A few stats about Yellowstone County



One out of every six  
Montanans lives in  
Yellowstone County

**Since 2010, the total  
population of Yellowstone  
County has grown**



**The American Indian  
population has grown**

**The Hispanic population has  
grown**

**9%**

**20%**

**27%**



**Living in poverty**

**Young children living in poverty**



**High school education  
or less (age 25+)**

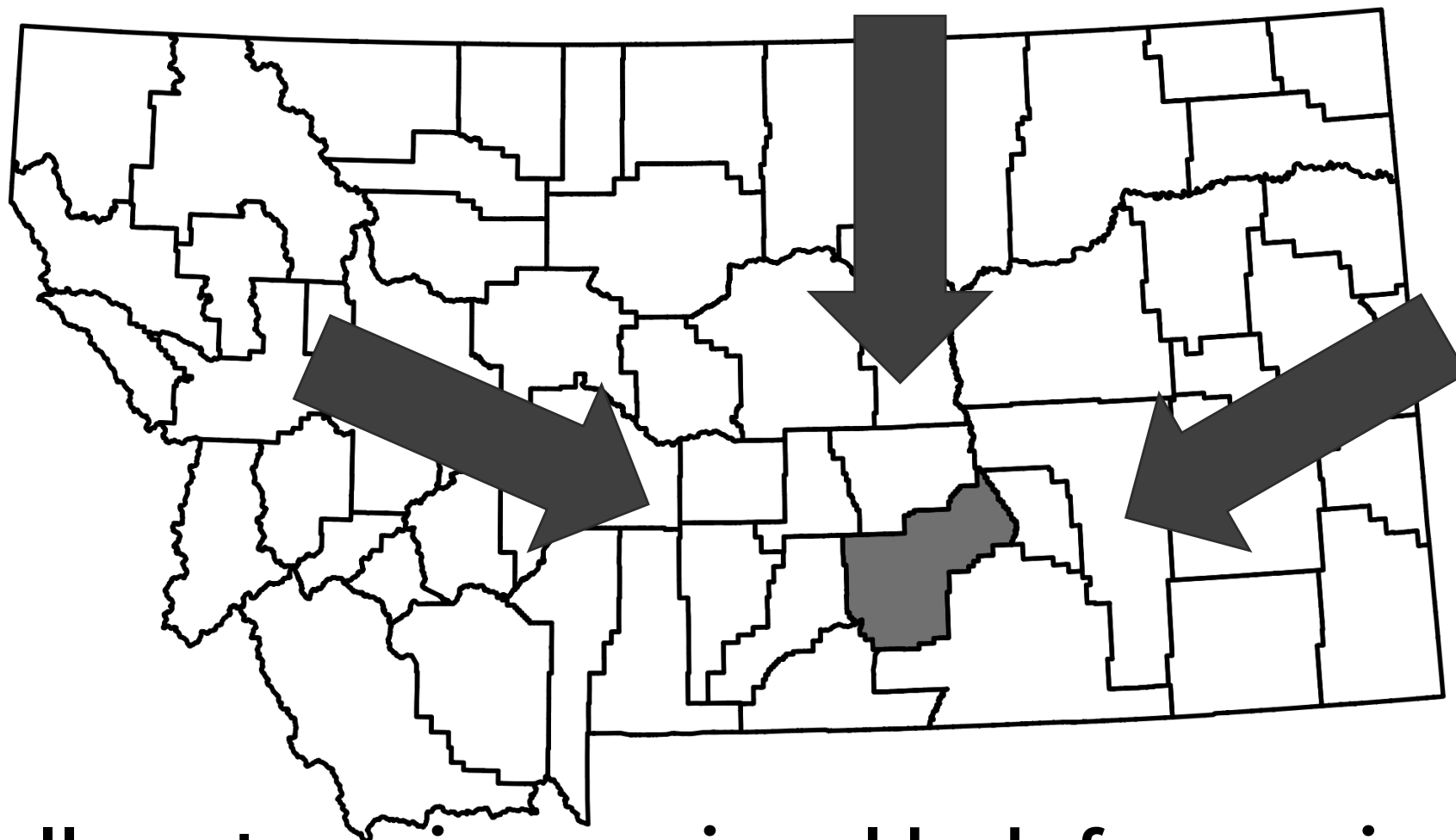
**Renters with housing cost  
burden**

**10%**

**19%**

**37%**

**45%**



**Yellowstone is a regional hub for services, but where possible, I limited my analysis to residents of Yellowstone County**



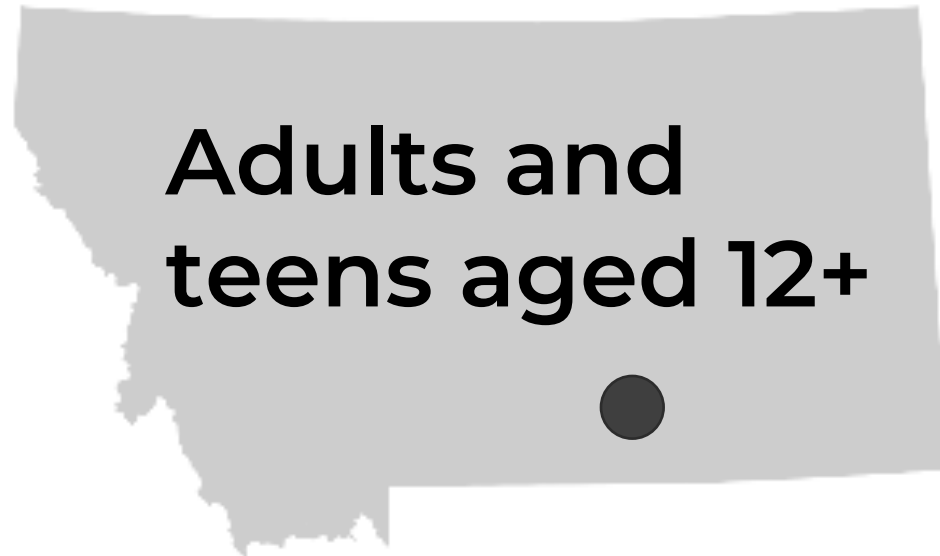


# What we know about addiction in Yellowstone County

Substance Use Disorders  
are common in our  
community

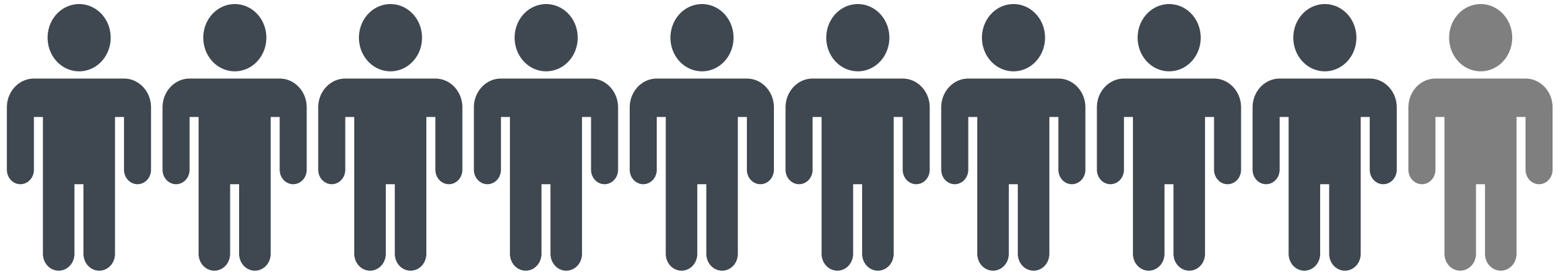
# 9,500

dependent on or  
abusing alcohol



# 4,073

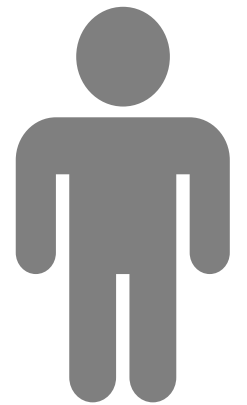
dependent on or  
abusing illicit drugs



One in ten Yellowstone  
County adults is  
dependent on or abusing  
alcohol or illicit drugs.

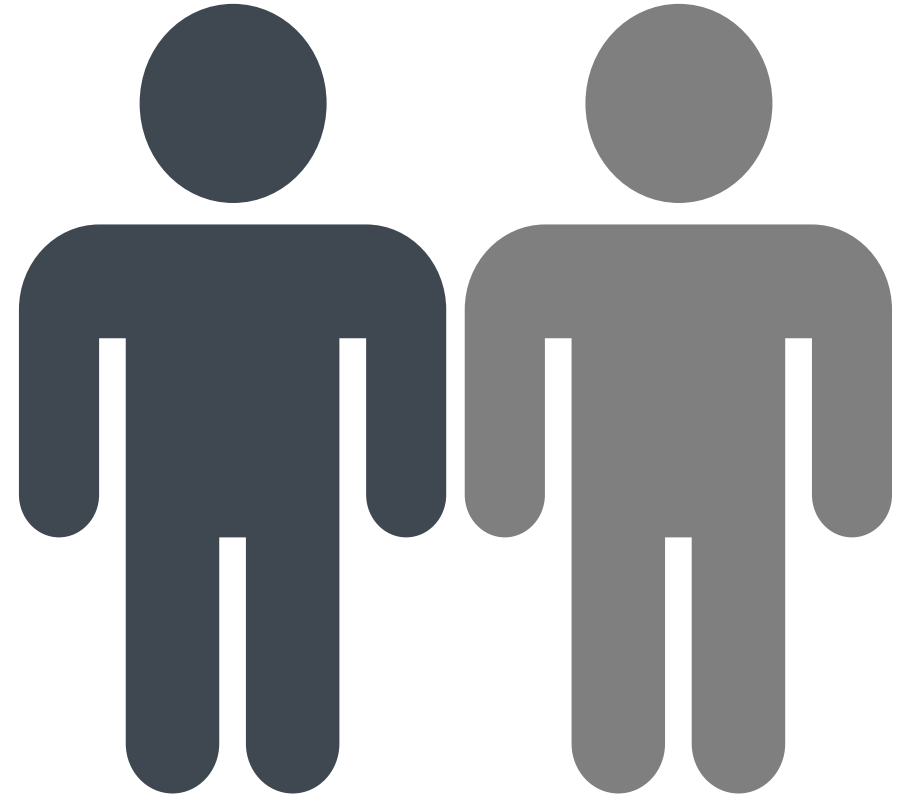
Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2015-2016

One in four  
young adults  
used illicit  
drugs in the  
last month



Nearly one in  
every two  
Yellowstone  
County  
residents says  
their life has  
been negatively  
affected by  
substance use

Source: PRC CHNA Survey 2016-2017





Nine out of every 10 health stakeholders in Yellowstone County rates substance use as a major or moderate problem.

Source: PRC CHNA Survey 2016-2017

Alcohol misuse and abuse  
is the most common form  
of SUD



Yellowstone  
County's rates  
of alcohol use,  
binge drinking,  
and heavy  
drinking are all  
higher than  
those in the US

## CURRENT USE

57%



54%



## BINGE DRINKING

19%



16%



## HEAVY DRINKING

8%



6%

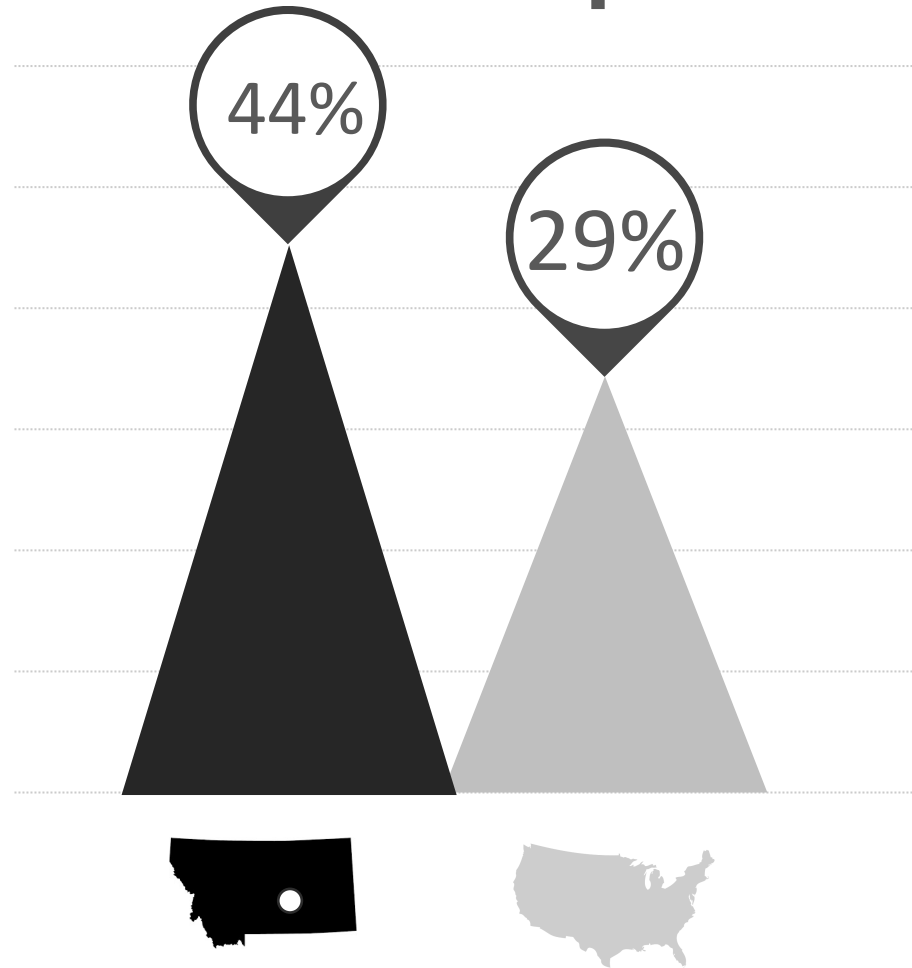


Two out of every five high school students reports alcohol use in the last month

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

Three out of every five of students who report drinking also engage in binge drinking behavior.

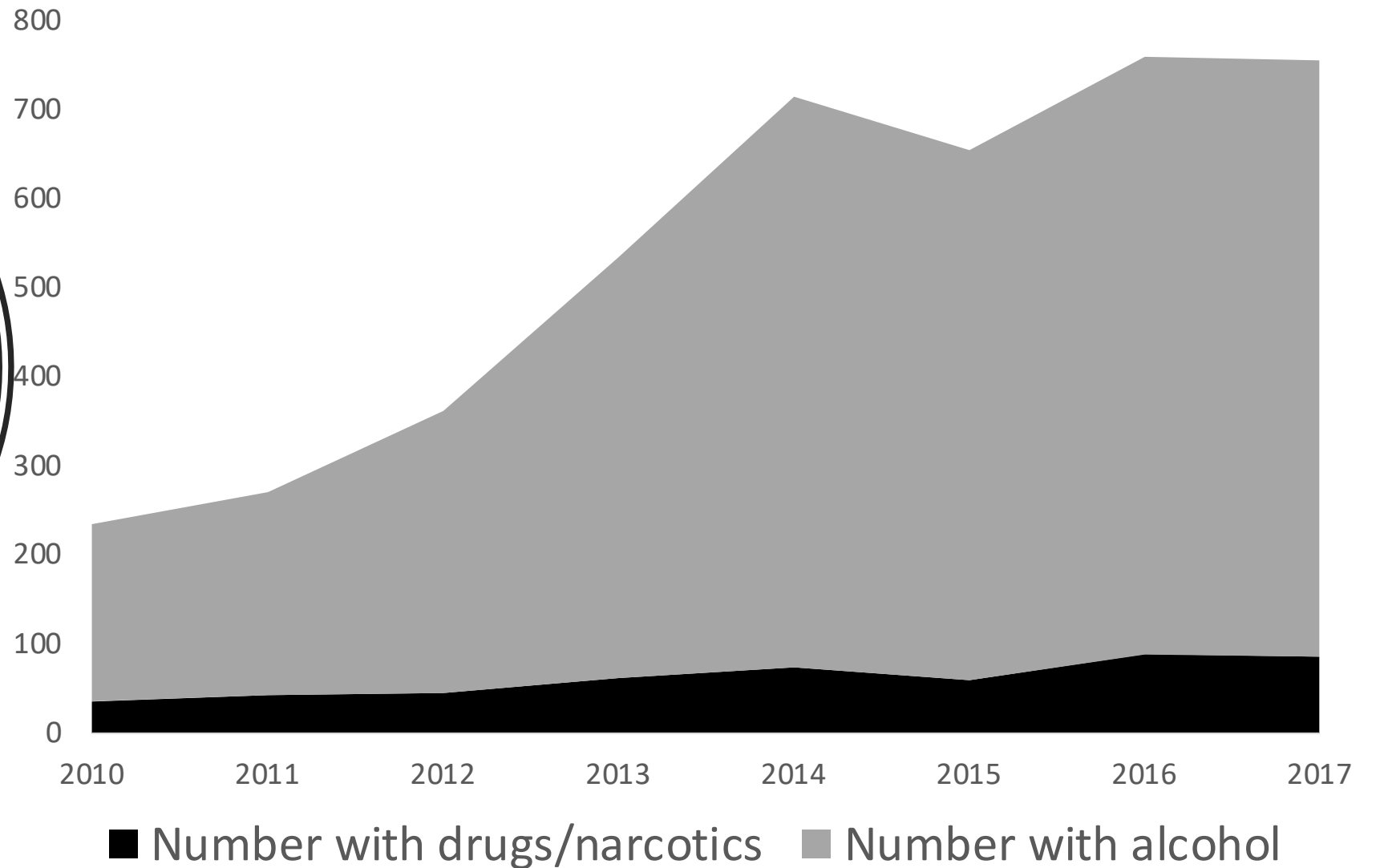
# Percent of traffic fatalities that are alcohol impaired



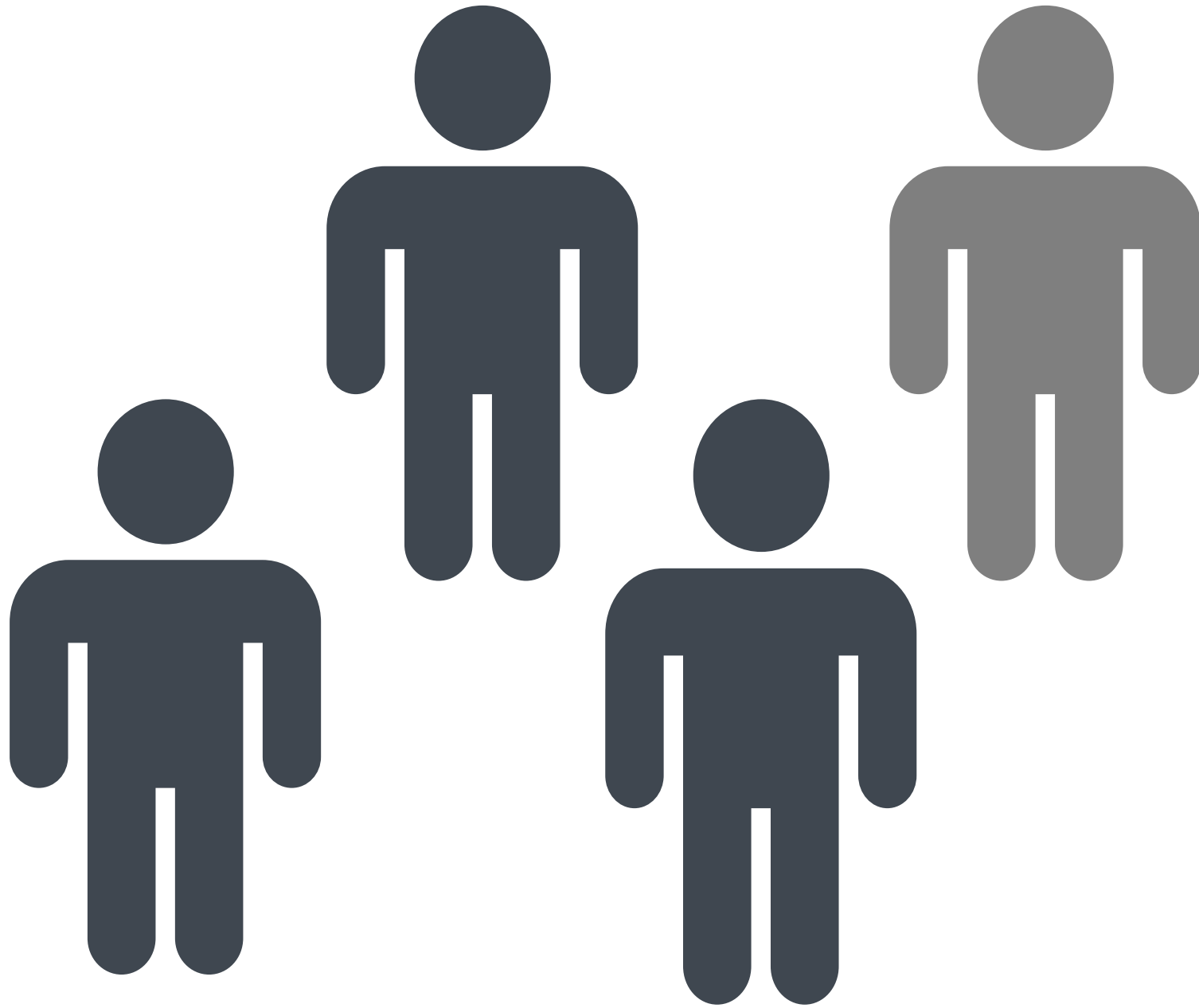
Alcohol is a key driver of Yellowstone County's traffic fatality rate which is almost twice that of the US

DUI Offenses are sharply up in Yellowstone County-217% increase 2010-2017

Number of DUIs in Yellowstone County, 2010-2018



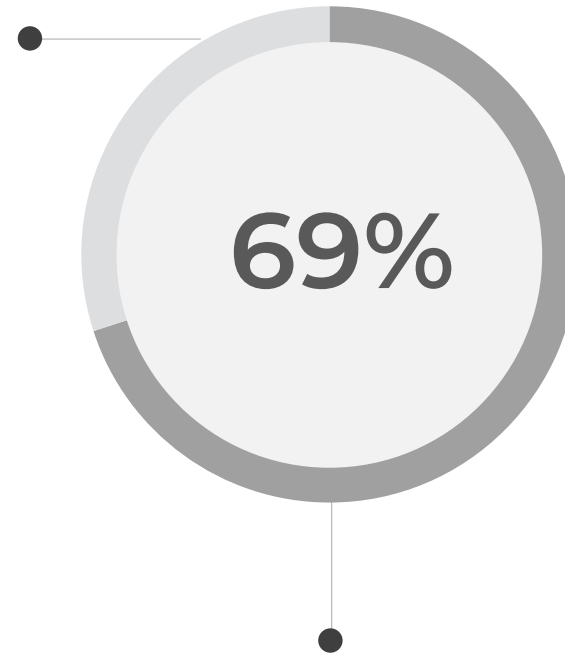
Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug.



One in four  
high school  
students  
and young  
adults used  
marijuana  
in the last  
month.

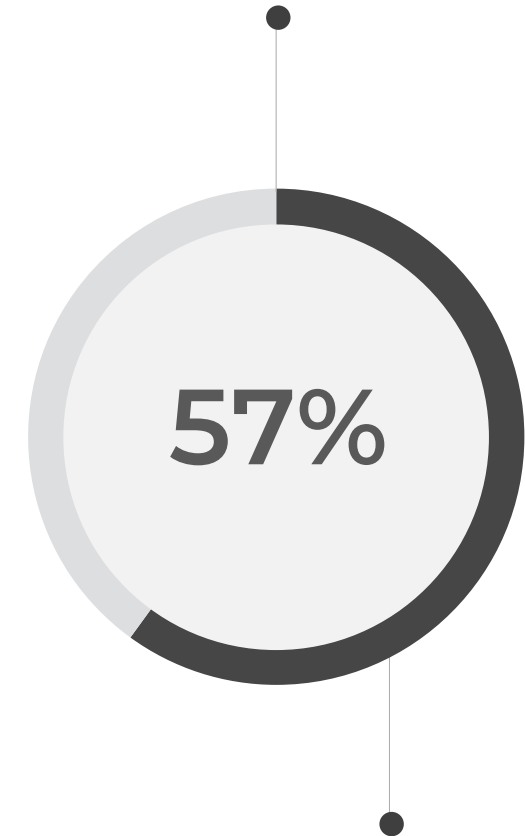
Marijuana  
constitutes  
the majority  
of criminal  
drug  
violations in  
Montana

1748 of 2539 violations



Year 2005

Year 2015



2256 of 3959 violations

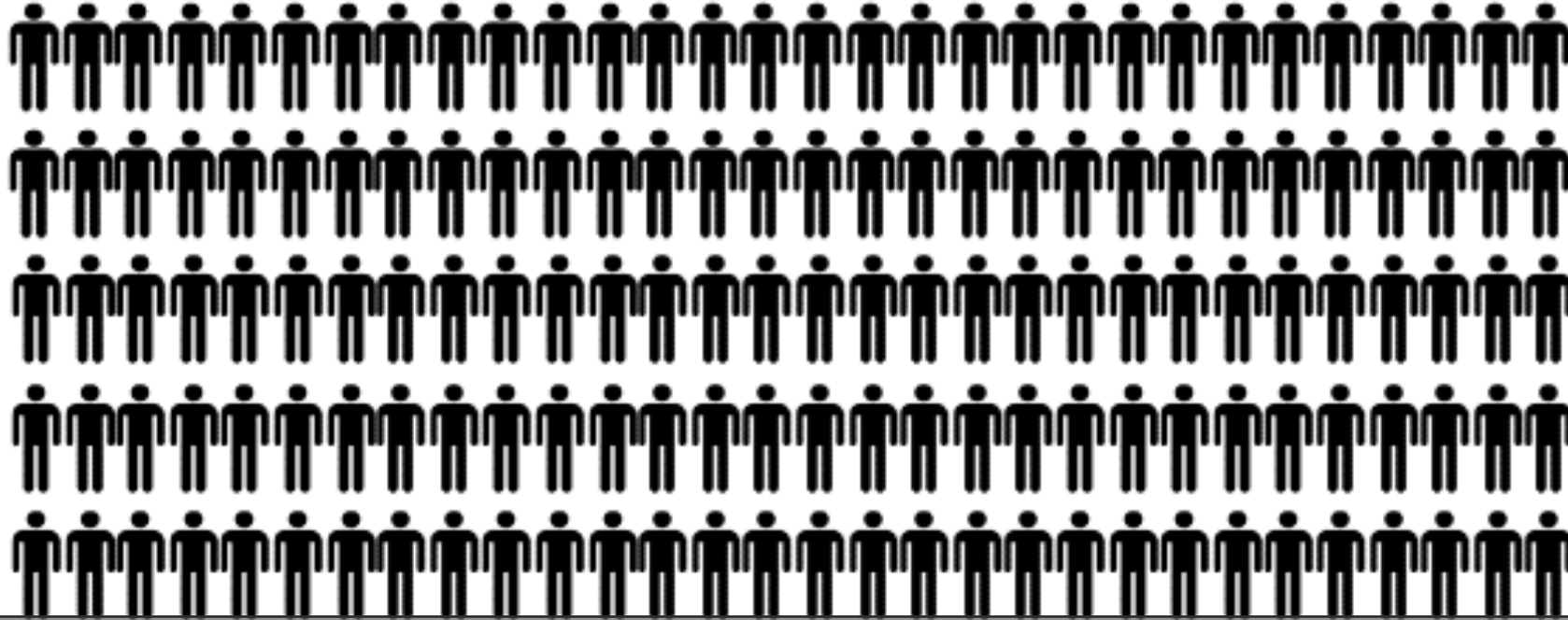
Opioids are the most  
deadly illicit drug used  
in Yellowstone County.



Yellowstone  
County has  
74 opioid  
prescriptions  
for every 100  
residents



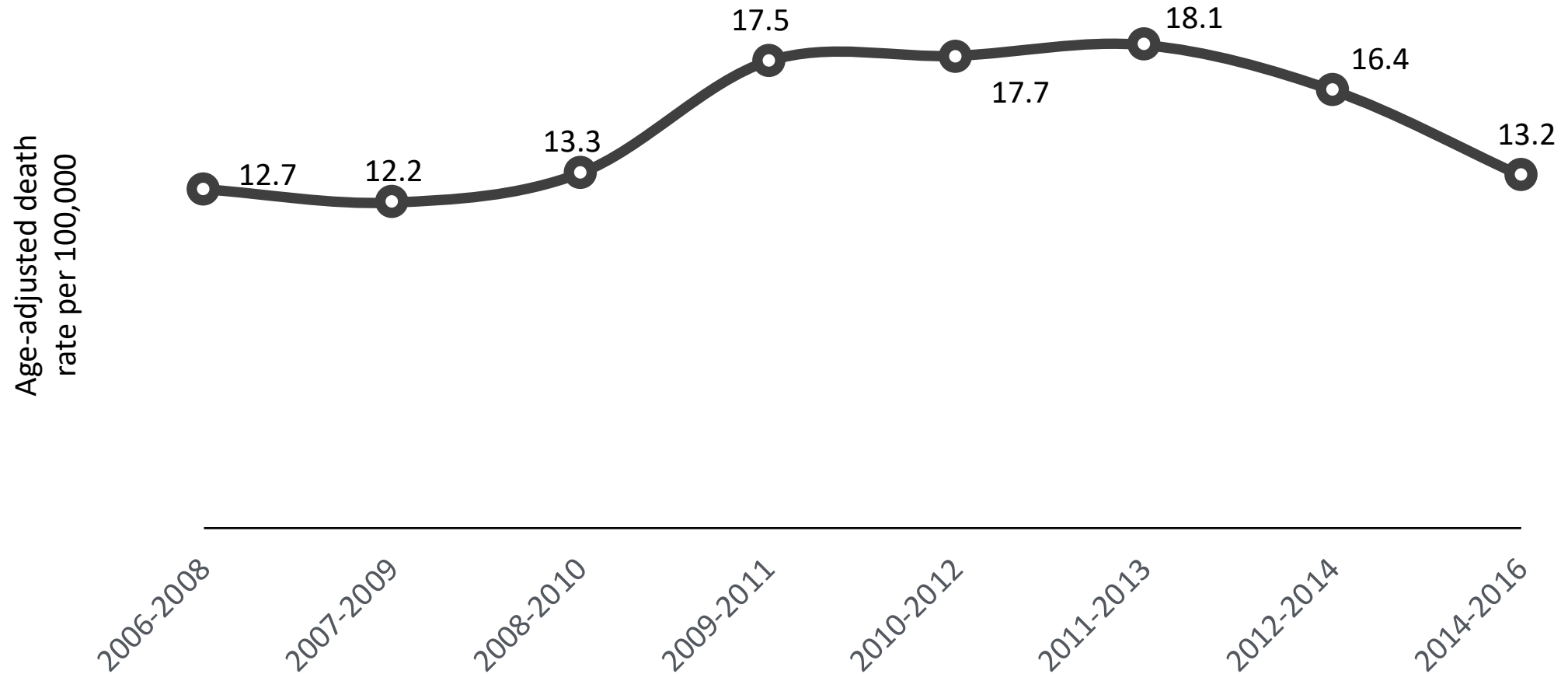
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



About 40% died of  
opioid overdose.

240 people  
died from  
drug  
overdose  
in  
Yellowstone  
County from  
2008-2018.

# The drug overdose death rate in Yellowstone County has not risen as sharply as in the US in recent years



Source: Montana Vital Statistics

Prescription  
opioid abuse  
as a drug of  
choice is  
down in  
Yellowstone  
County

Source: Rimrock Annual Report, 2018

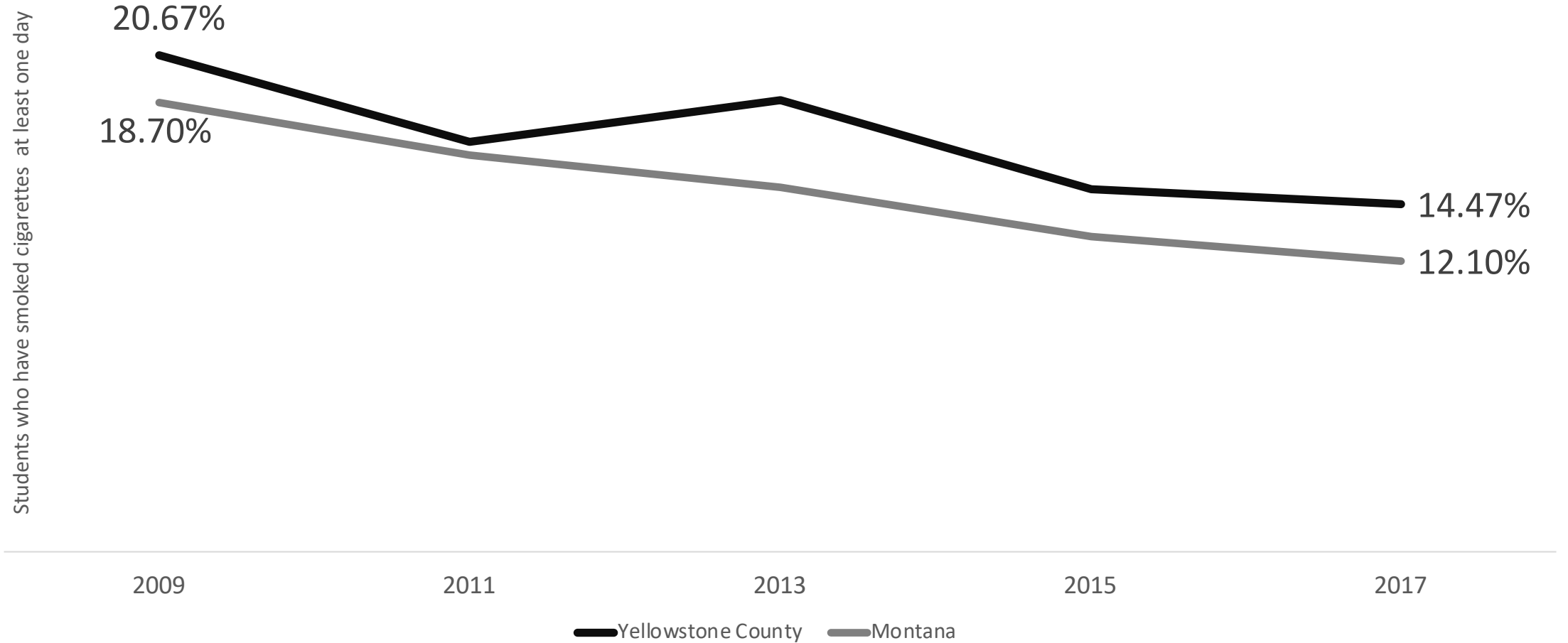
prescribed to  
you” was the  
#4 drug of  
choice for  
Rimrock  
clients in  
2016 and the  
#6 in 2017  
and #7 in

Seeing a  
slight rise in  
heroin use,  
but meth  
still  
dominates

DRUG USE AMONG YOUTH  
IS DOWN\*, THOUGH  
THERE ARE STILL HIGH  
RISK GROUPS

(\*EXCEPT FOR MARIJUANA)

# High School Students: 30 Day Cigarette Use



Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

## High School Students: 30 Day Electronic Vape Use

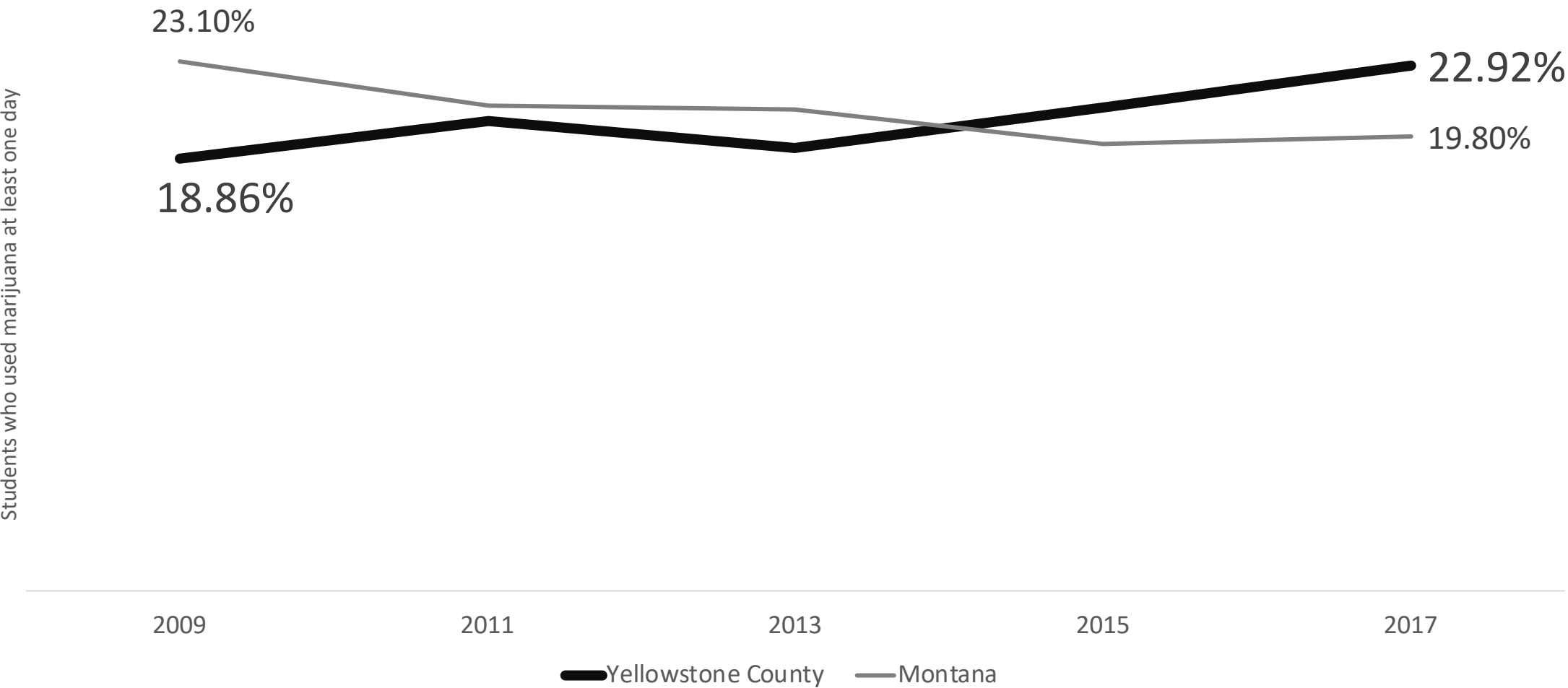
Students who used an electronic vape at least one day



Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

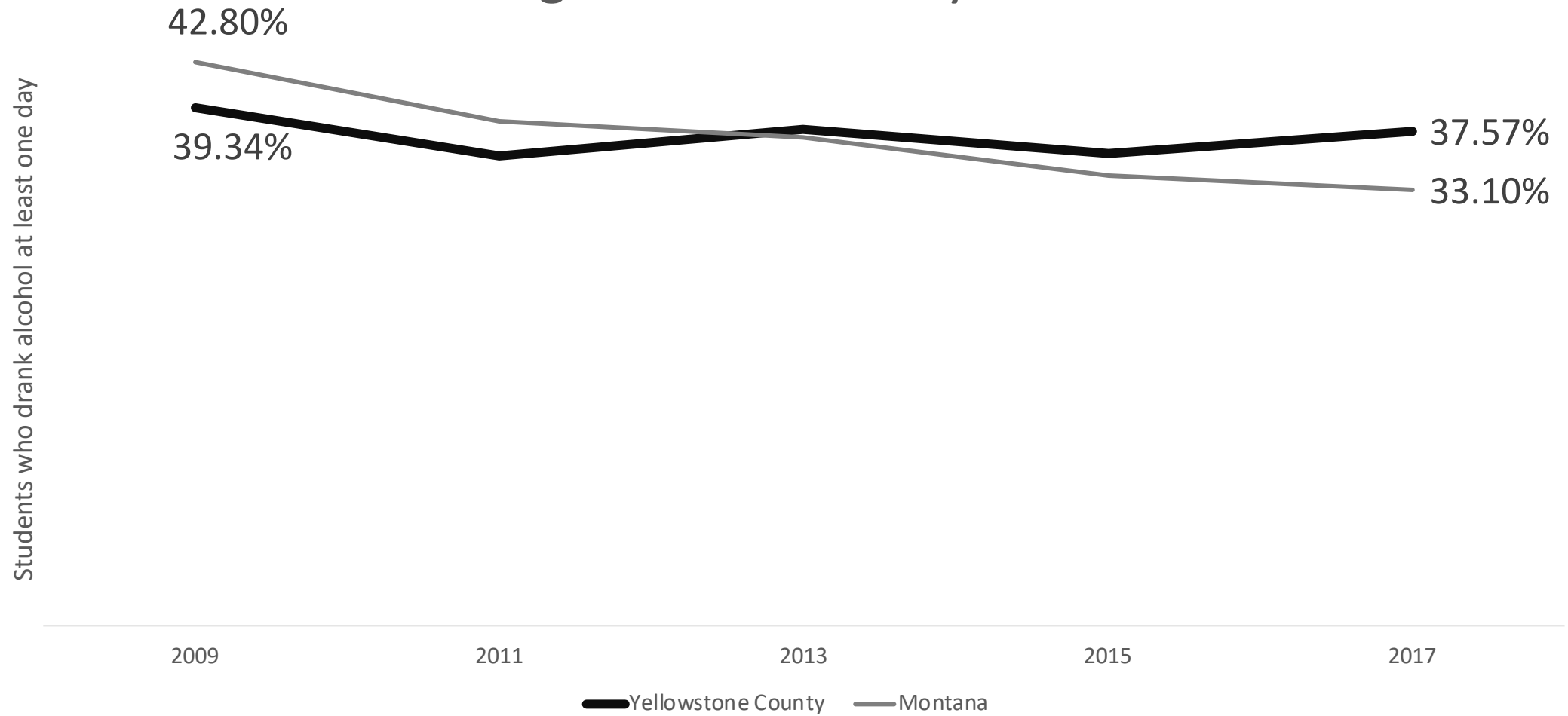


# High School Students: 30 Day Marijuana

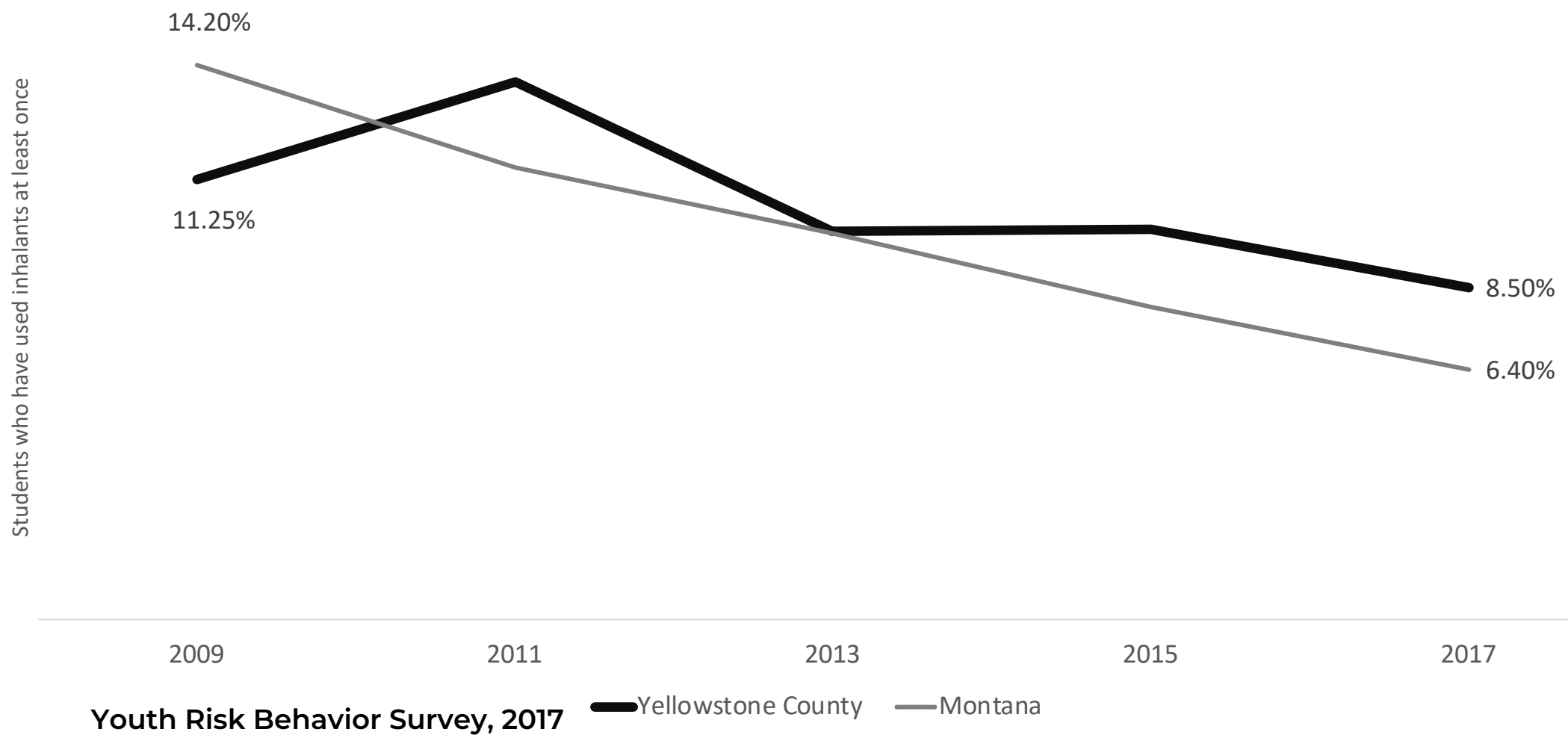


Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

## High School: 30 Day Alcohol Use

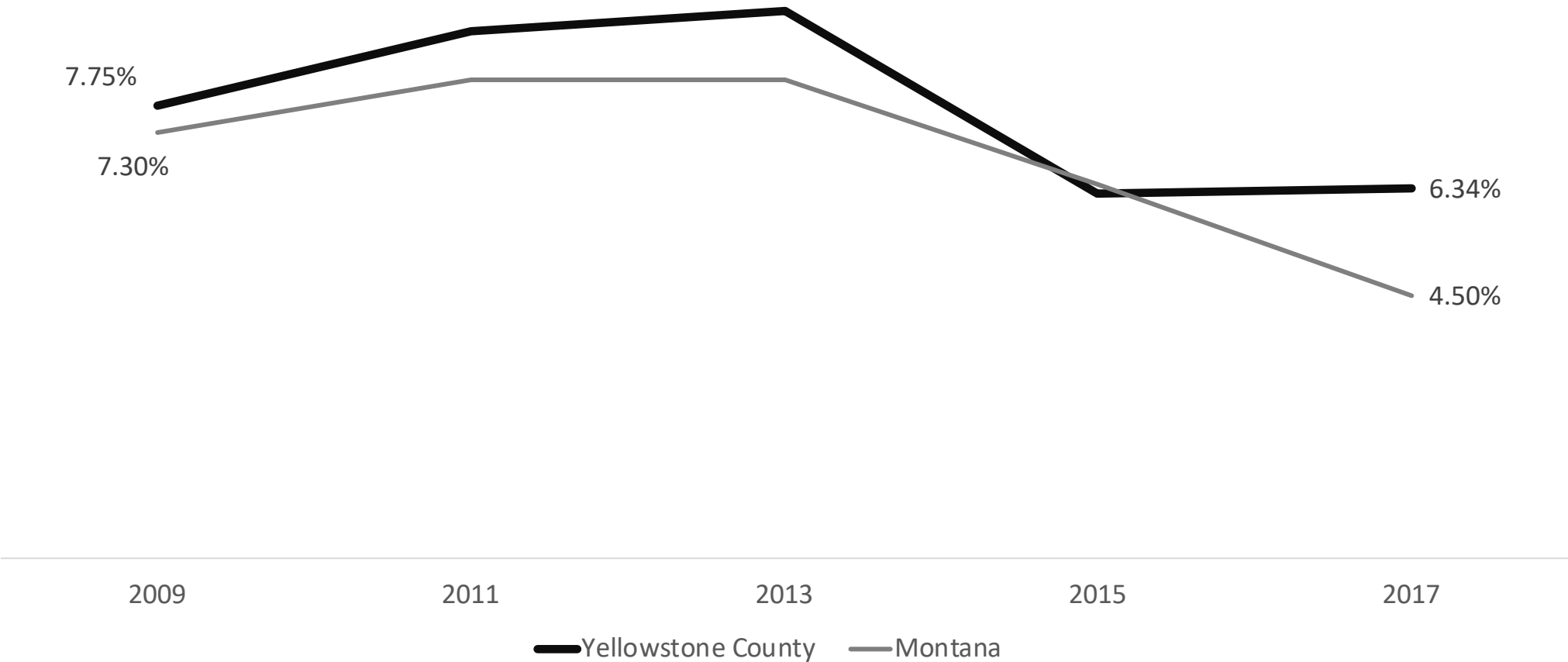


# High School Students: Lifetime Inhalants Use

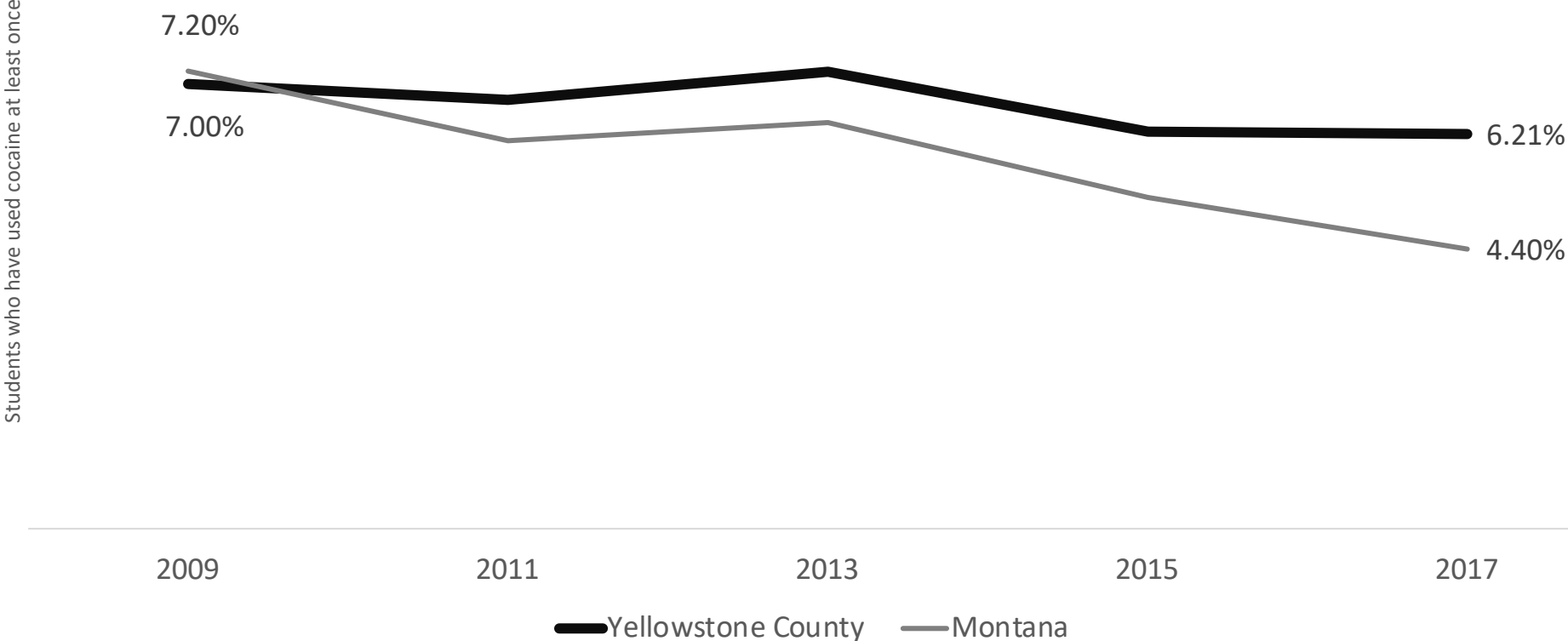


# High School Students: Lifetime Ecstasy Use

Students who have used ecstasy at least once



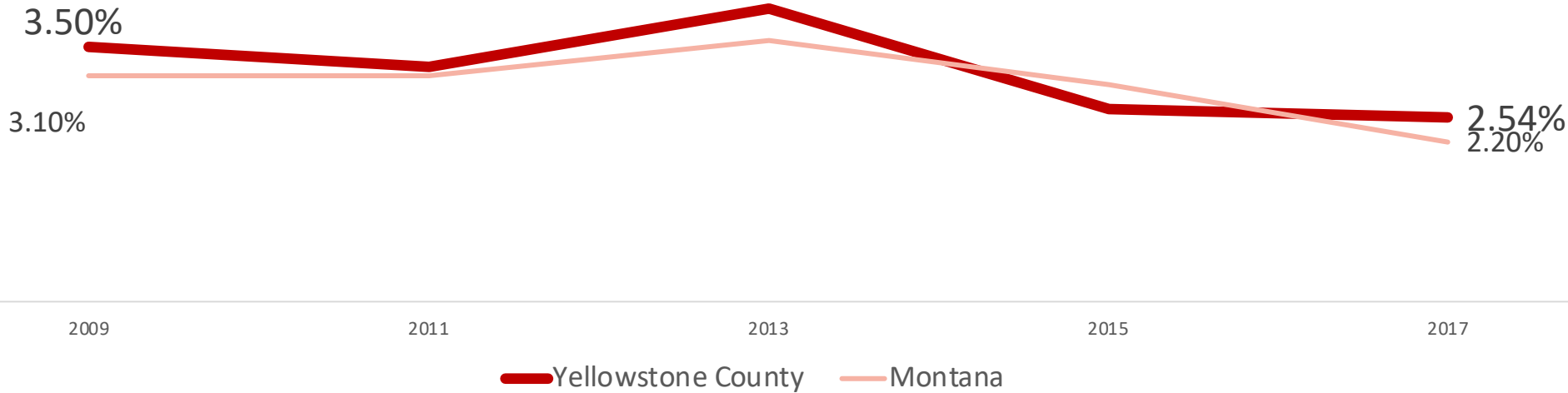
# High School Students: Lifetime Cocaine Use



Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

# High School Students: Lifetime Methamphetamine Use

Students who have used meth at least once



Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

# High School Student: Lifetime Heroin Use

Students who have used heroin at least once

3.00%

3.34%

2.04%

1.70%

2009

2011

2013

2015

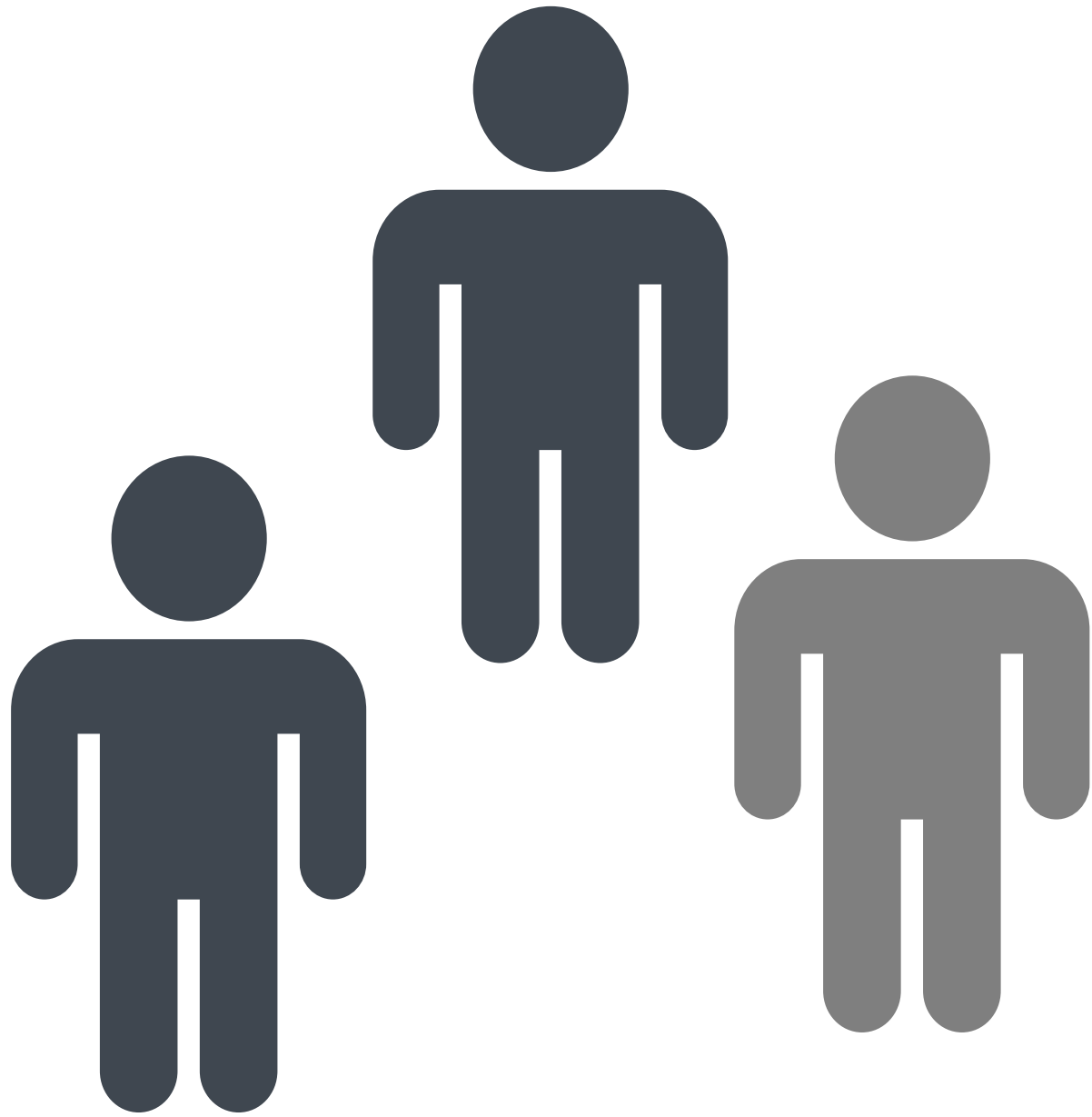
2017

Yellowstone County Montana

Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2017

There is a high-risk minority of teens with easy access to drugs and family members or friends who use

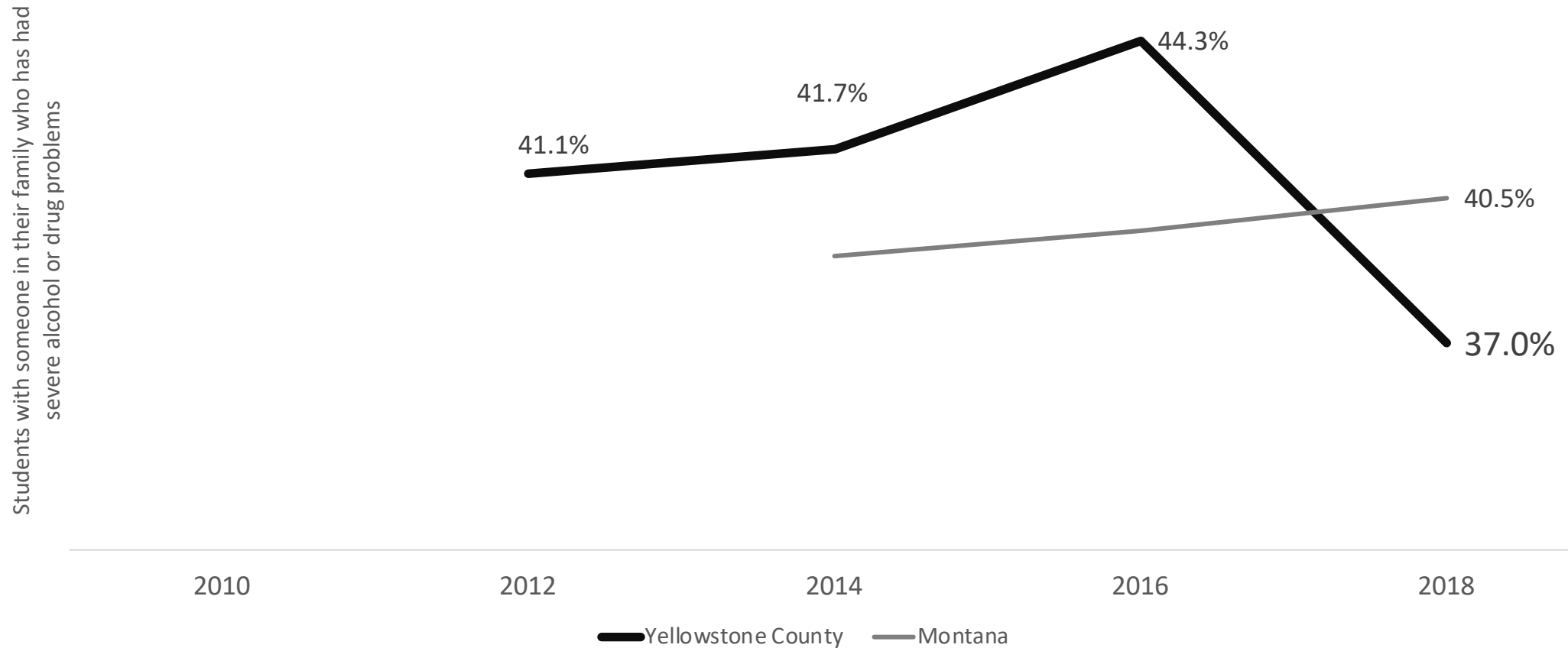


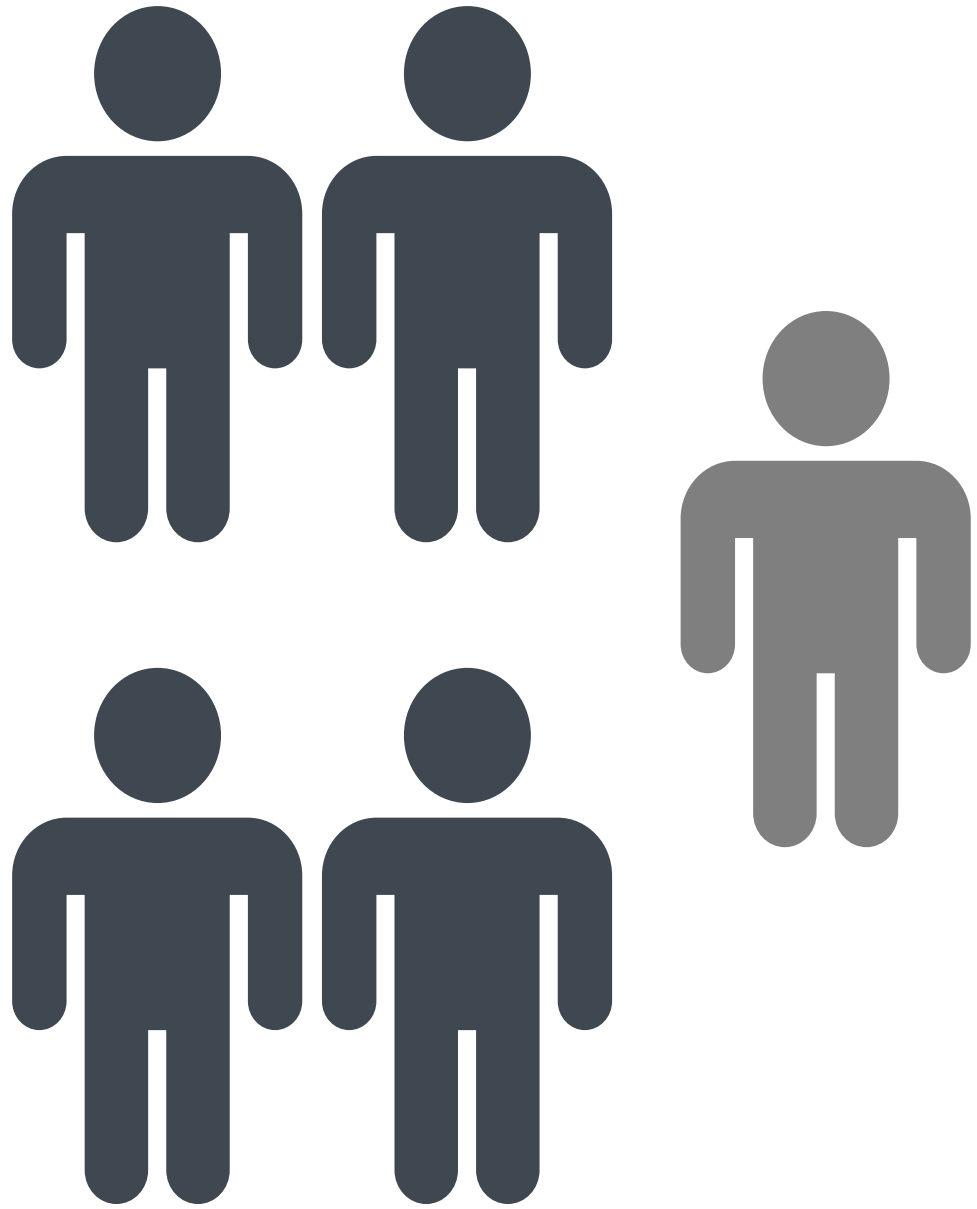


One in three high school students personally knows an adult who has used marijuana, cocaine or other drugs in the last year.

Montana Prevention Needs Assessment, 2018, Grades 8, 10 and 12

# More than one in three teens indicates that someone in their family has severe alcohol or drugs problems

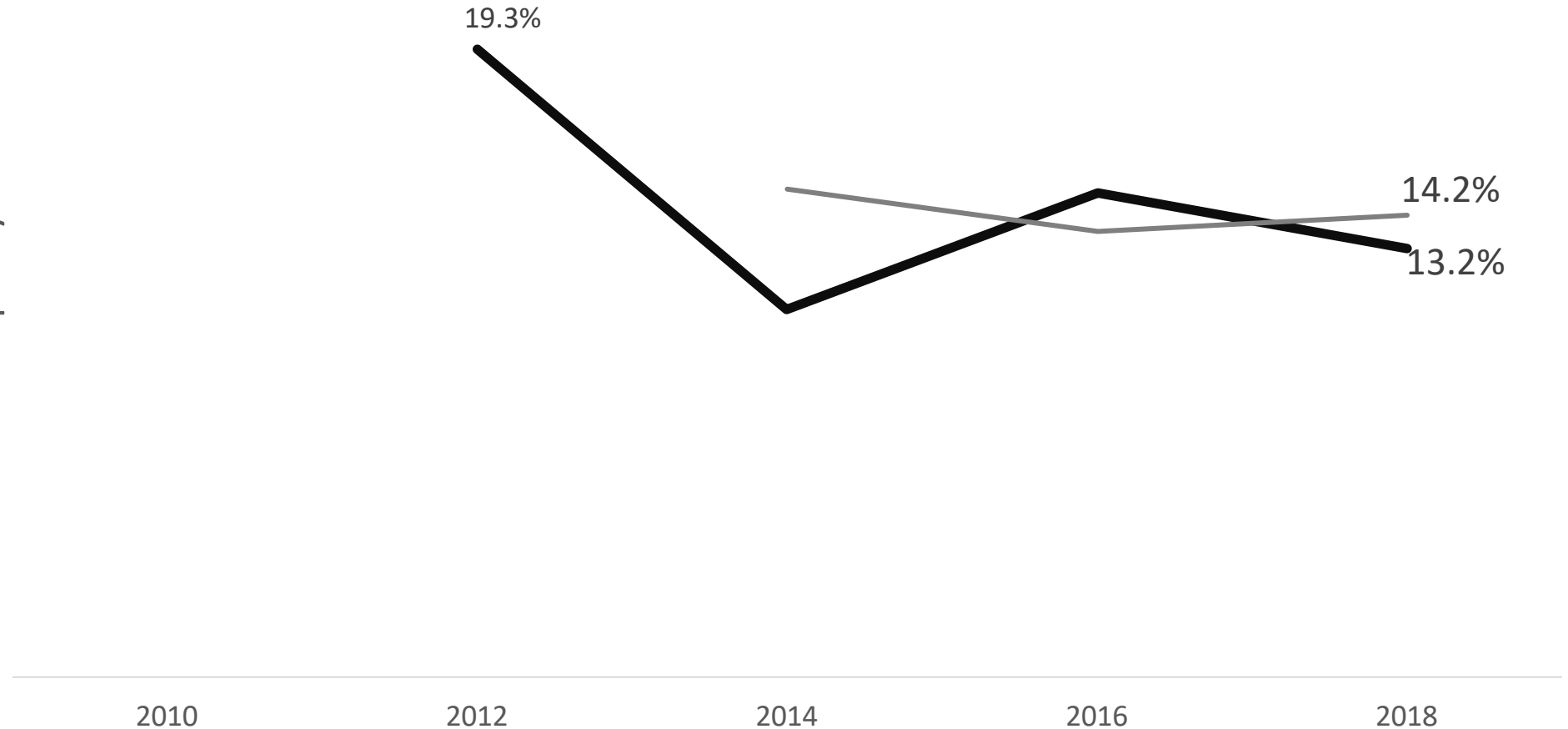




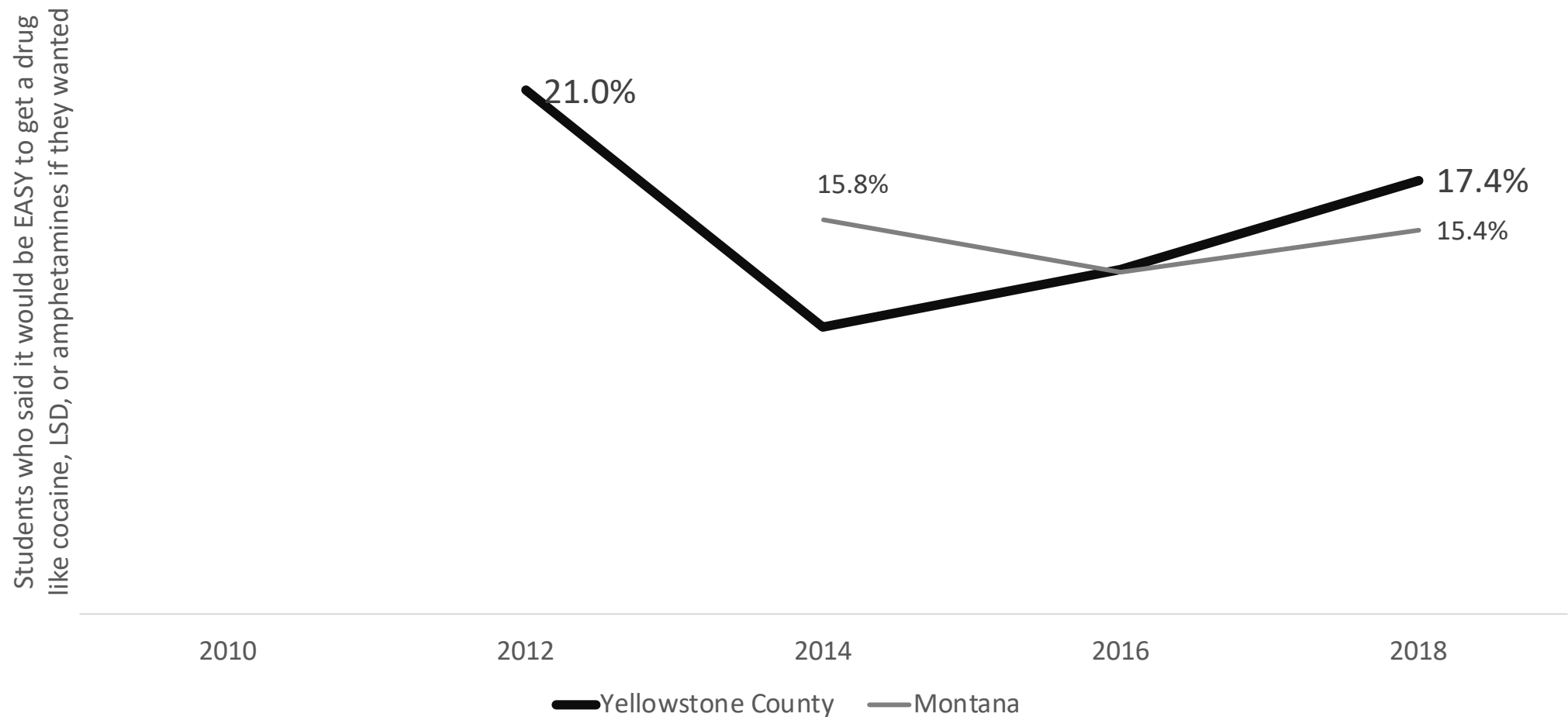
One in five teens  
personally knows  
at least one adult  
who has dealt or  
sold drugs in the  
past year.

13% of teens have a close friend who has used meth, cocaine or other illegal drugs in the past year

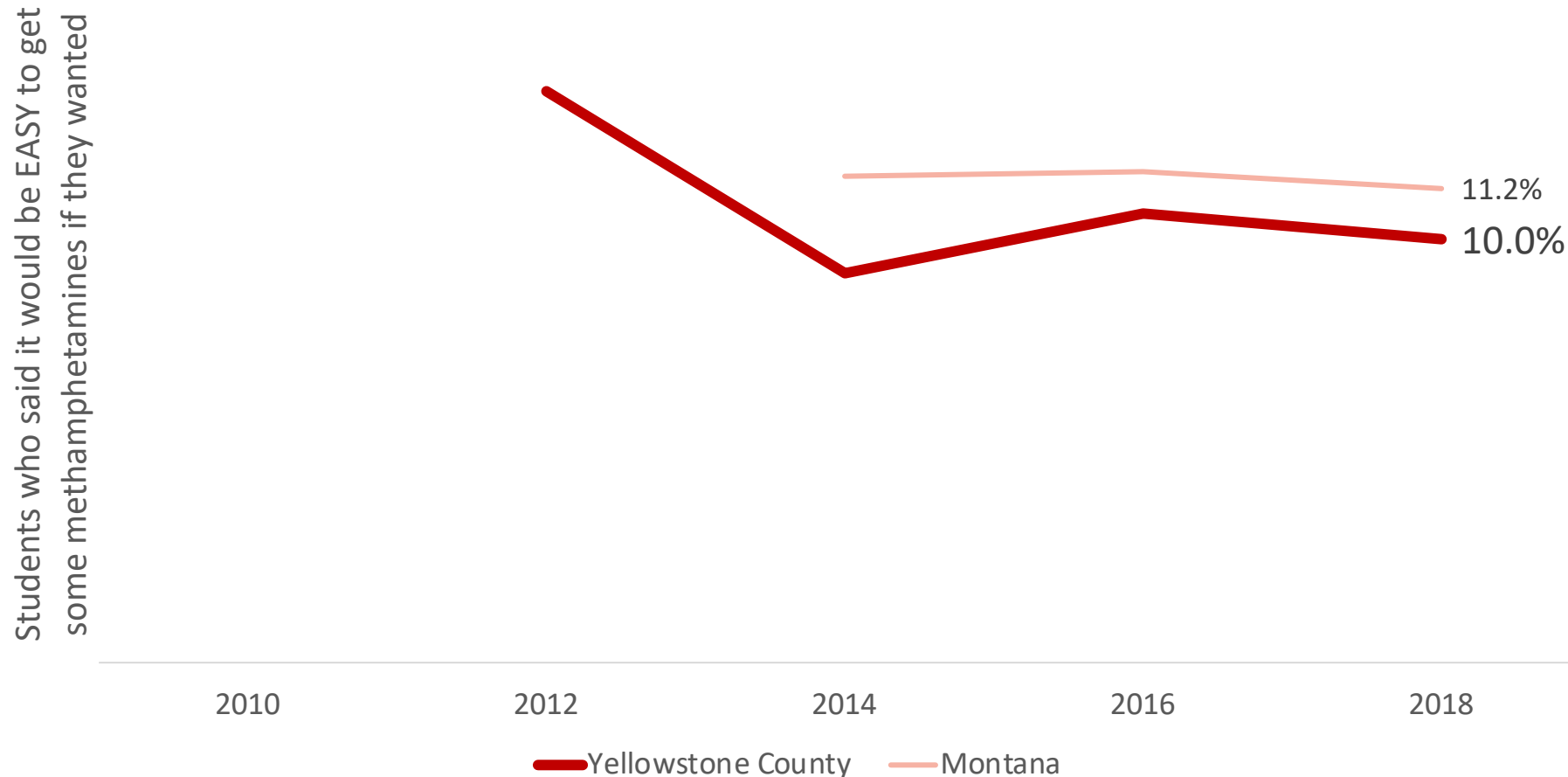
Students who had at least one of their four closest friends use LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, or other illegal drugs in the past year



# One in six teens reports that it would be easy to get a illicit drugs if they wanted to



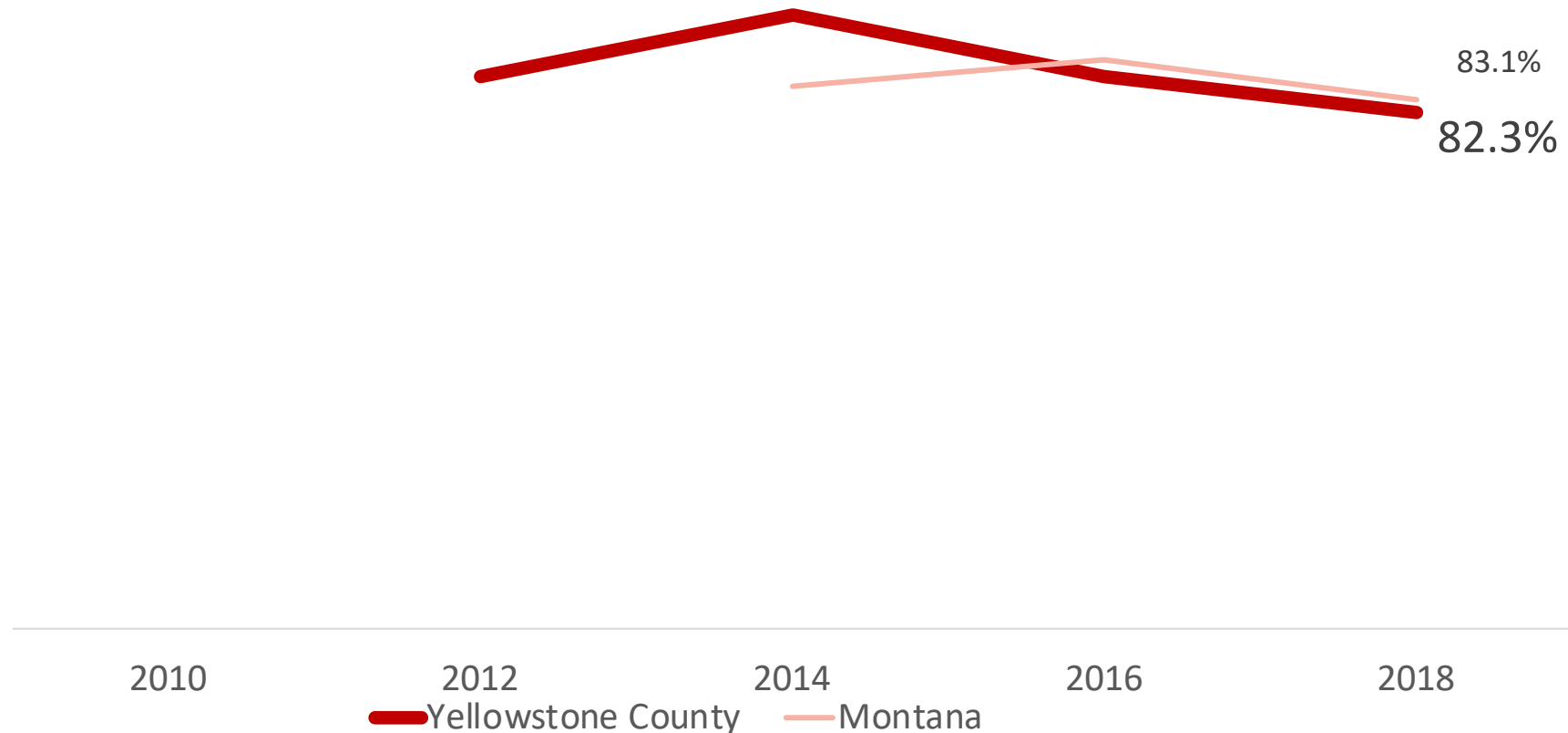
# One in ten teens reports that it would be easy to get meth if they wanted to



Montana Prevention Needs Assessment, 2018, Grades 8, 10 and 12

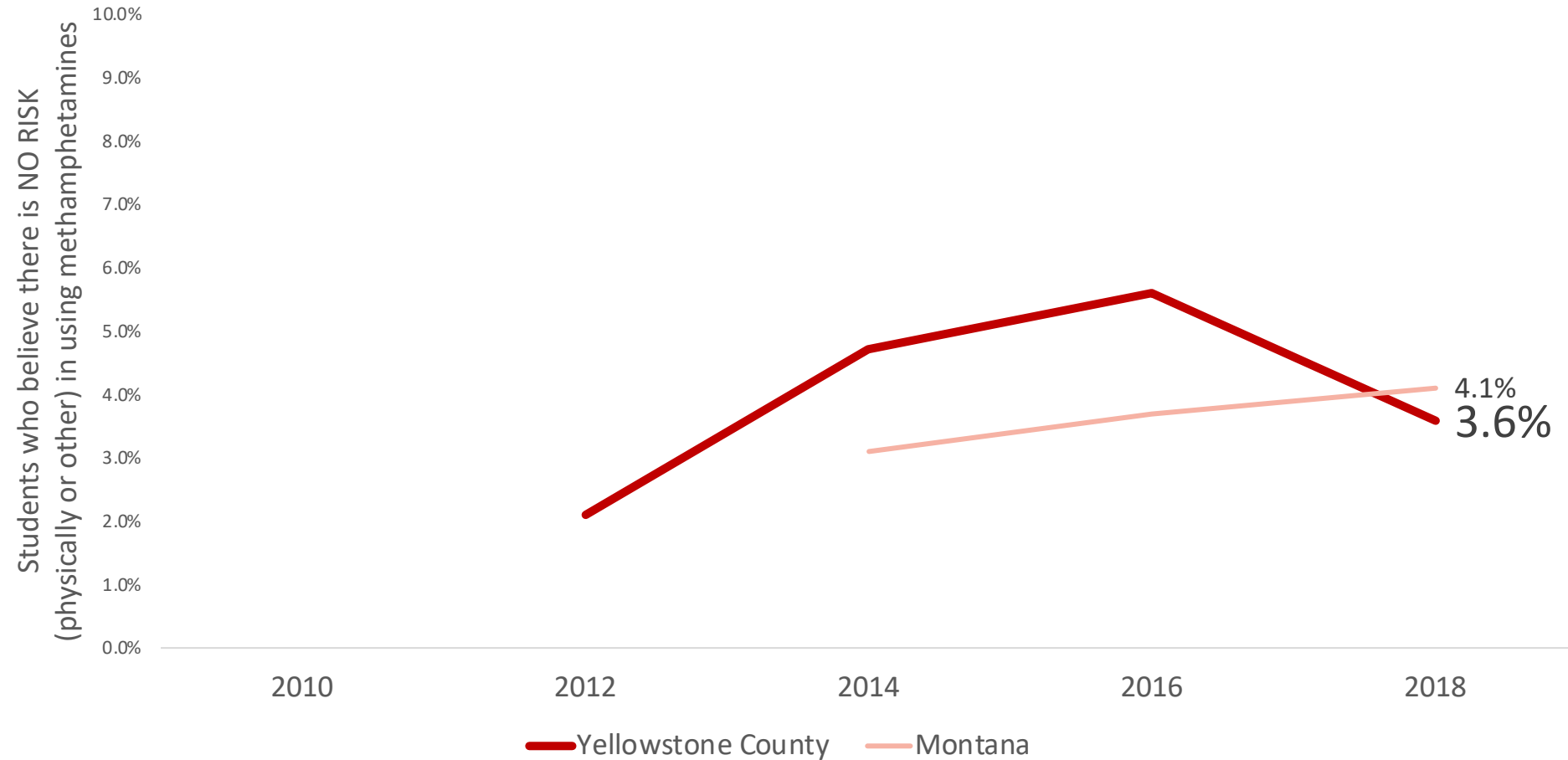
About one in five teens does not believe it is very wrong for someone their age to use meth, cocaine or other illegal drugs

Students who believe it is VERY WRONG for someone their age to use LSD, cocaine, amphetamines or another illegal drug



Montana Prevention Needs Assessment, 2018, Grades 8, 10 and 12

# Most teens perceive that there are risks related to using meth

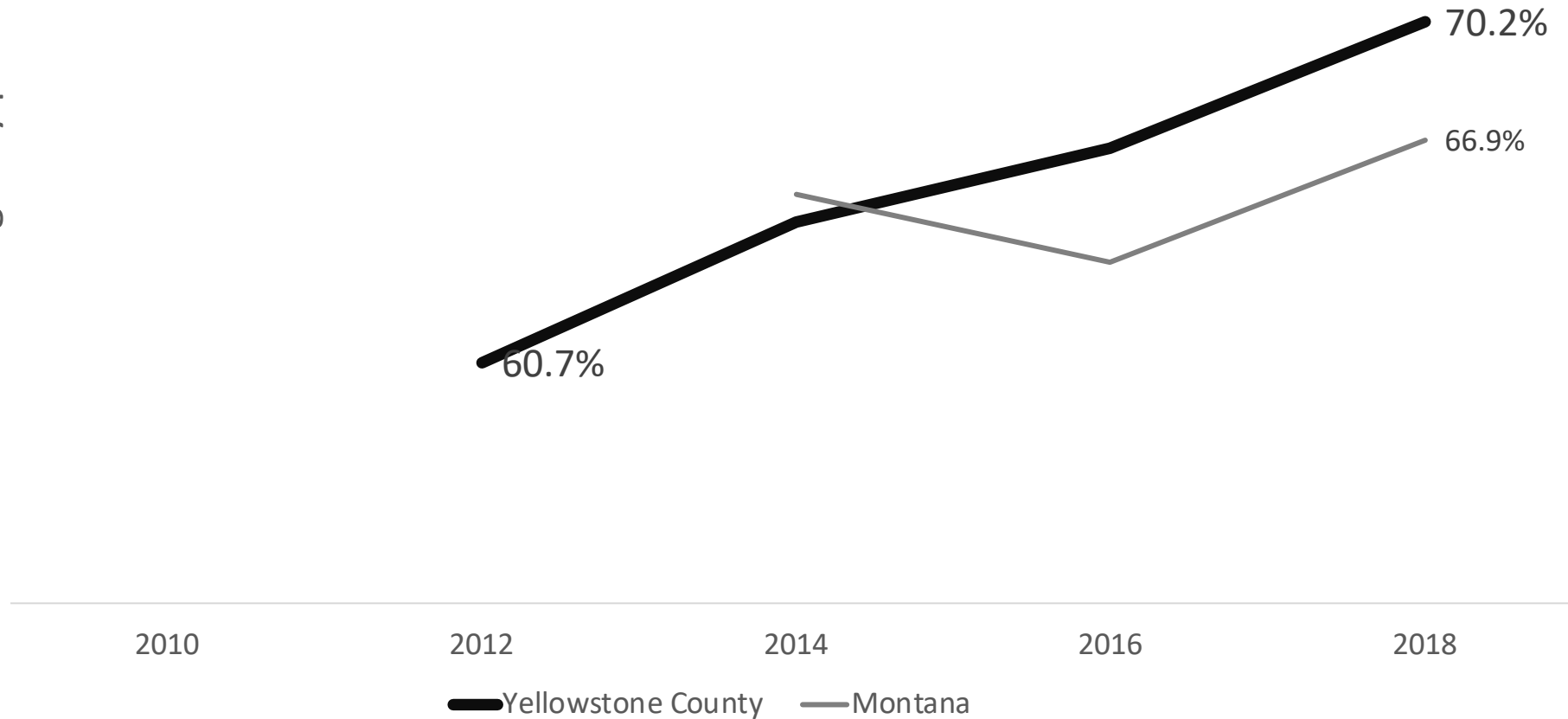


Montana Prevention Needs Assessment, 2018, Grades 8, 10 and 12



# Most teens do not believe a kid using marijuana in their neighborhood would be caught by law enforcement

Students who said a kid smoking marijuana in their neighborhood would NOT be caught by police



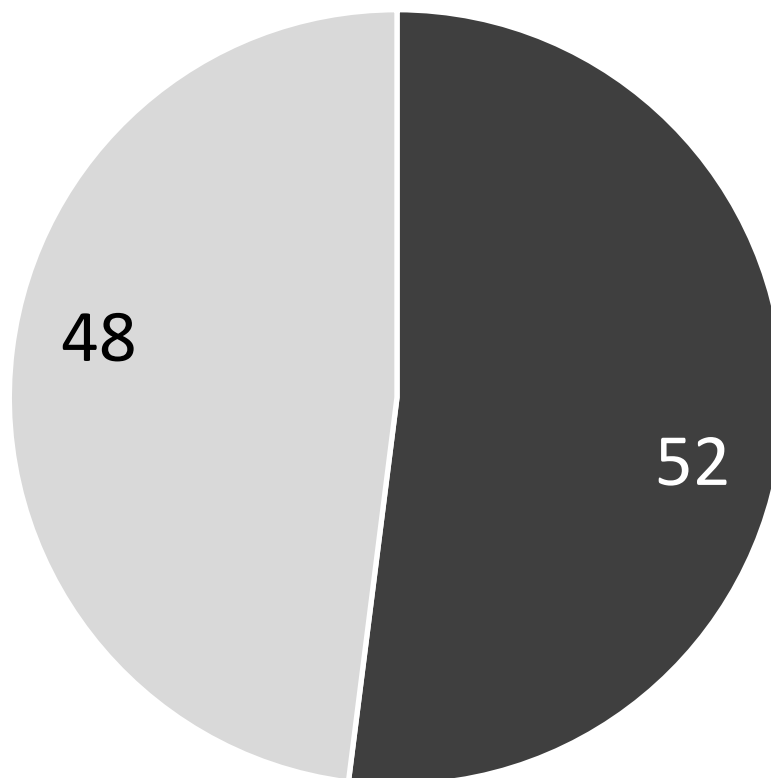
Substance use disorder is a  
CHILDHOOD onset disease  
with an etiology rooted in  
trauma.

In one focus group with individuals in treatment in Billings, all participants except one indicated their first use was between 10-12 years old.

According to SAMHSA  
***“trauma is an almost  
universal experience of  
people with mental and  
substance use disorders.”***

Source: Correlates of Lifetime Exposure to One or More Potentially Traumatic Events and Subsequent Posttraumatic Stress among Adults in the  
United States: Results from the Mental Health Surveillance Study, 2008-2012

# More than half of all children in Montana have one or more Adverse Childhood Experience

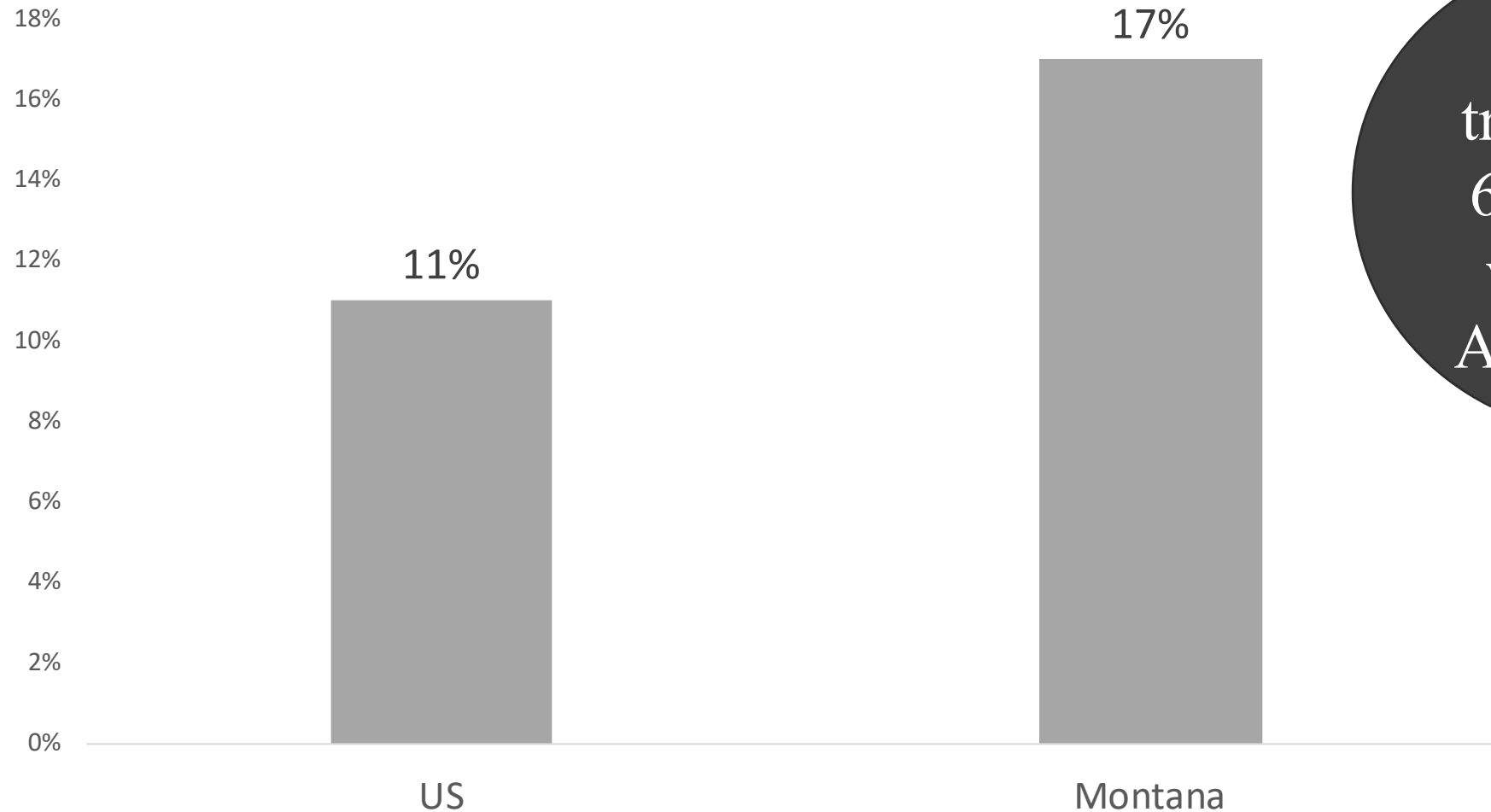


This translates to 19,000 youth with at least one ACE in YC

Source: National Survey of Children's Health, 2014

■ At least one ACE    ■ No ACEs

# Children in Montana are more likely to have three or more ACEs than children in the US



This translates to 6300 youth with three ACEs in YC

Source: National Survey of Children's Health, 2014

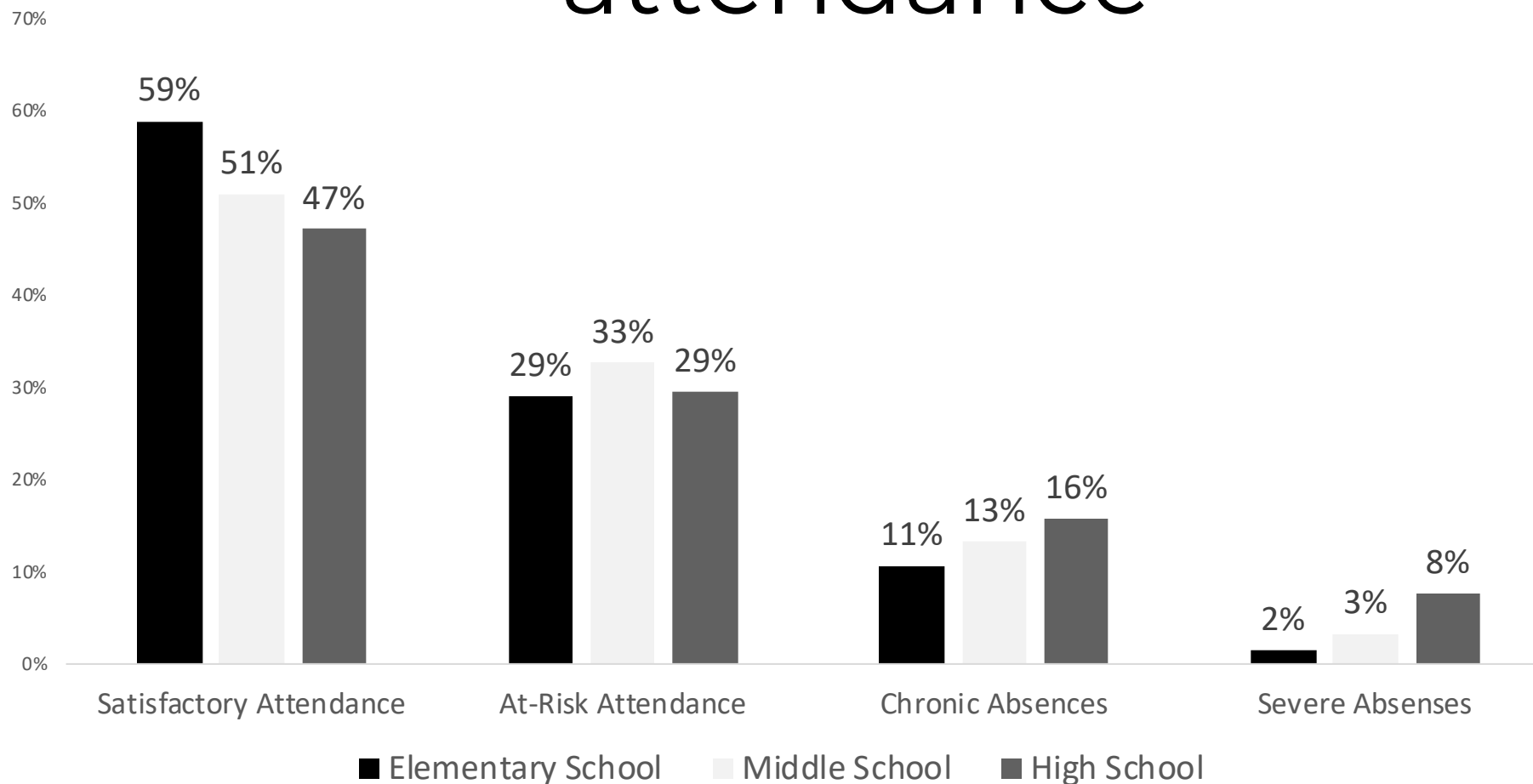
# Focus group feedback on prevention

- Many people that are screened for drug court had a history of trauma and many were impoverished when they were young, they never had a chance to make their lives bigger and better.
- Individuals grow up with seeing their parents, siblings and family members utilize drugs. It is just normal for them and easy to access.
- Young people do not understand the consequences of drug use, and don't take it seriously.
- Alcohol is what really starts people using in a lot of cases too, people start getting high because they start getting high when they're drunk

We have tools to identify  
high risk youth in need of  
intervention in real time

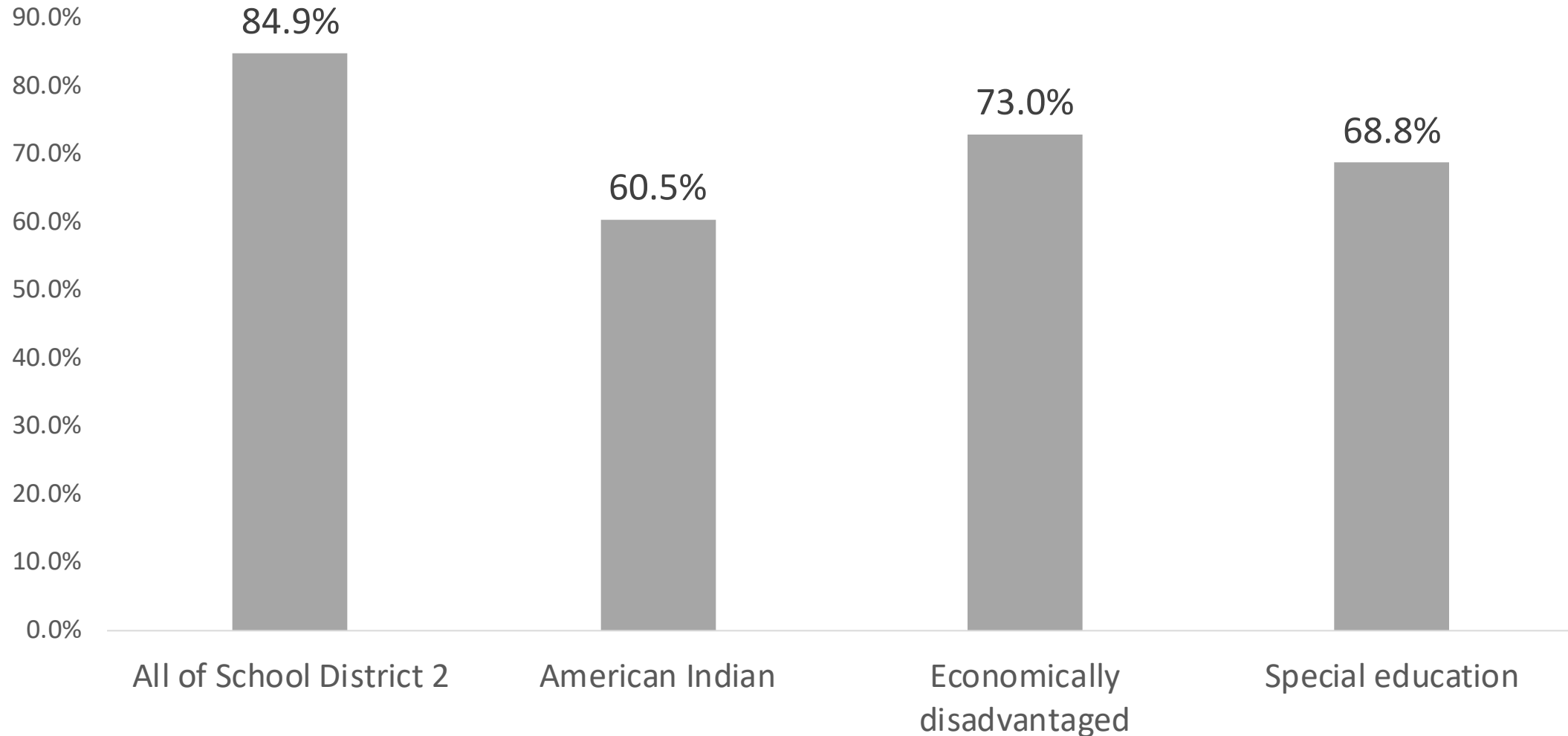


# Two in five elementary school students are at-risk based on attendance



Source: United Way

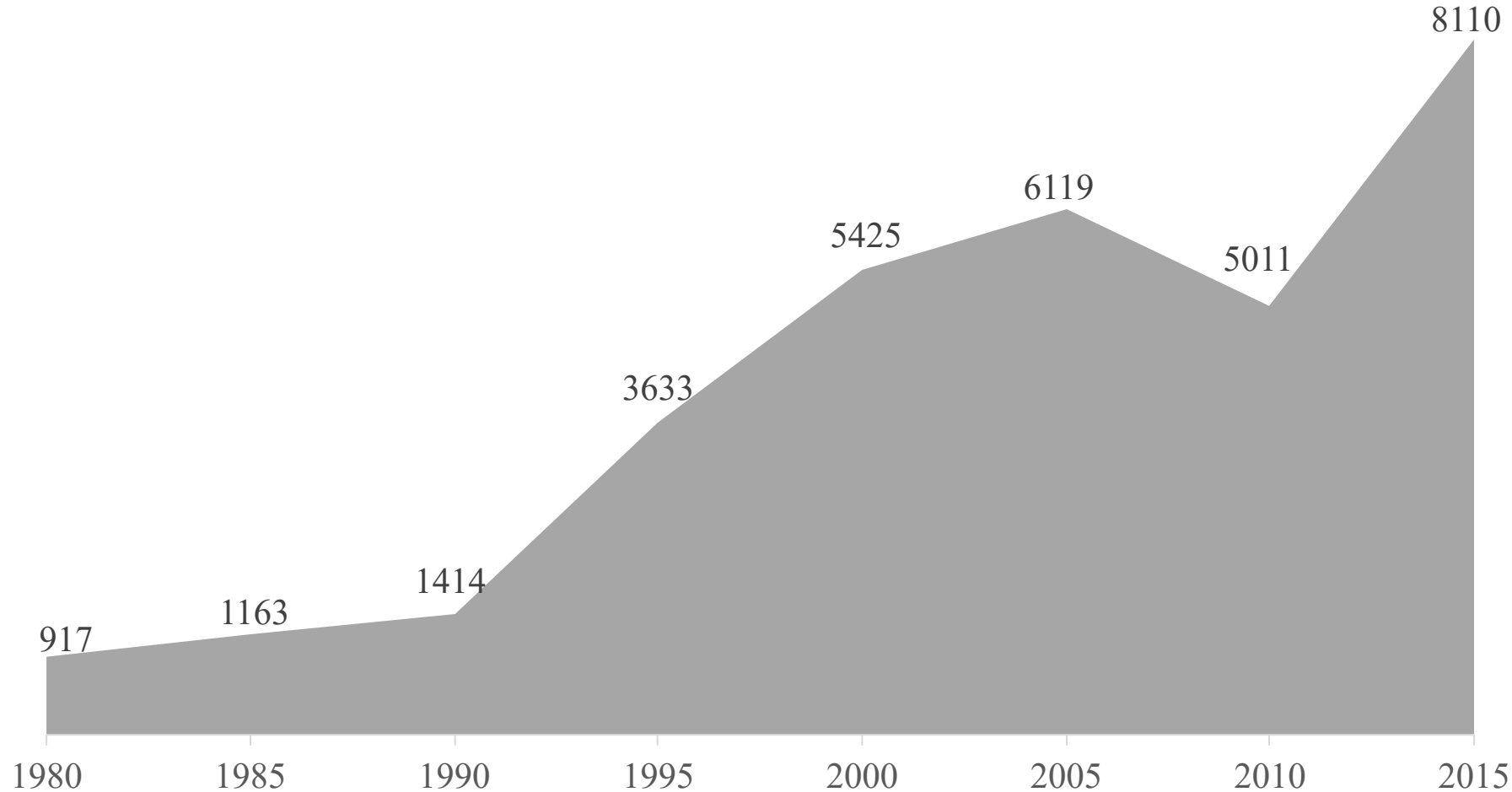
# About 163 students failed to graduate from SD2 in 2018



Source: United Way

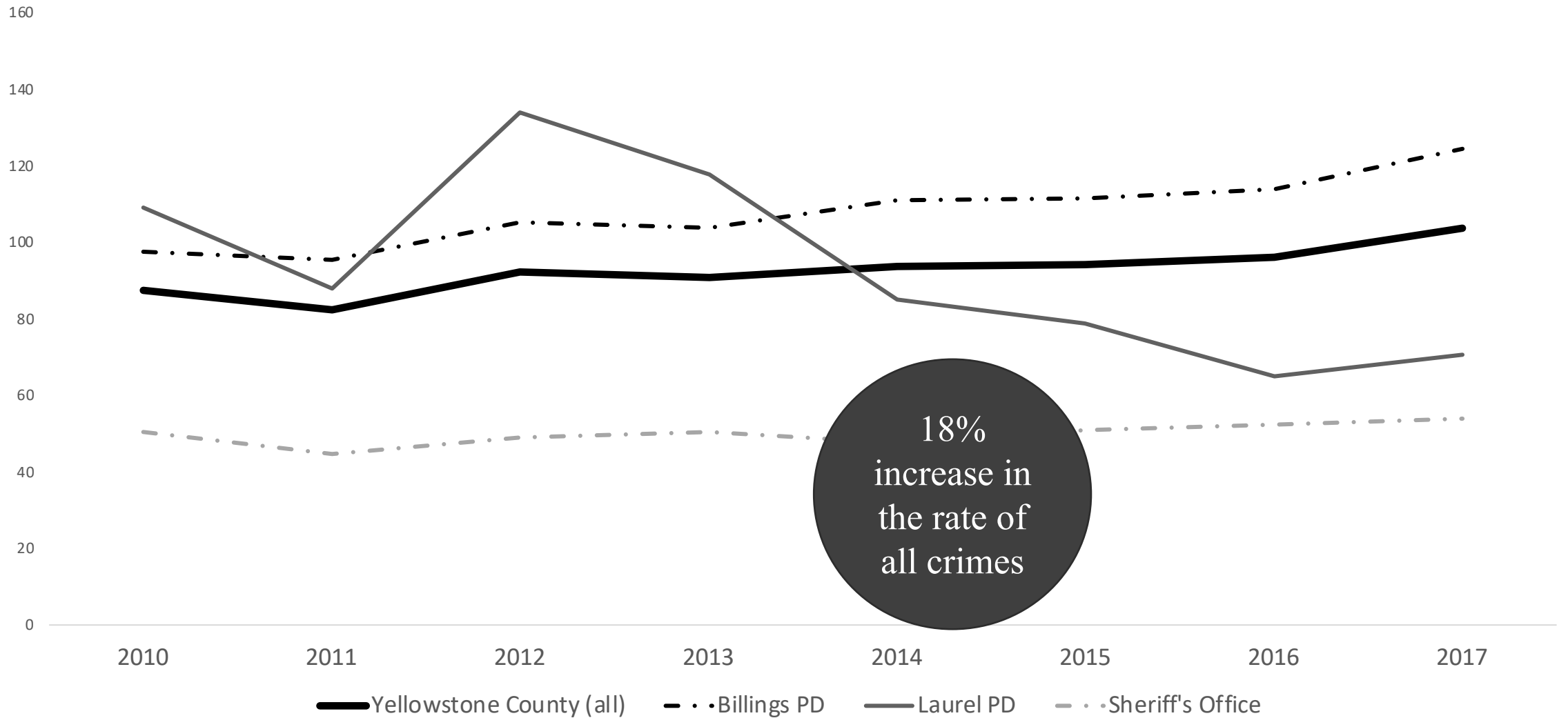
Montana's justice system  
is increasingly driven by  
substance use-related  
crimes.

# Total Annual Drug Offenses, Montana, 1980-2018

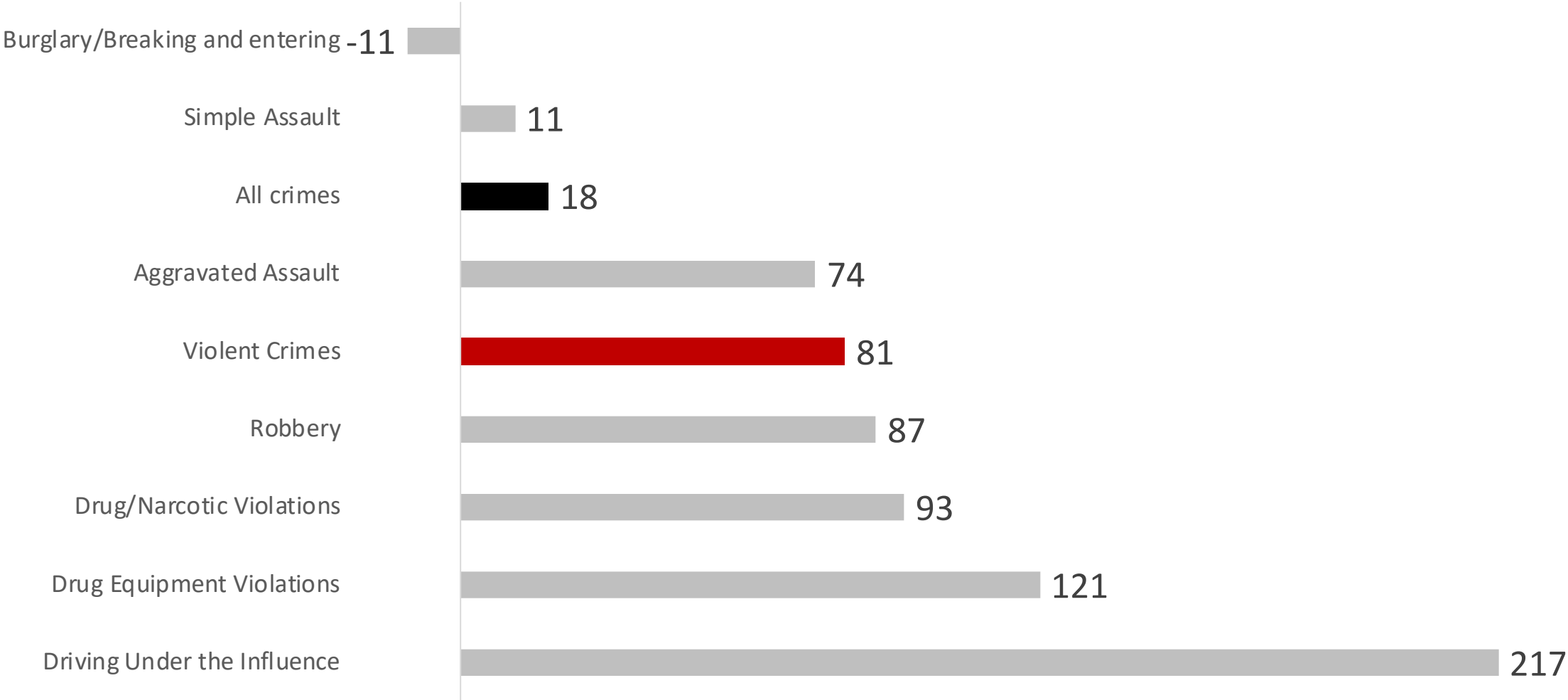


559%  
increase  
from  
1980 to  
2015

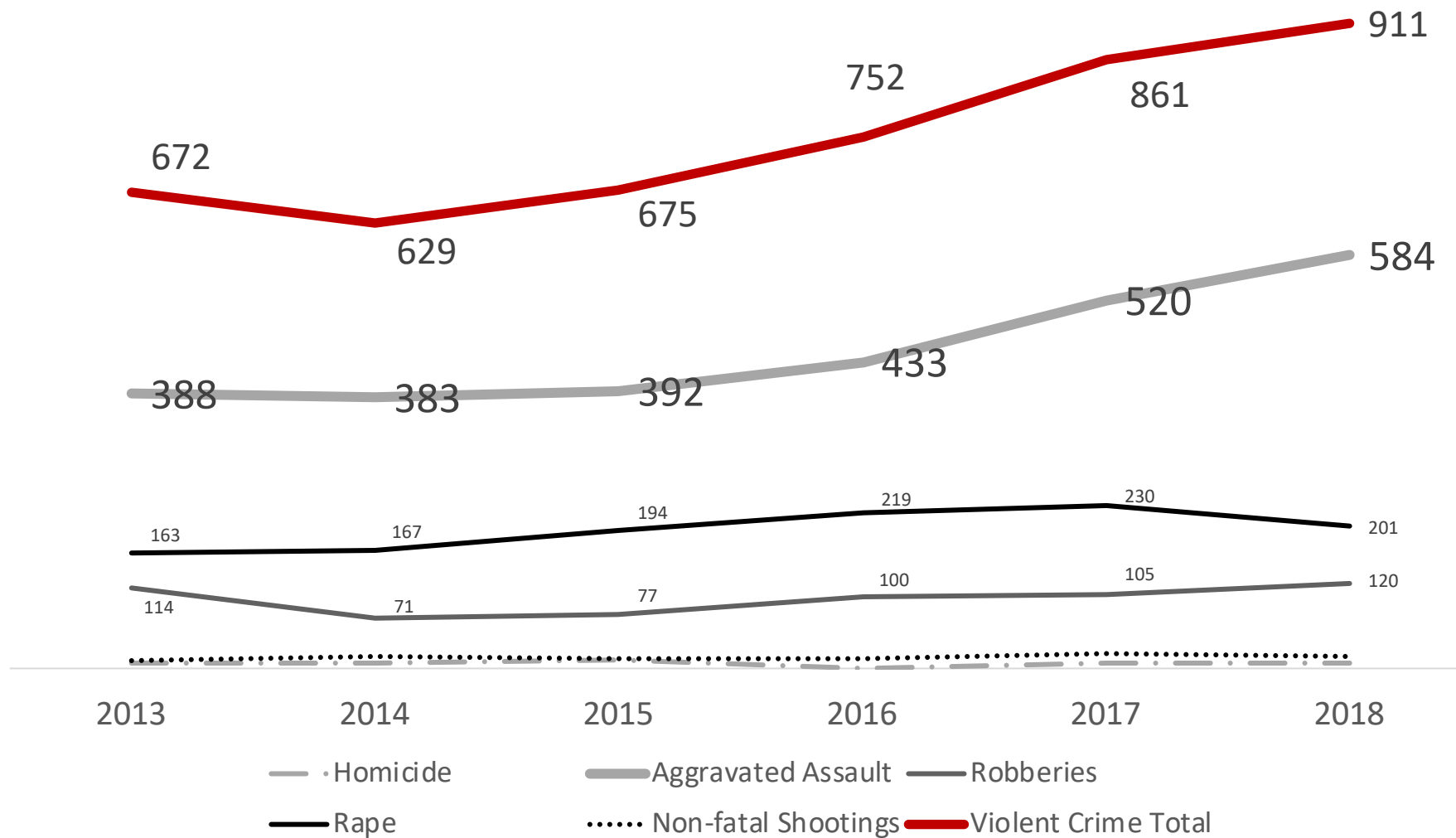
Rate of all crimes per 1000, Yellowstone County, by jurisdiction, 2010-2017



# Percent change from 2010 to 2017 in various crime categories, Yellowstone County

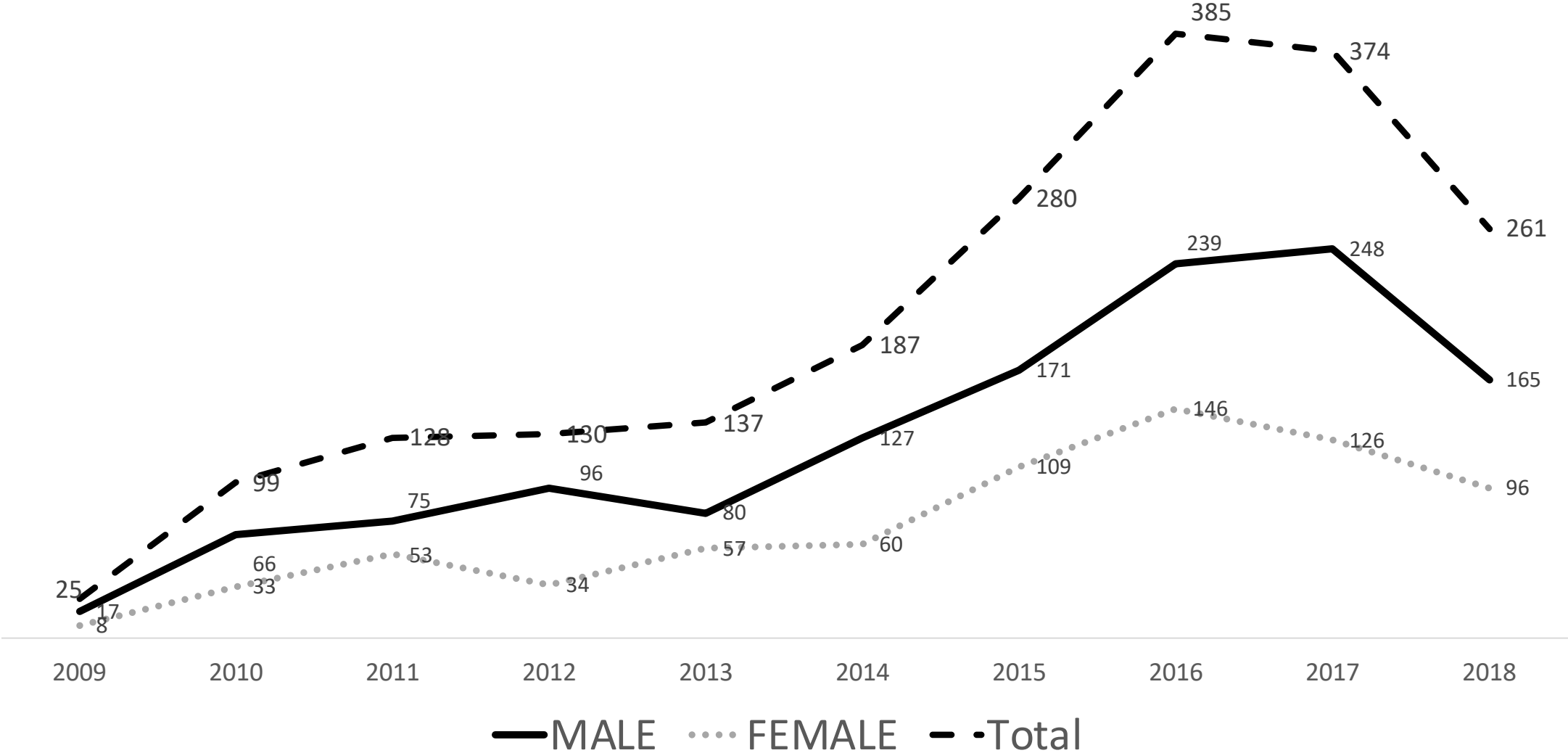


# Number of violent crimes annually in Yellowstone County, 2013-2018



Source: MTIBRS-Montana Board of Crime Control

# The number of felony convictions in Yellowstone County for substance use related offenses has spiked in recent years



Source: Montana Department of Corrections



# Top 5 Adult Felony Conviction Offenses

Possession of  
drugs

Criminal  
endangerment

Felony DUI

Theft

Burglary

Possession of  
drugs

Criminal  
endangerment

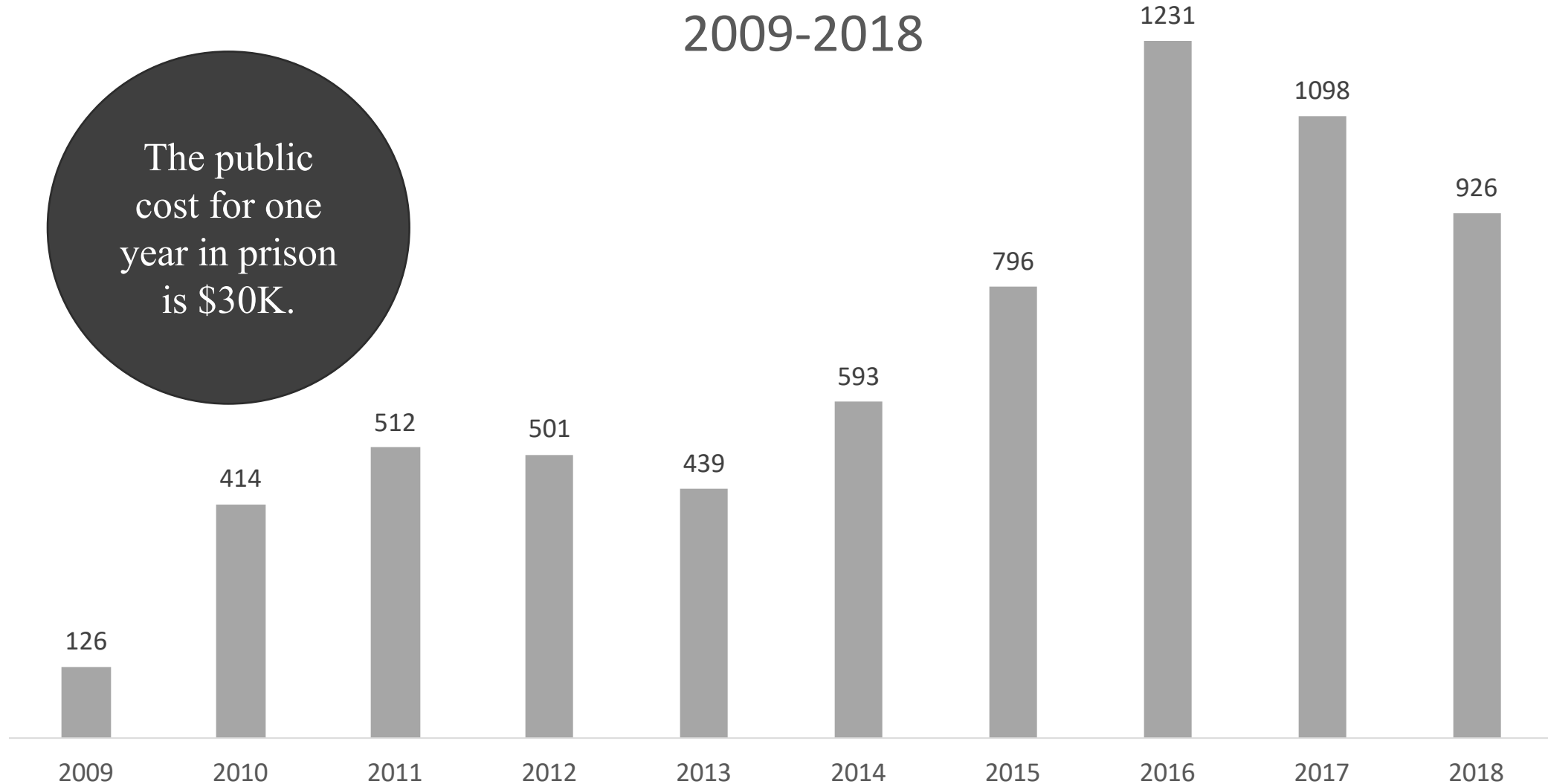
Theft

Distribution  
of drugs

Felony DUI

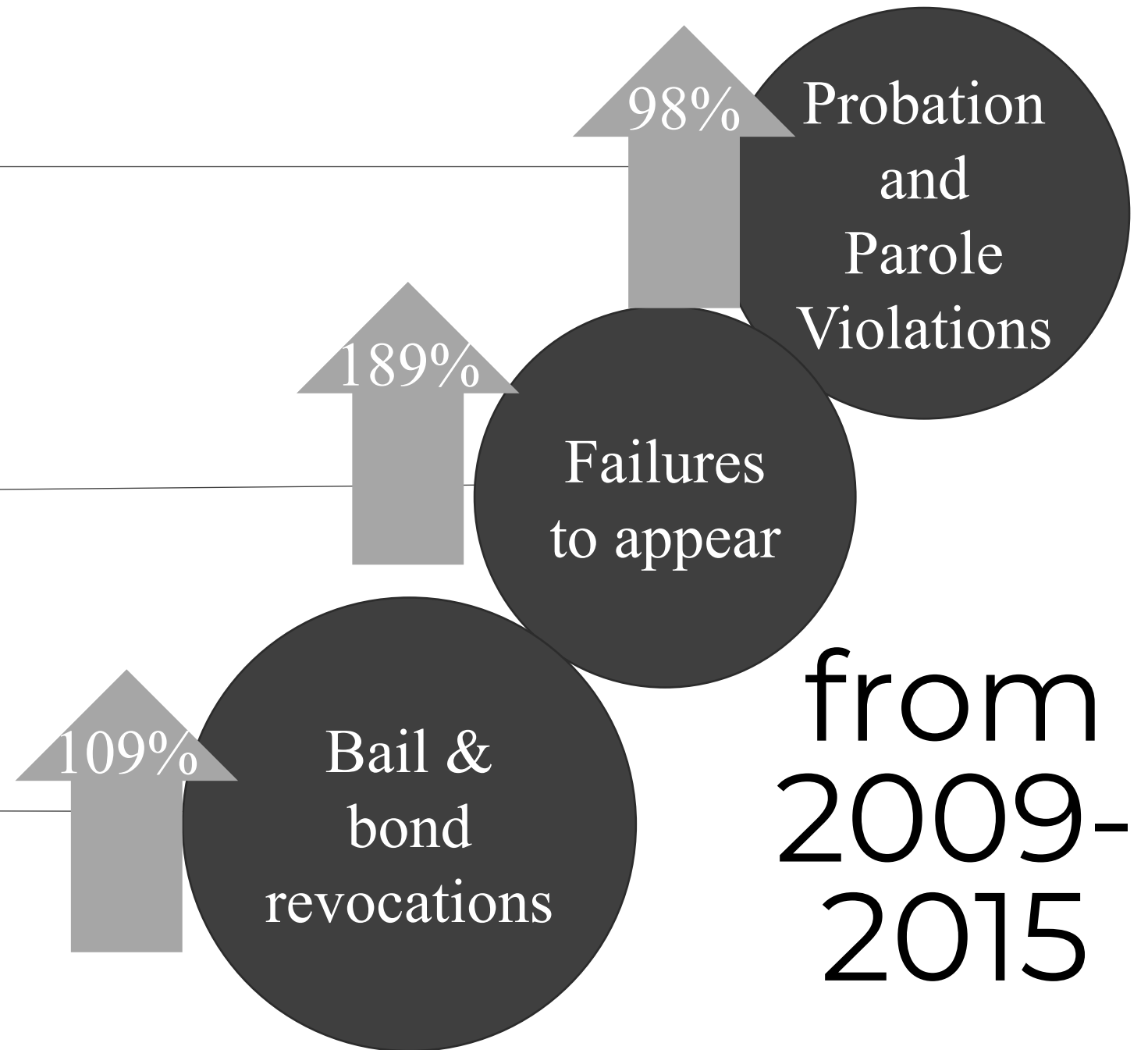
# Number of total years of prison sentences for substance use related felony convictions in Yellowstone County, 2009-2018

The public cost for one year in prison is \$30K.



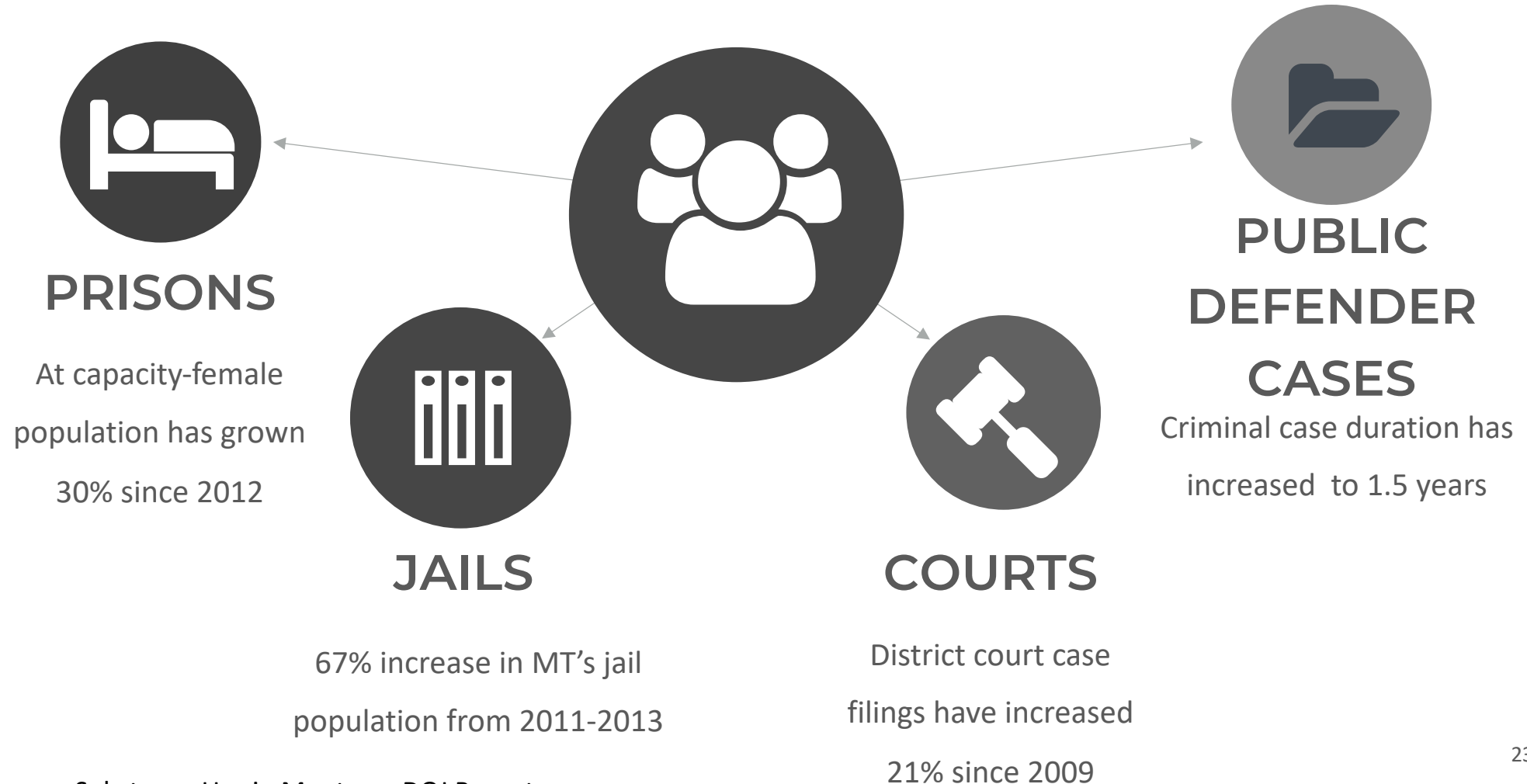
Source: Montana Department of Corrections

A justice  
system  
driven by  
SUD  
related  
crimes  
experien  
ces more



Source: Justice Reinvestment. 2009-2015

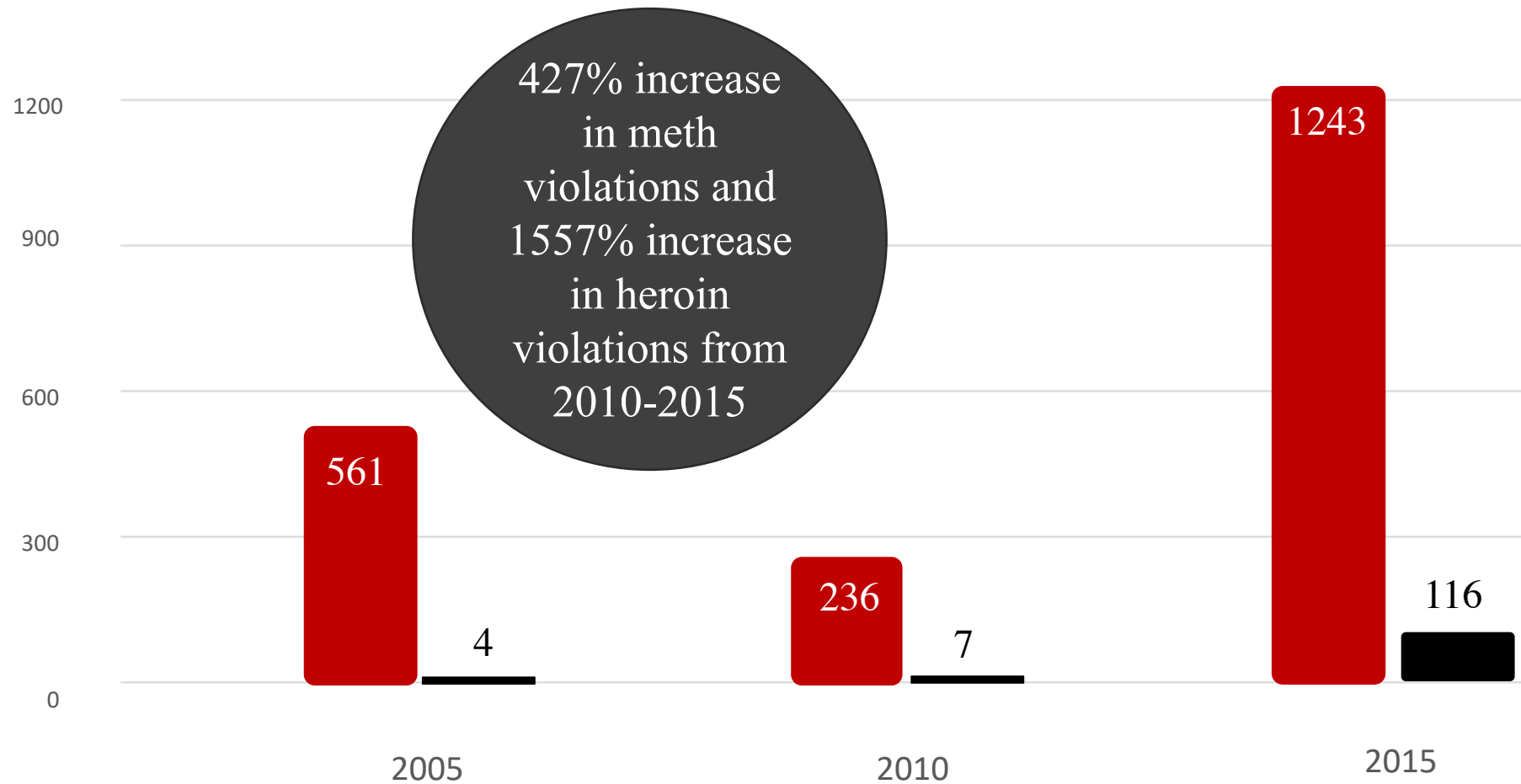
# SUD cases are overloading Montana's justice system



Methamphetamine is a key driver of justice system involvement and correlated with an increase in violent crime.

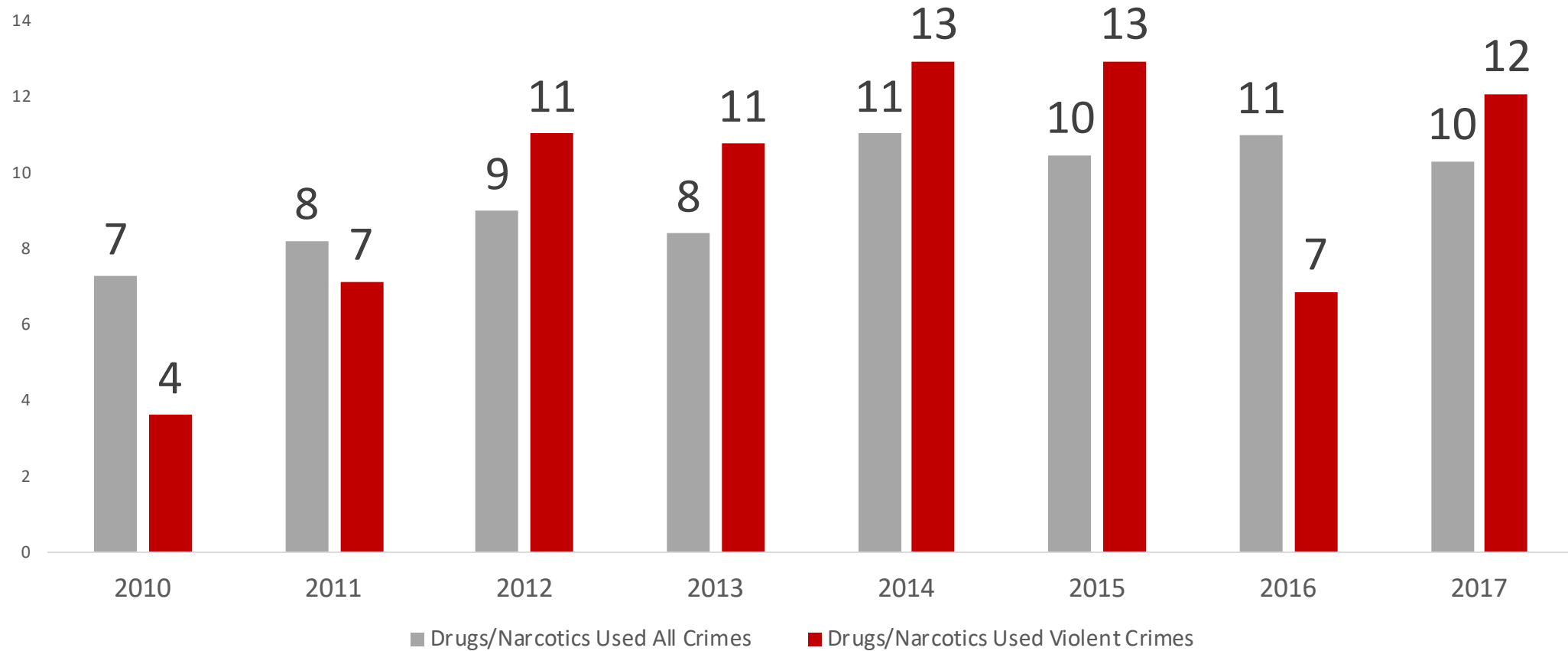
\*Though alcohol is still a big deal

# METHAMPHETAMINE AND HEROIN VIOLATIONS



Source: Montana Board of Crime Control

## Percent of all and violent crimes where drugs/narcotics were used, Yellowstone County, 2010-2018



Source: MTIBRS-Montana Board of Crime Control

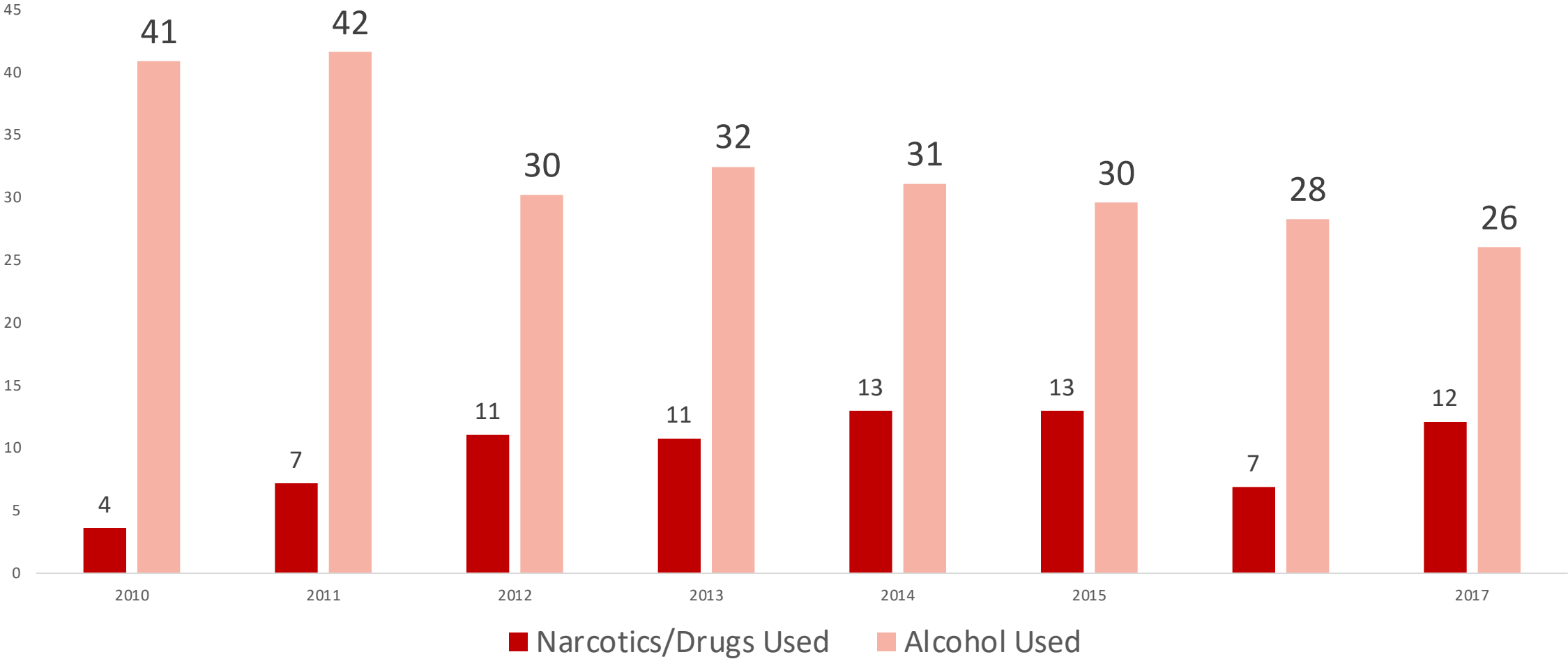
## Percent of all and violent crimes where alcohol was used, Yellowstone County, 2010-2018



Source: MTIBRS-Montana Board of Crime Control



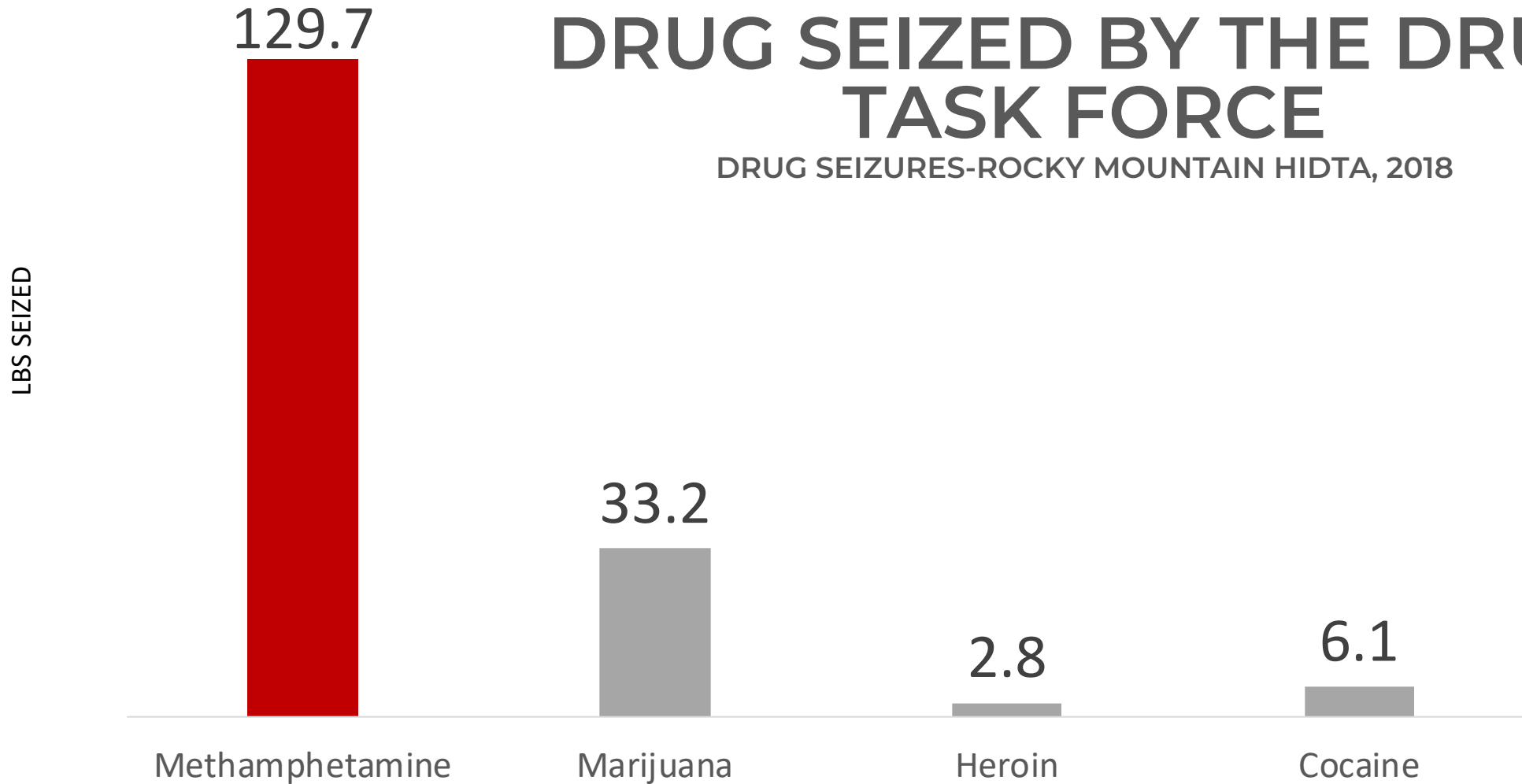
# Percent of Index Violent Crimes with User using Narcotics/Drugs and Alcohol, Yellowstone County, 2010-2018



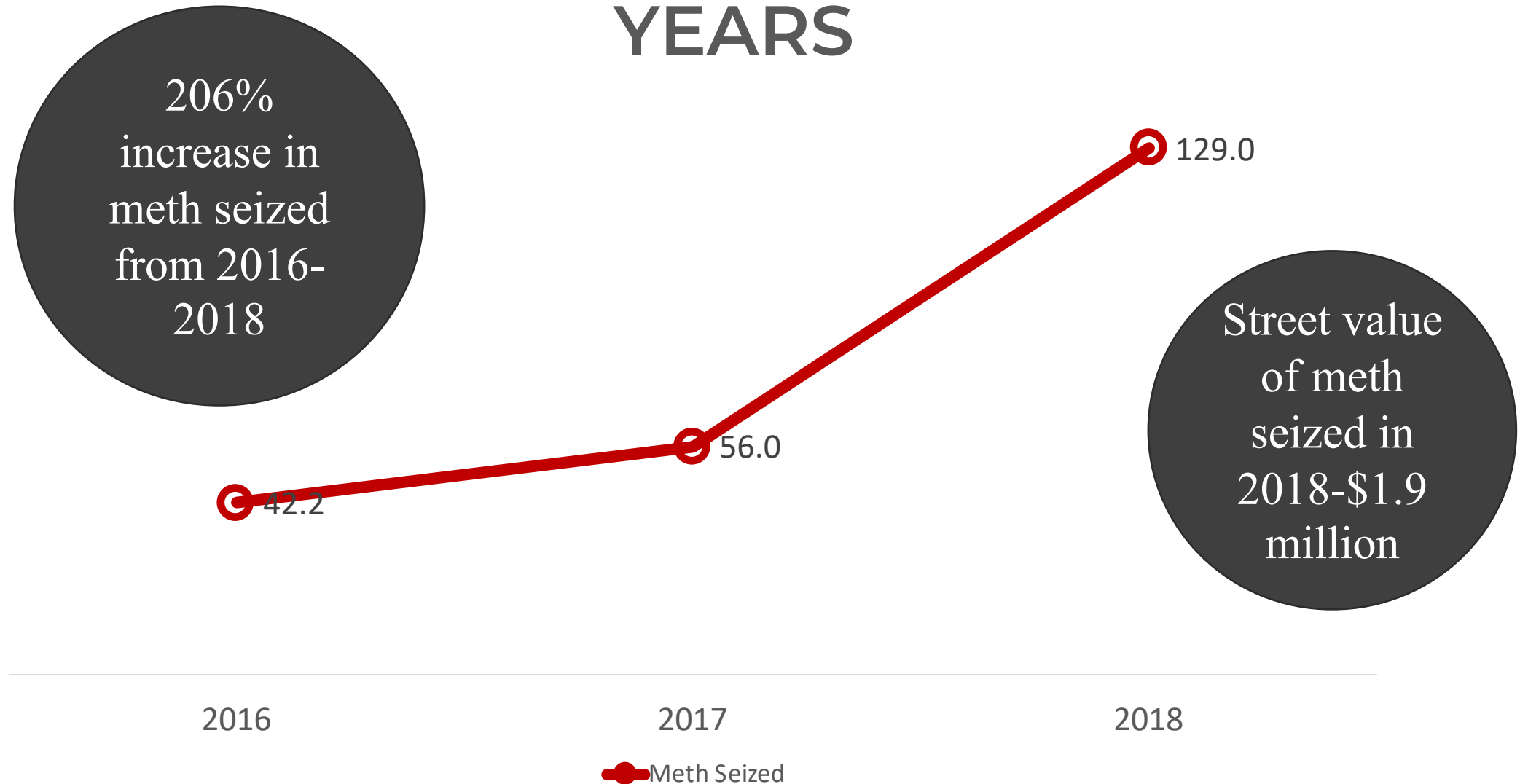
Source: MTIBRS-Montana Board of Crime Control

# METH IS THE MOST COMMON DRUG SEIZED BY THE DRUG TASK FORCE

DRUG SEIZURES-ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIDTA, 2018



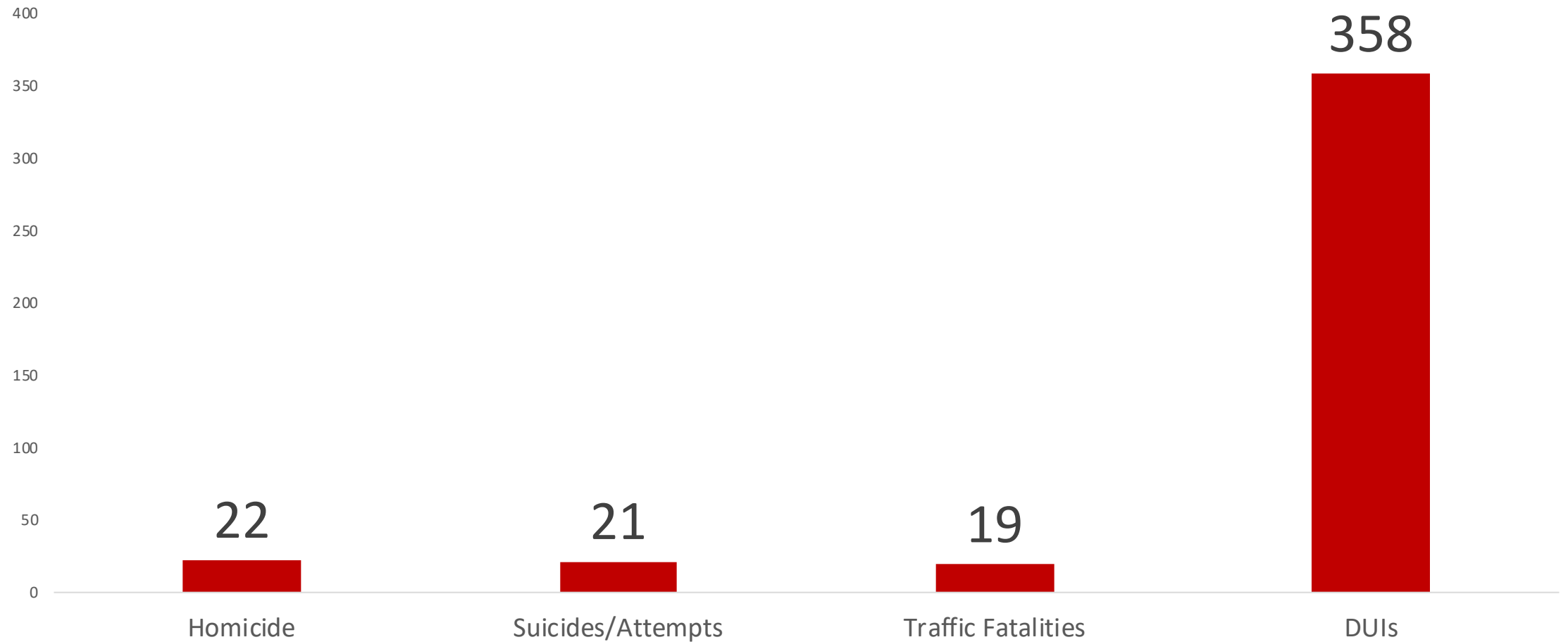
# THE AMOUNT OF METH SEIZED BY THE HIDTA HAS INCREASED IN RECENT YEARS



Source: Billings Police Department 2018 Annual Report

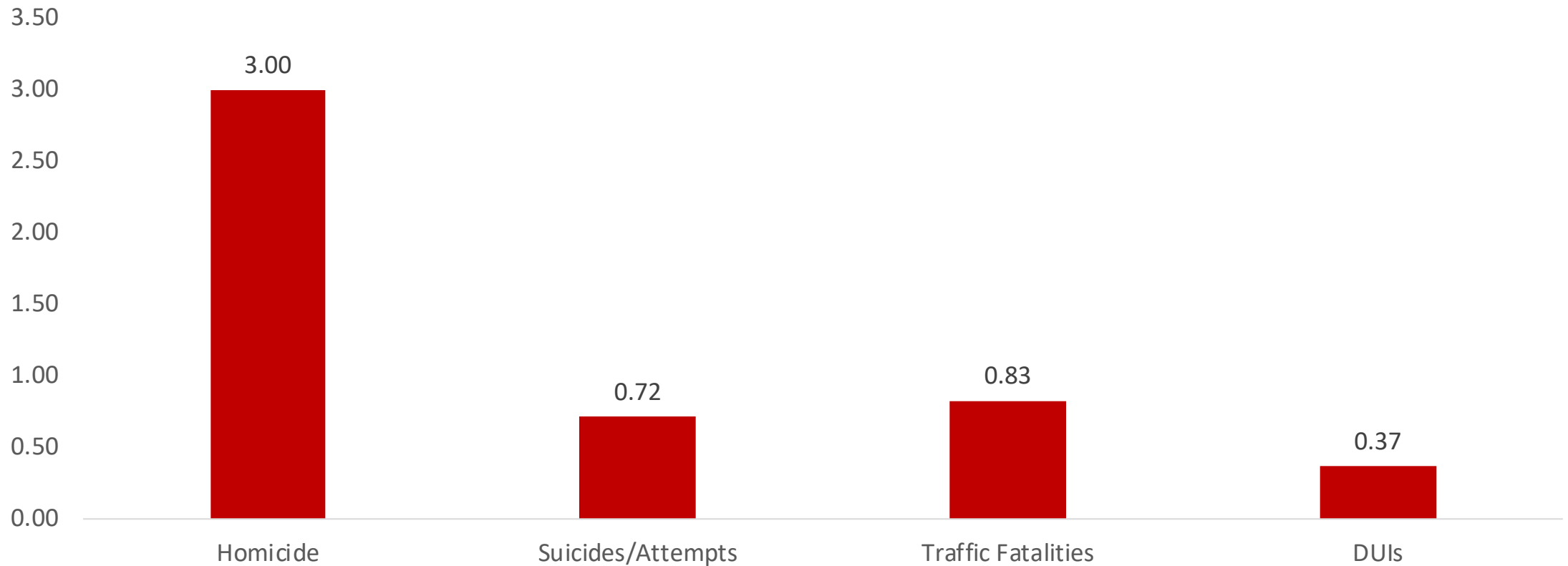
The State Lab has detected meth in over 400 cases since 2010-and detected meth concentrations are higher in more violent crime types

## Type of cases with a positive methamphetamine screen in by the Montana State Lab, Yellowstone County, 2010-2018



Source: Montana State Lab, Montana DOJ

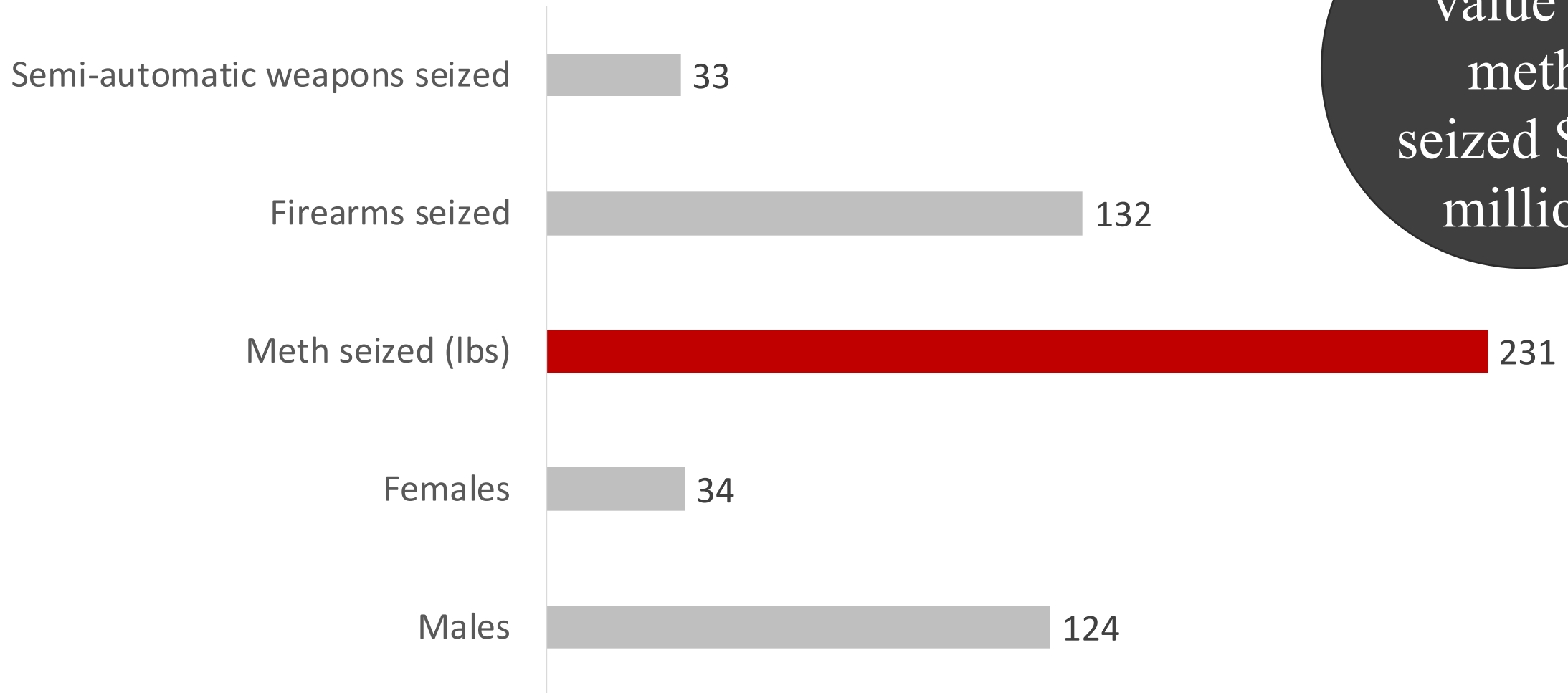
# Average detected methamphetamine concentration (mg/L), by case type, Yellowstone County, 2010-2018



Source: Montana State Lab, Montana DOJ

Project Safe  
Neighborhood, led by the  
US Attorney's Office, has  
been targeting violent  
meth traffickers since late  
2017

## ***Federal charges through Project Safe Neighborhoods since Q4, 2017***



Street  
value of  
meth  
seized \$3.5  
million

Source: US Attorney's Office, Billings



# Focus Groups: Why meth?

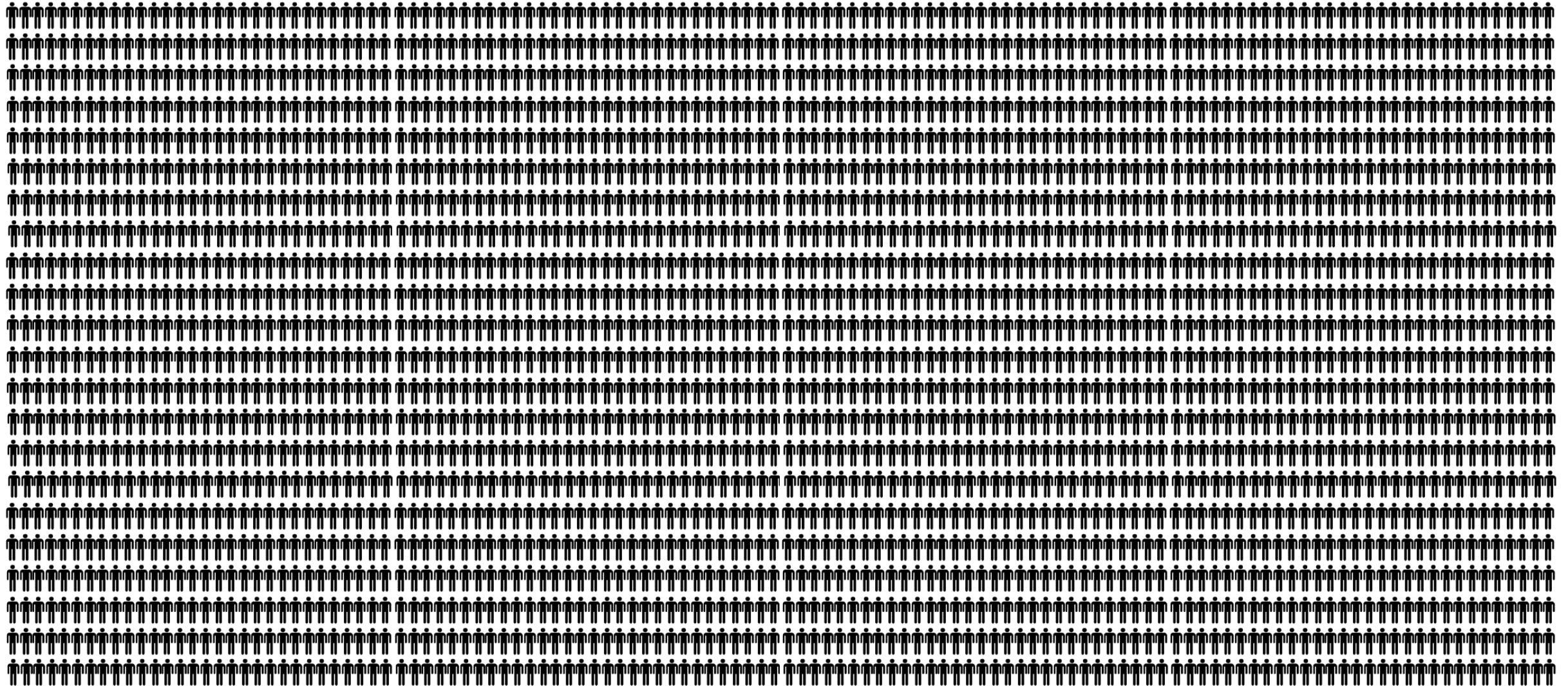
- Very easy to obtain and cheap to buy (and sell to maintain your habit)
- Meth use happens in family systems and social networks that are hard to break free from
- Users know it doesn't stay in your system very long (unlike marijuana) so may use it to avoid positive tests
- Some women see it as a way to lose weight
- Many individuals are poly substance users. Take marijuana or heroin to come down from meth.
- "Meth will take everything from you until all you have left is the drug."

# Focus Groups: Why meth and violent crime?

- Meth is a stimulant that exacerbates already angry behavior. “I was never a violent person, but when I used meth I experienced and perpetuated violence”
- The meth feels a lot stronger than it used to be and you don't know what's going to happen when you use it. There's serious delusion about your confidence when on the drug. It gives you a huge false sense of confidence You don't understand consequences and think you are invincible.
- Meth has changed a lot in recent years. Today you don't know what you're going to get when you look for crystal meth because it can have MDMA, bath salts, etc.
- Greater purity creates dependence more quickly and escalates violence
- People who are using meth aren't sleeping, are paranoid, are agitated, they're not eating, and all of their relationships are gone

The Department of Corrections is increasingly releasing substance use offenders to community monitoring, stressing existing systems

# Billings Probation and Parole monitors almost 2500 offenders

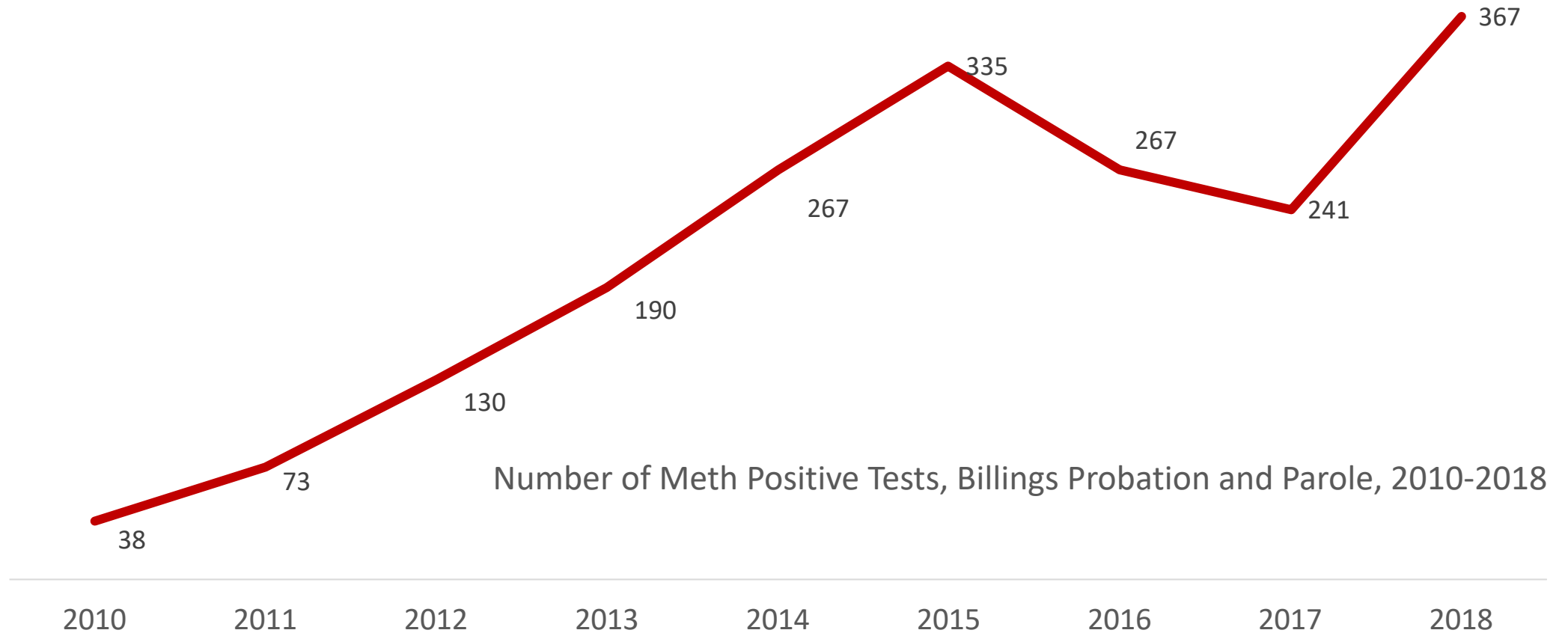


# Adult probation and parole officers have large and growing case loads



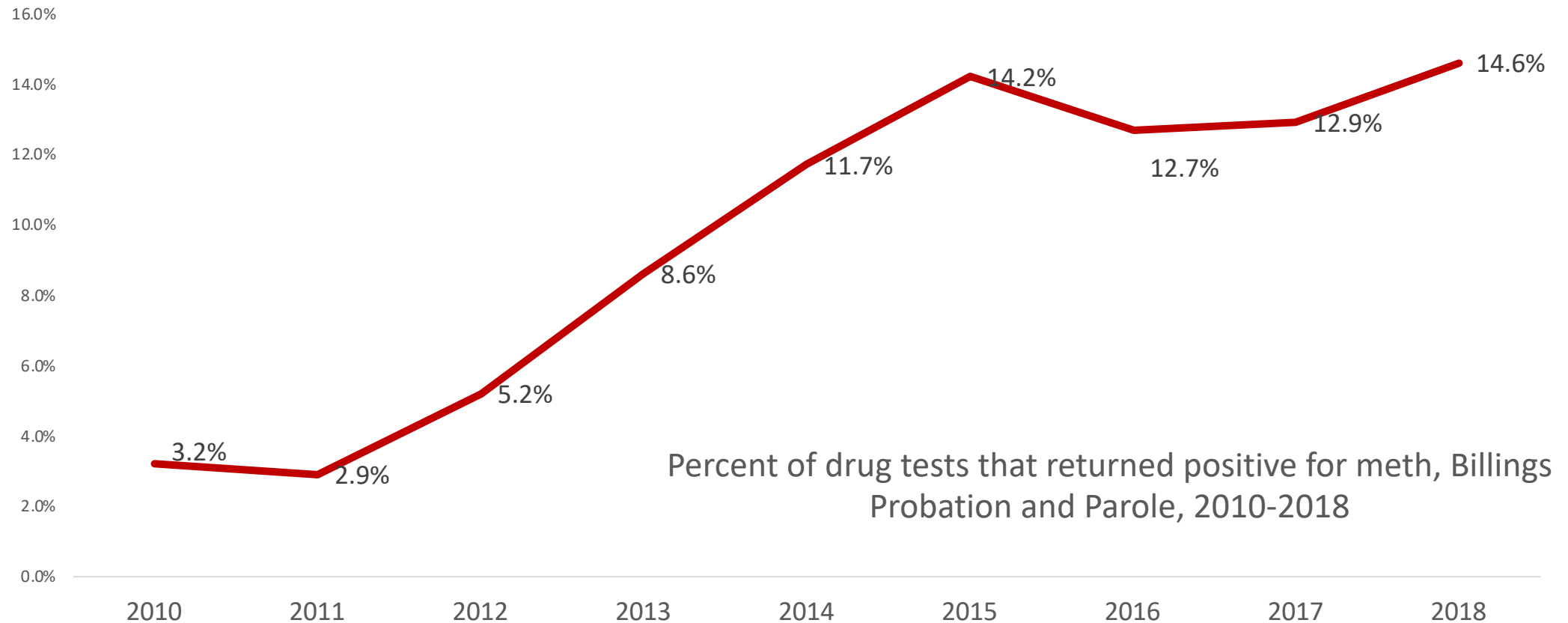
April, 2019- Billings Region 4

The number of of positive meth tests among probation and parole participants in Yellowstone County has increased 865% since 2010, in part because the number of tests has doubled



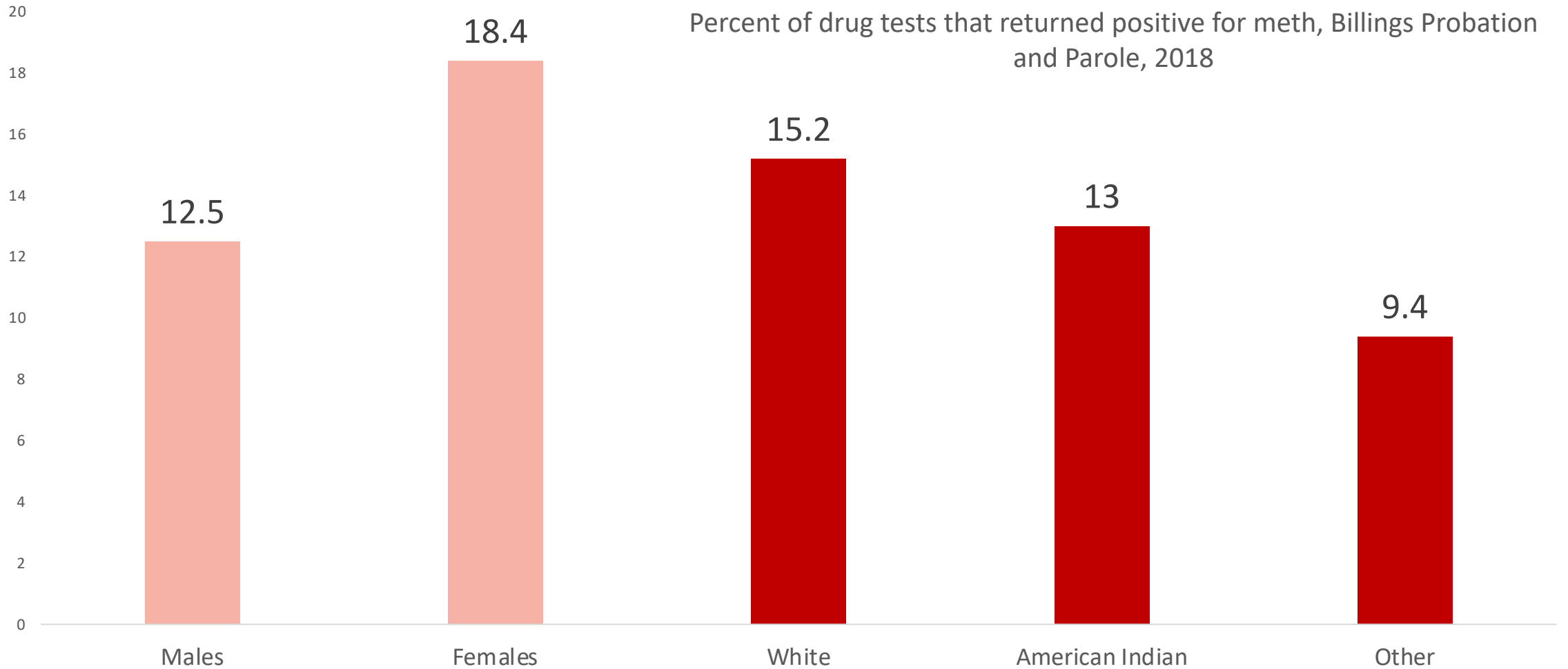
Source: Montana Department of Corrections

# The likelihood that a drug test will return positive for meth has increase 4 fold



Source: Montana Department of Corrections

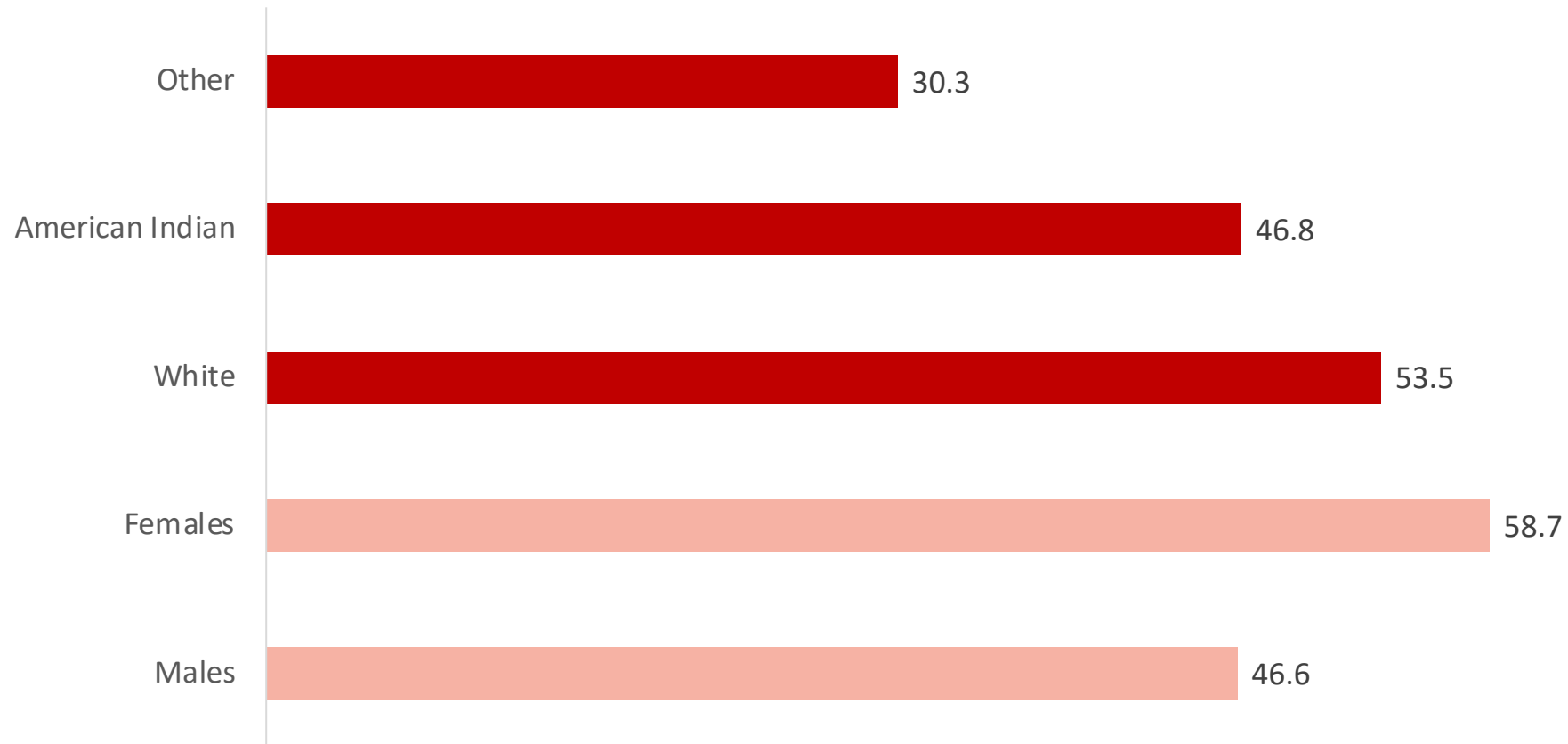
# Individuals on probation and parole who are white and female are more likely to have positive meth tests





# For most groups of probationers/parolees, 1 out of 2 positive drug tests indicates meth use

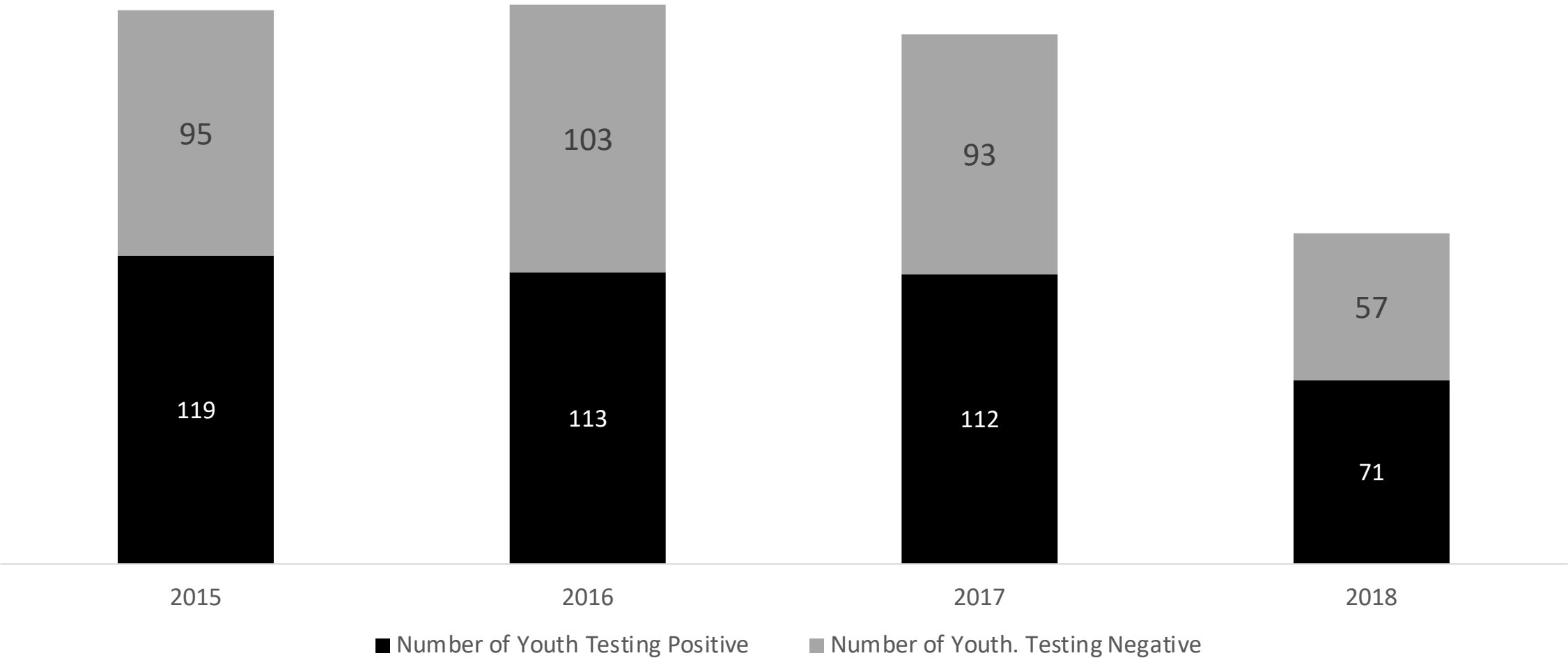
Percent of positive drug tests that indicated meth, Billings Probation and Parole, 2018



Source: Montana Department of Corrections

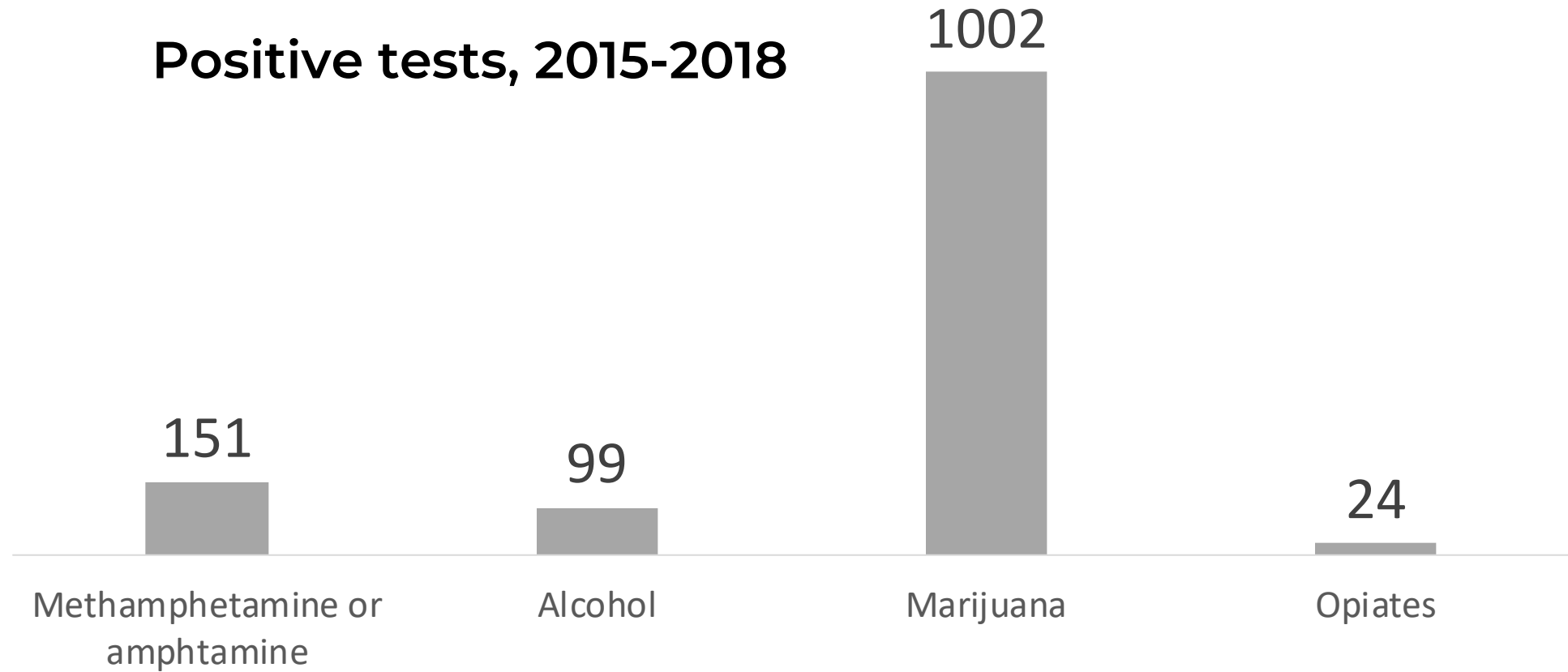
# Youth Probation and Parole

# More than half of Yellowstone County youth on probation who are tested for substances, test positive



Source: Montana Juvenile Probation

# The most common substance used among youth on probation is marijuana.



Source: Montana Juvenile Probation

# Focus Groups: Probation and Parole

- Montana DOC has made recent changes, releasing more drug offenders into the community, but the funding for probation and parole monitoring has not increased
- “There is never a cap on how many people we serve, but we don’t get more FTEs or funding. We can’t effectively monitor our complex clients in this environment.”
- Methamphetamine has made the job more dangerous and time consuming

# Focus Groups: Probation and Parole

- It is difficult to get a chemical dependency evaluation. Billings Probation and Parole has hired two LACs to alleviate and try to improve these shortfalls
- Because of jail overcrowding, “Population using knows that the threat of incarceration is not really on the table.”
  - Can not longer use 72 hour hold in the jail, so individuals have to get clean on the streets.
- Role of probation and parole often bleeds into social work and case management. Could use more funding, training or staff with these actual skills. Our cases would benefit from case management and support.

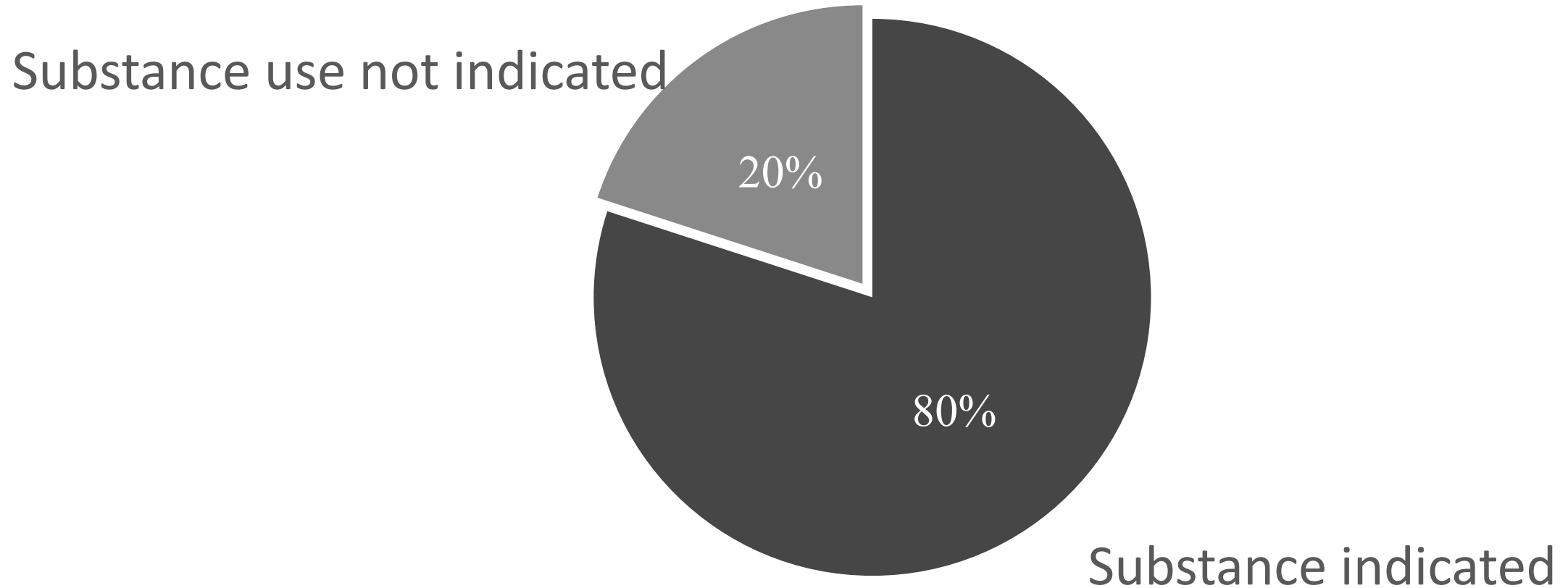
# Focus Groups: Users on P and P

- Some very positive relationships with Probation and Parole Officers, some very negative.
- If you're using you don't want to check in with your PO because you're afraid to tell them you're using again, but the system forces you to lie to survive.
- Repeated theme: Support for enhanced monitoring like ESP. Having frequent monitoring can help with sobriety, especially if it is coupled with receiving other kinds of support like housing, child welfare, employment

Methamphetamine is a key contributor to child welfare concerns in Yellowstone County.



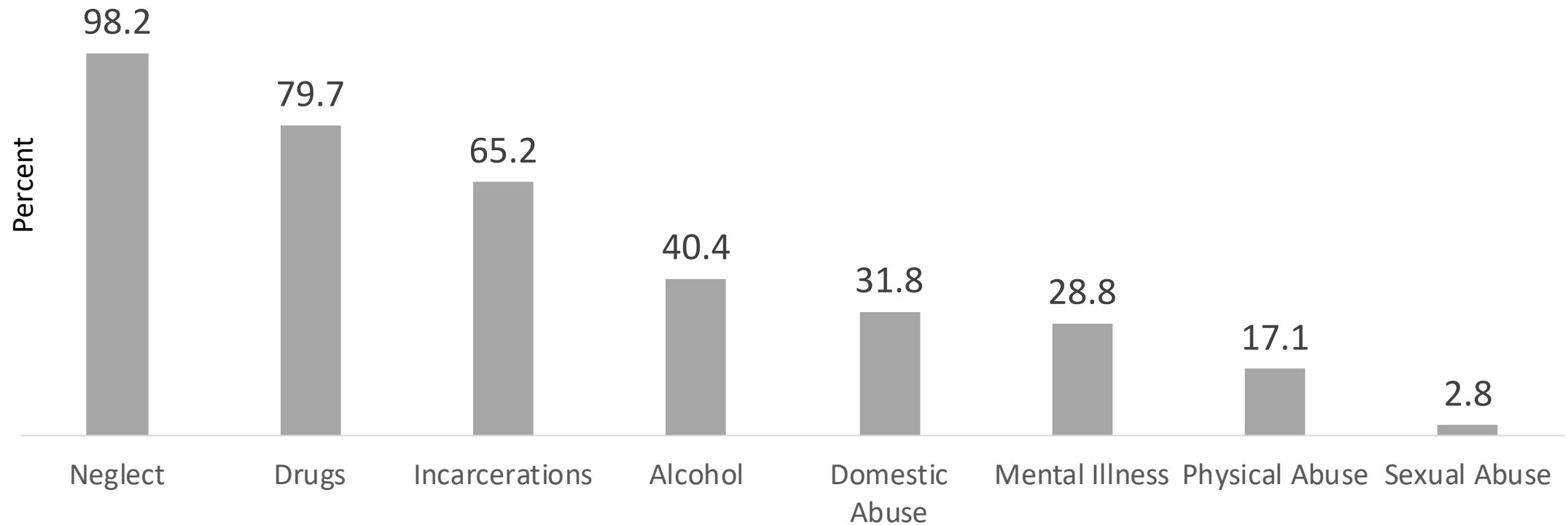
# THE MAJORITY OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PLACEMENTS HAVE SUD INDICATED



Source: Yellowstone County Attorney's Office

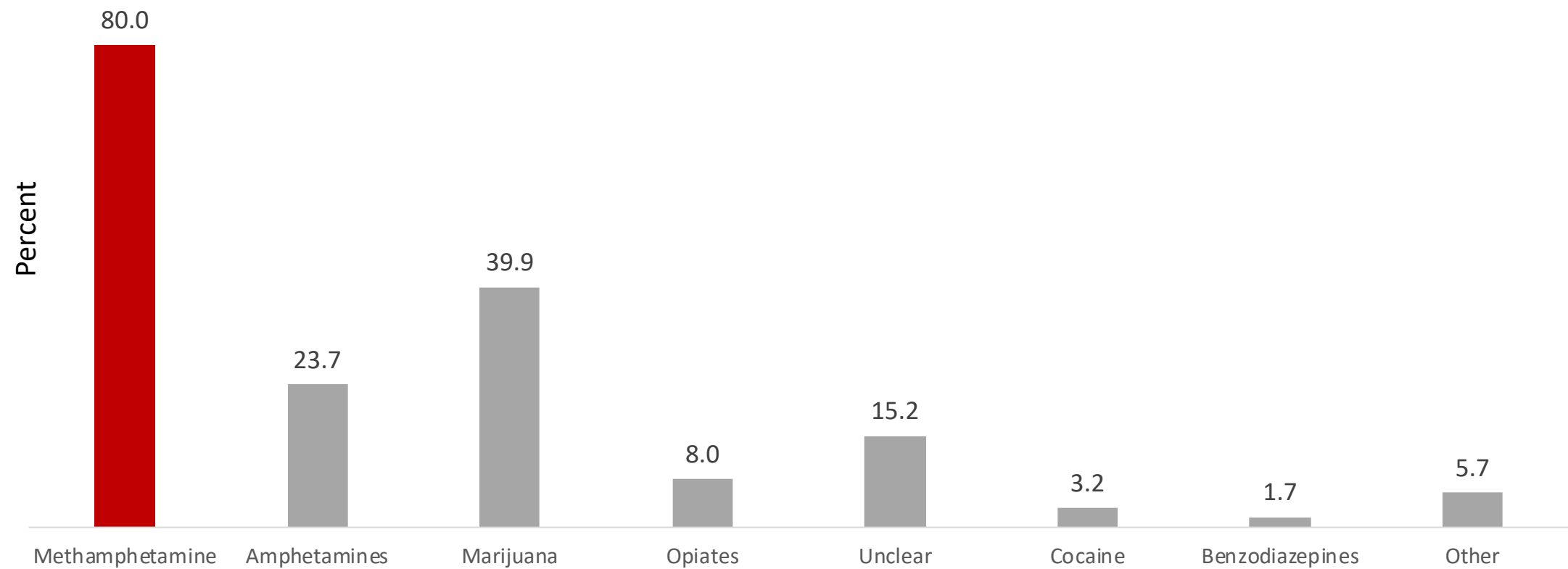
# THE MAJORITY OF DEPENDENT NEGLECT CASES IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY HAVE SUD INDICATED

Contributing factors in Dependent Neglect Cases, Yellowstone County Attorney's Office, 2018, Percent

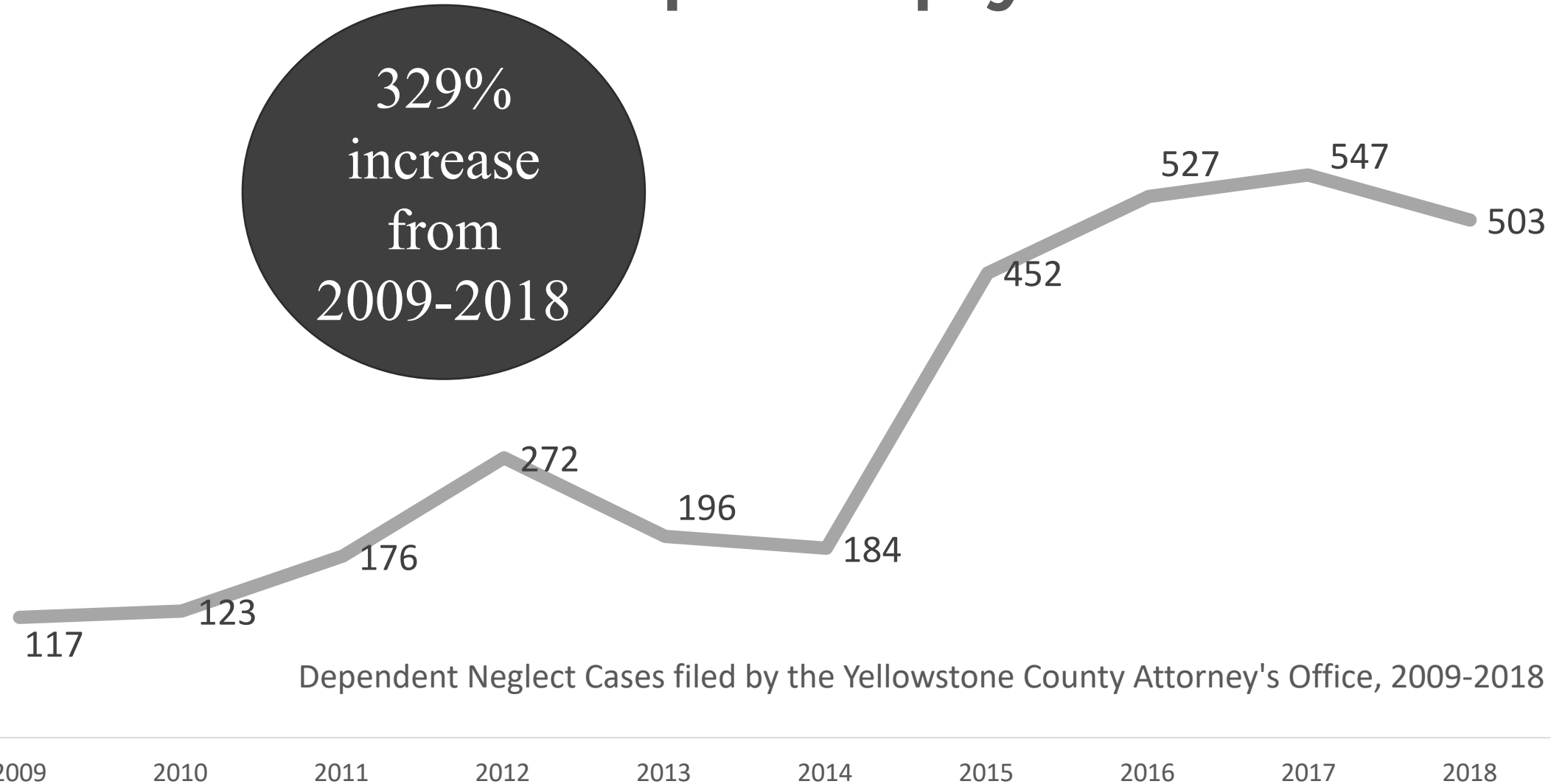


# THE MOST COMMON SUBSTANCE INDICATED IN DEPENDENT NEGLECT CASES IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY IS METHAMPHETAMINE

Illicit substances indicated in Yellowstone County Attorneys Dependent Neglect Drug-Related Cases, 2018, Percent



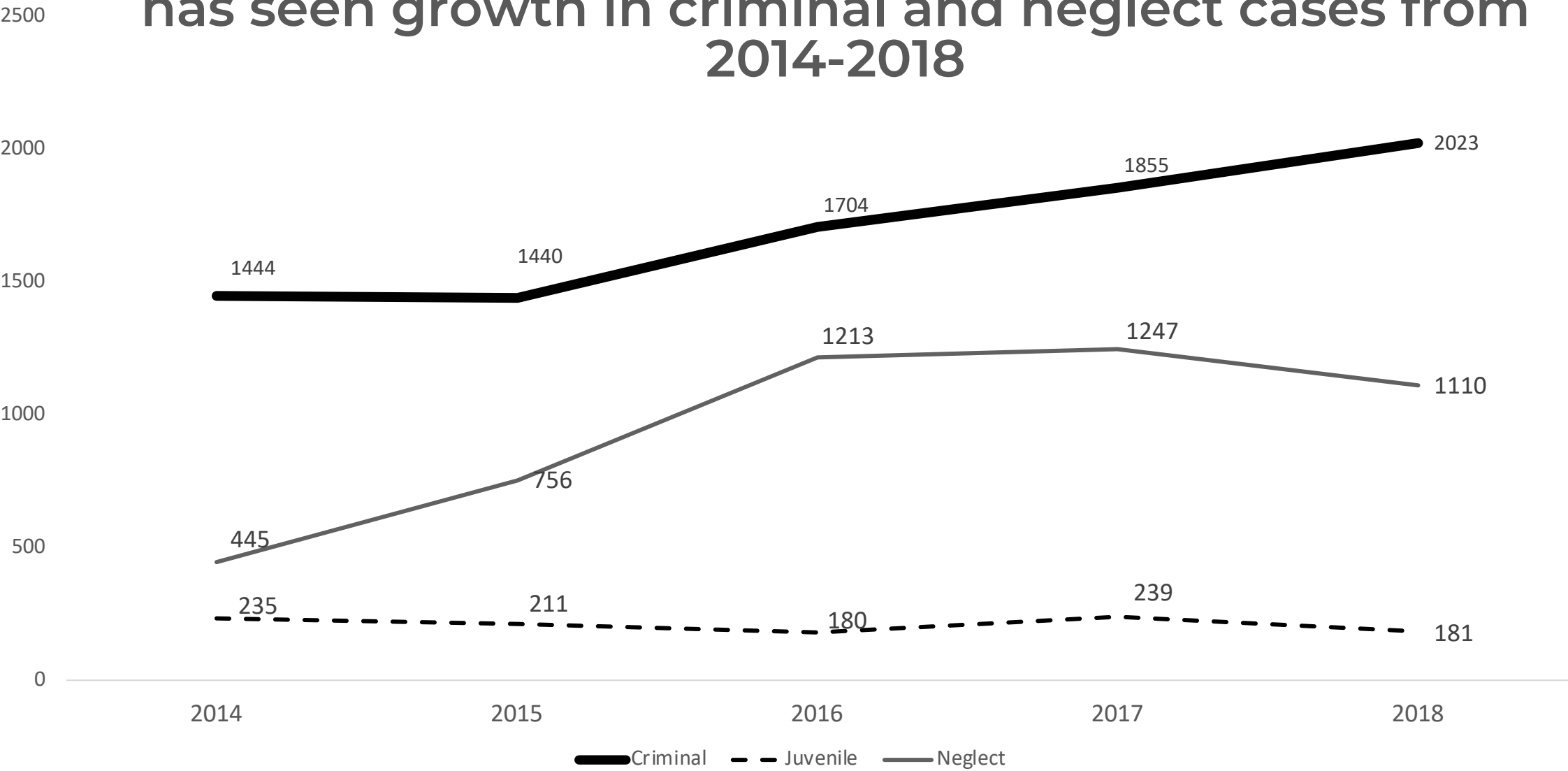
# Dependent Neglect District Court Filings are up sharply



Dependent Neglect Cases filed by the Yellowstone County Attorney's Office, 2009-2018

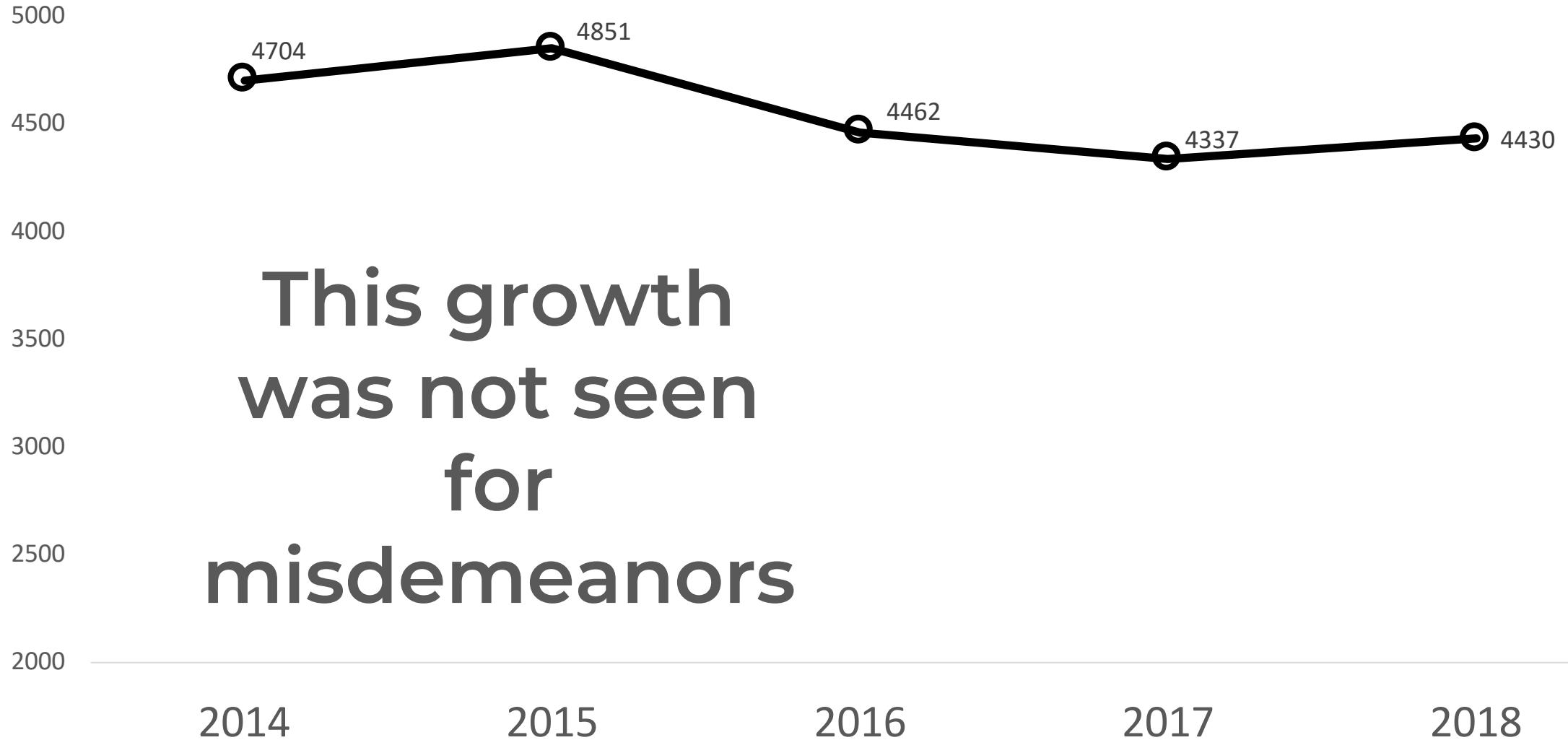
# Office of the Public Defender

# The Office of Public Defender in Region 9 (Billings) has seen growth in criminal and neglect cases from 2014-2018



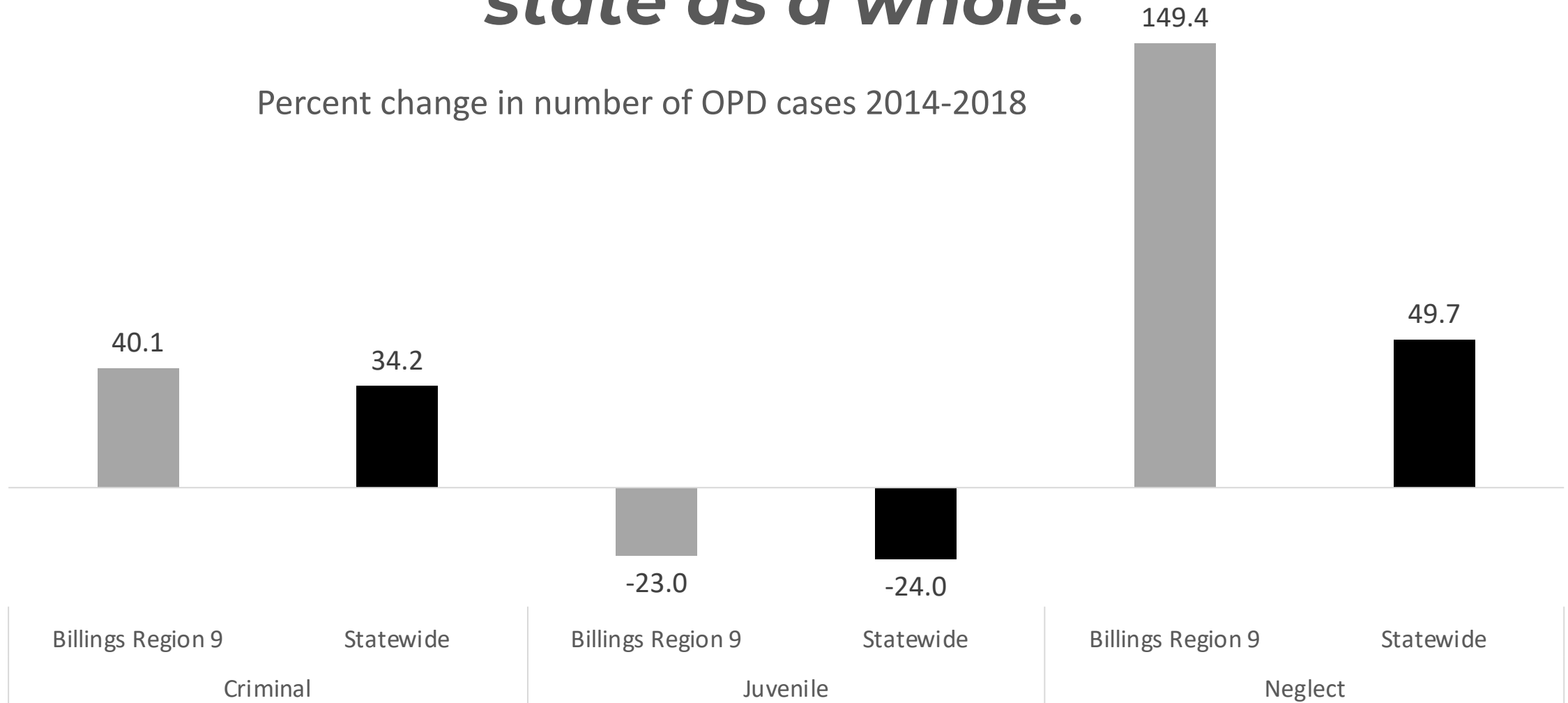
Source: Montana Office of the Public Defender

## OPD Cases, Region 9, All Limited Jurisdiction (misdemeanor)



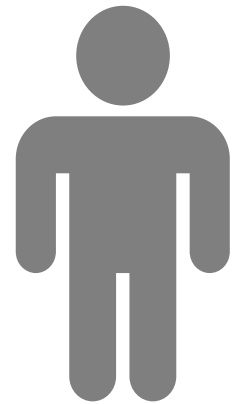
# *The growth in cases (particularly for neglect cases) has be larger than the state as a whole.*

Percent change in number of OPD cases 2014-2018

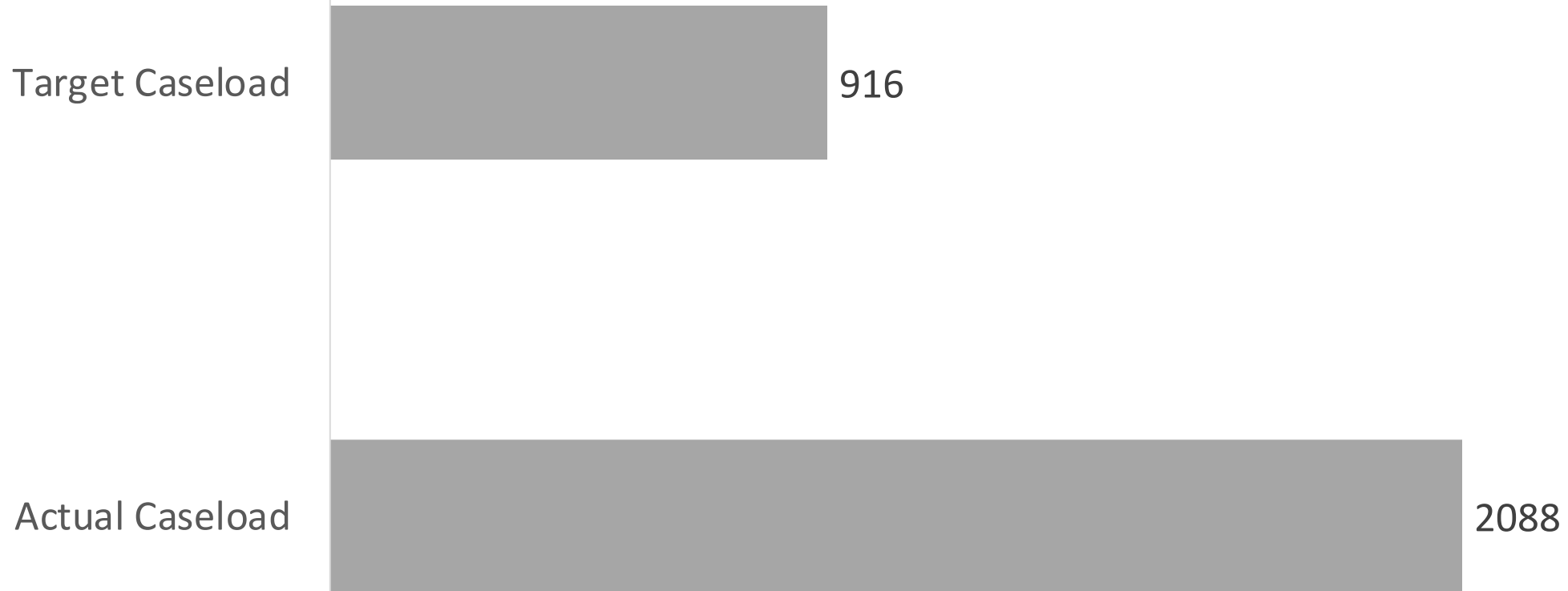




One in four  
OPD Neglect  
Cases are in  
Billings  
Region 9



***On average, OPD attorneys in the Billings Region have more than excess 1000 cases on their caseload than the target caseload***



Office of the Public Defender Attorney Average Caseload, Billings Region, FY 2018

Source: Montana Office of the Public Defender

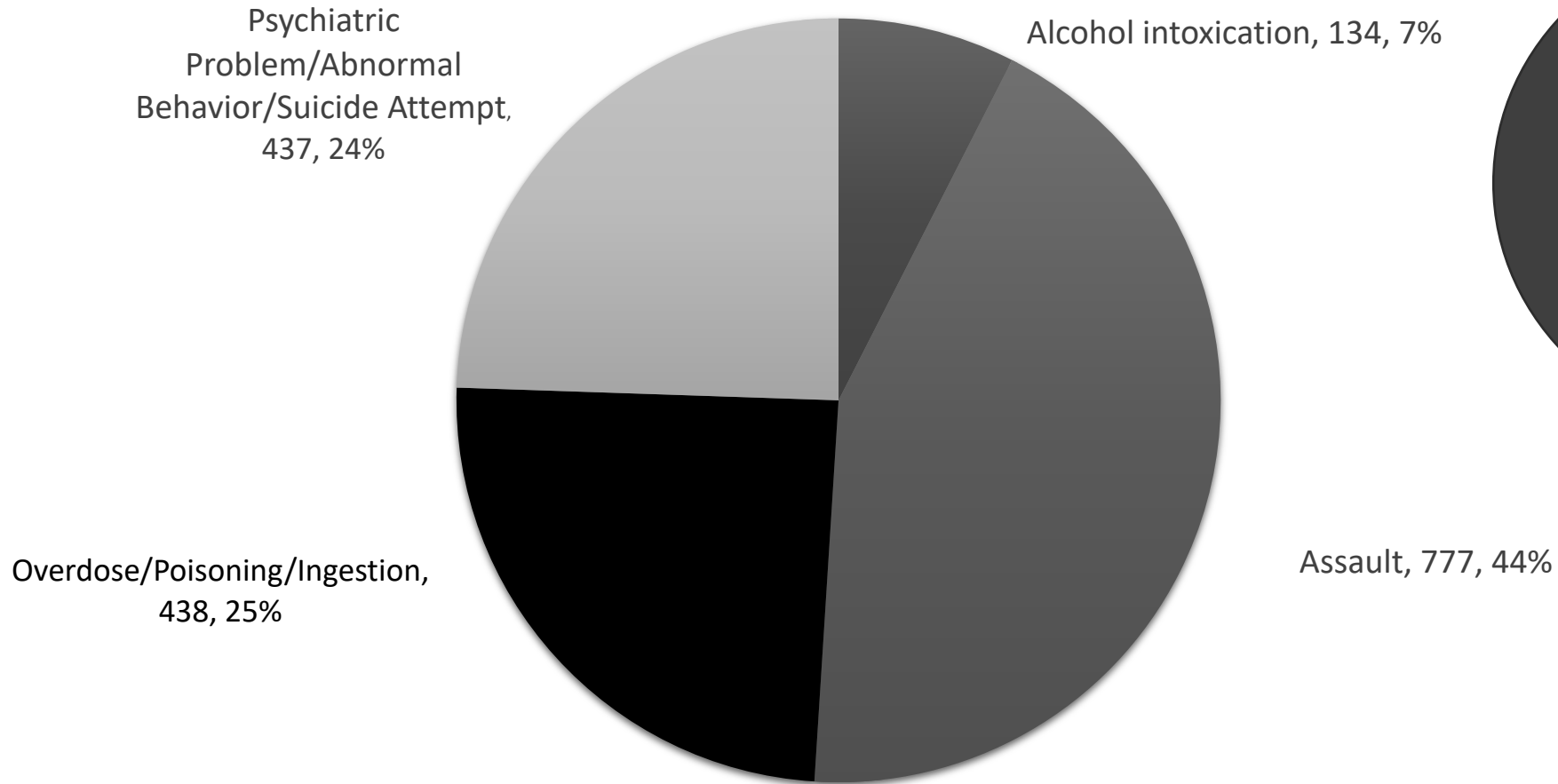
# Focus Groups: Suggestions for Child Welfare

- Repeated theme: Need for treatment for women where they can keep their children and/or maintain a close relationship
- Women (and affected kids) are afraid to ask for help for fear of losing their children-need a way to ask for help and get support instead of punishment
- Women in DOC facilities lamented languishing in the system waiting for treatment, while the timeclock for losing their children is ticking
- “We need more support to keep our kids because that’s the only thing in the world some of these people have to live for and once their kids are gone its almost impossible to act right because you’re so angry about your kids being gone.”

Substance use is having  
an impact on the health  
of residents of  
Yellowstone County

# EMS/911 Data

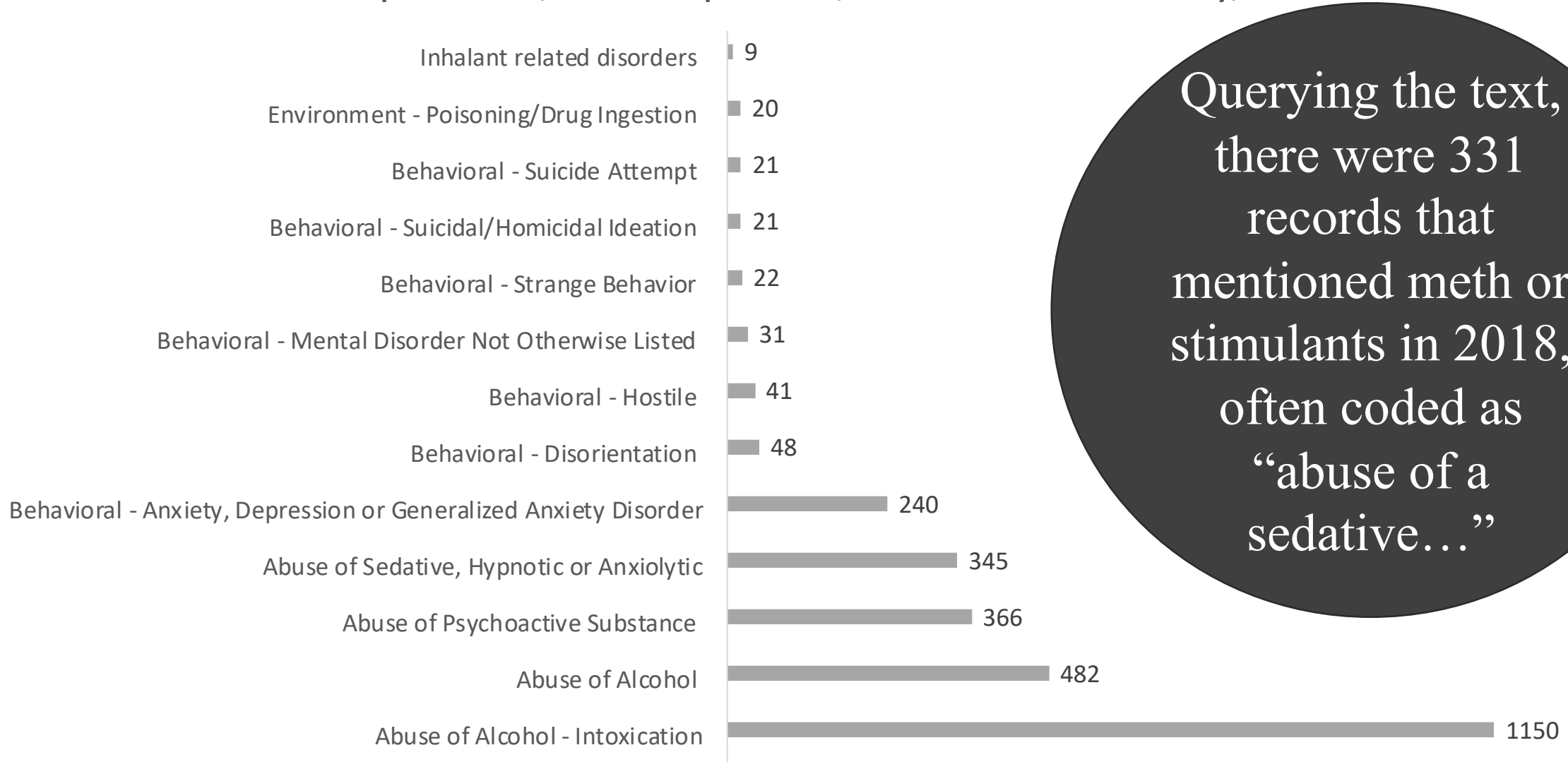
# Behavioral health complaints with 911 Response, Yellowstone County, 2018



Almost one  
in ten 911  
calls are for  
behavioral  
health issues

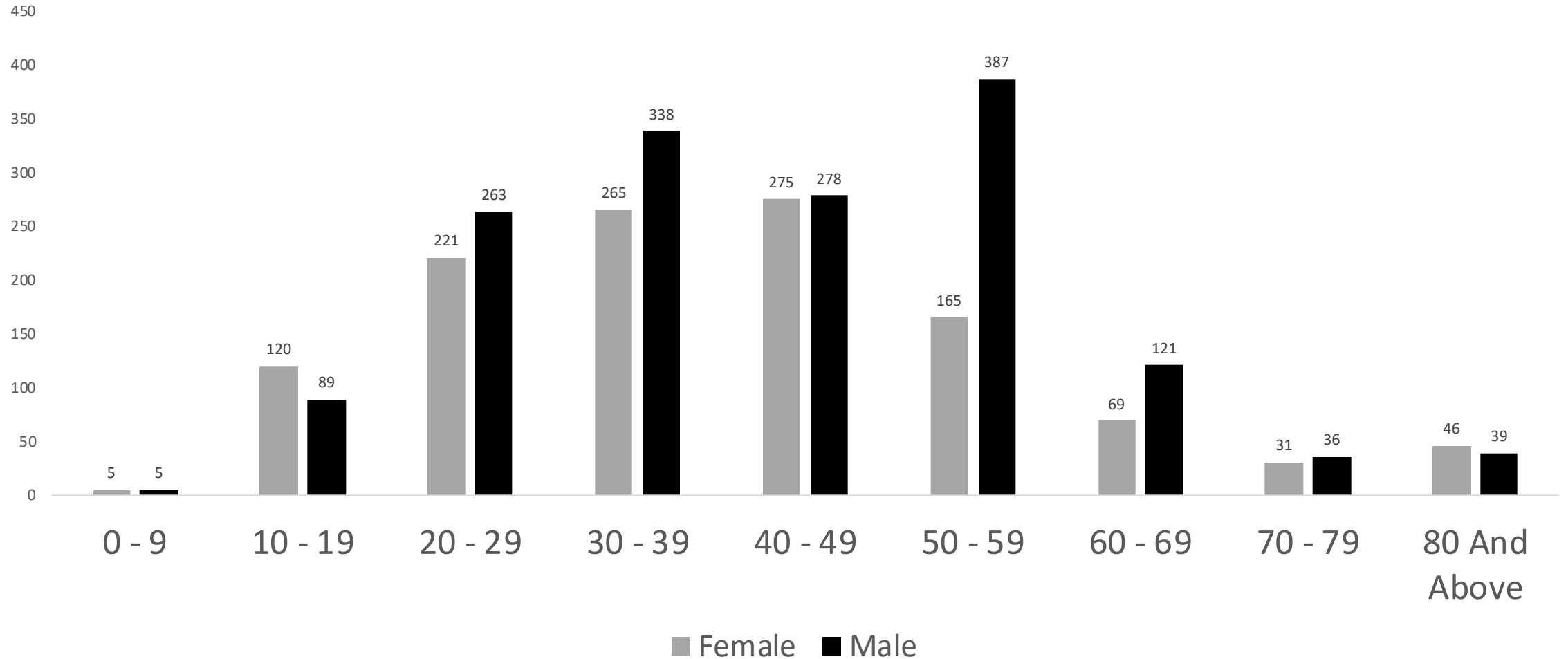
Source: DPHHS EMS and Trauma Systems

## Substance Use or Mental Health Related Situation Provider Primary Impression, 911 responses, Yellowstone County, 2018



Source: DPHHS EMS and Trauma Systems

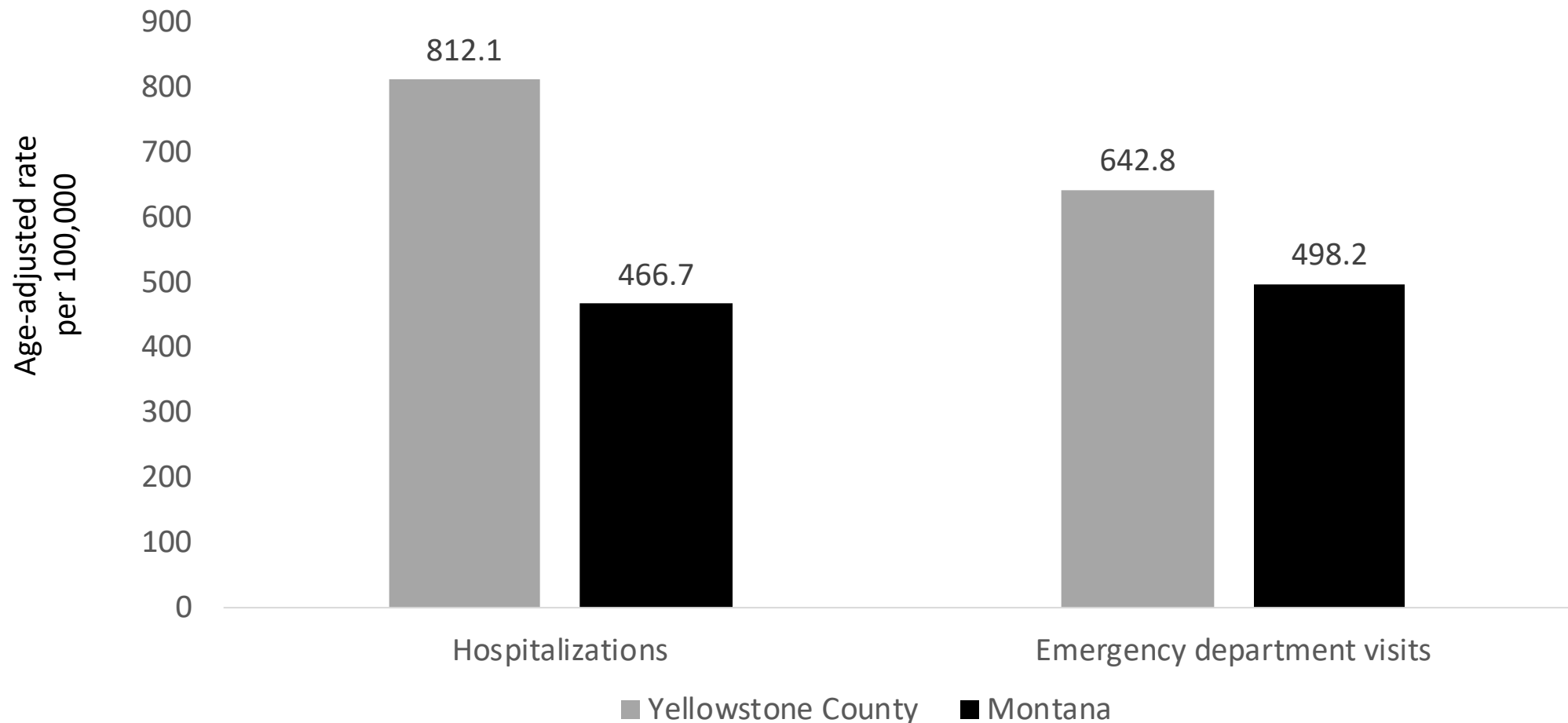
# Behavioral health related EMS Incidents in Yellowstone County, by gender and age



Source: DPHHS EMS and Trauma Systems



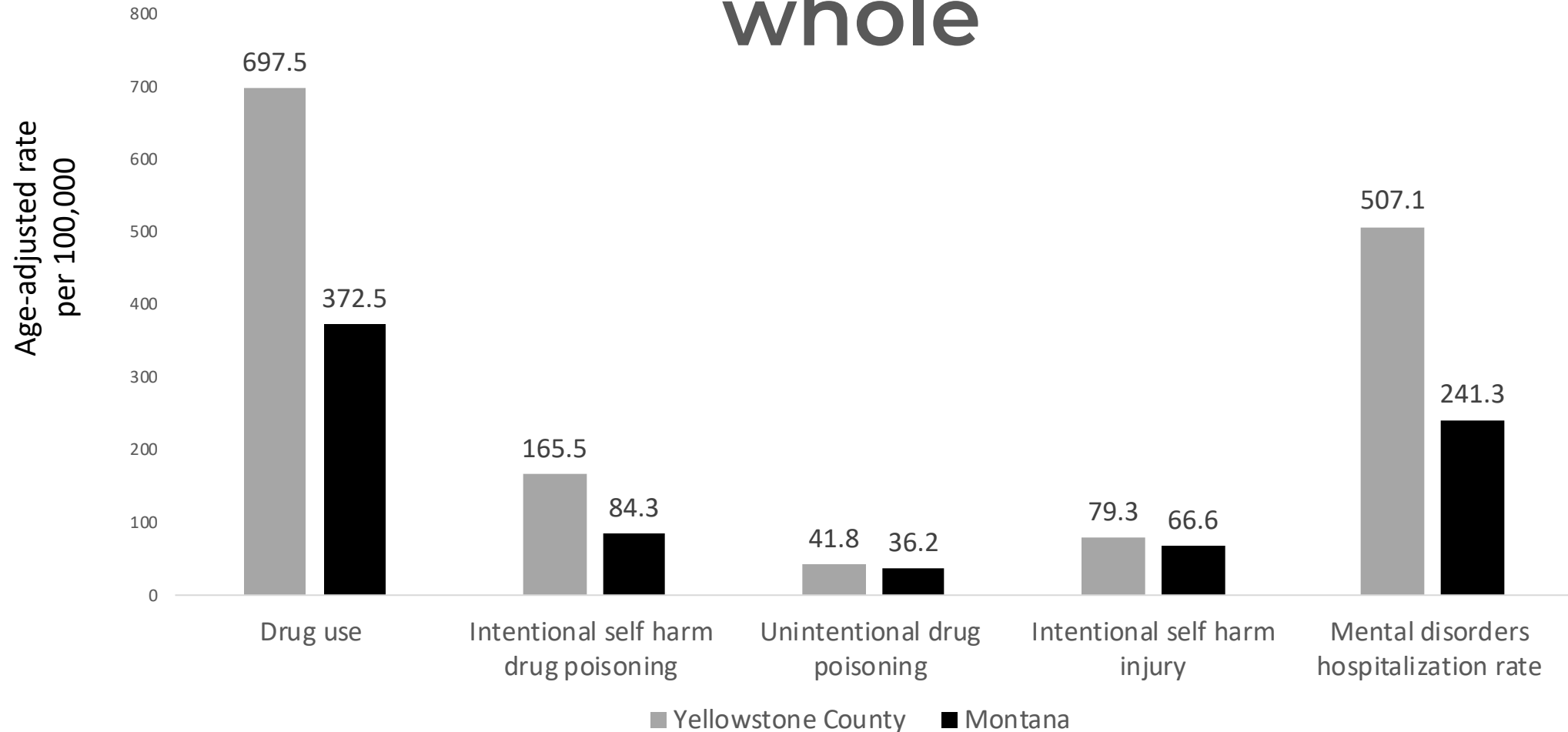
# Yellowstone County Residents are more likely to be hospitalized or visit the ER for drug use than other Montanans



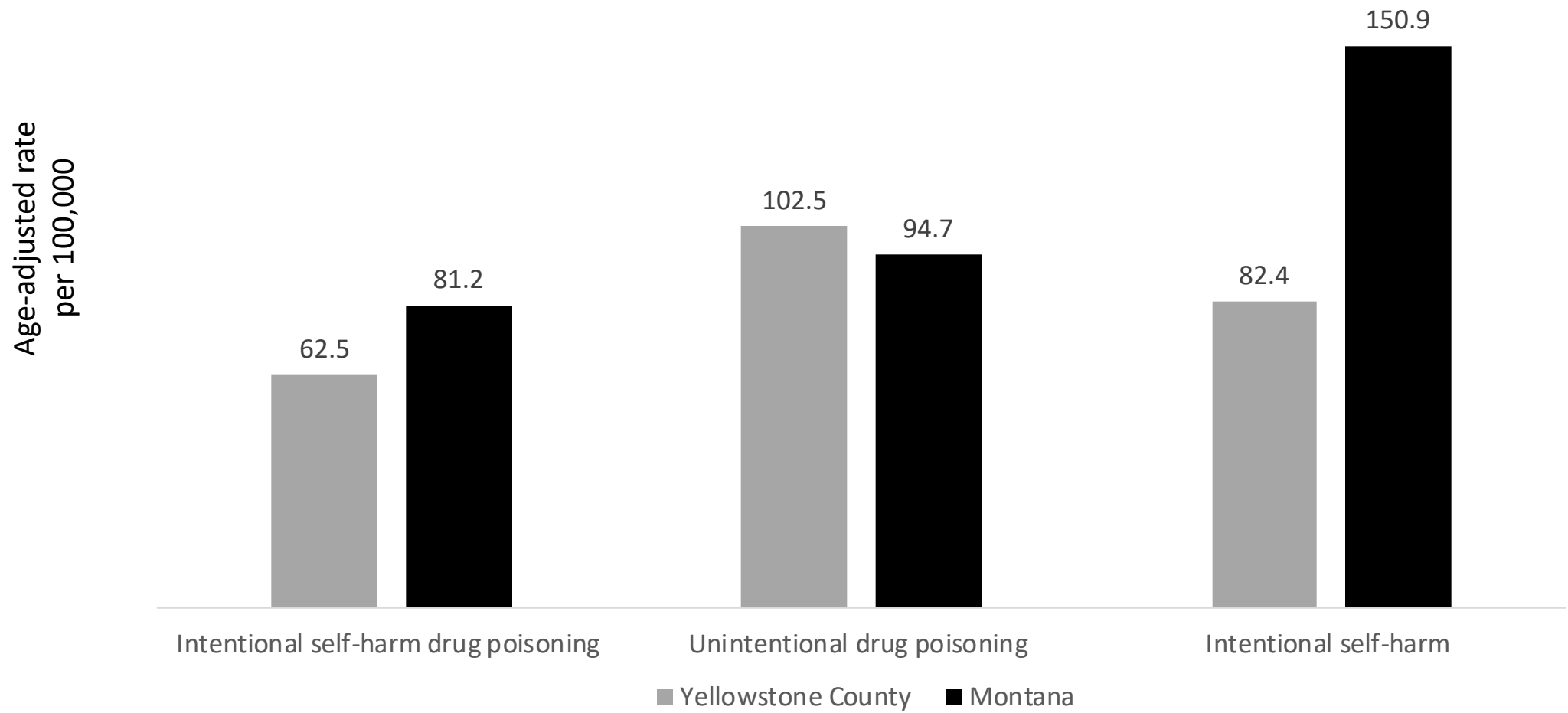
MEDICAL VISITS ATTRIBUTABLE TO DRUGS WITH POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE MONTANA RESIDENTS, 2010-2017

Source: Montana Hospital Discharge Data System, DPHHS

# Yellowstone County residents have higher rates of behavioral health hospitalizations than Montana as a whole



# ED visit rates for some behavioral health related conditions are similar in Yellowstone County and Montana



Source: Montana Hospital Discharge Data System, DPHHS

Drug  
overdose is  
the 10<sup>th</sup>  
leading  
cause of  
death in  
Yellowstone  
County

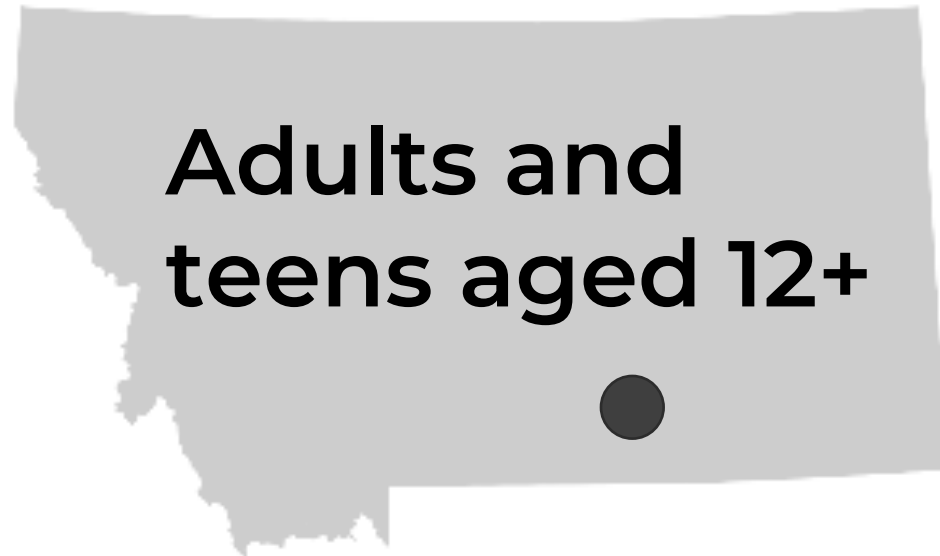
Cirrhosis /  
Liver Disease  
is the 12  
leading  
cause of  
death

Source: Montana Vital Statistics

Billings has a number of high quality treatment providers, but they do not have the capacity to meet all of the treatment needs

# 10,800

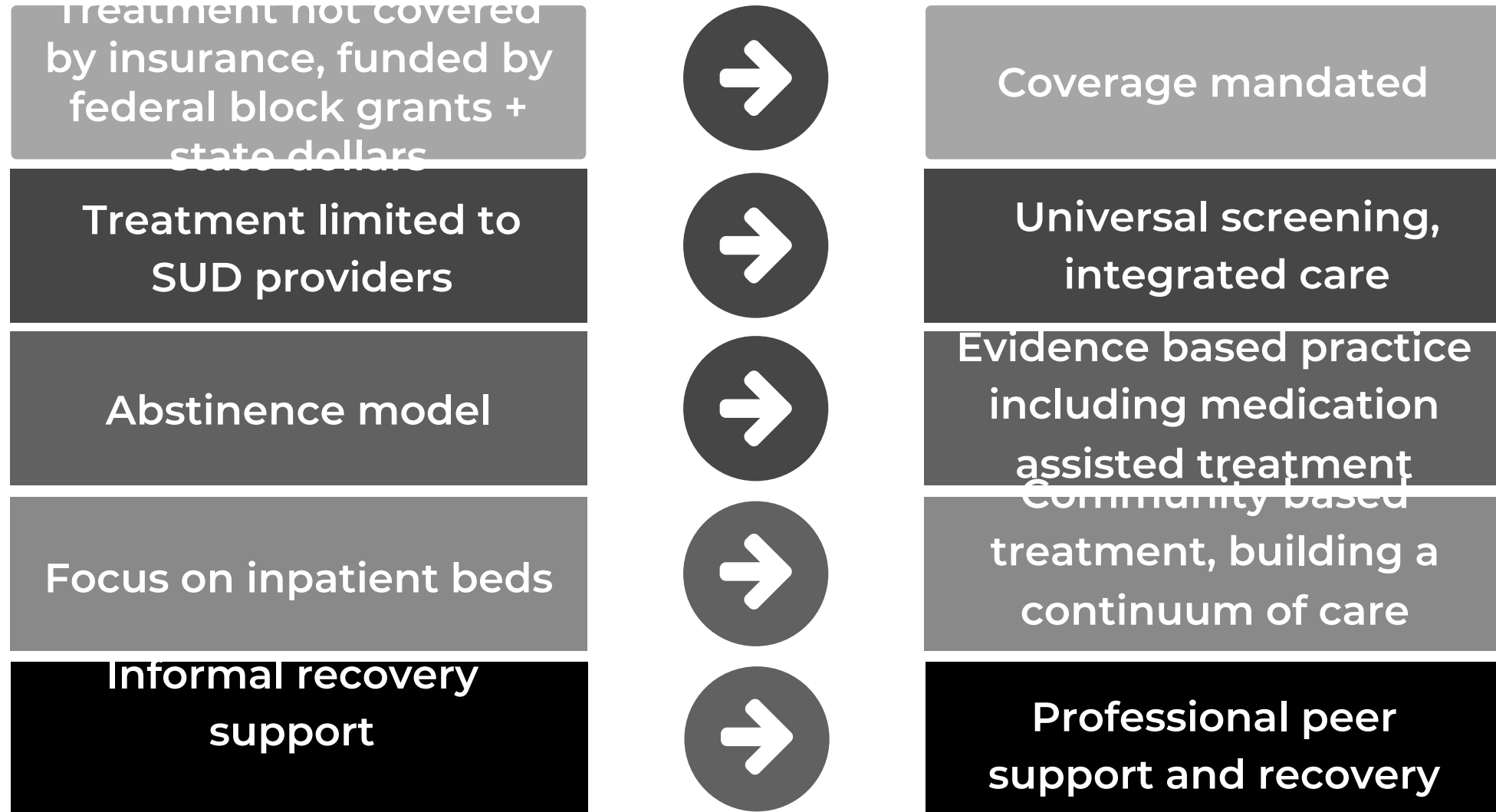
Need but are not  
receiving treatment for  
substance use



# 3,500

Need but are not  
receiving treatment  
for illicit drug use

# MAJOR SHIFTS IN SUD TREATMENT



**Treatment**

**Provider:**

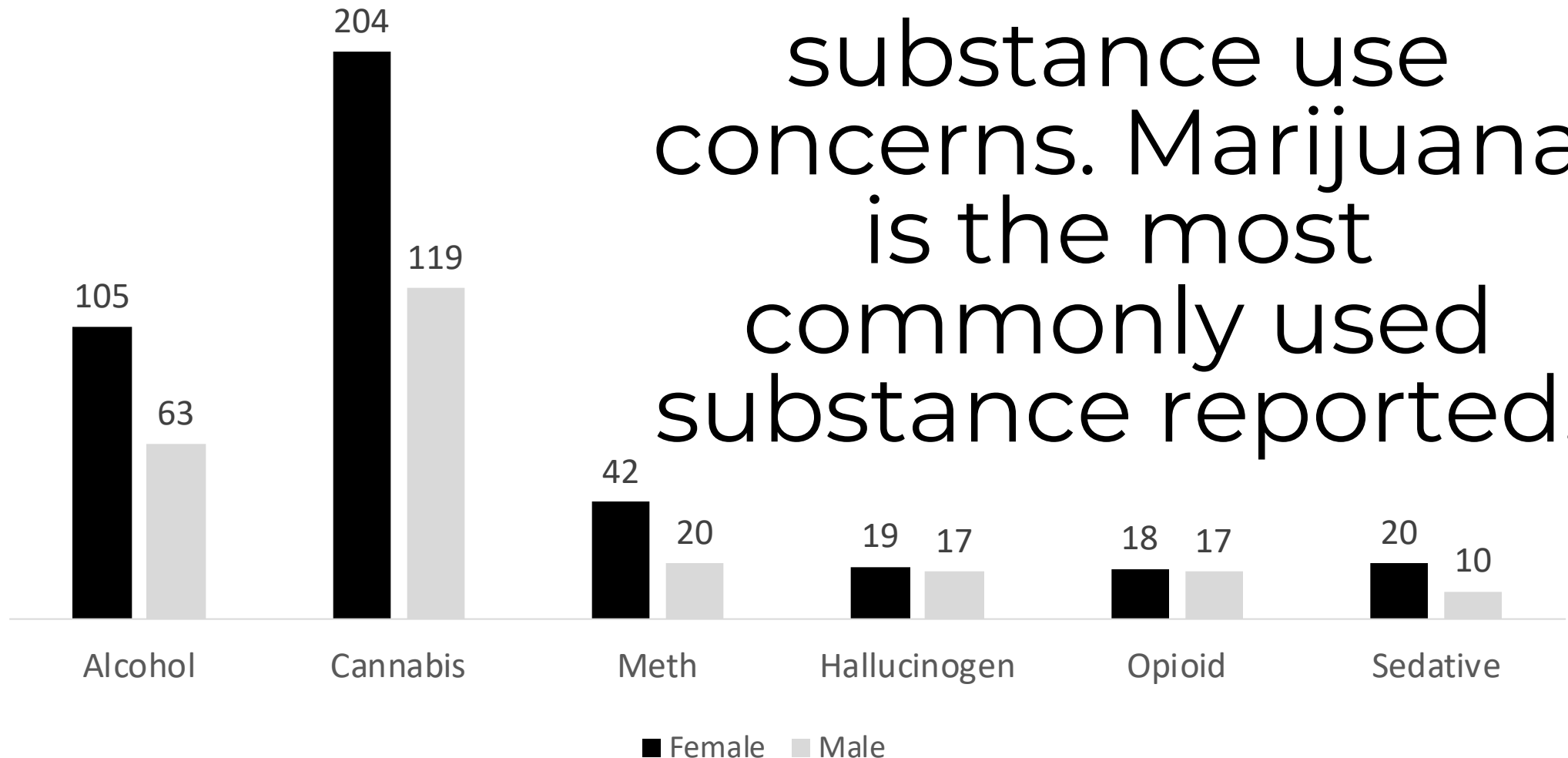
**Yellowstone**

**Boys and Girls**

**Ranch**



YBGR currently serves more females than males with substance use concerns. Marijuana is the most commonly used substance reported.



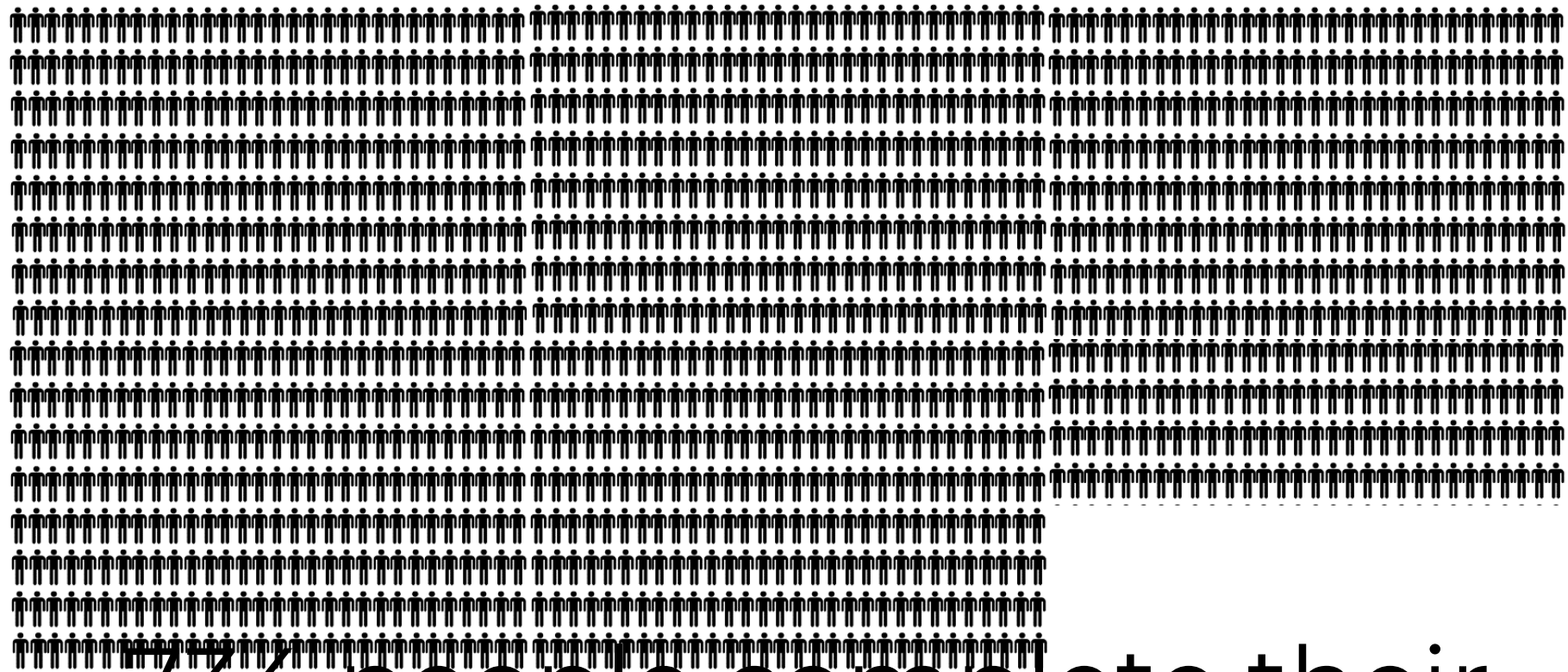
Source: YBGR Program Data

**Treatment**

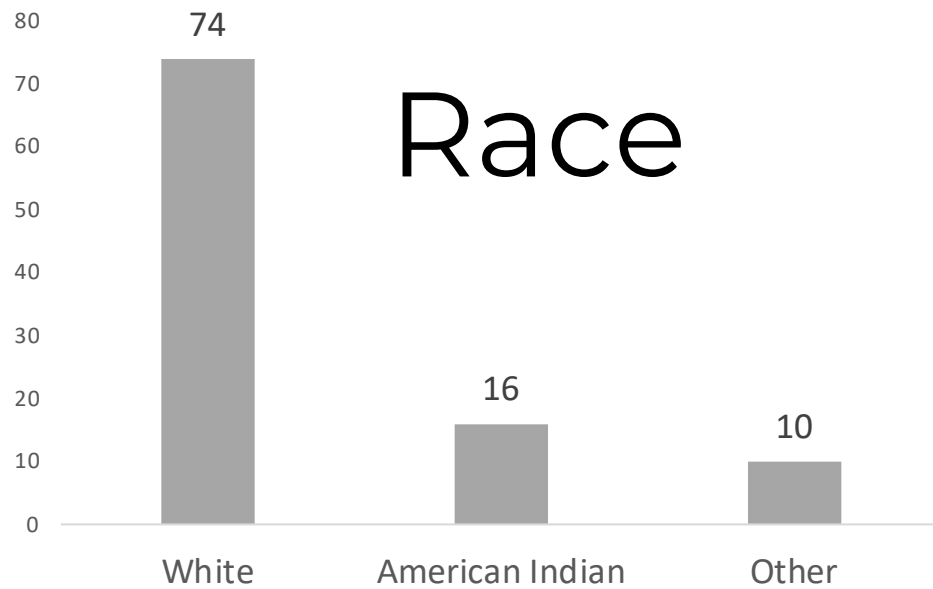
**Provider:**

**Rimrock**

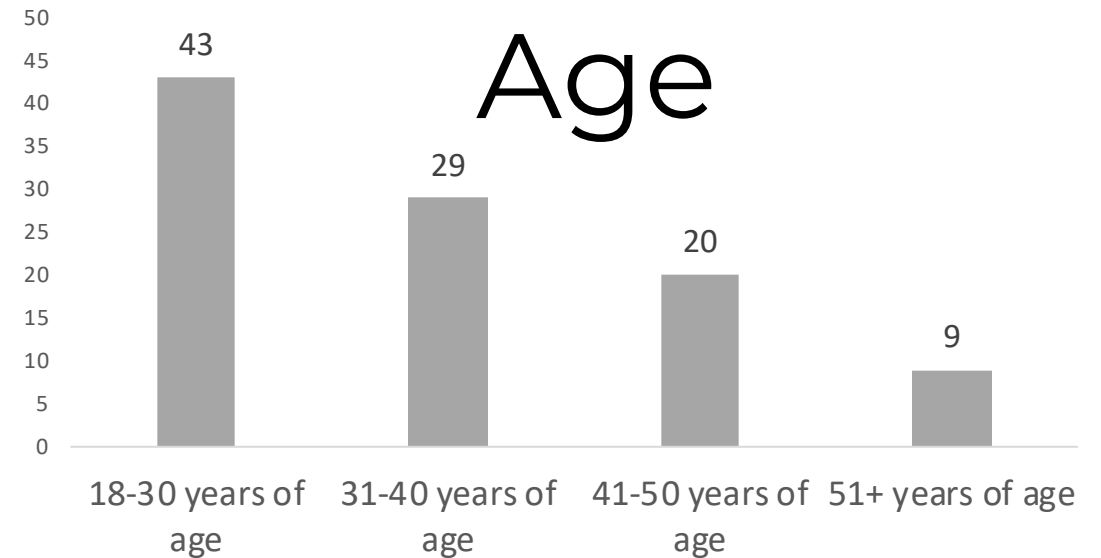
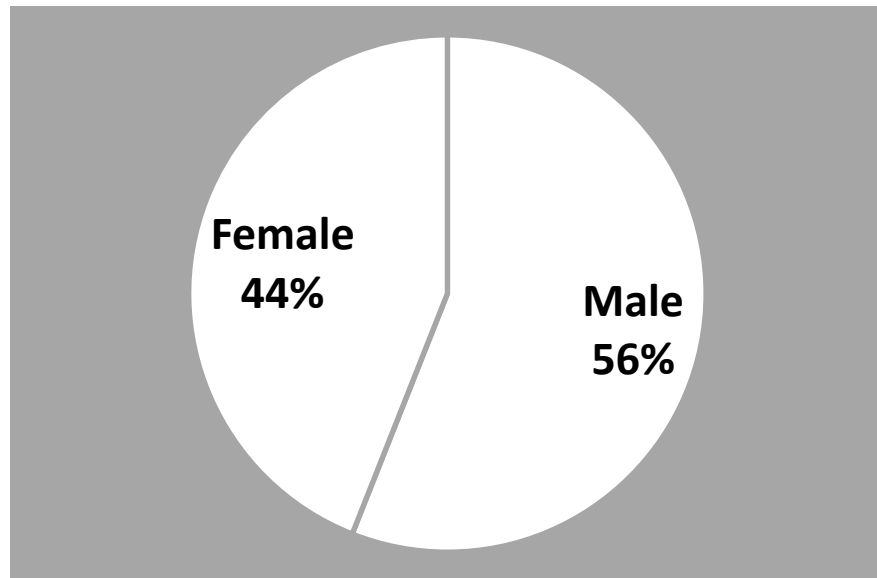
# Rimrock admitted 1337 individuals in 2018



## 734 people complete their programs with staff approval in 2018



The majority of Rimrock patients in 2018 were white, male and under the age of 40.



# DRUGS OF CHOICE FOR RIMROCK CLIENTS

**Alcohol**

**1**

**Methampheta  
mine**

**2**

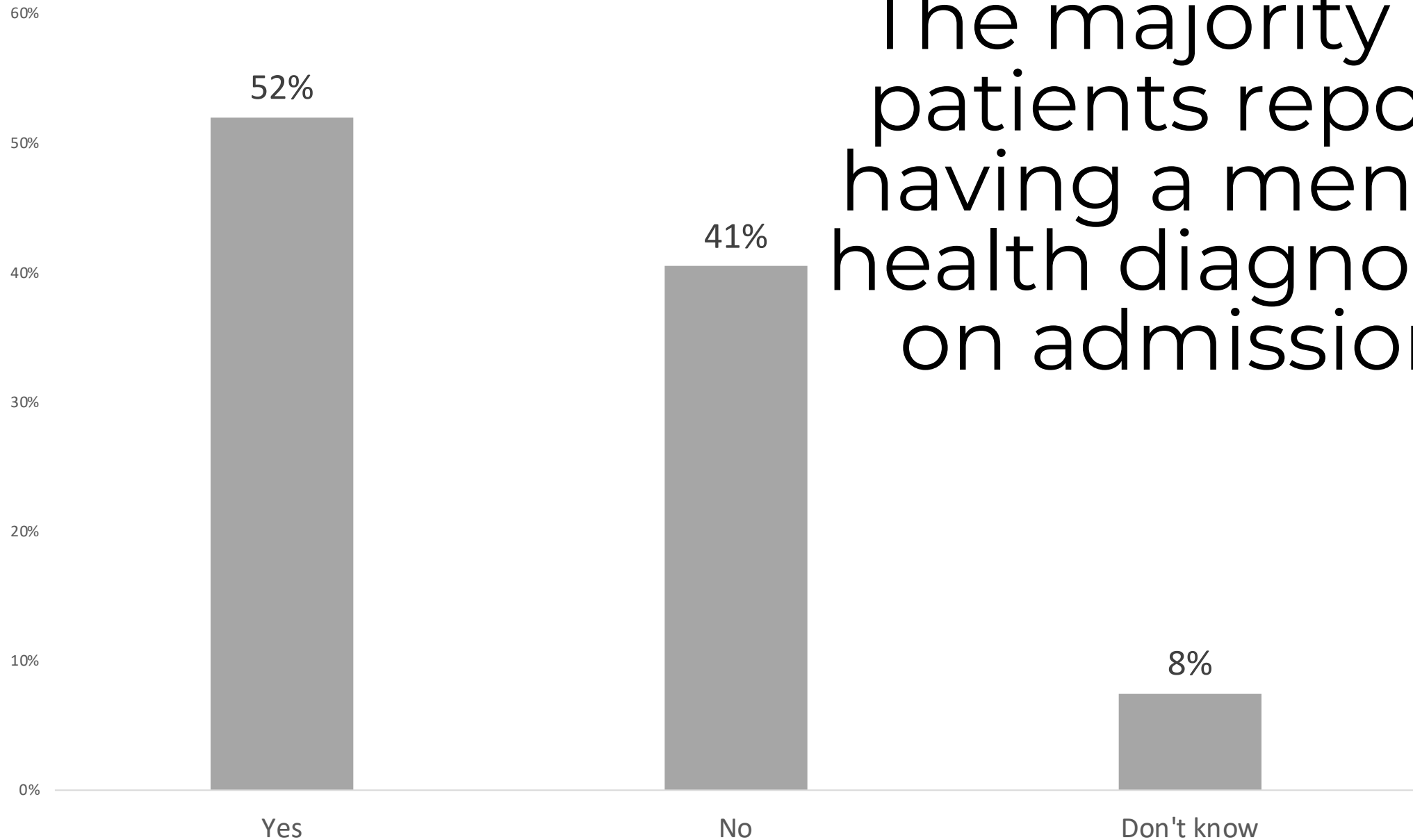
**Marijuana**

**3**

**Heroin**

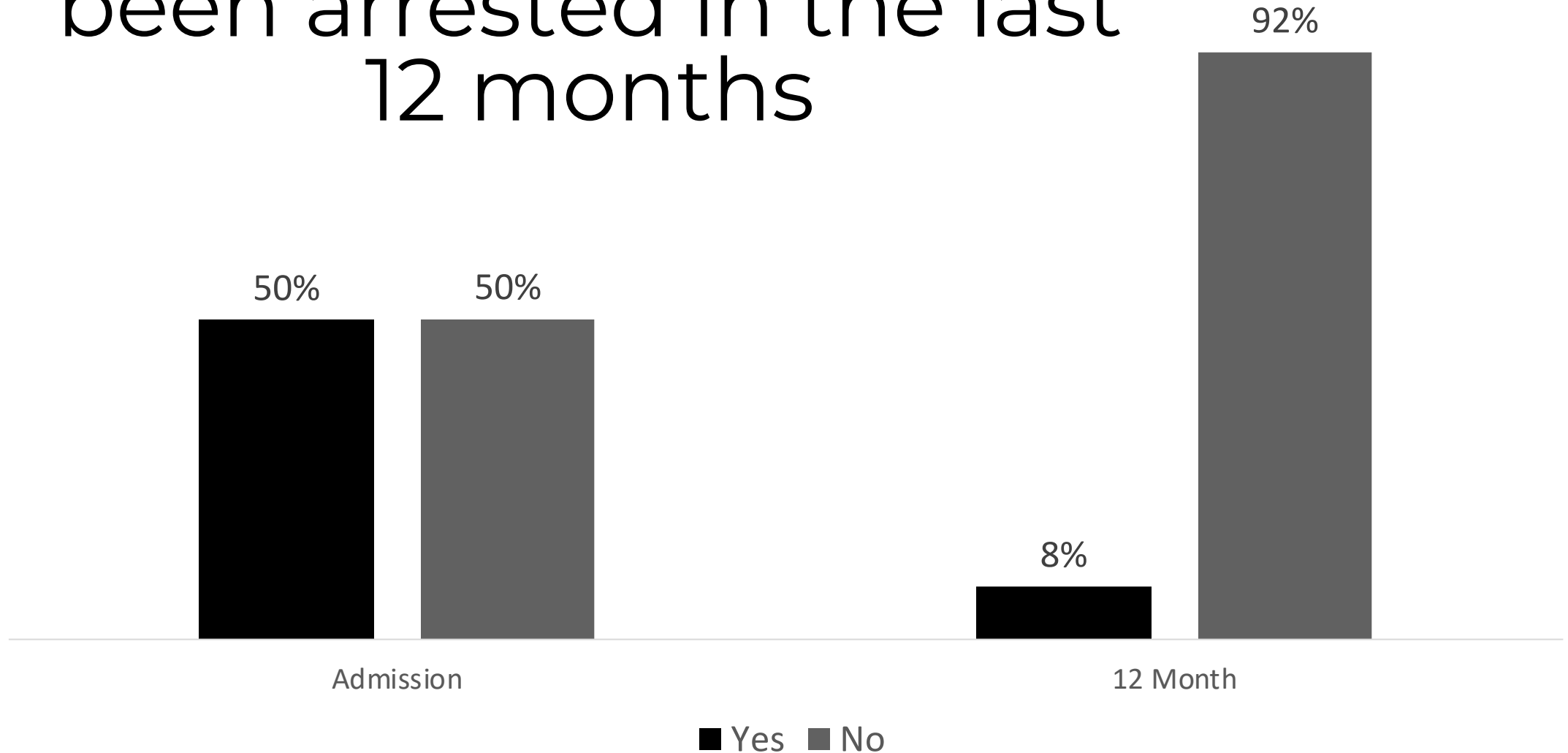
**4**

The majority of patients report having a mental health diagnosis, on admission



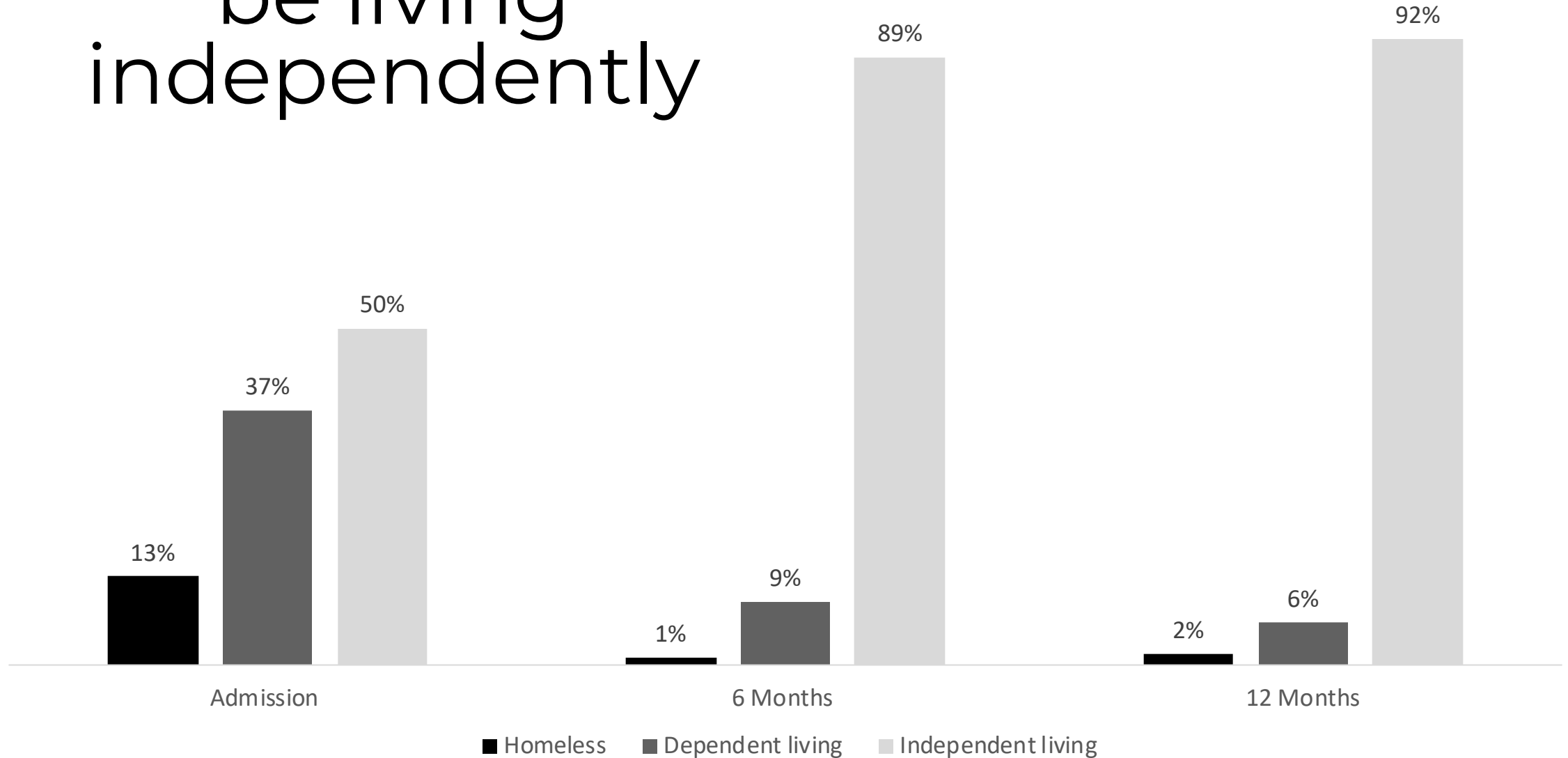
Rimrock  
patients who  
complete  
treatment...

# Are far less likely to have been arrested in the last 12 months



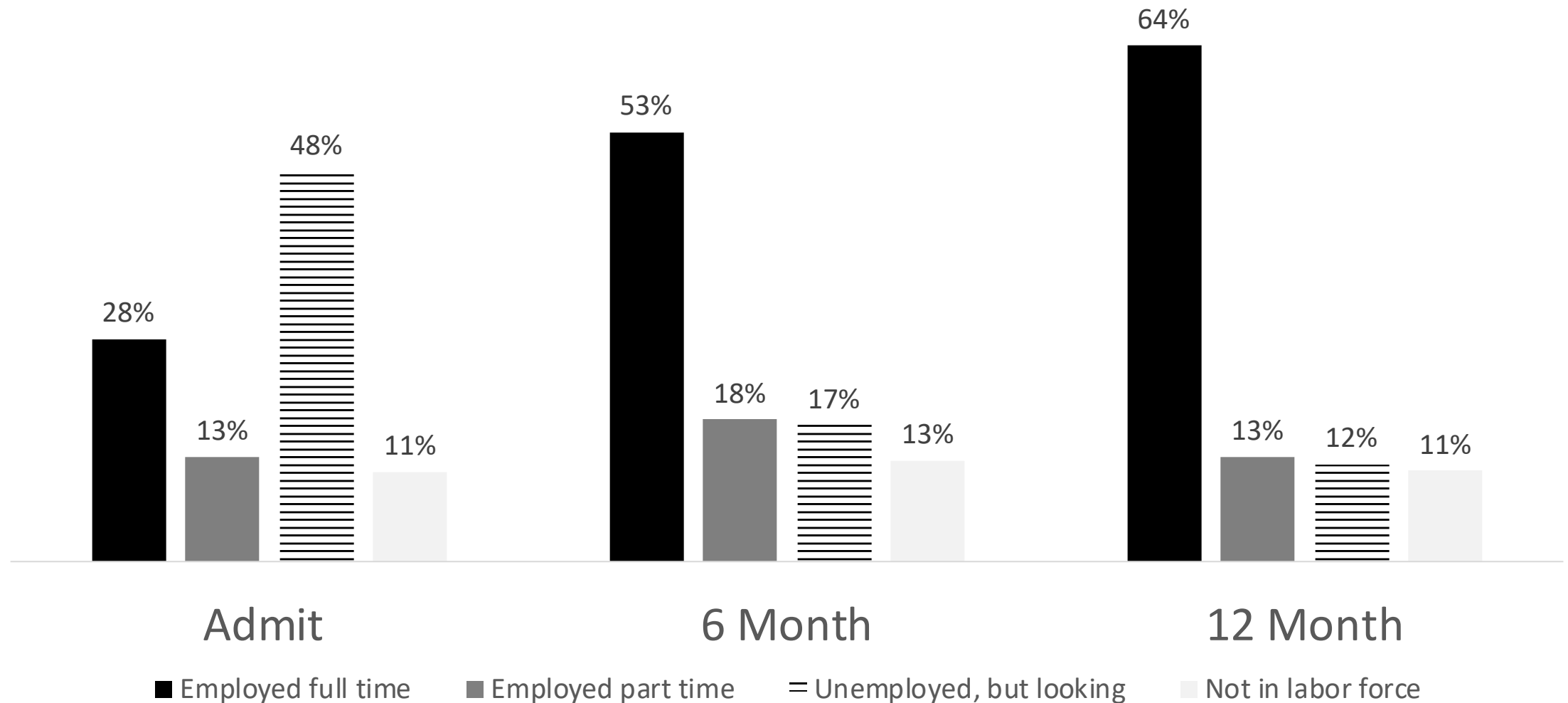


# Are more likely to be living independently

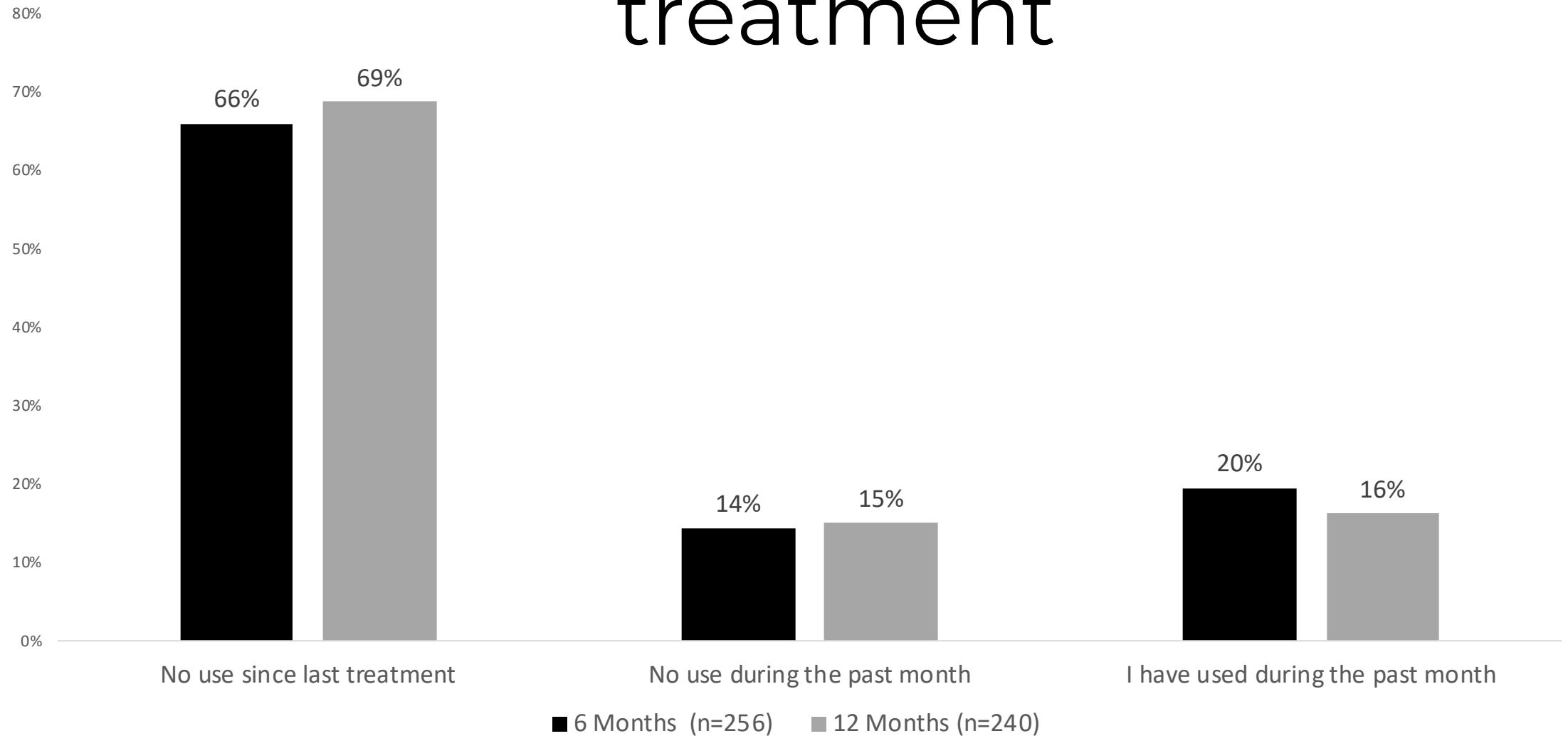


Source: Rimrock 2018 Annual Report

# Are more likely to be fully employed



# About two thirds of Rimrock clients report not using drugs since the end of treatment

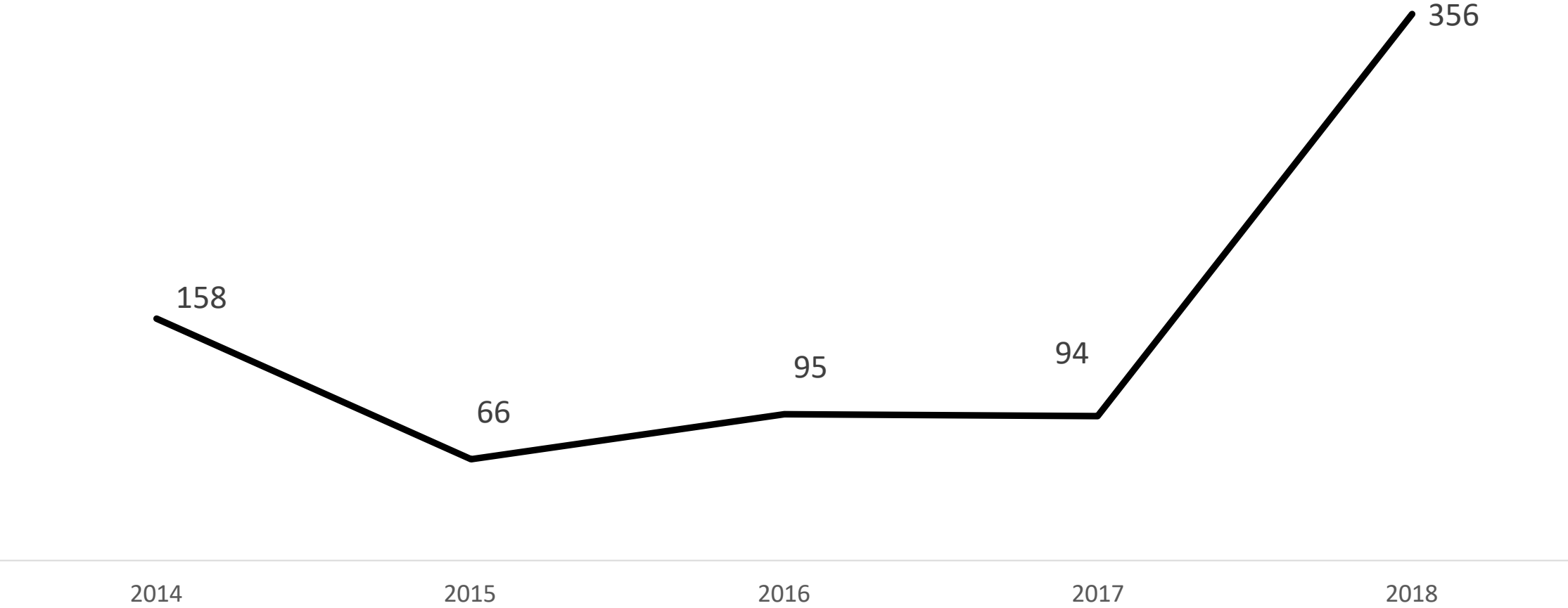


Source: Rimrock 2018 Annual Report

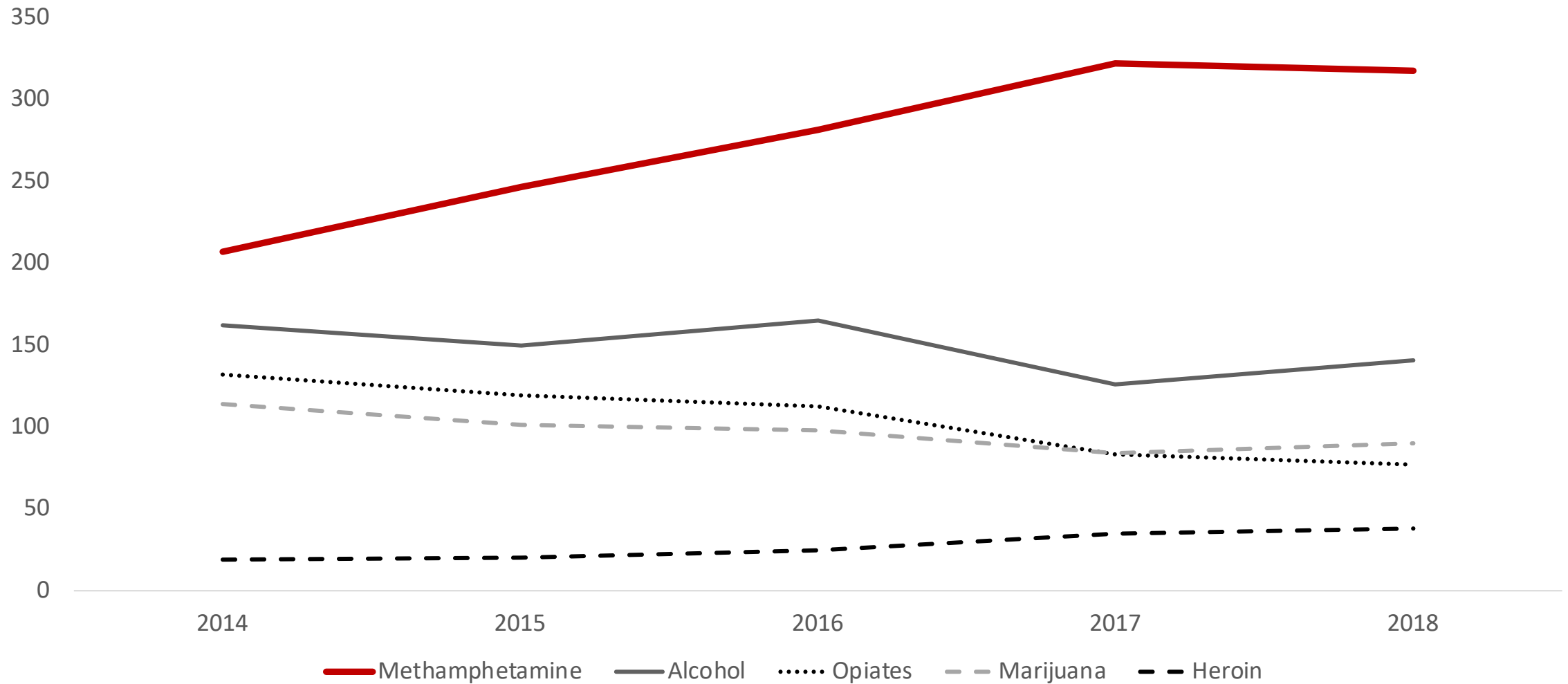
Individuals receiving treatment inside of the justice system are increasingly using meth

# DOC Contracted Facilities in Yellowstone County

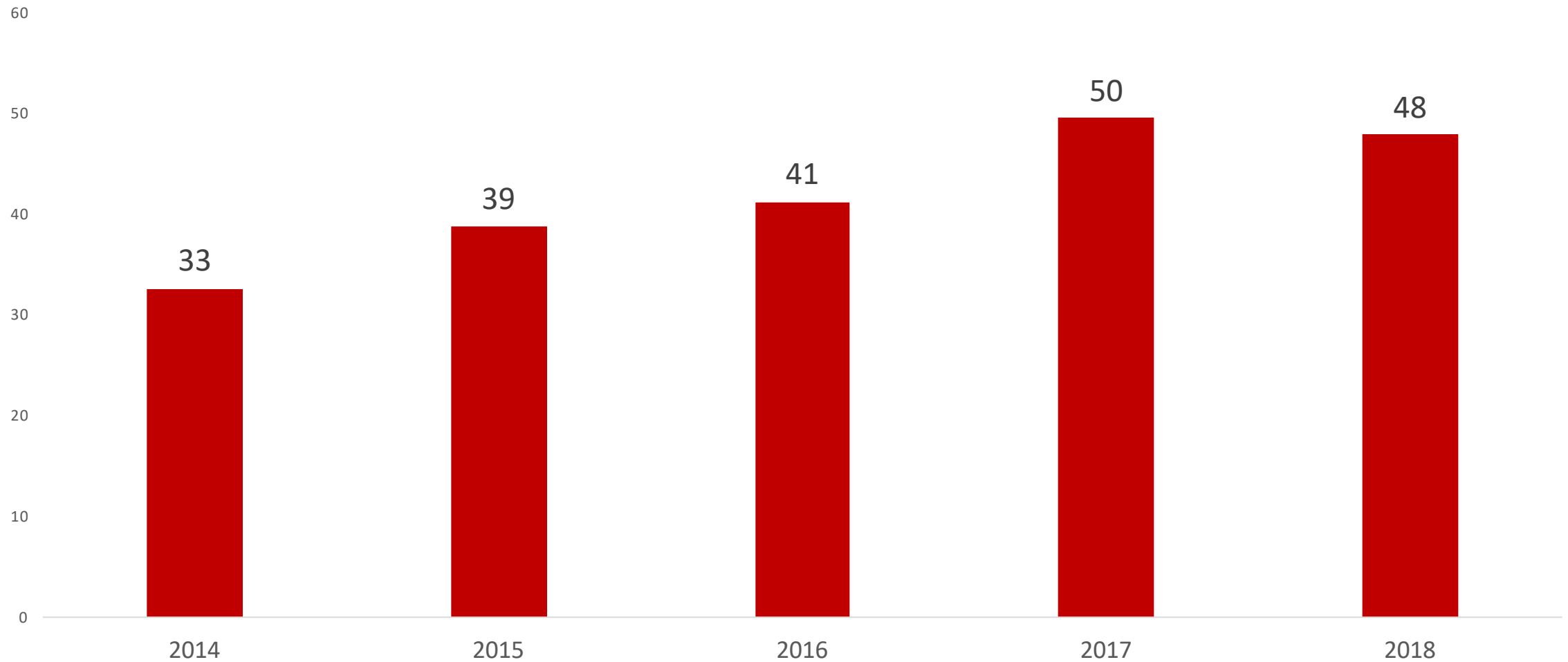
Number of females at Passages for criminal possession of dangerous drugs from Yellowstone County



# Passages Drug of Choice, 2014-2018

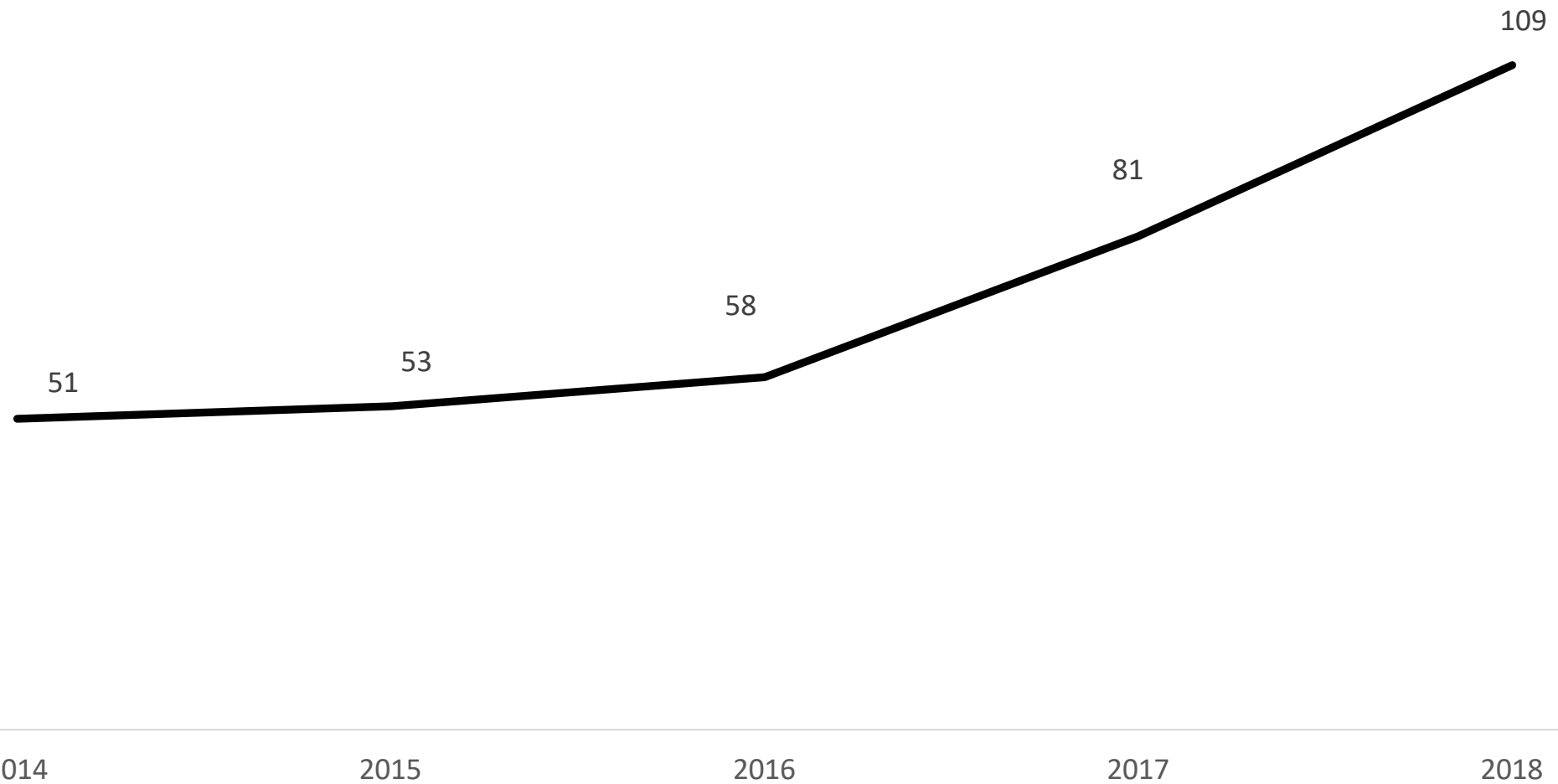


## Percent of Passages clients who indicate methamphetamine is their drug of choice

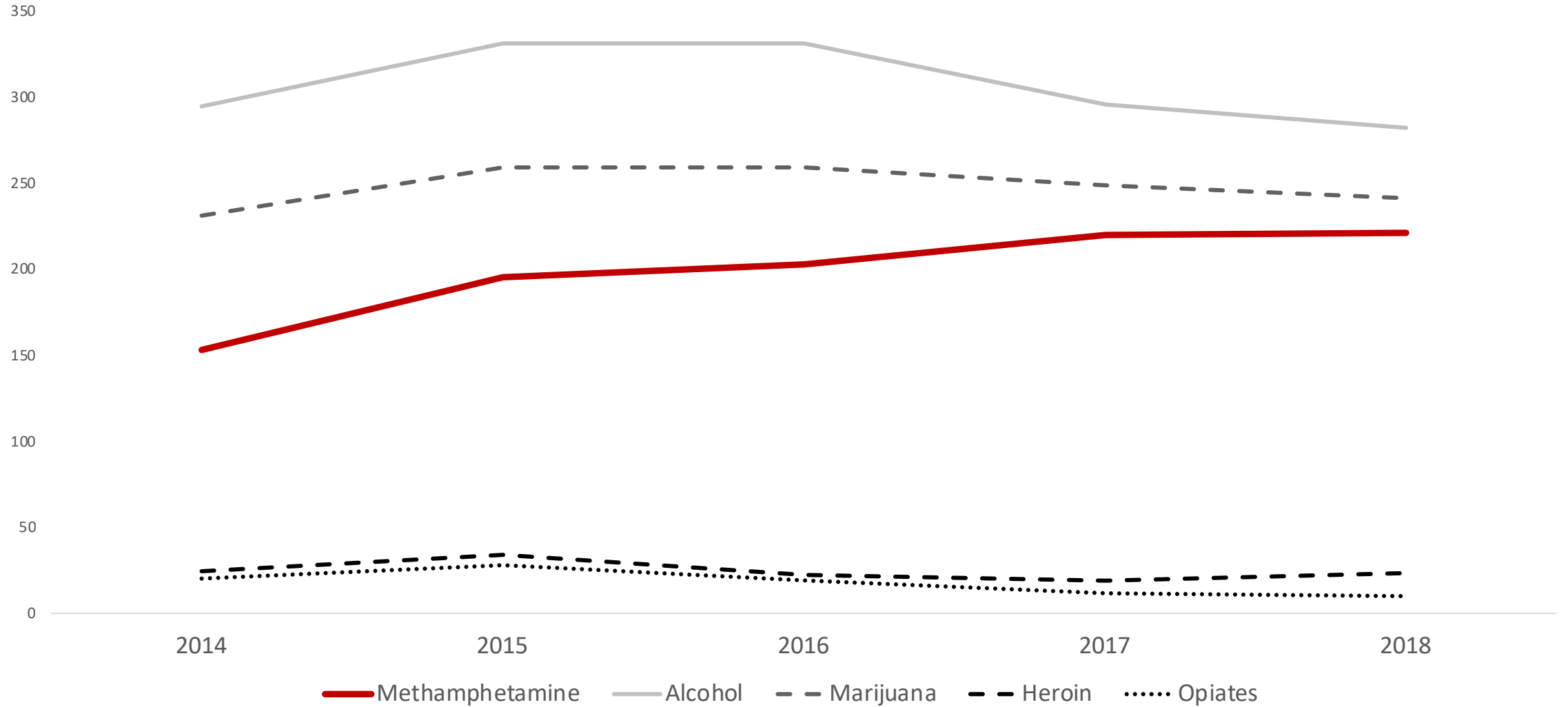




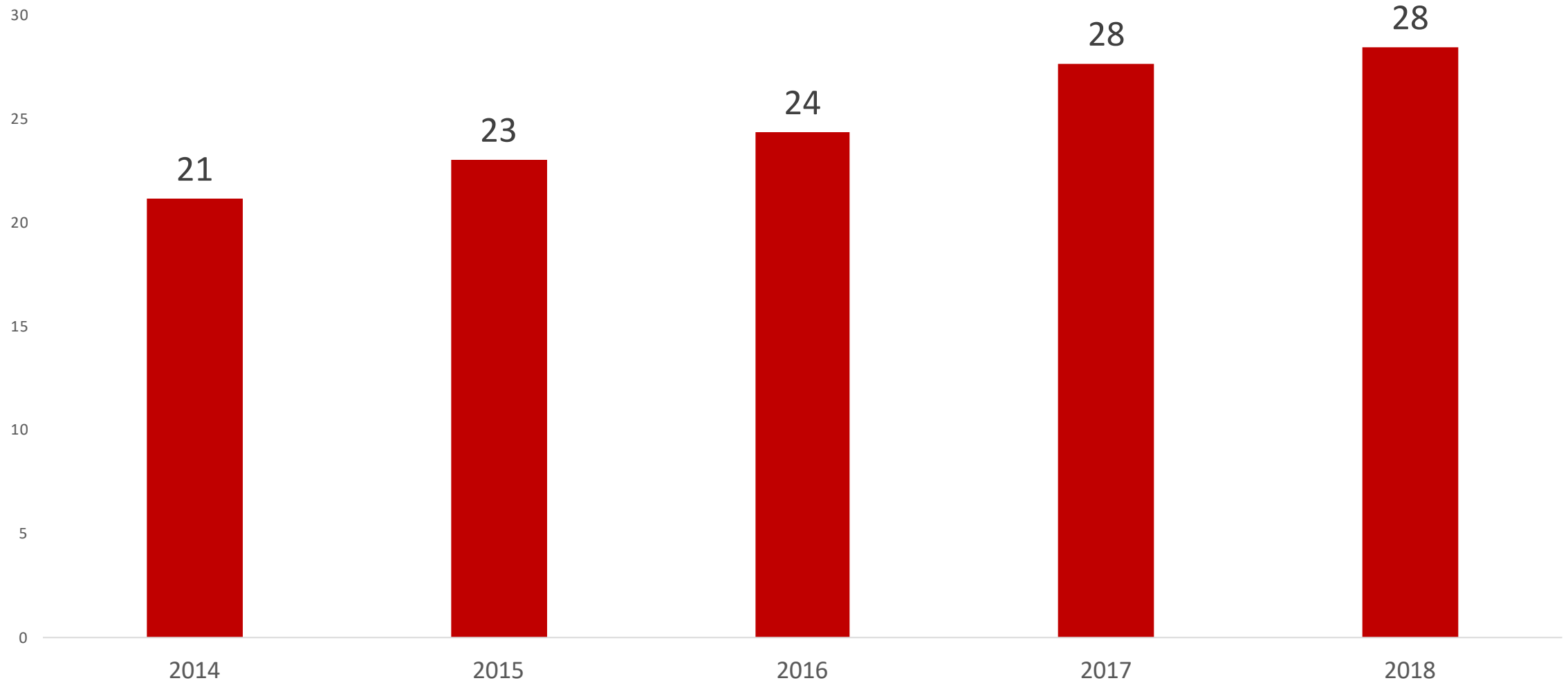
## Number of males at Alpha House for criminal possession of dangerous drugs from Yellowstone County



## Primary drug of choice, Alpha House, 2014-2018



# Percent of Alpha House clients who indicate methamphetamine is their drug of choice



# Focus Groups: Feedback on justice system

- Frustration with revoking people repeatedly and starting over at square one every time a dirty UA comes up
- Getting in trouble when you're in these programs and getting phased down and then having to start all over is very frustrating
- Having a lot of monitoring and then taking a really punitive approach can be unhelpful
- If you do relapse you should get the chance to use the resources you're taught to use and try to work through it without just being thrown back into jail or back into treatment, or prison or whatever it is

# Focus Groups: Feedback on justice system

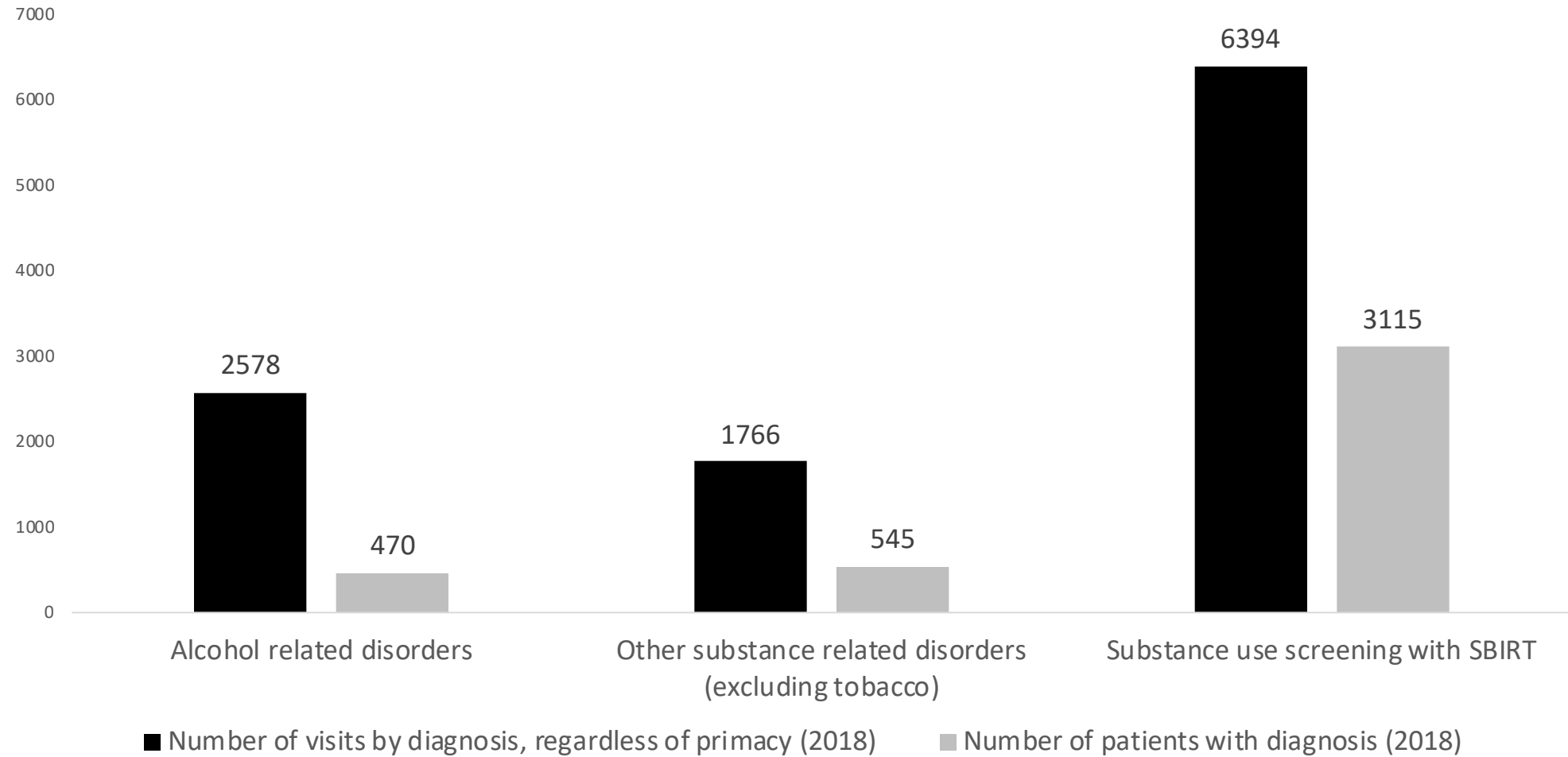
- Justice involved women repeatedly expressed that feel their being set up for failure because they lose their driver's license, have no resources to access when they get out of treatment, they have no job, no family, no where to go, no clothes, food etc.
- “Poor people shouldn't be receiving a disproportionate amount of the felony charges for possession when people with more money who are smoking pot or doing other drugs are never getting caught or sent to jail.”
- We need to not treat addicts like they're not criminals but treat them like they're people with a brain that isn't working properly

# Focus Groups: Suggestions for helping justice involved offenders

- Housing is a huge piece because if you're a violent offender or felon or both you can't get any housing; you can be in a community where you can't get around because you don't have a car and you have to check in twice a week at the police station because you're a felon, and if you don't, boom, you're hit with another felony
- If there was more vocational training in the prisons people might be able to come out of prison better prepared for the real world

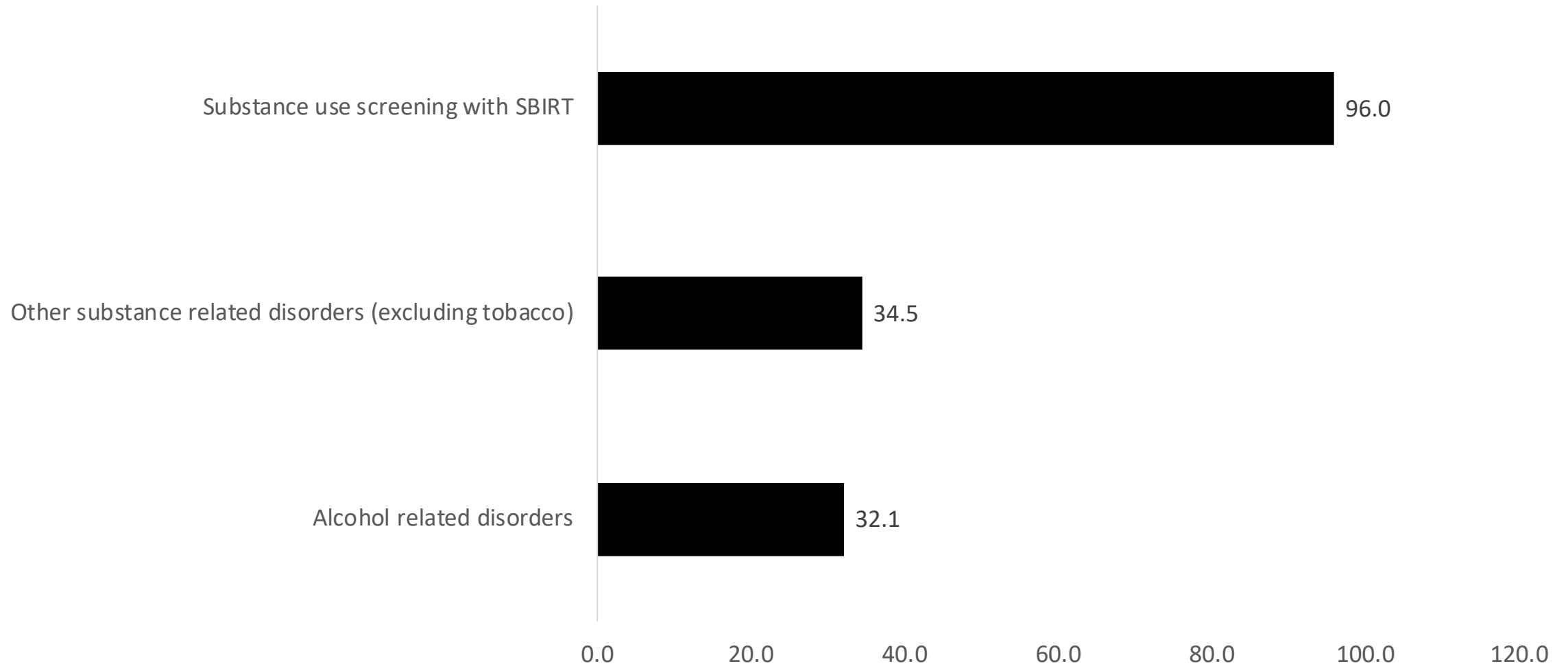
# **Traditional healthcare provider and Integrated Behavioral Health Services**

## RiverStone Health Substance Use Services 2018

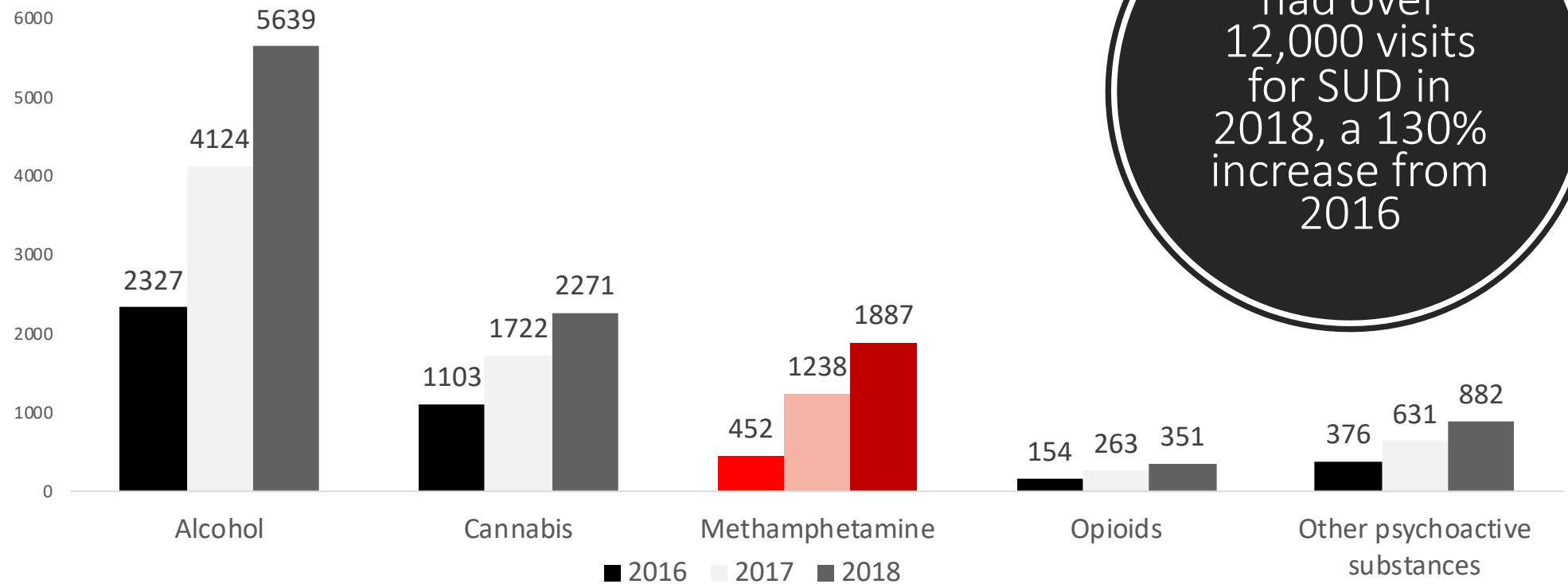




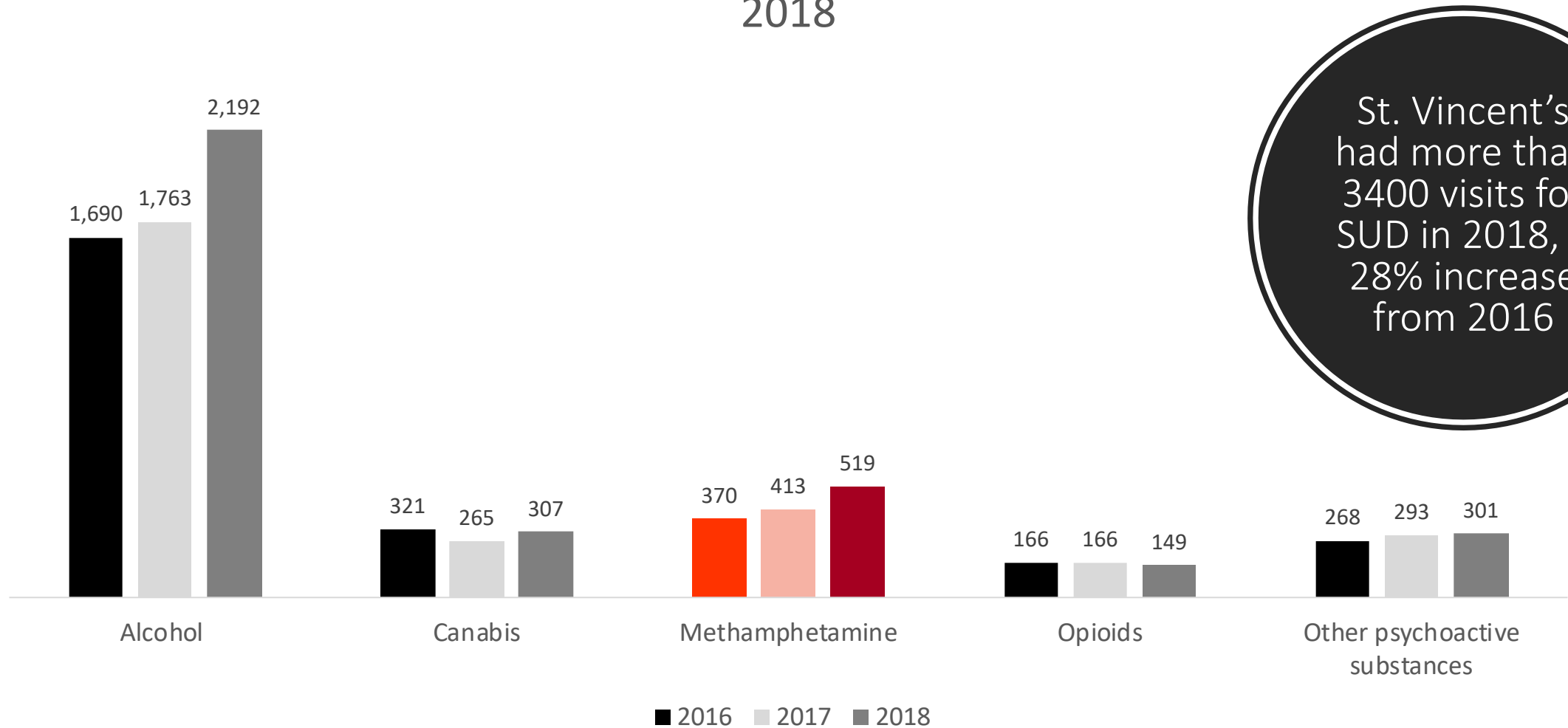
Percent increase in substance use and alcohol use screening and treatment,  
RiverStone Health, 2017-2018



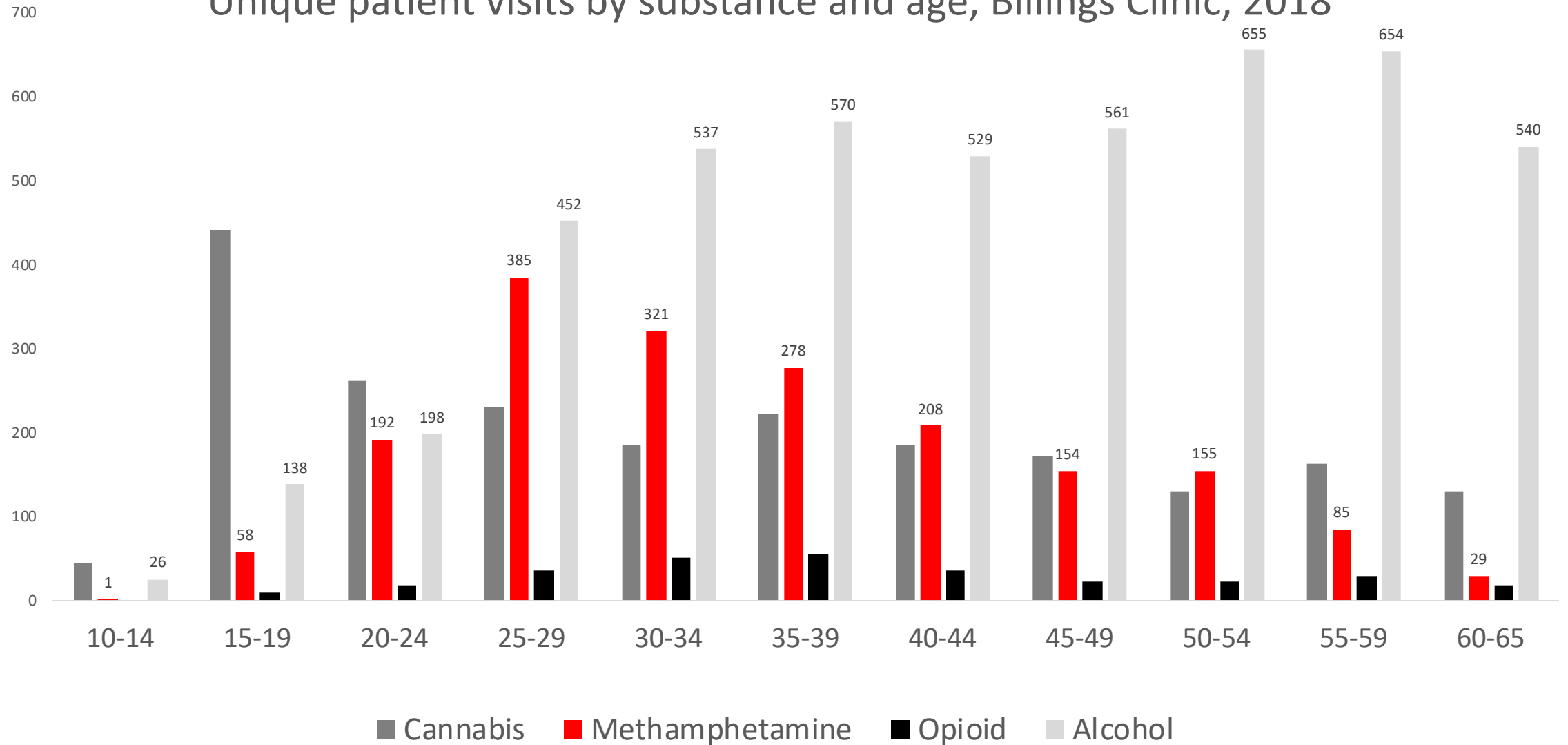
## Billings Clinic patient visits with substance use code identified, 2016-2018



## St. Vincent patient visits with substance use code identified, 2016-2018

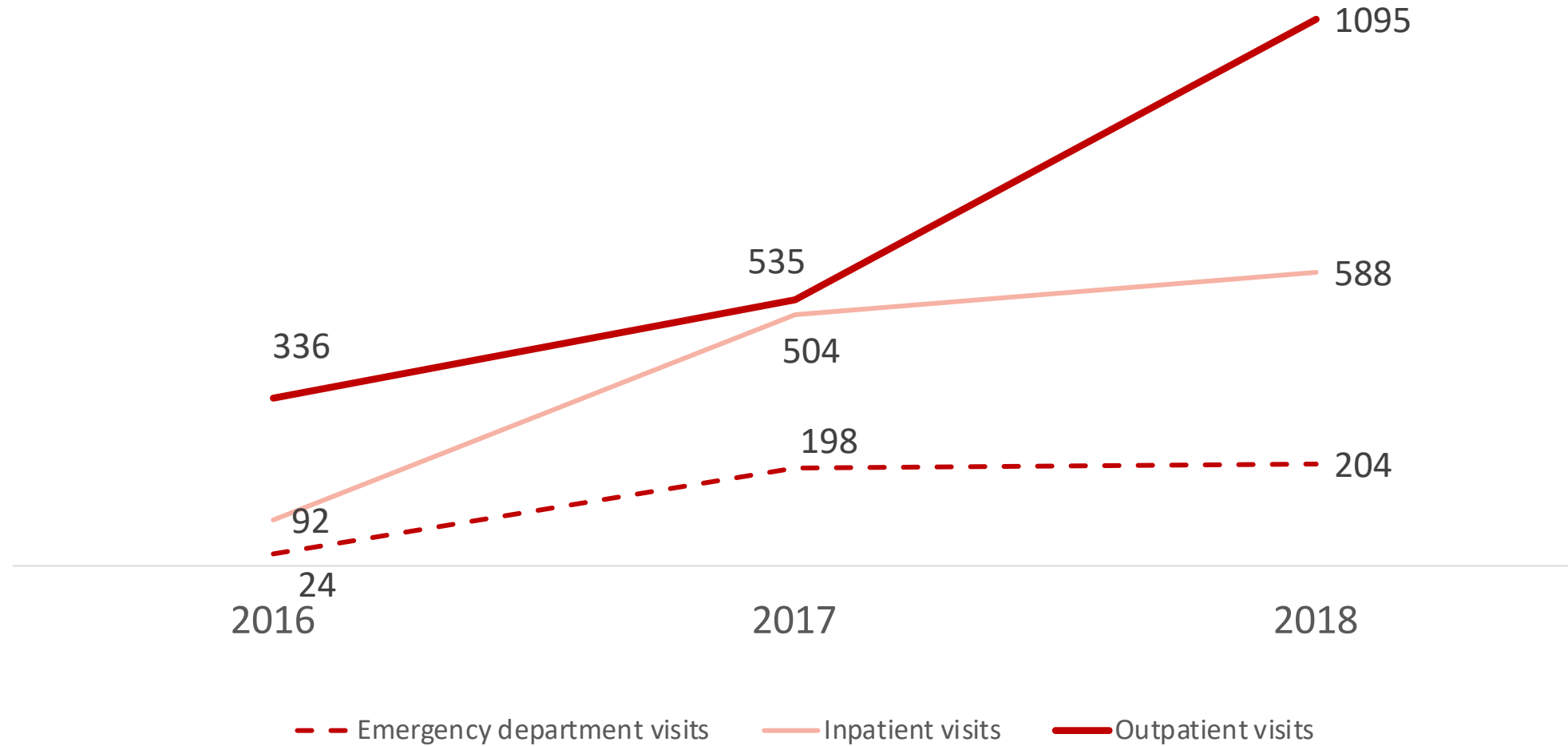


## Unique patient visits by substance and age, Billings Clinic, 2018

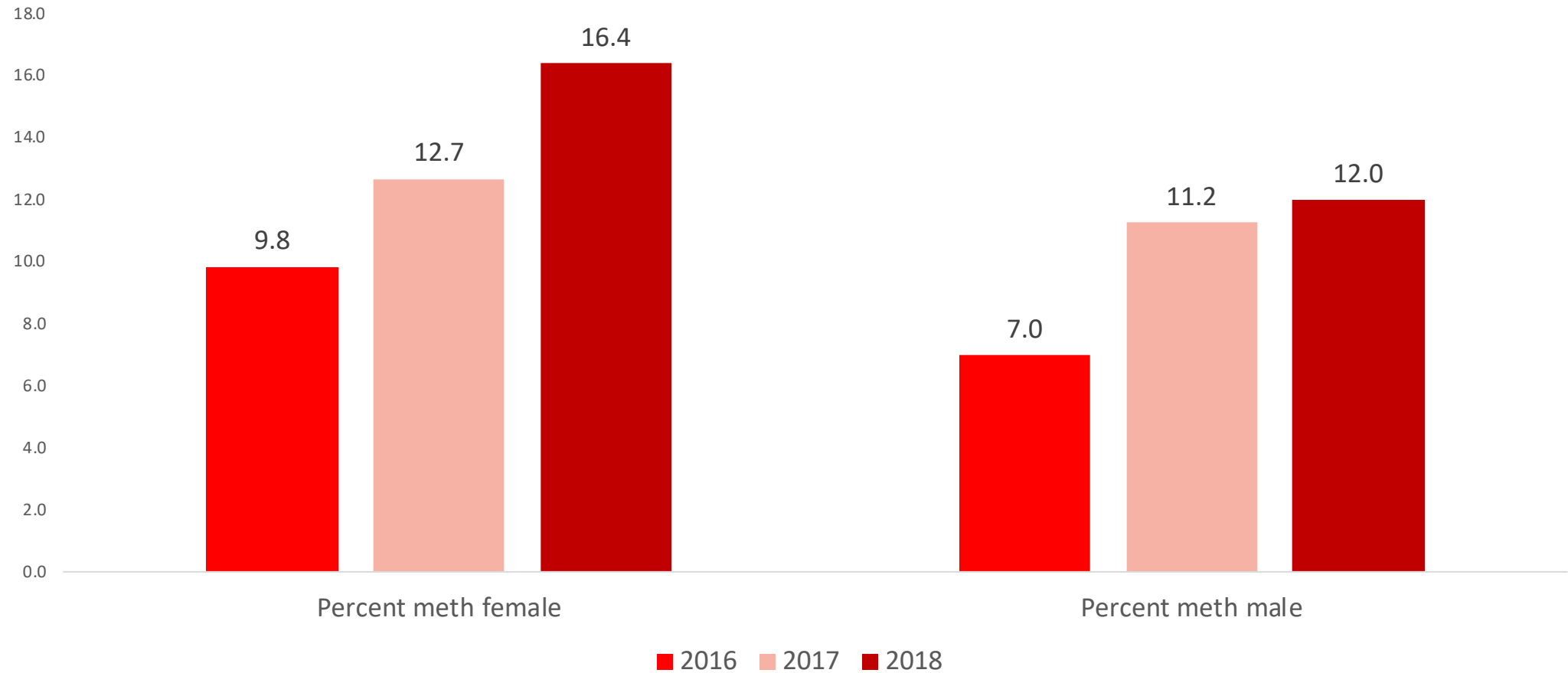


# Methamphetamine related patient visits, by location

## Billings clinic, 2016-2018



## Percent of SUD visits related to meth, by gender, Billings Clinic, 2016-2018



# Focus Groups: Suggestions for Improving Treatment

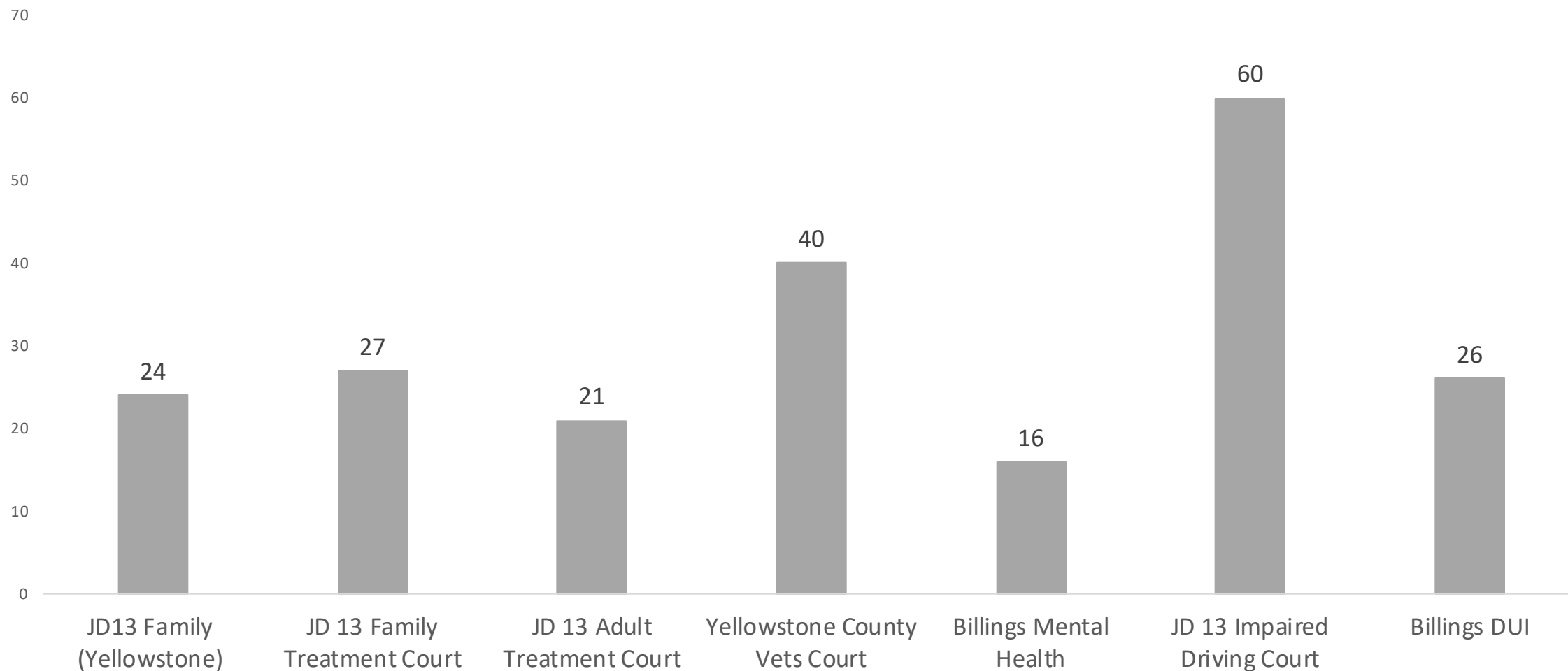
- Need long enough treatment for meth to clear your mind and being to engage.
- Repeated support for community based treatment and long term support to maintain sobriety
  - *“In the in-patient environment, I didn’t learn how to deal with my triggers.”*
  - *“I need to learn how to live and be sober”*
- Need to shorten wait times to enter treatment:
  - *“During the wait for treatment, either jail or death are the only options”*

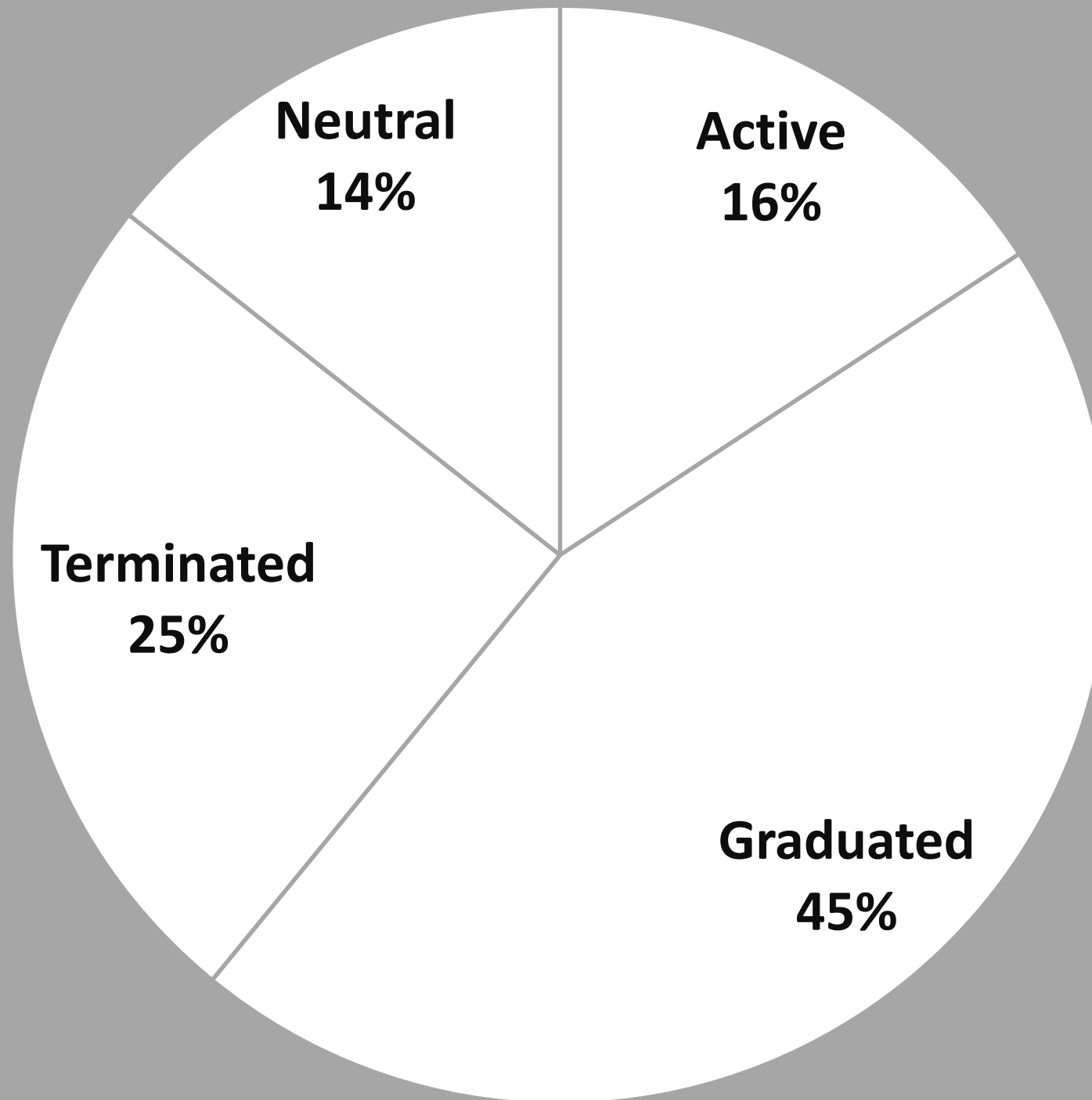
Health and justice  
partners in Montana are  
working together in new  
ways to address SUD.



Billings has the most  
diverse array of drug  
treatment courts in the  
state

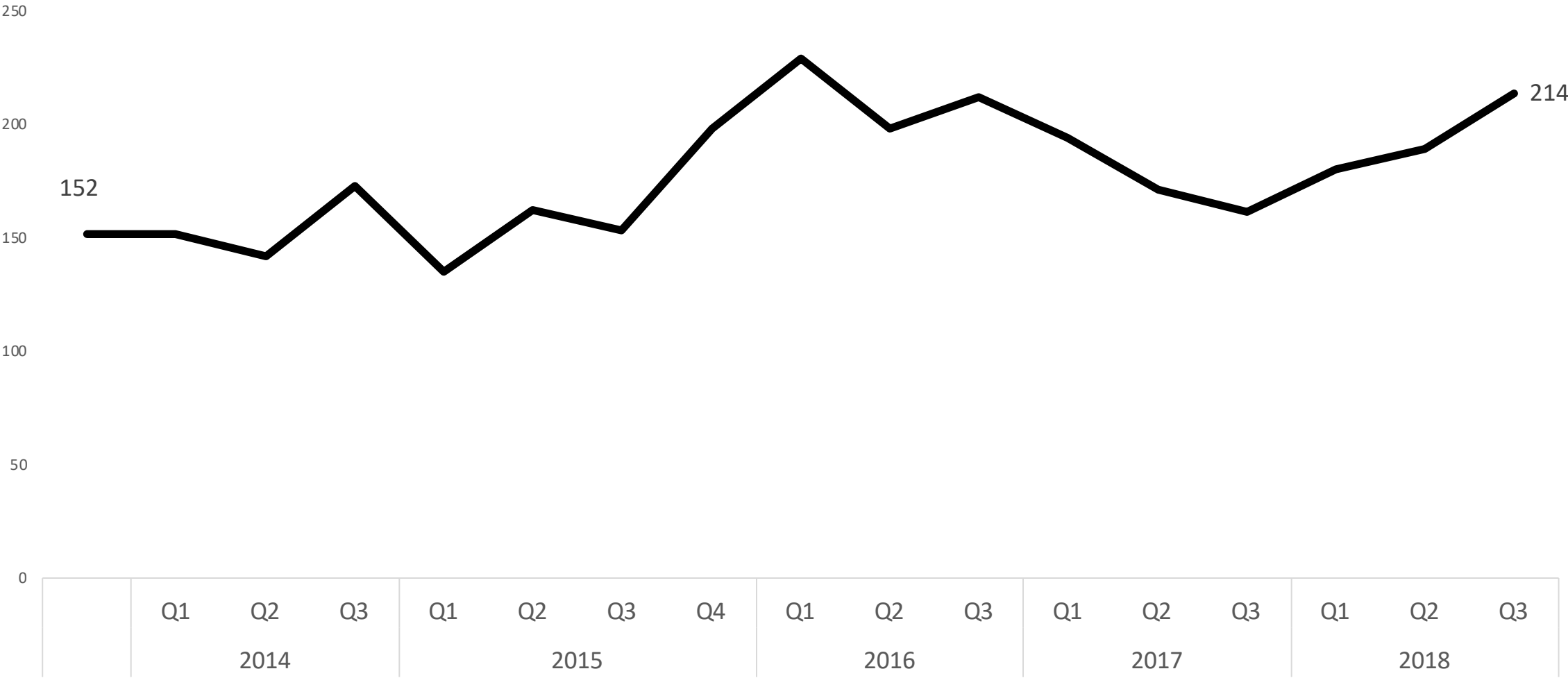
## Number of participants, Yellowstone County Drug Treatment Courts, January 2019



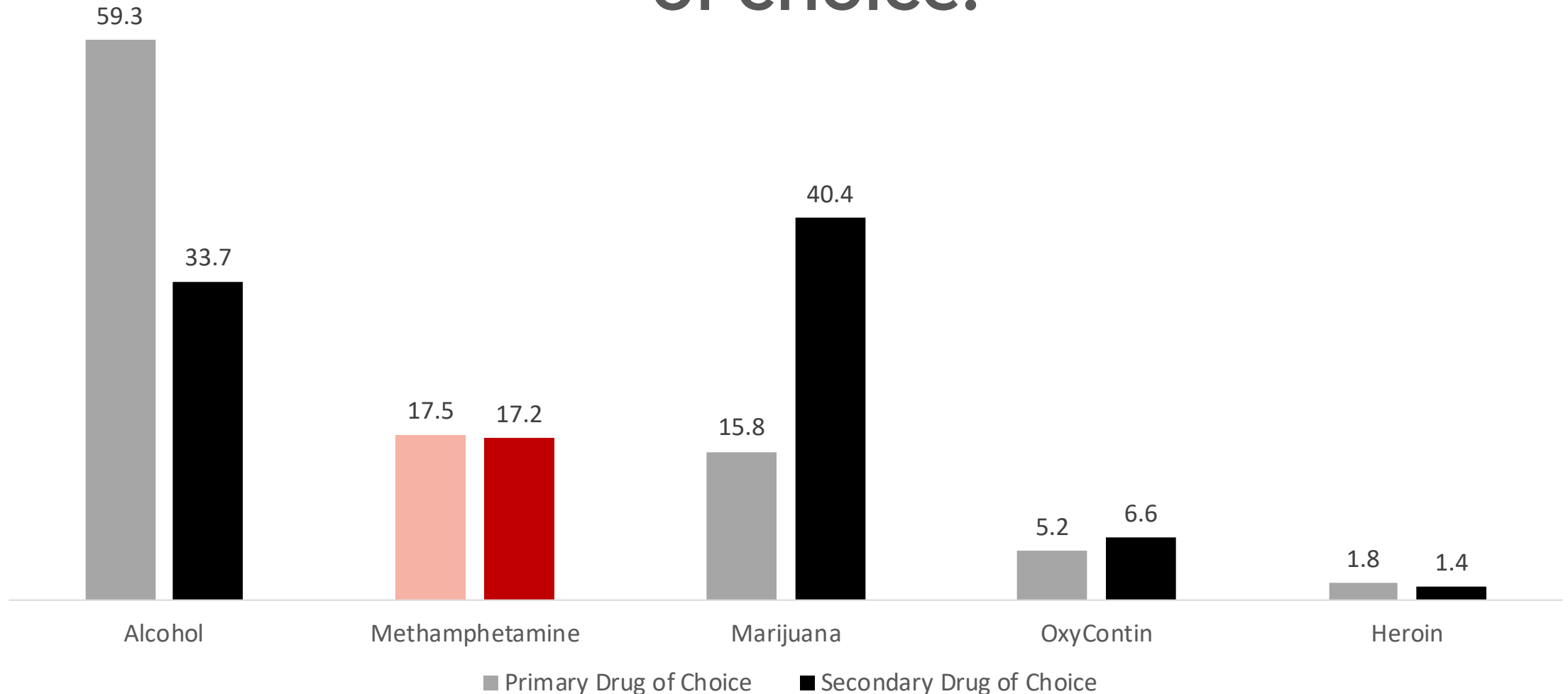


Since 2006, 1217 individuals have entered and 550 have graduated from drug courts in Yellowstone County.

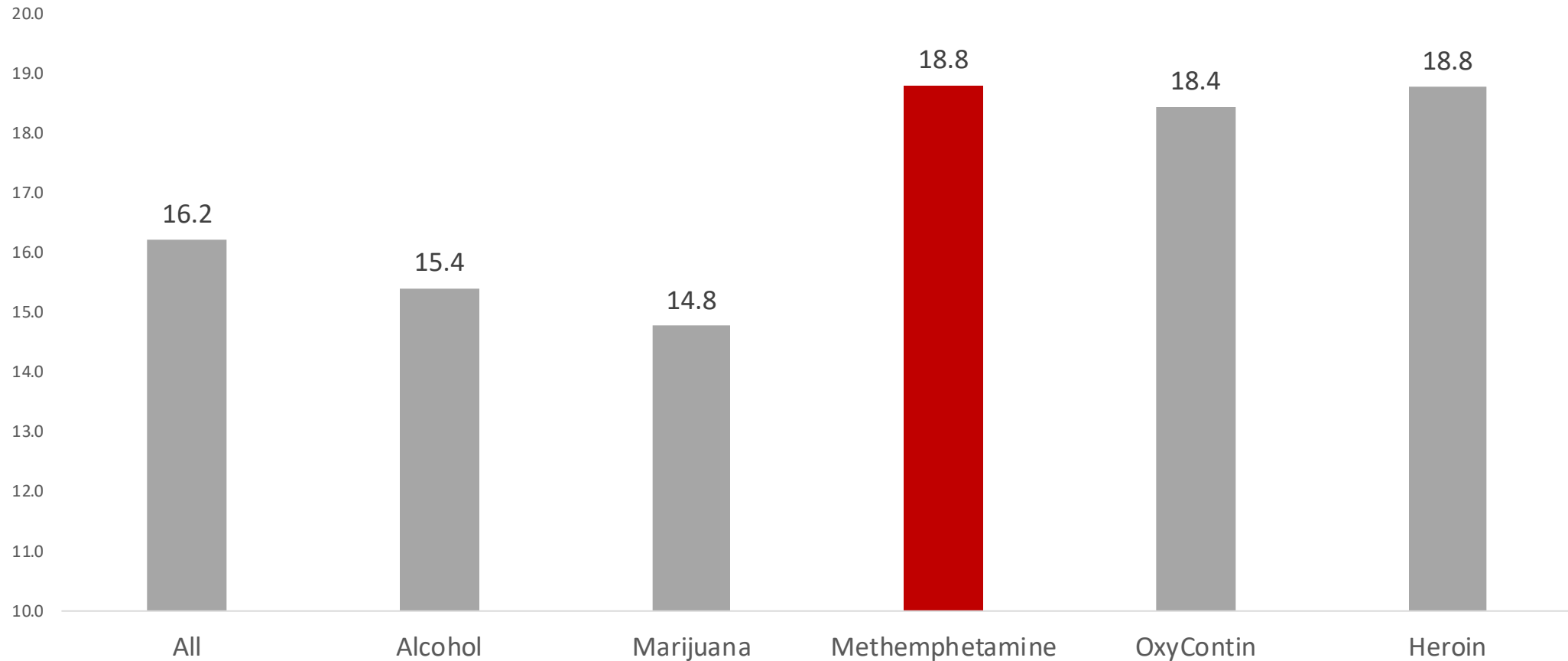
# Total Caseload, Yellowstone County Drug Treatment Courts, 2014-2019



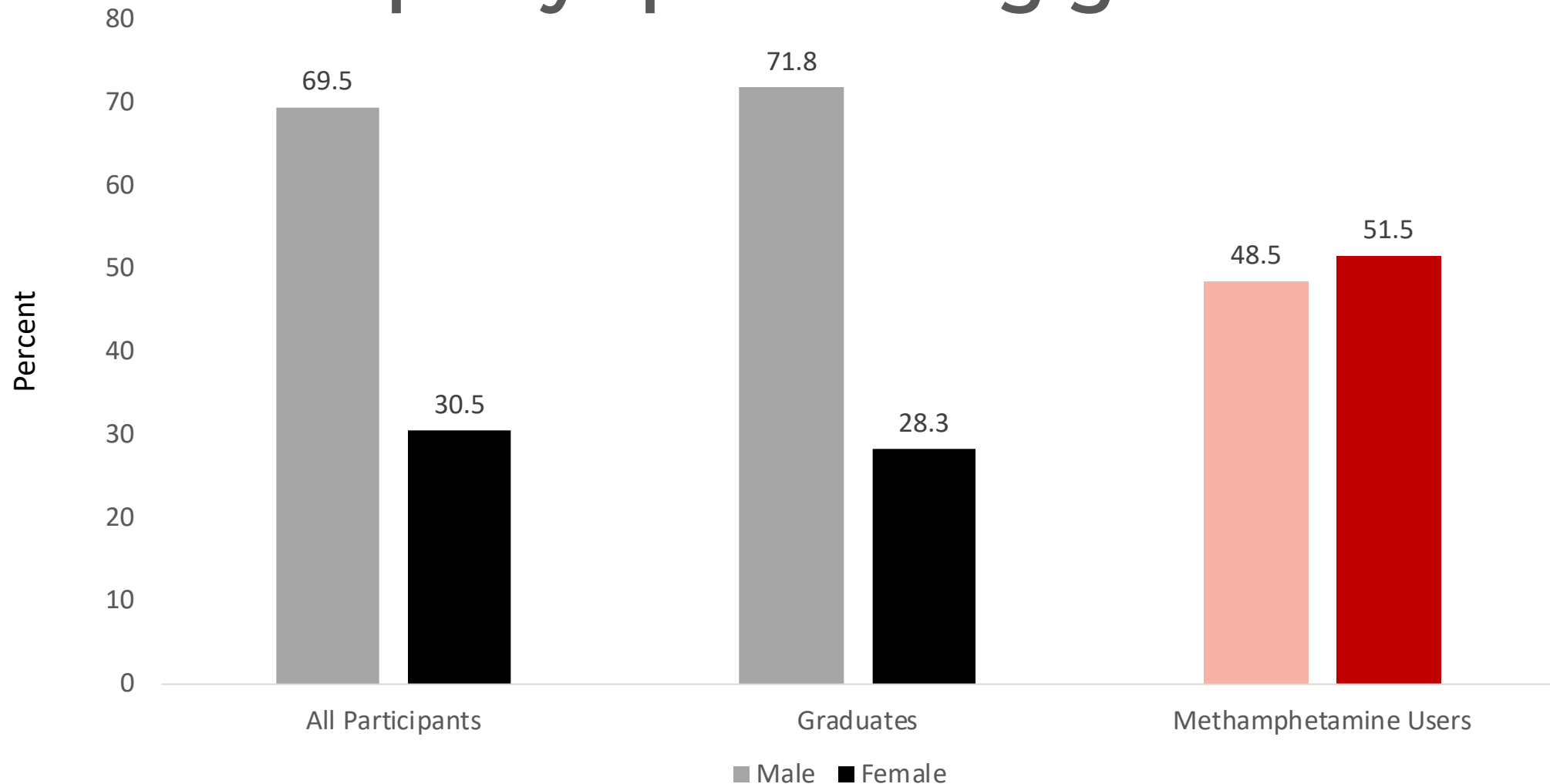
**Alcohol is the most common drug of choice.  
Marijuana is the most common secondary drug  
of choice.**



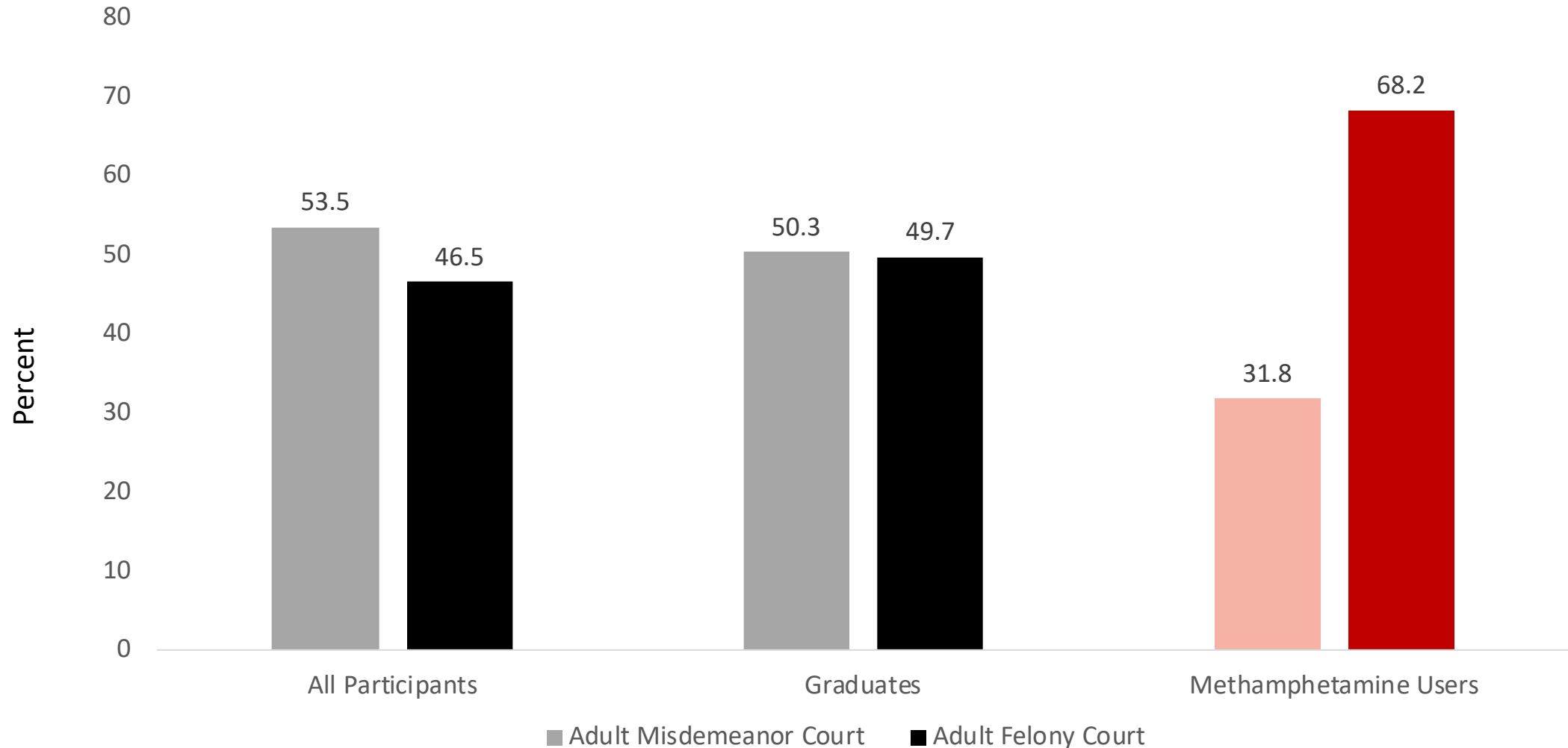
# The average age of first use for drug court participants was during adolescence



**Men represent two out of every three drug court participants and graduates. Meth users are more equally split among genders.**



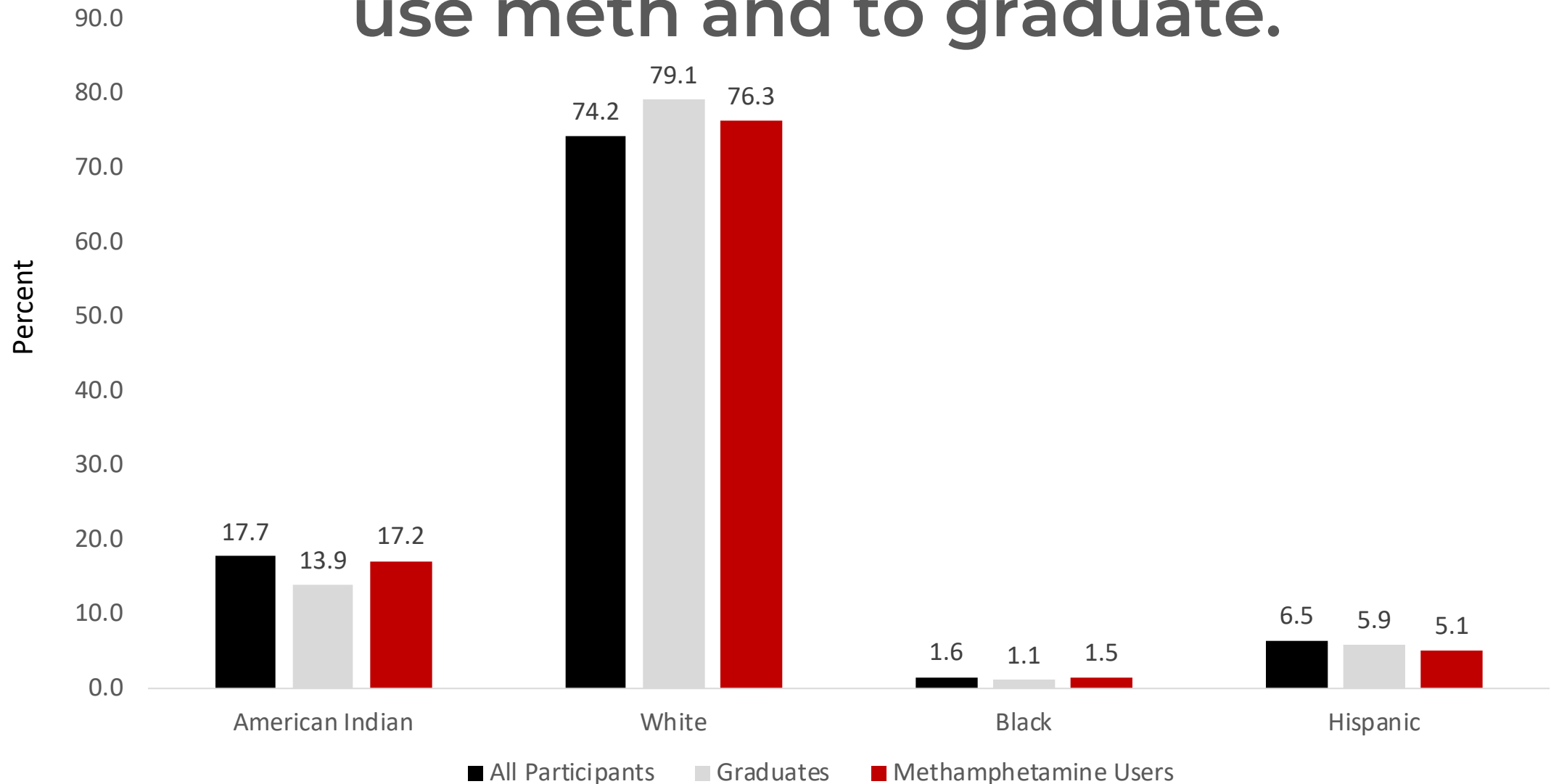
# Meth users are more likely to be in felony treatment court



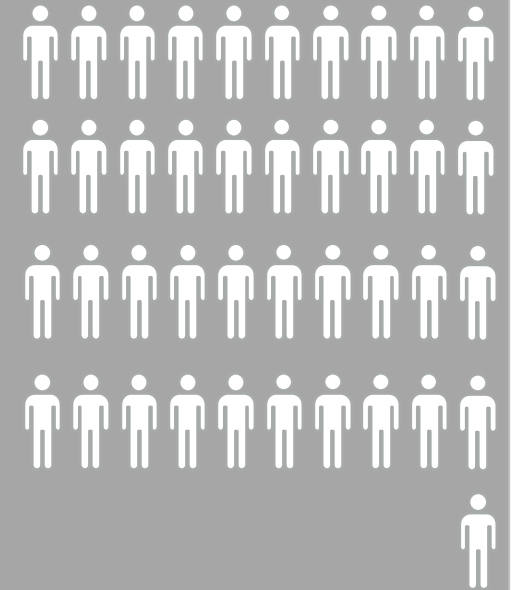
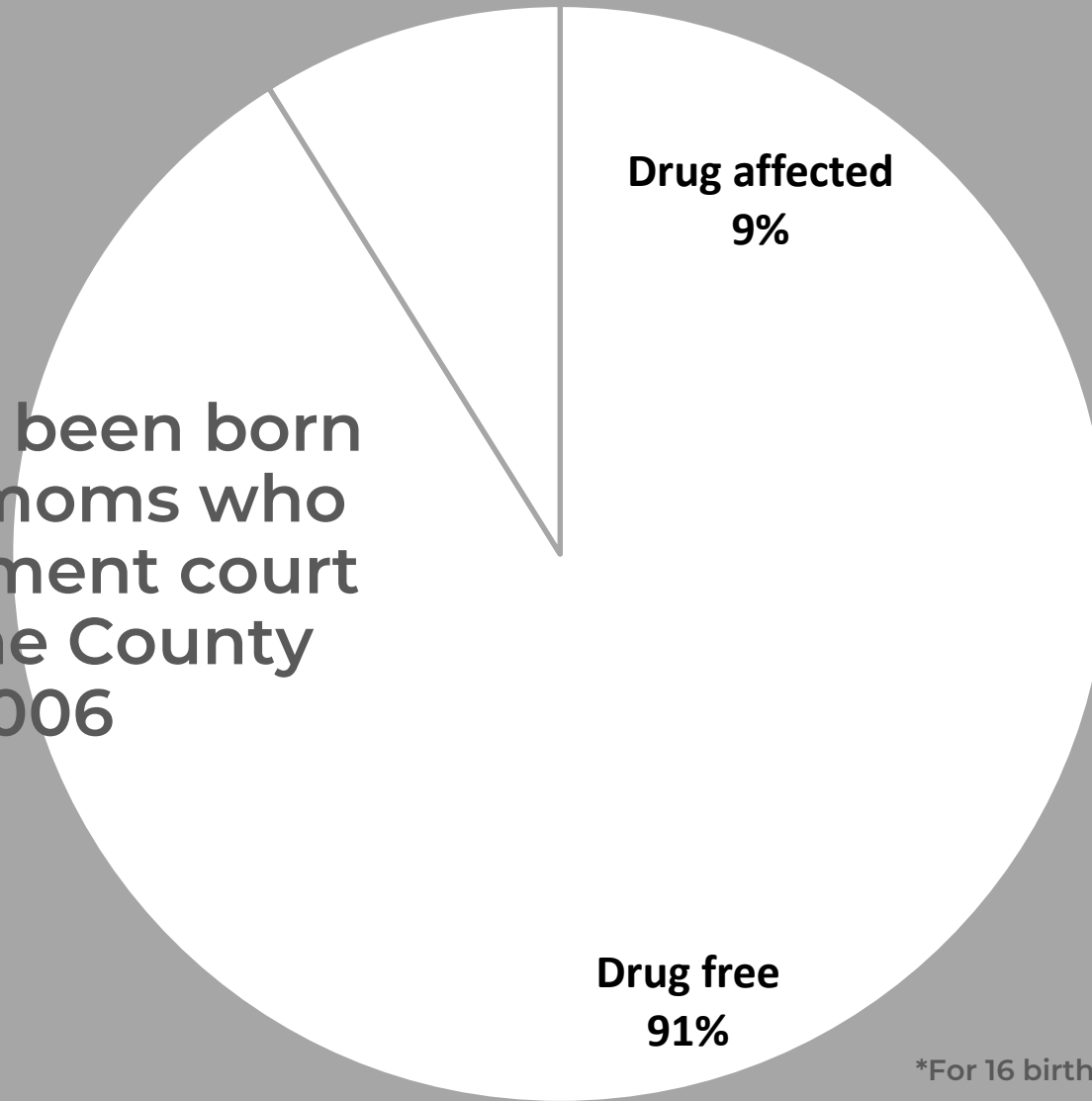


About a quarter of drug court participants are non-white.

Non-white participants are slightly less likely to use meth and to graduate.

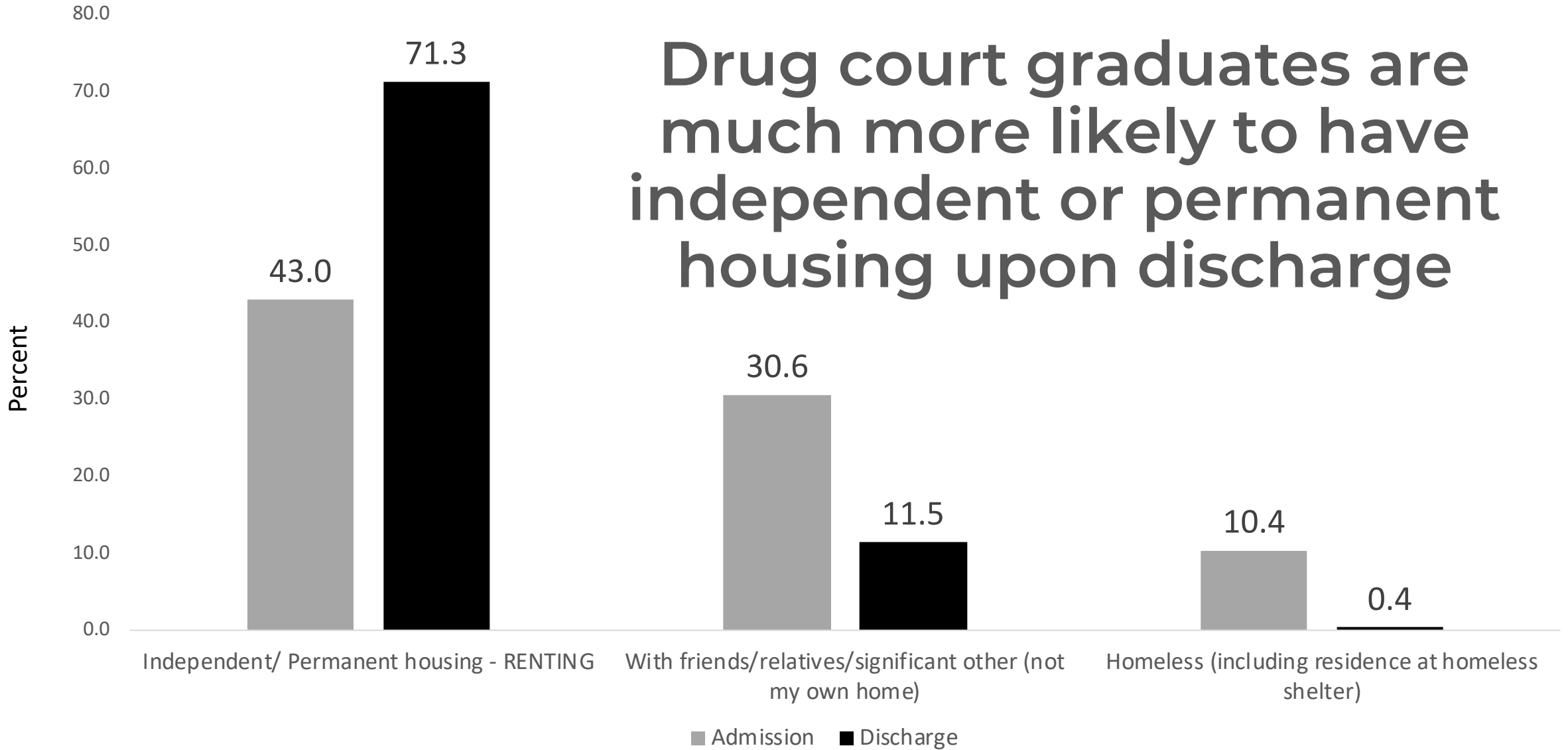


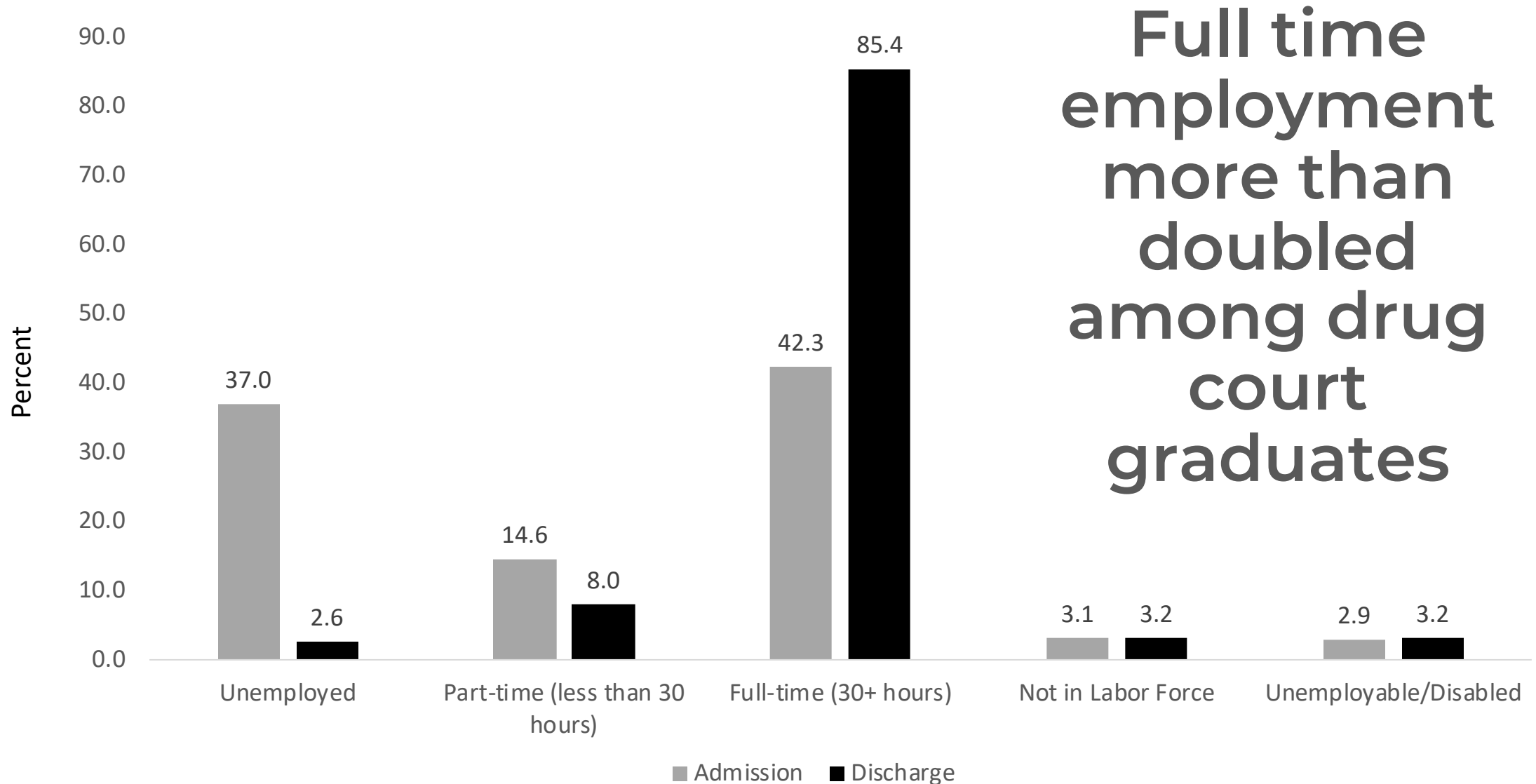
41 babies have been born  
drug- free to moms who  
are drug treatment court  
in Yellowstone County  
since 2006

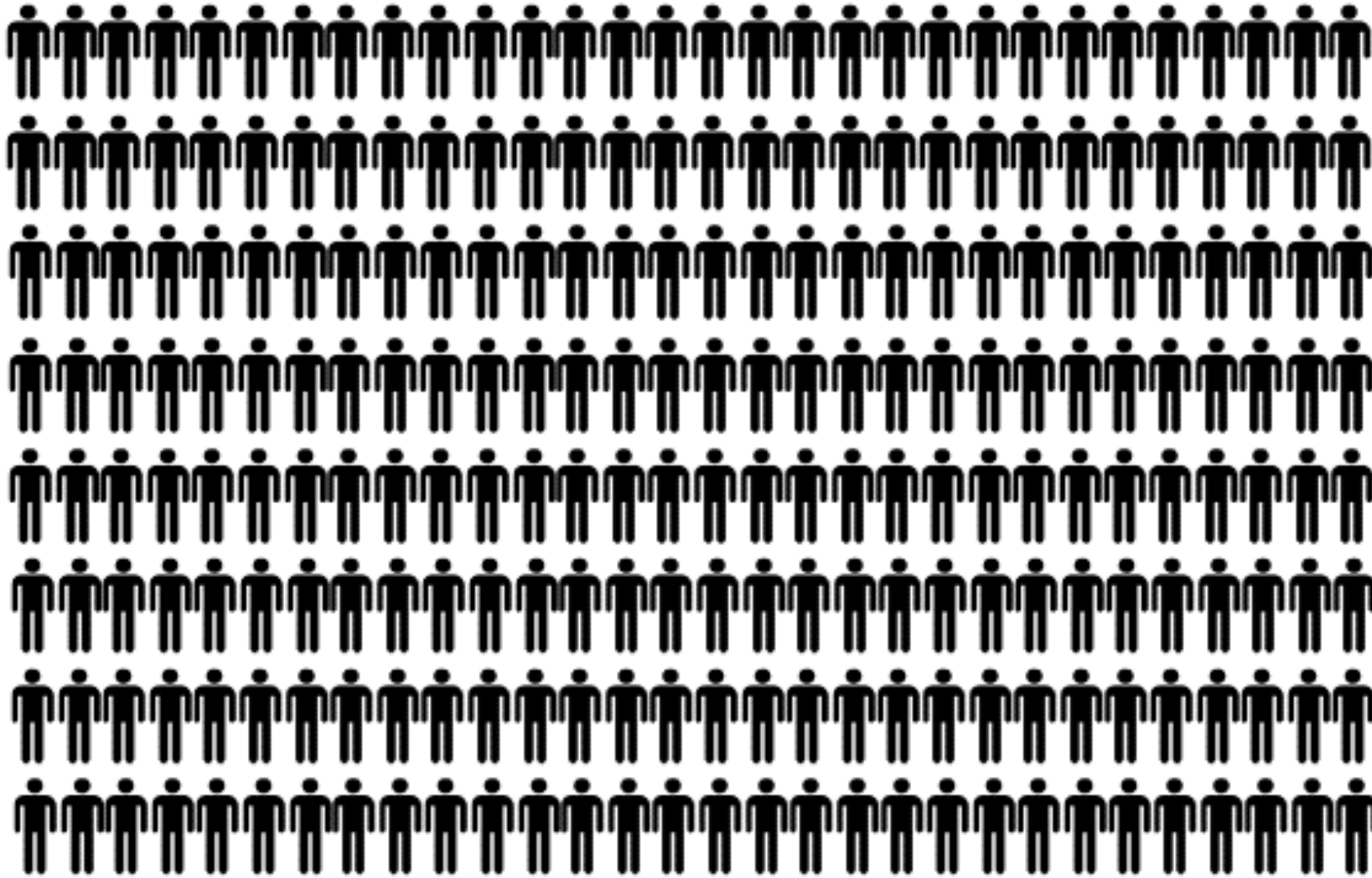


\*For 16 births, the outcome was not known

# Drug court graduates are much more likely to have independent or permanent housing upon discharge







238 Drug  
Court  
participants  
have  
received their  
driver's  
license

# Focus Groups: Drug Courts

- Drug Courts have realized that addiction is a chronic relapsing brain disease; many of the judges here want their offenders to help build a roadmap to success.
- After awhile I realized that everyone, including the judges, were there to help and to support me; it took a long time for to trust authority and the justice system because they've been on the other side of the law for so long, but the drug courts helped to build that trust.
- Sanctions being appropriate is really key to success. In drug court, if we have a failed UA, we are asked, "How can we better support you and get you additional treatment?"

# Questions ?

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