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Thinking outside the cell: Reducing the use of imprisonment



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From Analysis to Action:

***A Snapshot of the Namibian Inmate
Population***

- Work in progress -



From analysis to Action:

A snapshot on the Namibian Offender Population

What is it (core)?

- *Project conceived in 2010/2011*
- *Outcomes of an extended inmate self-report survey;*
- *Inmate informed need/risk profile of the entire NCS offender population.*

Why did we do it?

- *Data availability and accessibility uncertain; and*
- *Accuracy doubtful.*
- *Official NCS data suggested*
 - *87% of inmates sentenced to ≤ 2 years*
 - *13% of inmates sentenced to > 2 years**(compare following slide)*



NCS Stats 2010/2011

Inmate population

1 991 (49%)	1 550 (38%)	518 (13%)
0 – 6 months	> 6 – 24 months	> 2 years

4 059 Sentenced inmates

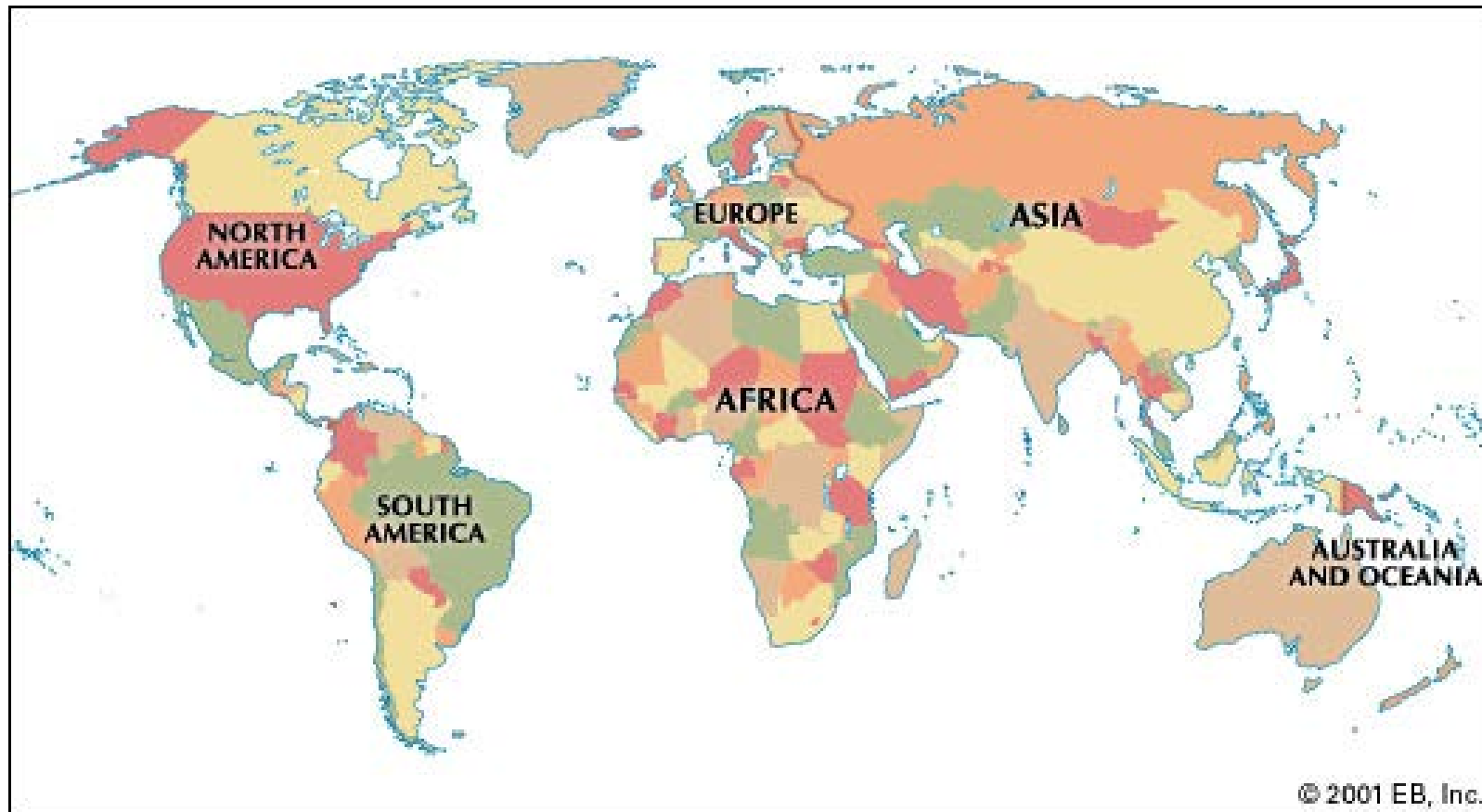


What was our survey objective?

The survey aimed at producing :

- aggregate and
- disaggregate statistics which could
- satisfy NCS' need for data
- informing strategies for the
 - introduction and
 - implementation of rehabilitation and prevention programmes.

WORLD MAP





A F R I C A



NCS INSTITUTIONS





PURPOSE (I)

- Research -

- To provide a background of the Namibian correctional services (NCS) and its inmate population
- to assess the Namibian inmate population to determine the **VOLUME/CATEGORIES (aggregate number)** of those who needs to be incarcerated, who could be incarcerated for a shorter time and who could be treated with non-institutional options, and in line with this
- to determine/assess the needs of the Namibian inmate population.



PURPOSE (II)

- Educational Didactics -

- Integration of research/applied research into the curriculum forms part of the Polytechnic of Namibia **Bachelor of Criminal Justice** curriculum/programme objectives, and accordingly
- Senior students shall be introduced to the practice and methods of scientific enquiry, including data collection for empirical studies.
- 10 third year students participated through planning and execution in the countrywide data collection.



RESEARCH DESIGN

Fieldwork:	Done in all correctional facilities (13 prisons)
Period:	27 May to 26 June 2013
Study design:	Cross-sectional in nature
Population:	4 010 inmates
Respondents:	3 303 inmates
Return rate:	82,4 per cent
Survey (self portray):	Administered face-to-face (In groups of 20 inmates)

Management of the prison population growth and reducing the inmate population



INMATE POPULATION

(reference period: 27 May - 26 June 2013)

INSTITUTION	Date	SENTENCED		AWAITING-TRIAL		Total
		Female	Male	Female	Male	
Divindu	27 May '13	0	334	0	0	334
Elizabeth Nepemba	29 May '13	0	281	0	0	281
Farm Scott	01 June '13	0	54	0	0	54
Gobabis	21 June '13	12	210	0	5	227
Grootfontein	30 May '13	7	128	0	0	135
Hardap	26 June '13	0	519	0	0	519
Keetmanshoop	25 June '13	0	79	0	0	79
Luderitz	24 June '13	3	82	0	0	85
Oluno	03 June '13	28	568	0	17	613
Omaruru	20 June '13	3	128	0	0	131
Swakopmund	07 June '13	0	76	0	1	77
Walvisbaai	06 June '13	29	464	2	14	509
Windhoek	17 June '13	1	797	0	168	966
Total		83	3720	2	205	4010



ADULT / JUVENILE INMATE POPULATION

	ADULT		JUVENILES *		
CATEGORY	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Sentenced	3677	83	43	0	3803
Unsentenced	205	2	0	0	207
Total	3882	85	43	0	4010

** A juvenile refers to a person of 18 years of age or younger (Prisons Act, Act 17 of 1998).*



LENGTH OF SENTENCE

360 (11%)	1151 (37%)	1626 (52%)
0 – 6 months	> 6 – 36 months	> 3 years
Community Services Parole / Probation etc.		Imprisonment

3 137 Sentenced inmates



SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Custodial classification	# of Inmates	Percentage
Minimum	1 036	33.8
Low-medium	1 190	38.8
Medium	642	20.9
Maximum	198	6.5
Total	3066	100

OIC, Oct 2013



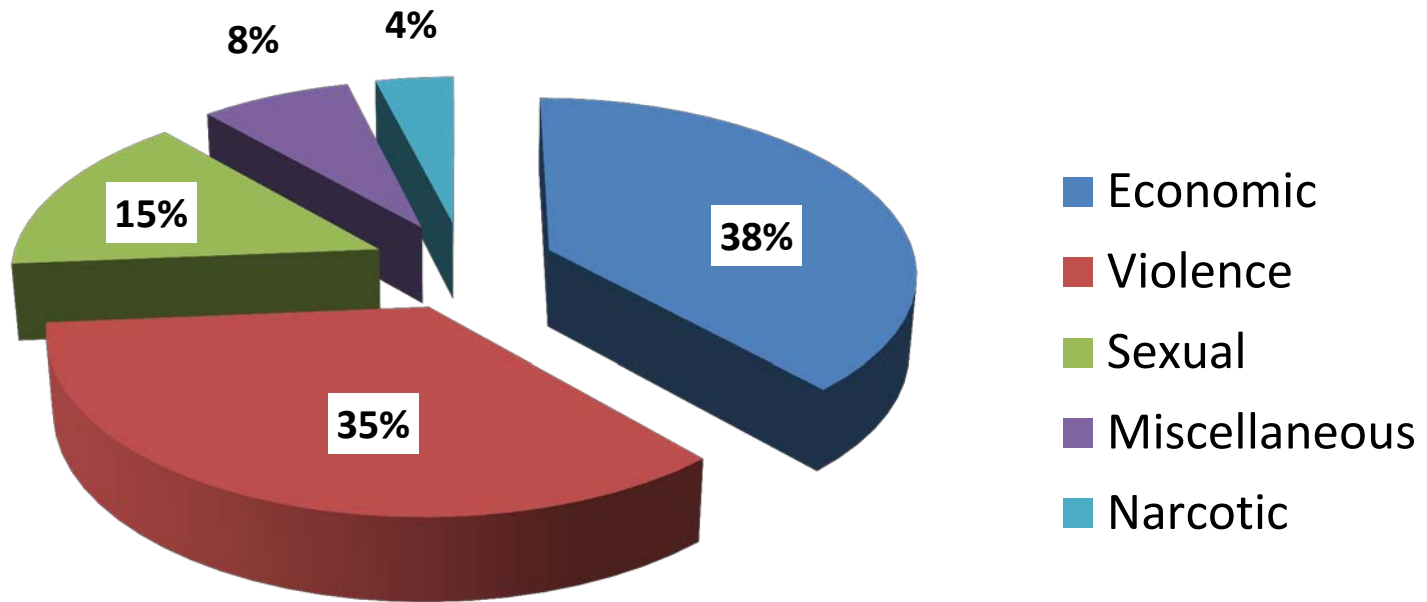
AGE OF INMATE POPULATION

Age range	# of Inmates	Percentage
15-18	82	2.4
19-21	348	10.0
22-29	1244	35.7
30-39	1215	34.9
40-49	451	12.9
50-59	113	3.2
60<	30	0.9
Total	3483	100.0

OIC, Oct 2013



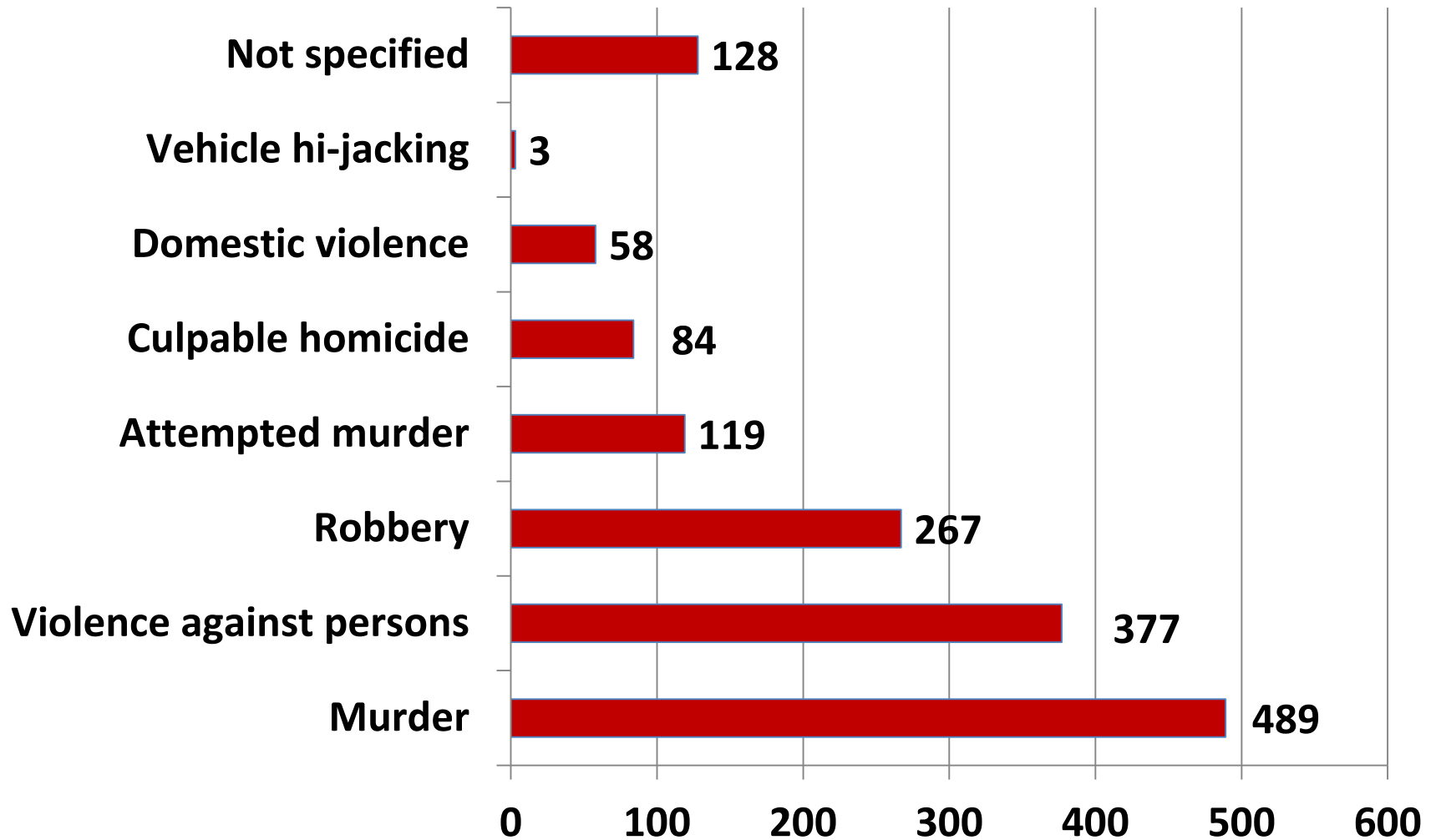
CRIME CATEGORIES



OIC, Oct 2013

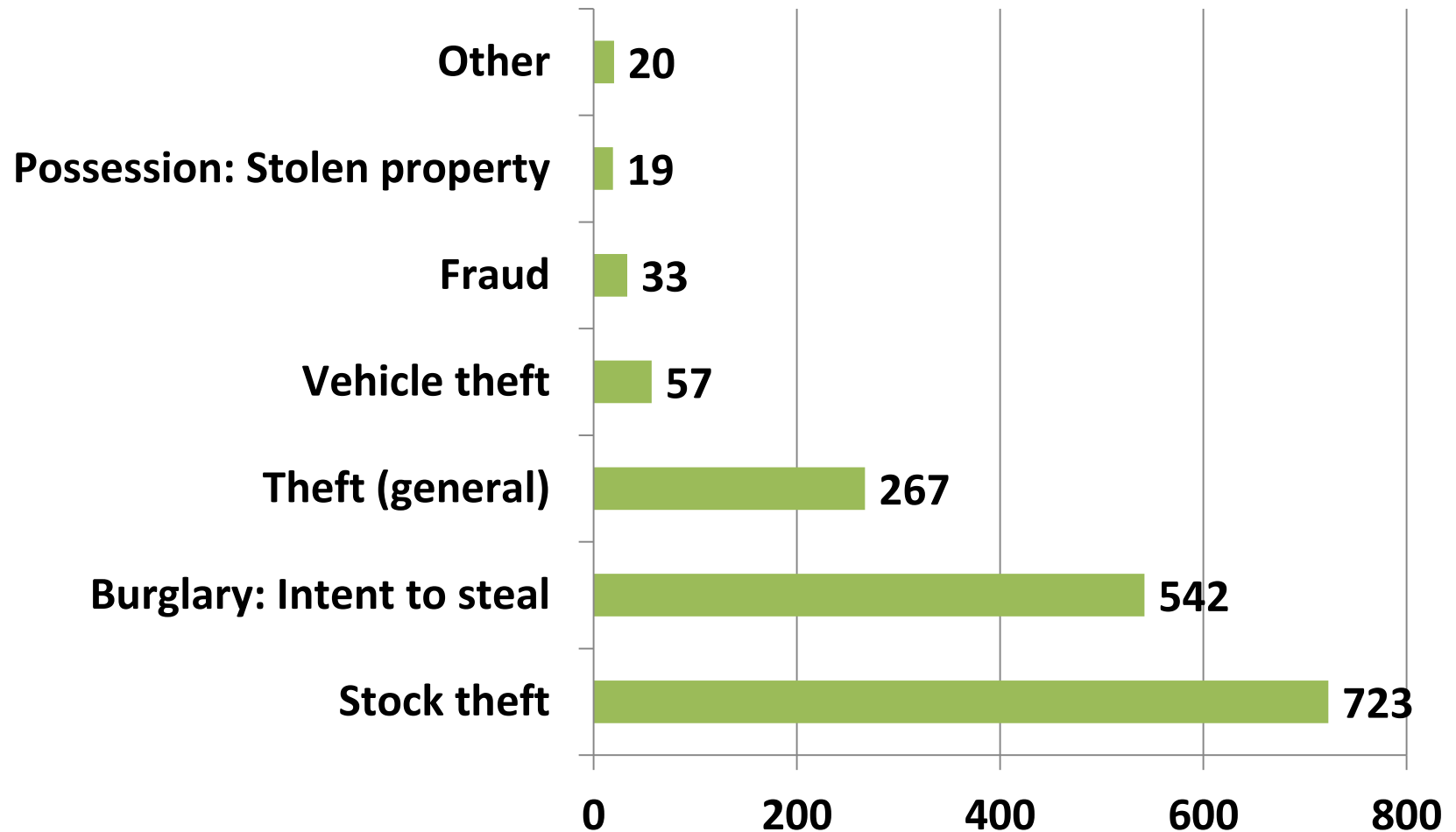


VIOLENT CRIMES



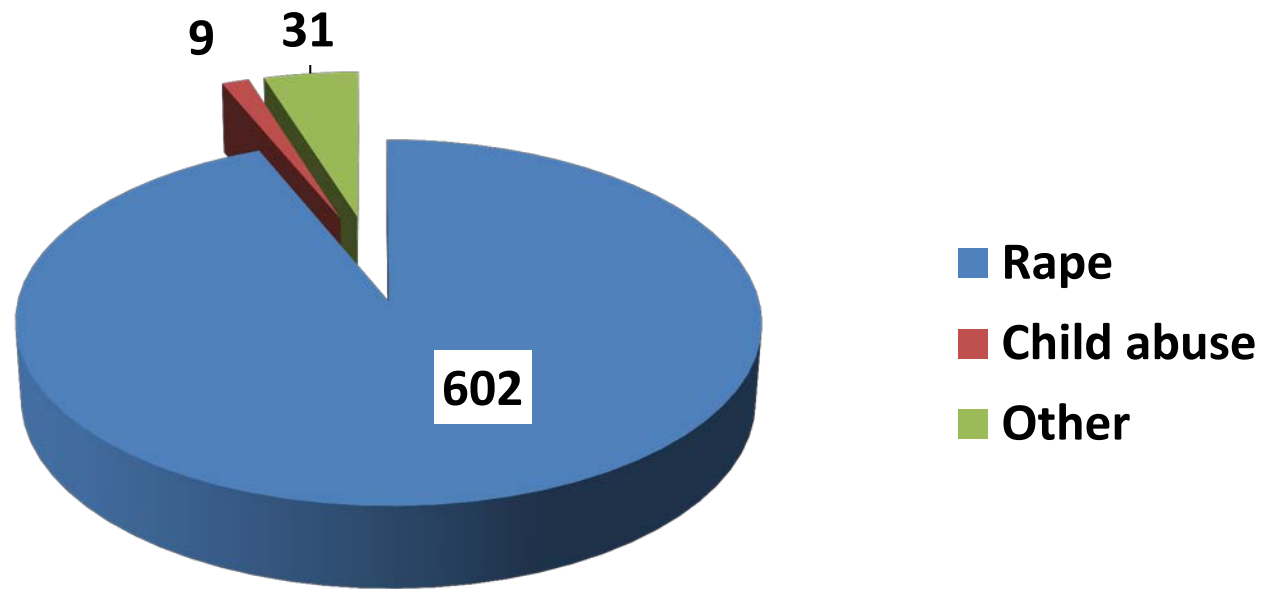


ECONOMIC CRIMES



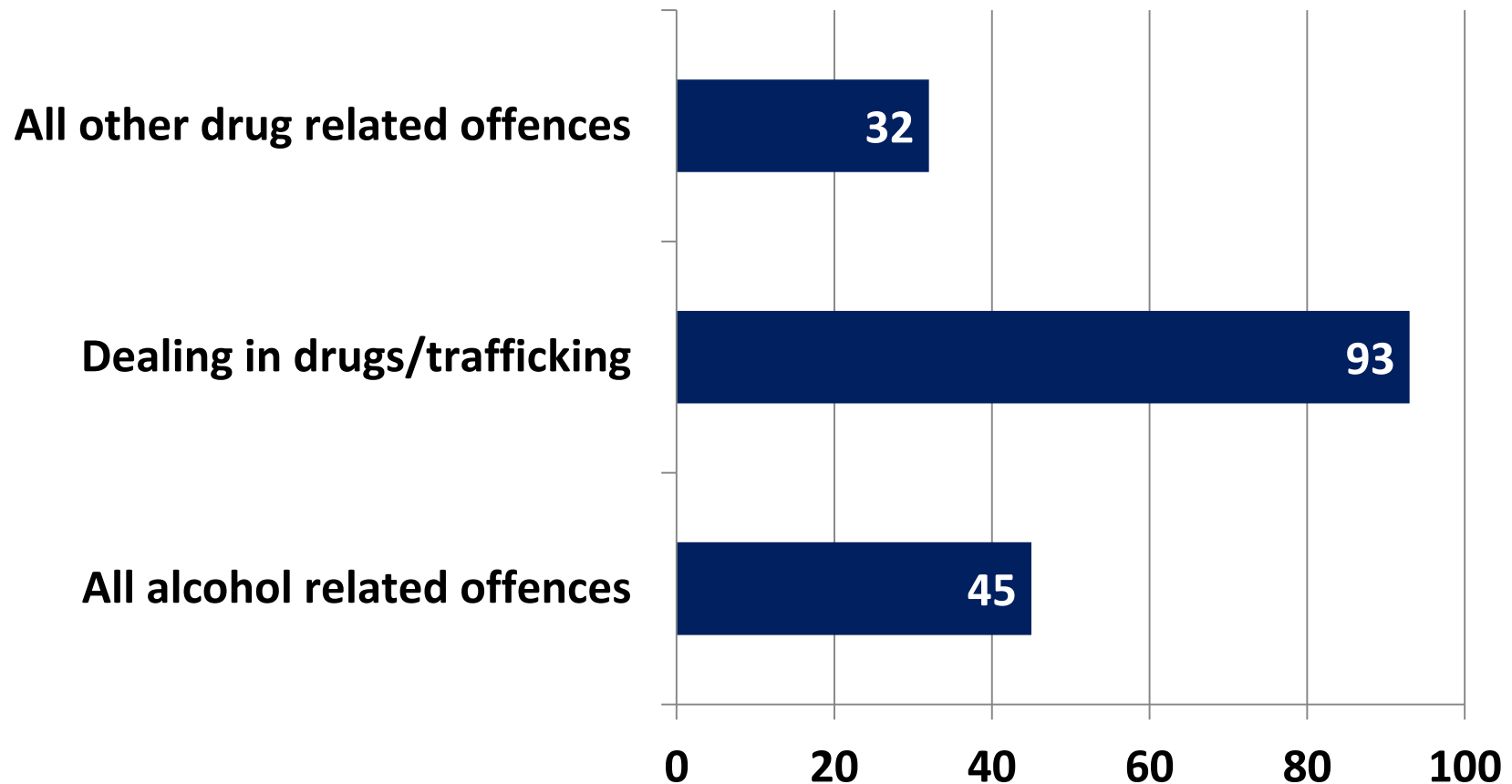


SEXUAL OFFENCES



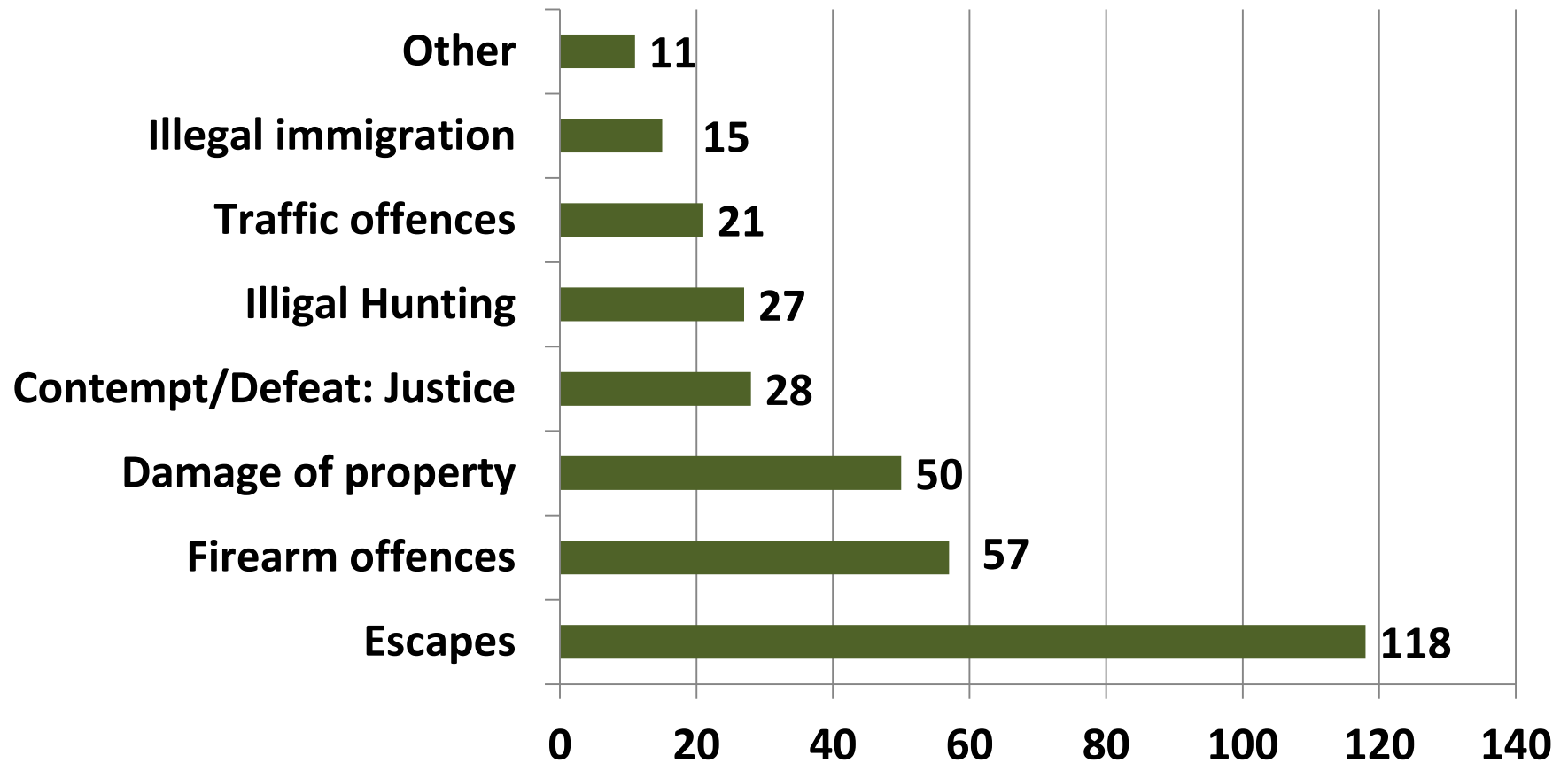


NARCOTIC OFFENCES





MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES



RISK & NEED FACTORS



Survey items v Risk/Need Scales

Survey items

- Survey objectives (above) inform items
 - addressed through survey questions, which are
 - associated theoretically and empirically with criminal behaviour
- Survey items have been modelled (roughly) against the structure and content of the Level of Service Inventory-revised (LSI-R).

LSI-R

- Third generation assessment “current measure of choice” (Gendreau et al. 1996)
- Items
 - shown to be associated with criminal conduct and theoretically relevant
 - demonstrated considerable evidence as a predictor of criminal conduct
 - dynamic.



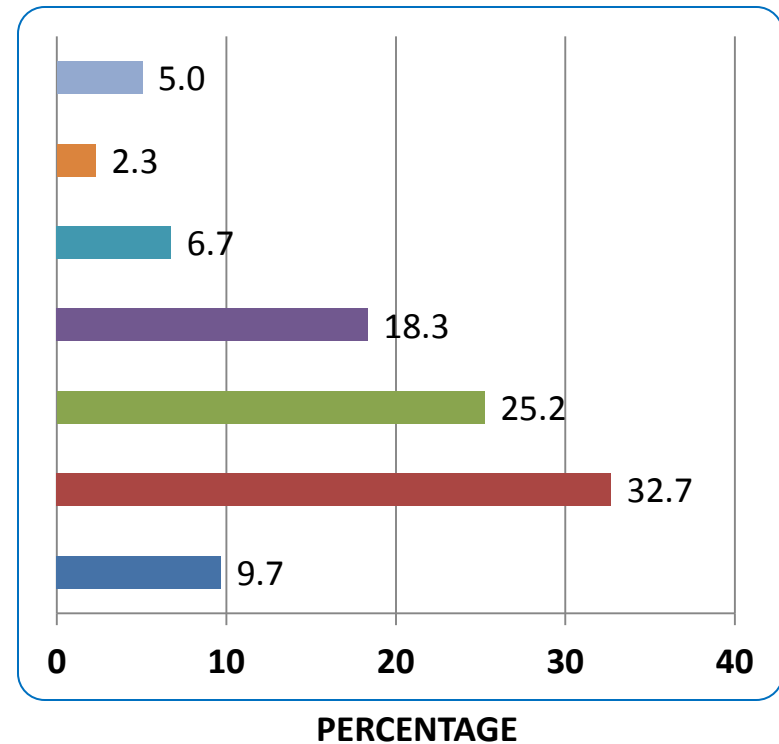
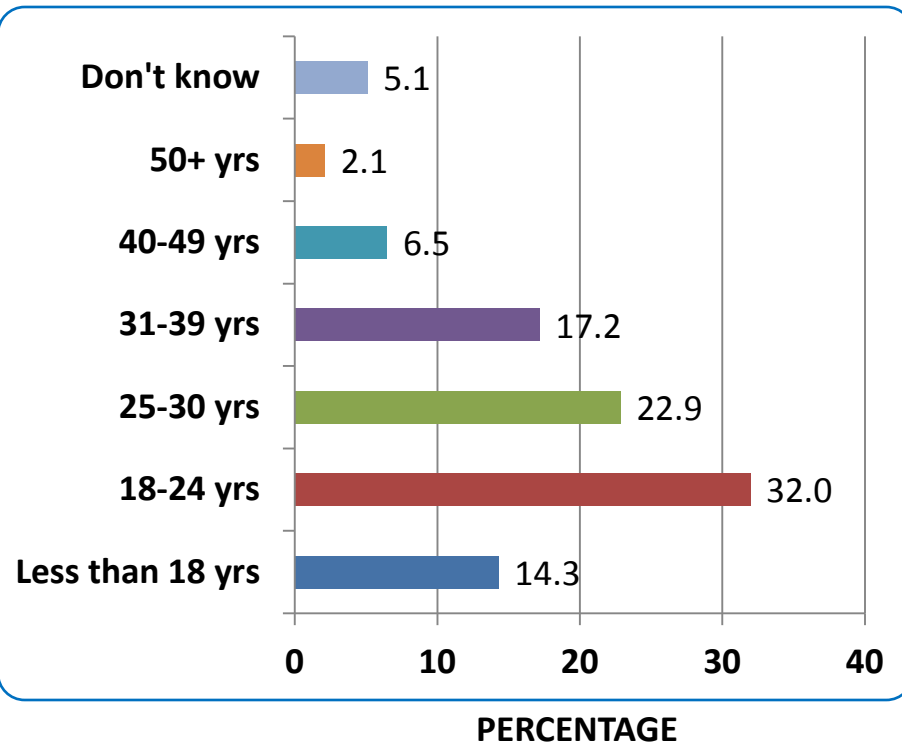
Risk/need:

Conceptual-definitional Matrix (Taxman & Tanner, 2006)

	RISK FACTORS	NEEDS FACTORS
Non-criminogenic	Static: Historical, <i>non-changing</i> factors that are not independently related to future criminal involvement.	Dynamic: <i>Variable</i> , temporal factors that are not independently related to future criminal involvement.
Criminogenic	Static: Historical, <i>non-changing</i> factors that are statistically predictive of future criminal involvement. Dynamic: <i>Variable</i> , temporal factors that are statistically predictive of future criminal involvement.	Dynamic: <i>Variable</i> , temporal factors that, when alerted, affect the likelihood of future criminal offending.

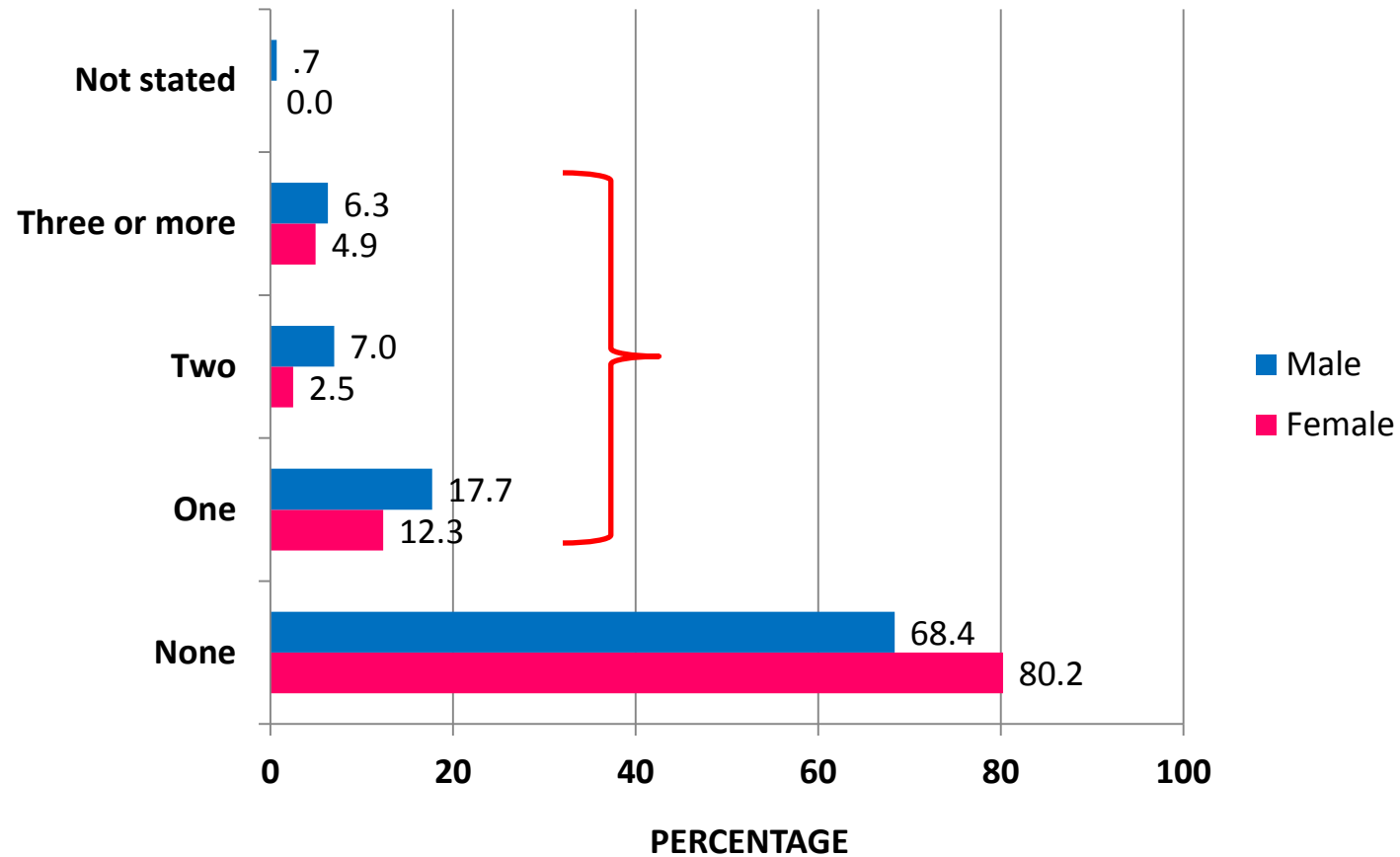
RISK FACTORS (STATIC)

AGE AT 1ST OFFENCE v CONVICTION



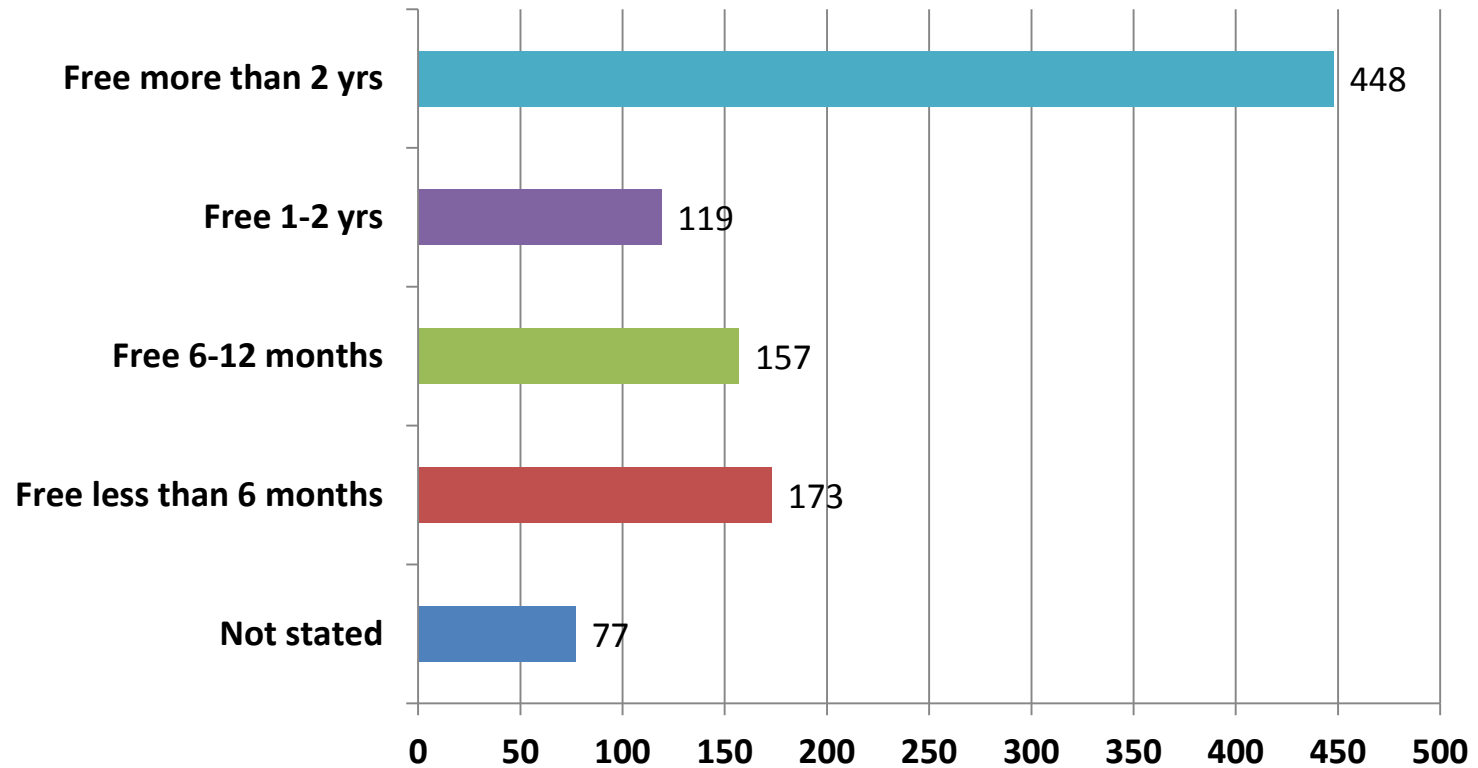


PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS



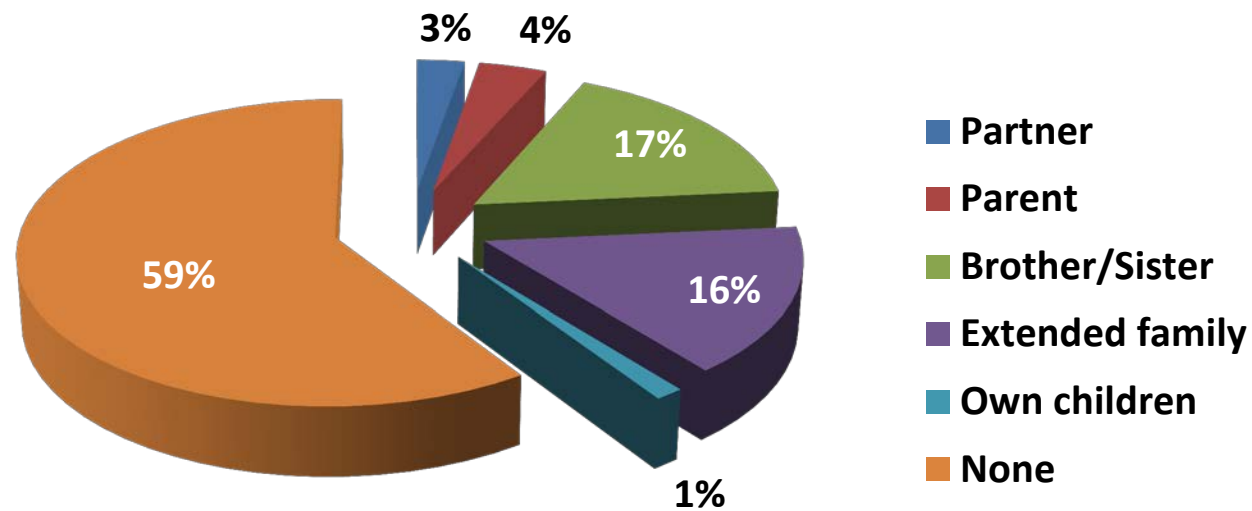


RECIVIDISM RATES



RESIVIDISM RATE = 902 OUT OF 3 226 (28%)

FAMILY CONVICTED/IMPRISONED

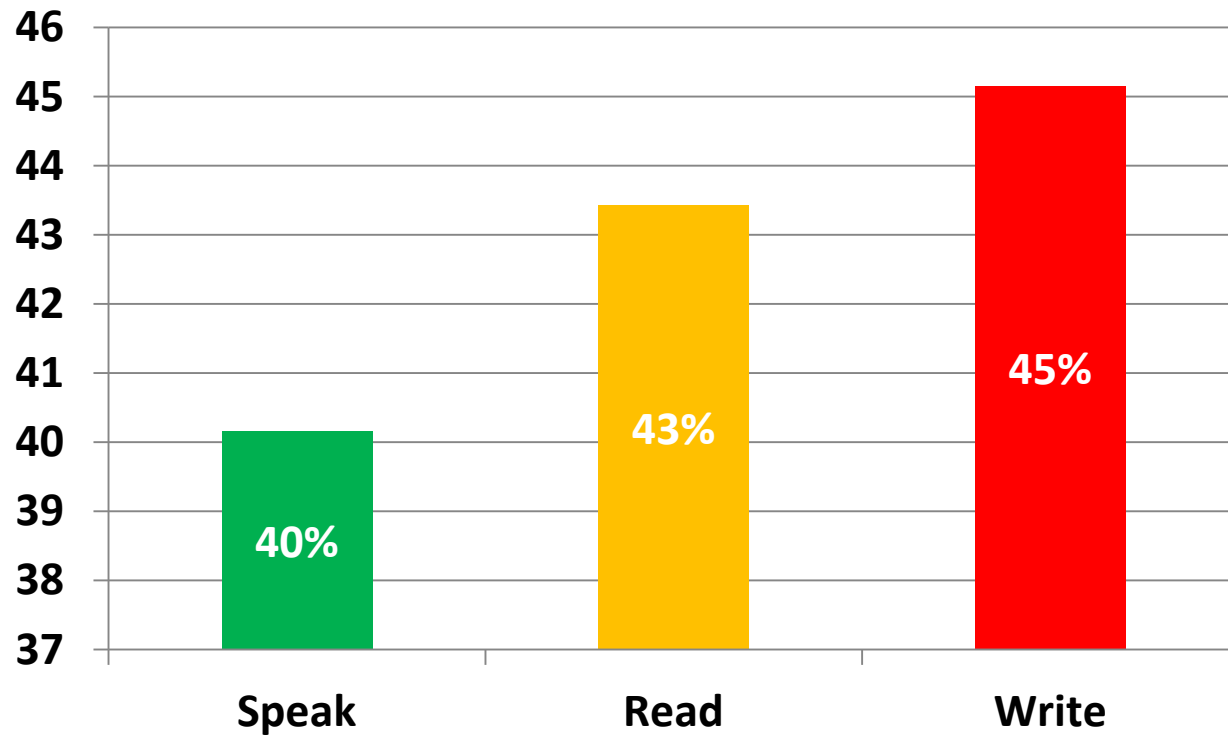


CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS (DYNAMIC)

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYABILITY LEVELS



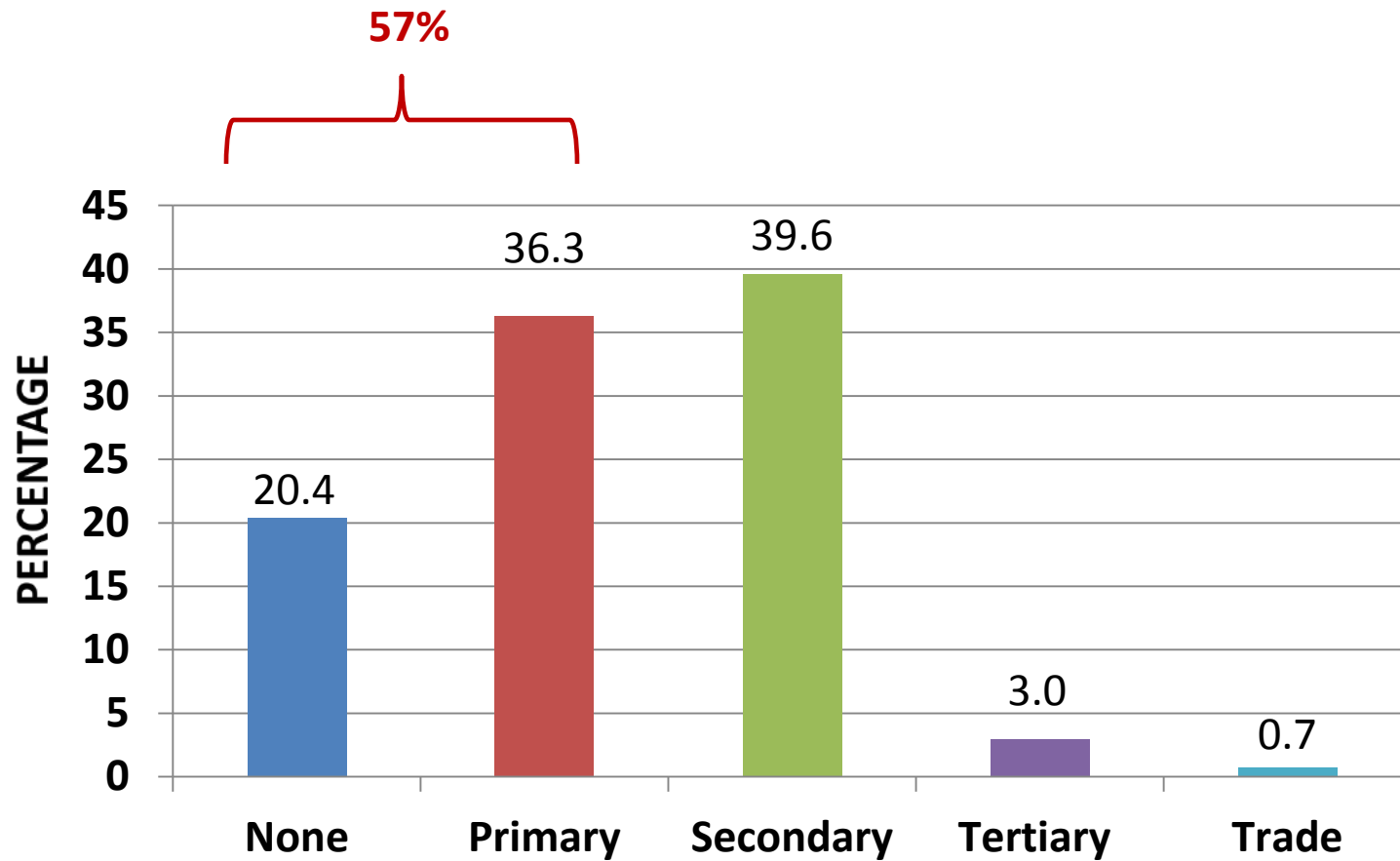
ILLITERACY RATE



Cannot speak, read or write English

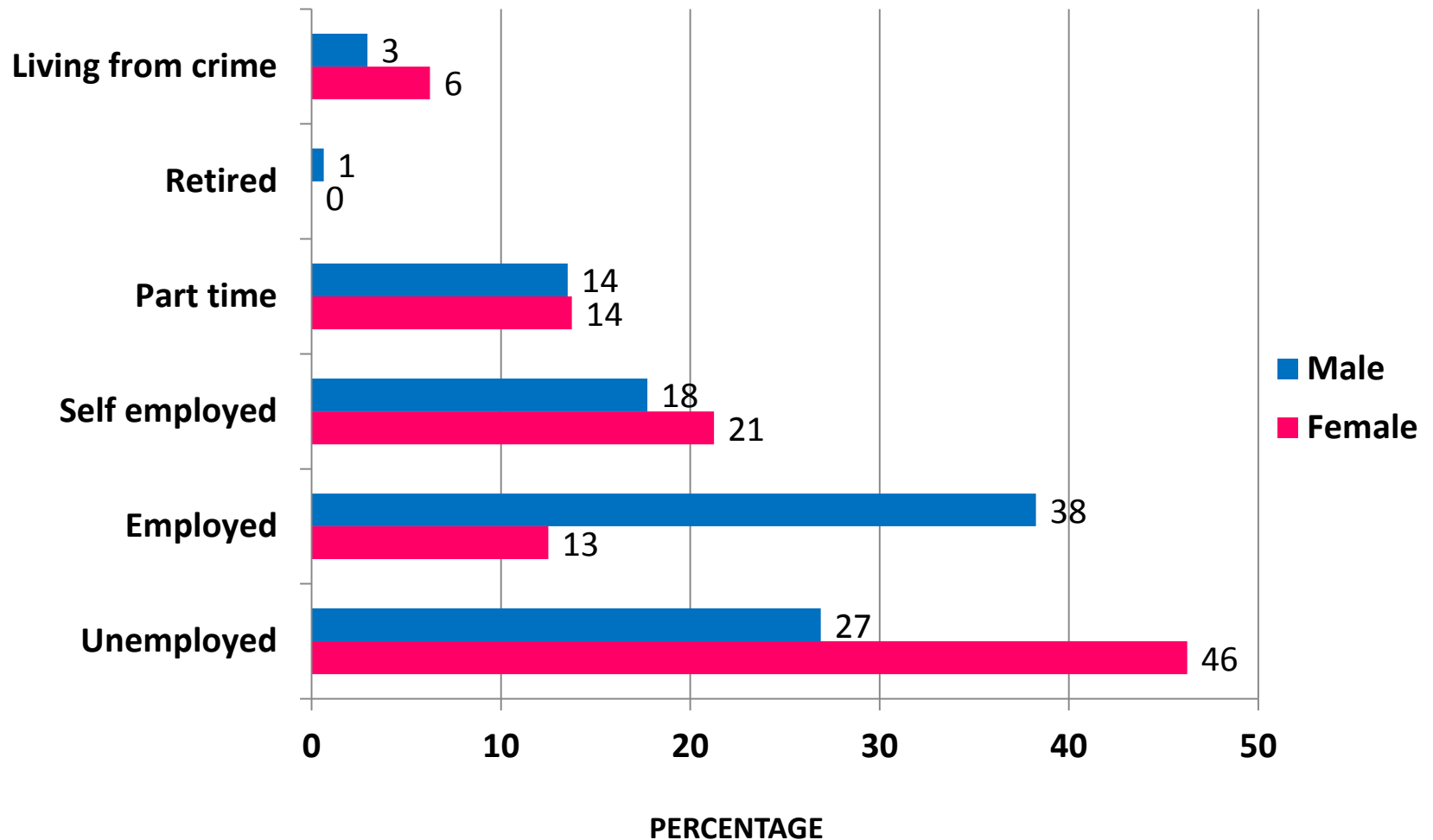


EDUCATIONAL LEVELS



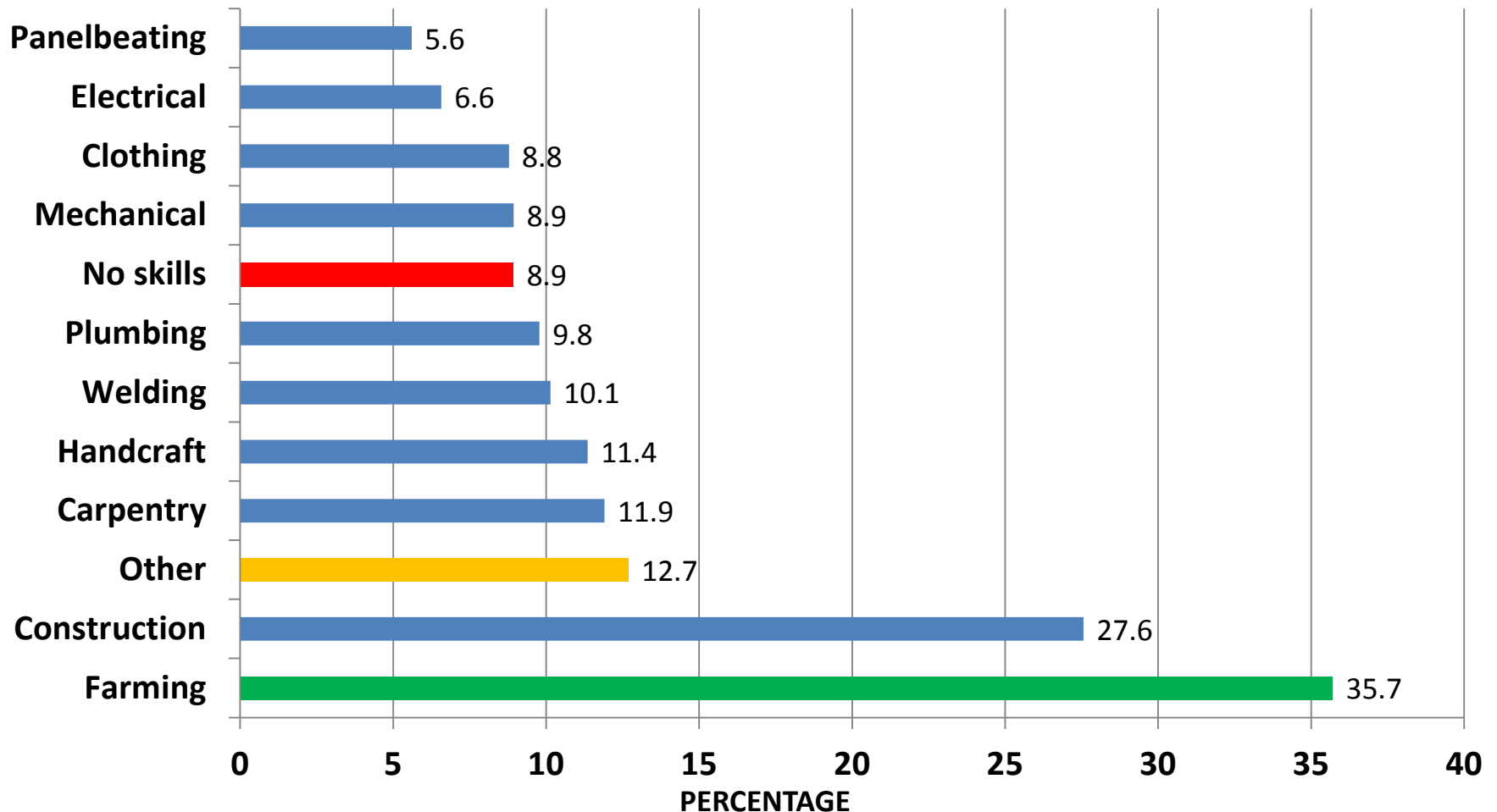


EMPLOYMENT STATUS BEFORE IMPRISONMENT

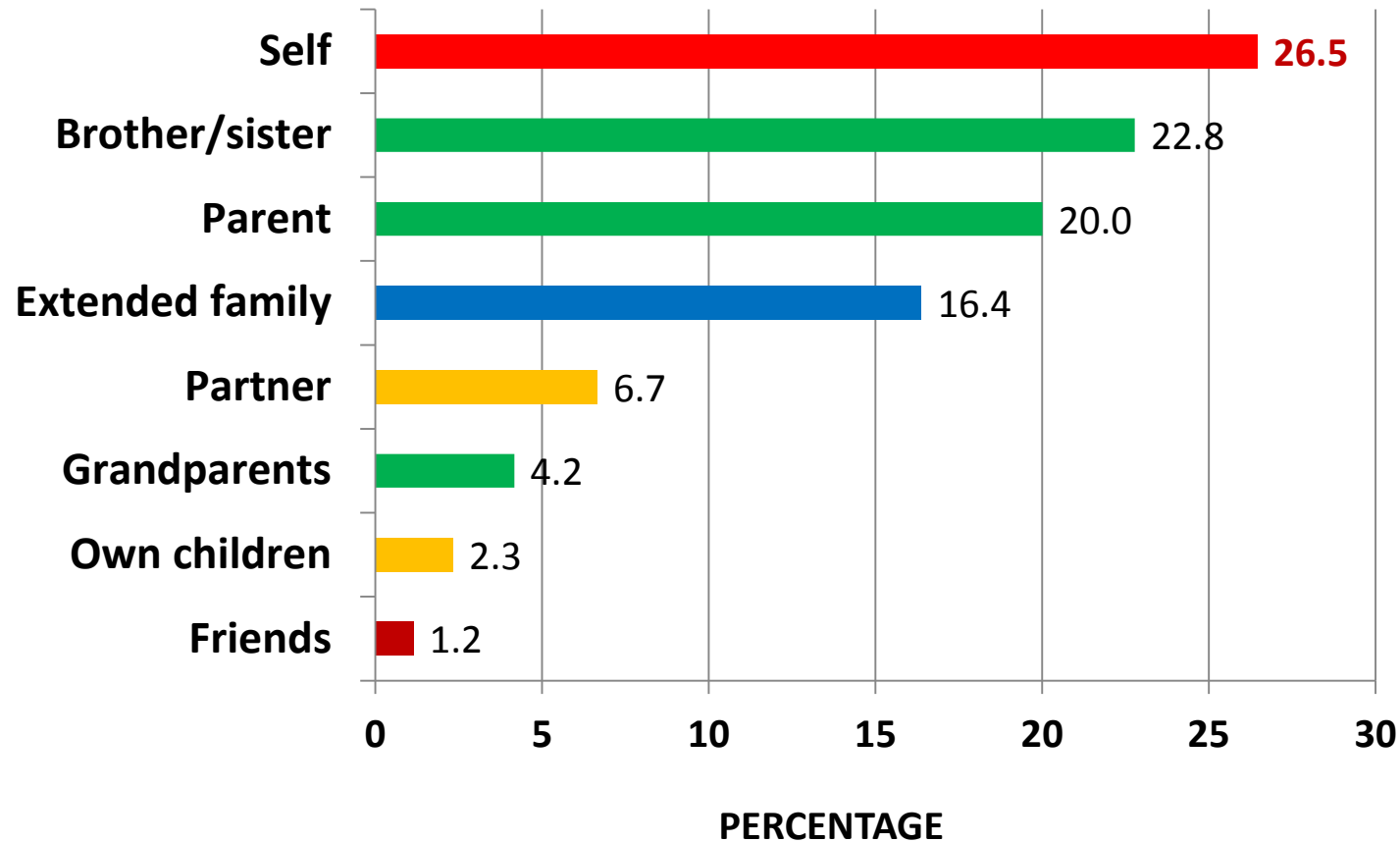




INFORMAL WORK SKILLS



SUPPORT AFTER RELEASE



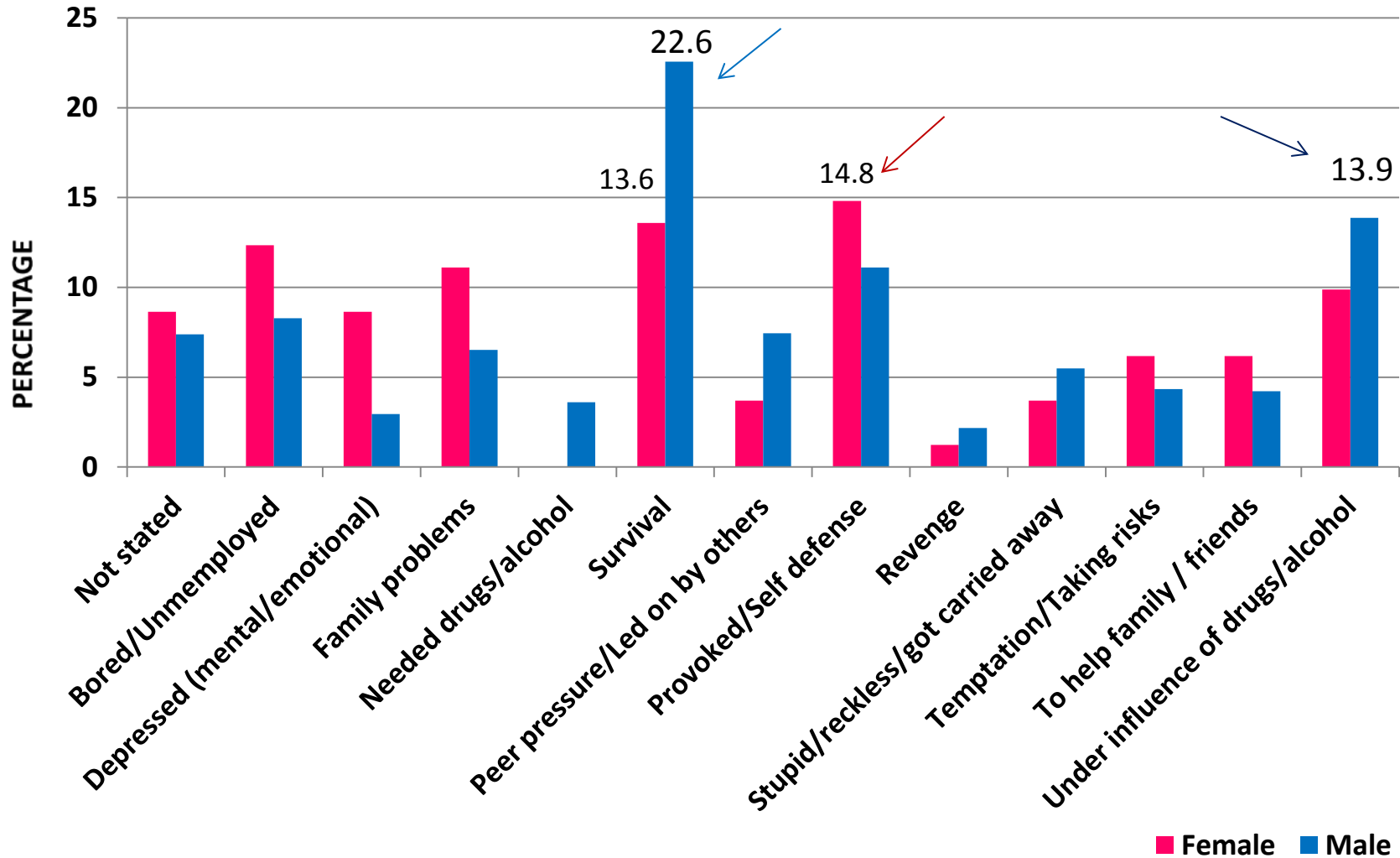
Support = Financially and accommodation

CRIMINOGENIC RISK FACTORS (DYNAMIC)

LIFESTYLE, ASSOCIATES & CRIMINAL ATTITUDES

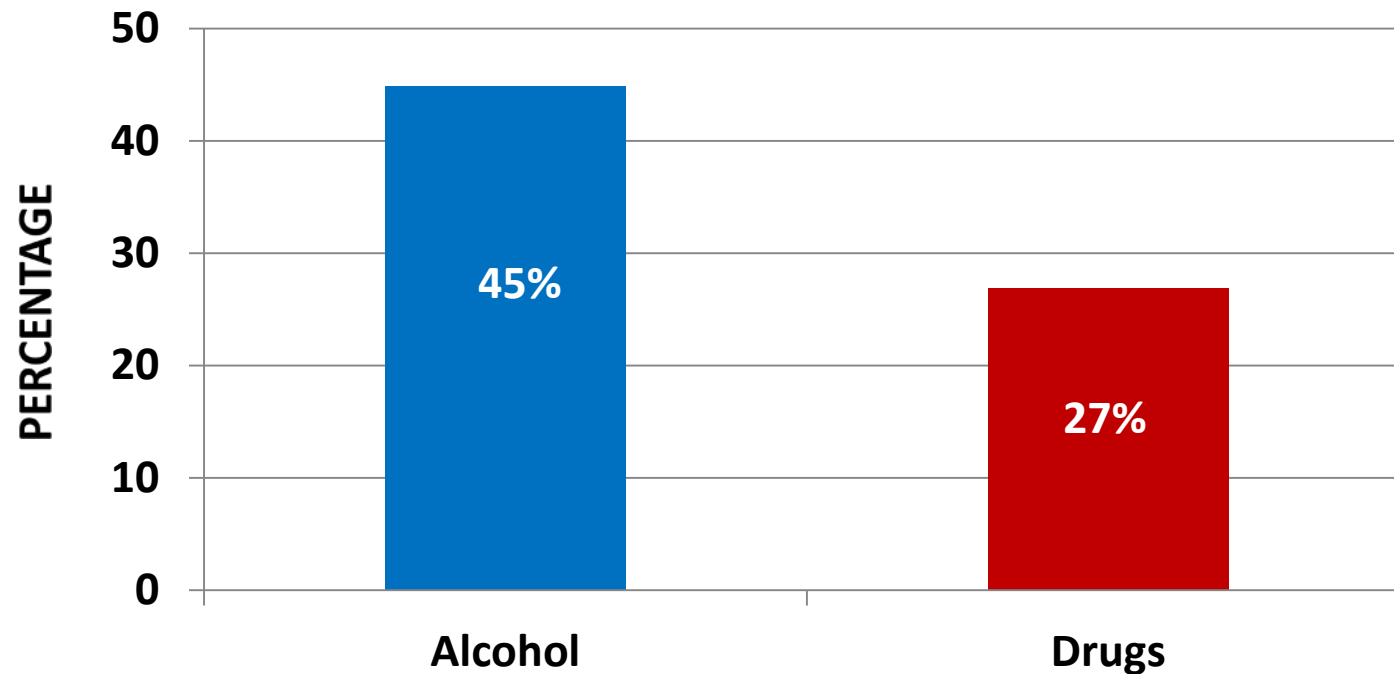


CRIMINAL MOTIVES



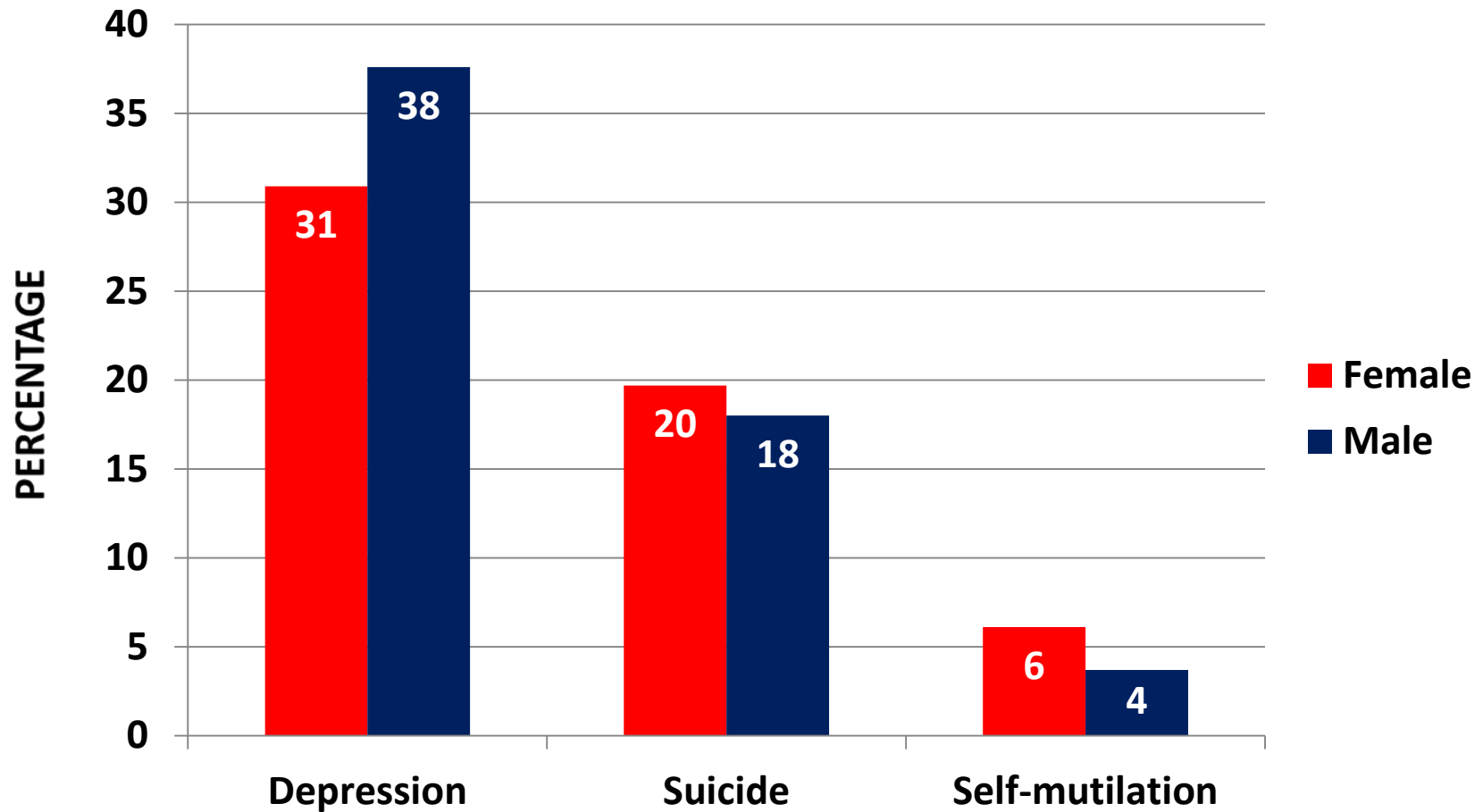


SUBSTANCE ABUSE BEFORE IMPRISONMENT

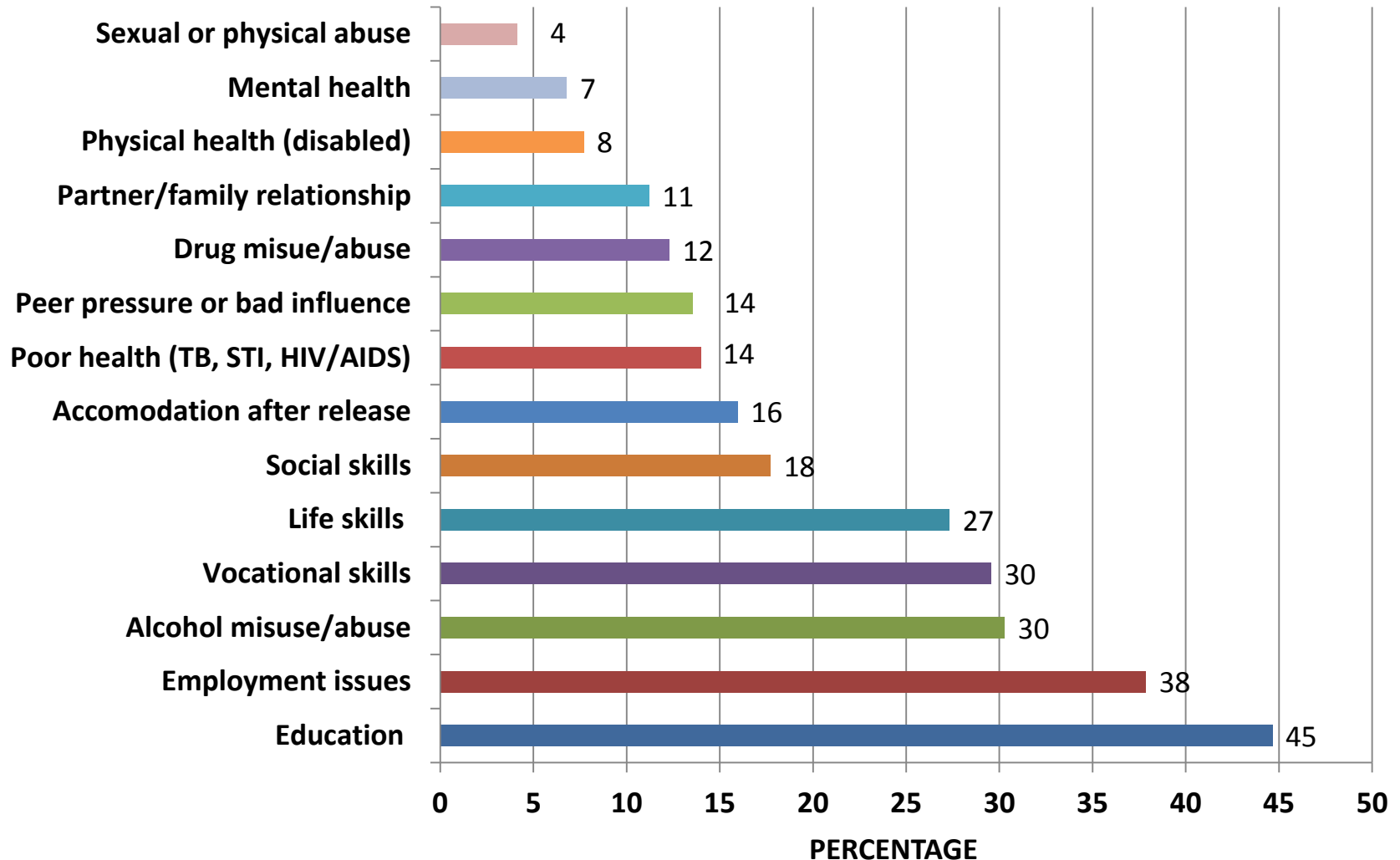




EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING



SYNOPSIS: NEEDS

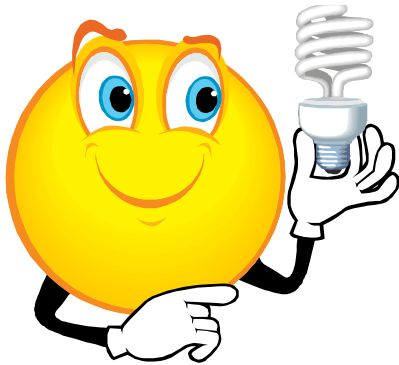




WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Empirical data of our extended inmate self report survey, collected and presented here, **call for** commensurate:

- Policies
- Structures
- Processes
- Systems
- Services
- Human Resources
- (professional) Expertise at the level of NCS.



THANK YOU!

**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful
committed people can change the world.
Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”**

- Margaret Mead -

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