

Assessing the Needs of Vulnerable Sub-populations

A Review of Best Practices in Response to the Opioid Crisis

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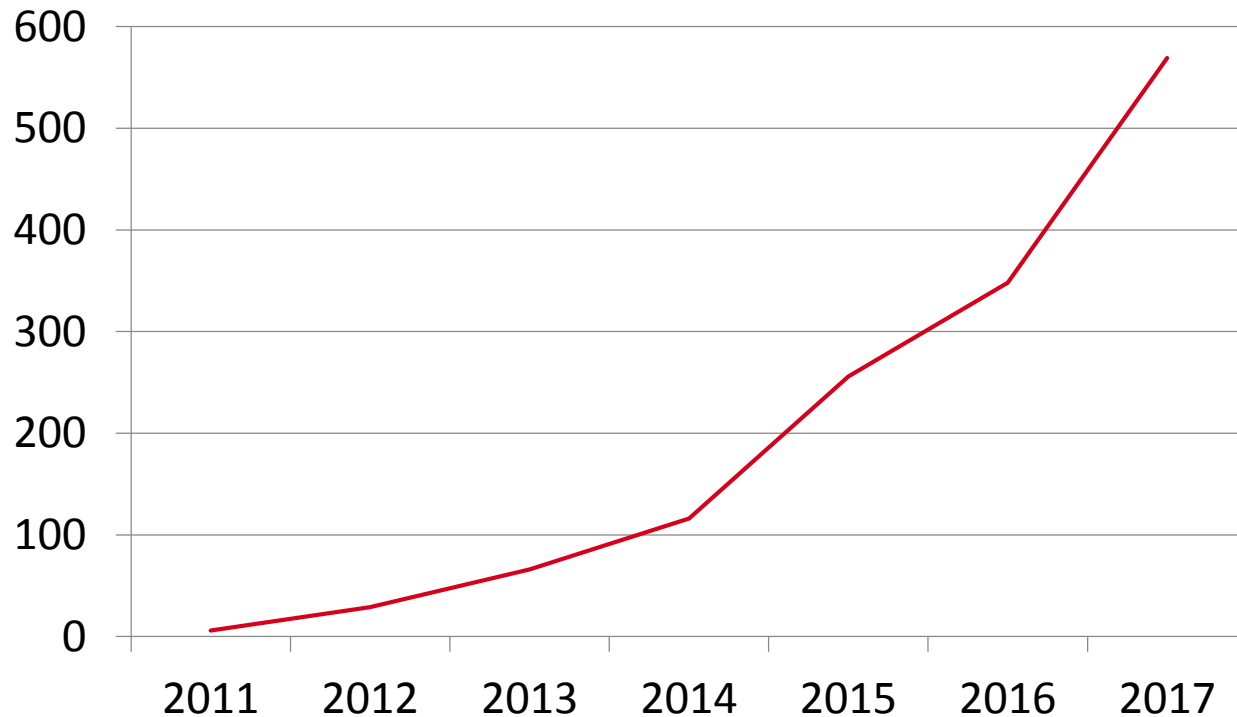
November 5, 2018



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

The Opioid Crisis in Alberta

Fentanyl-Related Deaths in Alberta¹

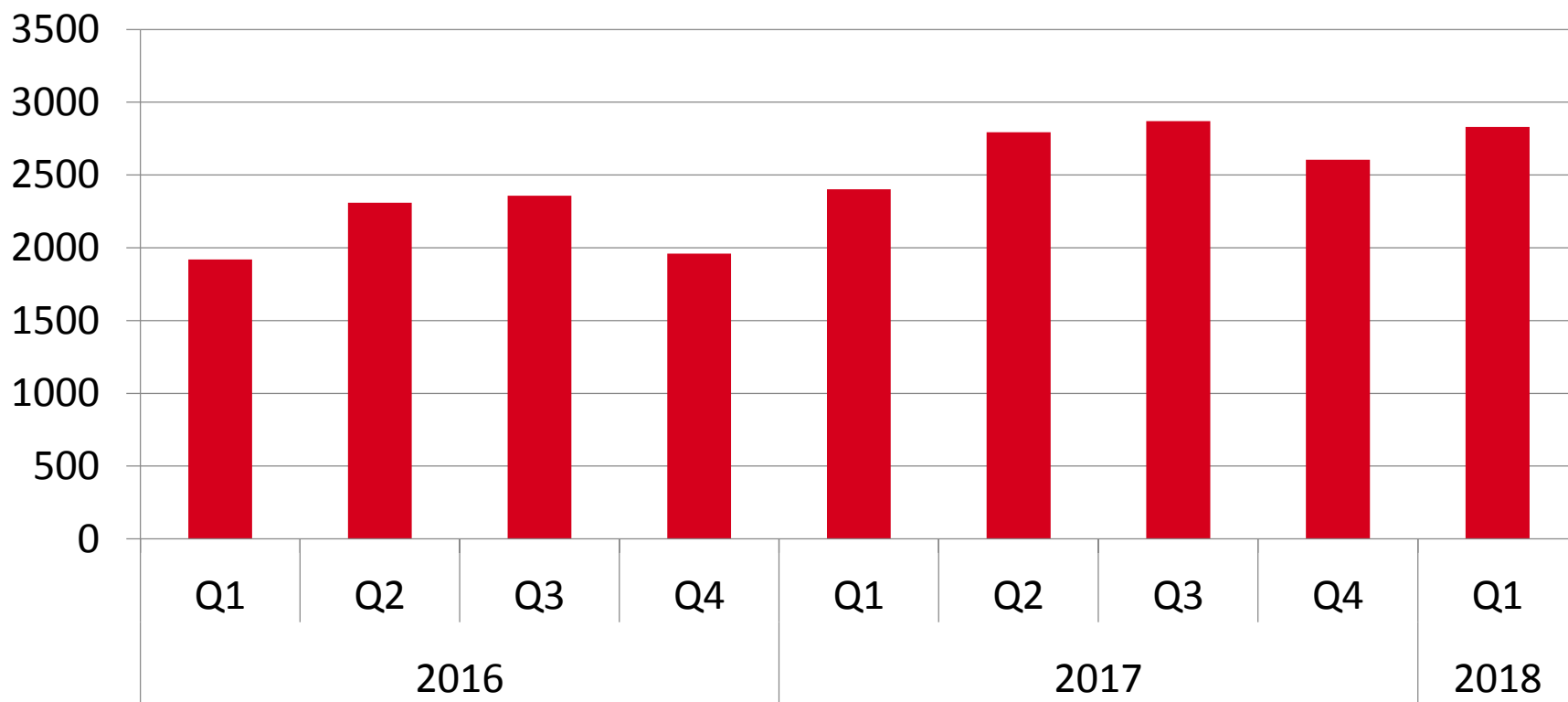


¹ Alberta Health. Alberta Opioid Response Surveillance Report, 2018 Q2.

² <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/opioid-substances-misuse-report-2018-q2.pdf>

The Opioid Crisis in Alberta

Emergency/Urgent Care Visits Related to Opioids and Other Substances of Misuse¹



¹ Alberta Health. Alberta Opioid Response Surveillance Report, 2018 Q2.

Two projects

1. Alberta Health and Drug Use Survey (2017)
2. Opioid Crisis Knowledge Synthesis (2018)

Alberta Drug Use and Health Survey

Partner organizations included:



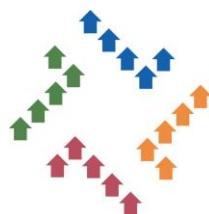
HIV COMMUNITY LINK
prevention + support + advocacy



Calgary Council for
Addiction and Mental Health



SORCE



Calgary
Homeless
Foundation

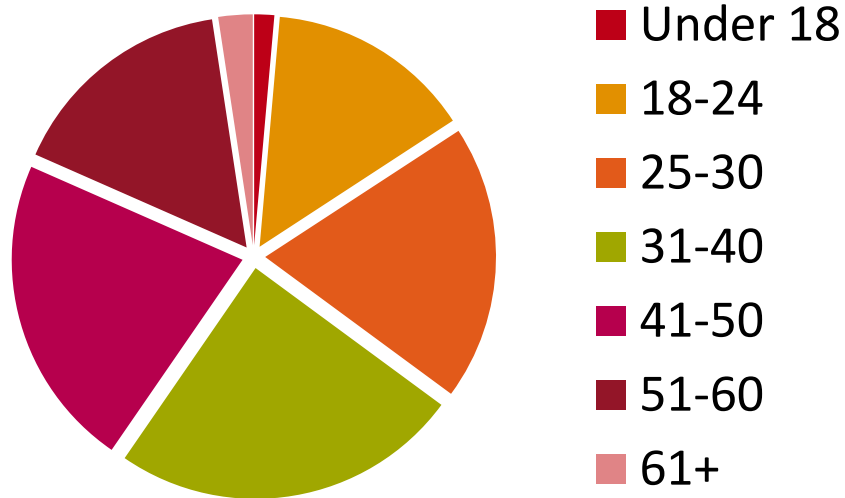


Alberta Health
Services

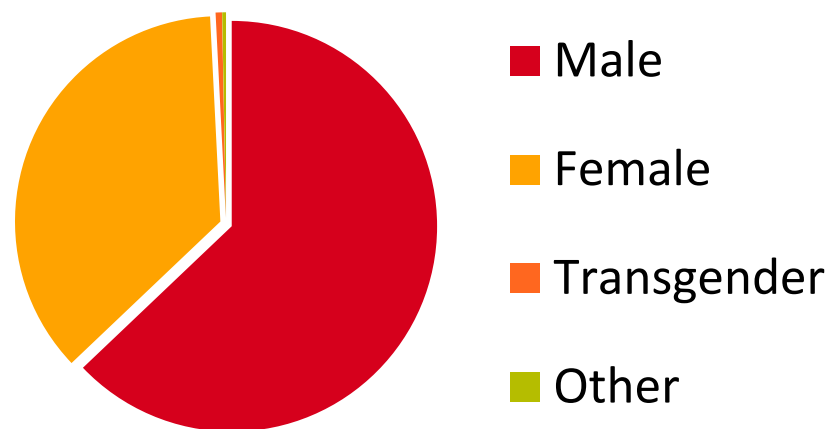


Survey Findings: Demographics

Age

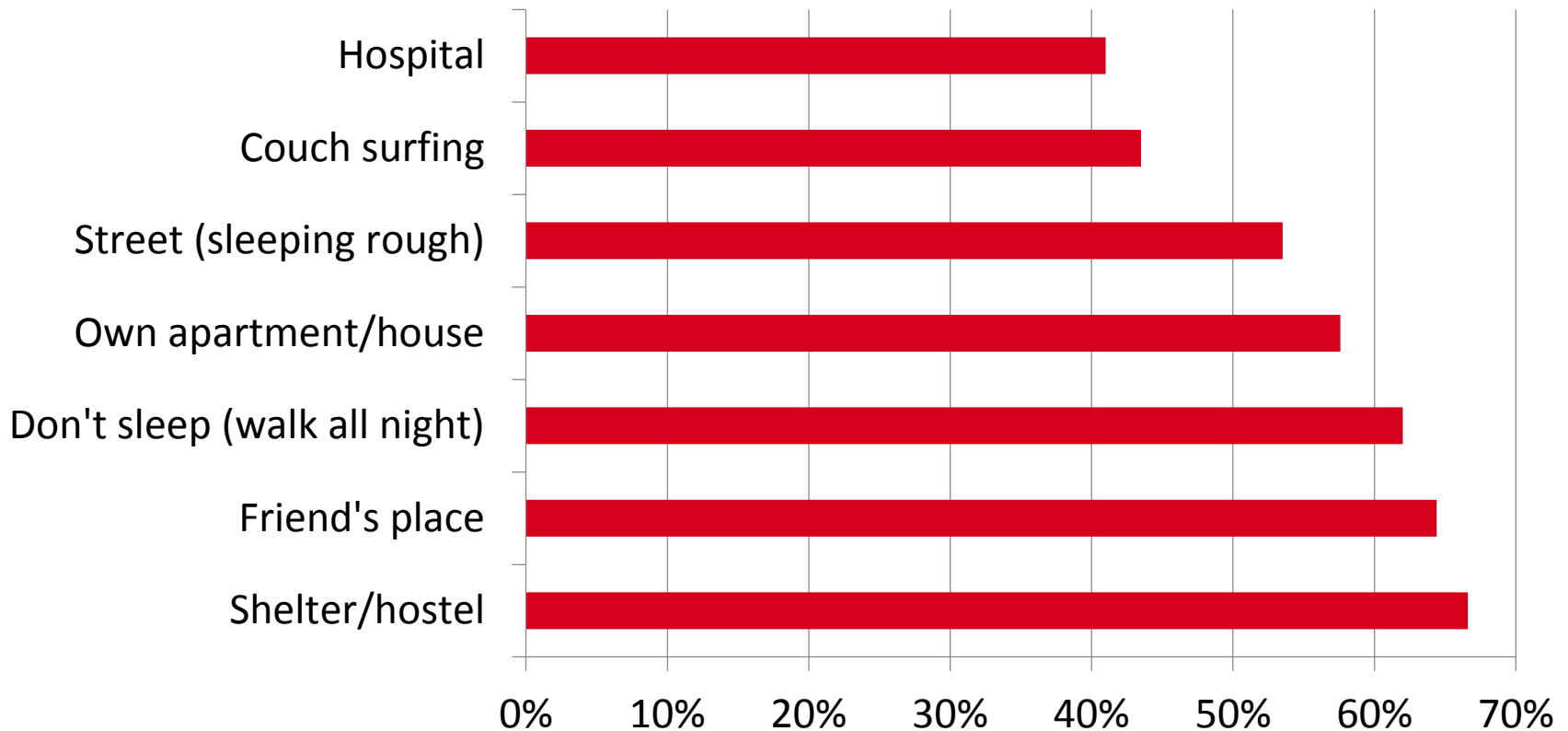


Gender



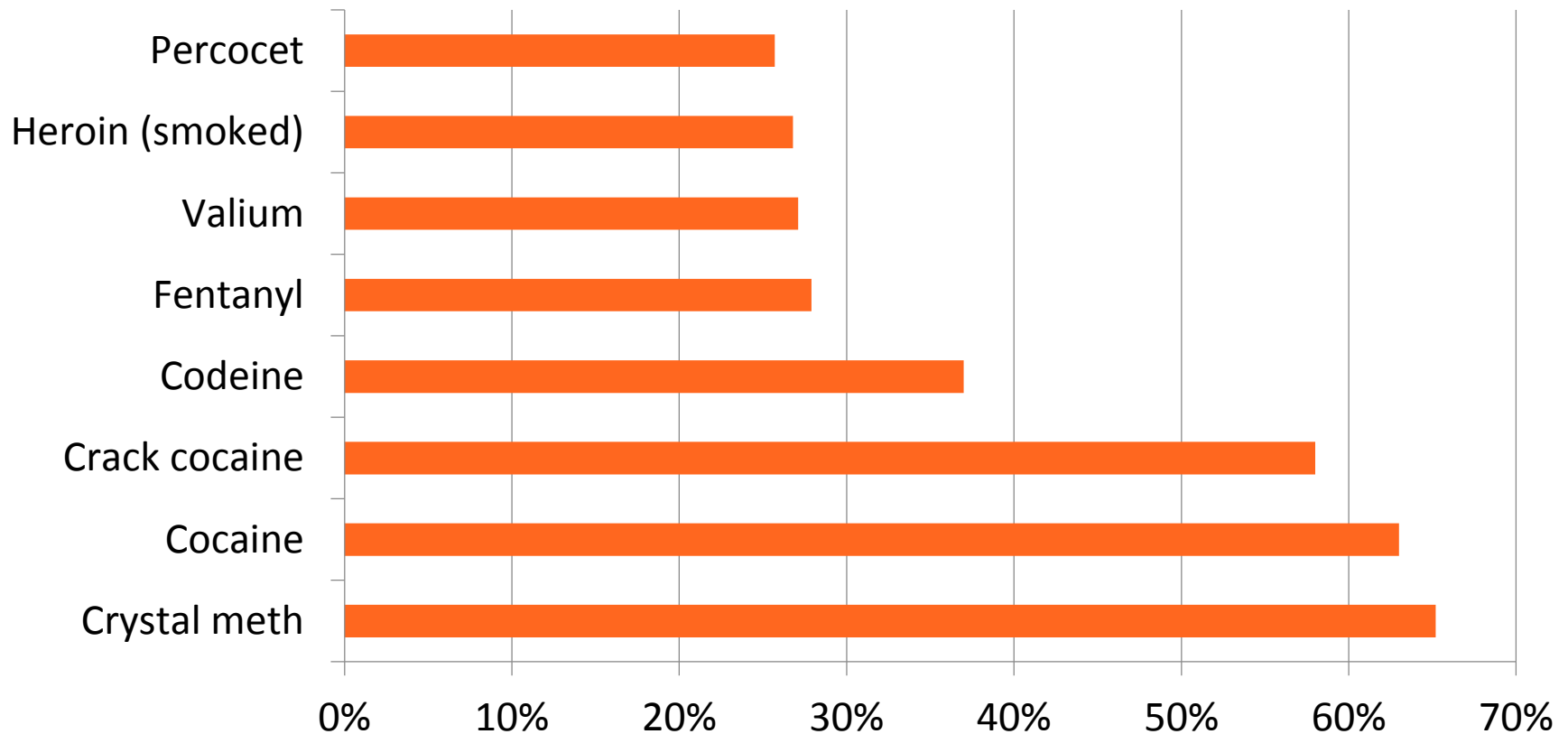
Survey Findings: Demographics

Most Common Places Participants Slept in Last 6 Months



Survey Findings: Demographics

Non-Injection Drugs Used

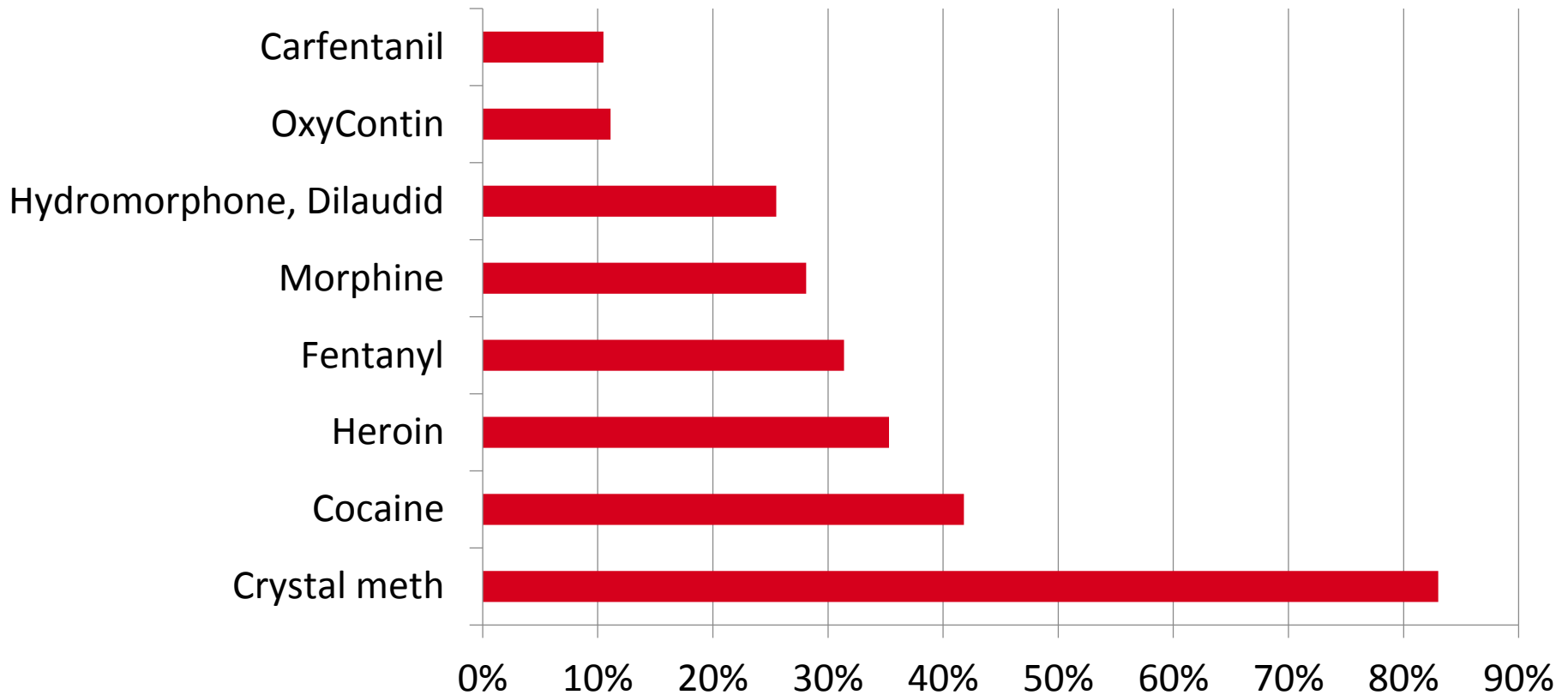


*percentages based on the number of individuals who used non-injection drugs in the last year

**excludes marijuana

Survey Findings: Demographics

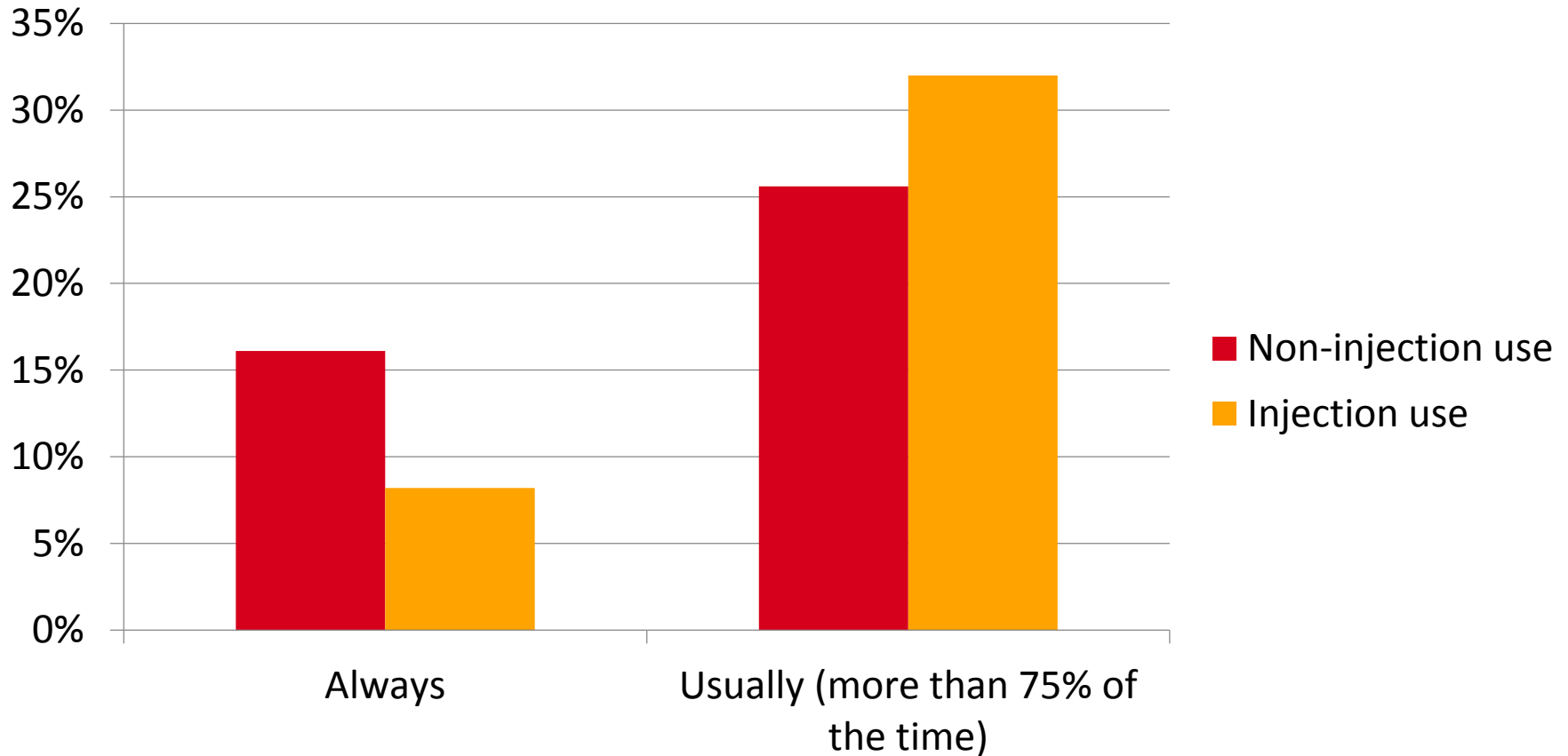
Injection Drugs Used



*percentages based on the number of individuals who used injection drugs in the last year

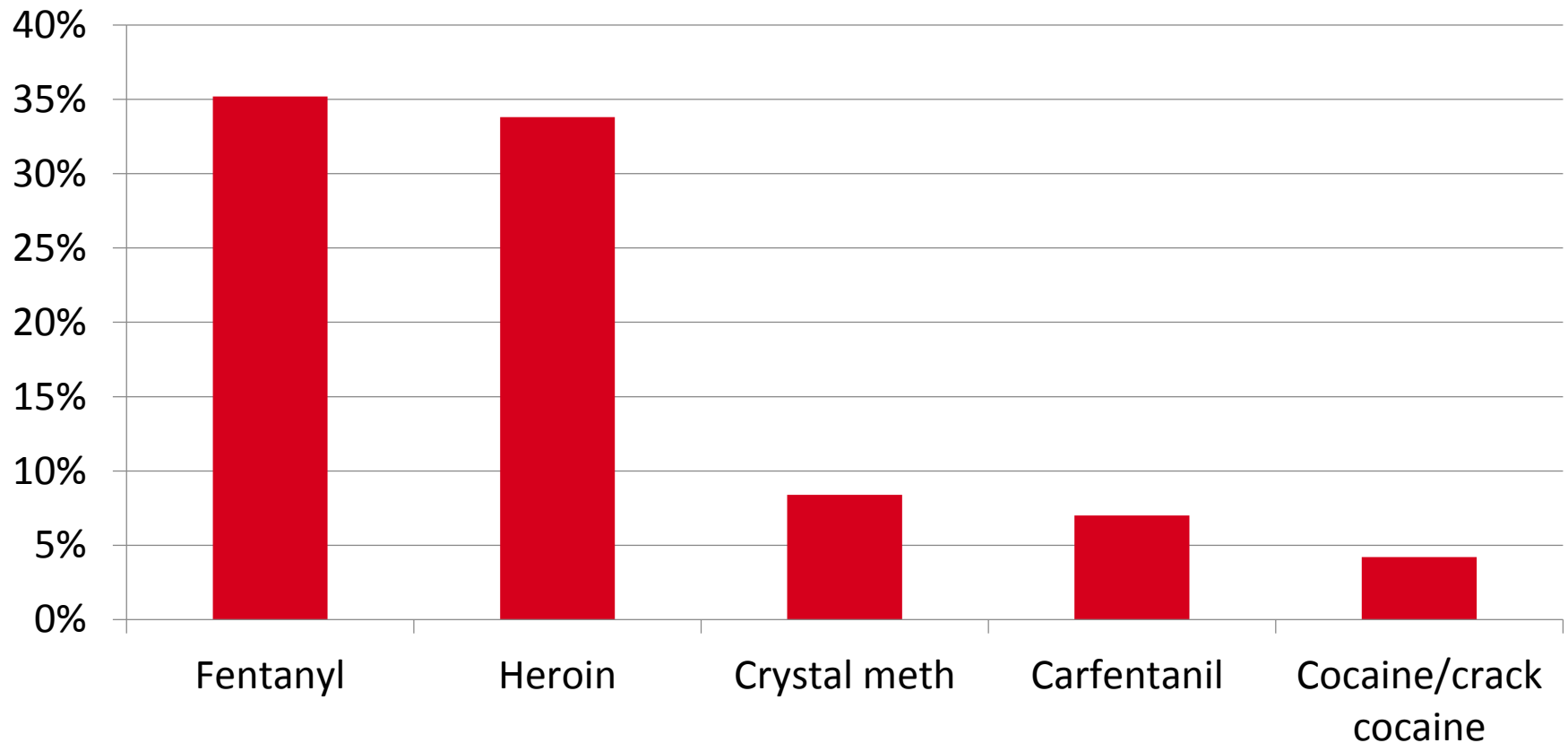
Survey Findings: Drug Use

Frequency of Using Alone



Survey Findings: Drug Use

Drug Overdosed on Most Frequently



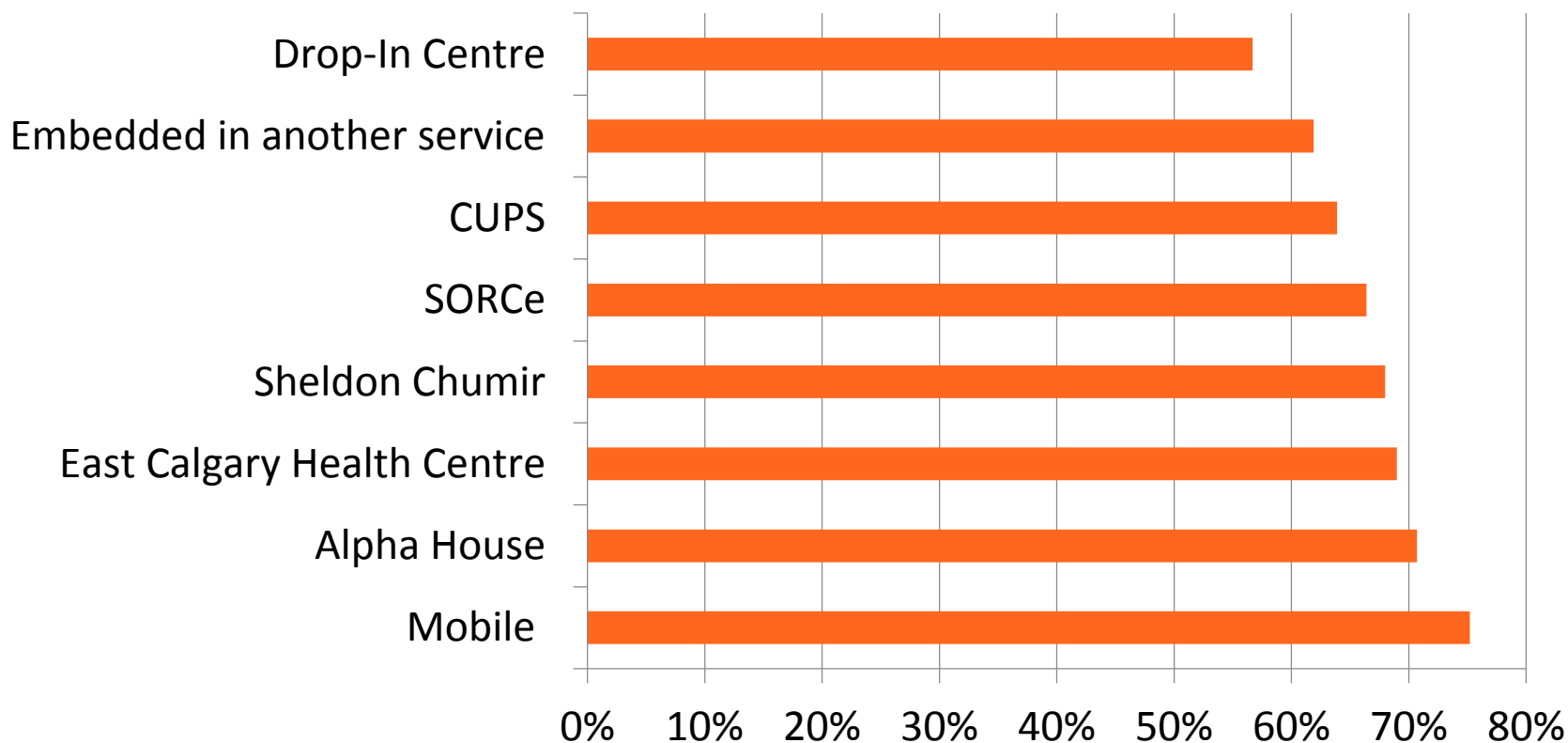
*only asked of participants who had overdosed accidentally in the last 6 months

Survey Findings: Health Services

- Most commonly identified barriers to harm reduction services:
 1. Didn't know where to get help
 2. Only allowed a limited amount of harm reduction services/supplies
 3. Afraid to ask for help or what others would think
 4. Didn't think anything would help
 5. Asked but didn't get help

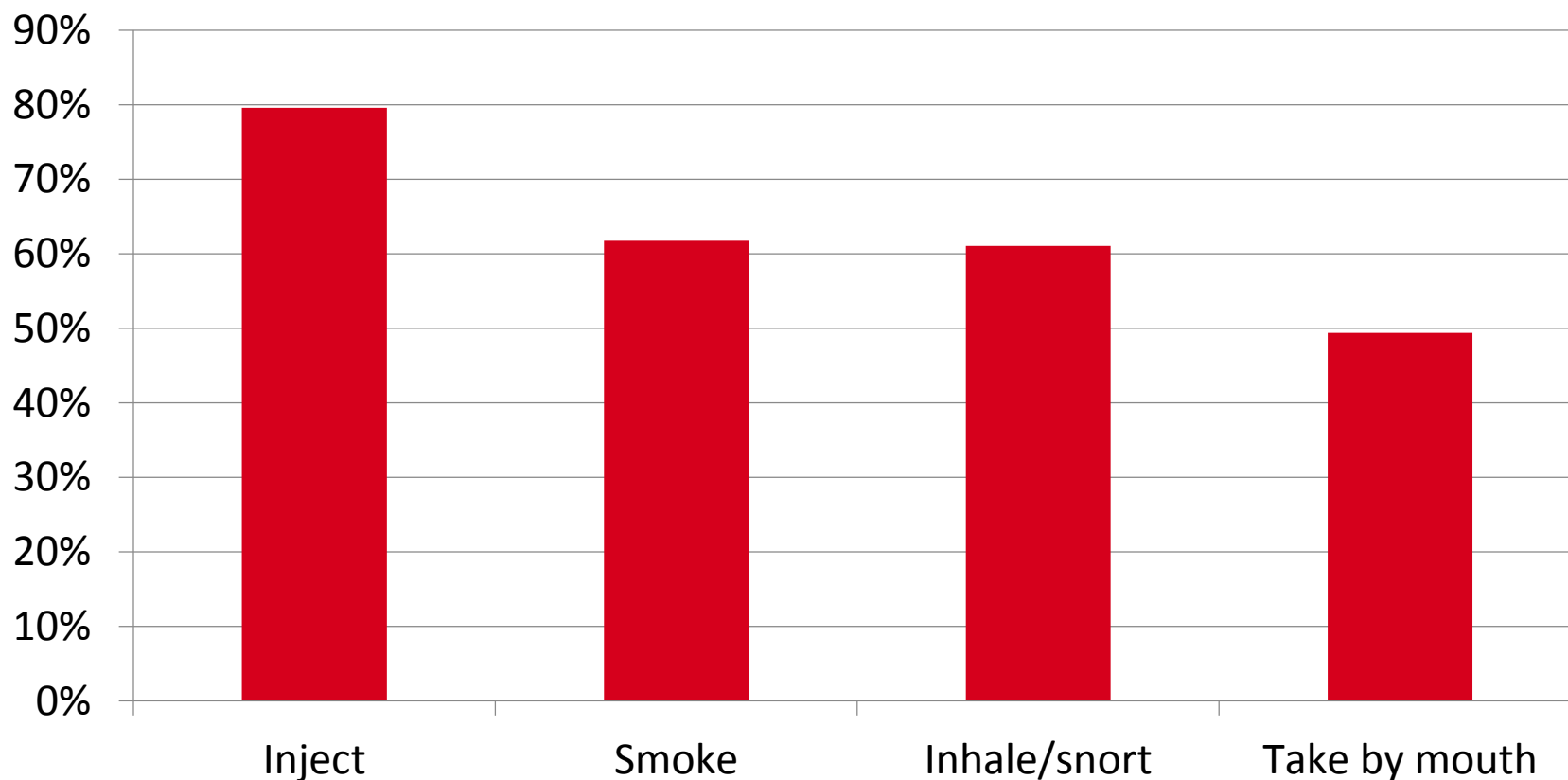
Survey Findings: Needs Assessment

Possible Locations for SCS



Survey Findings: Needs Assessment

Willingness to Use SCS



*individuals who identified that a respective method of use was not applicable to them were excluded so as not to skew results

Knowledge Synthesis: Methods

1. Scoping review
2. Needs assessment survey

Collaboration between:



Knowledge Synthesis: Findings

Logistic regressions focused on:

1. Likelihood of experiencing an overdose
2. Self-reported lack of adequate services
3. Self-reported inadequate access to services

Knowledge Synthesis: Findings

Themes within the literature:

1. Opioid maintenance
2. Substitution/agonist strategies
3. Quantitative focus

Knowledge Synthesis: Findings

Direction for future research:

1. Vulnerable subpopulations
2. Targeted harm reduction interventions
3. Focus on structural factors

Opening of SCS in Calgary



² Calgary Application for Supervised Consumption Site." *Calgary Herald*, June 3, 2017.

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/health-canada-reviewing-calgary-application-for-supervised-consumption-site>.

Where Now?

1. Advocacy
2. Possible mobile site
3. Potential permanent sites elsewhere in Calgary
4. Provincial evaluation to assess the impact of SCS