

STUDENTS, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS SURVEY
2022-23
National Survey



STUDENTS
ORGANISING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
UNITED KINGDOM

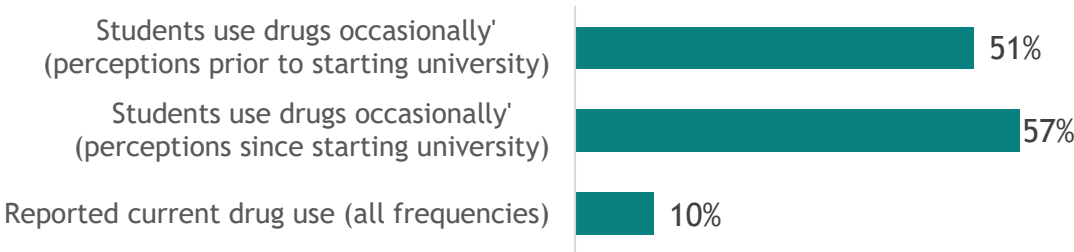
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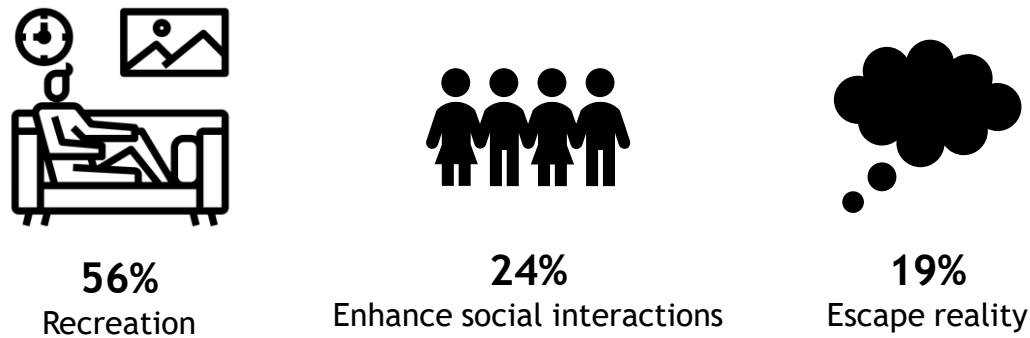
SUMMARY

We asked students in higher education about their experiences of drugs and alcohol during their time at university. 931 respondents completed an online survey in November 2022.

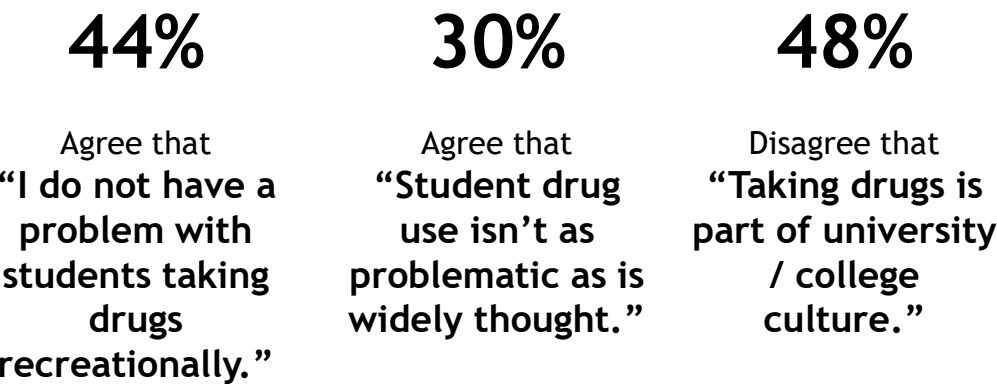
Respondents’ perceptions of student drug use prior to starting university is slightly higher once they become a student, but overestimates reported use...



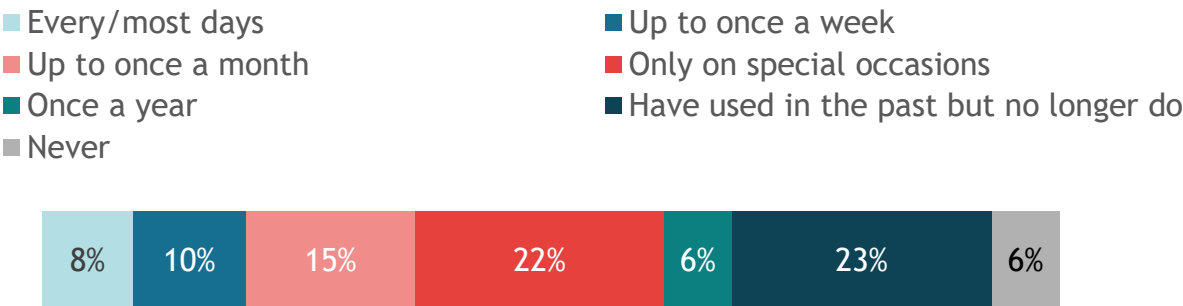
Top reasons behind drug use are...



Perception of drug use are varied...



Cannabis is the most frequently reported drug used by respondents who currently use or have previously used drugs as student



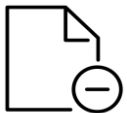
Thinking of drugs and their place of study...



44% say they don't know if their university has a drug policy



40% say they feel confident that if they turned to their university for support with drug use that it would be dealt with appropriately.



43% say their university / college should not be punishing students who take drugs

Reflecting on the impacts of drug use, respondents who currently (or previously) use drugs say...



21%
...it has resulted in a missed lecture / seminar / class



25%
...it's improved a mental health condition but...
14% say it has made a condition worse



36%
...it helped them make new friends



21%
...they enjoyed the experience of sex on drugs



17%
...they took risks with their personal safety they would not have otherwise

Considering their experiences with alcohol whilst a student in higher education, respondents told us...



44%

Before going to university, half of students surveyed thought students got drunk most/all of the time



74%

agree that drinking and getting drunk is part of university culture



32%

report drinking alcohol once a week or more



38%

Over one third of students regularly drink at home or a friend's house before going out for the night



40%

of students surveyed think getting drunk means they'll have a good night out



83%

say they don't have to get drunk to have a good night out

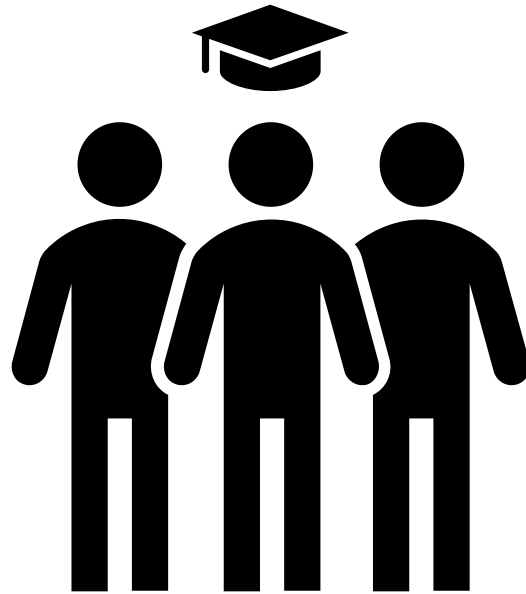
The Sample

66% of respondents are undergraduates

68% of participants are White British, and under three quarters are UK citizens who study in the UK.

One fifth of students live in university owned halls of residence

42% of participants are 18-22 years old



46% of undergraduates are undergraduates in their first year

931 HE students completed the survey

45% of students live in the South of England (inc. London)

NOTABLE CHANGES (FROM 2021-2022 RESEARCH)

Drugs: Changes in key findings between 2021-22 and 2022-23 research

The following changes between respondents to research carried out in 2021-22 and 2022-23 are statistically significant at a 95% confidence level. Respondents in 2022-23 are...

Less likely to agree they do not
have a problem with students
taking drugs recreationally

51%  **44%**
2021-22 2022-23

less likely to report they are
currently using drugs

14%  **10%**
2021-22 2022-23

More likely to say they don't
know if their university/college
has a drug policy

35%  **44%**
2021-22 2022-23

More likely to say that drug use
has improved their day-to-day
experience with an existing
mental health condition

19%  **25%**
2021-22 2022-23

Alcohol: Changes in key findings between 2021-22 and 2022-23 research

The following changes between respondents to research carried out in 2021-22 and 2022-23 are statistically significant at a 95% confidence level. Respondents in 2022-23 are...

Less likely to report starting drinking at home or a friend's house before going out

61%  **38%**
2021-22 2022-23

less likely to report that they regularly get drunk at home before a night out

28%  **16%**
2021-22 2022-23

less likely to think that getting drunk means they'll have a good night out

51%  **40%**
2021-22 2022-23

Less likely to report missing a university seminar/lecture/class following alcohol consumption

35%  **28%**
2021-22 2022-23

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

About the research

This report presents research completed as part of the Drug and Alcohol Impact and Alcohol Impact programmes. The programme is a whole-institution approach and embeds social norms of responsible drinking on our campuses, refocusing the conversation on drugs to be about reducing harm, and building healthier, safer, more productive student communities, involving action by local partnerships of students' unions, universities and community organisations. The programme includes an annual survey, designed to identify students' relationship with alcohol and drugs at participating institutions as well as students across the UK more widely. The survey is intended to provide a means for understanding changes in attitudes and behaviours.

A total of 1193 responses were achieved in 2022-23 through promotion of the survey locally by universities and students' unions. The survey was promoted by NUS to students in the TOTUM database and to other universities and students' unions wishing to gather data on their students' relationship with drugs. 931 responses from students in higher education were received.

When reading the results, it is worth bearing in mind the characteristics of the respondents, outlined in the following chapter.

Variations between students with different characteristics, such as gender or nationality, are also drawn out throughout the report. Significant differences are reported where base size is greater than 30 and are valid at confidence level of at least 95%.

About Drug and Alcohol Impact

Our student wellbeing programme Drug and Alcohol Impact embeds social norms of responsible drinking on our campuses, and refocuses the conversation on drugs to be about reducing harm, and building healthier, safer, more productive student communities.

The programme builds upon the success of Alcohol Impact, which since 2015 has supported 30 university and students' union partnerships to create lasting positive change around responsible alcohol consumption. Although progress has been made in improving drinking cultures on campus, there's still work to be done, and institutions are supported to build on and improve practices in this area.

Drug and Alcohol Impact recognises that despite most universities taking a zero-tolerance approach to drug use, many students still choose to use drugs. The programme supports institutions to explore their own students drug use and design bespoke interventions to identify, educate and reduce harm.

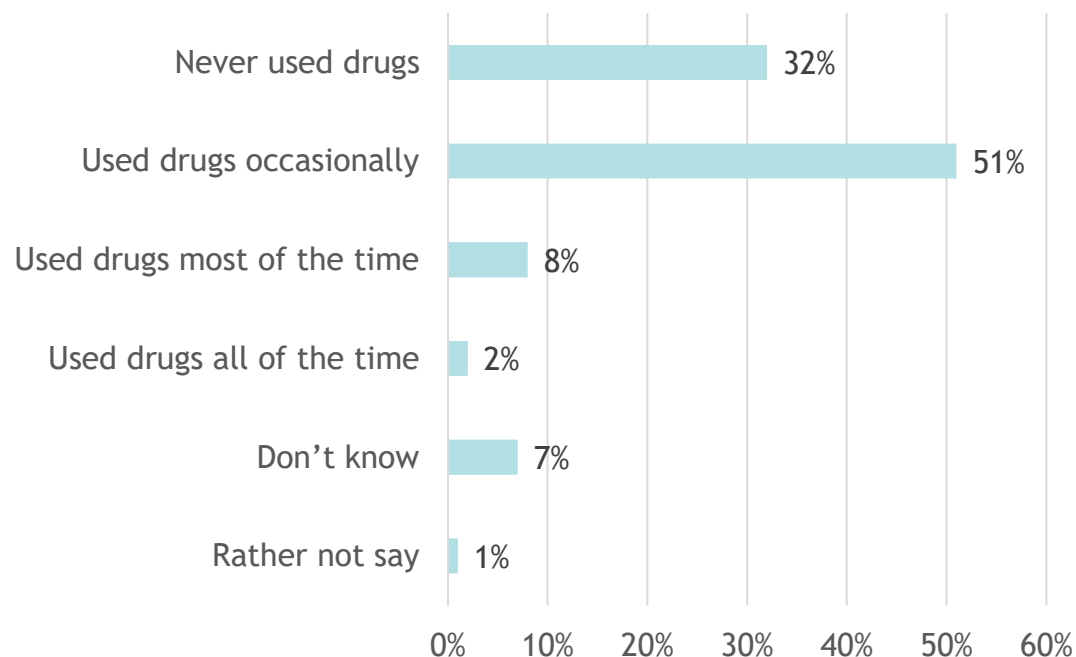
For more information visit our [website](#) or email hello@sos-uk.org

RESEARCH FINDINGS: DRUGS

Perceptions of student drug use and campus drug culture

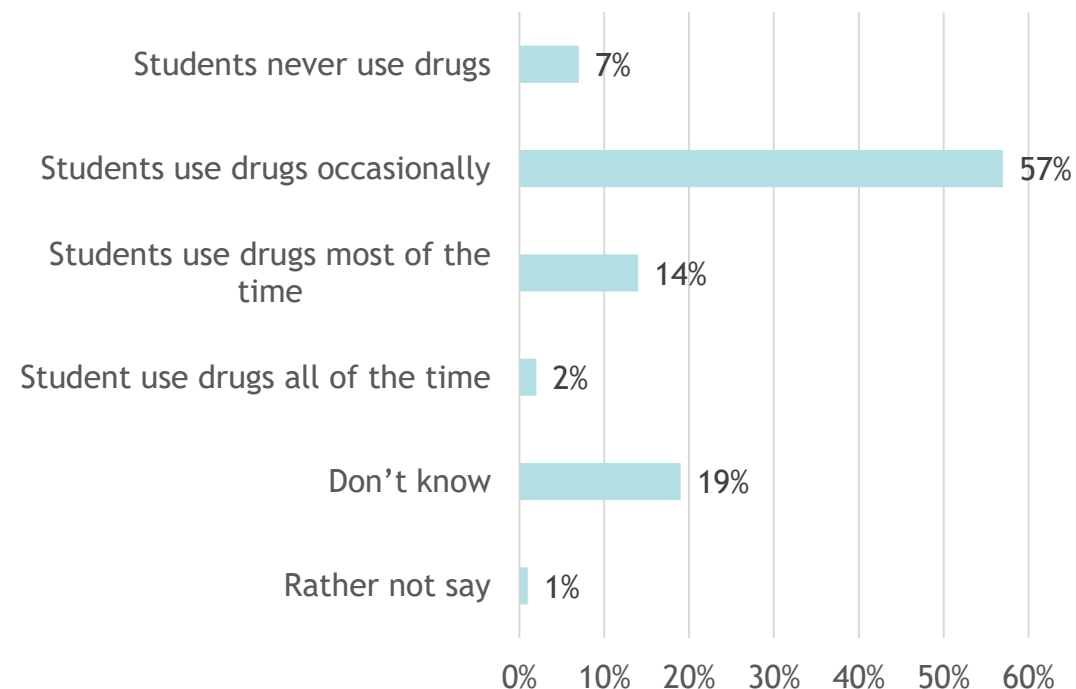
When asked to reflect on their perceptions of student drug use before starting university/college, over half of respondents say they thought students used drugs occasionally. This is similar now they're at university/college with nearly two thirds of respondents, based on their experiences, saying students use drugs occasionally. However, less students say that students never use drugs.

BEFORE STARTING UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE



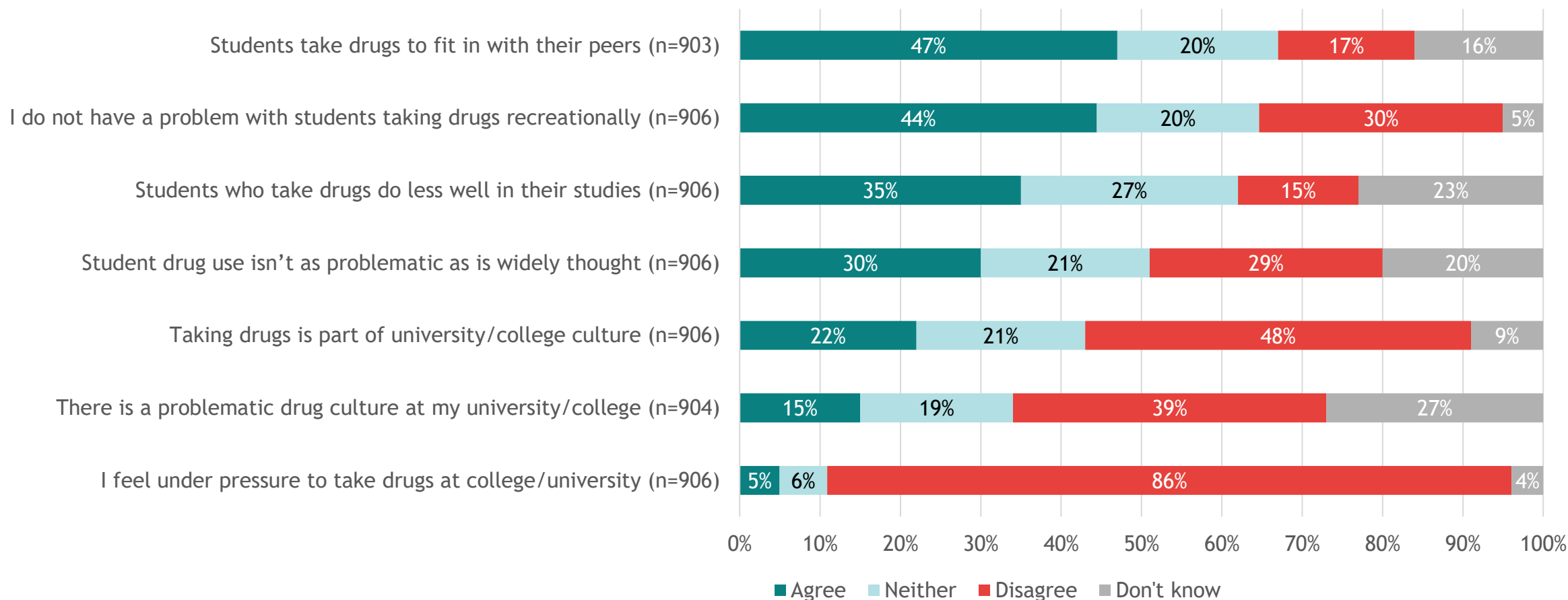
Q. Please select the phrase which best describes your perceptions: Before starting at university/college, did you believe that students... [Base: 912 Balance: No response]

AFTER STARTING UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE



Q. And now you're a student at university/college, which of the following best matches your experiences of drug use? [Base: 912 Balance: No response]

Nearly half of the respondents say they think students take drugs to fit in with their peers, however the majority do not feel pressured to take drugs at university/ college. Over a third feel that students who take drugs do less well in their studies. Under a quarter of students say taking drugs is part of university/college culture, and under one fifth say the drug culture is problematic.



Q. To what extent, if at all, do you agree with the following statements? [Base: c.1453 Balance: No response, rather not say]

Attitudes and experiences towards drug use at university or college vary according to respondent characteristics...

Taking drugs is part of university/college culture

- UK students and international students from the EU are more likely to agree that taking drugs is a part of university/college culture than non-EU international students.

Students take drugs to fit in with their peers

- Respondents who are international students the EU are more likely to say agree that students take drugs to fit in with their peers than UK students or non-EU international students.
- PhD students are more likely to agree than postgraduate students that students take drugs to fit in with their peers.

I do not have a problem with students taking drugs recreationally

- Undergraduate students are more likely to agree than postgraduate students.
- UK respondents studying in the UK are more likely to agree than international student respondents from outside the EU.

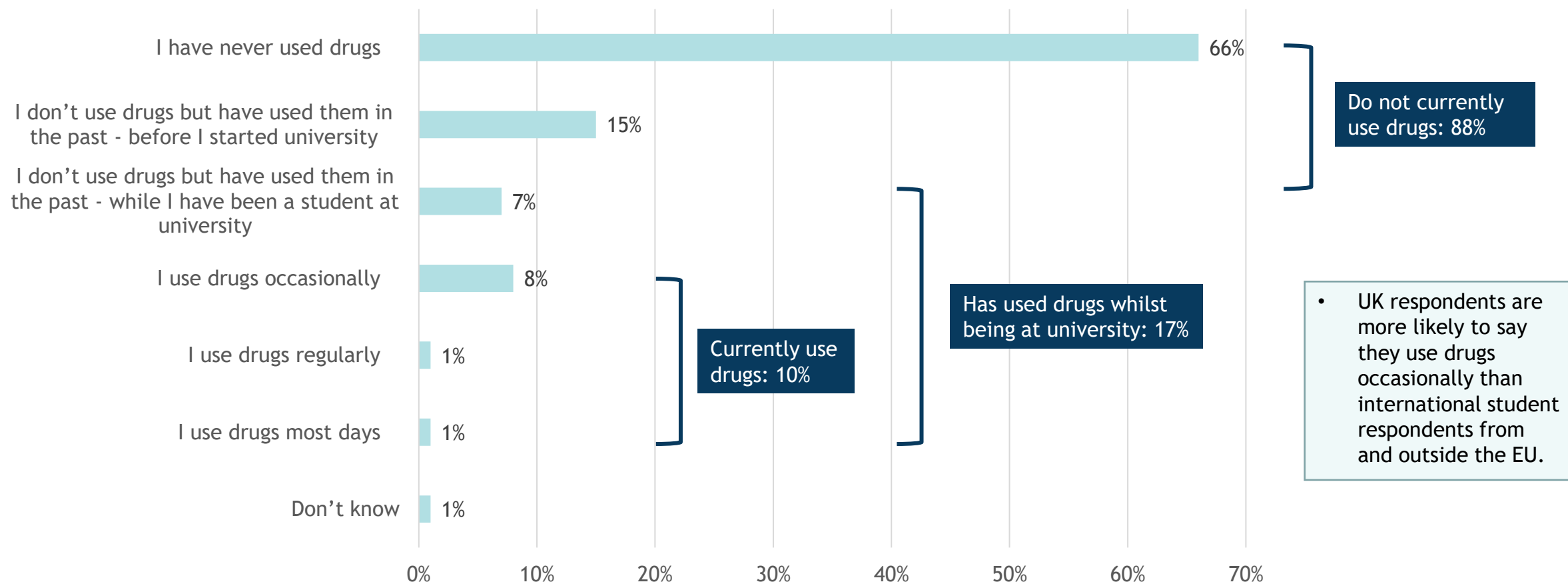
Student drug use isn't as problematic as is widely thought

- UK respondents are more likely to agree than international student respondents
- Students who identify as disabled are more likely to agree than students who do not identify in this way

Q. To what extent, if at all, do you agree with the following statements?

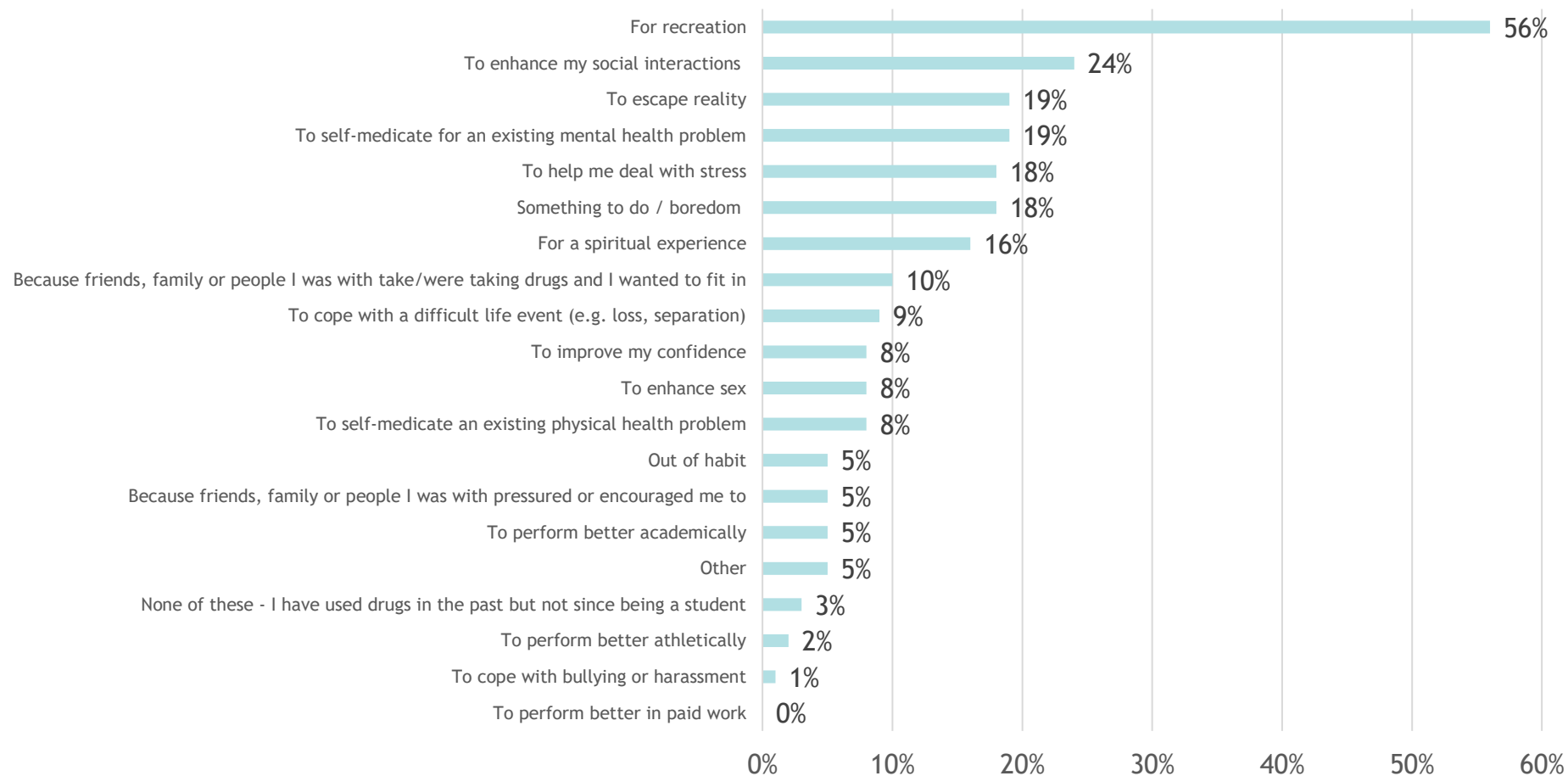
Student drug use

88% of respondents do not currently use drugs. 17% say they have used drugs whilst being at university, with 10% saying they are using drugs currently, 1% of whom are using drugs most days.



Q. Which of the following best describes your current frequency of drug use? [Base:915 Balance: No response]

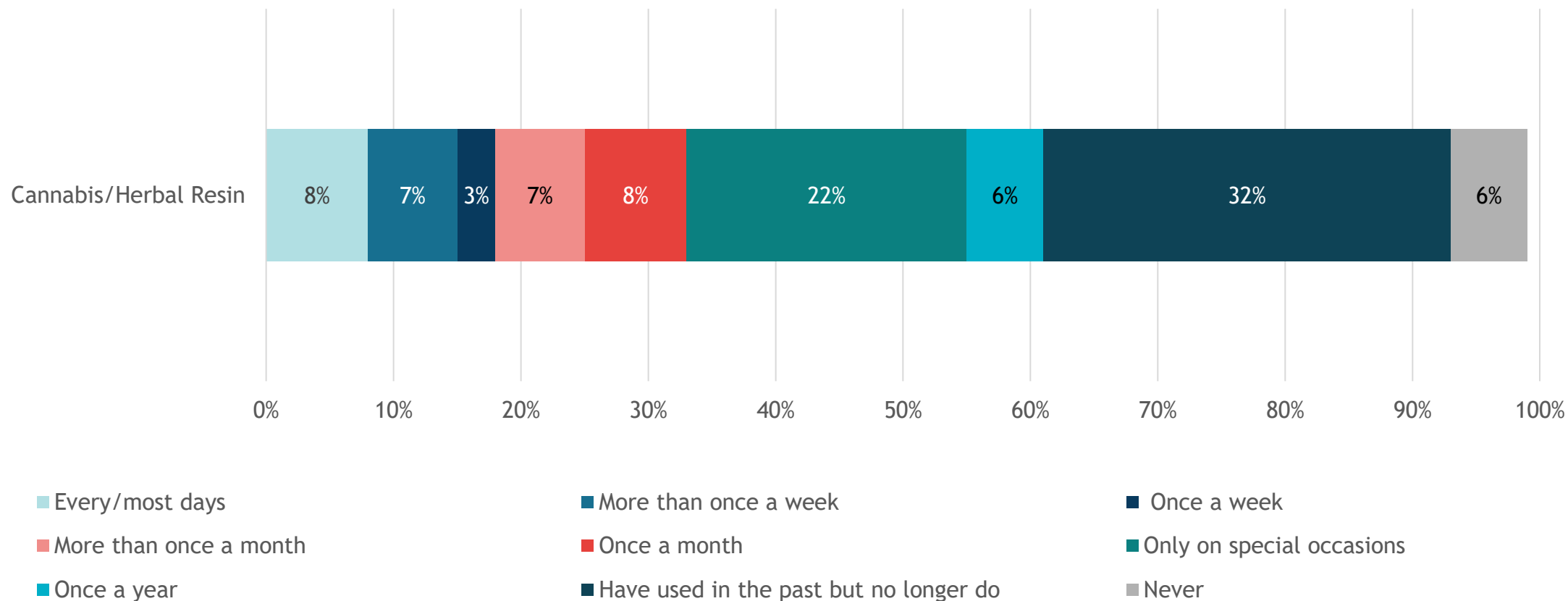
Over half (56%) of respondents who said they currently use or have used drugs in the past whilst they were students, say they do so for recreation and almost a quarter (24%) do so to enhance social interactions.



- International students from the EU are more likely to have used drugs for recreation than UK students or non-EU international students.
- Women respondents are less likely to have used drugs to deal with stress than men respondents.
- Disabled students are more likely to self-medicate for an existing physical or mental health problem, compared to those who don't identify in this way.

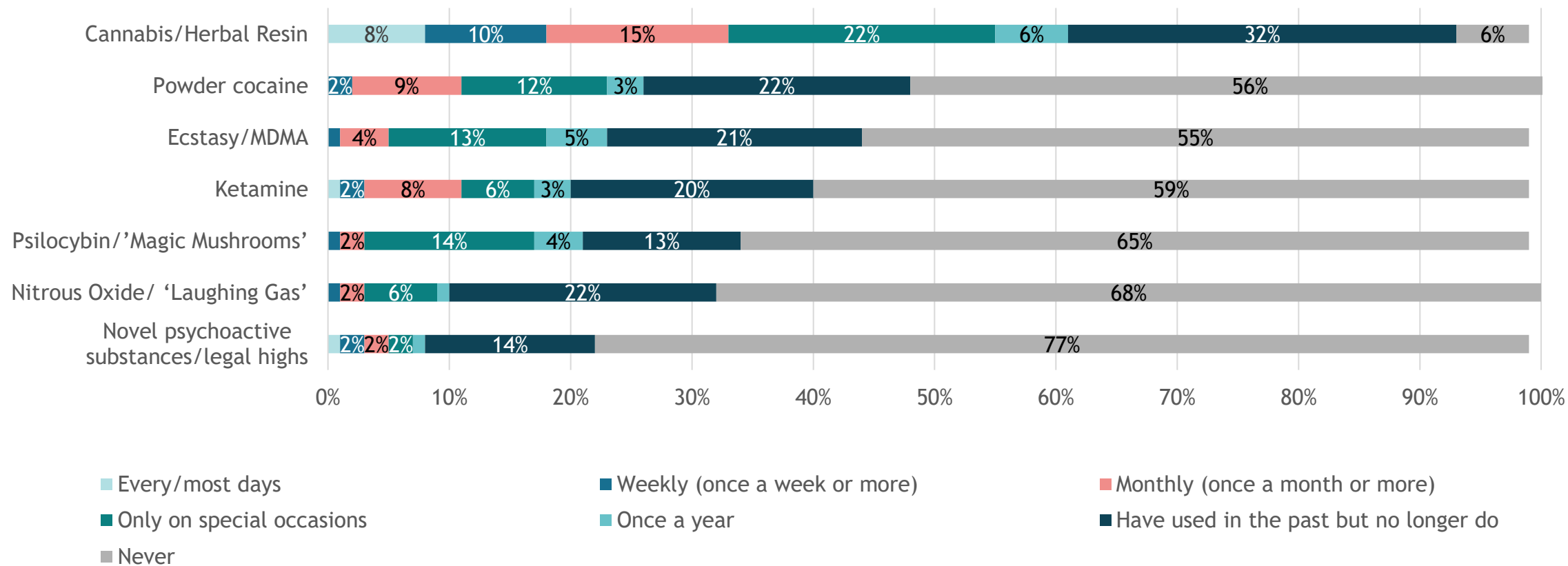
Q. Which of the following best describes why you use / have used drugs? [Base: 163 Balance: No response, and never have used drugs]

Cannabis is the most frequently used drug reported by respondents who currently use or have previously used drugs. Under one fifth of students use cannabis during special occasions.



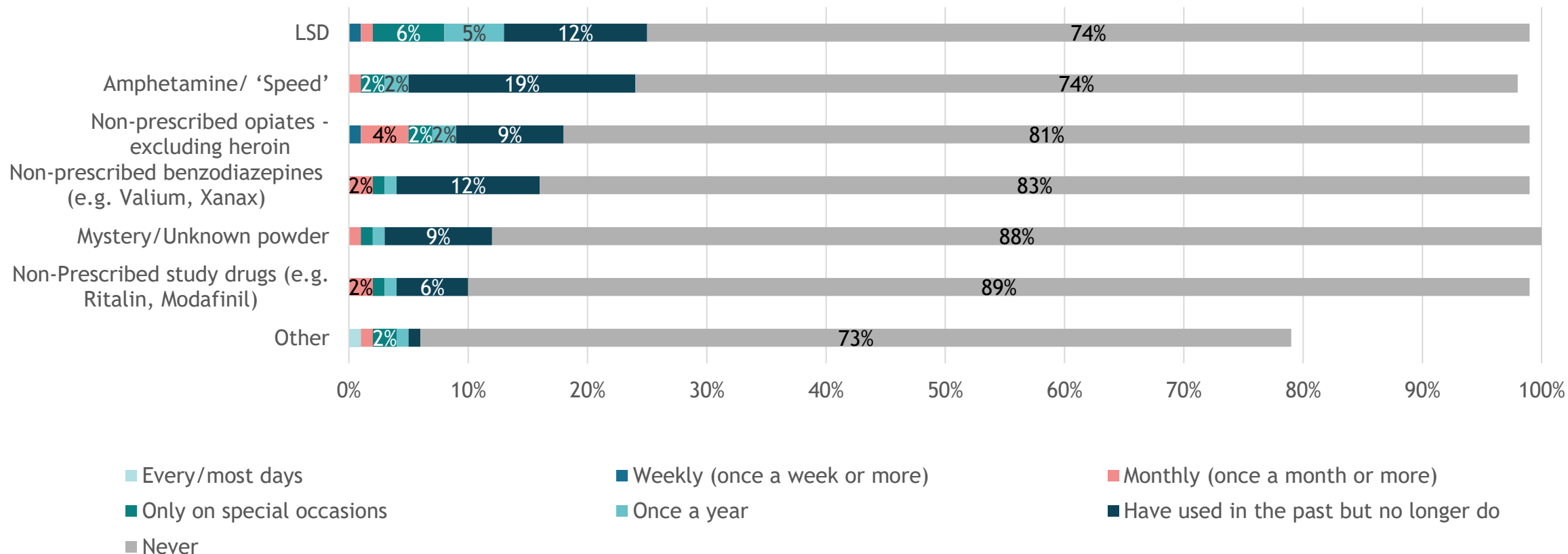
Q. Still thinking about your time at university/college, which of the following best describes your frequency of particular drug use? [Base: 163 Balance: No response, and never have used drugs]

When looking at drugs that are used **every or most days**, cannabis (8%) is the most frequently reported drug, followed by ketamine and novel psychoactive substances/legal highs (1%). This is the same for most used drugs up to once a week or more than once a week.



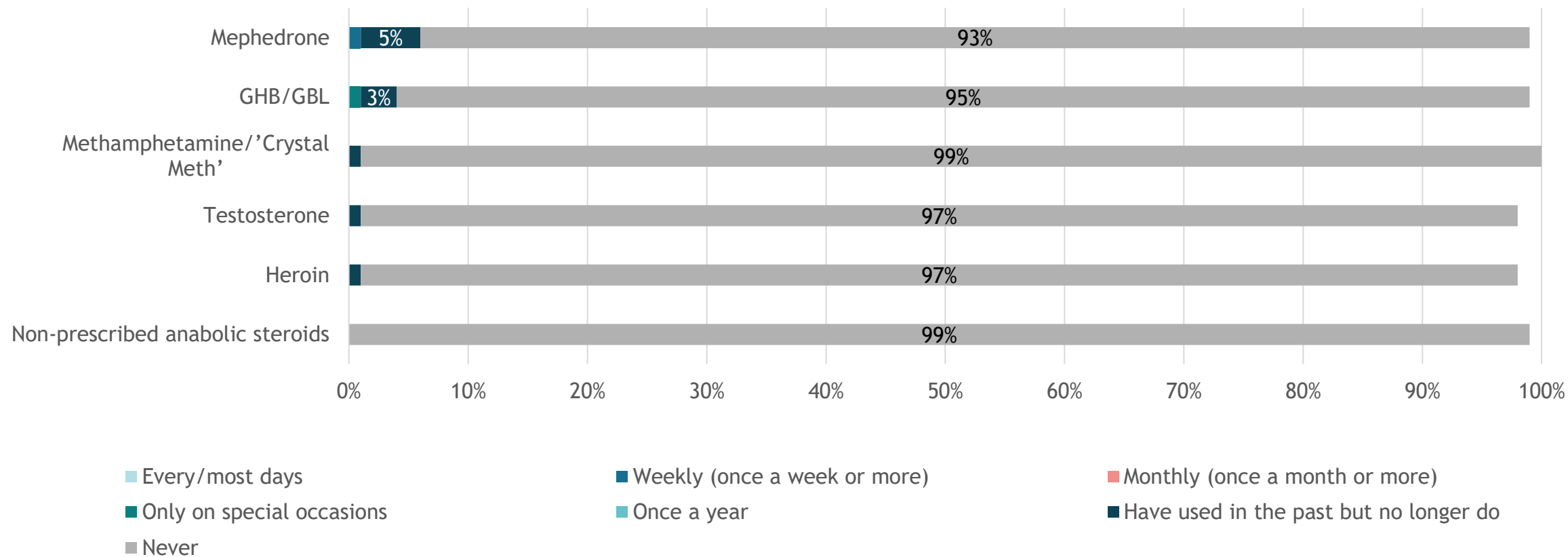
Q. Still thinking about your time at university/college, which of the following best describes your frequency of particular drug use? [Base: 163 Balance: No response, never have used drugs, rather not say]

1% of students use LSD weekly (once a week or more) and 1% use it monthly (once a month or more). 4% of students use non-prescribed opiates - excluding heroin - on special occasions. 19% of students said they have used amphetamine/ 'speed' in the past but no longer do.



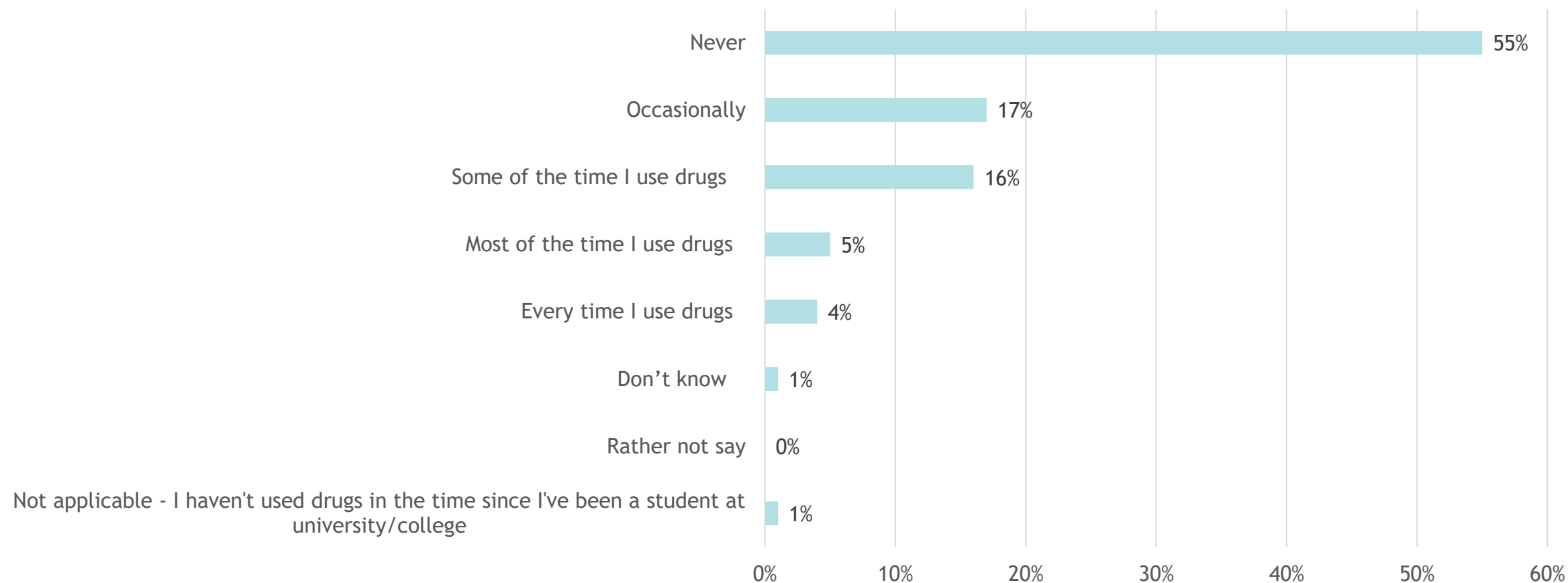
Q. Still thinking about your time at university/college, which of the following best describes your frequency of particular drug use? [Base: 163 Balance: No response, never have used drugs, rather not say]

1% of students use mephedrone weekly (once a week or more) and 5% of students have used it in the past but no longer do. 1% of students use GHB/GBL on special occasions. 1% say they used methamphetamine/ 'crystal meth', testosterone or heroin in the past but no longer do.



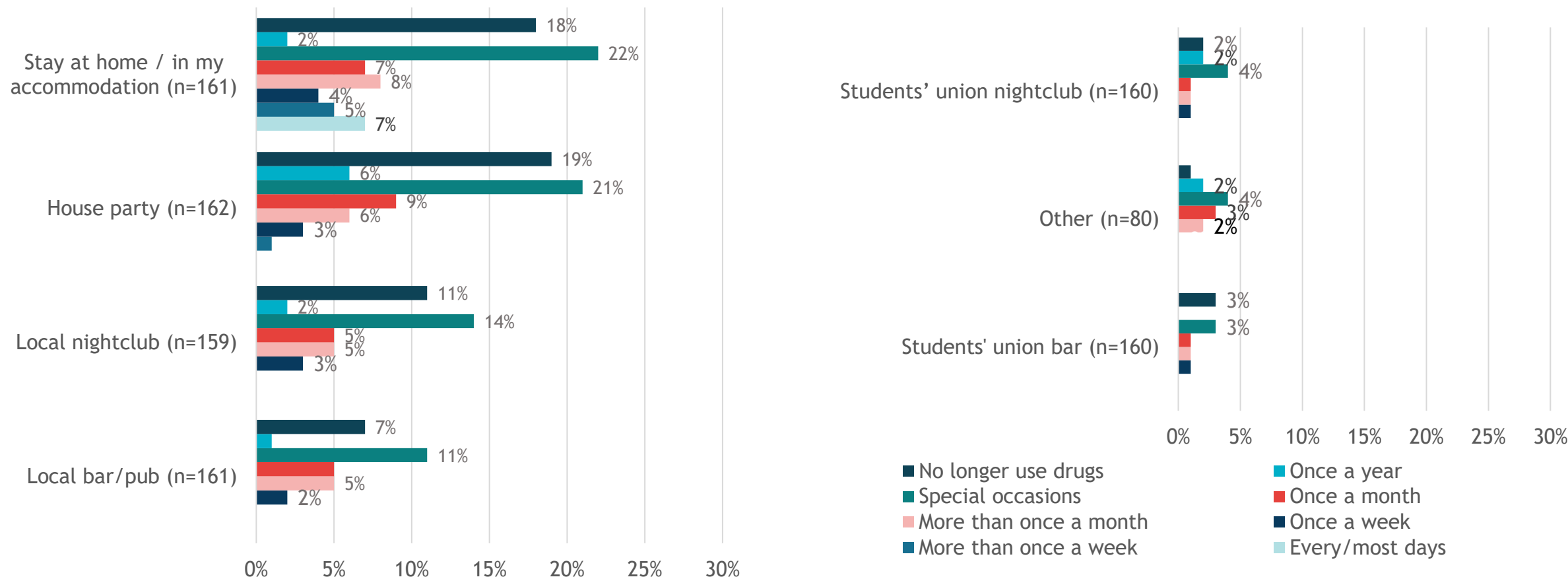
Q. Still thinking about your time at university/college, which of the following best describes your frequency of particular drug use? [Base: 163 Balance: No response, never have used drugs, rather not say]

Under half of respondents who currently use or have used drugs whilst being a student say they have never used two or more drugs at the same time. Over one fifth of these respondents use two or more drugs occasionally.



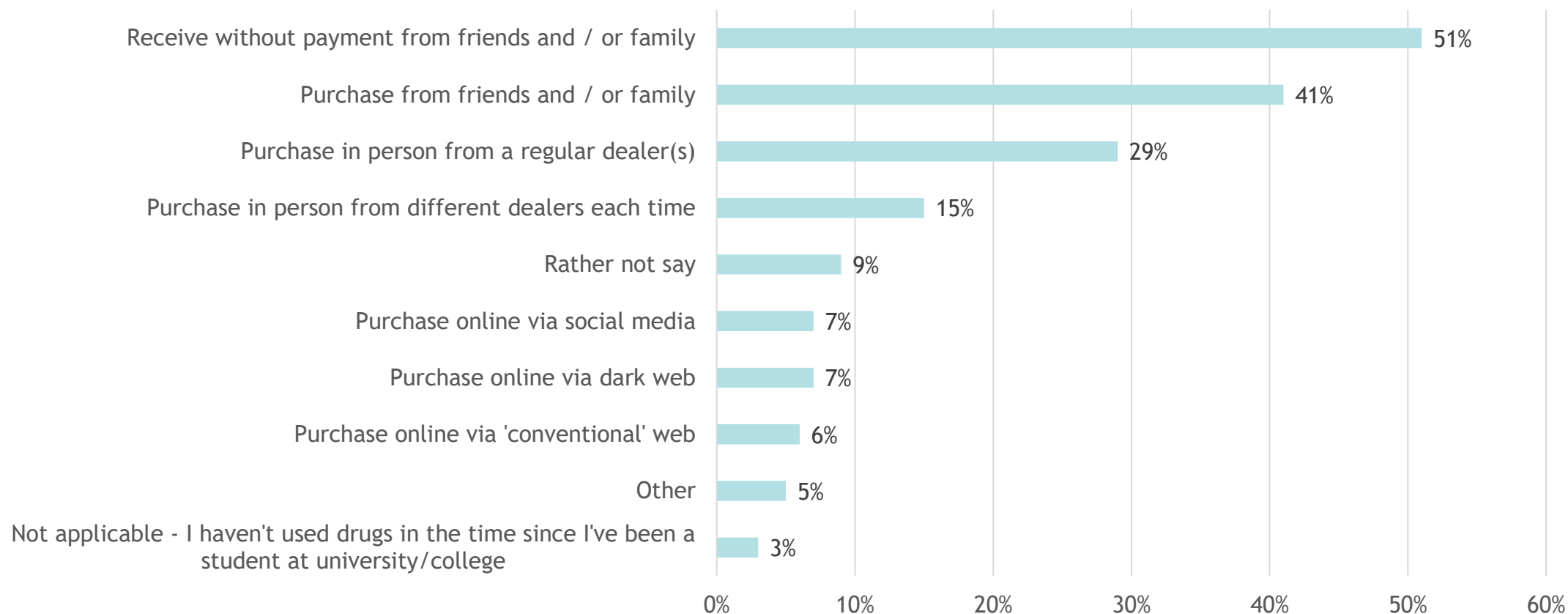
Q. Thinking about your time at university, approximately how often, if at all, do you use two or more drugs at one time? [Base: 165 Balance: No response and never have used drugs]

Drug use is most prevalent in respondents' homes or accommodation with almost one third (30%) of respondents saying they use drugs here up to once a month or more often. 19% of respondents say they use drugs at house parties on this basis.



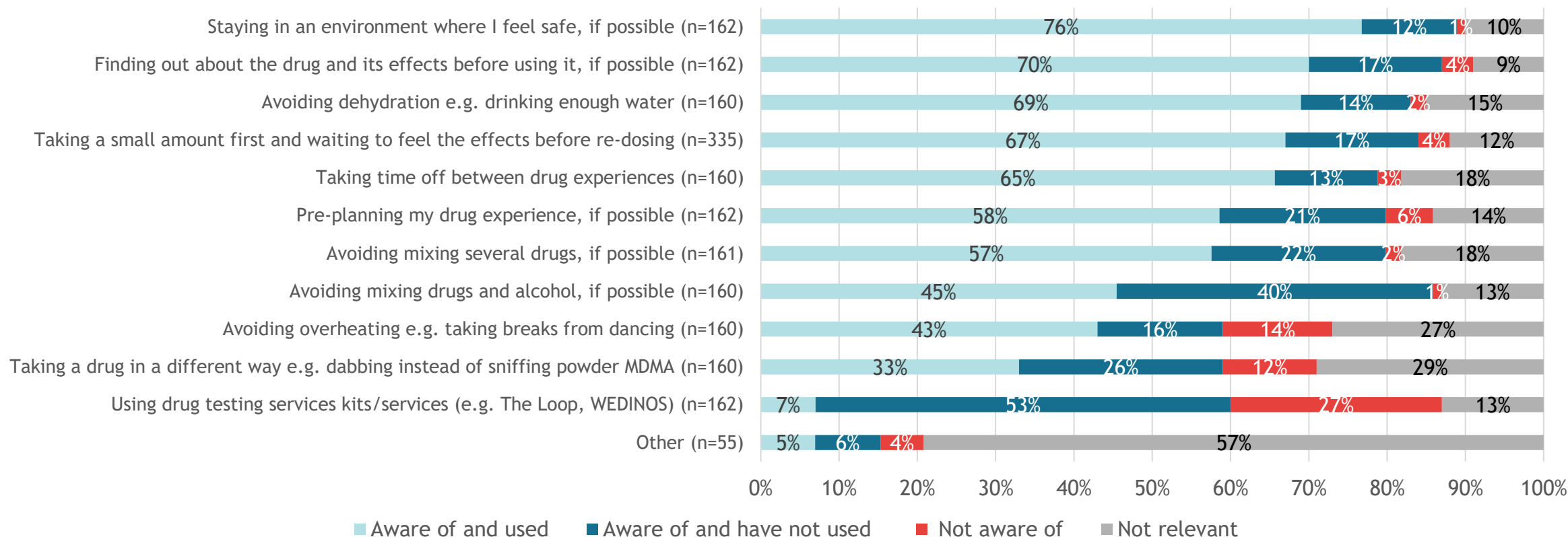
Q. Thinking of the time since you have been at university, approximately how often do you tend to take drugs in each of the following places? [Base: see graph, Balance: No response, rather not say and never have used drugs]

The most common method of procuring drugs is through friends/family without payment (51%), followed by purchases from friends or family (41%).



Q. Thinking of your experiences since you started university, which of the following describes where or how you acquire drugs? [Base: 165 Balance: No response, other and never have used drugs]

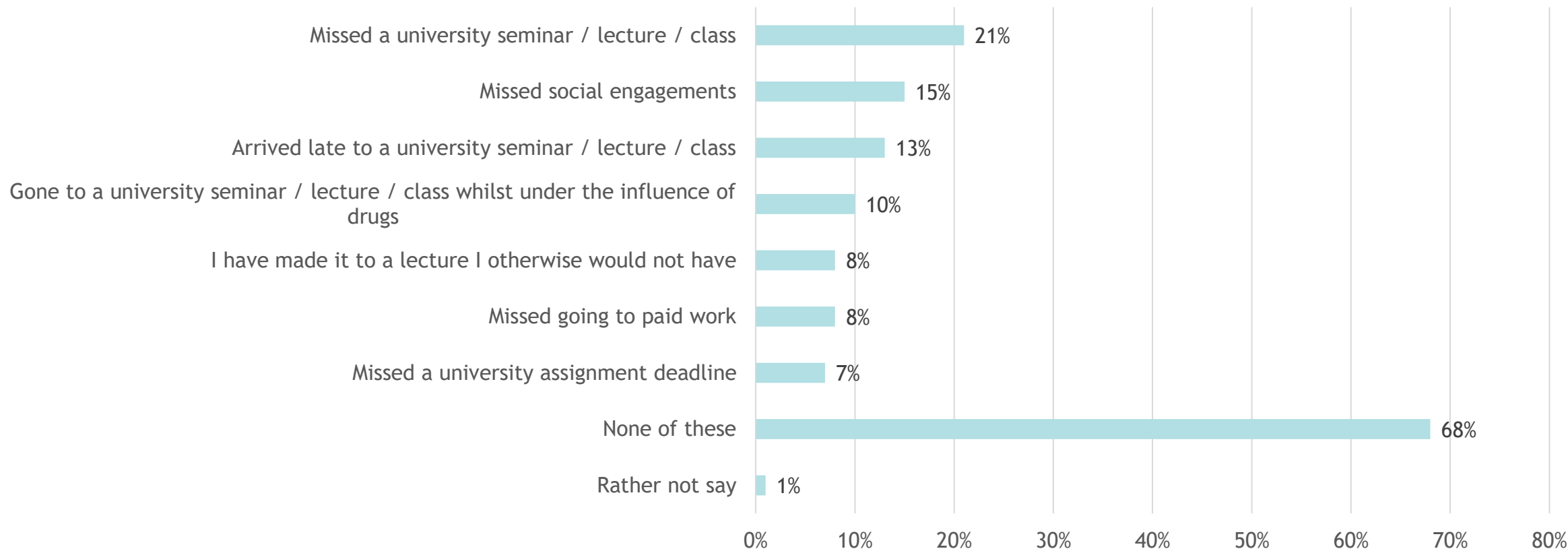
The most common approaches used by respondents to reduce harm when taking drugs include staying in a safe environment (76%), finding out about drugs before using them (70%) and avoiding dehydration (69%). 53% of respondents are aware of drug testing kits/services but only 7% have used them.



Q. Which of the following steps, if any, are you aware of/do you take to reduce the potential harm caused by taking drugs? [Base: See graph Balance: No response, never have used drugs and rather not say]

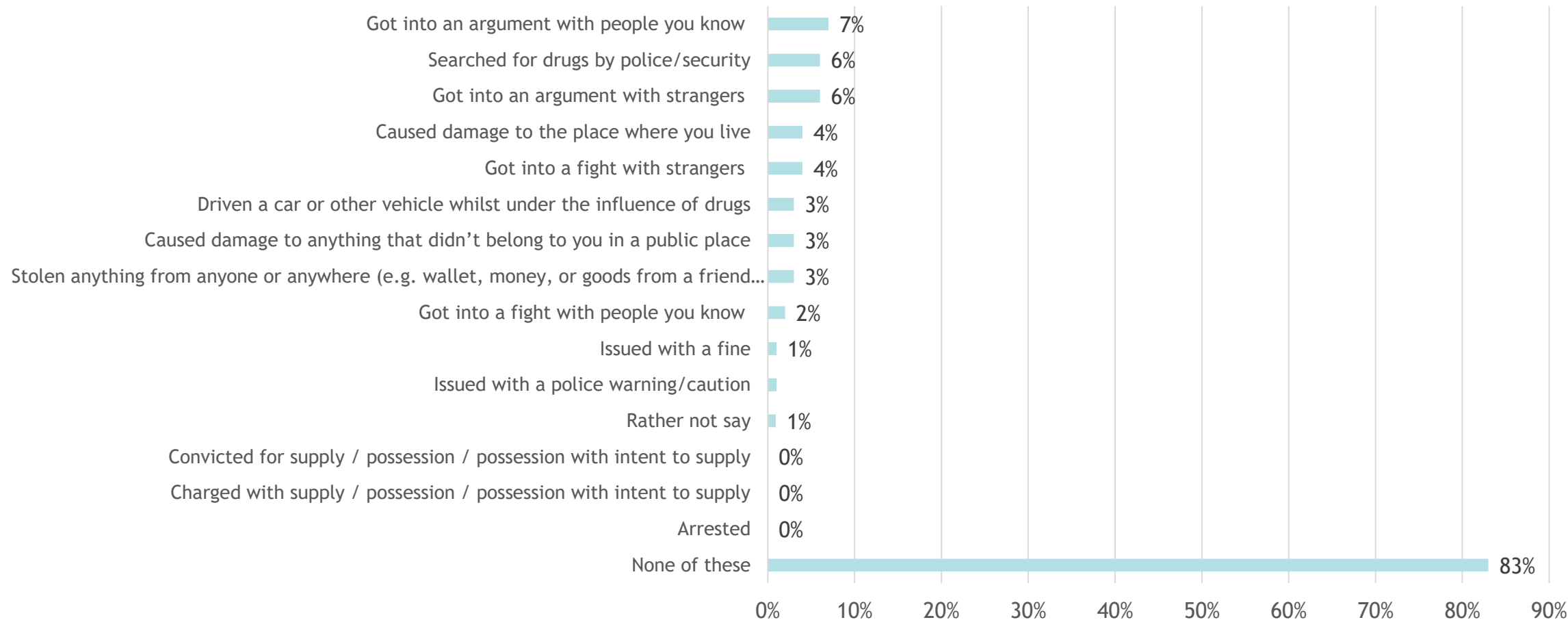
Impacts of drug use

Amongst respondents who currently or have previously used drugs whilst a student, the most commonly reported academic impact is missing seminars, lectures or classes (21%). 15% report missing social engagements and 13% report arriving late to a university seminar/lecture/class.



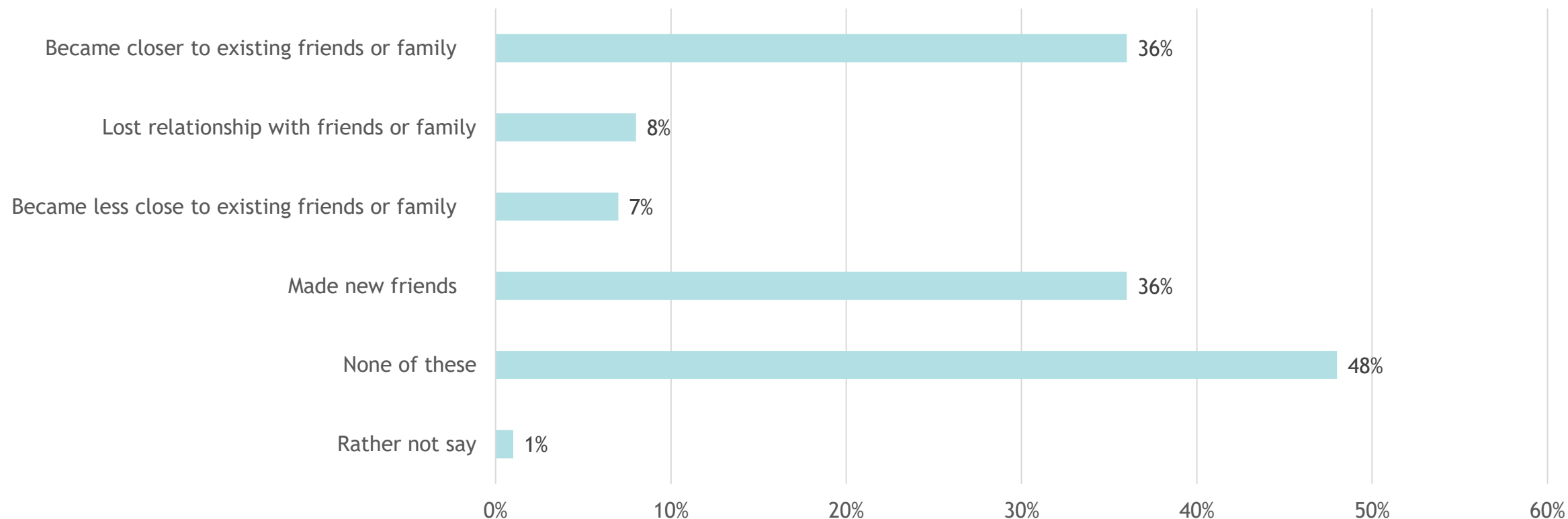
Q. Which of the following have you experienced since you have been at university / college during or following taking drugs? {Base: 165 Balance: No response and never used drugs}

Amongst respondents who currently or have previously used drugs whilst a student, getting into an argument with people they know (7%) or strangers (6%), being searched by security/ police (6%) are the most commonly reported impacts related to crime and anti-social behaviour.



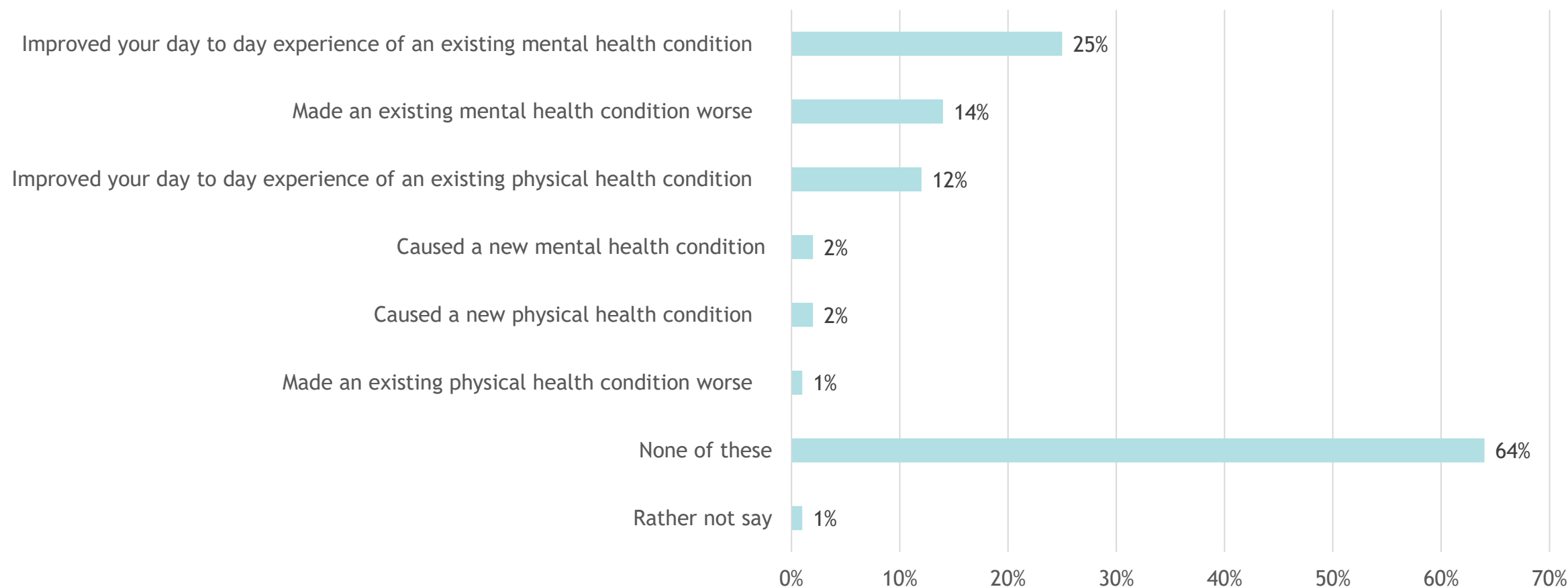
Q. Which of the following have you experienced since you have been at university / college during or following taking drugs? [Base: 165 Balance: No response and never used drugs]

Amongst respondents who currently or have previously used drugs whilst a student, 36% say this has led to making new friends or becoming closer to existing friends or family. For a small proportion of respondents, the reverse was reported with 8% reporting to have lost relationships with friends or family.



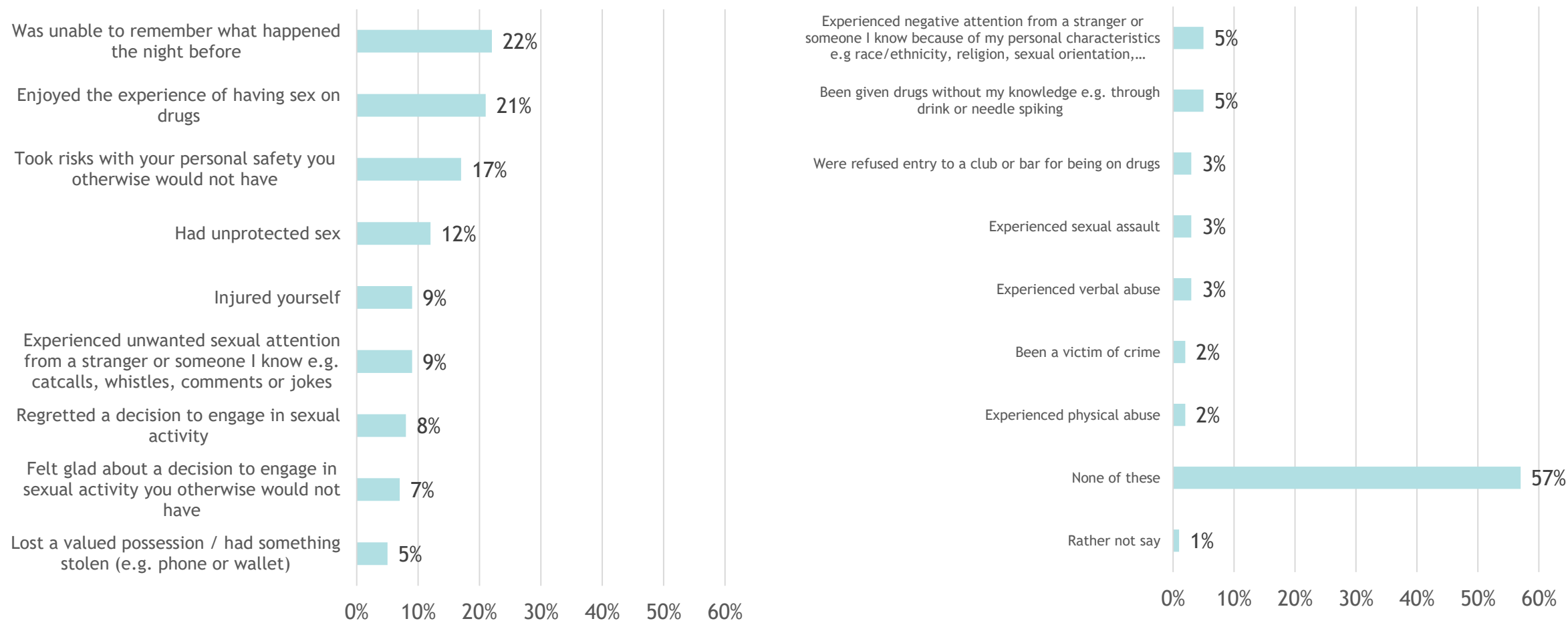
Q. Which of the following have you experienced since you have been at university / college during or following taking drugs? [Base: 165 Balance: No response and never used drugs]

Amongst respondents who currently or have previously used drugs whilst a student, a quarter say this use has improved an existing mental health condition. However, 14% say it has made a mental health condition worse.



Q. Which of the following have you experienced since you have been at university / college during or following taking drugs? [Base: 164 Balance: No response and never used drugs]

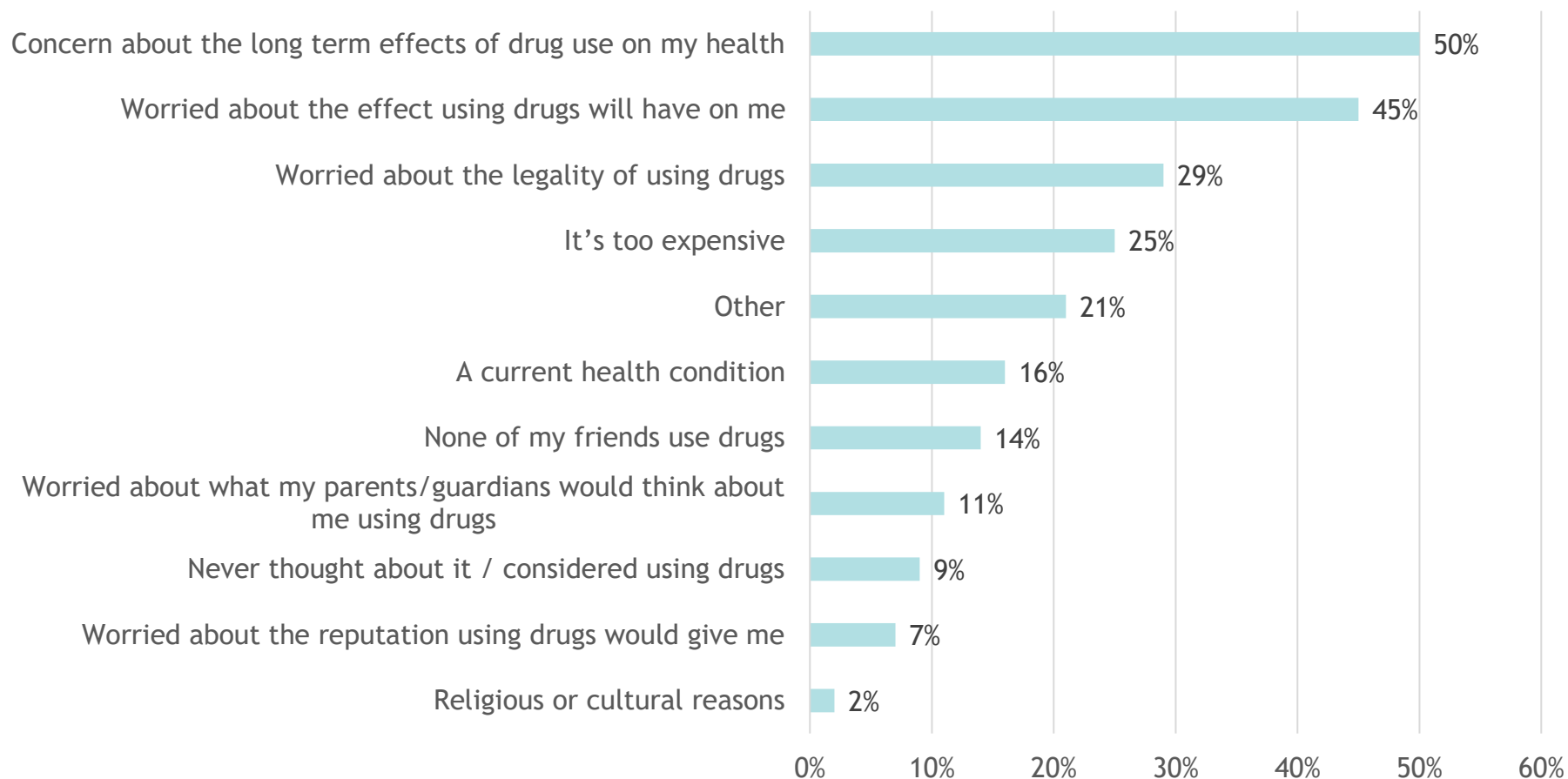
Amongst respondents who currently or have previously used drugs, nearly a quarter say they were unable to remember what happened the night before (22%) and enjoyed the experience of having sex on drugs (21%).



Q. Which of the following have you experienced since you have been at university / college during or following taking drugs? [Base: 164 Balance: No response and never used drugs]

Ex-drug users

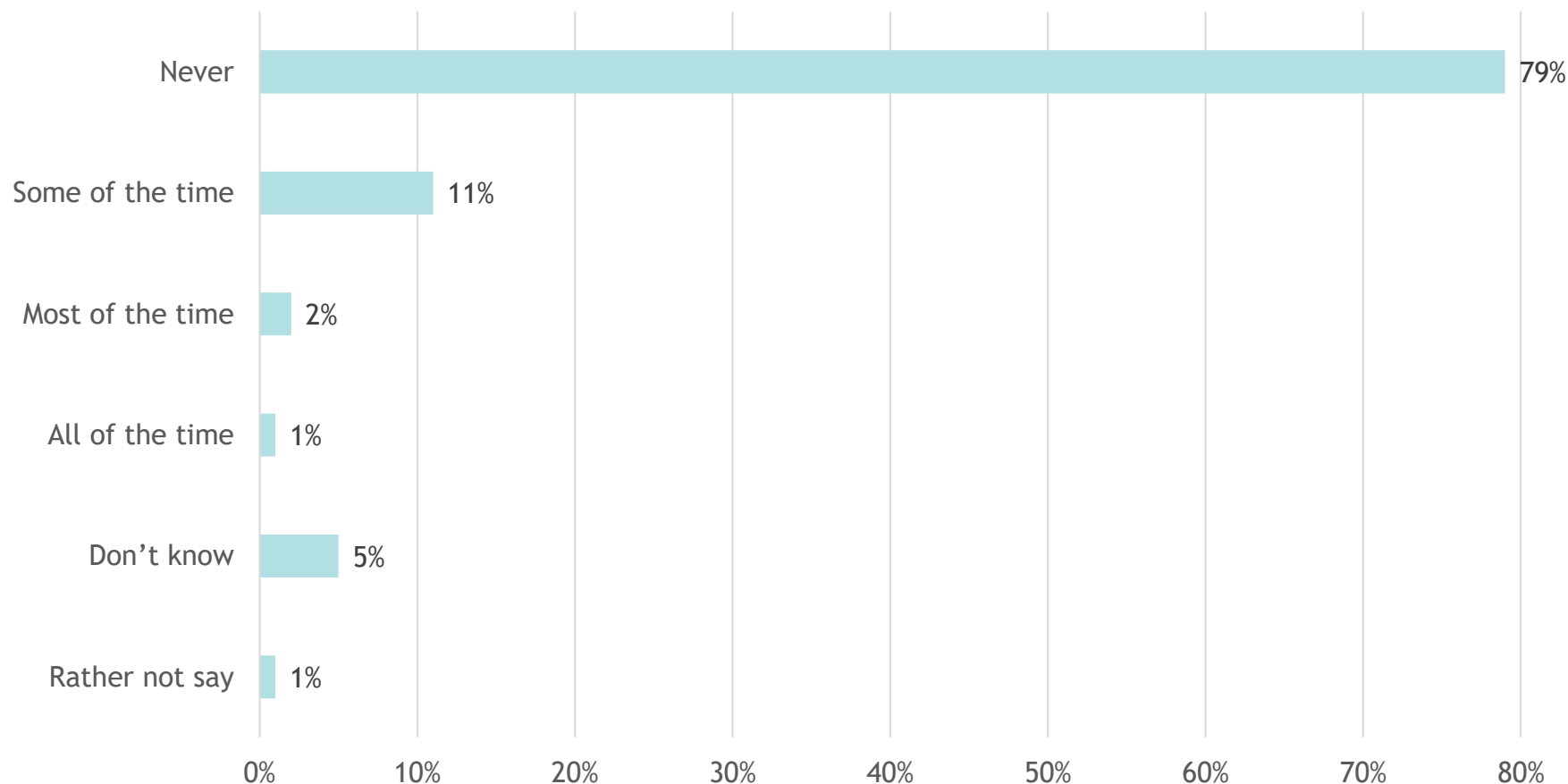
For those that don't currently use drugs but have done previously, reasons for stopping using drugs are concern about the long-term health impacts drugs will have on them (50%) and worry about the effect of using drugs (45%).



- UK respondents and international respondents from the EU are more likely to state that they are worried about the effect using drugs will have on them than non-EU respondents.
- Students who identify as disabled are more likely to say they are worried about the legality of using drugs than students who don't identify in this way.

[What would you say are your main reasons for not using drugs or stopping using drugs? Base: 202 Balance: No response, and currently use drugs]

Most respondents who don't currently use drugs but have done previously say they have never felt pressure to use drugs when socialising with friends at university (79%) .

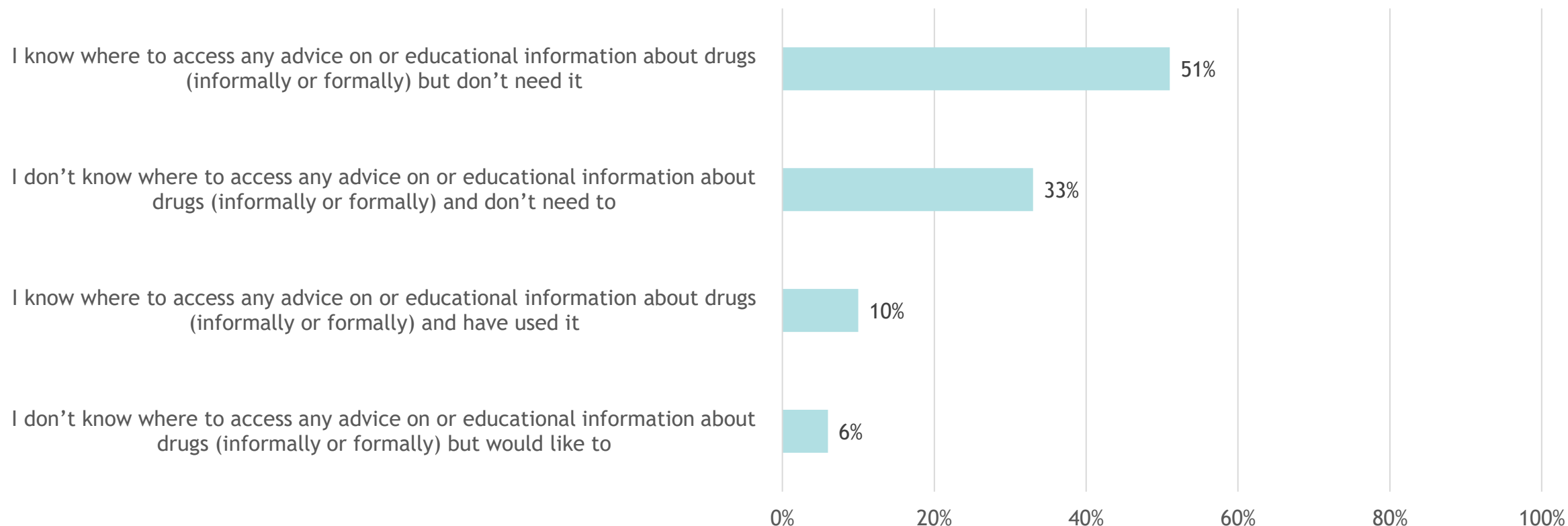


- PhD students are more likely to say they have never felt pressure to use drugs when socialising with friends at university than undergraduate students.

[Q. Thinking about the most recent university term, when you were socialising with other students, how often did you feel that your friends expected you to use drugs? Base: 203 Balance: No response / Currently use drugs]

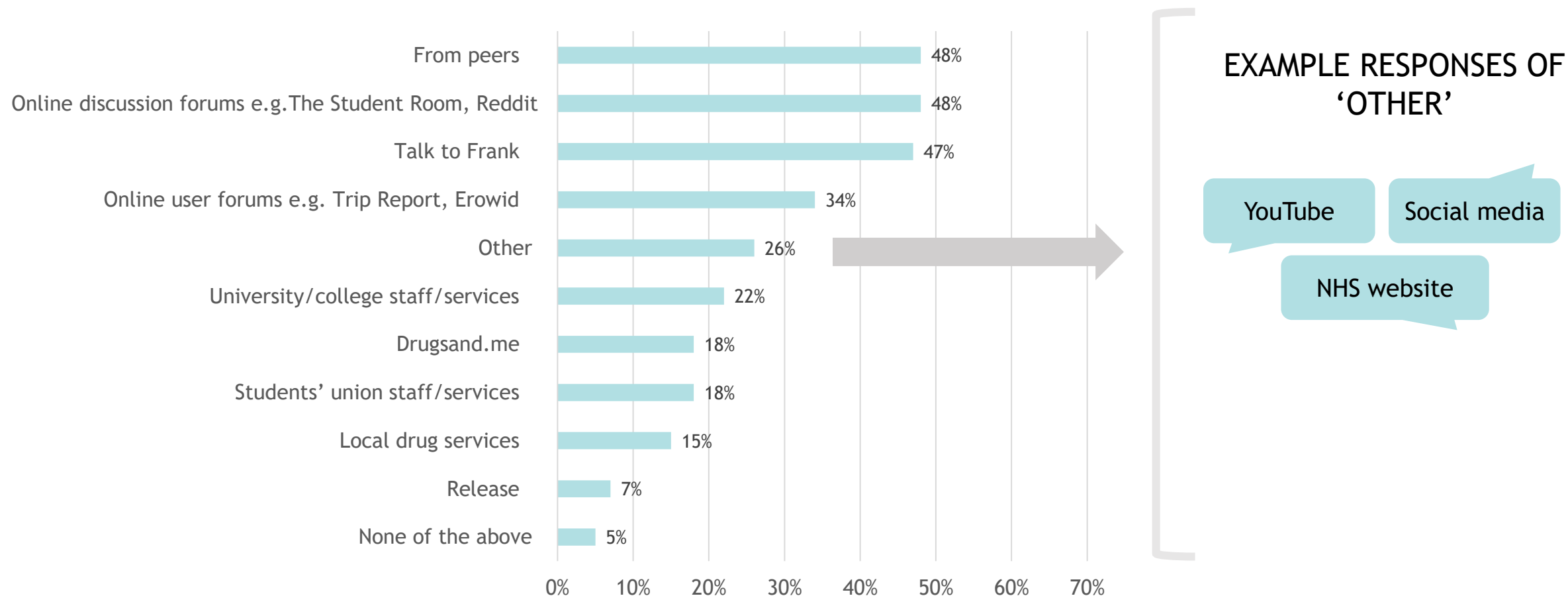
Drug advice and support

Over half of respondents say they know where to access advice and educational information about drugs, either formally or informally, but don't need it. 6% would like advice or information but don't know where to access it.



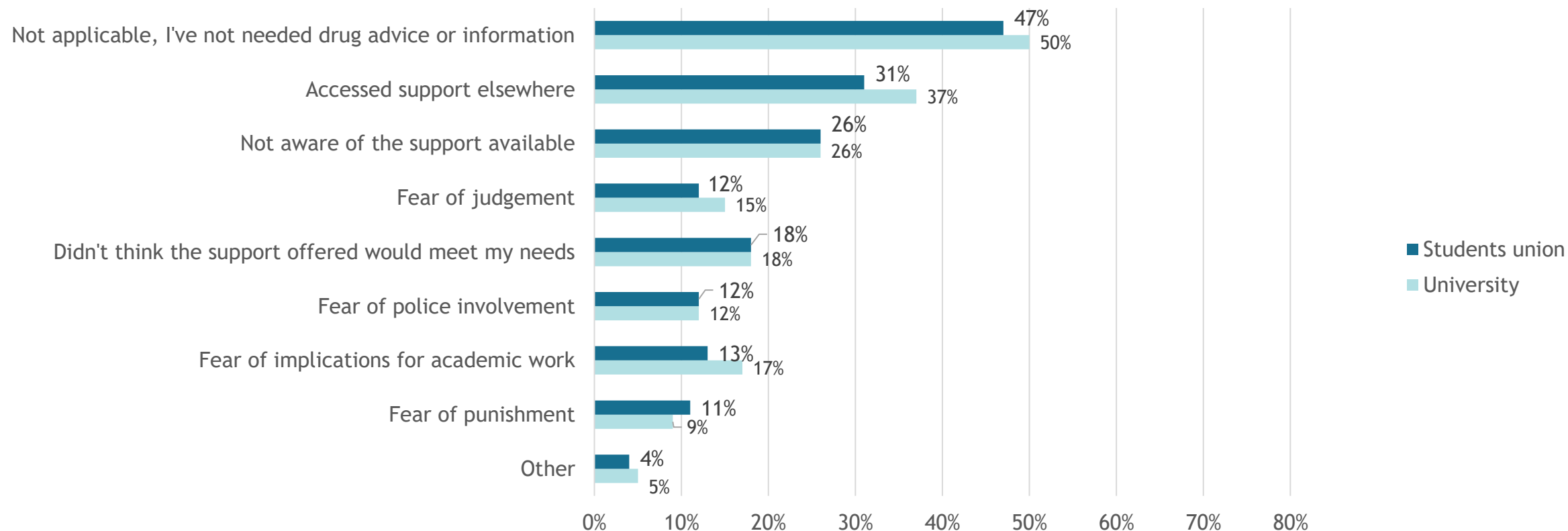
Q. Which of the following statements best describes your access to advice on drugs? Base: 908 Balance: No response]

Of those who know where to access advice and information about drugs and have used it, under half (48%) gain advice and information from peers and online discussion forums.



Q. Which of the following best describes where you access drug advice and information? Base: 93 Balance: No response, and not aware of drug advice and information

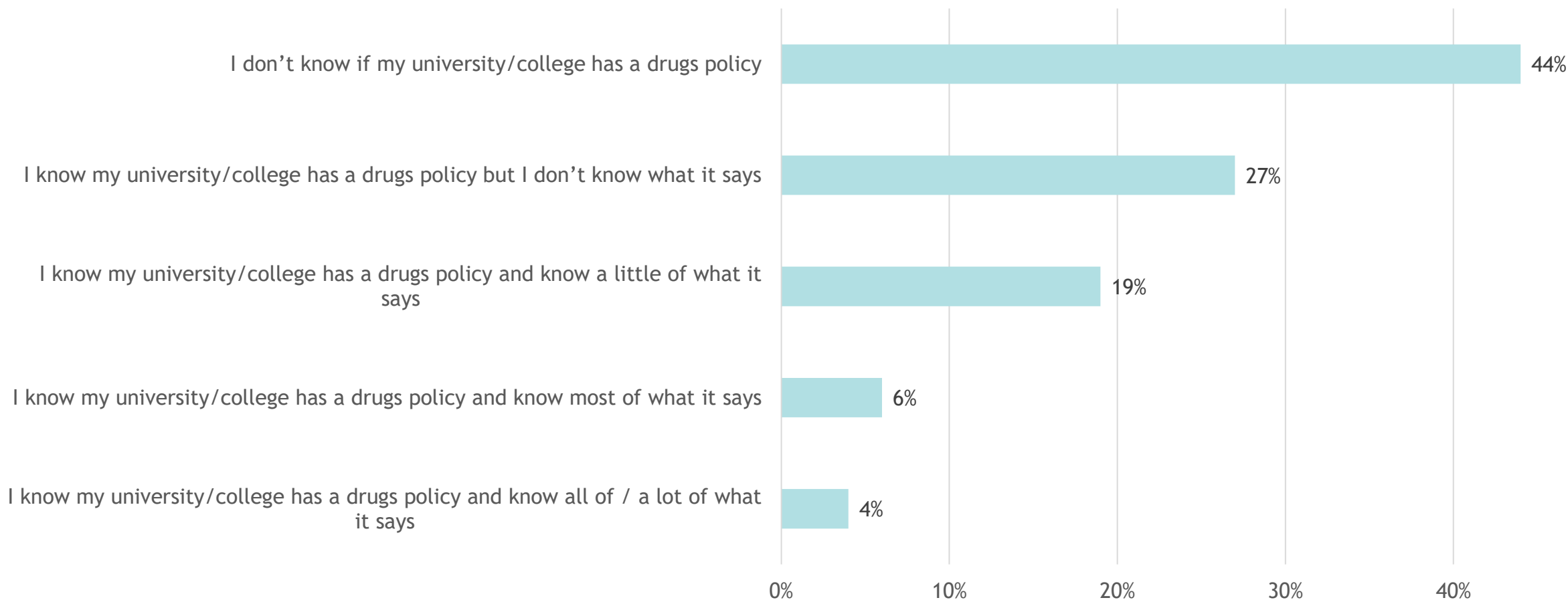
Whilst respondents previously indicated they had accessed drug advice and support, around half said their reason for not using university or students' union support services was a lack of need. Other reasons include accessing support elsewhere and not being aware of support available.



Q. Which of the following reasons best describes why you haven't used drug information and advice services offered by your university/students union? Base: 66 Balance: No response

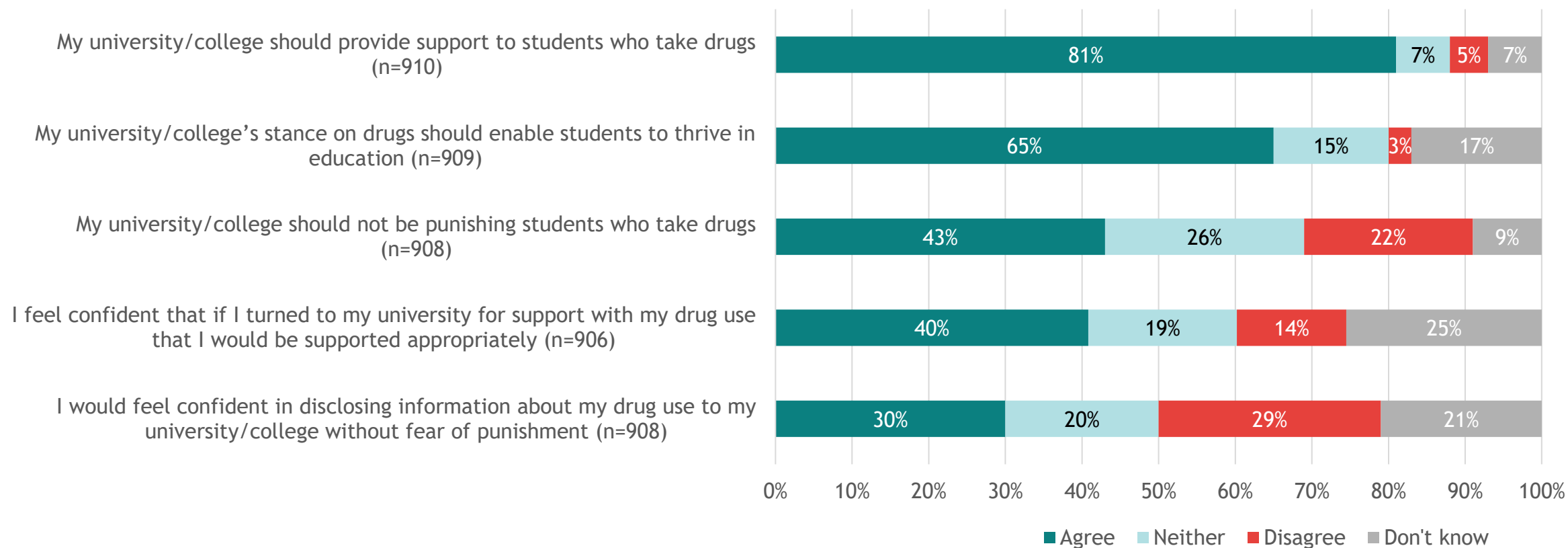
University or college drug policy

Respondents show low levels of awareness of the details of their institution's drugs policy. Almost a half of students do not know if their institution has a drugs policy.



[Q. How much, if anything, do you know about the policy/policies your university/college has on drugs? Base: 1468 Balance: No response]

The majority (81%) of students agree that their institution should provide support to students who take drugs but only half of that figure (40%) say they feel confident that their university would deal with their drug use appropriately if they required support. A similar proportion (43%) agree their institution should not be punishing students who take drugs.

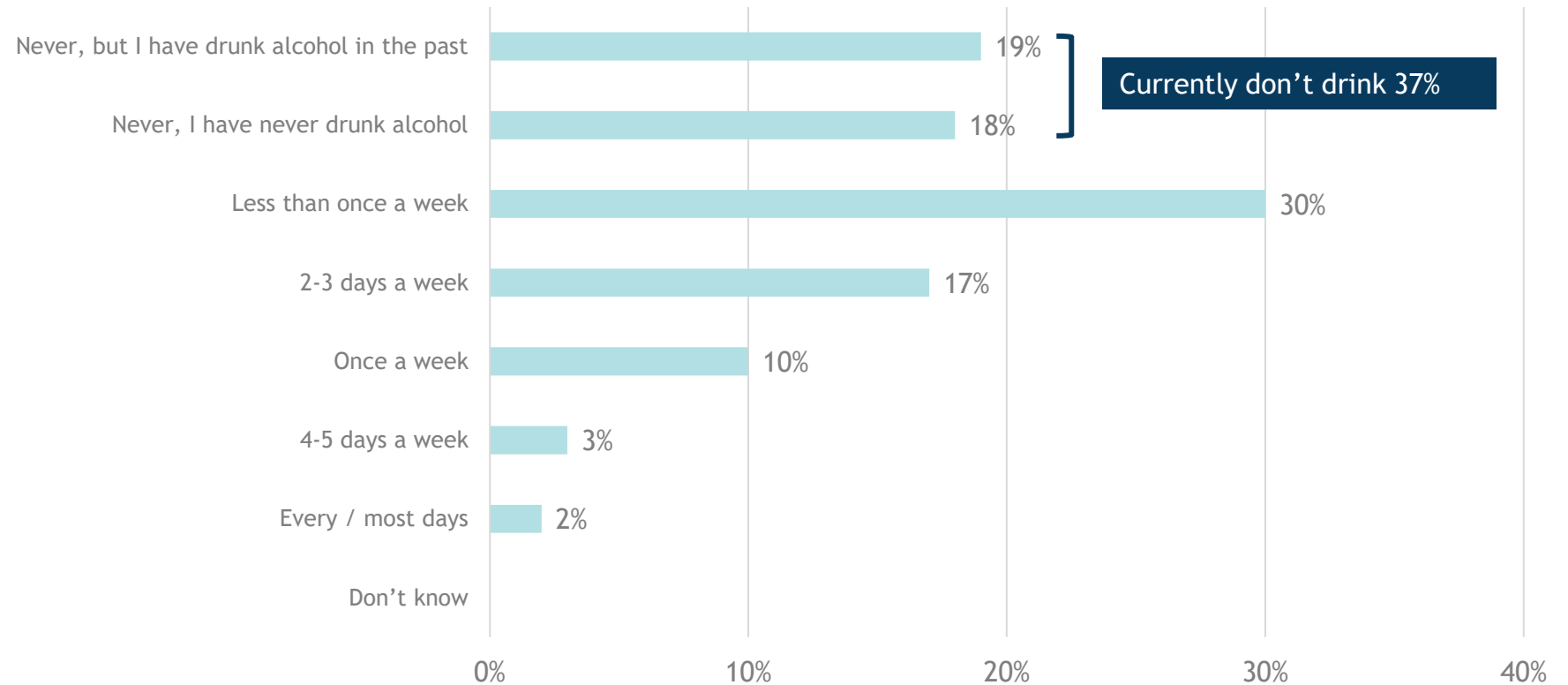


Q. To what extent, if at all, do you agree with the following statements? [Base: see graph Balance: No response, rather not say]

RESEARCH FINDINGS: ALCOHOL

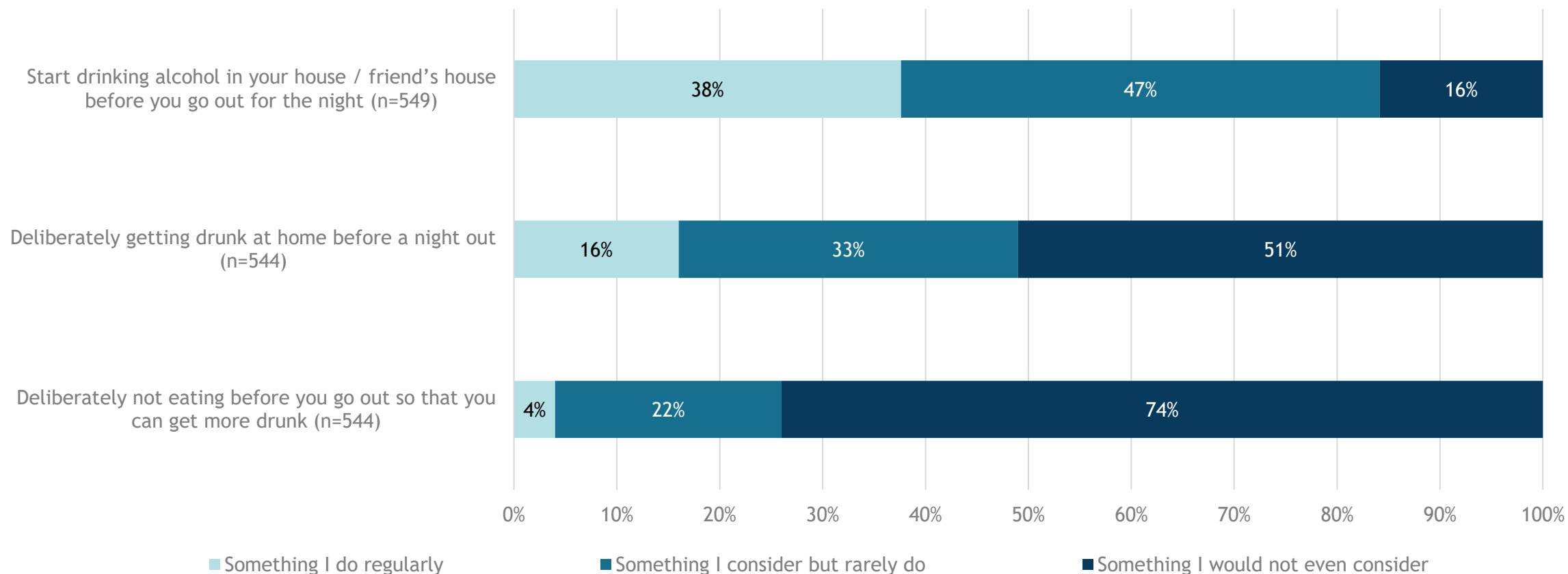
Patterns and practices of alcohol consumption

Almost one third of students drink less than once a week (30%). 2% of students say they drink every/most days.



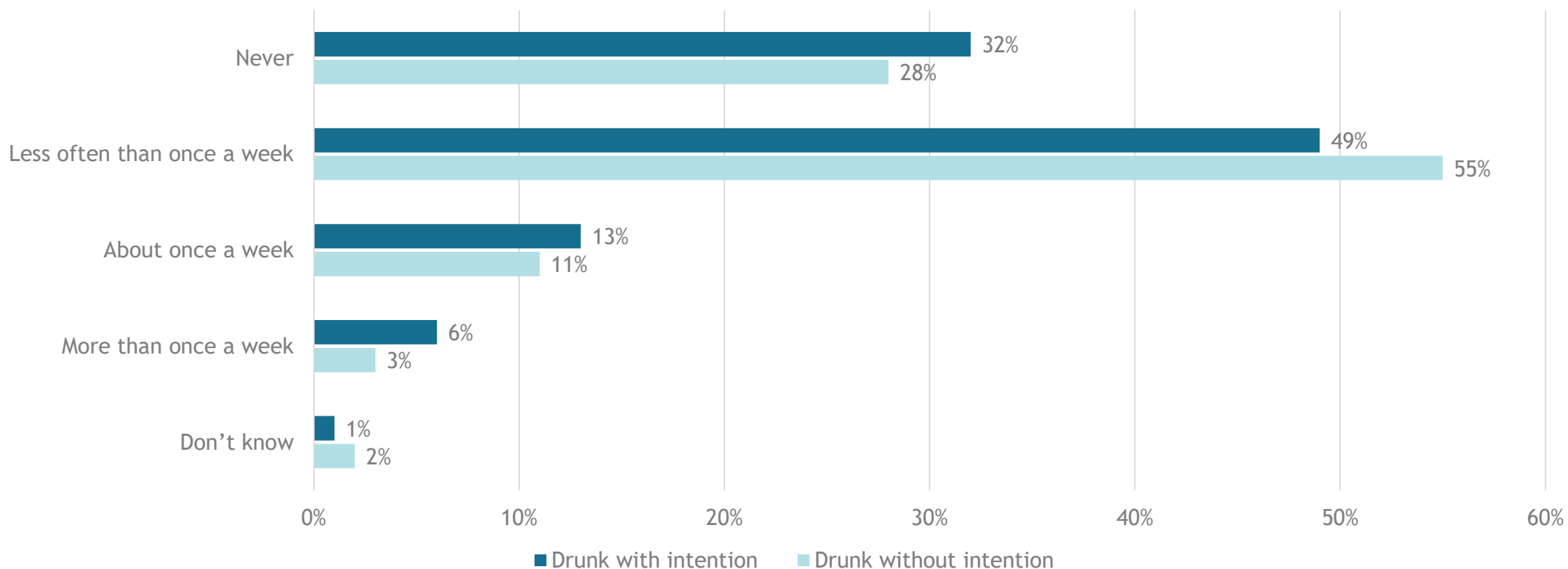
Q. How often, if at all, do you drink alcohol? Weighted base: 914 Balance: No response

38% of respondents regularly start drinking before they go out for the night (pre-drinking), however just over a half of respondents (51%) say they would not consider getting drunk at home deliberately before a night out.



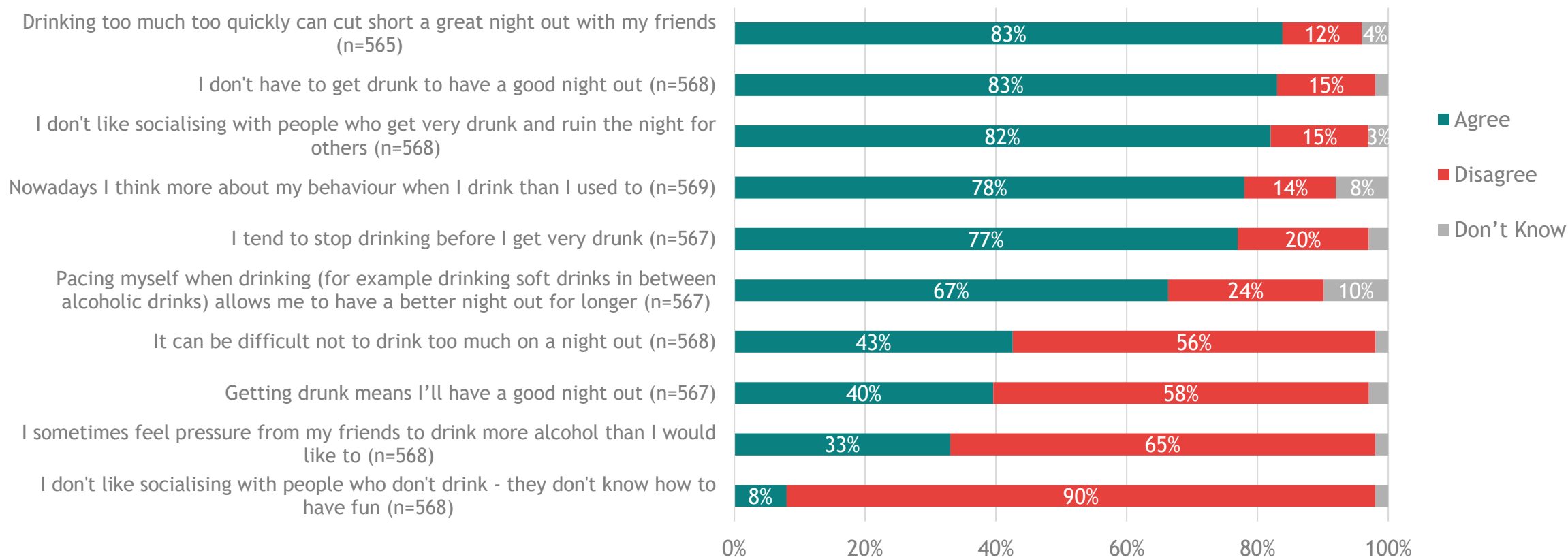
Q. Do any of the following describe your drinking behaviour? Weighted base: (in brackets) Balance: No response

Approximately half of respondents get drunk less often than once a week, either with (49%) or without (55%) the intention to. 6% report getting drunk more than once a week with intention and 3% get drunk without intention more than once a week.



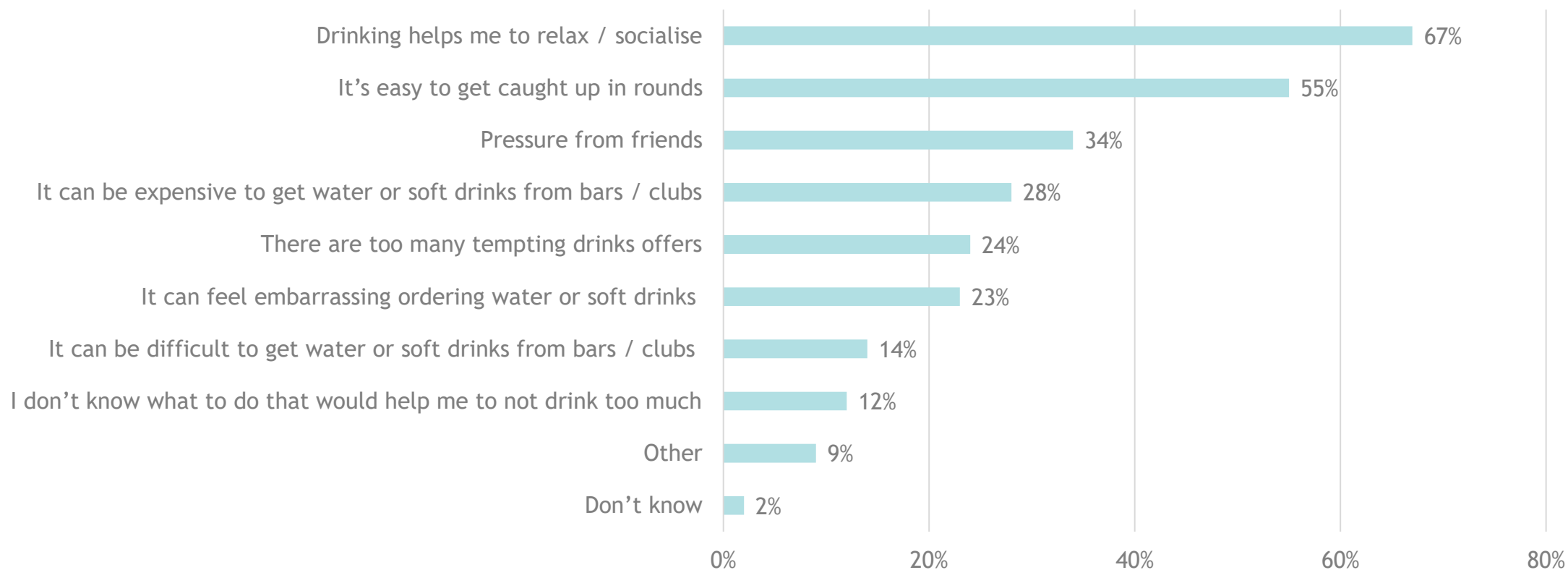
Q. Approximately how often do you drink alcohol with the intention of getting drunk / drink alcohol without the intention of getting drunk but end up getting drunk anyway ? Weighted base: c. 563 Balance: No response

83% agreed that drinking too much too quickly can cut short a great night and that they don't have to get drunk to have a good night out. 82% say they don't like socialising with people who get very drunk and ruin the night for others. However, 43% say it can be difficult not to drink too much on a night out, and 40% say getting drunk means they'll have a good night.



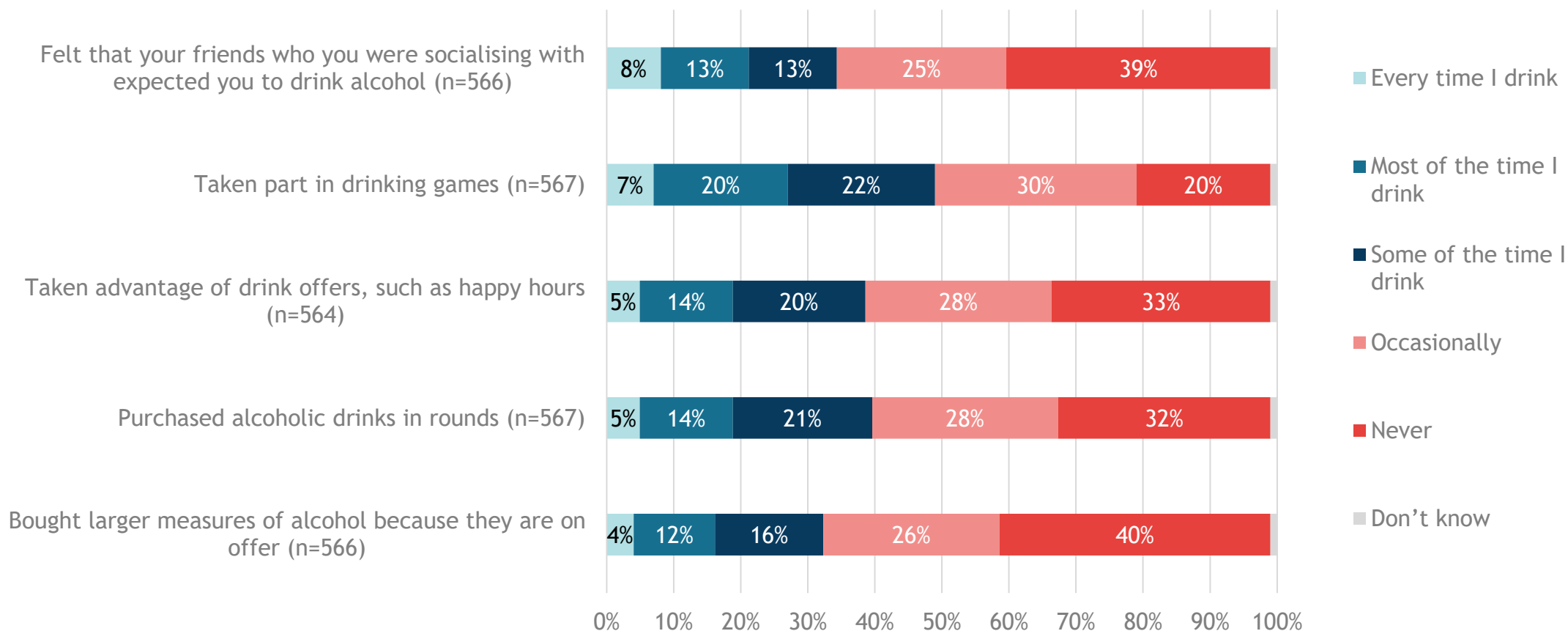
Q. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the following statements Weighted base: (in brackets) Balance: No response

Respondents who indicated they found it difficult not to drink too much on a night out (48%) were asked why. 67% stated that drinking alcohol helped them to relax / socialise. The practice of buying drinks in rounds was also identified by over half of respondents. Over a third cited pressure from friends.



Q. You agreed it can be difficult not to drink too much on a night out - why do you think that? Weighted base: 242 Balance: No response, non-drinkers and those who did not agree it can be difficult not to drink too much

39% of respondents say that they never feel that the friends they were socialising with expected them to drink alcohol. 20% say they have taken part in drinking games some of the time they drink.



Q. Thinking about your time at university within the last term, please tell us how often you did each of the following... Weighted base: see graph Balance: No response

Further analysis of the survey data has shown significant differences in practices between different groups of respondents. The key differences identified include:

Differences by gender

- Women respondents are more likely to report drinking alcohol less than once a week compared to men respondents (34% compared with 23%); but men respondents are more likely to report never drinking to get drunk than women respondents (40% compared to 28%).
- Women and non-binary respondents are more likely to agree that pacing themselves when drinking allows them to have a better night for longer than men respondents (80% and 100% respectively compared to 73% of men respondents).
- Men respondents are more likely to report that they never drink alcohol without the intention of getting drunk, but get drunk anyway, than women respondents (37% compared to 23%).

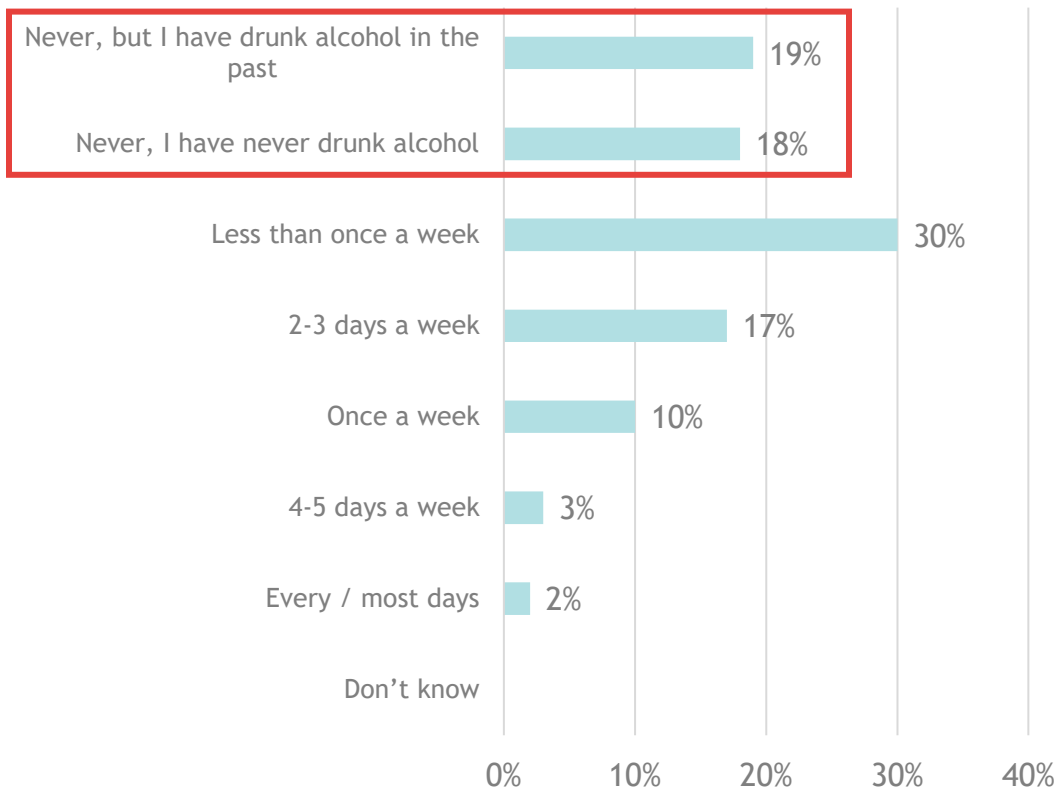
Differences by nationality

- Respondents from outside the EU are more likely to report never drinking alcohol, but have done in the past, than those from UK (27% non-EU compared with 17%).
- Respondents from outside and from the EU are less likely to report regularly drinking alcohol at a friend's house before they go out for the night and regularly deliberately getting drunk before they go out compared with respondents from the UK (31% and 18% of EU and non-EU respectively compared to 41% UK).
- Respondents from the UK are less likely to never take advantage of drink offers such as happy hours than international respondents from outside the EU (31% compared to 45%).
- Respondents from the UK are more likely to agree that it can be difficult not to drink too much on a night out (42% compared to 33% international respondents from the EU and 23% from outside the EU).

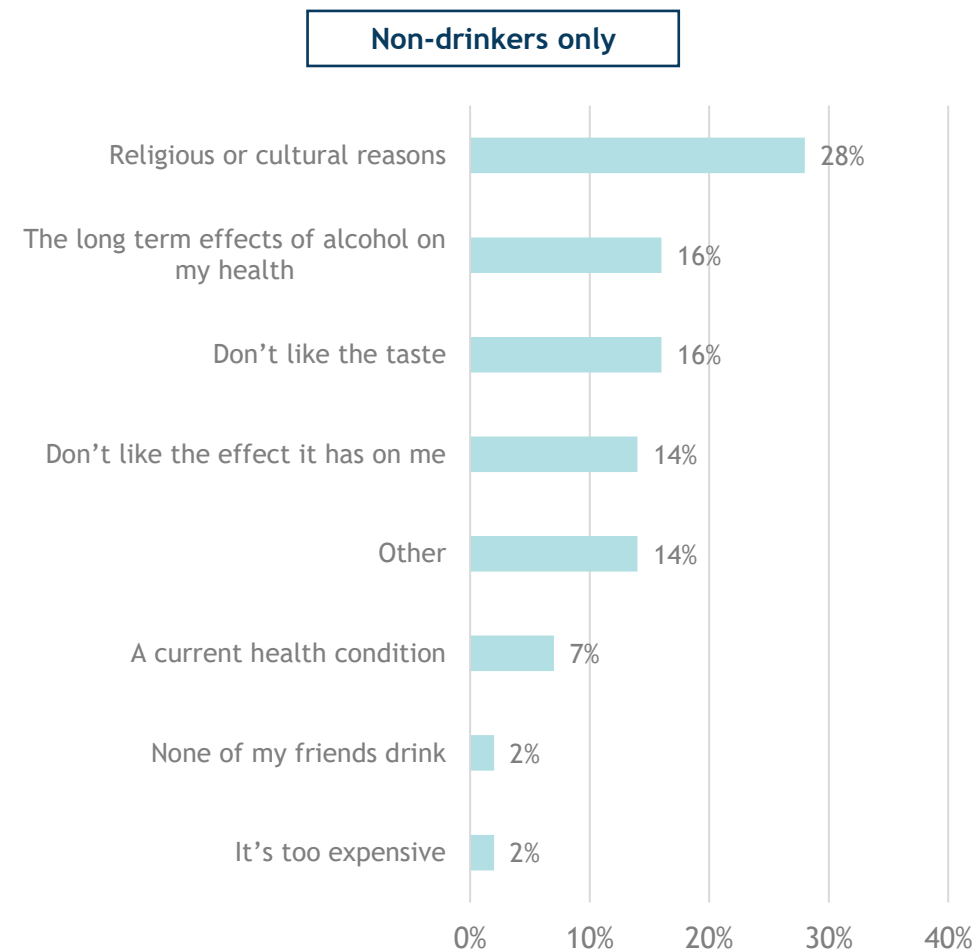
Differences by study level

- Undergraduates are more likely to report regularly getting drunk at home before a night out than postgraduates and PhD students (21% compared to 5% and 4%). They are also most likely to report starting drinking alcohol in their house/friend's house before going out for the night (46% compared to 26% postgraduates and 26% PhD students).
- Undergraduates are least likely to report never drinking with the intention of getting drunk compared to postgraduates and PhD students (27% undergraduates compared to 39% postgraduates and 48% PhD students).
- Undergraduates are also least likely to say that they never deliberately don't eat before a night out so that they get more drunk compared to postgraduate and PhD students (67% undergraduates compared to 86% postgraduates and 91% PhD students).

37% of respondents report that they do not currently drink alcohol, including those that have never drunk alcohol, and those who have in the past. This is most commonly due to religious or cultural reasons.

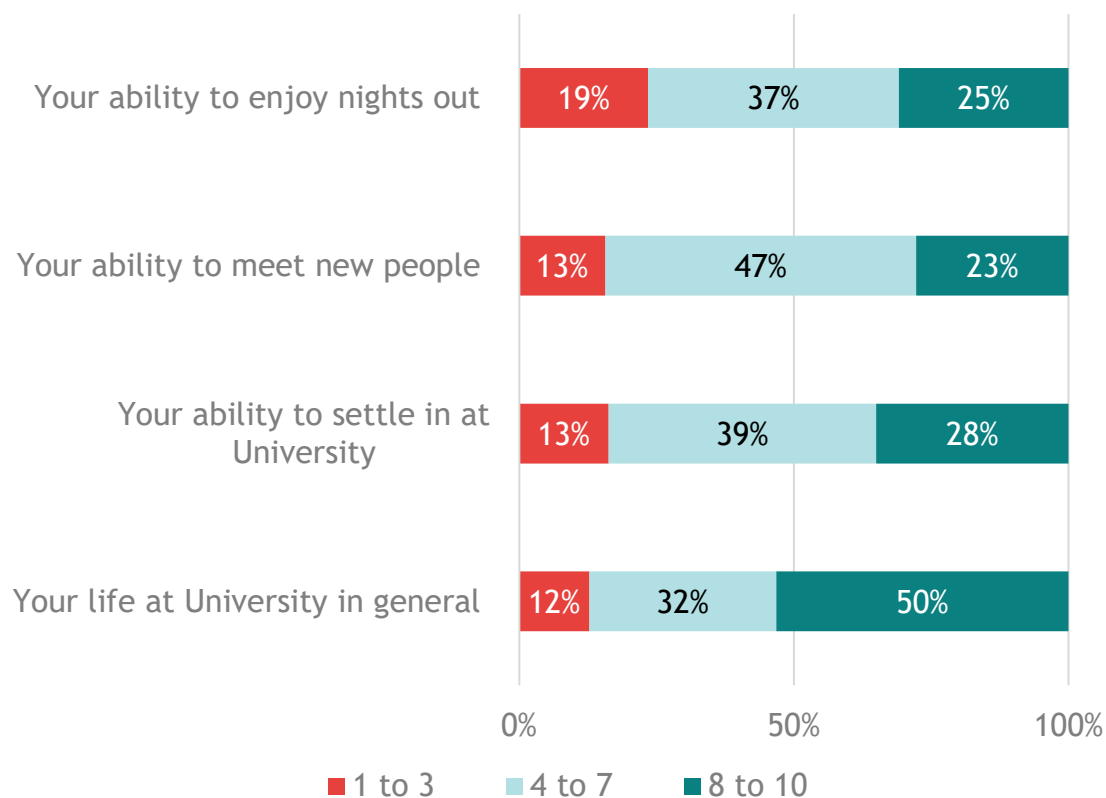


Q. How often, if at all, do you drink alcohol?
Weighted base: 1464 Balance: No response

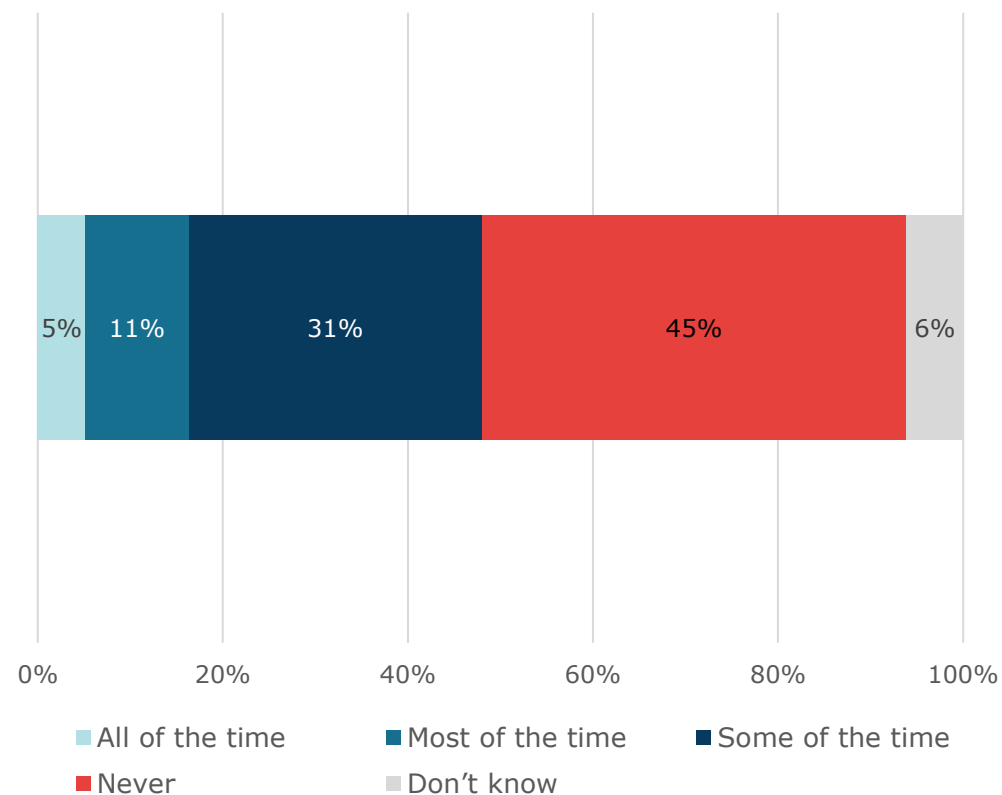


Q. What would you say is your main reason for not drinking, or stopping drinking, alcohol?
Weighted base: 343 Balance: No response

Half of non-drinkers reported that not drinking had a positive influence on their life at university in general. 45% say they never feel like their friends expect them to drink alcohol.



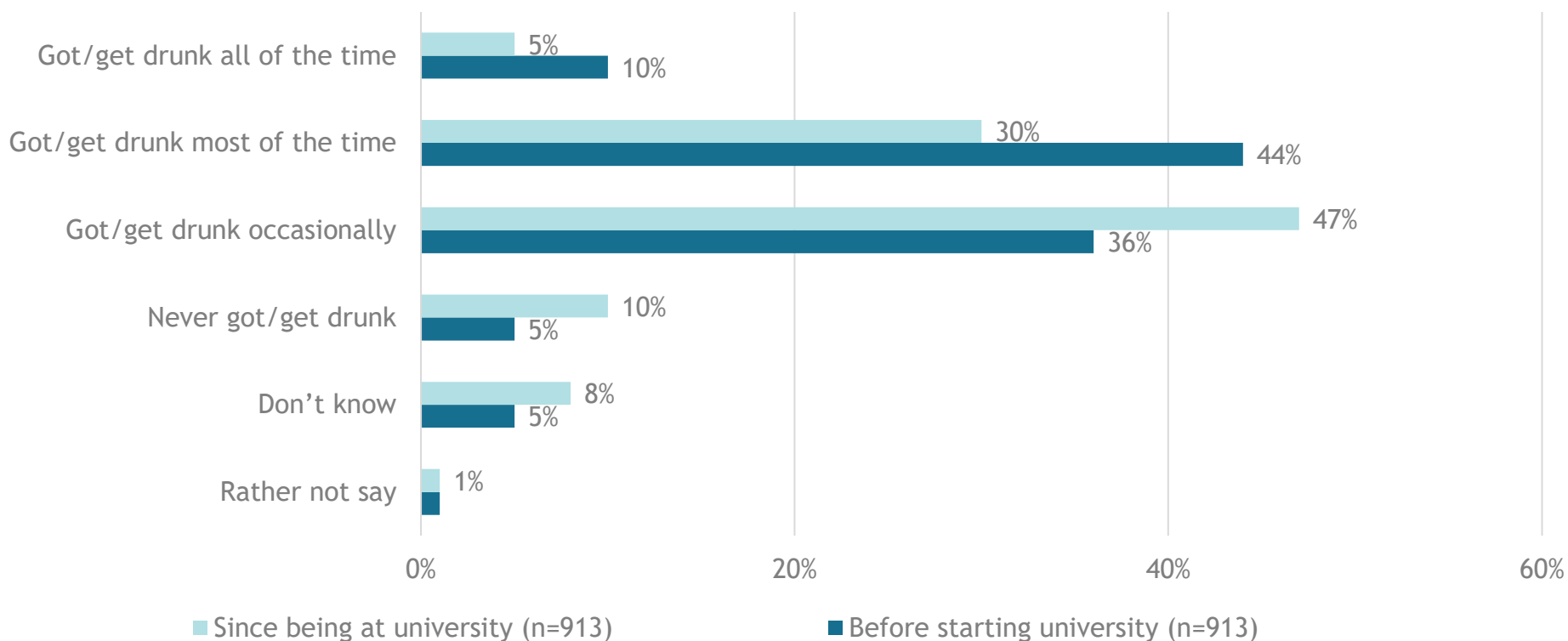
Q. On a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 = a very negative impact and 10 = a very positive impact, how do you think that not drinking alcohol has impacted on the following? Weighted base: 250 Balance: No response, don't know



Q. Thinking about your most recent university term, when you were socialising with other students, how often did you feel that your friends expected you to drink alcohol? Base: 343 Balance: No response

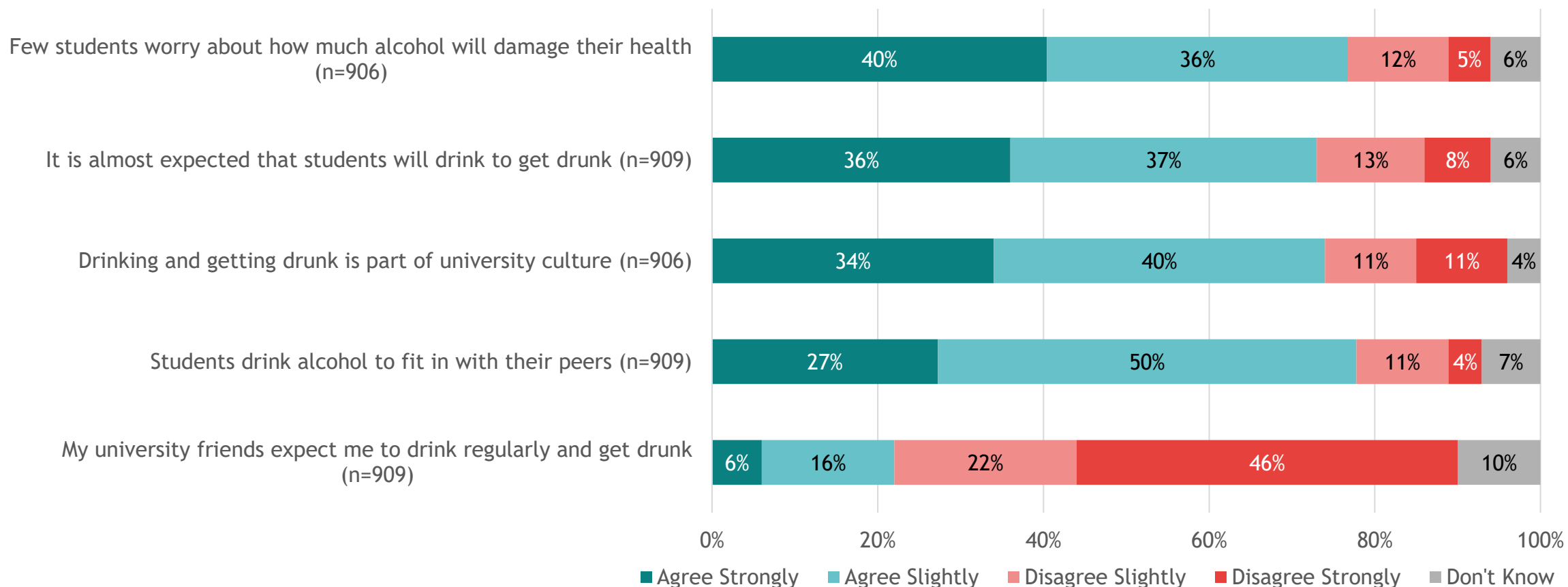
Perceptions of alcohol consumption on campus

Almost half of respondents (44%) report that prior to starting university they believed that students got drunk most of the time. There is a shift now they are at university, with 30% saying students get drunk most of the time and 10% saying students never get drunk.



Q. Please select the phrase which best describes your perception... Before arriving at University, did you believe that students.../ And now you're a student at university, which of the following best matches your experiences of students. Balance: No response and non-drinkers

76% of respondents agree that few students worry about damage to their health from alcohol. The majority of respondents agree to some extent that students drink to fit in with their peers (77%) and drinking and getting drunk is part of university culture (74%).



Q. Thinking specifically about drinking alcohol at university, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Base: c.908 Balance: No response and non-drinkers

Further analysis of the survey data has shown significant differences in perceptions between different groups of respondents. The key differences identified include:

Perceptions of peer expectations

- UK students are least likely to disagree strongly that their university friends expect them to drink regularly and get drunk than EU and non-EU international students (43%, compared to 57% of EU and 52% of non-EU respondents.)

Experiences of peer pressure

- UK respondents (31%) are less likely to agree they feel pressure from their friends to drink more alcohol than they would like to compared to Non-EU (45%).
- Students who identify as having a disability are less likely to agree that they feel pressure from their friends to drink more alcohol than they would like to compared to students who don't identify in this way (27% compared to 35%).

Perceptions of student drinking practices before starting university

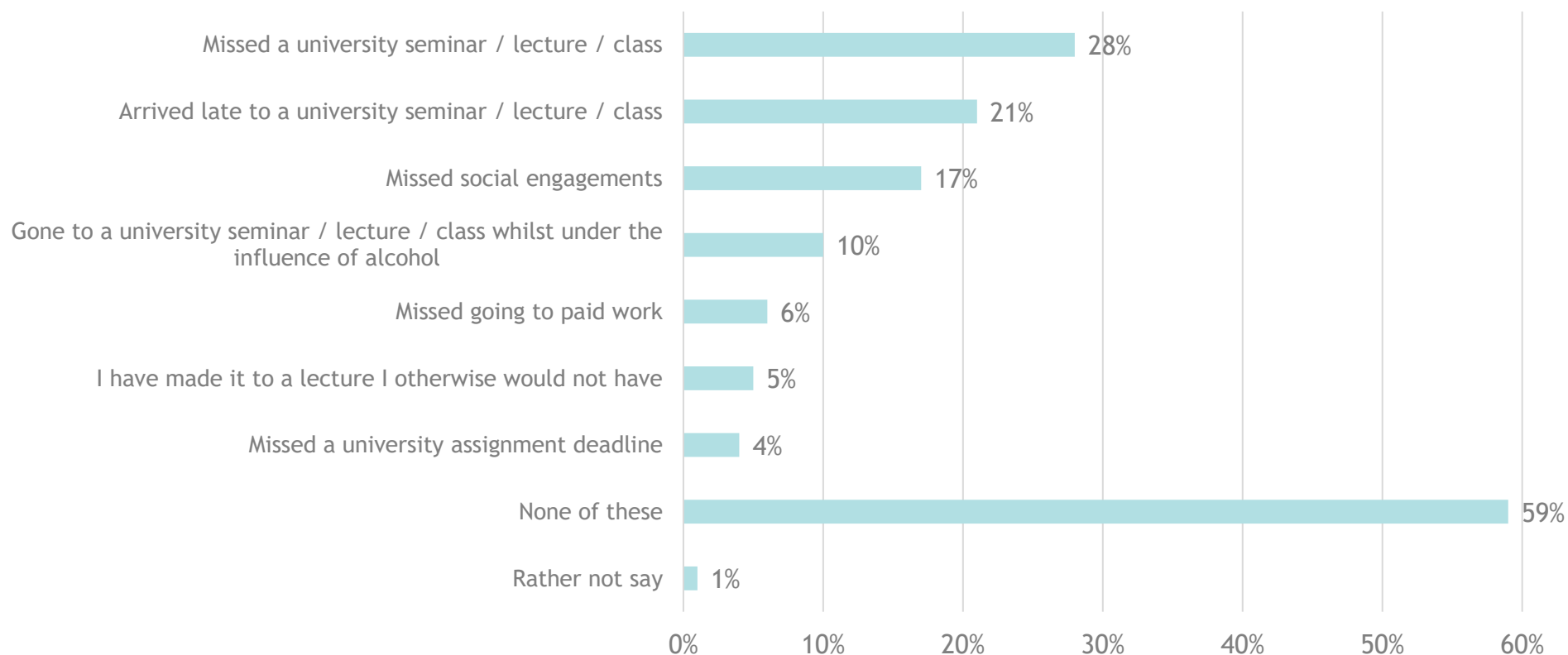
- Undergraduate respondents are more likely to believe that students got drunk 'all of the time' before starting university than postgraduates (13% compared to 6%).
- Women respondents are more likely to believe that students got drunk 'all of the time' before starting university than men respondents (12% compared with 7%).

Experiences of alcohol consumption culture on campus

- Undergraduates are more likely to agree that drinking and getting drunk is part of university culture than postgraduates (77% compared to 67%).
- Women respondents are more likely to agree that students drink alcohol to fit in with their peers than man respondents (80% compared to 72%).

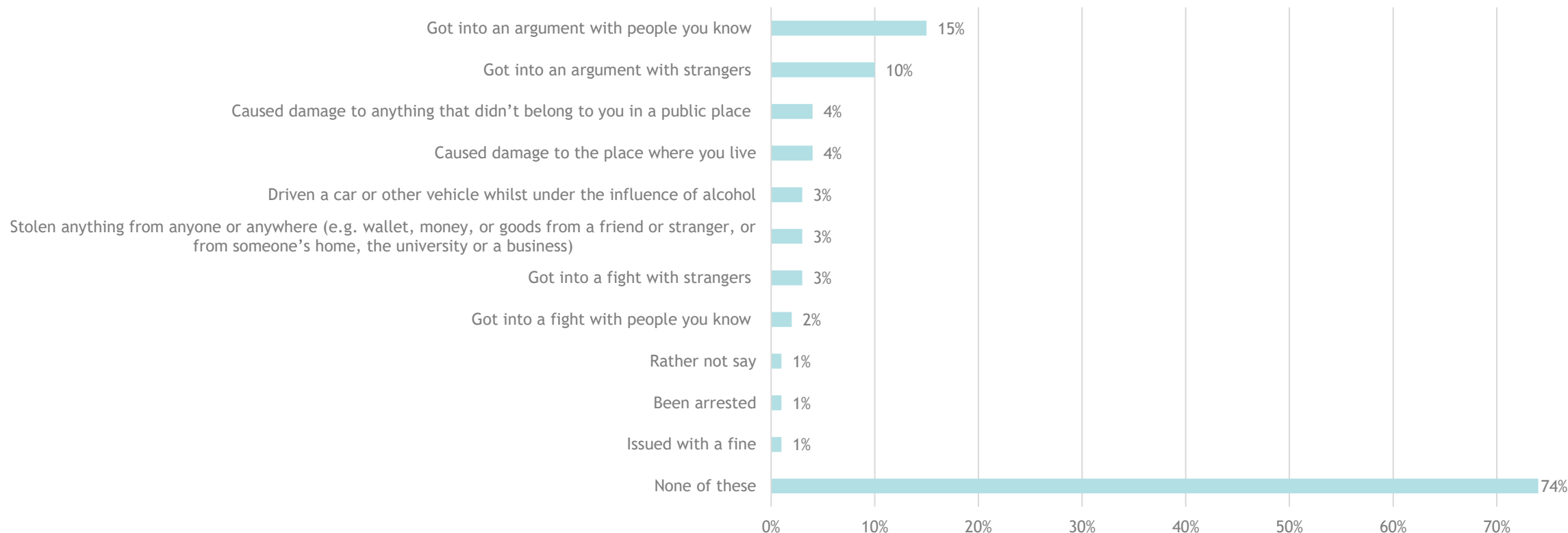
Impacts of alcohol consumption

28% of students reported that they have missed a university seminar/lecture/class and 17% reported missing social engagements as a result of alcohol consumption. However, 59% reported not experiencing any of these impacts related to academics following alcohol consumption.



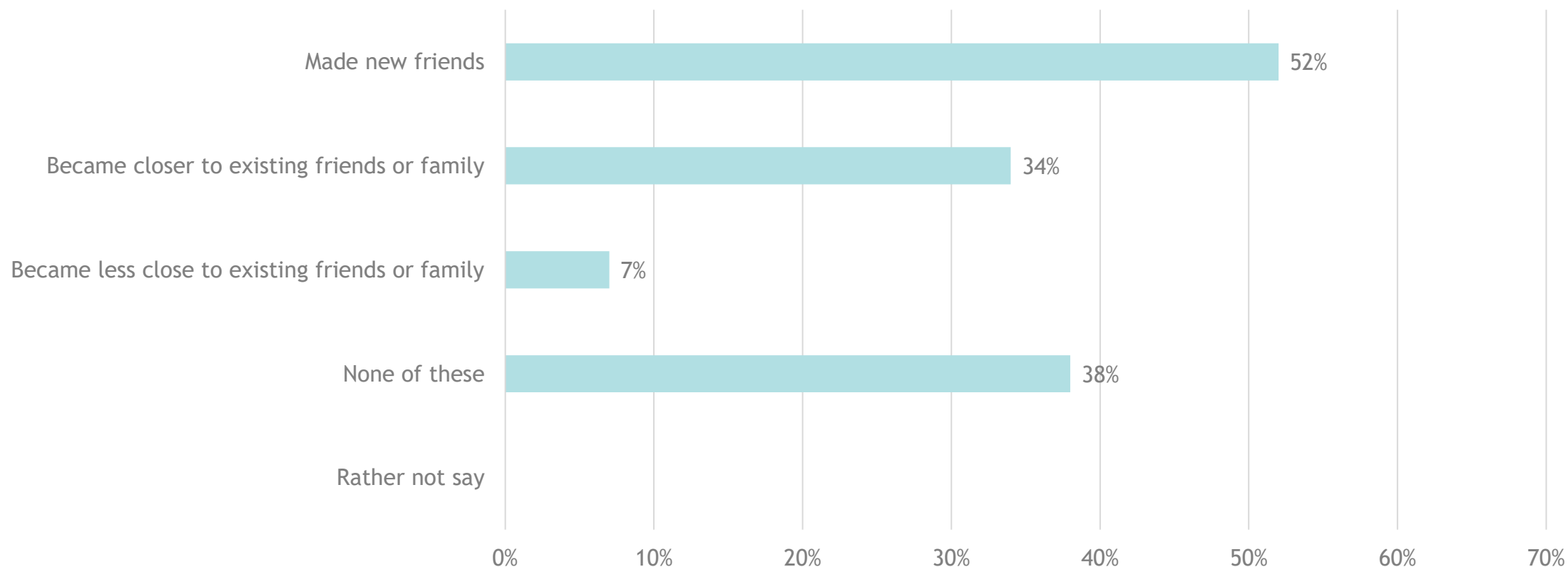
Q. Which of the following have you experienced since you have been at university, during or following the consumption of alcohol? Weighted base: 569. Balance: No response and non-drinkers

The most common experience related to crime and anti-social behaviour reported during or following drinking alcohol was getting into arguments, with 25% reporting this either with people they know or with strangers. However, 74% reported not having experienced any aspect.



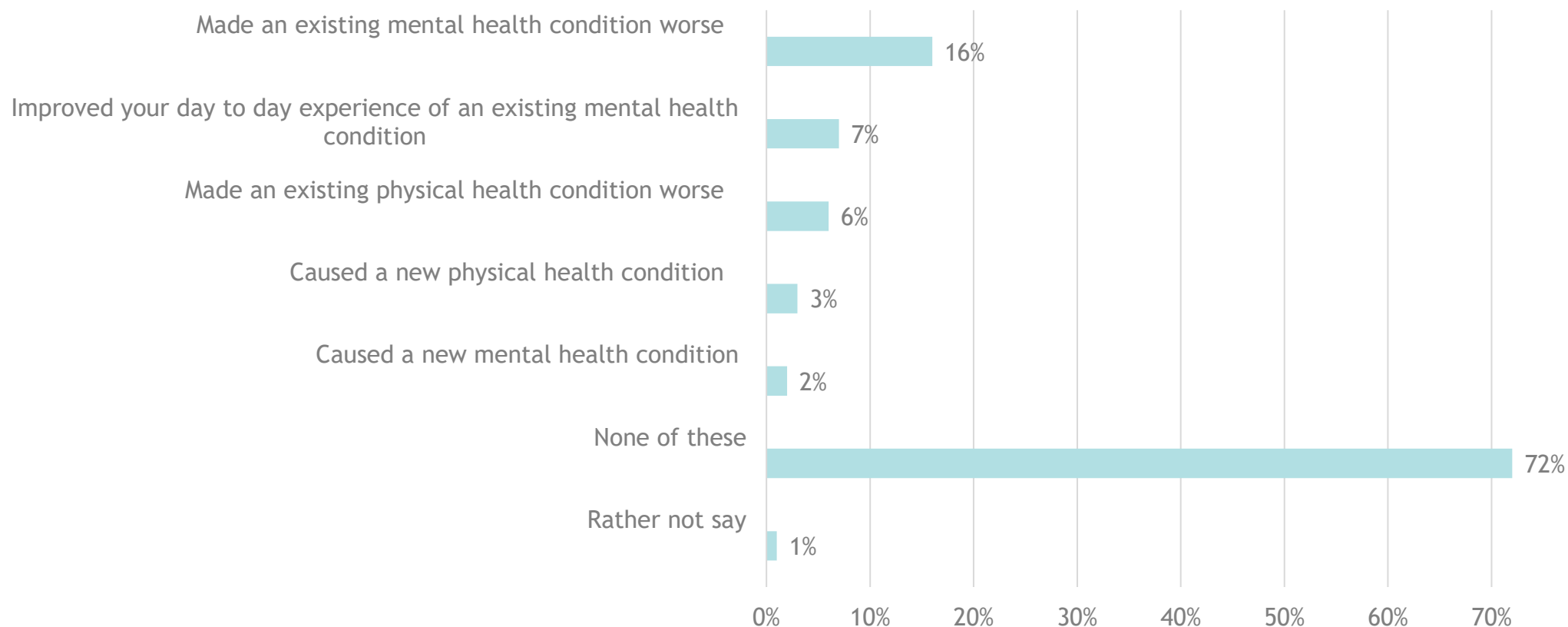
Q. Which of the following have you experienced since you have been at university, during or following the consumption of alcohol? Weighted base: 569. Balance: No response and non-drinkers

Over half of respondents reported making new friends during or following the consumption of alcohol (52%). 37% reported becoming closer to friends and family. However, 7% becoming less close to friends and family.



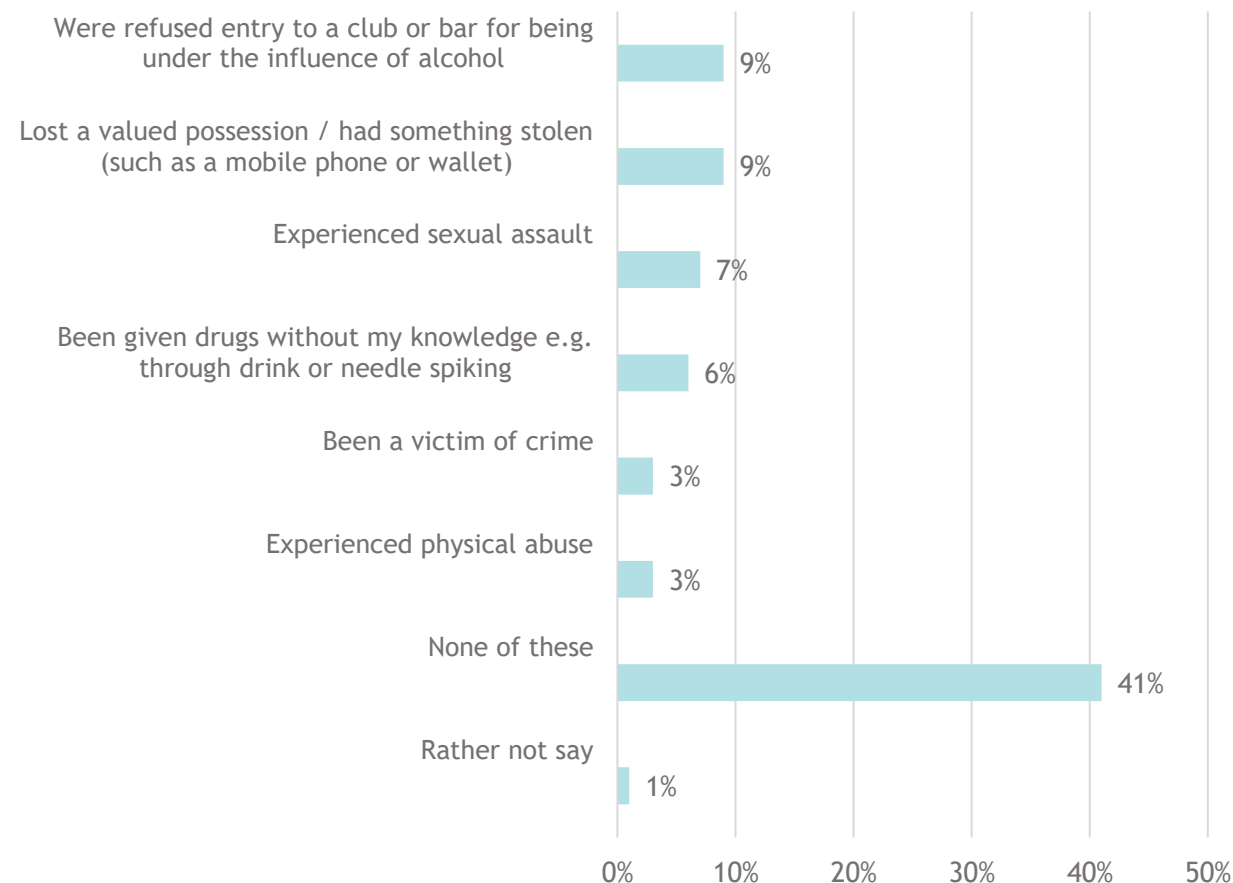
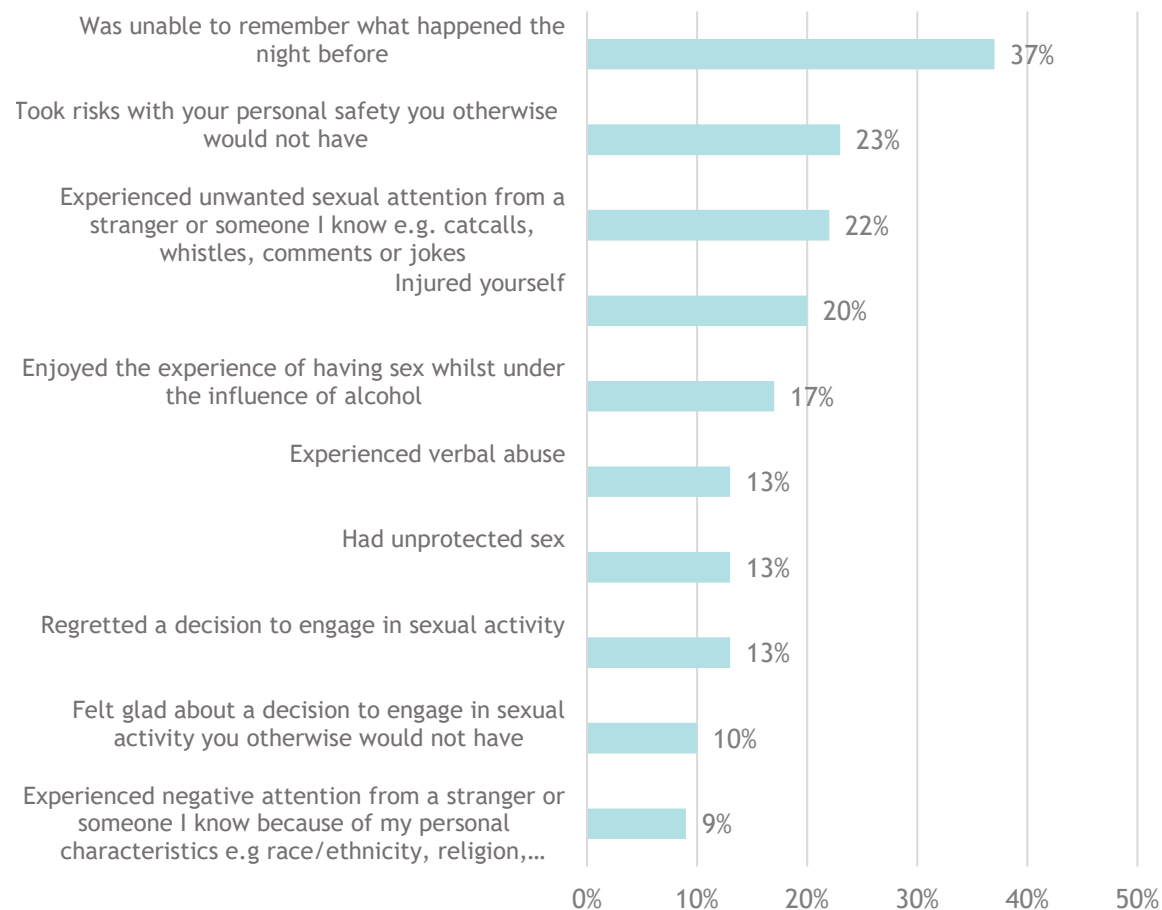
Q. Which of the following have you experienced since you have been at university, during or following the consumption of alcohol? Weighted base: 570. Balance: No response and non-drinkers

Almost one fifth of respondents (16%) identified that drinking alcohol (during or following) had made an existing mental condition worse however 7% found that it improved their day-to-day experience of an existing mental health condition.



Q. Which of the following have you experienced since you have been at university, during or following the consumption of alcohol? Weighted Base: 569. Balance: No response and non-drinkers

37% of students reported being unable to remember what happened the night before, 23% took risks with their personal safety they otherwise would not have and 22% experienced unwanted sexual attention from a stranger or someone they know.



Q Which of the following have you experienced since you have been at university, during or following the consumption of alcohol?
 Weighted Base: 569. Balance: No response and non-drinkers

Further analysis of the survey data has shown significant differences in experiences after drinking alcohol between different groups of respondents. The key differences identified include:

Health and wellbeing

- Women and non-binary respondents are more likely to report an existing mental health condition becoming worse compared to men respondents (18% and 25% respectively compared to 12%).
- Respondents who identify as disabled are more likely to report an improvement in their day-to-day experience of an existing mental health condition than respondents who don't identify this way (12% compared to 4%).
- Respondents who are undergraduates are more likely to report not being able to remember what happened the night before compared with respondents who are postgraduates (40% compared to 29%).
- Women respondents are more likely to have experienced sexual assault (10%) than men respondents (2%).

Paid work and study

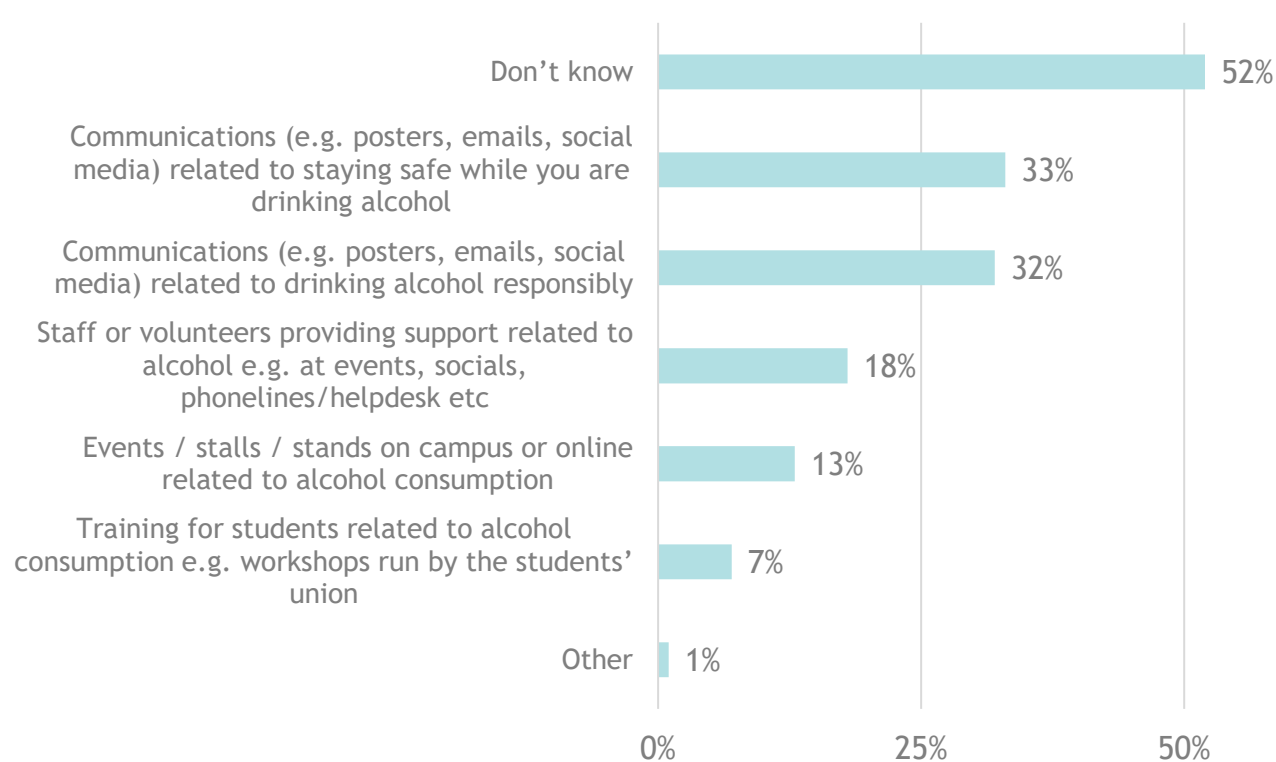
- UK respondents are more likely to report missing a university seminar/lecture/class as a result of alcohol consumption than non-EU international respondents (30% compared to 17%).
- Women respondents are less likely to report arriving late to a university seminar/class/lecture as a result of alcohol consumption than men respondents (16% compared to 28%).
- Undergraduates are more likely to report missing a university seminar/lecture/class after alcohol consumption than postgraduates (30% compared to 19%).

Relationships

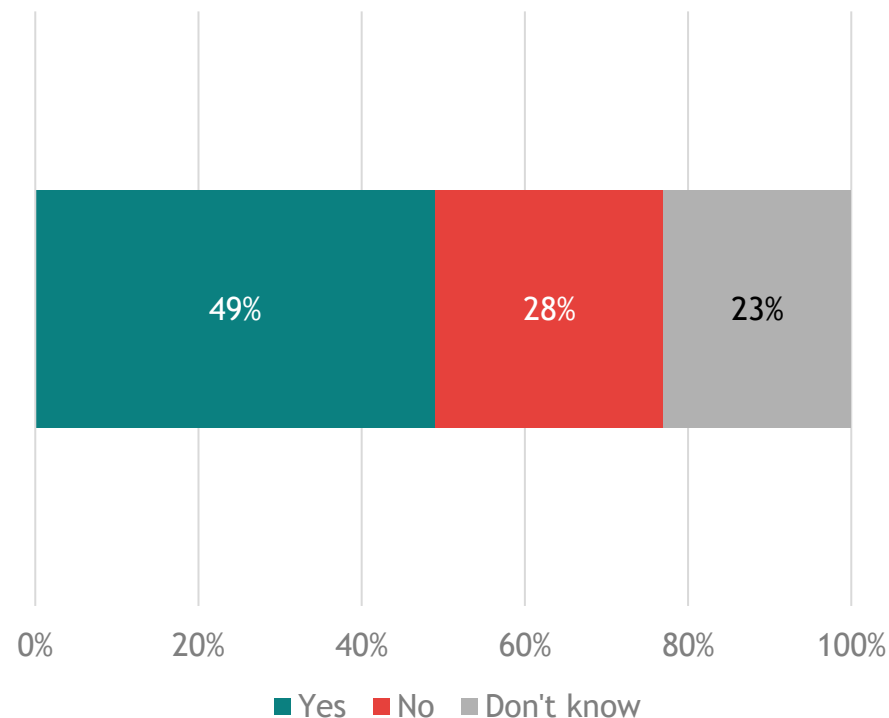
- UK respondents are more likely to report getting into an argument with people they know after alcohol consumption than non-EU international students (17% compared to 4%).
- Men respondents are more likely to report getting into an argument with strangers after alcohol consumption than women respondents (15% compared to 7%); women respondents are more likely to report getting into an argument with people they know after alcohol consumption than men respondents (17% compared to 12%).

Reducing impacts through responsible consumption

A third of students are aware of communication related to staying safe while you drink at their university. Almost half of the respondents (49%) say there are enough social events at their university that don't involve drinking. However, over half of students (52%) say they don't know of any responsible drinking campaigns, projects or activities at their university.



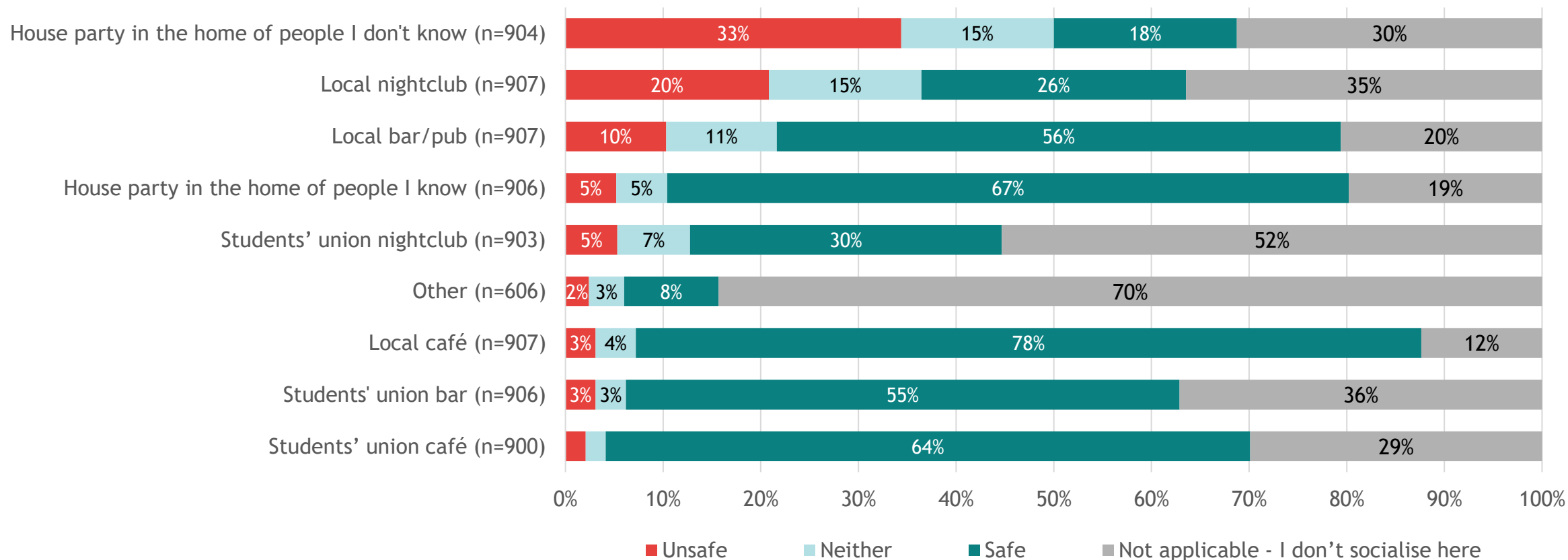
Q. Are you aware of any safe or responsible drinking campaigns, projects or activities at your university?
Weighted base: 897 Balance: No response, Other



Q. Do you feel that there are enough social events for you at university that do not involve having to drink or get drunk?
Weighted base: 915 Balance: No response

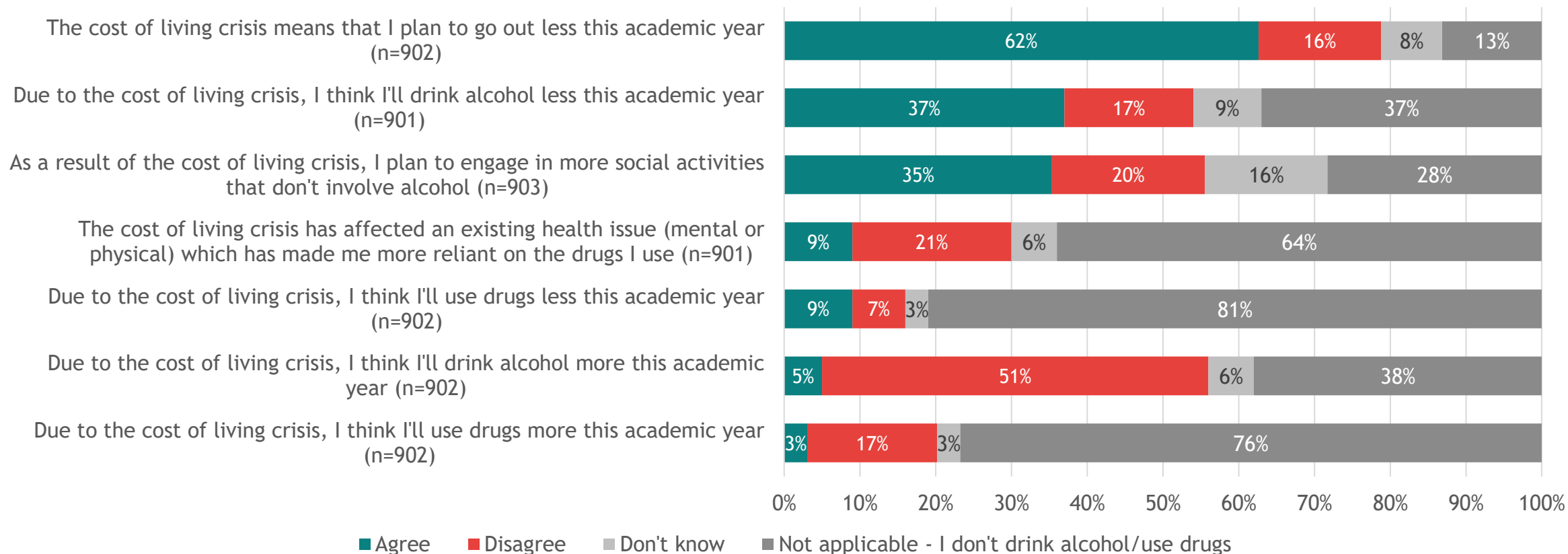
Safety and cost of living

When socialising, respondents most commonly report feeling safe at local cafés (78%), at a house party of people they know (67%) and at their students' union café (64%). A third of students feel unsafe at house parties in the home of people they don't know.



Thinking about the different places where you might socialise with friends/peers whilst you are at university, how safe you do feel? Weighted base: see graph. Balance: no response, don't know

Nearly two thirds (62%) of students agree that they plan to go out less this academic year and 37% of students agree that they think they will drink less alcohol due to the cost of living crisis. 35% report planning to engage in more social activities this year that don't involve alcohol due to the cost of living crisis.

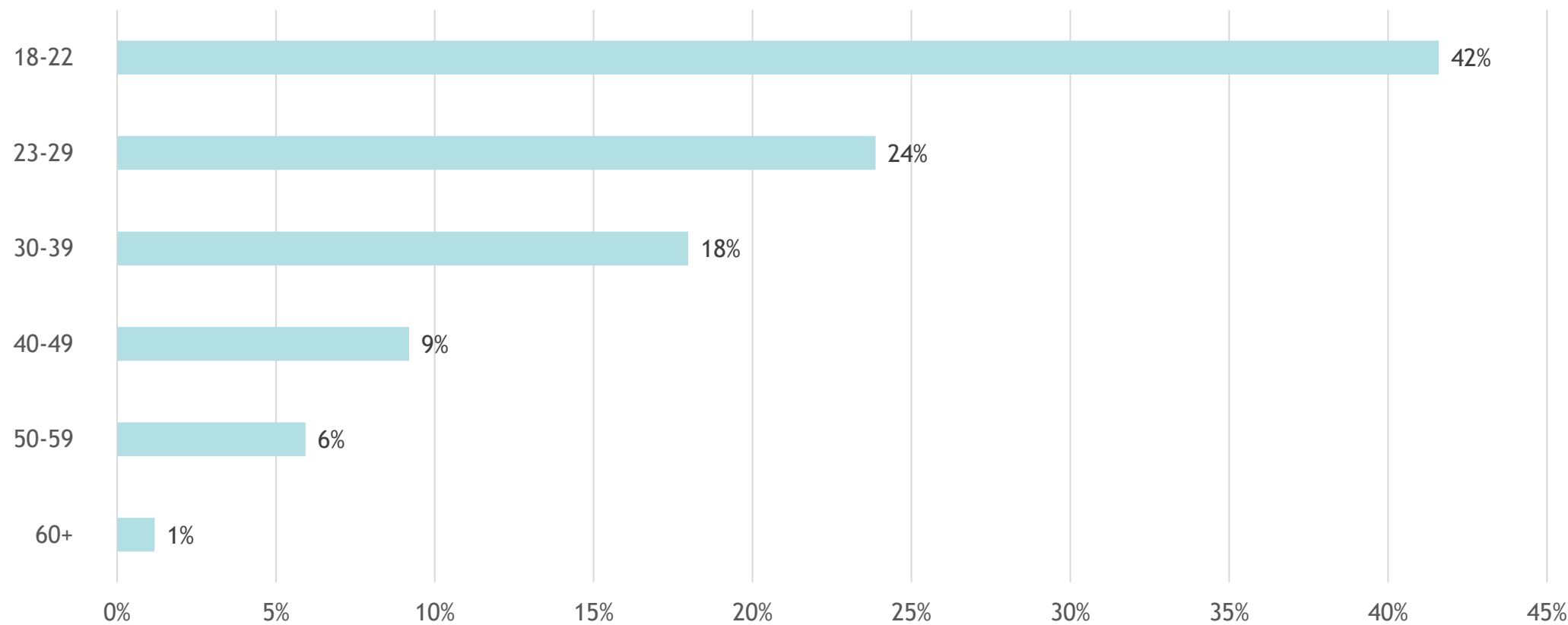


Q. We're interested in hearing how your experiences related to the cost of living crisis may have influenced your attitudes and behaviours related to alcohol and drugs. To what extent do you agree or disagree, if at all, with the following statements? {Base: see graph Balance: No response, don't know, never used drugs}

Respondent demographics

The majority of respondents were aged under 30 years old

AGE

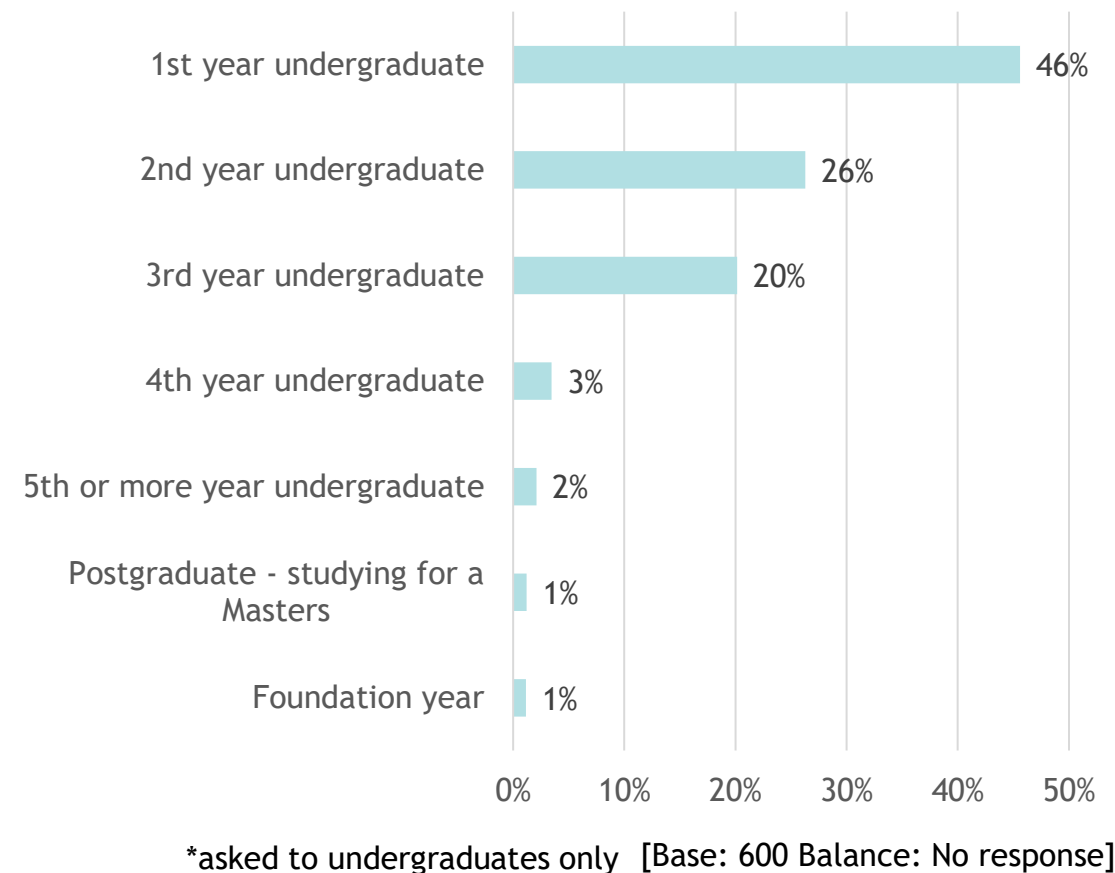
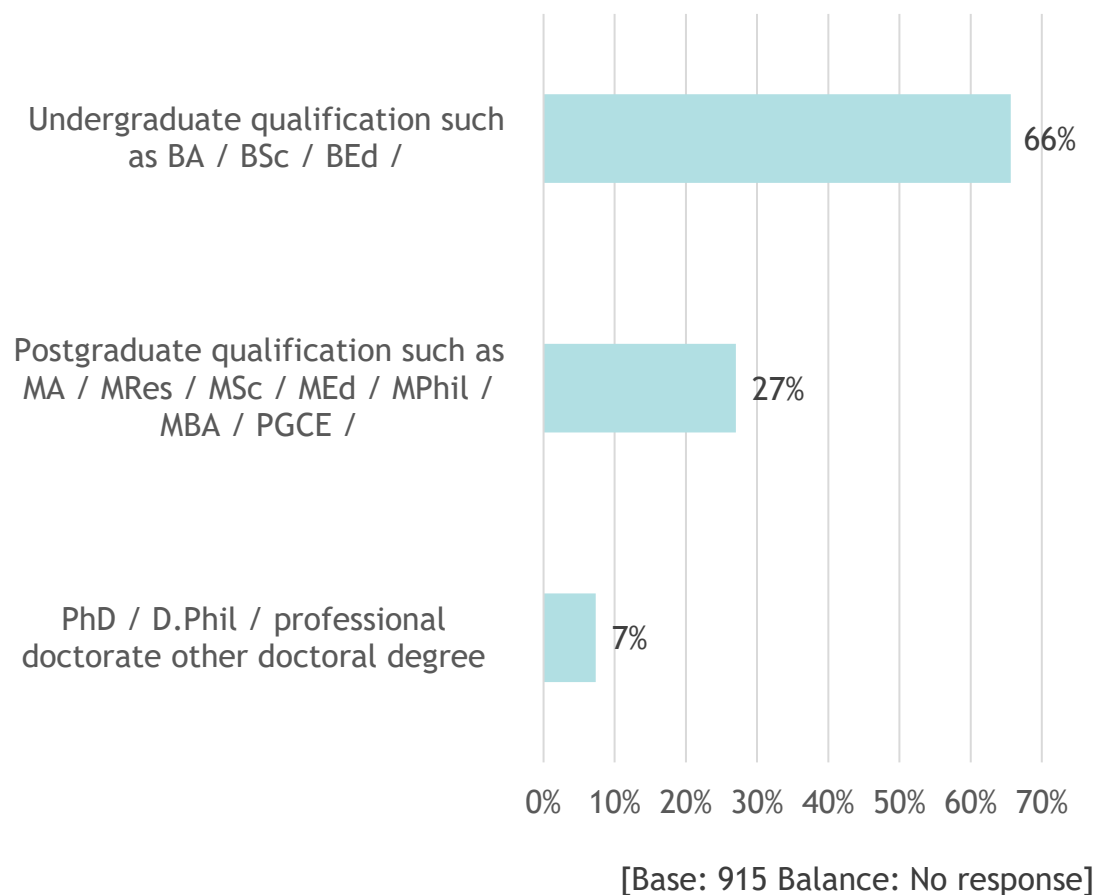


[Base: 915 Balance: No response]



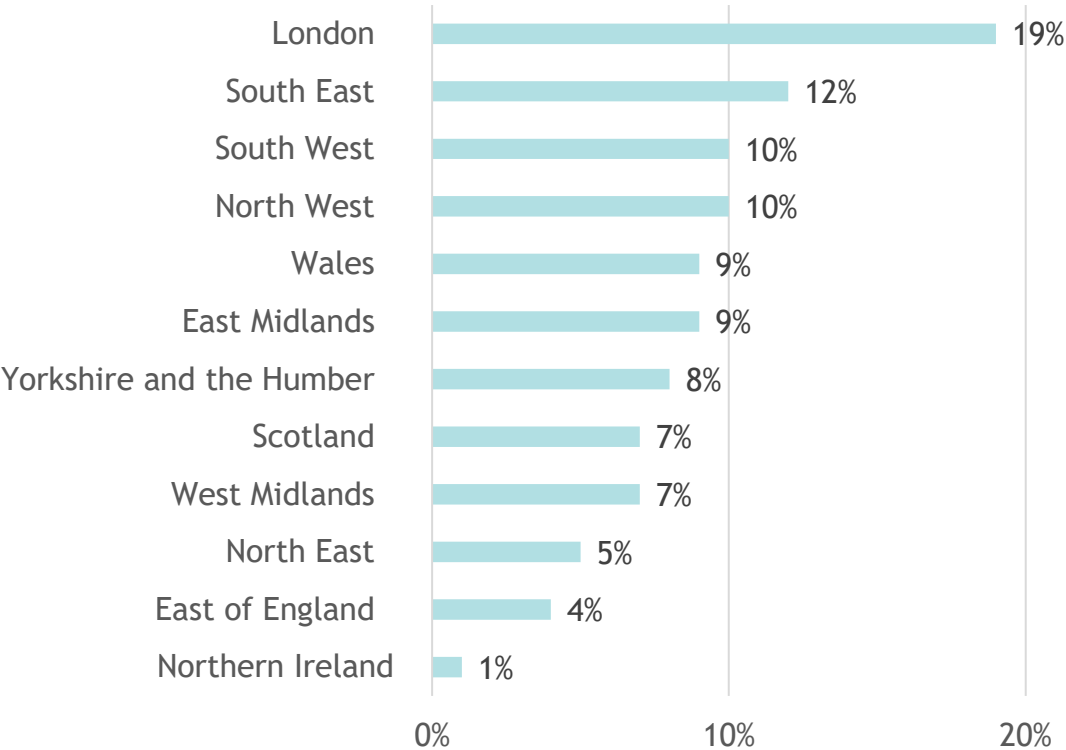
The majority of respondents were 1st or 2nd year undergraduates

STUDY LEVEL (HE ONLY)



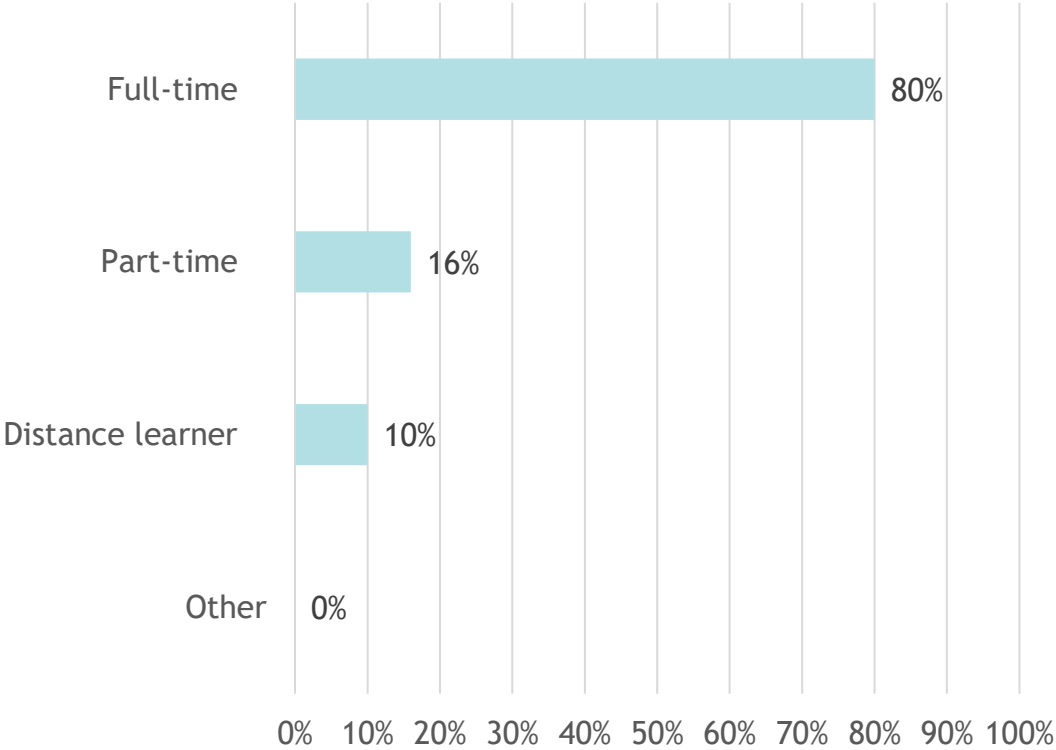
Respondents were mostly full-time students, with 41% based in the south and west of England

STUDY LOCATION



[Base: 912 Balance: No response]

STUDY TYPE

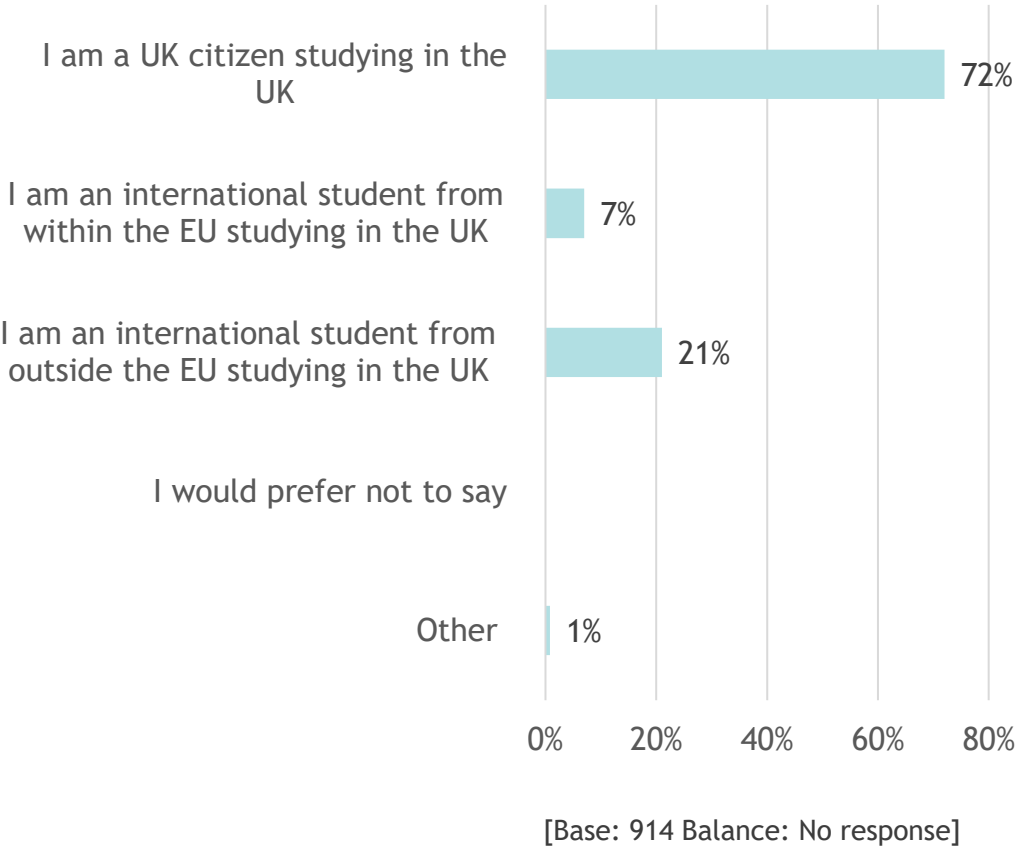


[Base: 915 Balance: No response]

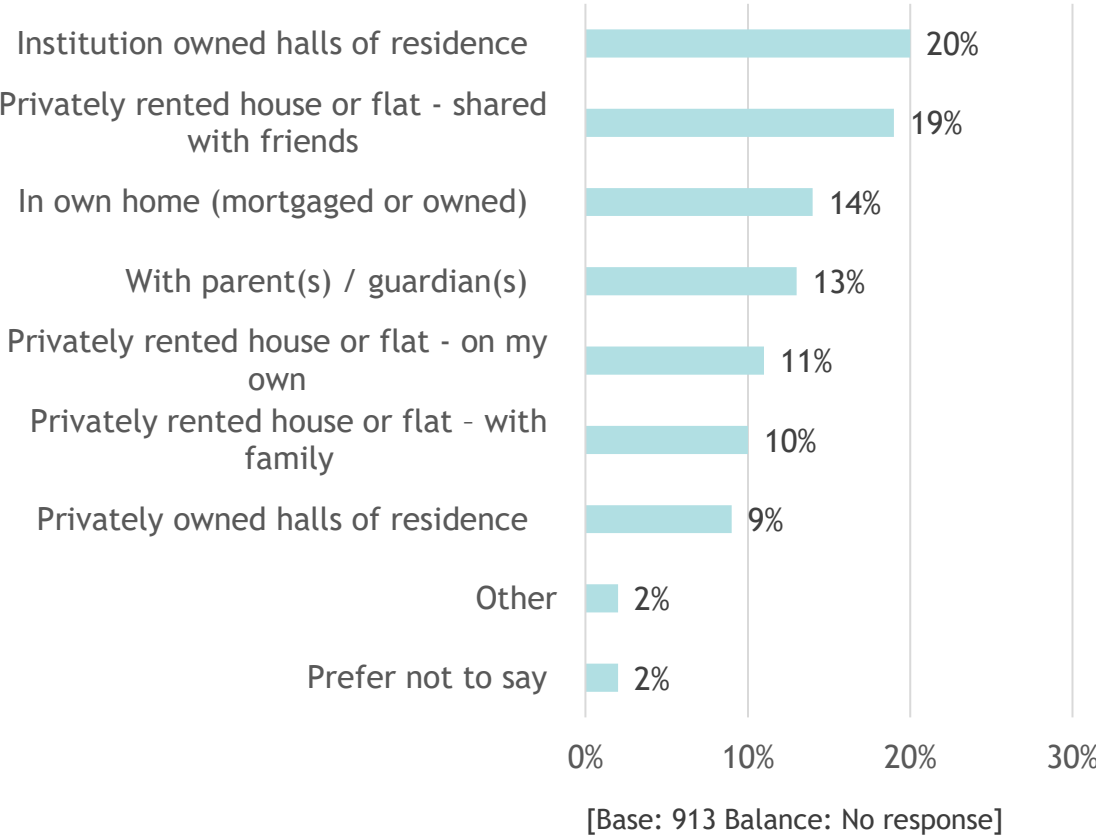


Nearly three quarters of respondents were UK citizens based in the UK, and one fifth live in institution owned halls

NATIONALITY

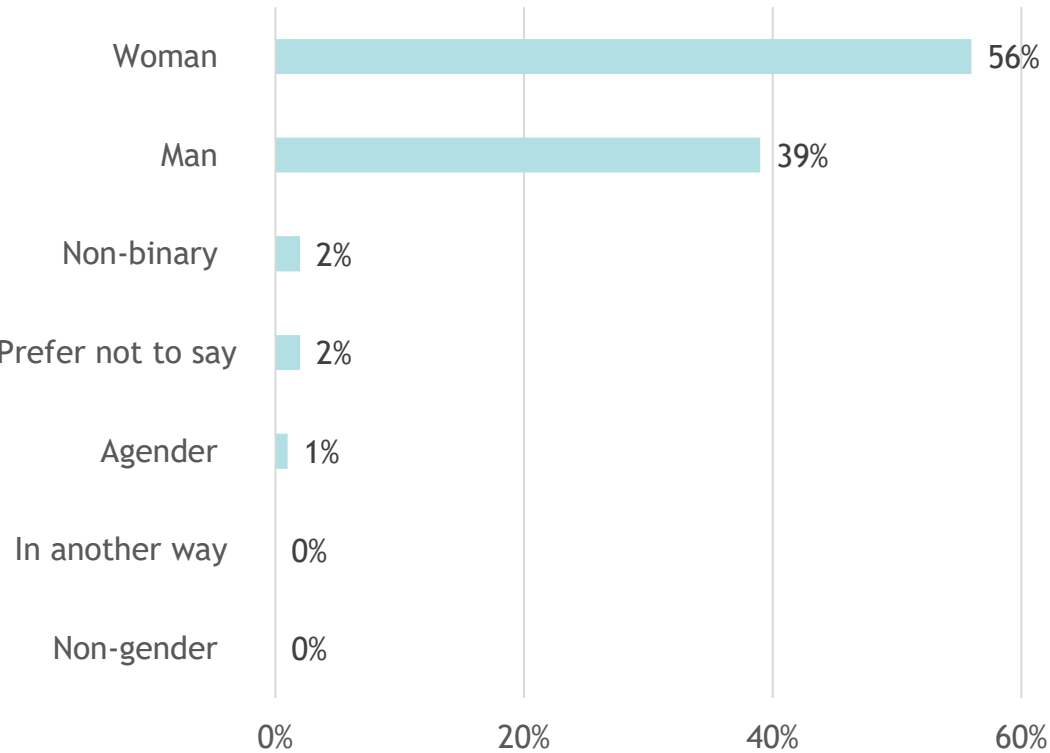


ACCOMMODATION TYPE



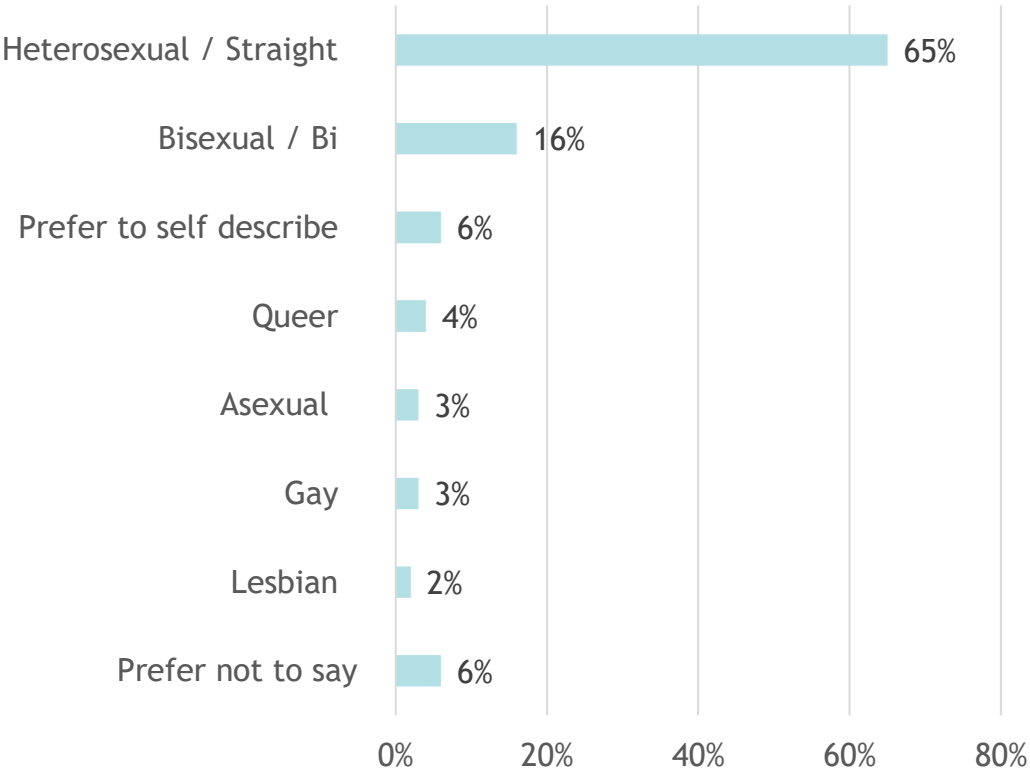
56% identify as women and almost two thirds of participants identified as heterosexual.

GENDER IDENTITY



[Base: 915 Balance: No response]

SEXUALITY

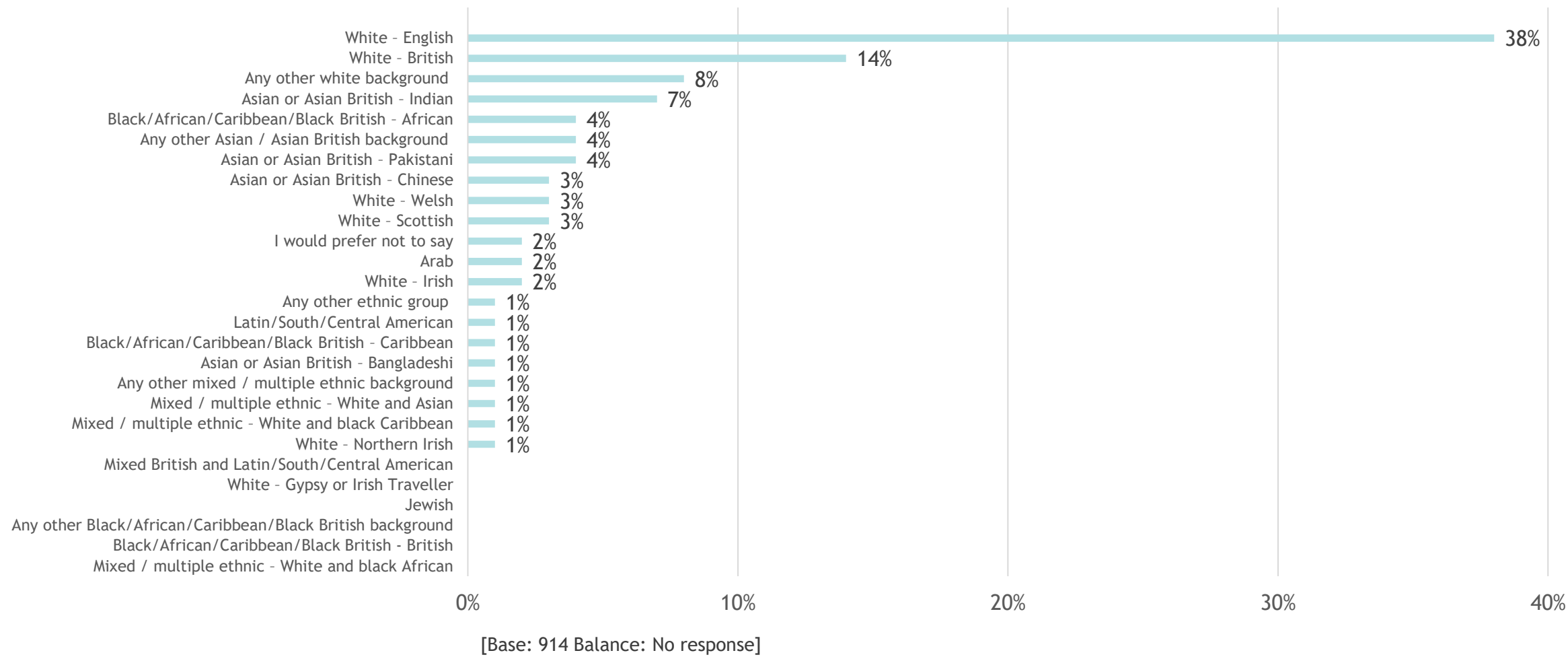


[Base: 909 Balance: No response]



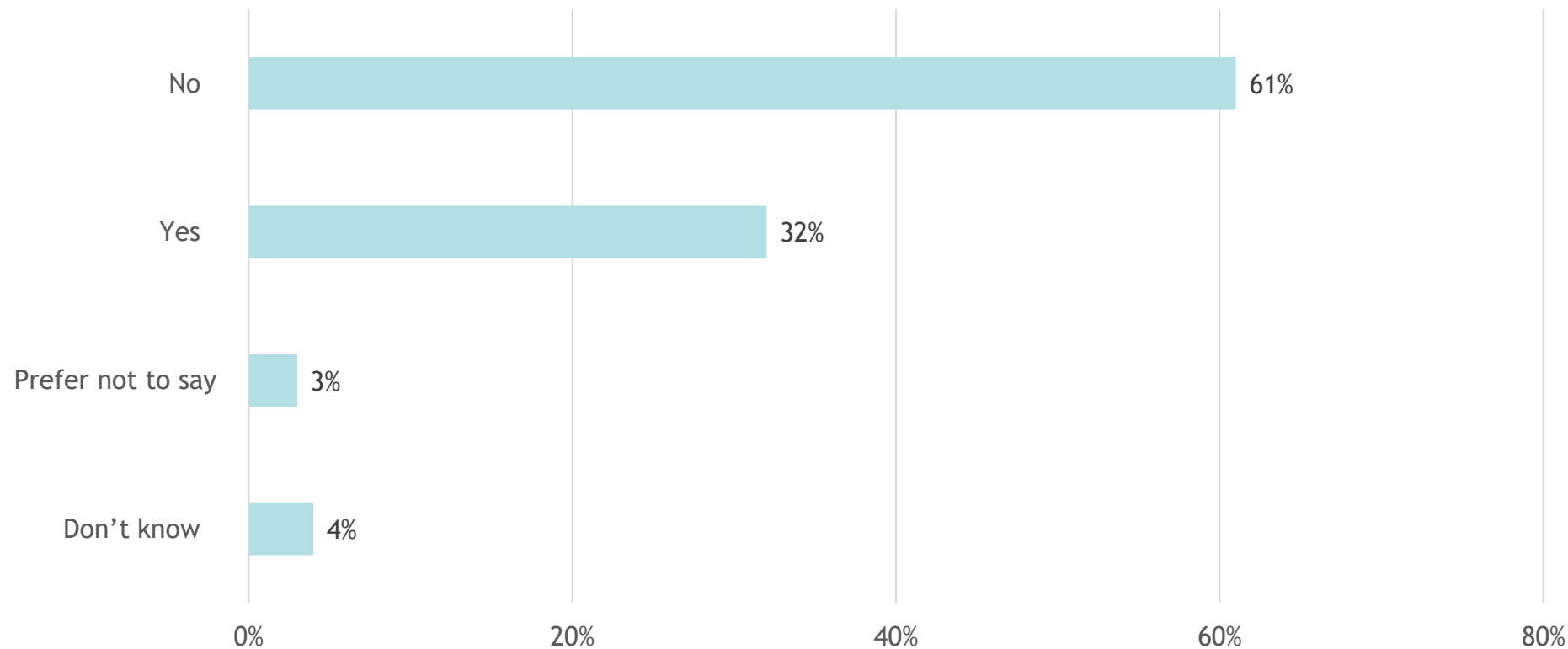
68% of participants identify as white ethnicities

RACE / ETHNICITY



A third of respondents identify as disabled. Half of these respondents experience mental health difficulties.

DISABILITY



[Base: 913 Balance: No response]



For more information about our drugs and alcohol research and programmes, please visit our [website](https://www.sos-uk.org) or get in touch at: hello@sos-uk.org