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UNDERSTANDING THE DYNAMICS & CONSEQUENCES OF NPS USE IN RAPIDLY CHANGING DRUG MARKETS

Prevalence of NPS use.

Results of the implementation of a standardized survey methodology amongst 25 civil society organization in Europe

Jochen Schrooten

VAD

This project was funded by the European Union's Justice Programme – Drugs Policy Initiatives

AIM

MONITORING NPS USE VIA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

1. Support CSO to collect data on NPS use
2. Exchange methods of data collection on NPS between CSO (Collect & compare surveys)
3. Develop standardized survey methodology amongst CSO

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OUTREACH NETWORKS

Name of organization	Country	Contact person
YODA (7)		
Aksion Plus	Albania	Besnik Hoxha
Foundation for Social Education	Poland	Agata Stola
Hops	Macedonia	Bogdan
Juventas	Montenegro	Marija Mijović
Re Generation	Serbia	Irena Molnar
Young Wave (Jauna banga)	Lithuania	Eliza Kurcevič
Progetto Neutravel	Italy	Elisa Fornero
NEWNet (9)		
4motion	Luxembourg	Carlos Paulos
ABD-Energy Control	Spain	Jordi
Crew2000	Scotland	Kira Watson
DrogArt	Slovenia	Marko Verdenik
Fondazione Villa Maraini onlus	Italy	Nadia Gasbarrini, Fabio Patruno
Kosmicare	Portugal	Helena Valente
Lab57	Italy	Massimo Lorenzani
Nautilus Project	Italy	Emanuele Perrone
Safe 'n Sound	Belgium	Shawny Vanhoutteghem

3 EU NETWORKS
25 CSO

NEWNET
ENJOYING SAFER NIGHT LIFE

YODA
YOUTH ORGANISATIONS FOR DRUG ACTION

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TELEPHONE HELPLINES

Name of organization	Country	Contact person
FESAT (9)		
De DrugLijn	Belgium	Tom Evenepoel
PERSEAS	CYPRUS	Mary Ioannou
Drog Stop Budapest	Hungary	Jozsef Takacs
Fracarita Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Svetlana Nikolova
HSE Drugs and Alcohol Helpline	Ireland	Aileen Dooley
KETHEA ITHACA	Greece	Sophia Kazantzidou
OKANA SOS LINE 1031	Greece	Zoe Ganatsiou
RUStelefonen	Norway	Sturla K. Naas Johansen
Trimbos-instituut	the Netherlands	Steven Biemans

3 EU NETWORKS
25 CSO

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METHODOLOGY

1. New substances that imitate the effects of illicit drugs (such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine, etc) may now be sometimes available. They are sometimes called (*insert* 'local name' such as, 'legal highs', 'research chemicals) and can come in different form, for example – herbal mixtures, powders, crystals or tablets.
Have you used one or more of these substances in the last 12 months?

2. Have you ever taken these substances (during the last 12 months | last 30 days)

- 4-MMC + local streetnames
- 3-MMC
- 2C-B
- 2-FMA
- Hexen (N-Ethylhexedrone)
- a-PHP
- 5F-MDMB-PICA
- … (country specific NPS) 1P-LSD, NBOMEs, a-PVP, 6-APB, Methoxetamine, synthetic cannabinoids
- … (country specific NPS)
- … (open field)

2 questions – EMQ EMCDDA
Back & forward translation in 17 languages
Survey period 09/21 > 09/22

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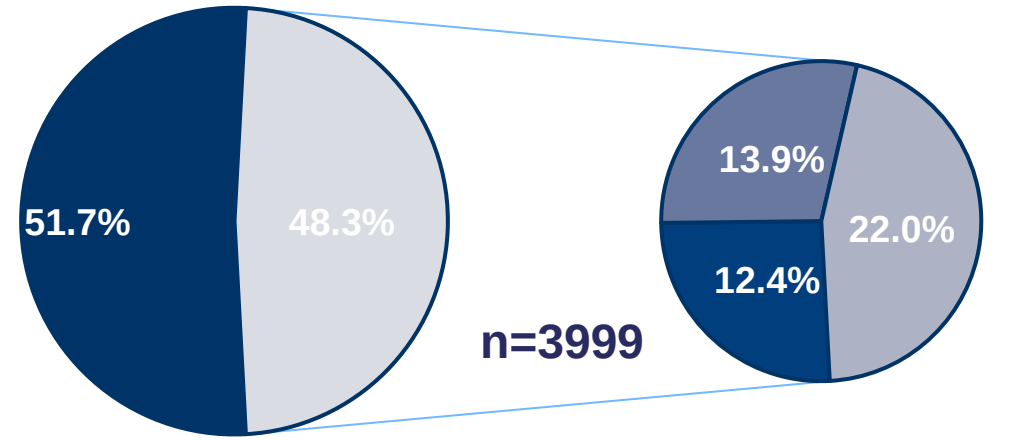
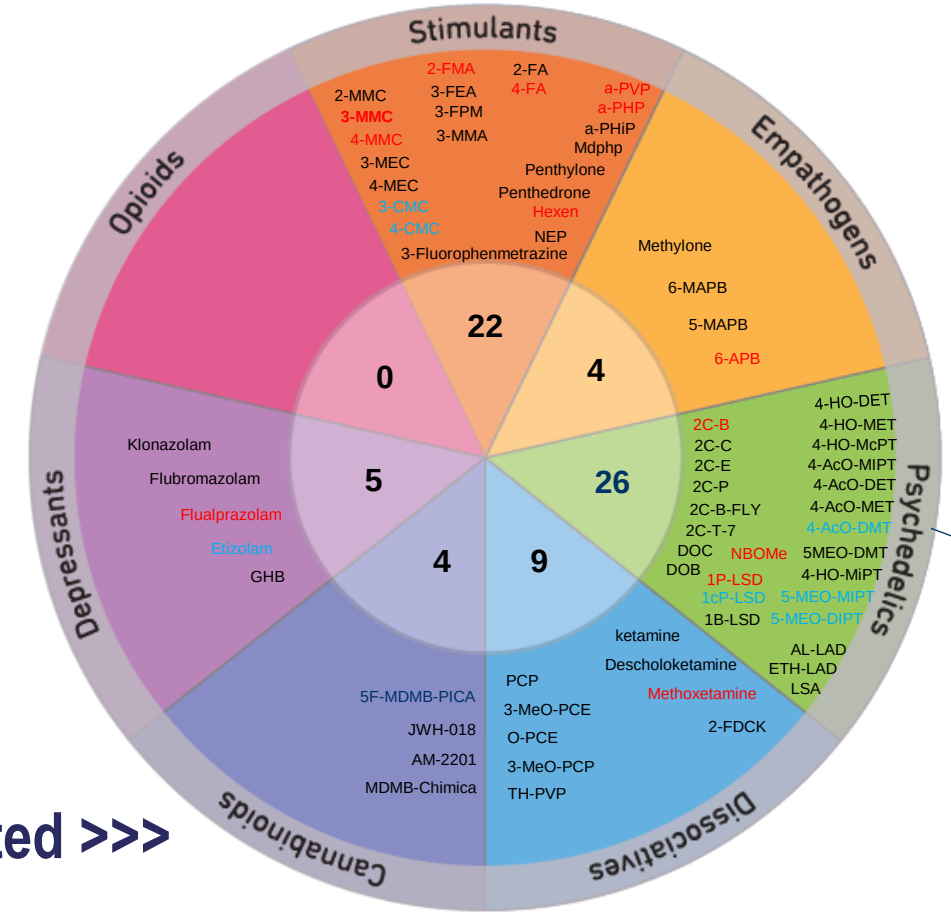
RESULTS: NEWnet & YODA

Prevalence NPS general





70 NPS reported >>>

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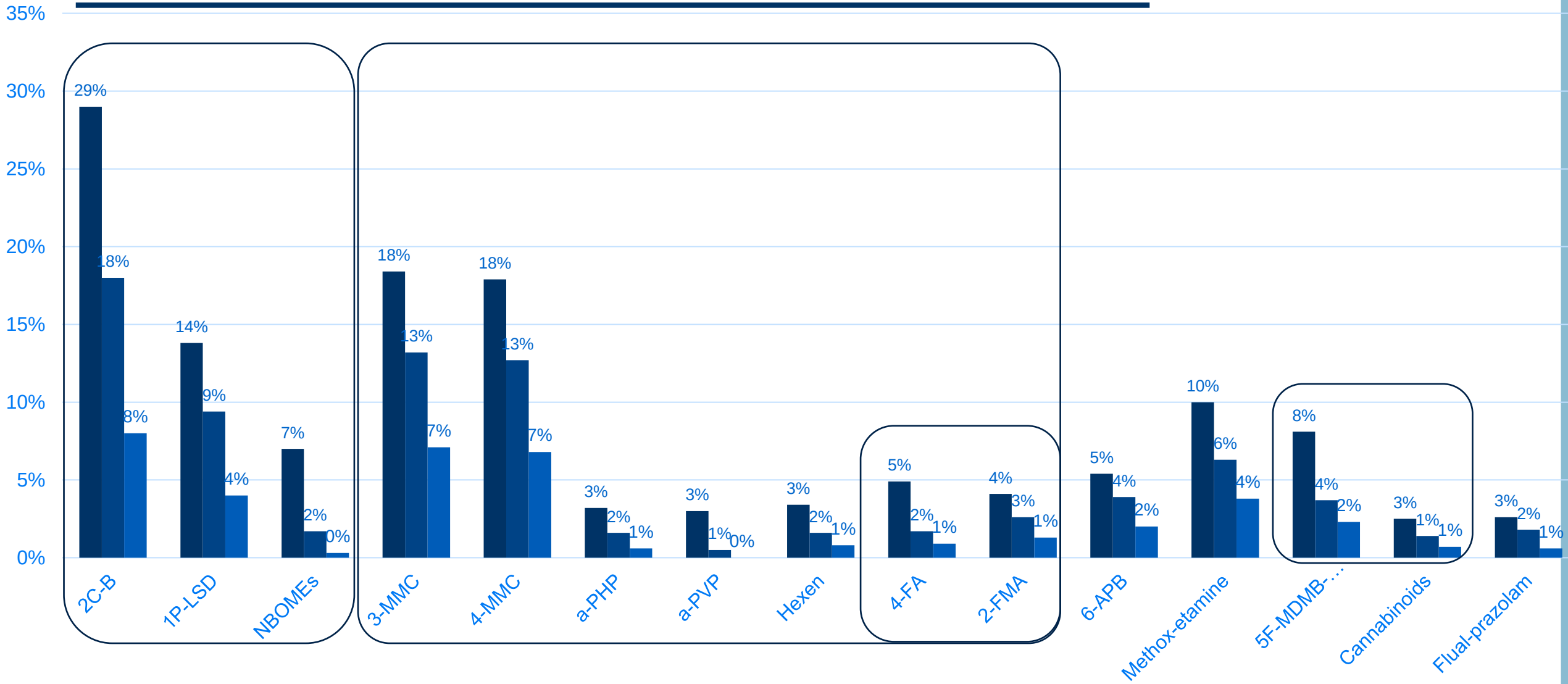
Prevalence of NPS use NEWnet &YODA



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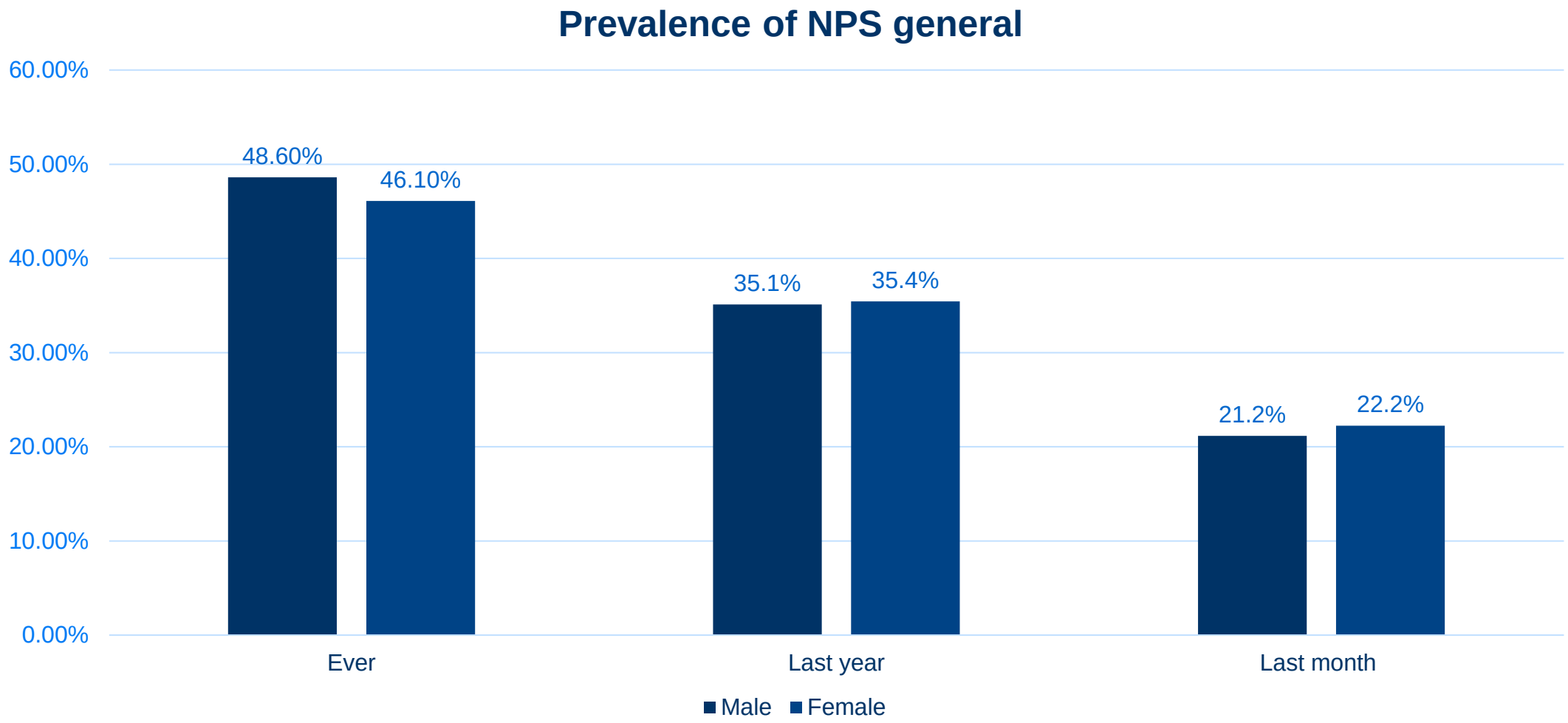
Prevalence of NPS use NEWnet &YODA - gender



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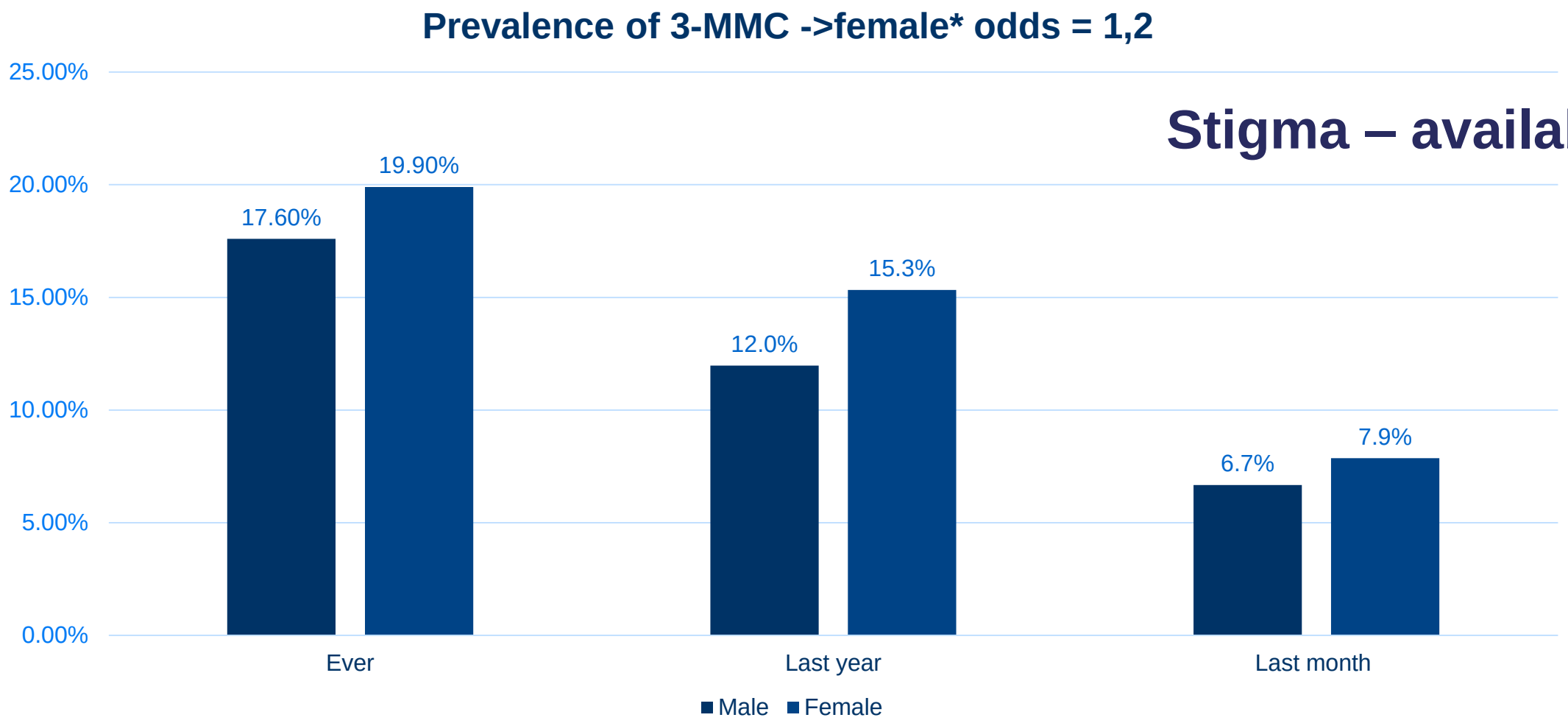
Prevalence of NPS use NEWnet &YODA - gender



Stigma – availability?

4-MMC-> female* odds 1,5

2C-B -> male* odds 1,5

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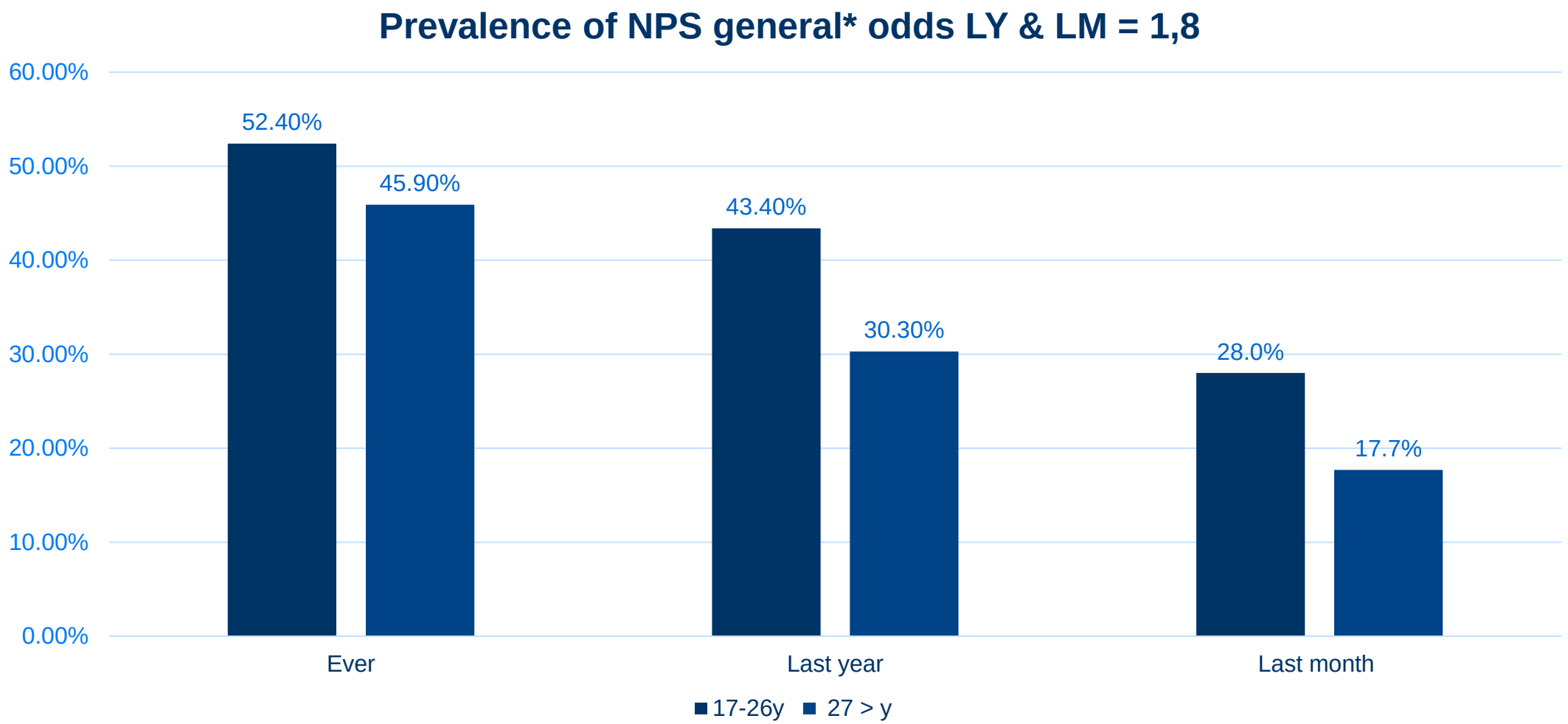
Prevalence of NPS use NEWnet &YODA - age



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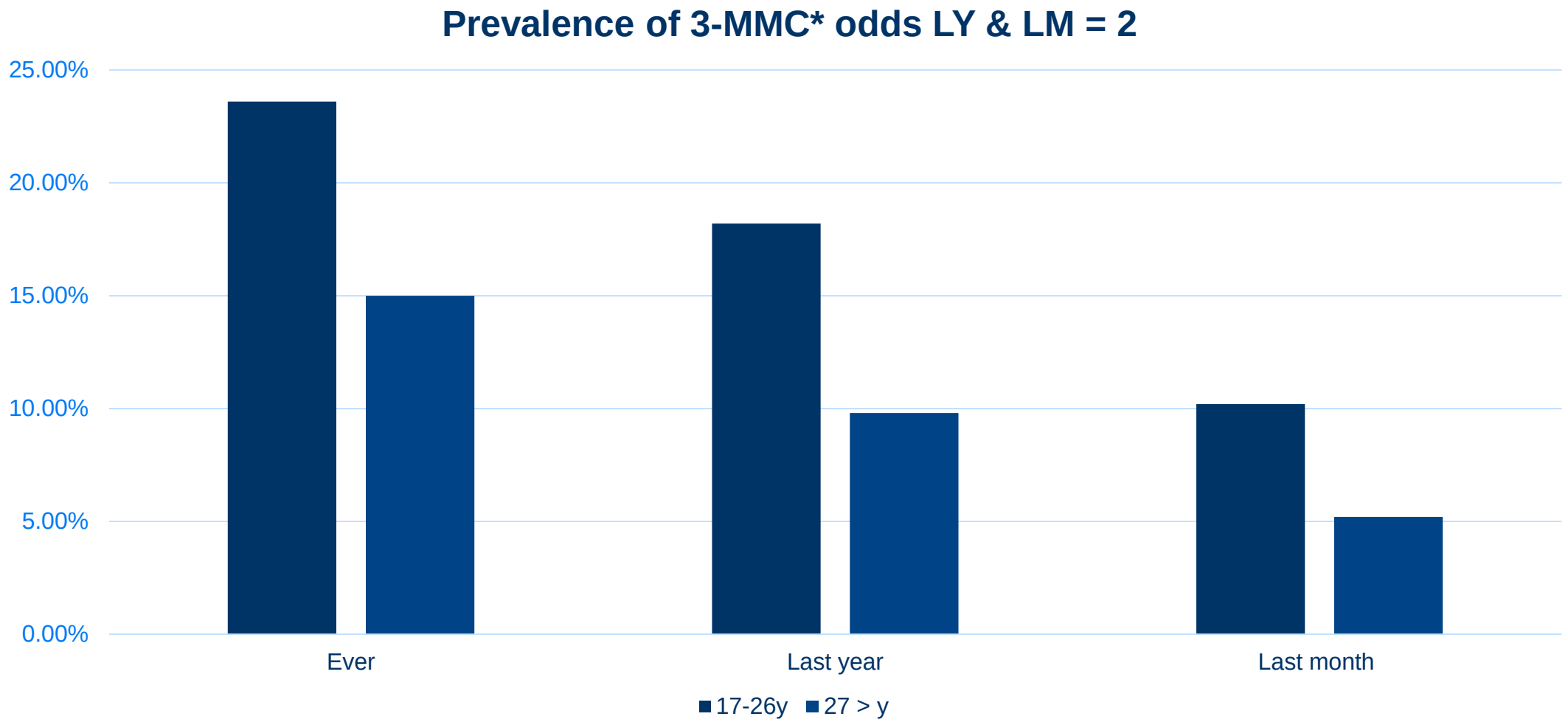
Prevalence of NPS use NEWnet &YODA - age



Prevalence of 4-MMC * odds 2,5

2C-B - male* odds 1,5

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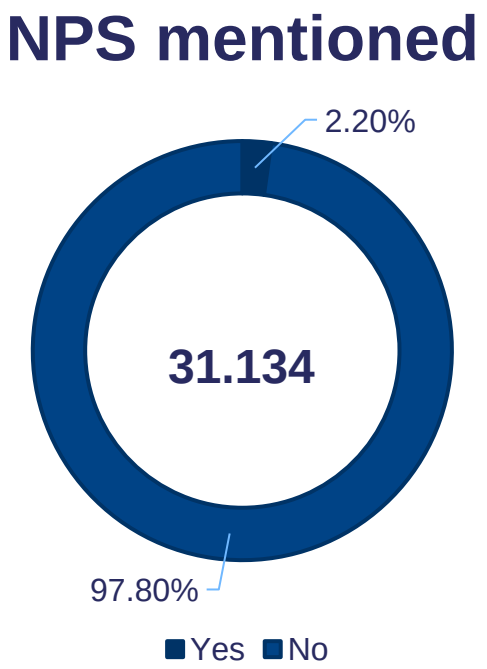
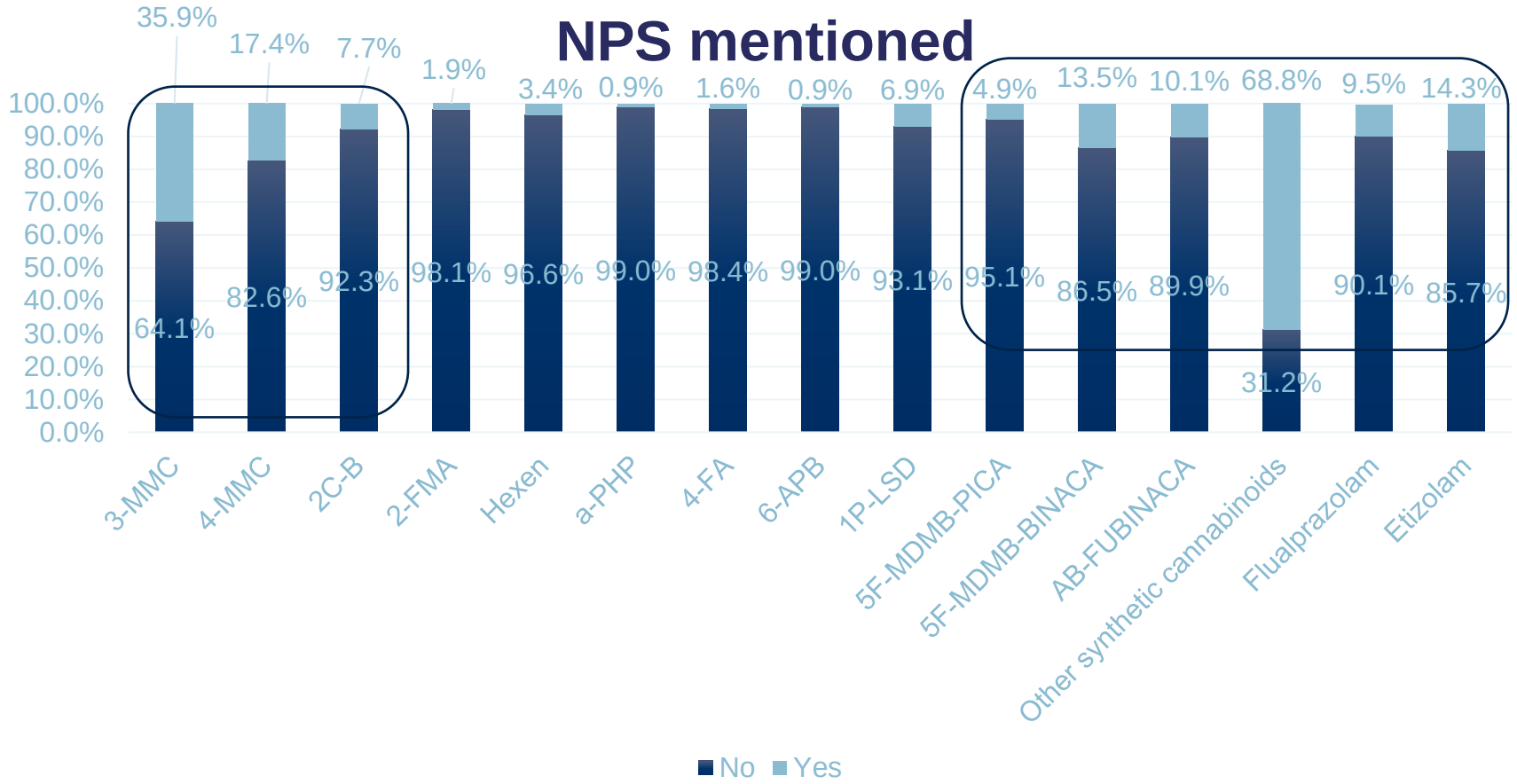
RESULTS: FESAT





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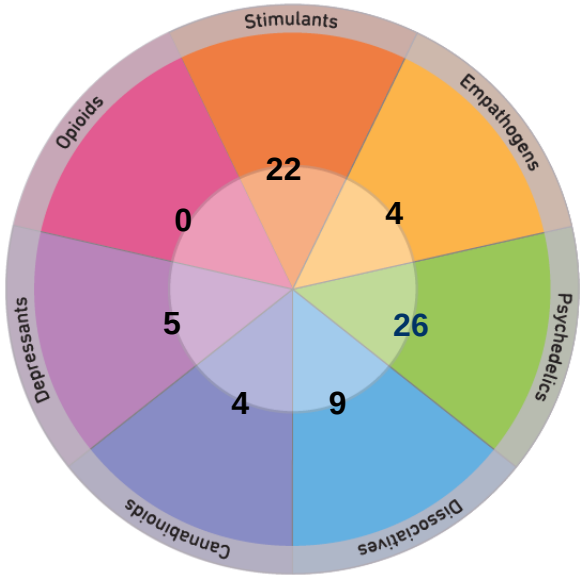
LESSONS LEARNED

- General use of NPS is high
  - **young** age groups (17-26y)
  - **Female** equal then men (more 3-MMC, 4-MMC, a-PVP)
- 70 different NPS reported
  - **No** interest in **opioids**
  - High **interest in psychedelics** (2C-B, LSD analogs)
  - High **interest in CTS** (3-MMC, 4-MMC, …)
- Western countries: interest in psychedelics, ATS
- Eastern countries: interest in cannabinoids and CTS
- Helplines
  - Limited amount of cases reported (2,2%)
  - 3-MMC & 4-MMC || Synthetic cannabinoids || benzodiazipines
- **Outreach projects connect deeply** with PWUNPS
- **Drug Checking Services even deeper**



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TAKE HOME MESSAGES

Is banning drugs the solution? cf. 4-MMC, 3-MMC

- The paradox of repression
- Collateral damage (cf. info)

CSO are powerfull, but lack funding

- Invest in prevention & harm reduction (Tripsit & psychonautwiki)
- Empower PWUD

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THANK YOU

sciensano

VAD

ENERGY CONTROL

KOSMICARE

DrogArt

BASIS BERATUNG, ARBEIT, JUGEND & KULTUR E.V.

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

YODA YOUTH ORGANISATIONS FOR DRUG ACTION

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