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SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Multiple Trends in Alcohol and Drug Use and Treatment Utilization on Both Sides of the Border

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USA-Mexico Border Volleyball



Today's Topics

- Why is the border of interest?
- Risk and protective factors
- Trends in substance use & disorders
- Comparing border and other populations
 - Off border cities, US Hispanics, colonias
- Comparing US and Mexico borders
- Desire for and use of treatment
- Related factors

Learning Objectives

- Knowledge about prevalence of substance use and disorders on both sides of Border and off Border.
- Knowledge about desire for, and use of, treatment on Border
- Understanding of correlates of substance disorders and desire for treatment.

US - Mexico Border States

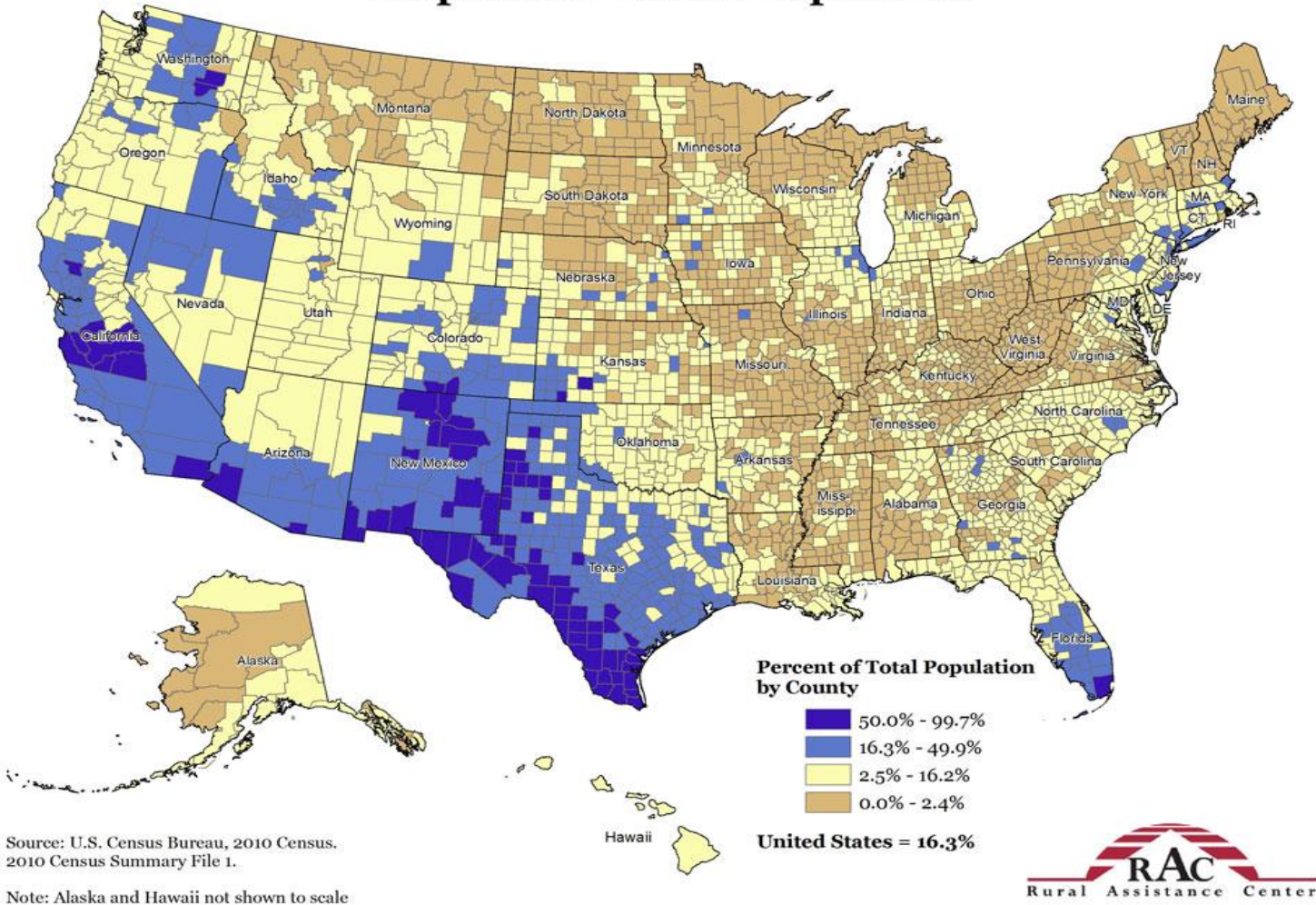




The Unique Border Area

- Immigration, drug trafficking, security
- Fast-growing & dynamic region
- Foreign-born to 4th generation
- Complex blend of US & MX cultures

Hispanic or Latino Population

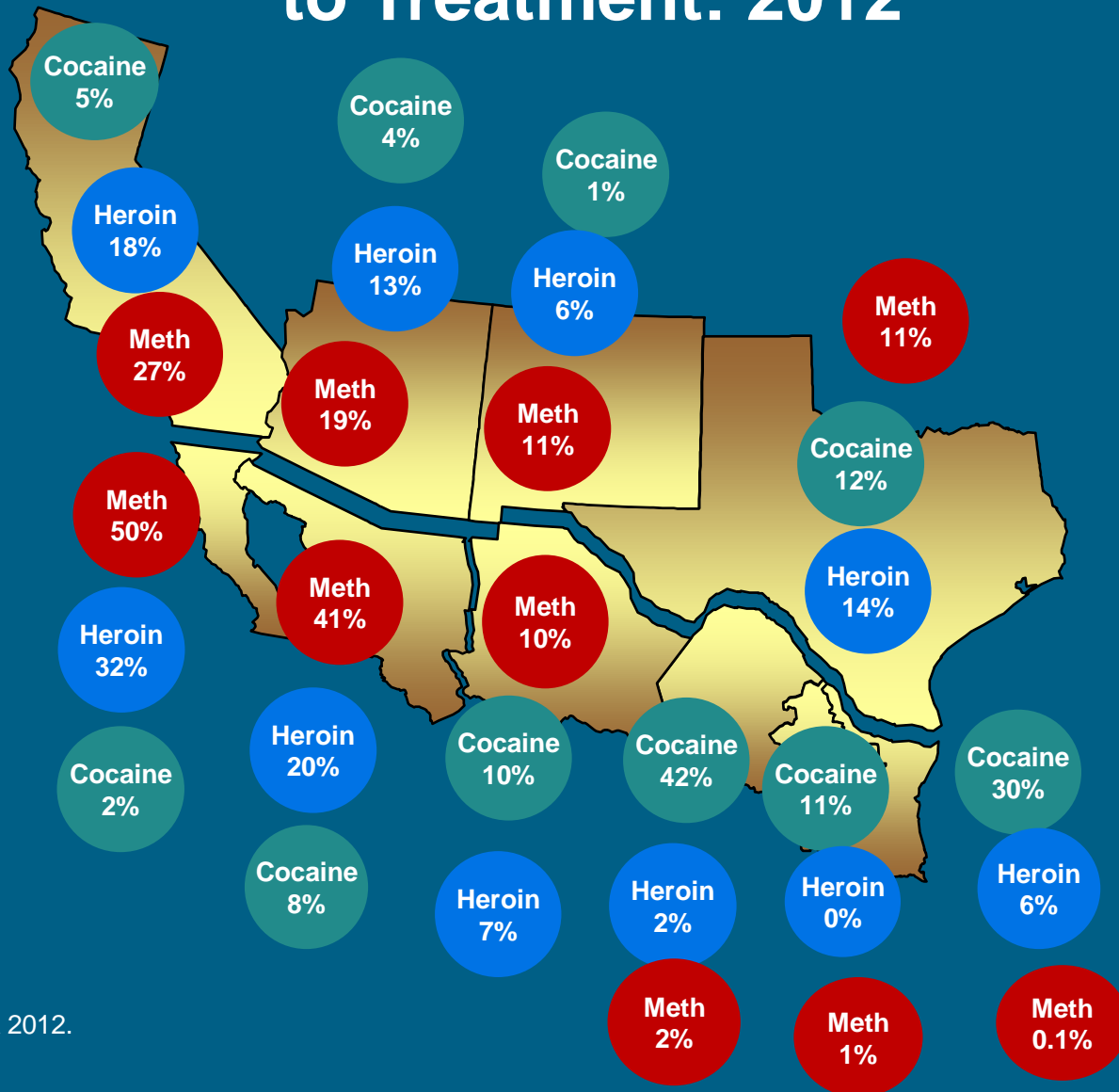


- 1/2 of US Hispanics live in CA & TX
- 8% of US Hispanics in border counties
- 2/3 of Mexican immigrants live in the four border states

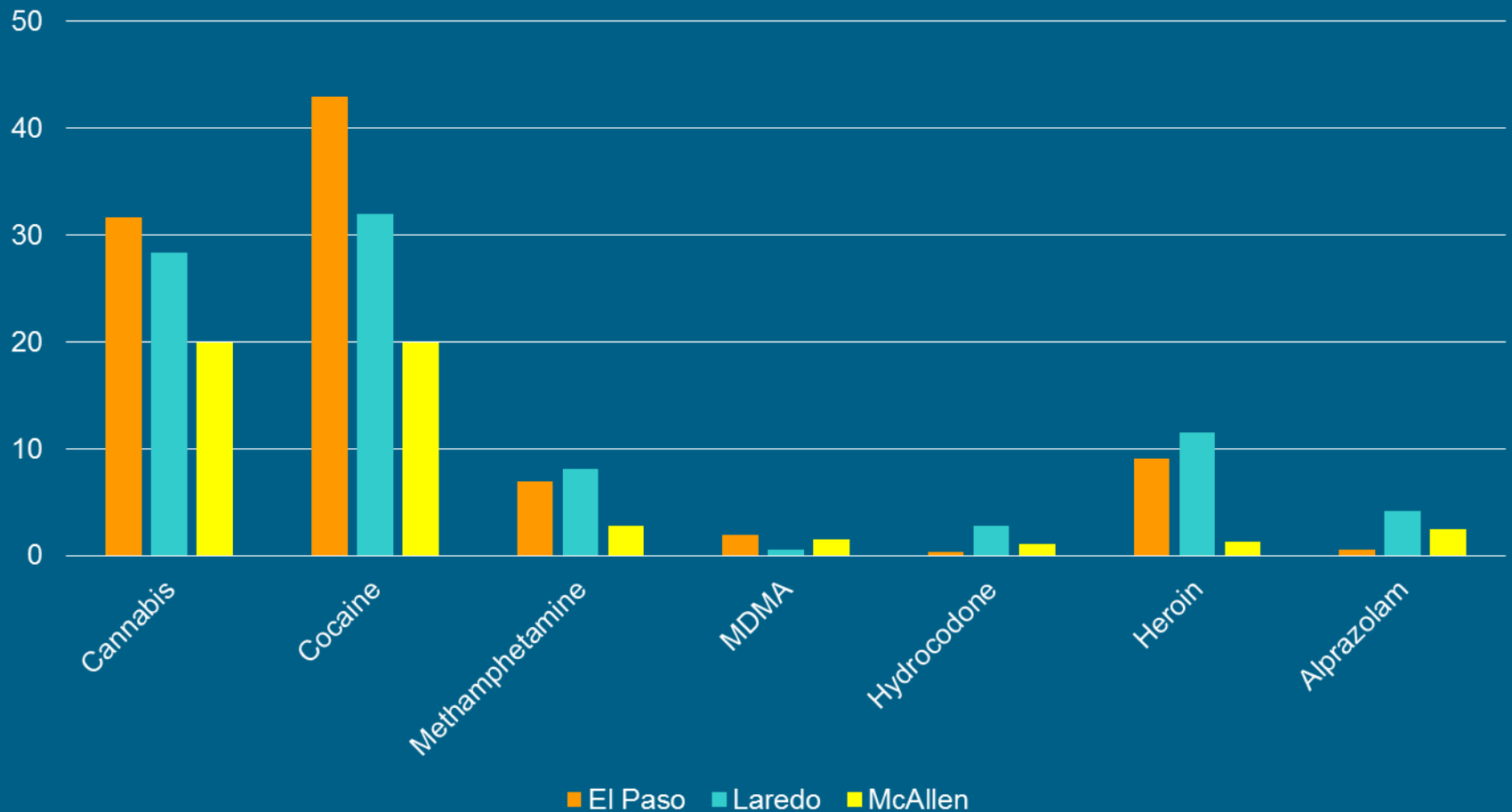
The “Border” is not one homogeneous place!

- California ≠ Arizona ≠ New Mexico ≠ Texas
- El Paso ≠ Laredo ≠ Rio Grande Valley
- Urban ≠ Colonias
- US ≠ Mexico

Primary Drug of Abuse at Admission to Treatment: 2012



Drug Items Seized and Identified on the Texas Border: NFLIS 2013



Risk Factors

- Greater alcohol advertising and availability
- Lower cost of alcohol
- Lower & under-enforced legal drinking age
- Easier availability of Rx pharmaceuticals
- Young population age structure
- Drug trafficking
- Stresses of poverty, high unemployment, rapid population growth, acculturation, immigration insecurity

Protective Factors

- Strong family & social support systems
- Religiosity
- Lower levels of drug use in Mexico
- Drinking norms
- Immigrant advantage

Border Surveys

1996 – 1,665 residents of Brownsville, El Paso, Laredo and McAllen and 504 in colonias

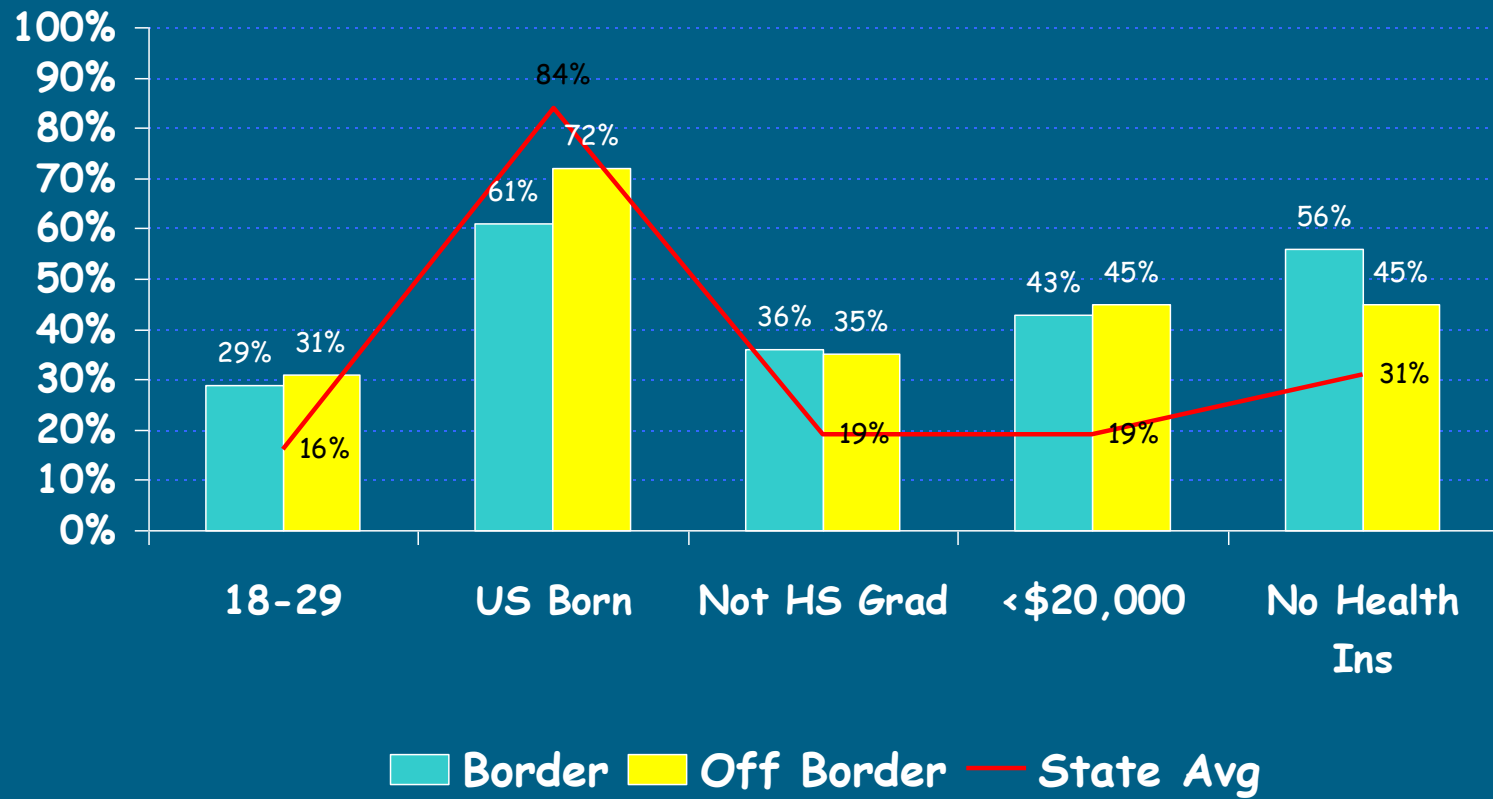
2003 – 400 residents of El Paso, 400 in urban Lower Rio Grande Valley, 400 in colonias, 100 in trailer parks

2012 – 1,565 residents of US border,
771 US off-border (San Antonio)
- 1,649 residents of MX border,
811 MX off-border (Monterrey)

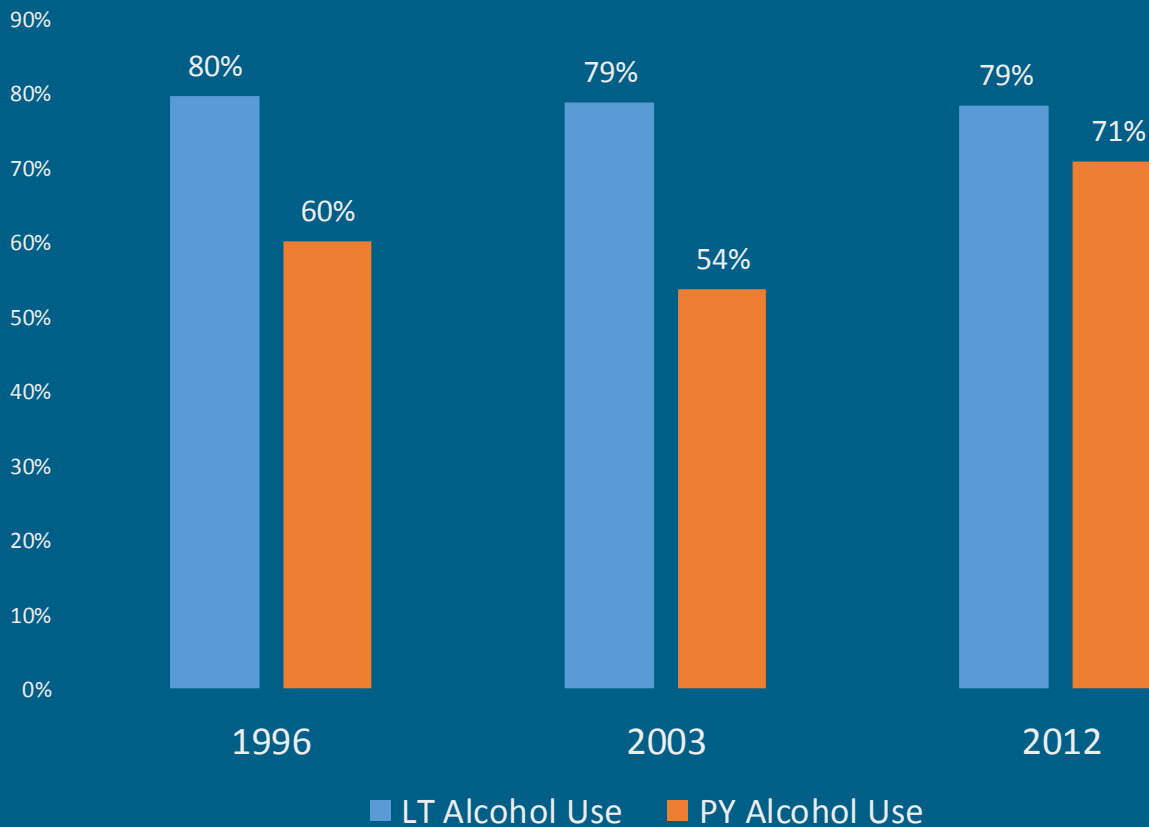
Methods for In-Person Surveys

- Random samples of adults 18+ living in households
- Face-to-face interviews in English or Spanish
- Conducted by trained, bilingual, community residents
- Analyses used statistical procedures to adjust for survey design (probability of selection) and to weight the sample to represent population demographics.

2012 Respondent Characteristics



Lifetime & Past Year Alcohol Use Across Time (Border)



Binge Drinking

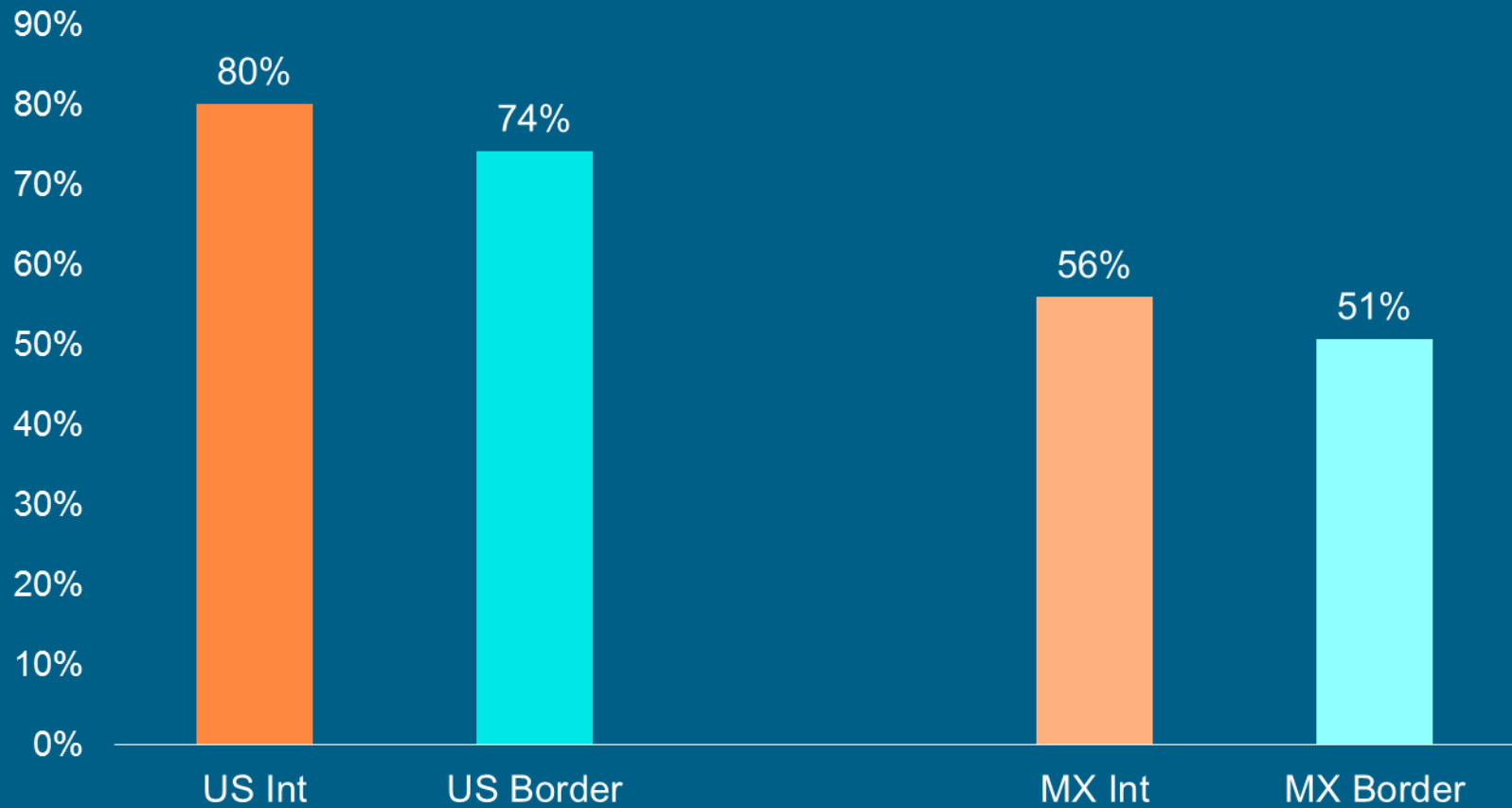
- 4+/5+ drinks on one occasion at least monthly in past year
- 20% of Border residents in 2012
- Same as off-border
- Similar in 2003
- Of concern when leads to impaired driving

Impaired Driving: NHTSA

- Mexican-Americans have high rates of alcohol-related crashes
- Border at high risk for DWI
- Hispanics less likely to consider DWI to be a safety problem and
- Less likely to think they will be arrested
- DPS data show Hispanics over-represented in DWI but self-report data show underrepresentation

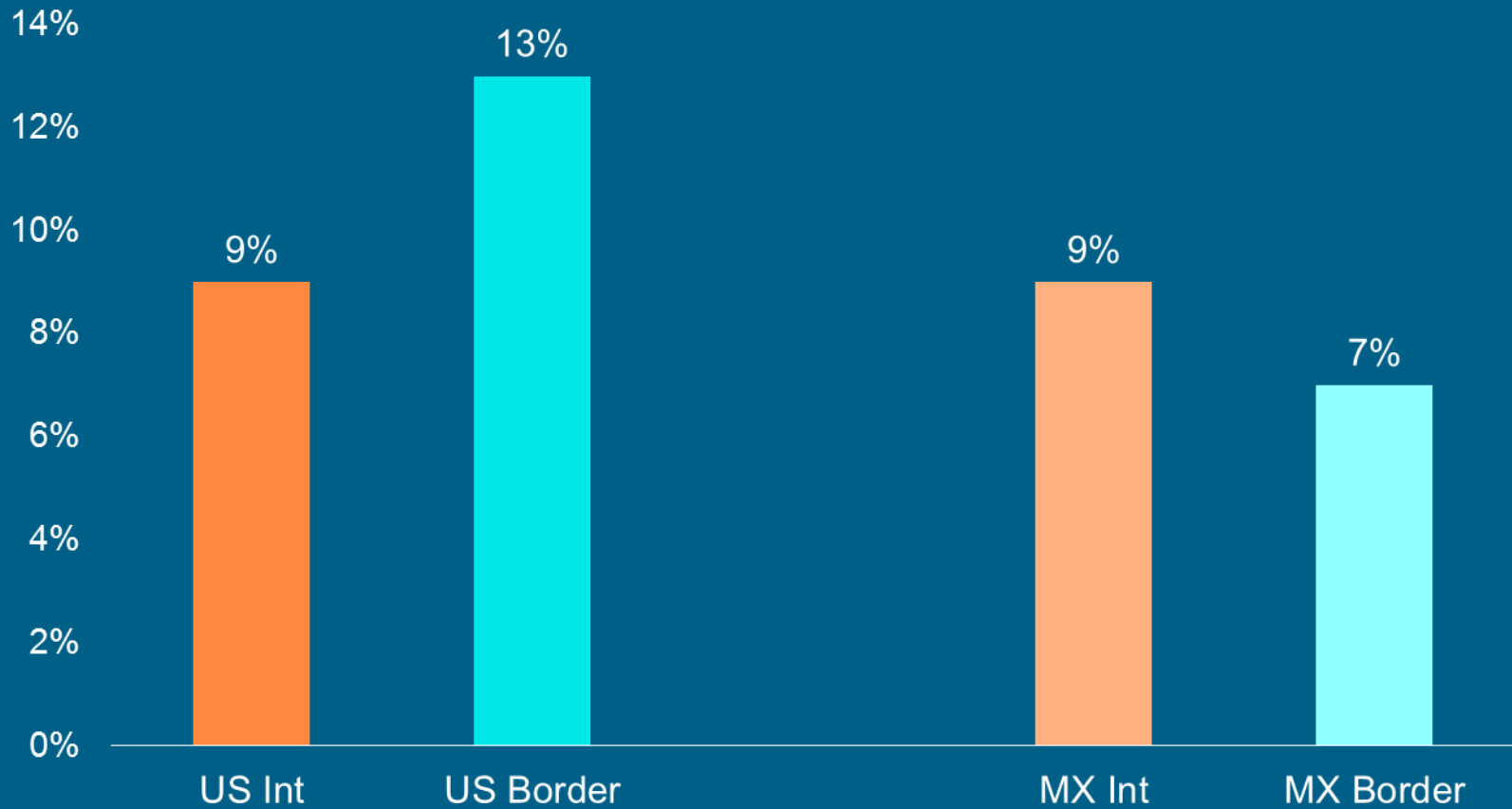
Impaired Driving

Likely to be Stopped for Driving While Intoxicated?



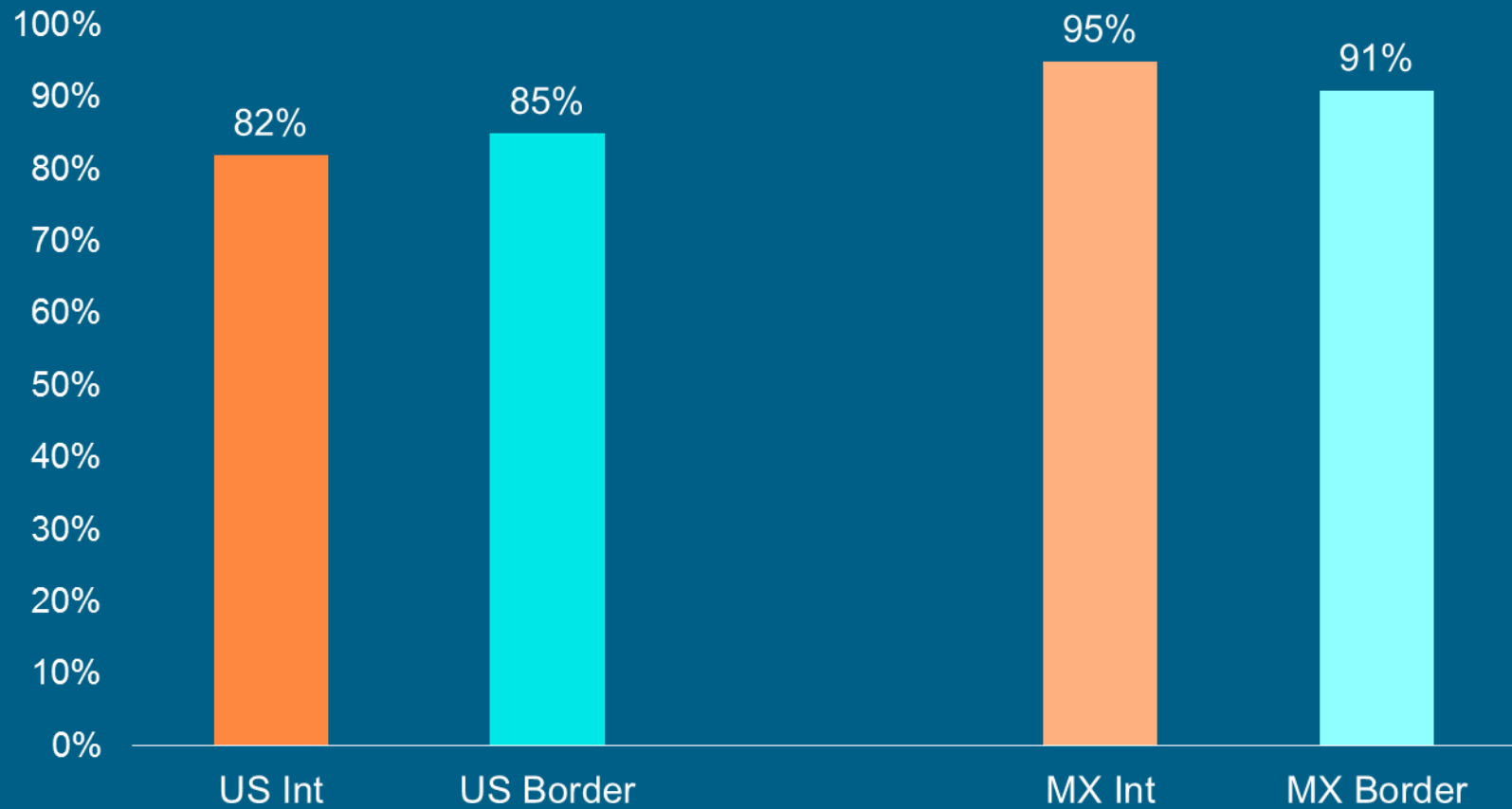
Impaired Driving

Ever Stopped or Arrested for Drunk Driving?

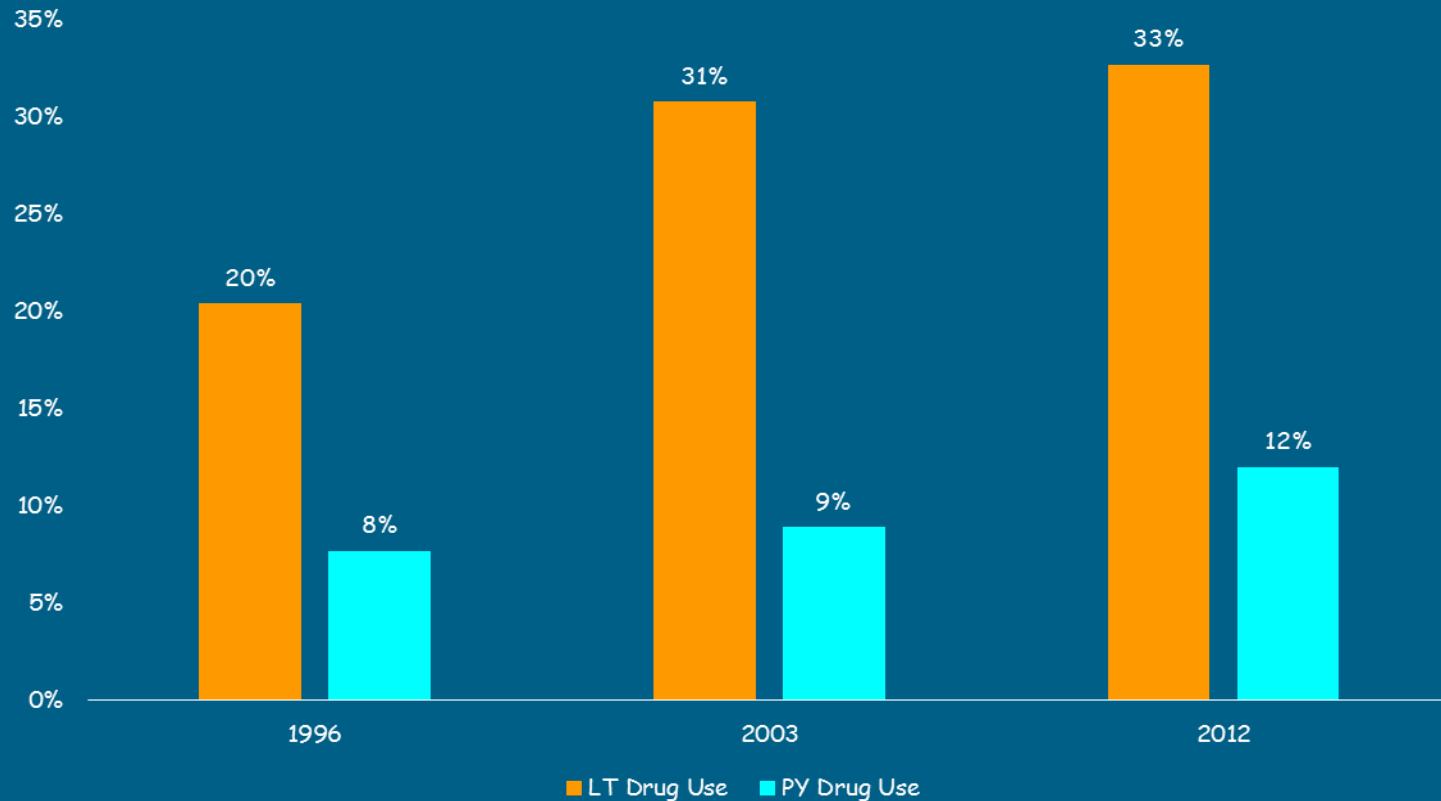


Impaired Driving

Maximum Drinks if Driving = Zero



Lifetime & Past Year Illicit Drug Use Across Time (Border)



Which Illicit Drugs?

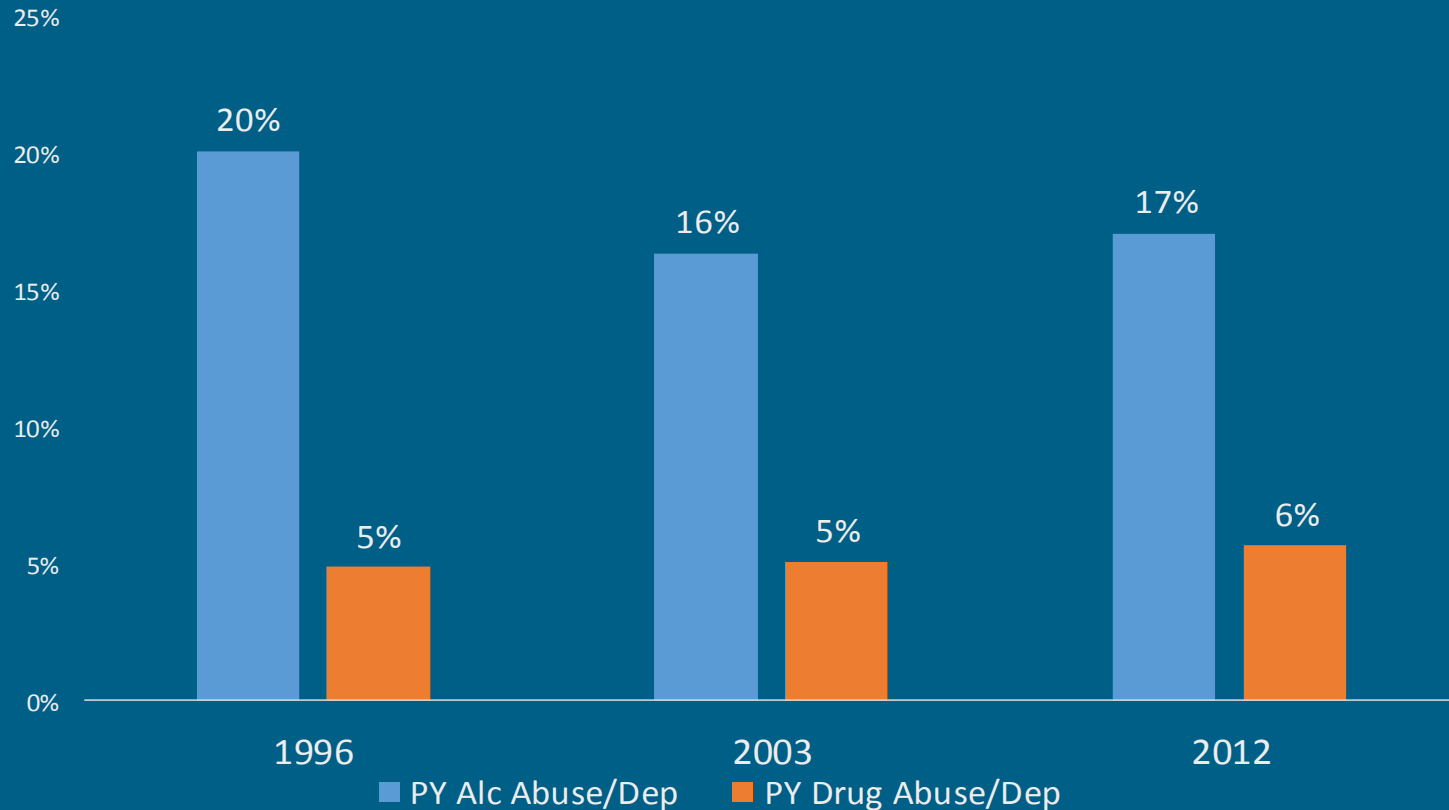
2012 Survey

- Marijuana: 11% past-year use
 - Identical on and off border
- Cocaine/crack: 6% past-year use
 - Border higher than off border (2.4%)
- Heroin, methamphetamine, hallucinogens: 1% or less.

Abuse of Rx Drugs: 2012 Survey

- 17% of US Border residents misused Rx drugs in past year
- This was twice as many as off Border
- Pain relievers (15%)
- Sedatives (9%) and stimulants (4%)

Past Year Abuse/ Dependence Across Time (Border)



Characteristics of People with SUDs (2012)

- Male (73%)
- 18-29 (47%) or 30-49 (45%)
- HS graduate (72%)
- Single (59%)
- Both alcohol and drug users (79%)
 - Illicit drugs only (37%)
 - Illicit + Rx (36%)

Substance Use Trends: Quick Summary

- PY drinking has increased (71% in 2012)
- Binge drinking stable (20%)
- PY illicit drug use has increased (12%)
 - MJ (11%), cocaine/crack (6%)
- Rx misuse twice as high on border (17%)
- AUD & DUD stable since 2003
- Border respondents more likely to have been stopped for DWI than off border

Comparing Border with Other Populations



Texas Off-Border



US as a whole

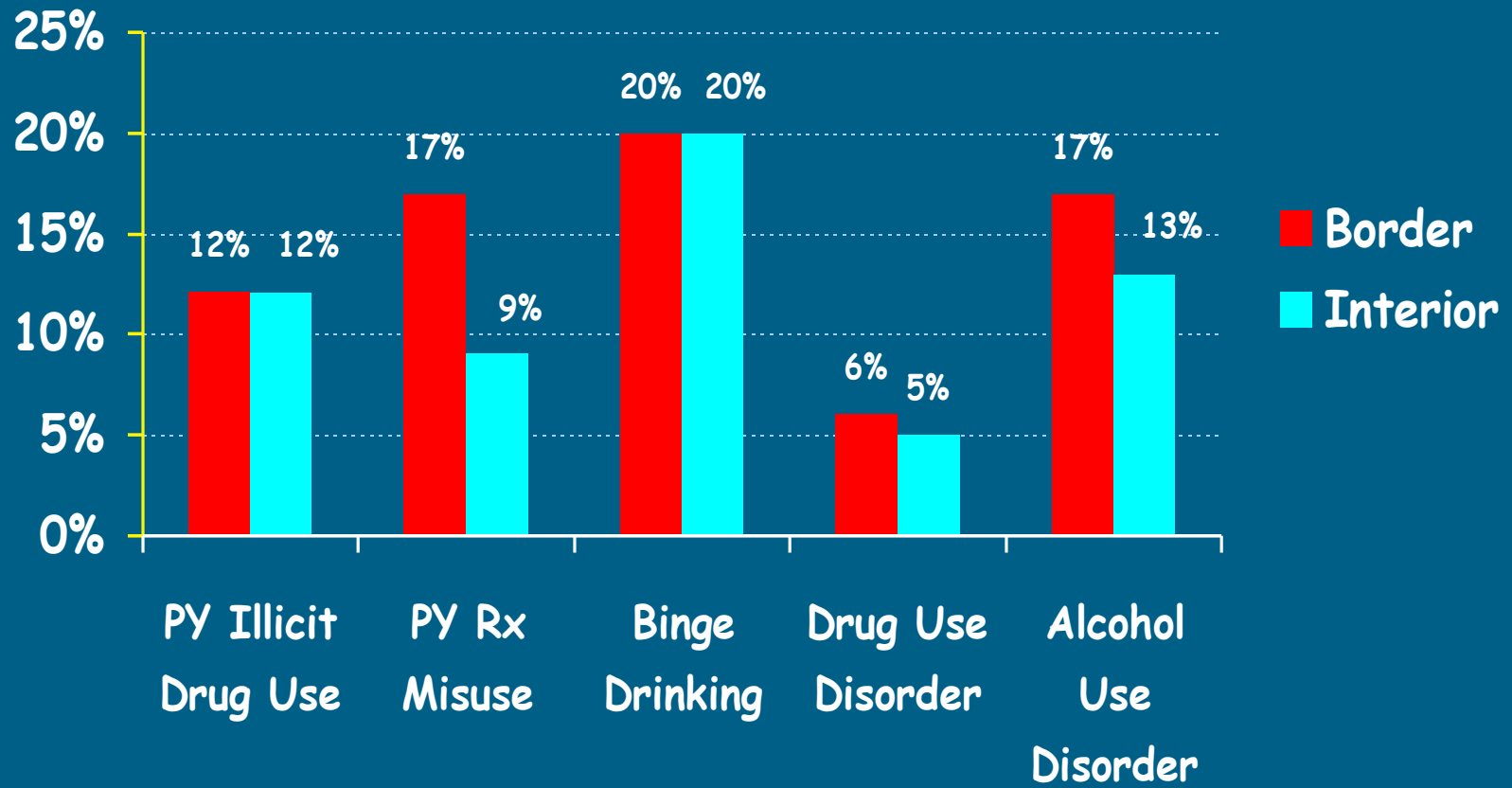


Colonias

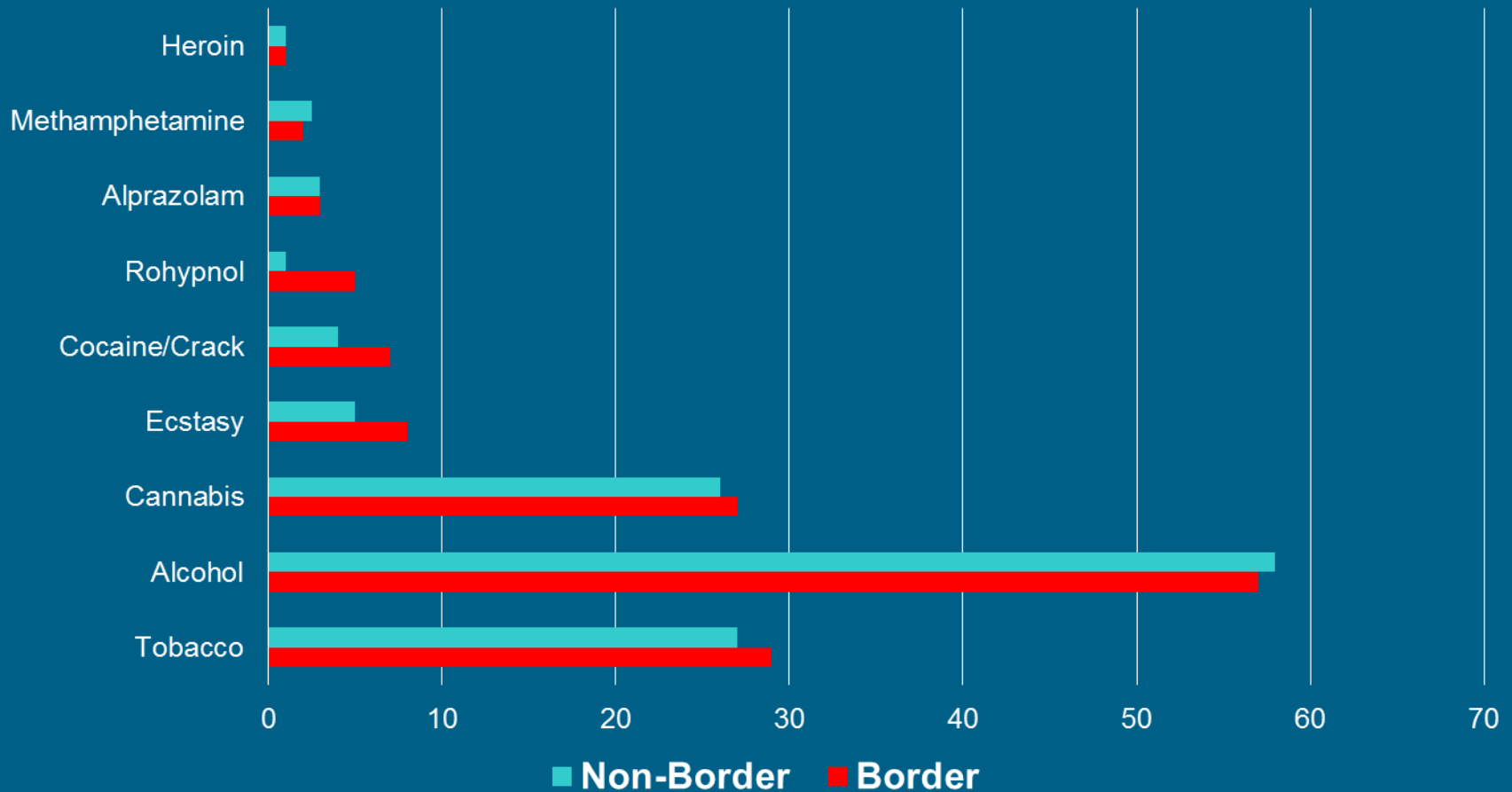


Mexican Border

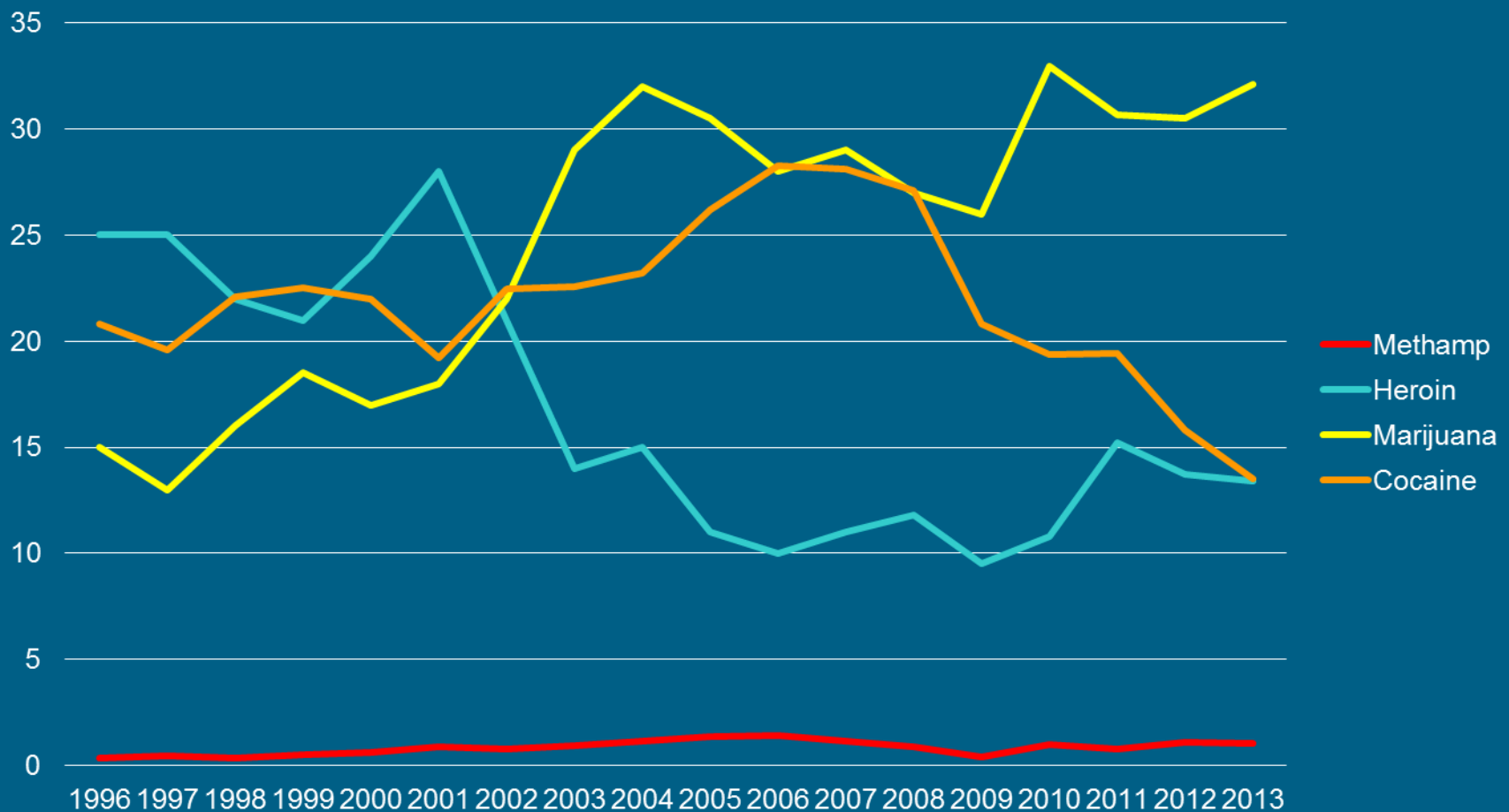
Alcohol and Drug Use: Texas Border and Texas Interior



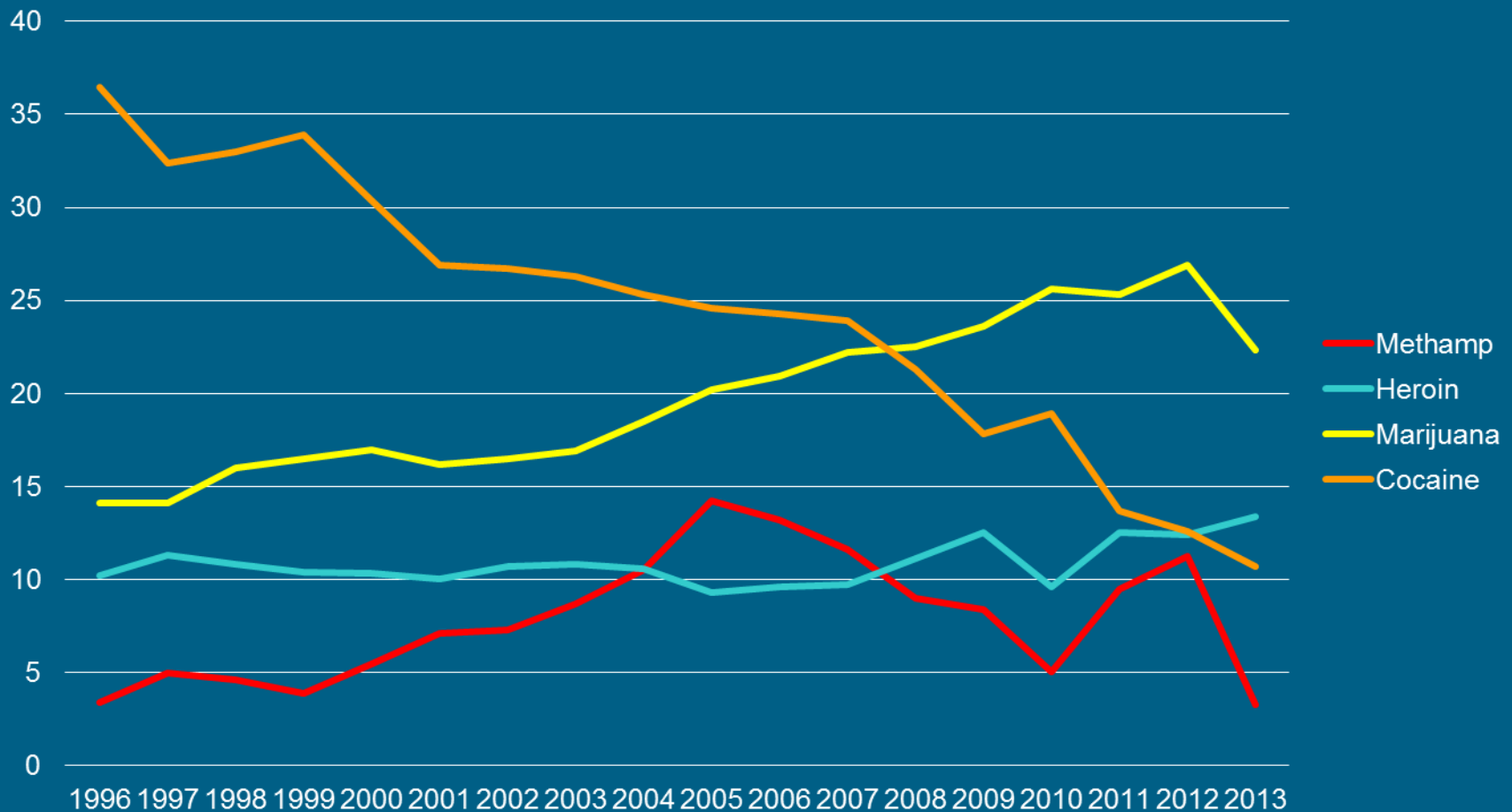
Percent of Border and Nonborder Texas Secondary Students Who Had Ever Used Drugs: 2012



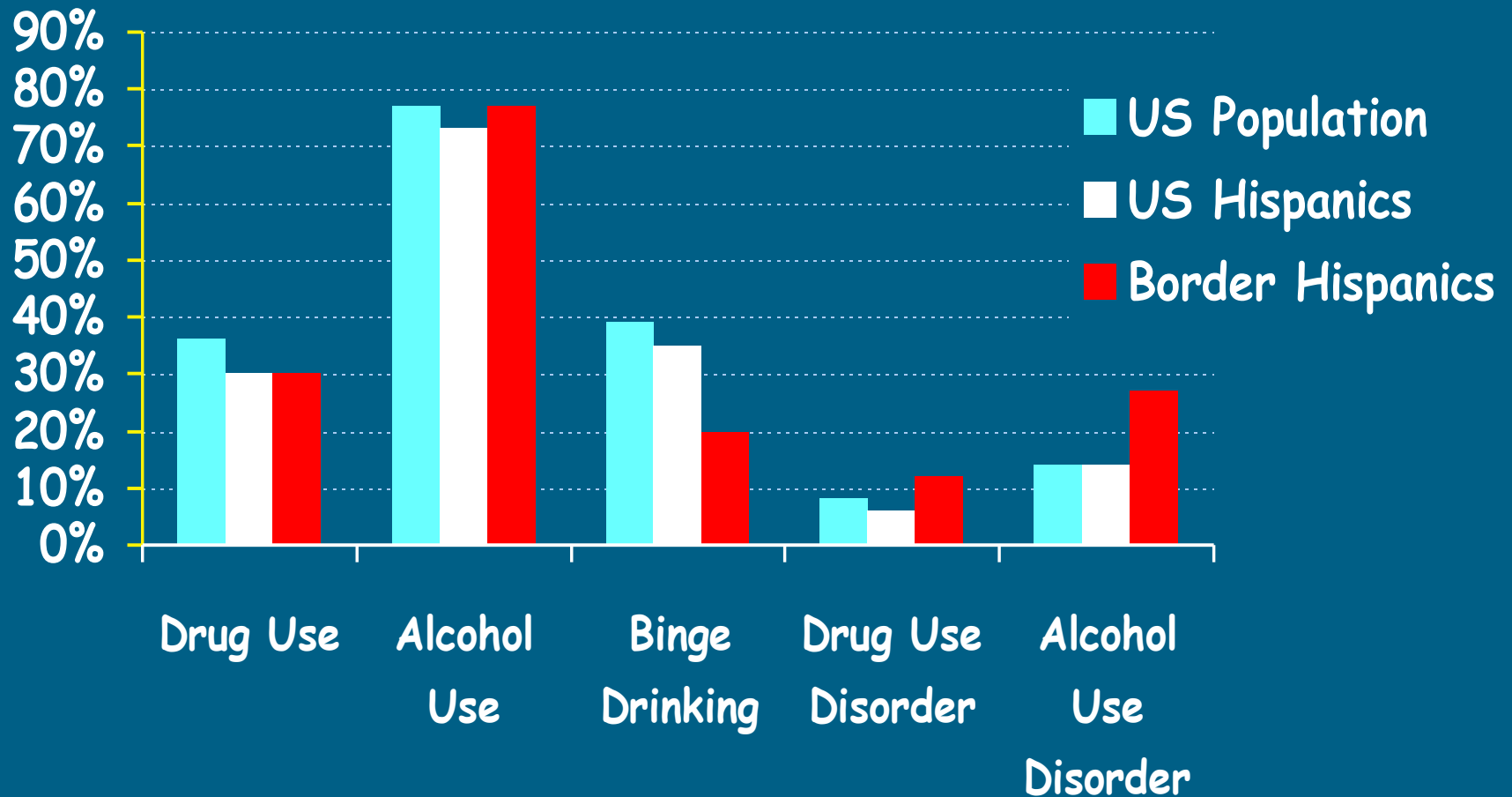
Admissions to Texas DSHS-Funded Treatment-Border 1996-2013



Admissions to Texas DSHS-Funded Treatment-Nonborder 1996-2013



Past Year Alcohol and Drug Use Among Age 18-25: Border and Nationwide



2012 USMSARC and 2012 NSDUH

Colonias



Colonias

- Unincorporated, unregulated communities
- Lack of basic infrastructure (paved roads, electricity, drainage, police)
- High poverty & unemployment
- About 2300 individual colonias
- 20% of Texas border population





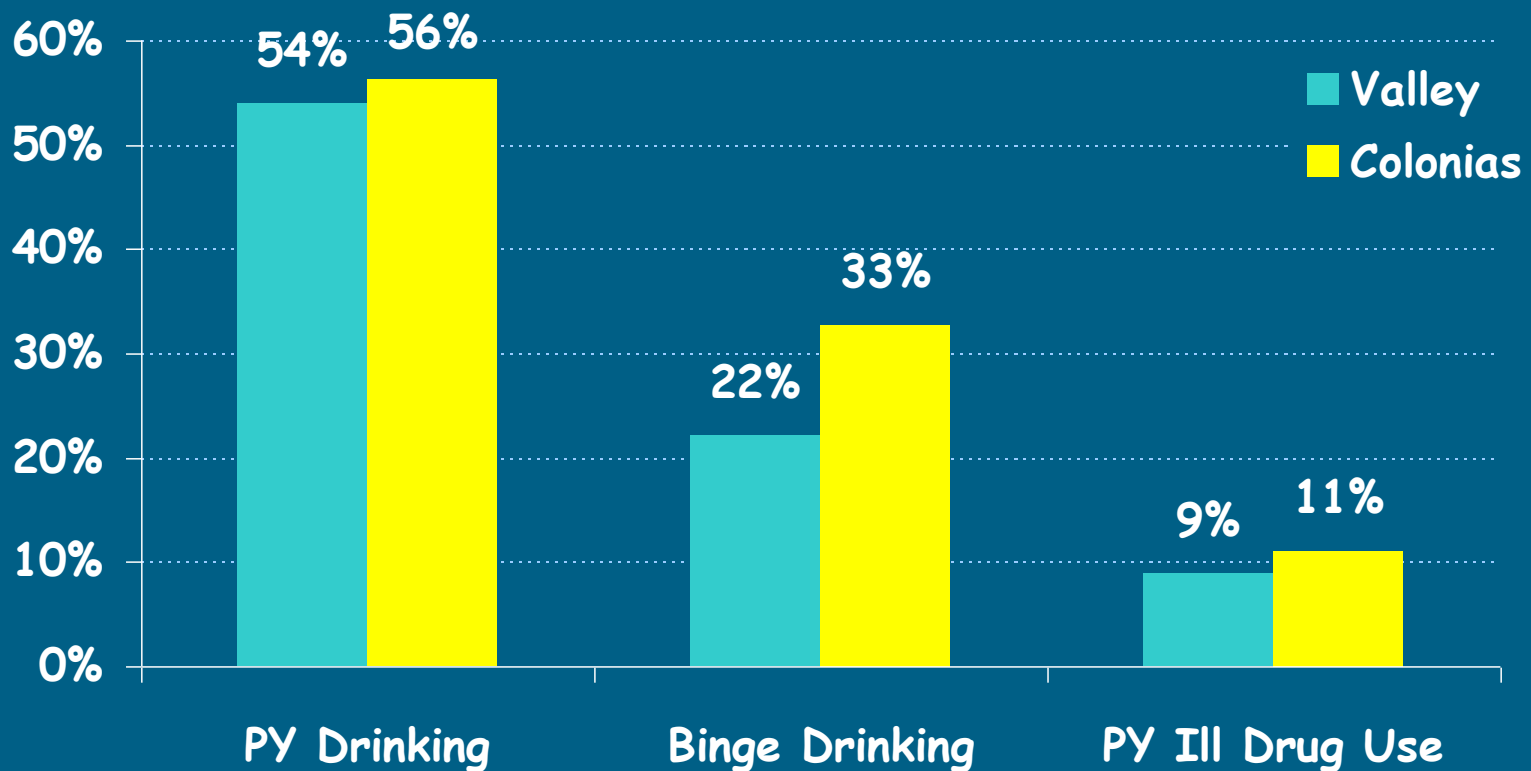






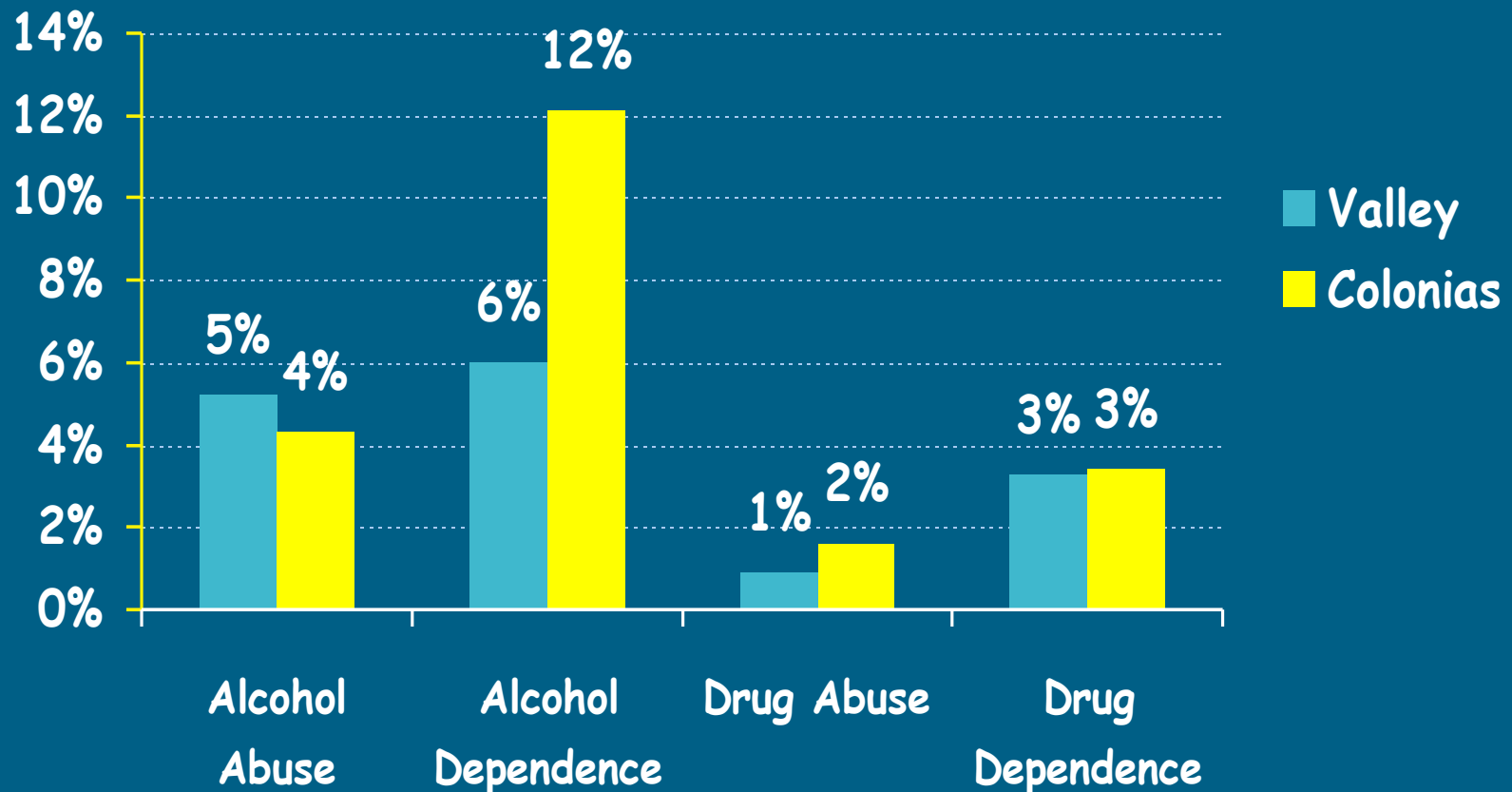


Alcohol and Drug Use: Urban Valley and Colonias



2003 UTSSW Border Survey

DSM-IV Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Dependence: Urban Valley and Colonias



2003 UTSSW Border Survey

Comparing US Border with Mexican Border



BOUNDARY
OF THE
UNITED STATES

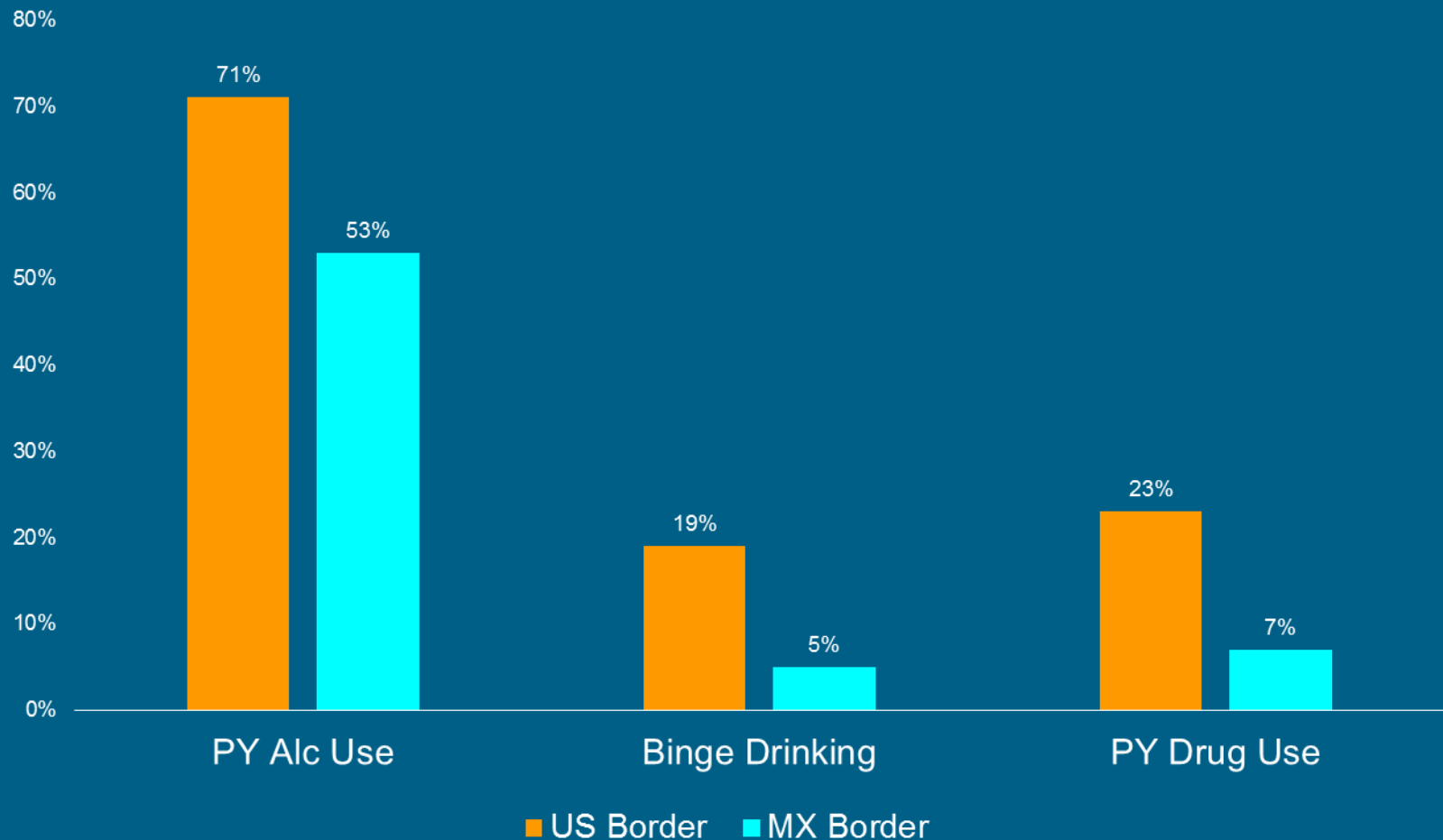
TREATY OF
1848
RE-ESTABLISHED
BY TREATY OF
1854 - 1855
THE GADSDEN
PURCHASE
OF 1854
WAS
ACQUIRED
BY THE
UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT
AND
IS
NOW
PART
OF
THE
UNITED STATES

LIMITE
DE LA
**REPUBLICA
MEXICANA**

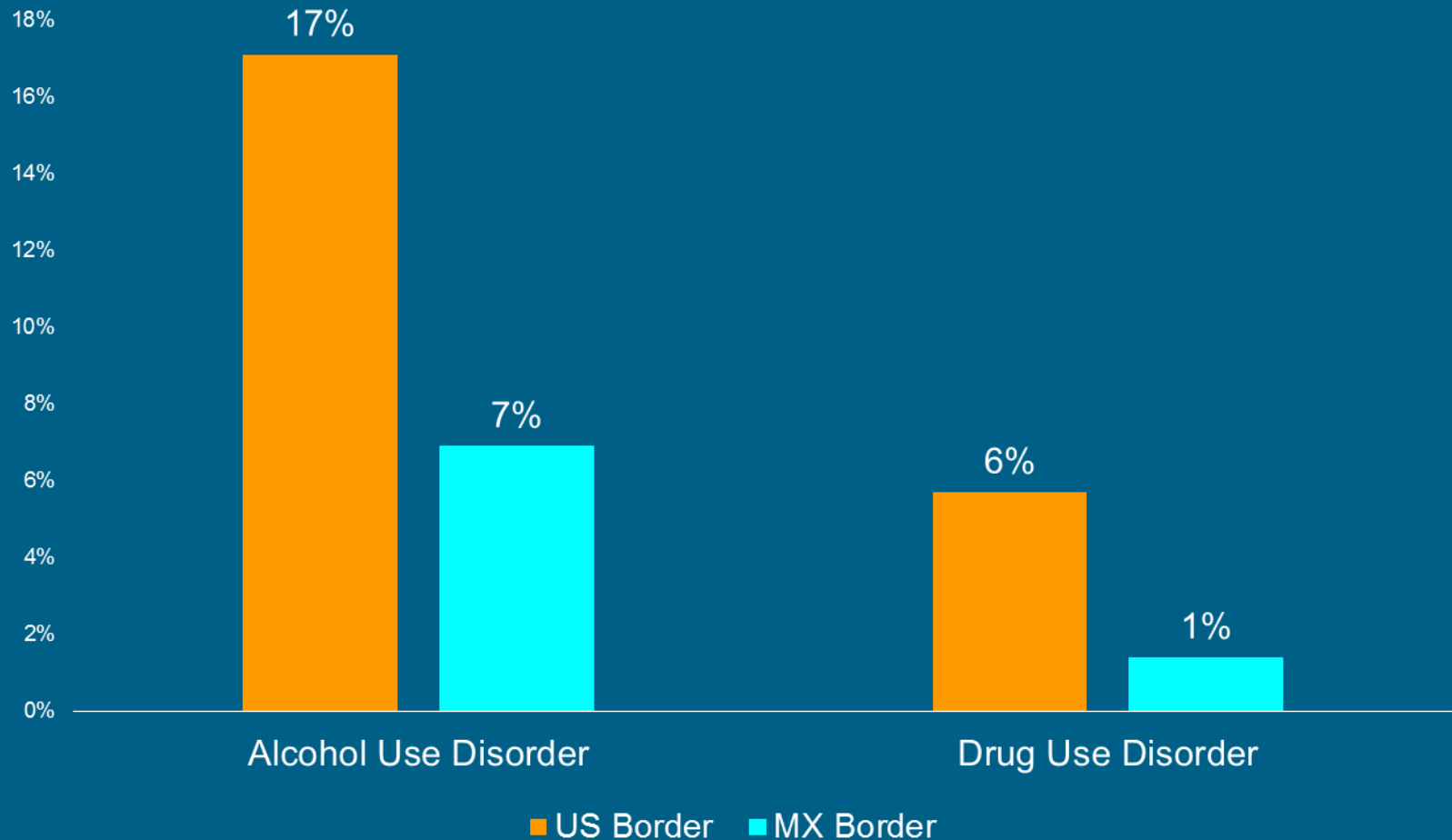
TRATADO DE 1848
REESTABLECIDO
POR EL
TRATADO DE
1854 - 1855
LA ADQUISICION
DEL TERRITORIO DE
GADSDEN
EN 1854
FUE
OBTENIDA
POR EL
GOBIERNO
DE LOS
ESTADOS UNIDOS



Alcohol and Drug Use on Both Sides of the Border



Alcohol and Drug Disorders on Both Sides of the Border



Substance Use Comparison: Quick Summary

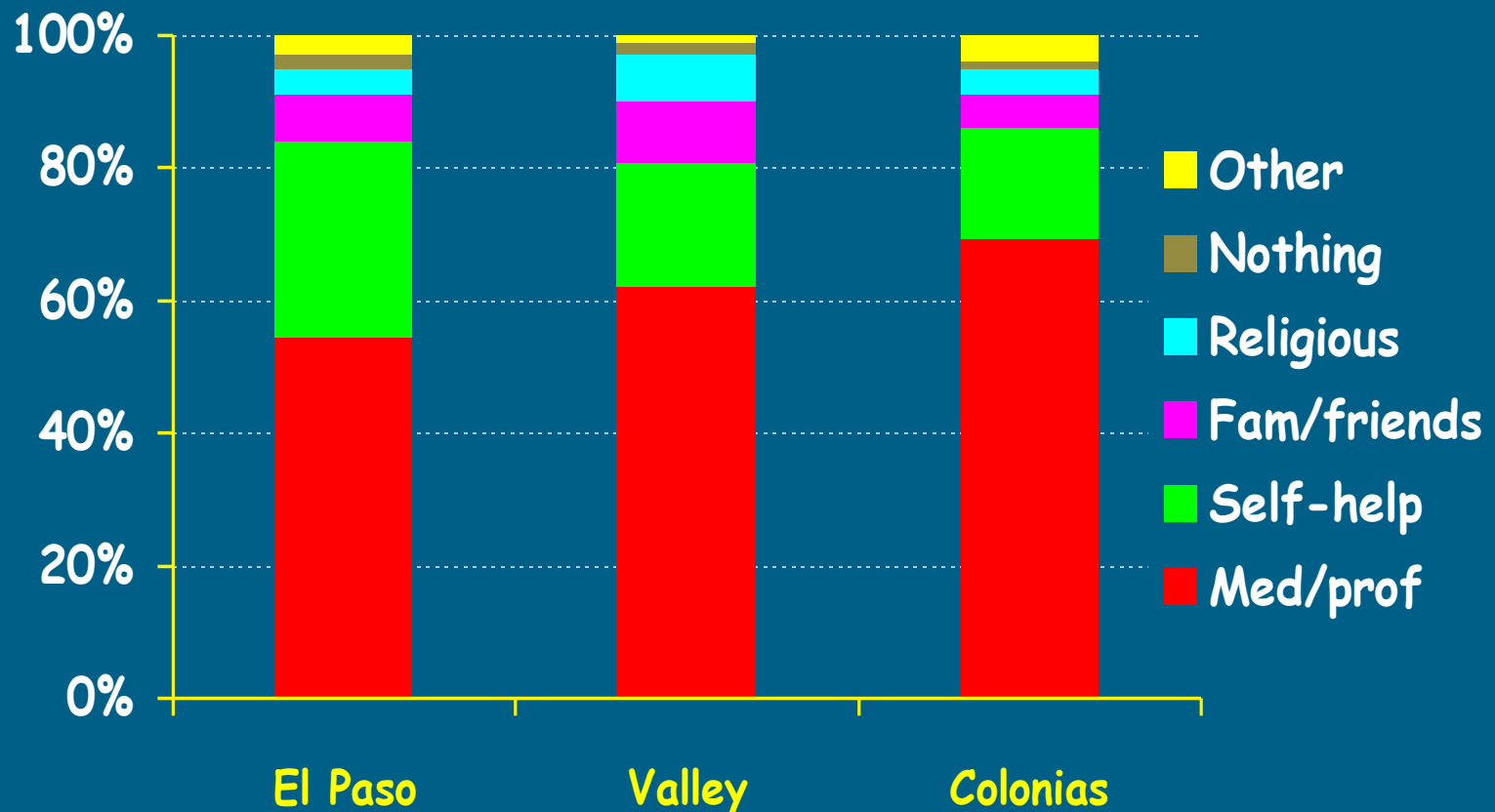
- Alcohol, drug use and binge drinking are similar on and off border
- Rx drug misuse is twice as high on border than off border; AUD slightly higher on border
- Border = lower binge drinking than US Hispanics but higher AUD and DUD
- Colonias showed higher binge drinking and alcohol dependence than urban areas
- Use and disorders are higher on US side than MX side

Need and Desire for Treatment

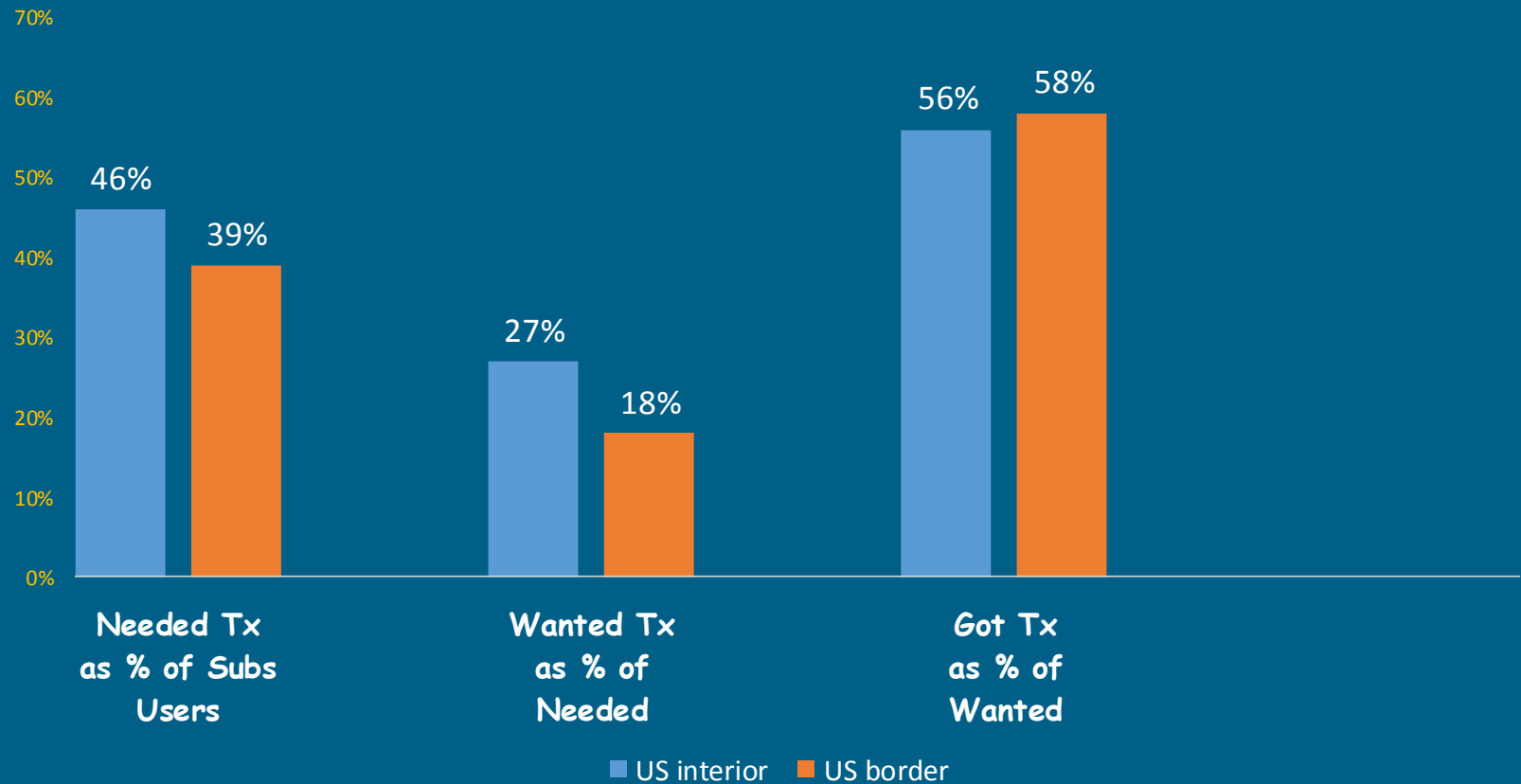
Would Seek Professional Help for a Problem that Interfered with Day-to-Day Activities

- Physical Problem = 81%
- Psychological Problem = 75%
- Drug or Alcohol Problem = 59%

What would you do if you had a drinking or drug problem that interfered with your daily activities?



Treatment Desire and Experience



Sources of Substance Treatment Received

- AA/12-Step Program 58%
- Alc/Drug Treatment Prog. 56%
- Hospital/Doctor 35%
- ER 34%
- Private Therapist 23%
- Social Service Program 18%
- Traditional Health Worker 18%

Factors Associated with Desire for Treatment

- Male
- Over 30
- Unemployed
- Drug user (vs. Alcohol-only user)

Factors Not Associated with Desire for Treatment

- Having health insurance
- Income
- Country of birth
- Acculturation
- Social support
- Motives for drinking

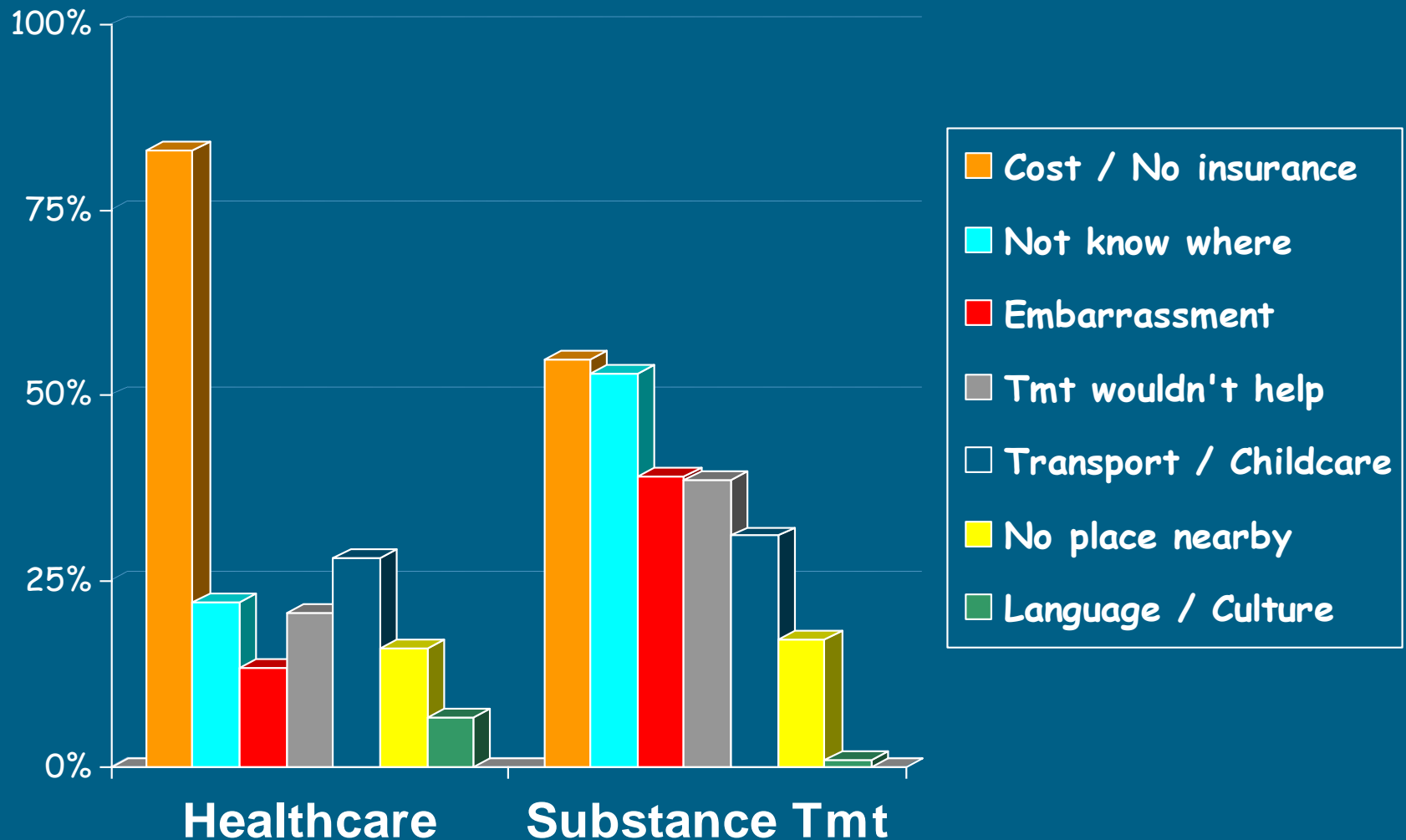
Factors Related to Lower Desire for Treatment

- High School graduate or +
- Married
- Living on Border (vs interior)

Why Lower Desire on Border?

- Less knowledge of what treatment entails
- Not knowing how to get it
- Not thinking SUD needs treatment
- Lack of trust in formal institutions
- Stigma
- Concern re cost, eligibility, etc.

Perceived Barriers as Percentage of Persons Who Wanted but Failed to Receive Care



Treatment: Quick Summary

- Fewer would seek Tx for SUD than for medical or psychological problems
- Most would turn to medical/professional treatment or self-help groups.
- Only a quarter or less who need Tx want it.
- Of those, half have gotten Tx
- Barriers include cost, not knowing where, embarrassment, mistrust of Tx, and logistical issues.

Promotoras

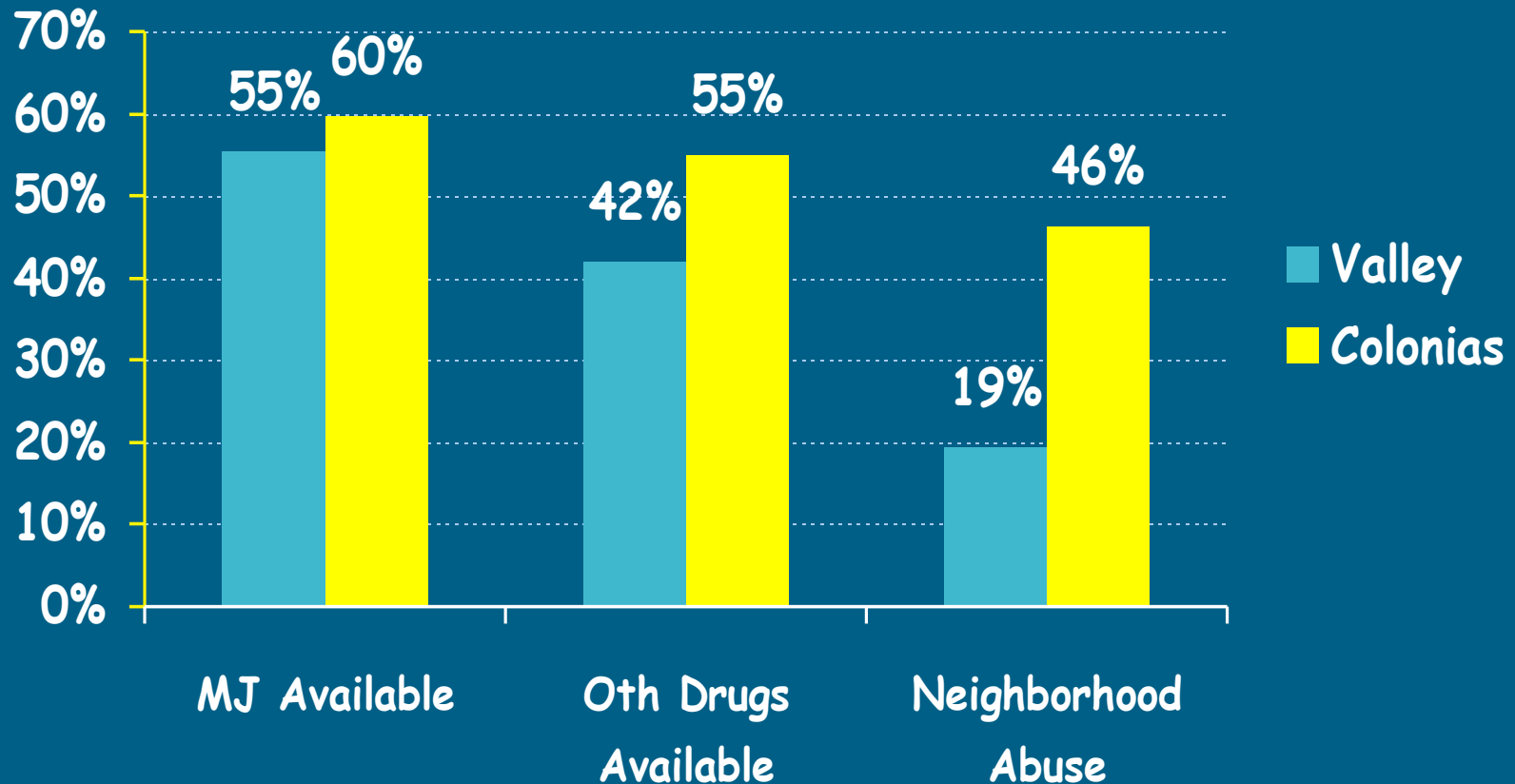


- Trusted community members who provide:
 - Health education and information
 - Liaison to community services
 - Informal counseling
 - Social support & advocacy
 - Mentor, role model
- Training and certification through DSHS
- About 300 in the Valley & 200 in El Paso
- Substance abuse prevention, tobacco cessation, screening & referral, DWI education

- Study of adolescent “cheese” heroin users found parents did not understand detox was not treatment.
- Family did not want to be separated from the child who needed to enter residential treatment.
- Treatment staff not always bilingual and promotoras would have been helpful in translating and explaining what was happening.

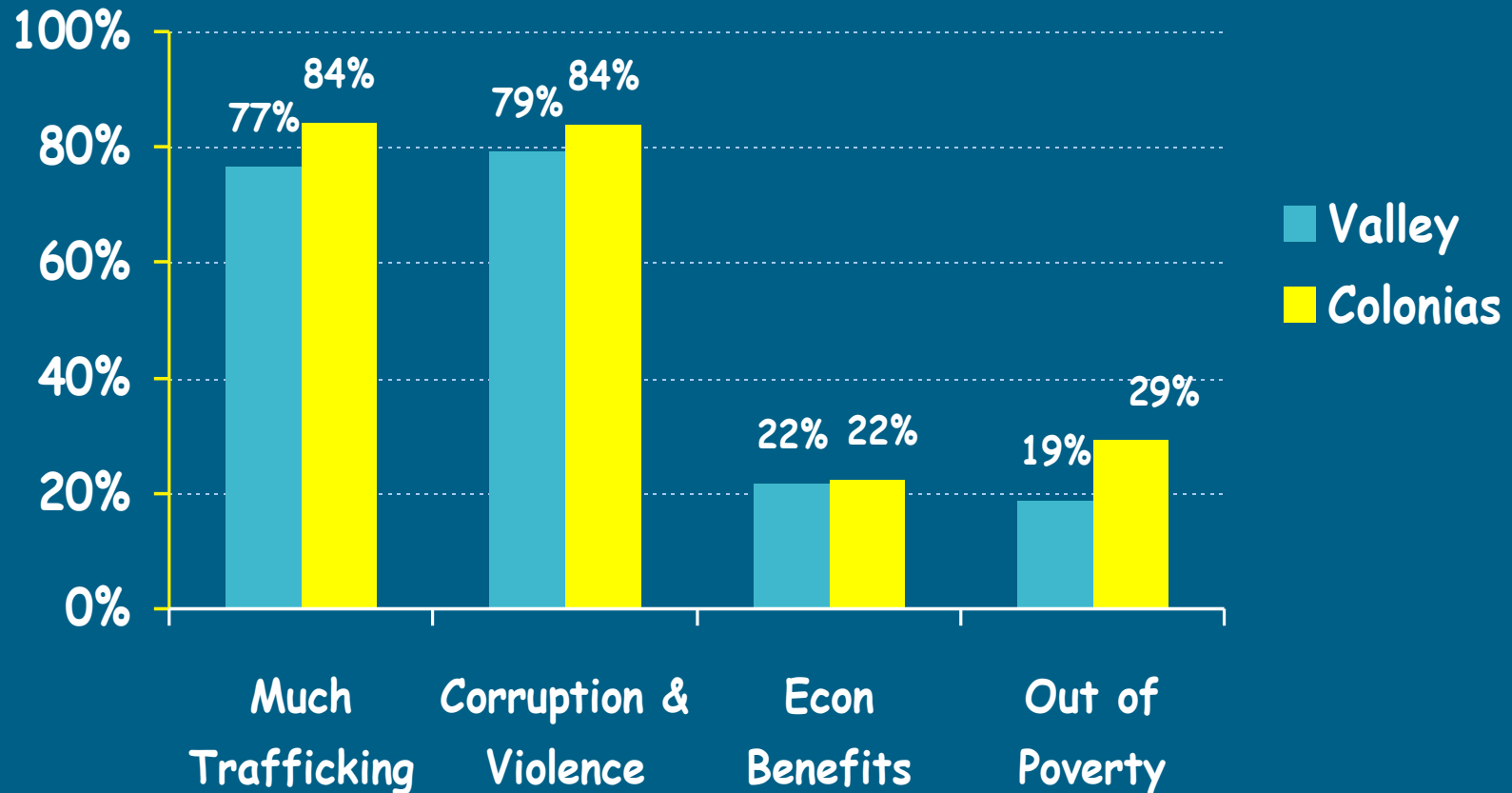
Social and Neighborhood Factors Related to Substance Use

Drug Availability and Visibility in Neighborhood, by Site



2003 UTSSW Border Survey

Drug Trafficking Attitudes, by Site



2003 UTSSW Border Survey

Bottom Line

- Higher rates of substance problems
- Focus on serving colonias
- People would use professional Tx but barriers remain
- High rates of Rx misuse & DWI
- Use Promotoras
- Retain the best of both cultures

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- Caetano, R., Ramisetty-Mikler, S., Wallisch, L.S., McGrath, C., and Spence, R.T. (2008). Acculturation, drinking and alcohol abuse and dependence among Hispanics in the Texas-Mexico border. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 32: 1-8.

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