

WHO ARE THE METHAMPHETAMINE USERS IN MÉXICO

MARÍA DE LOURDES GUTIÉRREZ LÓPEZ,
JORGE AMETH VILLATORO VELÁZQUEZ,
MARÍA ELENA MEDINA-MORA ICAZA,
MIDIAM MORENO LÓPEZ,
MICHELLE BRETÓN CIRETT,
CLARA FLEIZ BAUTISTA,
FILIBERTO I. GAYTÁN FLORES

wodahs@imp.edu.mx



INTRODUCTION:

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimations, the amphetamine-type stimulants (ETA) problem has increased worldwide, becoming the second most consumed drug (UNODC, 2011). For the past ten years, Mexico has the sixth place within the countries which have the biggest amounts of seized methamphetamines. (Christian et al, 2007), and during 2008 it was also one of the countries with the highest clandestine laboratories growth reported (UNODC, 2010). The use of this substance has risen in our country as well; 40% of the people who assisted to treatment centers during 2009, within 20 and 29 years old, reported methamphetamines as impact drug (SISVEA, 2009). Methamphetamines are related to important public health, social and security problems. Therefore, it is necessary to explain this phenomenon in order to manage an adequate attention, identifying the methamphetamine use associated factors in Mexico.

METHOD:

The data presented derives from the National Addiction Survey 2008. It is a home survey with national and state representativeness. It includes rural and urban populations. The housing selection was made using a systematic random sampling technique. Within the chosen homes, an adult between 18 and 65 years old and an adolescent between 12 and 17 years old were picked. A 15% maximum relative error and a 90% confidence level were considered, as well as a 2.183 design effect and an average of 1.3 interviewed persons per house.

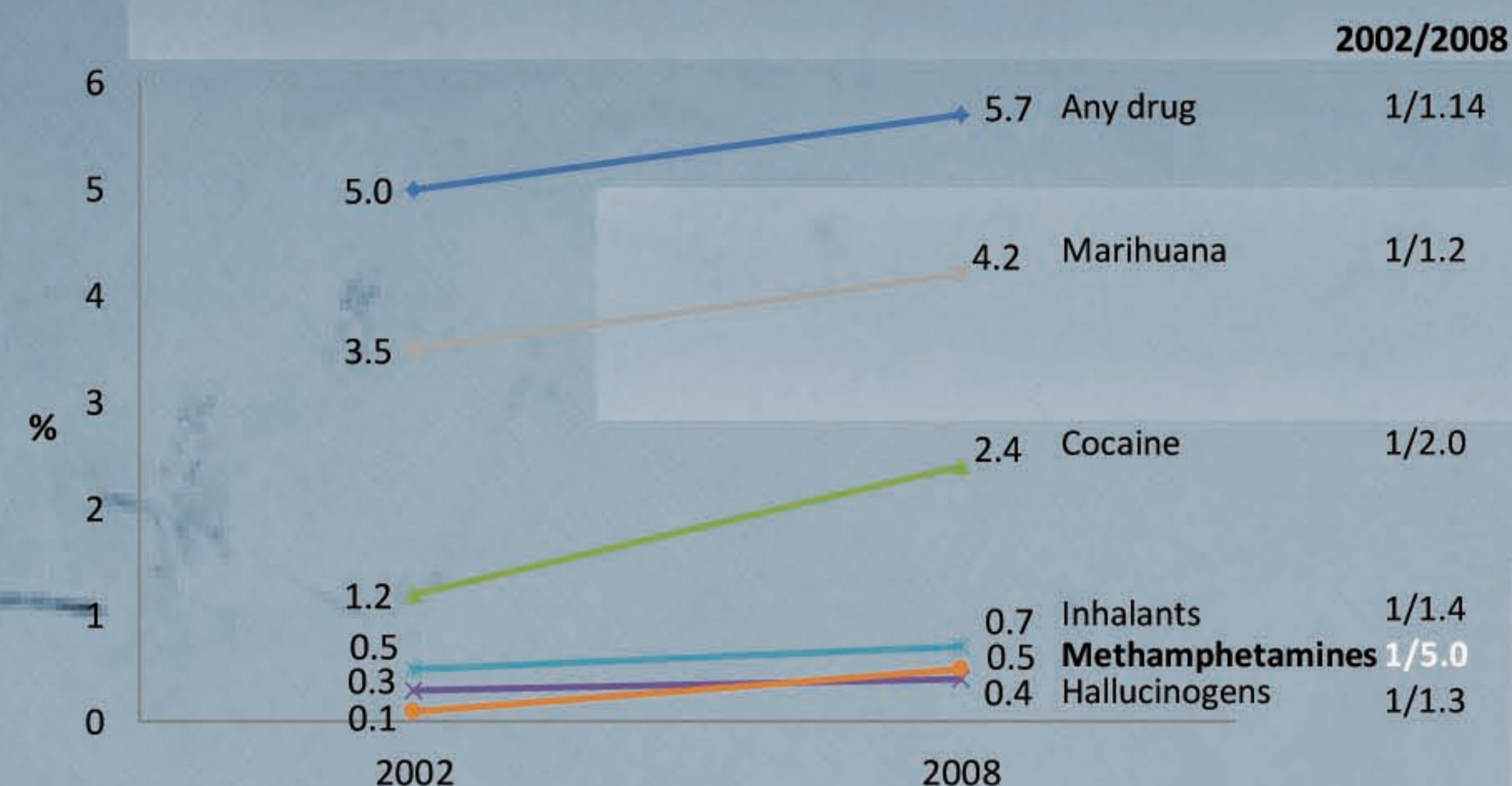
RESULTS:

The main problem area for methamphetamine use is found in the Pacific states, Hidalgo and the Federal District. The average age of onset for methamphetamine use is 19.1 years old. These users showed a stronger problem than other drug users regarding sexual abuse, depression symptoms, suicidal ideation and attempt, and higher antisocial behavior. Concerning to the social environment, it was found that methamphetamine users report a riskier environment (drugs are sold at school, weapon threatening exists, sexual abuse and violent attacks).

CONCLUSIONS:

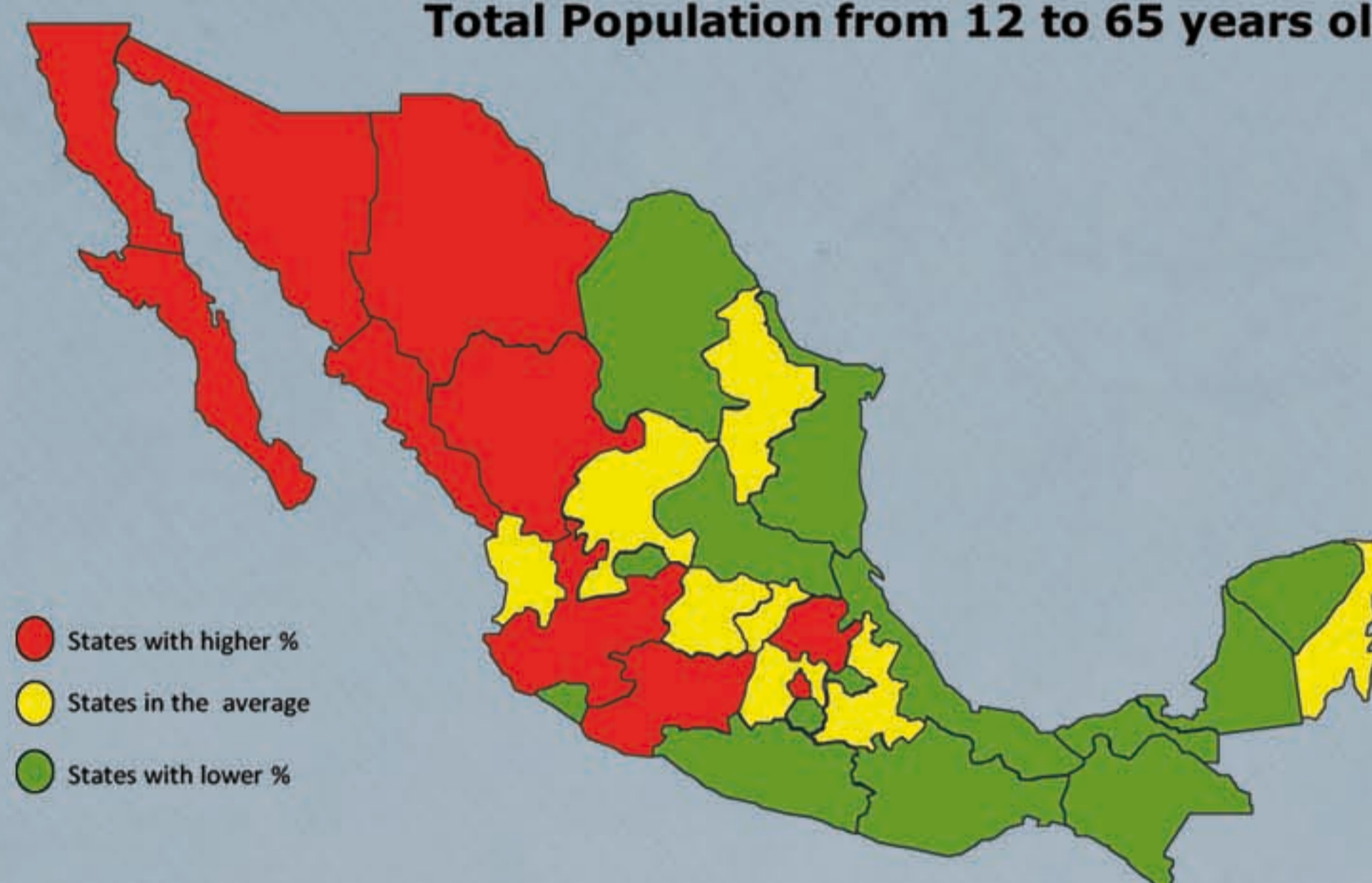
The methamphetamine use has been increasing worldwide. México shares a wide border with USA, which happens to be the area with higher levels of methamphetamine consumption. This has affected the drug traffic routes, where Mexico is the main producer. The precursors basically come from the Pacific Rim. This situation has had an impact in the increase of methamphetamine use, especially with crystal meth. Actually, this can be seen in those patients who attend for treatment, given that it is the principal assistance request in users from Sonora and Baja California, and has expanded to South Baja California. The importance of this problem lies in the impact these substances have on the users health and living conditions. Whereof, methamphetamine users show a greater problem than the rest of the drug users.

Illegal Drug Use Tendencies in Total Population

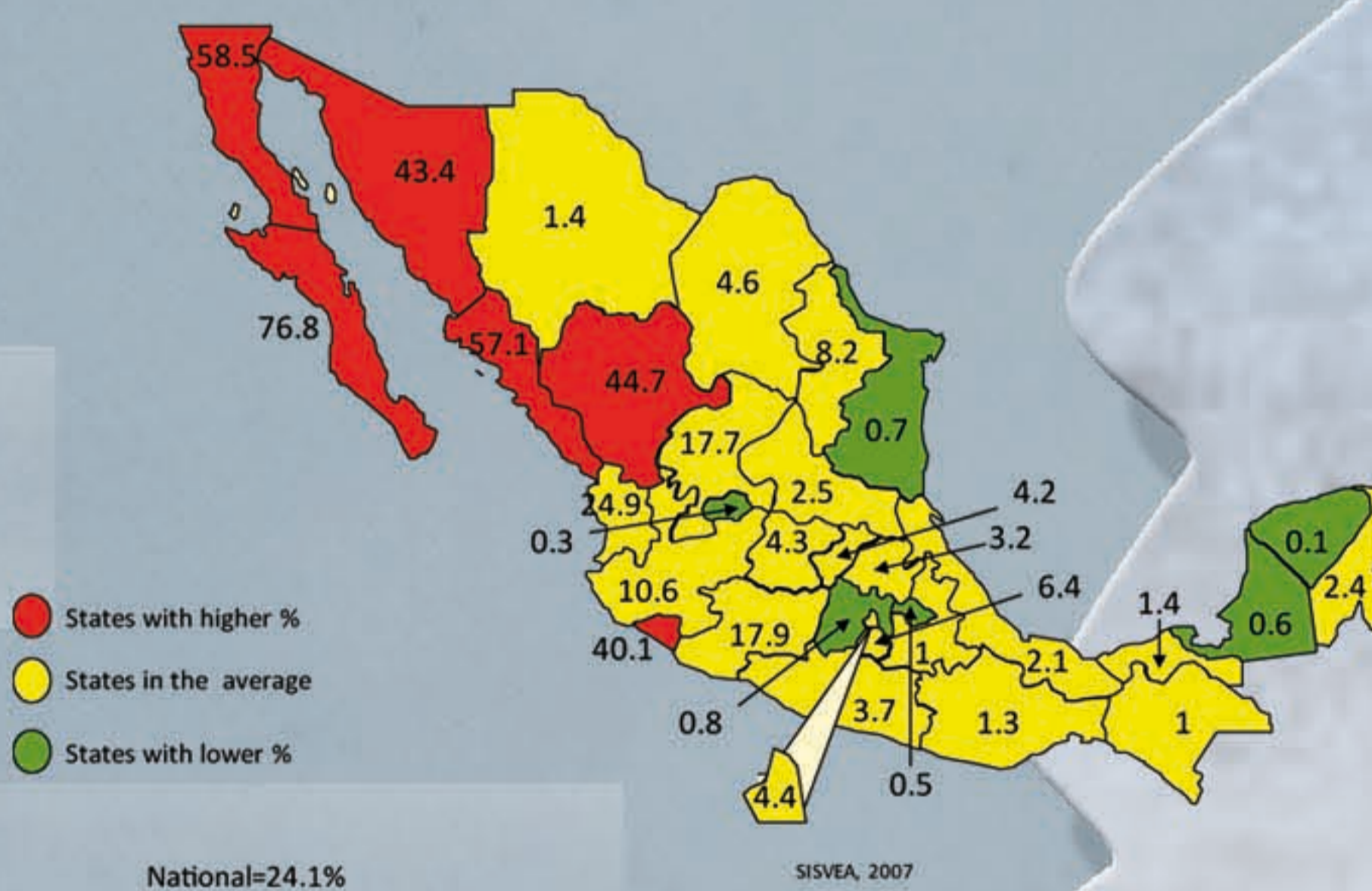


Cumulative Incidence of Metamphetamine Use by Entity

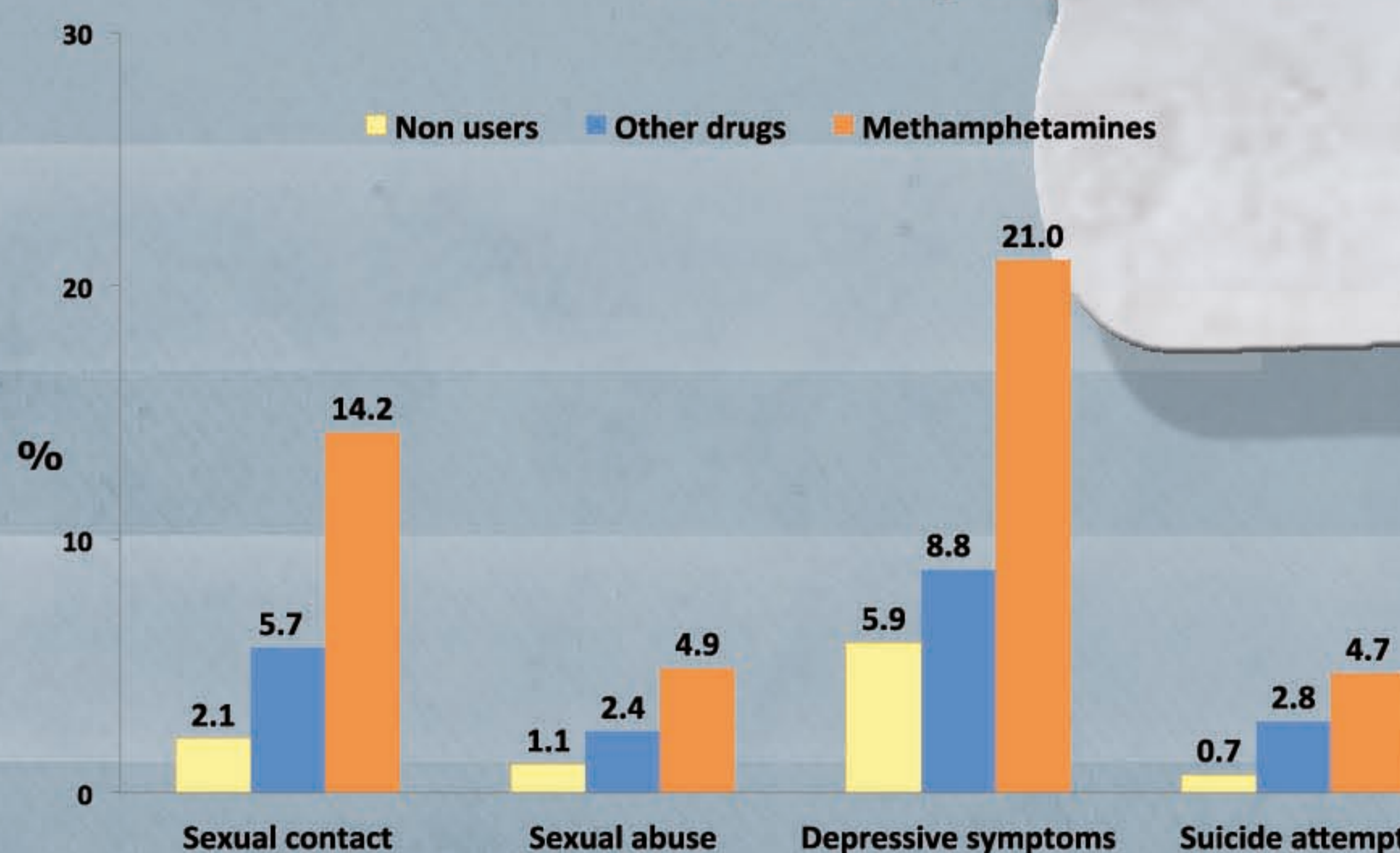
Total Population from 12 to 65 years old



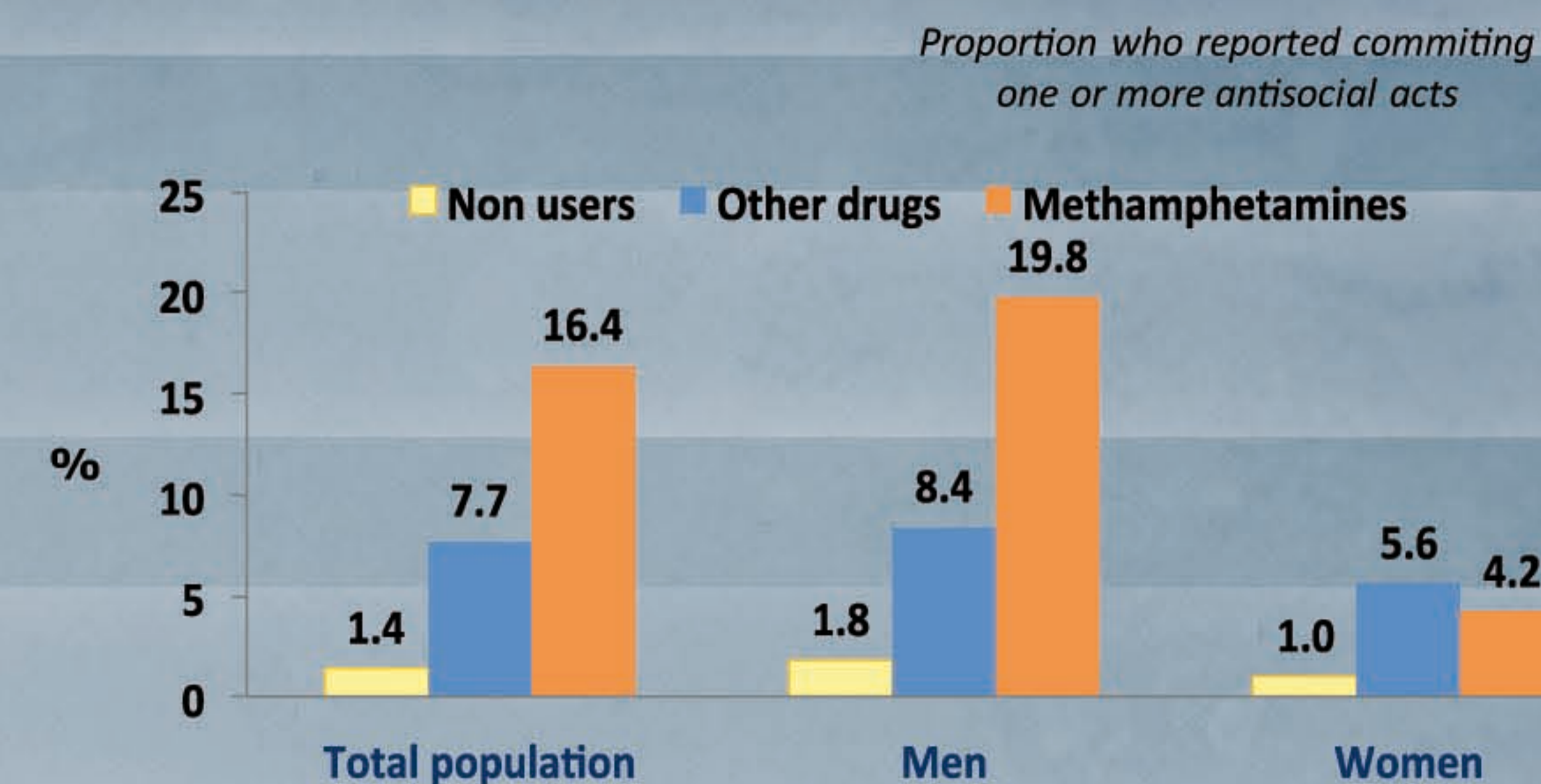
SISVEA Treatment, methamphetamine users percentage. 2006/2007.



Personal factors associated with methamphetamine use

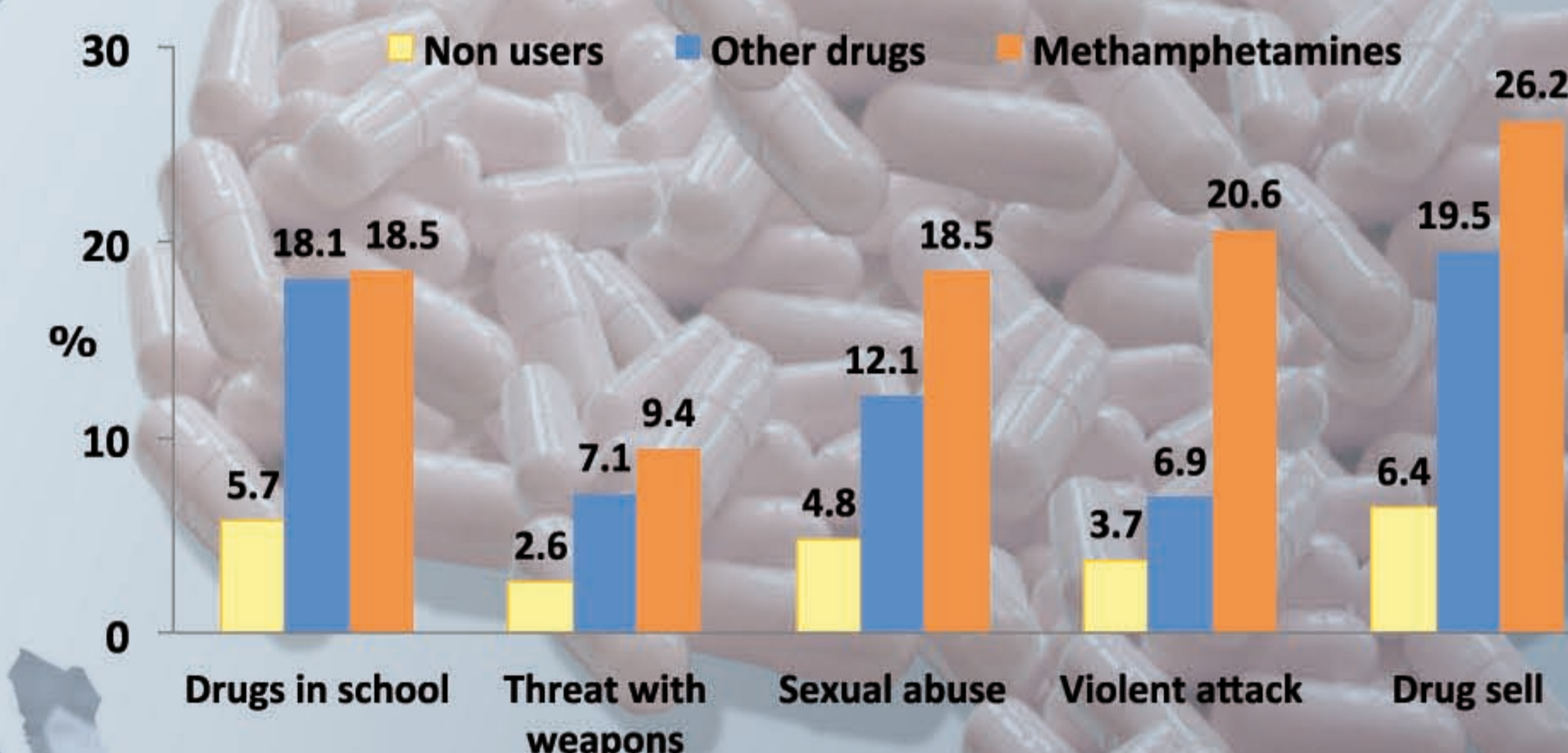


Antisocial Behaviors associated with methamphetamine use



Population from 12 to 65 years old

Social environmental factors associated with methamphetamine use



Who has a higher risk of using methamphetamines?

	Non users vs methamphetamine use		Other drugs vs methamphetamine use	
	OR	p	OR	p
Divorced	5.164	0.012	4.183	0.027
No education	11.352	0.043	0.156	0.143
Urban	0.505	0.119	2.659	0.031
> than 6 minimum salaries	7.590	0.013	6.915	0.022
Actual Smoker	4.501	0.001	1.011	0.980
Drug exposure	7.646	0.000	0.427	0.128
Family member drug user	3.240	0.001	1.844	0.082
Forced to touch intimate body parts	2.488	0.047	2.415	0.074
Selling drugs	10.558	0.003	1.040	0.958
Minor acts	2.718	0.002	1.571	0.185

REFERENCE

Christian D.R., Huber A., Brecht M.L., McCann M.J., Marinelli-Casey P., Lord R.H., Reiber C., Lu T.H., The Methamphetamine Treatment Project & Galloway G.P. (2007). Methamphetamine users entering treatment: Characteristics of the Methamphetamine Treatment Project Sample. Substance Use & Misuse, 42: 2207-2222.
International Narcotics Control Strategy Report. (2008).
ONUDD, World Drug Report 2010.