

Treated problem substance use in the Traveller Community



Anne Marie Carew, Jean Long, Suzi Lyons, Delphine
Bellerose

Improving people's health through research and information

Introduction

- Overview of NDTRS
- Profile cases from the Traveller Community seeking treatment
- Treated cases only
- Alcohol
- Drugs





NDTRS - What it is

- Health information system
- 1990 - Dublin
- 1995 - Ireland
- Co-ordinated by Health Research Board
- Purpose - to provide information on problematic drug and alcohol use





NDTRS data

- Centre details
- Socio-demographic information
- Problem substance use
- Risk behaviour
- Type of treatment provided





Section B: Demographic details

B. Demographic details

4. Gender (circle) 1. Male 2. Female

5. Age (years)

6. Date of birth
Day Month Year

7a. Living with whom (circle)

- 1. Alone
- 2. Parents/family
- 3. Friends
- 4. Partner (alone)
- 5. Partner & child(ren)
- 6. Alone with child(ren)
- 8. Foster care
- 7. Other
- 9. Not known

7b. Living where (circle)

- 1. Stable accommodation
- 2. Institution (prison/residential care/halfway house)
- 3. Homeless
- 4. Other unstable accommodation
- 9. Not known

8a. Area of residence

(DED, see pink book or Appendix 4)

8b. Community Care Area

(see Appendices 4/5)

9. City/county

Car registration code
(see Appendix 4)

10a. Nationality (circle, if other please specify)

- 1. Irish
- 3. Irish traveller
- 2. Other
- 9. Not known

Nationality _____

10b. Ethnic background (circle)

- 1. White Irish
- 2. White Irish Traveller
- 3. Any other white background
- 4. Black African background
- 5. Any other black background
- 6. Chinese background
- 7. Any other Asian background
- 8. Other
- 9. Do not wish to answer this question

11. Employment status (circle)

- 1. In paid employment
- 2. Unemployed
- 3. FAS/training course
- 4. Student
- 5. Housewife/husband
- 6. Retired/unable to work
- 8. Other (specify) _____
- 9. Not known

12a. Age left primary or secondary school (not third level)
(years, or circle code below)

- 01. Never went to school
- 88. Still at school
- 99. Not known

Years

12b. Education: highest level completed (circle)

- 0. Primary level incomplete
- 1. Primary level
- 2. Junior cert
- 3. Leaving cert
- 4. Third level
- 5. Never went to school
- 6. Special needs education
- 8. Still in education
- 9. Not known





Treatment for problem substance use, 2007 to 2009

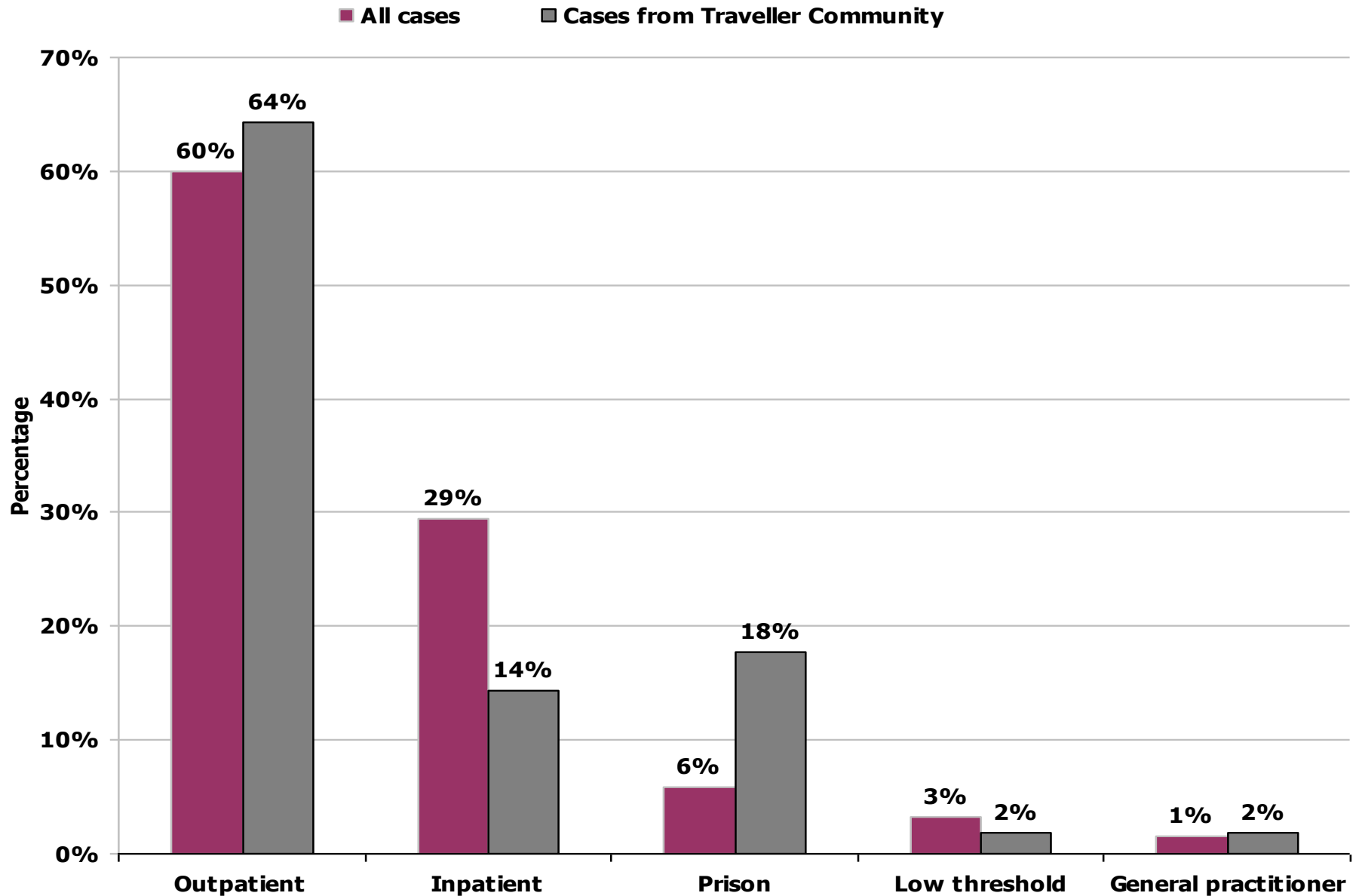
49,253 cases reported to the NDTRS between
2007 and 2009

671 (1.4%) cases identified themselves as members of the
Traveller community.

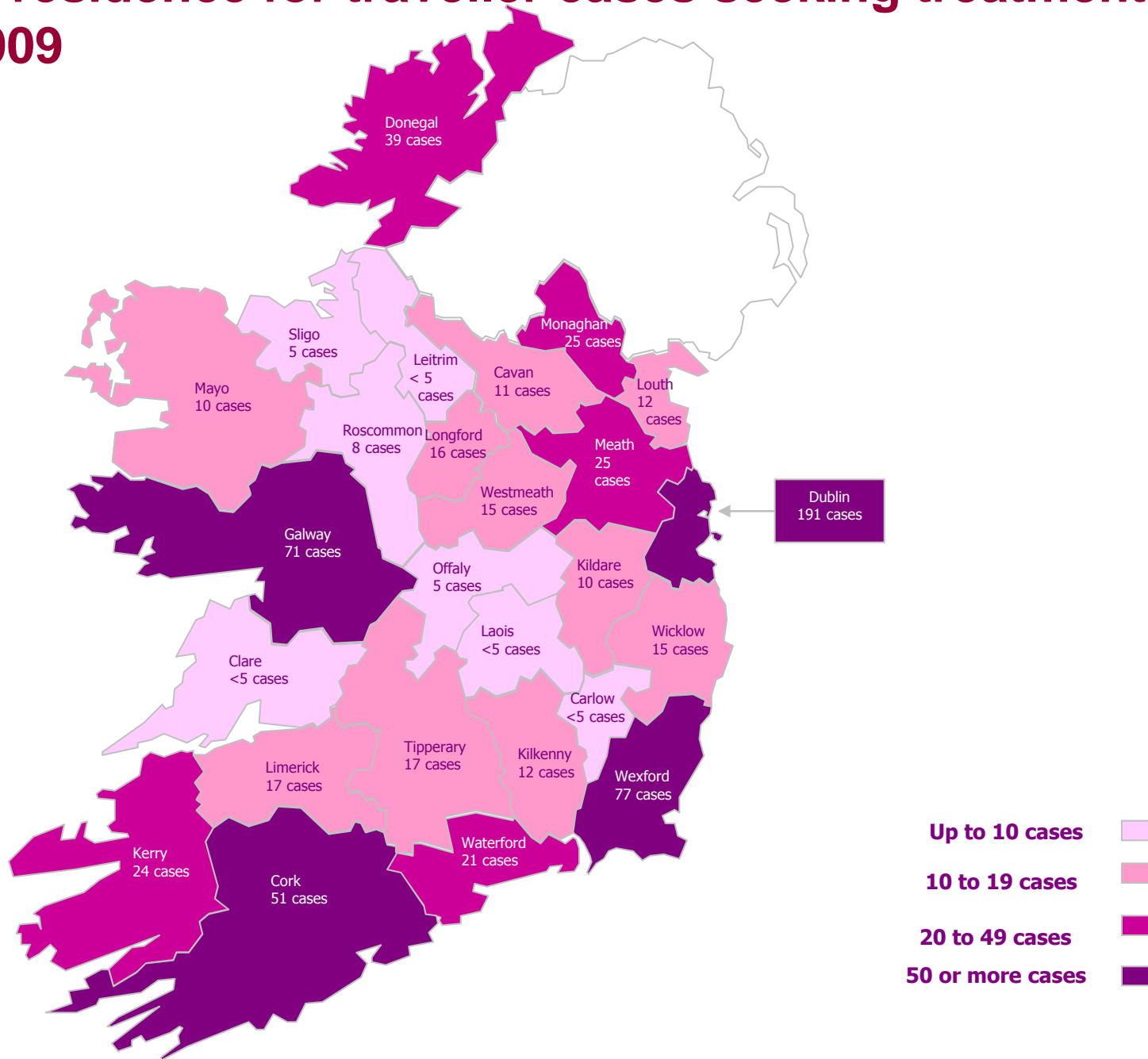
The number of cases from the Traveller community
increased by 64.2%, from 162 in 2007 to 266 in 2009.



Service types providing treatment in 2009

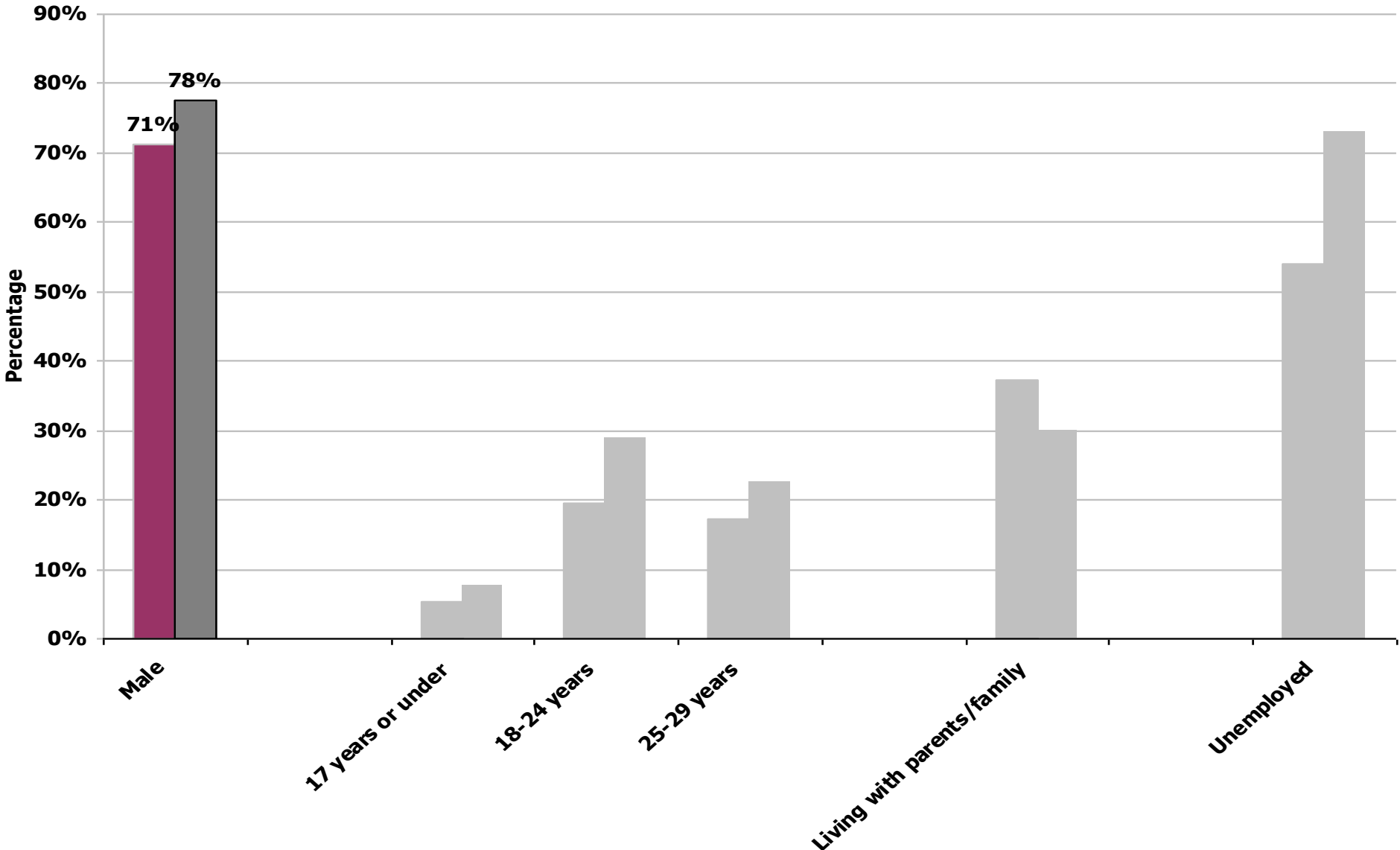


County of residence for traveller cases seeking treatment, 2007 to 2009



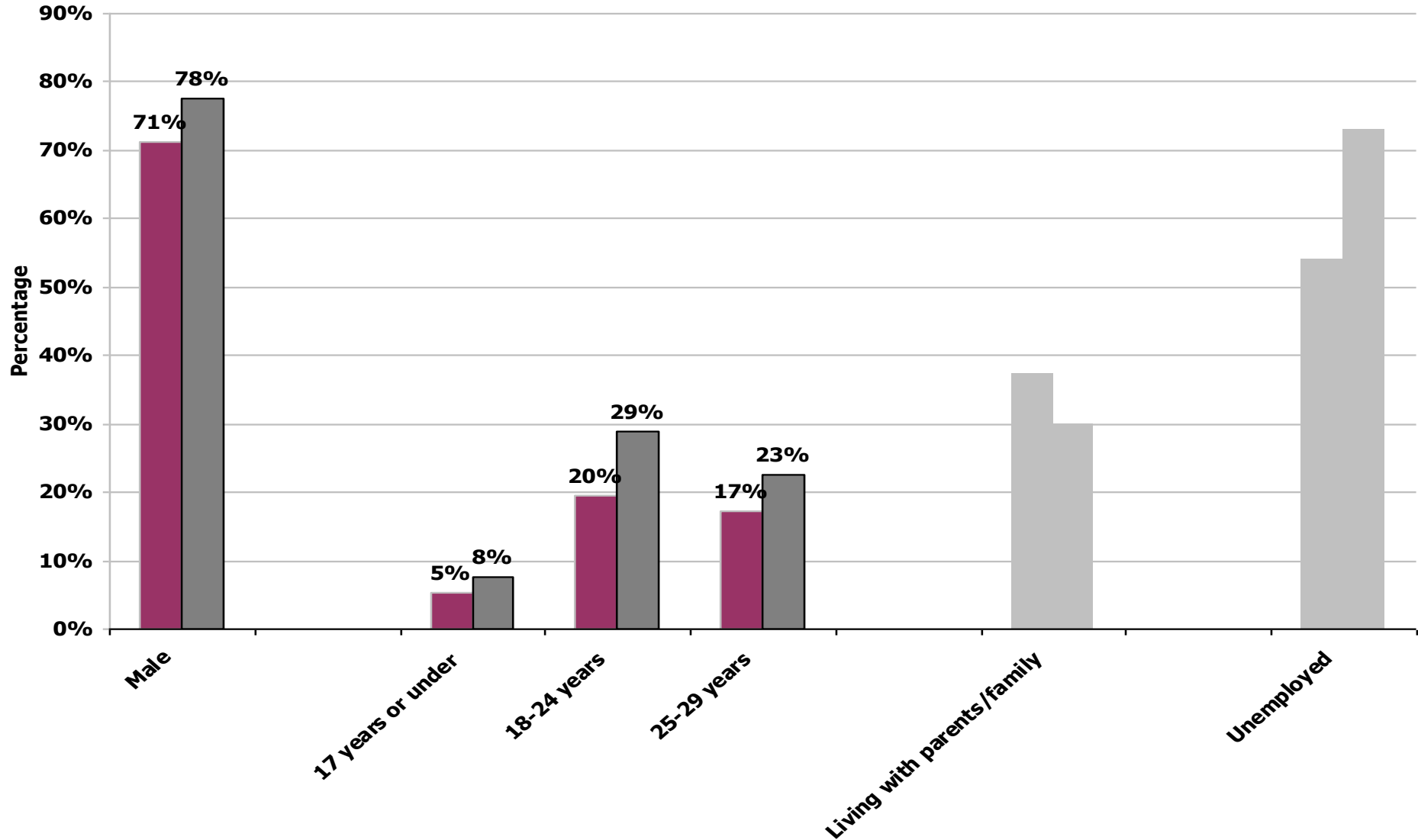
Profile of cases seeking treatment

■ All cases ■ Cases from Traveller Community

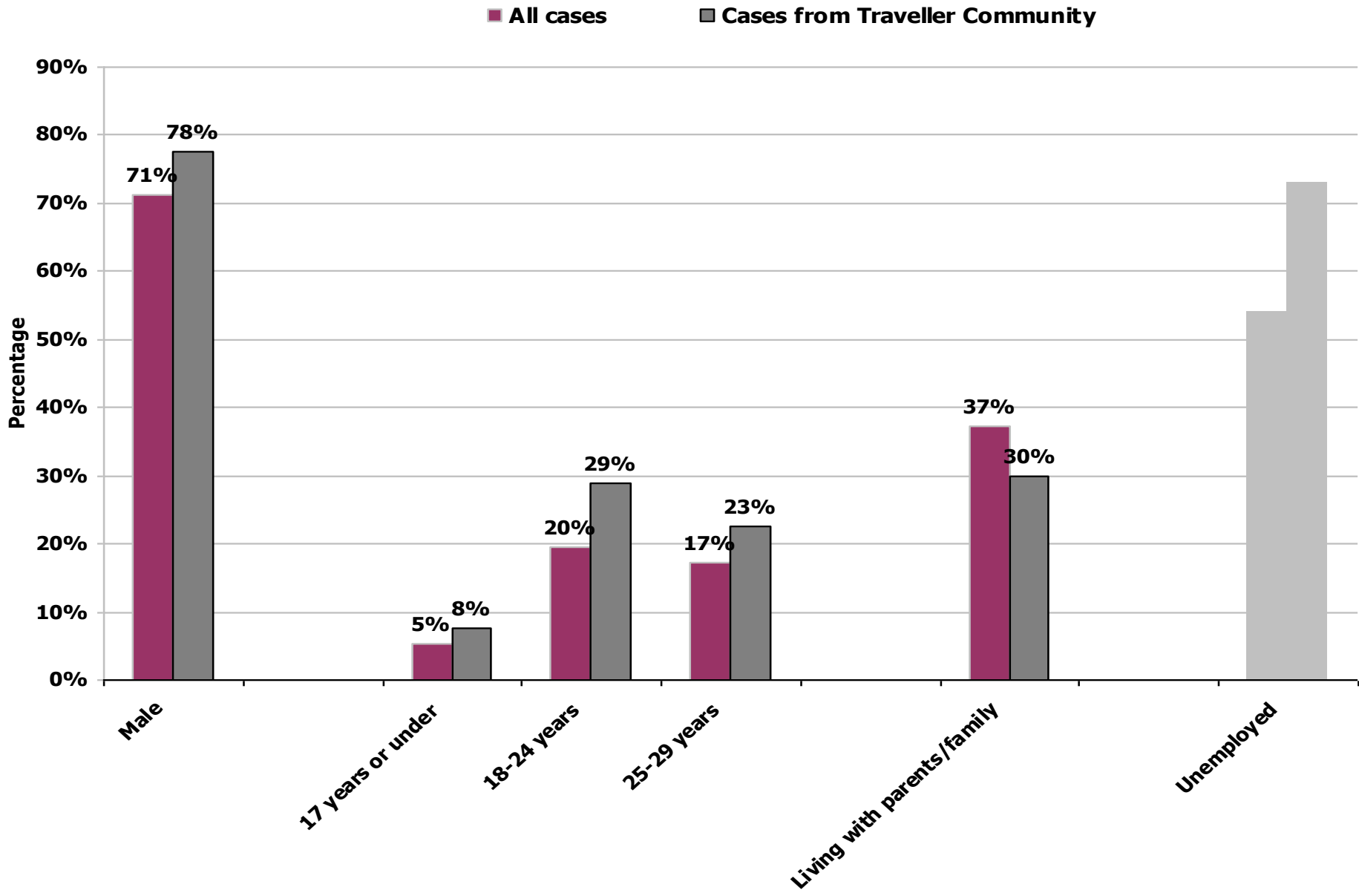


Profile of cases seeking treatment

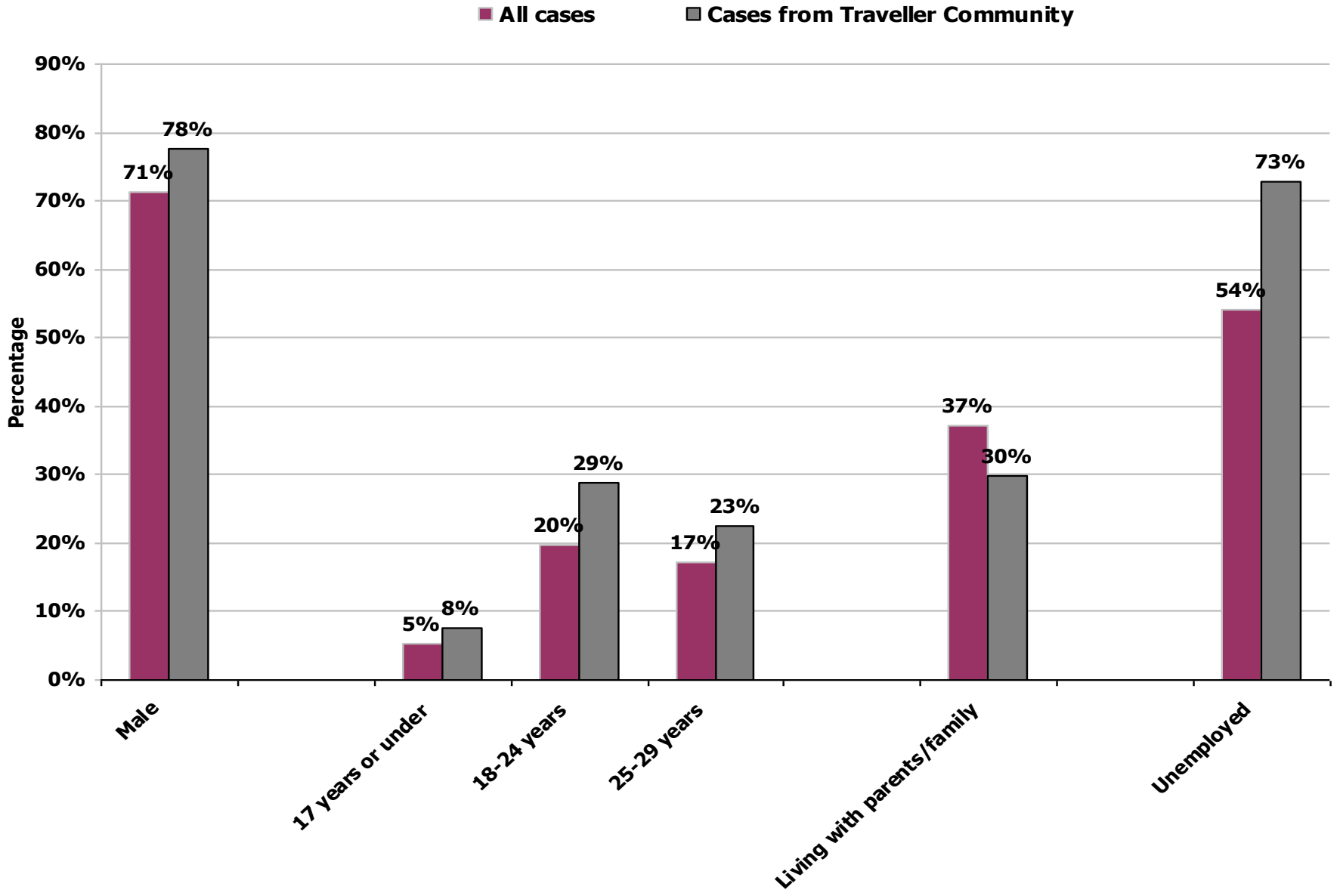
■ All cases ■ Cases from Traveller Community



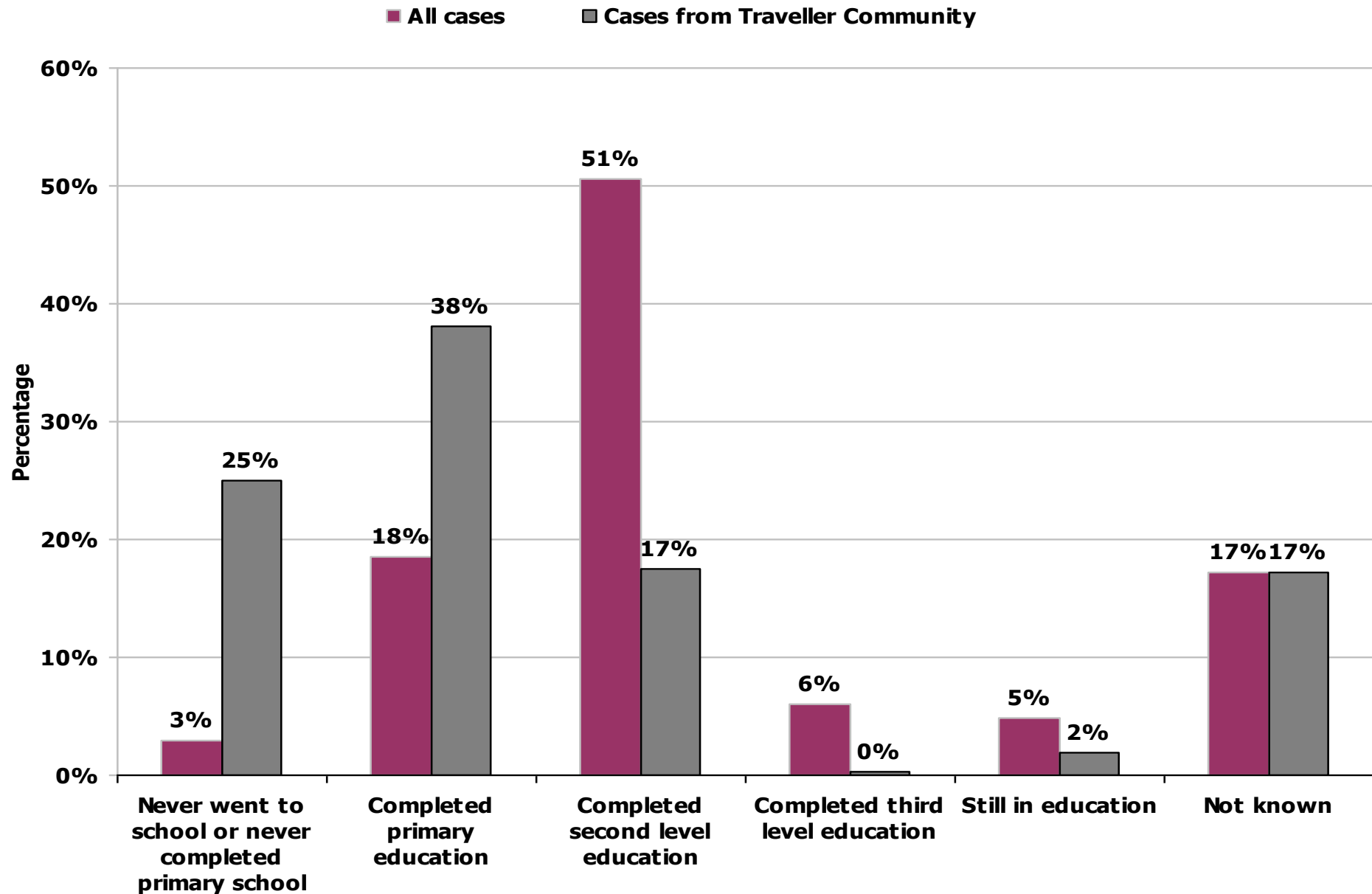
Profile of cases seeking treatment



Profile of cases seeking treatment

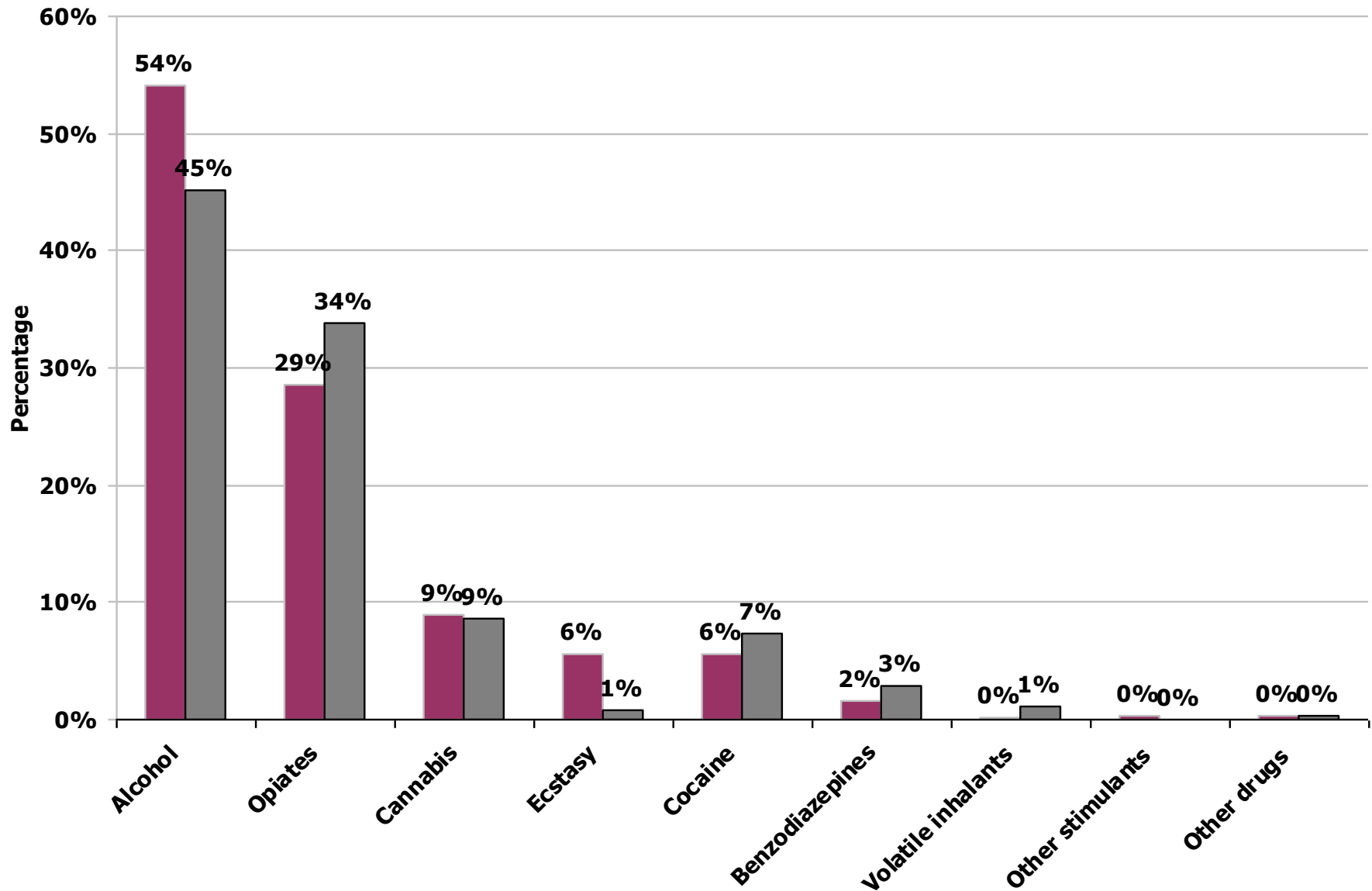


Highest level of education completed



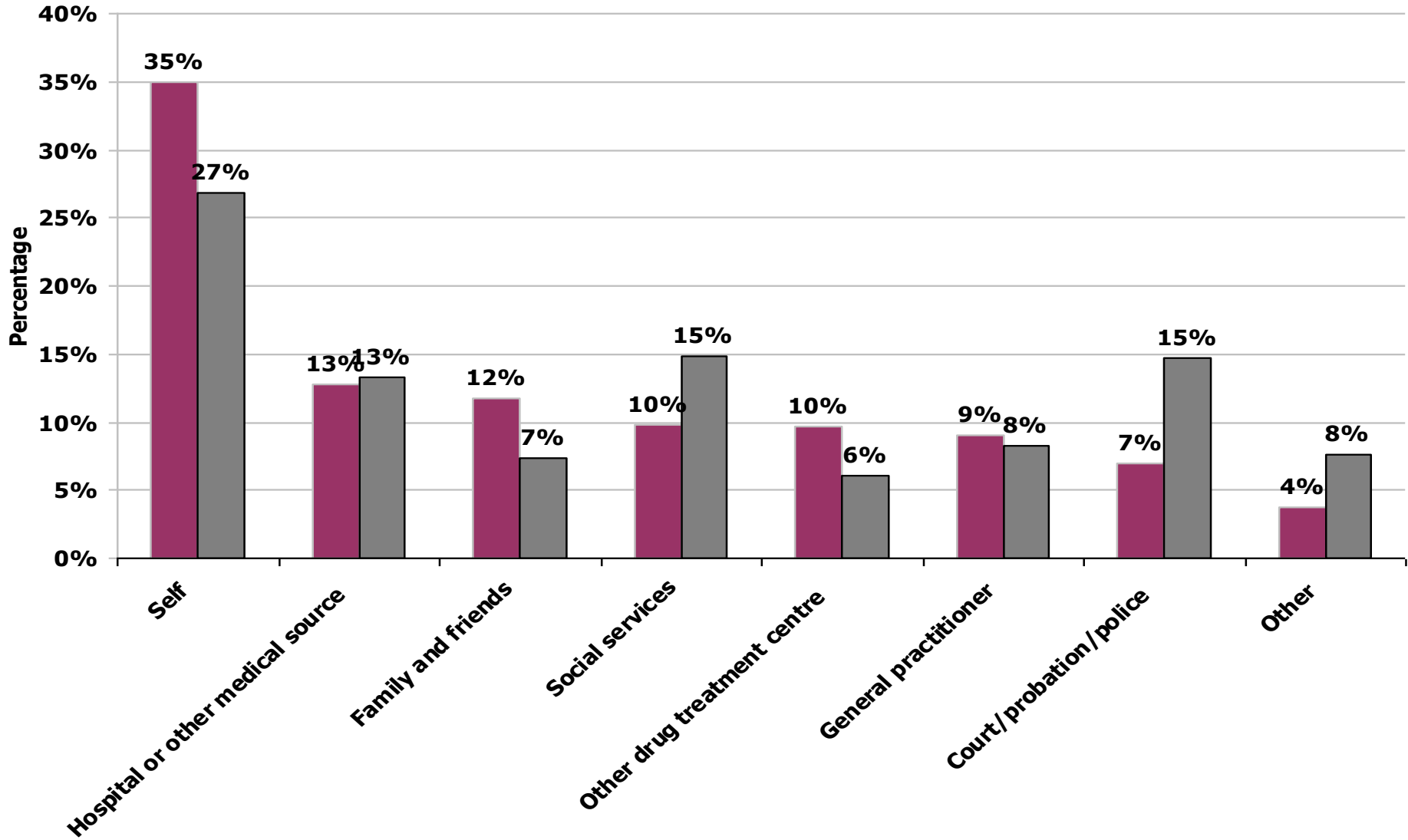
Main reason for seeking treatment

■ *All cases* ■ *Cases from Traveller Community*



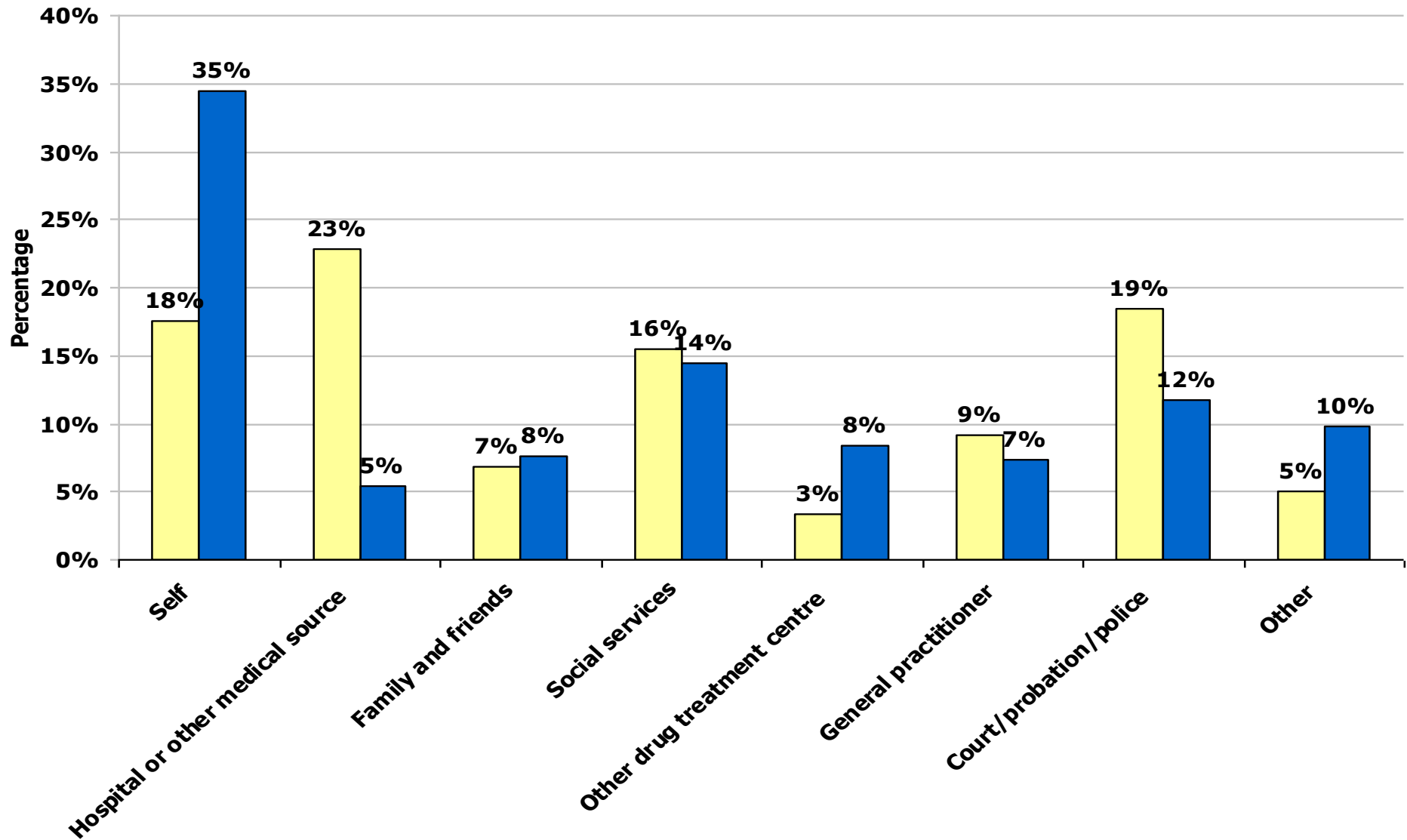
Source of referral

■ *All cases* ■ *Cases from Traveller Community*

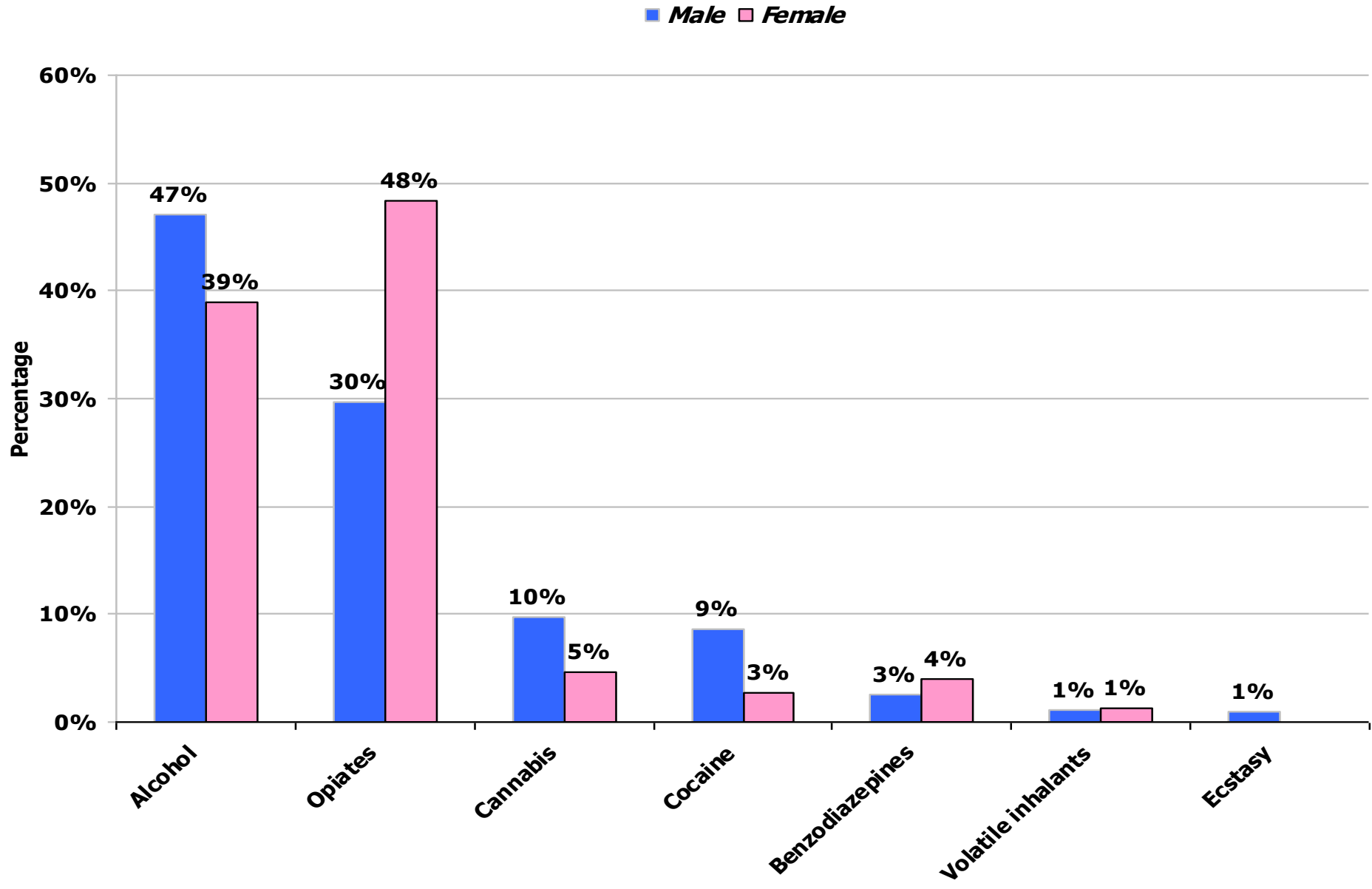


Source of referral for the Traveller community

Alcohol as main problem Drug as main problem



Main reason for seeking treatment among Traveller community





Cases from the Traveller Community seeking treatment

- All cases: 12% were assessed but did not commence treatment
- Traveller community: 10% were assessed but did not commence treatment





Treated clients



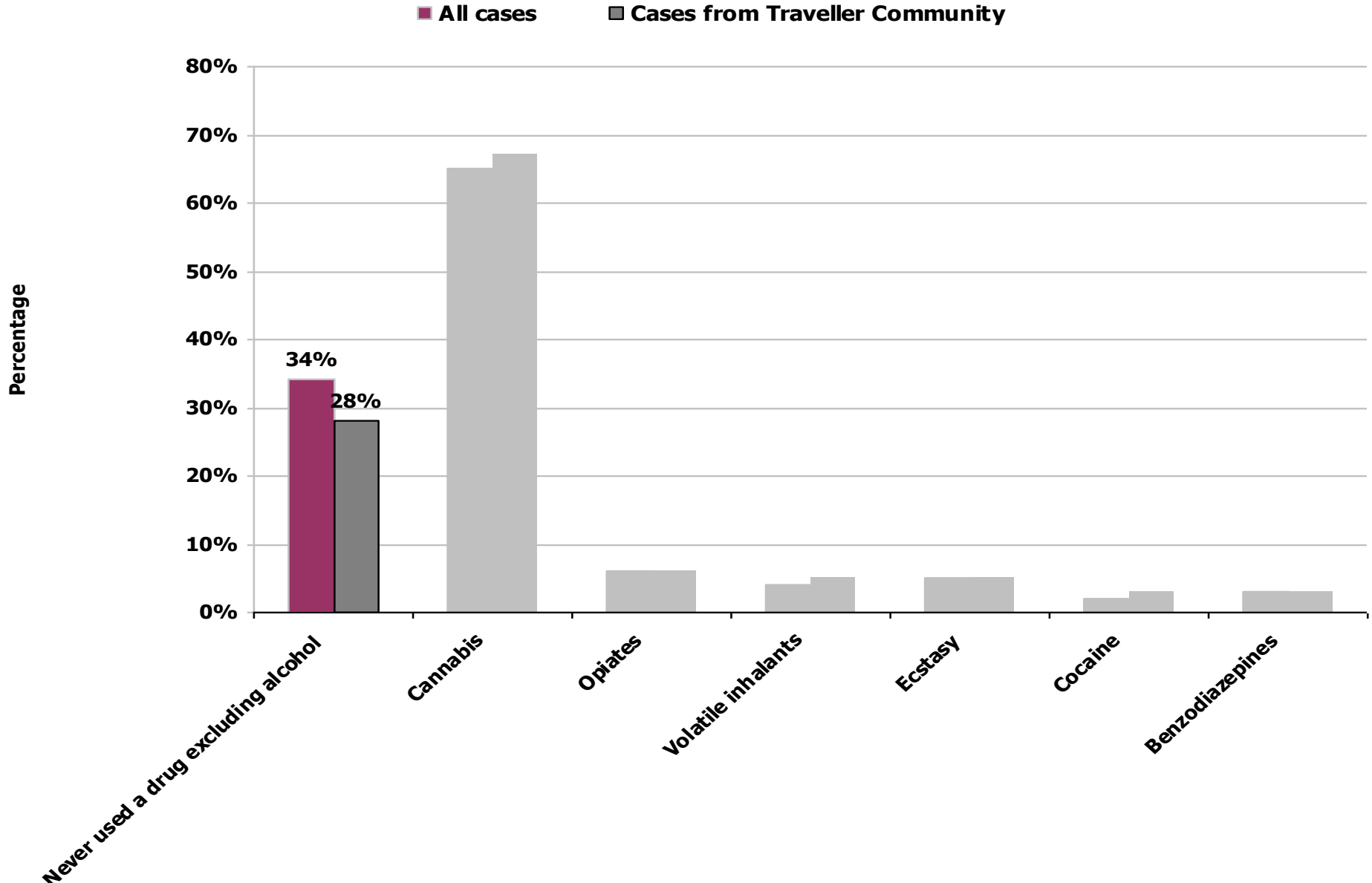
Age of first use

| Median age (range*) started use, in years | Alcohol | Drugs | Cannabis | Cocaine | Opiates | Injected |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| All cases | 15 (11-22) | 15 (11-24) | 16 (12-28) | 18 (14-30) | 19 (14-33) | 20 (15-31) |
| Cases from Traveller community | 14 (10-21) | 15 (11-25) | 16 (11-29) | 17 (13-30) | 20 (13-34) | 20 (12-22) |

* Age range is presented as 5th and 95th percentiles

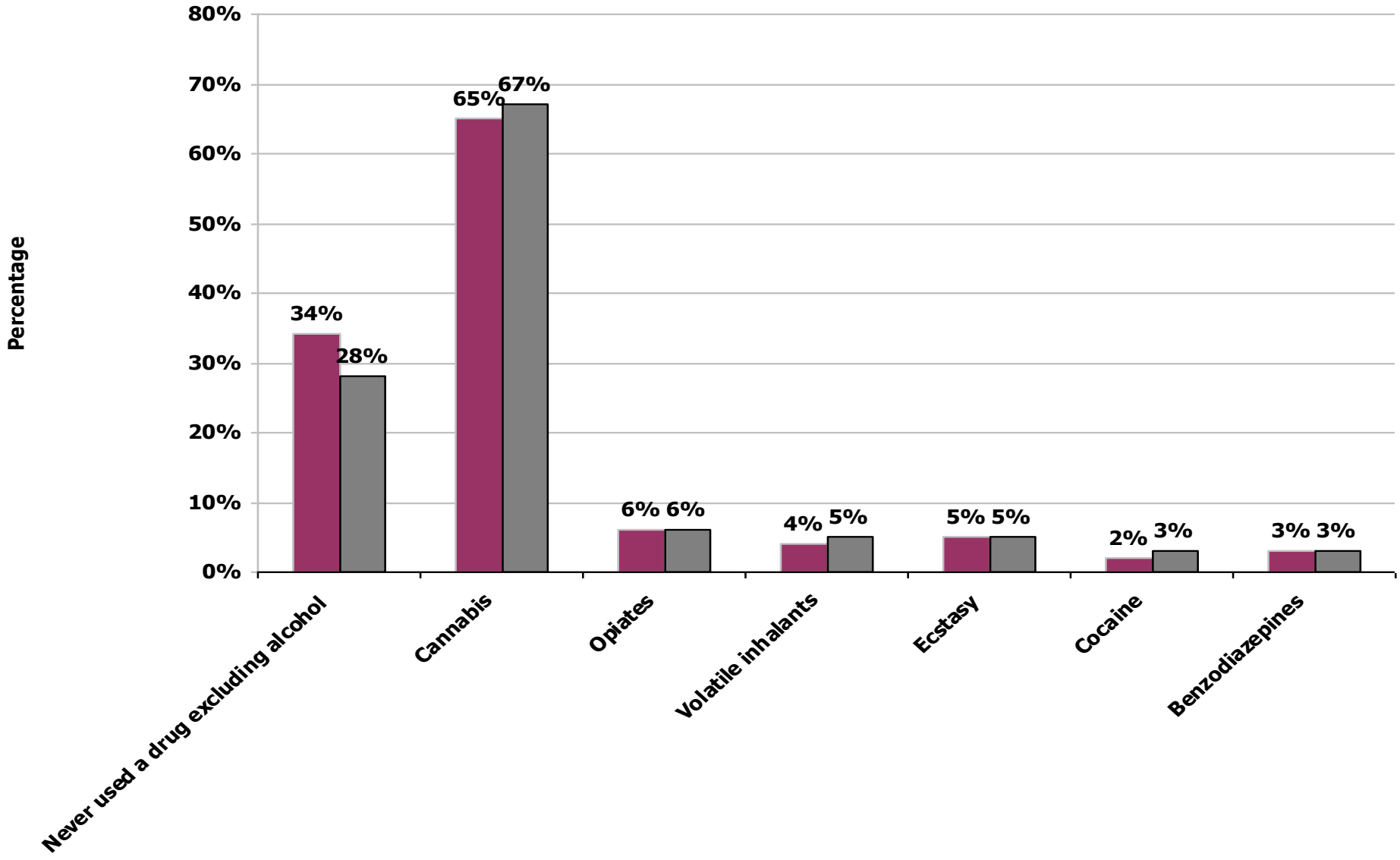


First drug ever used

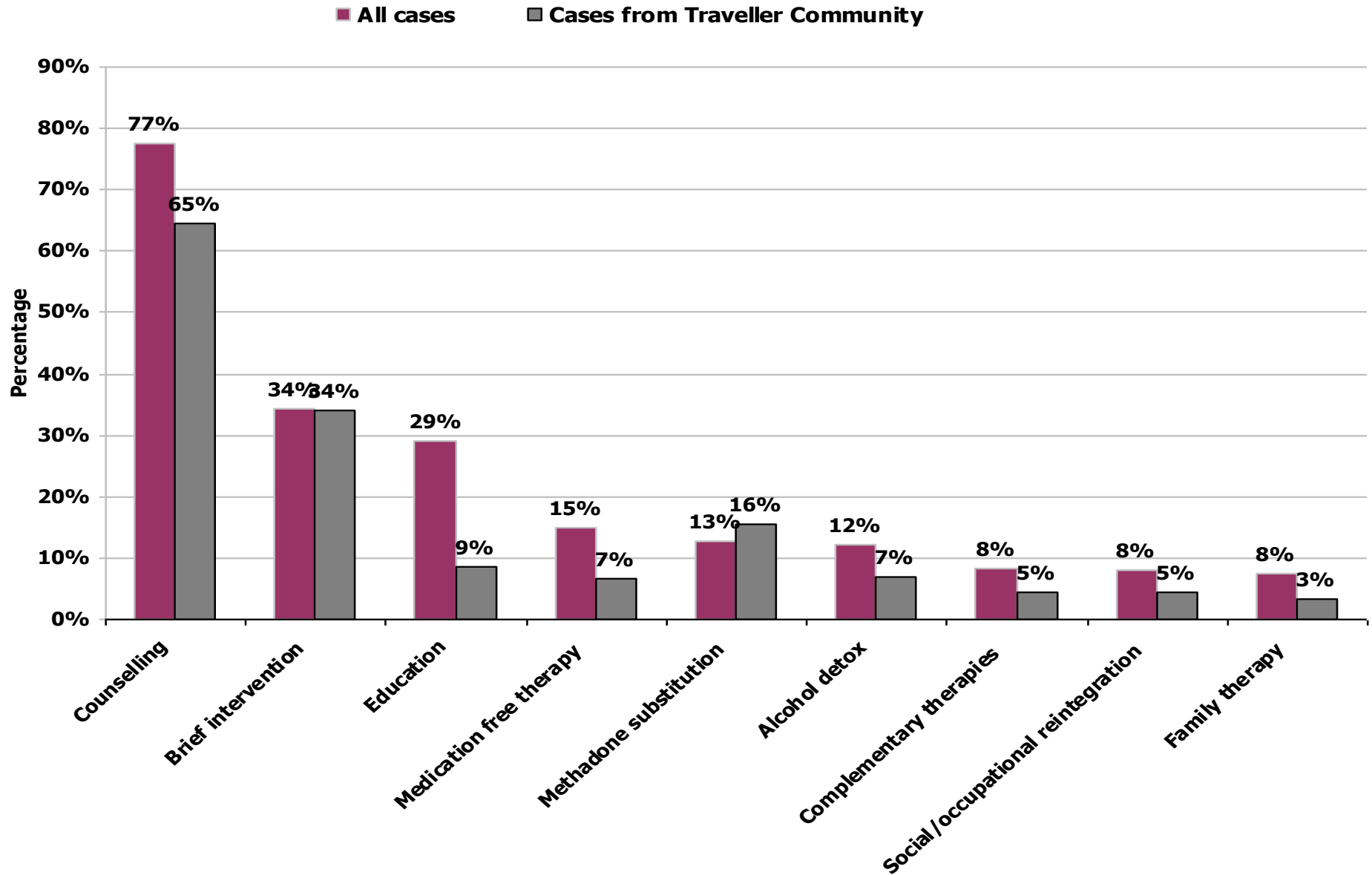


First drug ever used

■ All cases ■ Cases from Traveller Community



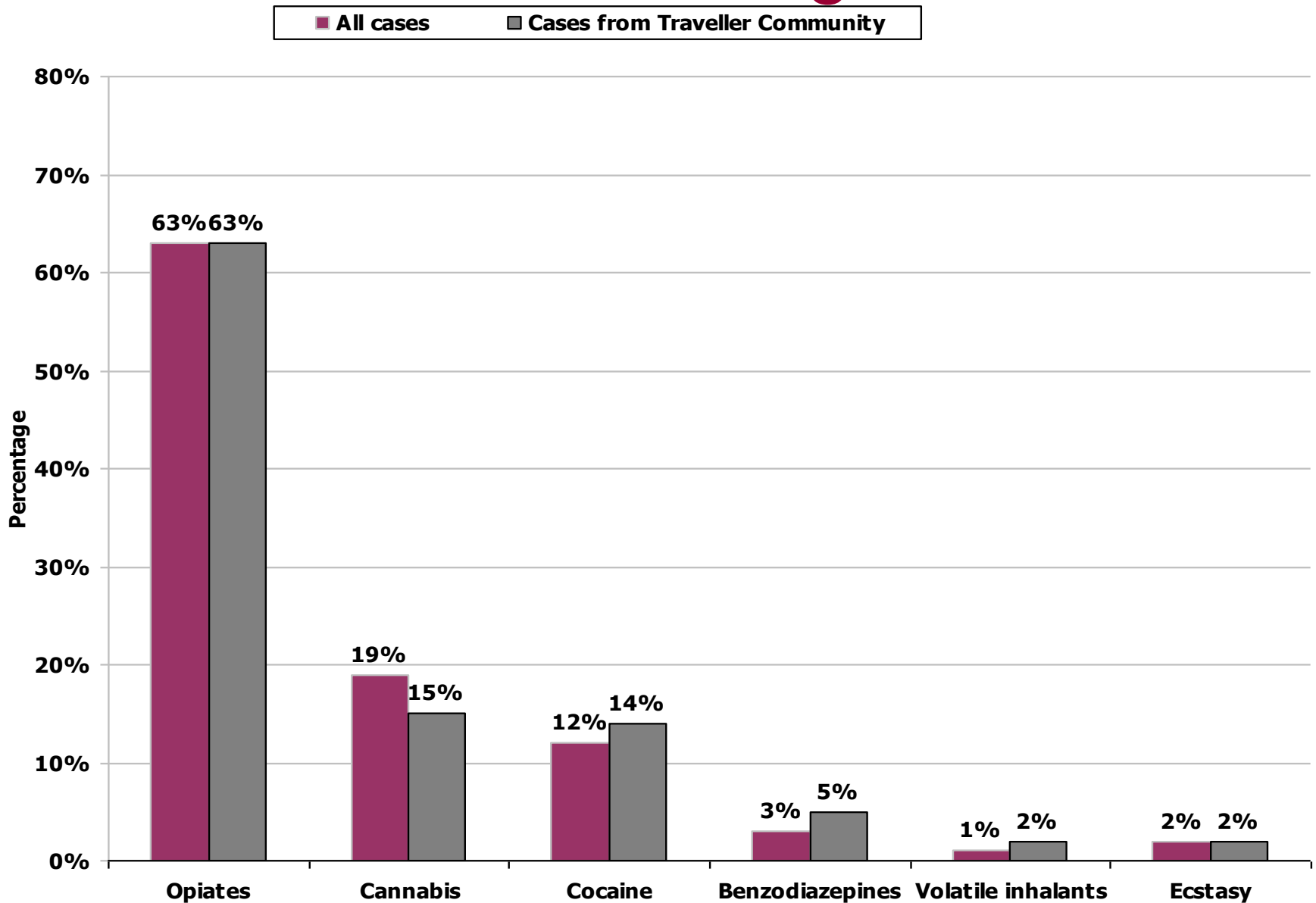
Initial interventions provided 2009



Cases treated for drugs a main problem



Main reason for seeking treatment





New cases treated for problem drug use

Problem use of more than one substance

- All cases: 67%
- Traveller Community: 77%

Most common additional problem drugs

- All cases: Alcohol (50%) and cannabis (39%)
- Traveller Community: Alcohol (49%) and cannabis (43%)





Injecting drug users among the Traveller Community

- 23 new injector cases entered treatment between 2007 and 2009.





Alcohol as a problem substance





New cases treated for problem alcohol use

Problem use of more than one substance

- All cases: 20%
- Traveller Community: 30%

Most common additional problem drugs

- All cases: cannabis (74%) and cocaine (41%)
- Traveller Community: cannabis (83%) and cocaine (30%)



Problem alcohol use, 2009

Preferred type of alcoholic beverage

- Men preferred beer (42%) and spirits (28%)
- Women preferred spirits (41%) and beer (29%)

Frequency of drinking

- Half of all men drank 9 or more days in the month prior to treatment
- Half of all women drank 11 or more days in the month prior to treatment

Volume of alcohol consumed

- Half of all men drank 11.5 or more standard drinks
- Half of all women drank 12 or more standard drinks



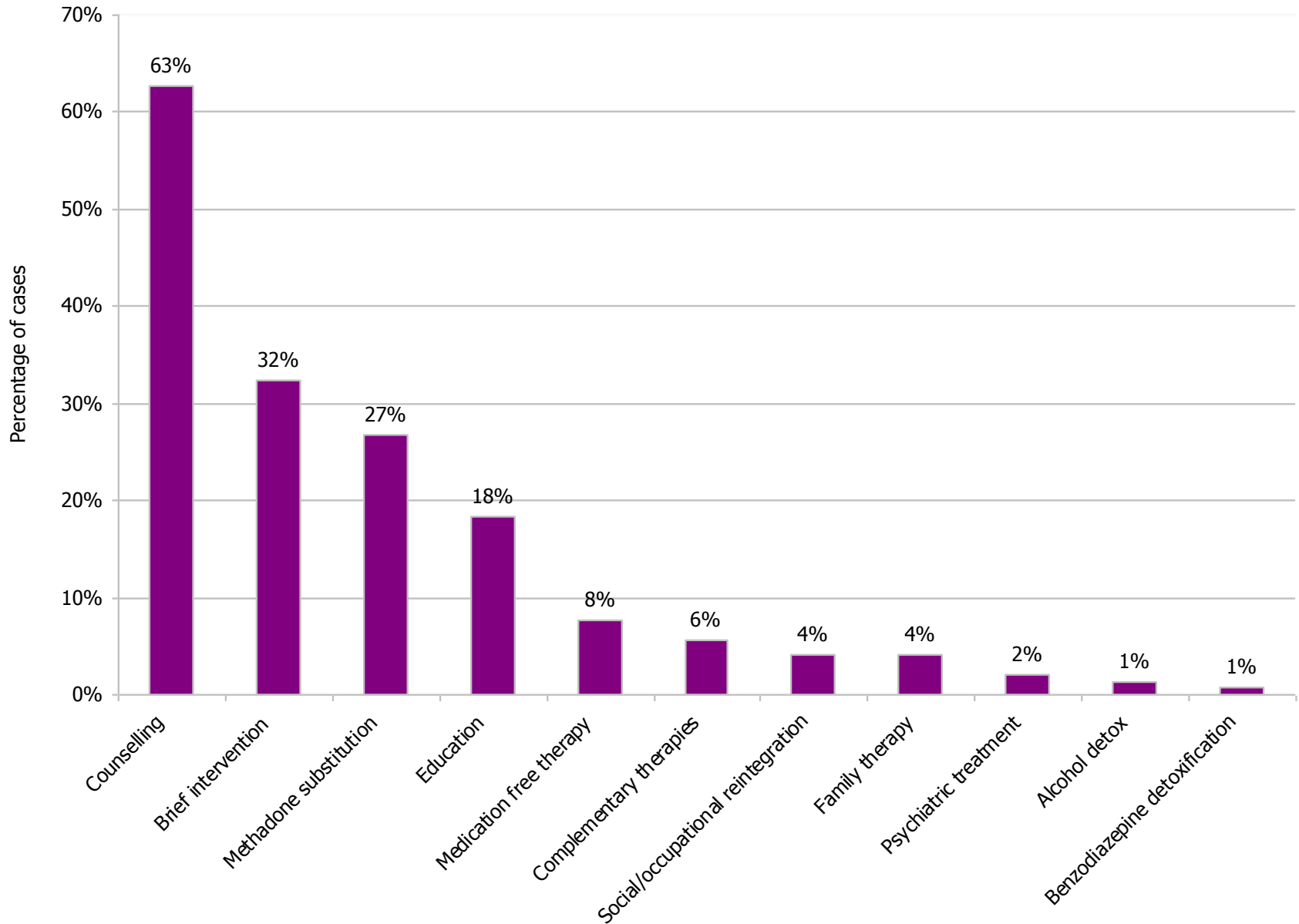
Conclusions

- Alcohol and drugs are a public health issue among the Traveller community
- The Traveller community has a different profile to the general population
- Accurate data are necessary in order to plan appropriate services and develop strategies
- It is possible to record ethnic identifiers





Drug treatment interventions 2009



Alcohol treatment interventions 2009

