

Young people and cannabis: responses and interventions in a socially marginalised community

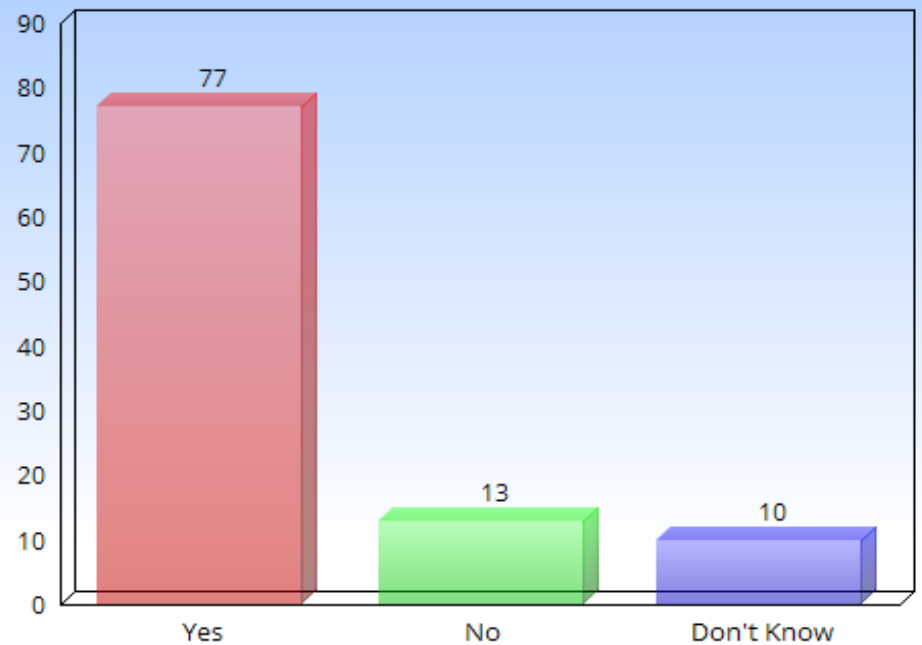


International context

- Current landscape and re cannabis
- Financial landscape
- Medicinal value
- Treating cannabis users: Increased demand(Emcdda)
- Law enforcement



Should Medicinal Cannabis Be Legal In Ireland



Ballymun in the night-time environment

- Dynamics of nighttime economy and activity.
- Challenges of how you talk about negative health and social impacts constructing negative and exclusionary picture –respond to the dynamic without re-enforcing the exclusion.
- Cannabis use connection to nightlife community settings, drug debt and drug violence
- Addressing health impacts of nightlife within these settings both lack of containment and control plus no clear deliniation between day and nighttime economy and activities- cannabis use key example



The study

Background

- The Equal Youth Development Partnership
- Impact regular cannabis use was having on progression and engagement with EY process
- Concerns towards workers apathy towards cannabis use
- Had already engaged in responses and actions to cannabis use in Ballymun

Aims and methodology

- Study aimed to provide a rapid assessment of cannabis use prevalence across three sites in Ballymun
- Current patterns and relationship young people had with weed.
- Rapid assessment tool, data collected over 14 weeks.
- 96 participants, with 58 completing the rapid assessment tool (current users).
- Researchers focused on two training centres & one group in no formal education setting.

Key Findings

- Street group are using the highest amounts daily
- 53 participants have potential to be spending €327,820 a year
- 19% reported drug debt ranging from €50-€1000
- 8% of street group reported drug debt €50-€250
- Top 3 reported reasons to change included, financial, employment, and physical health

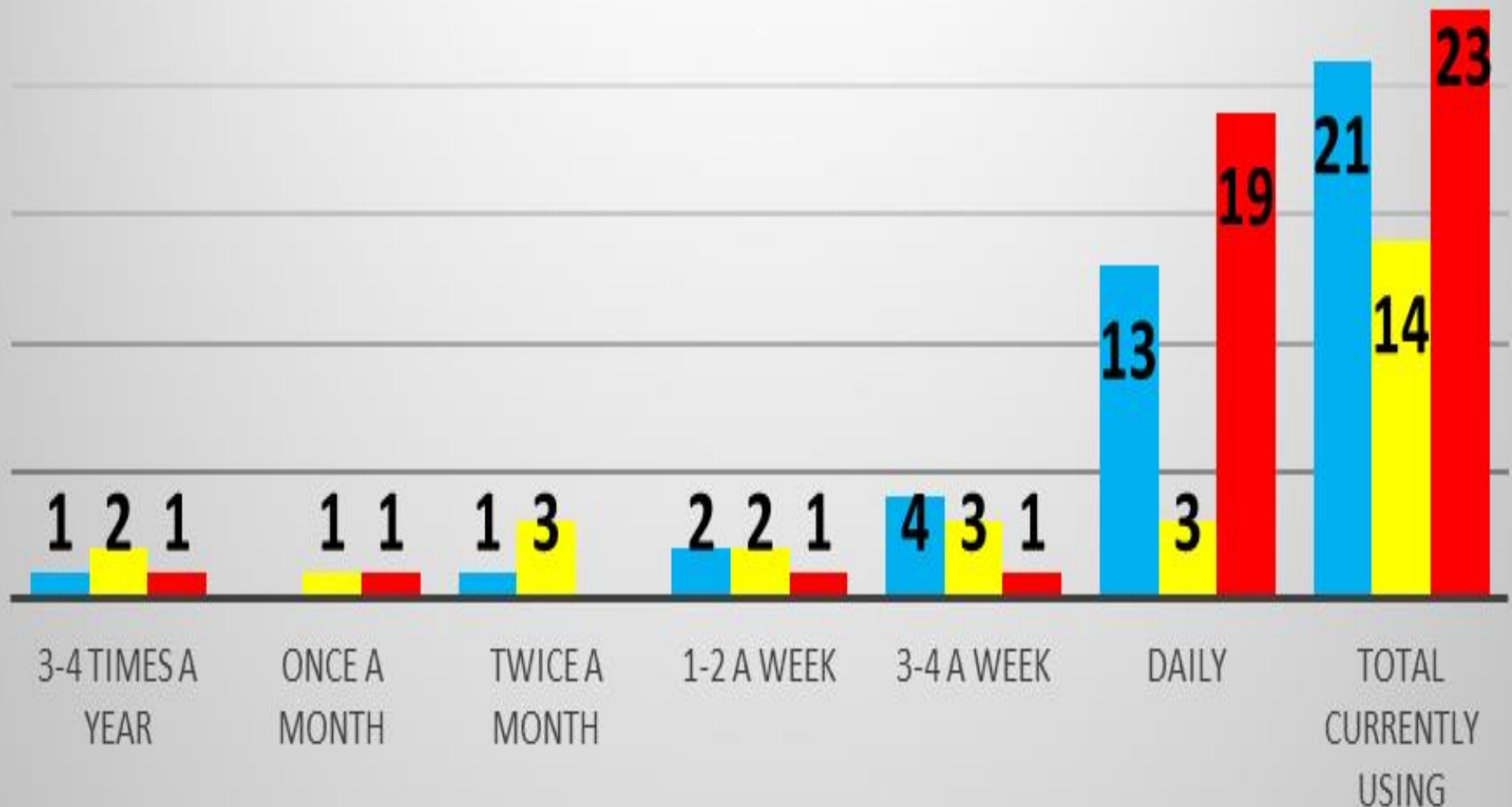


Frequency Of Use n=58

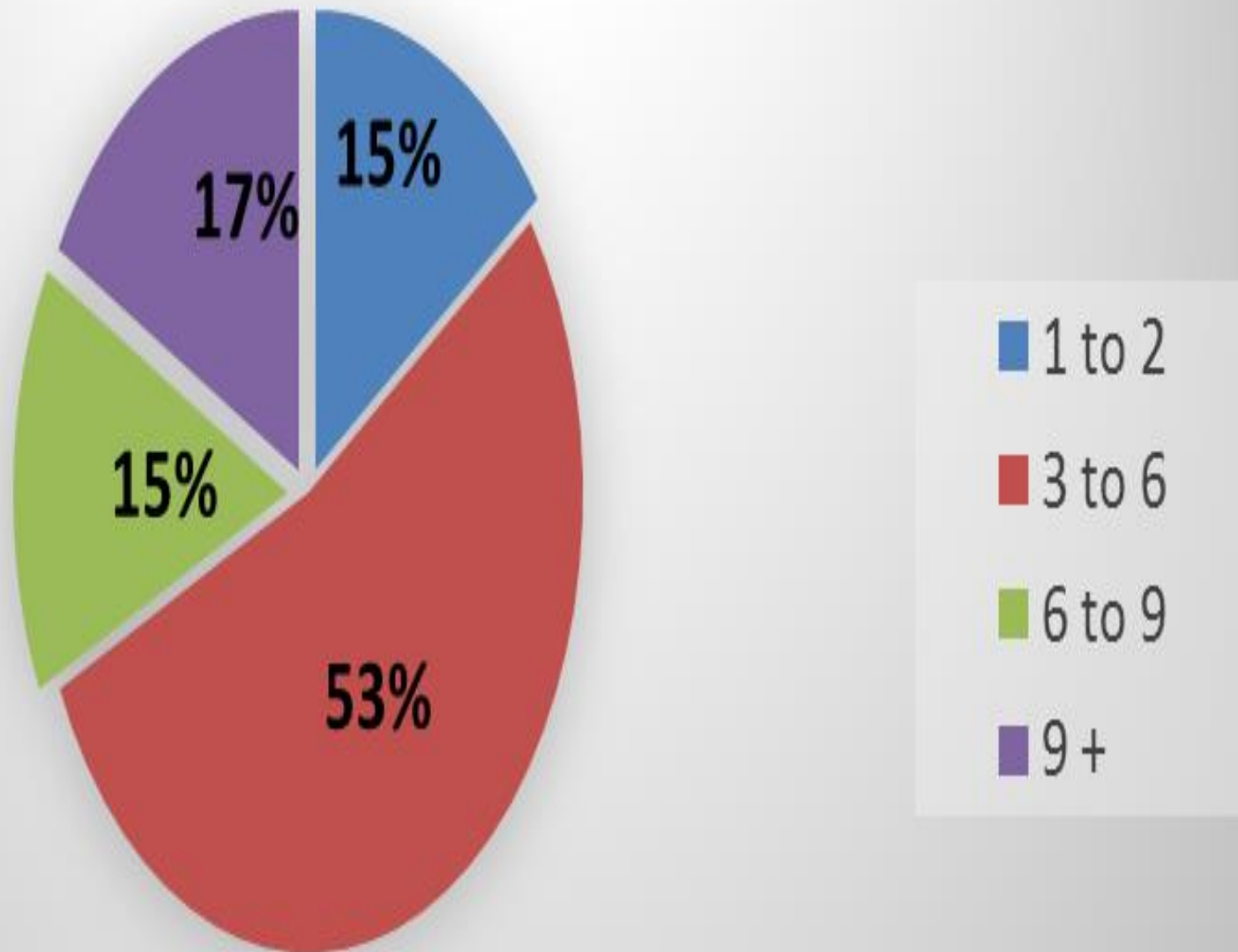
■ Training Centre A

■ Training Centre B

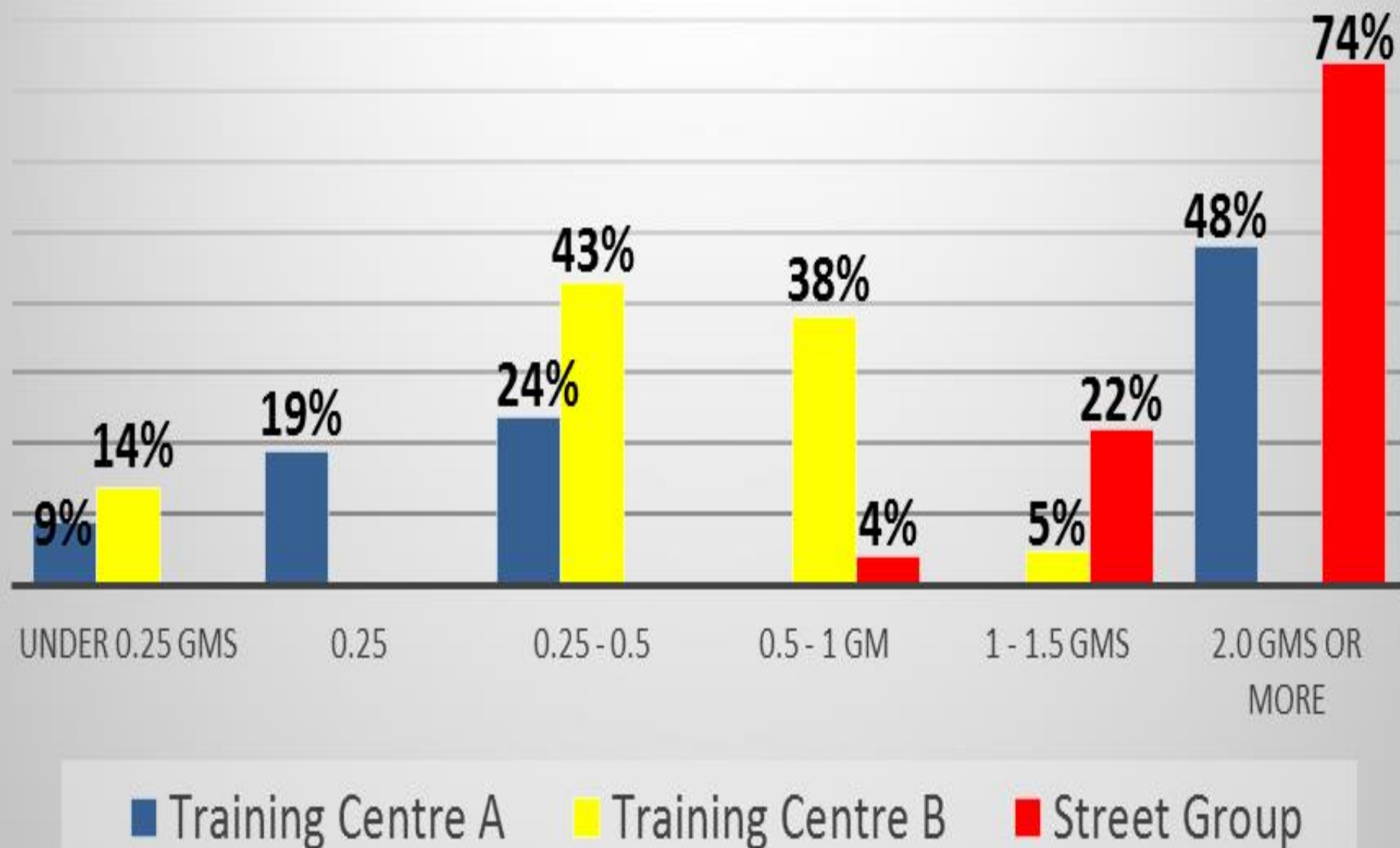
■ Street Group



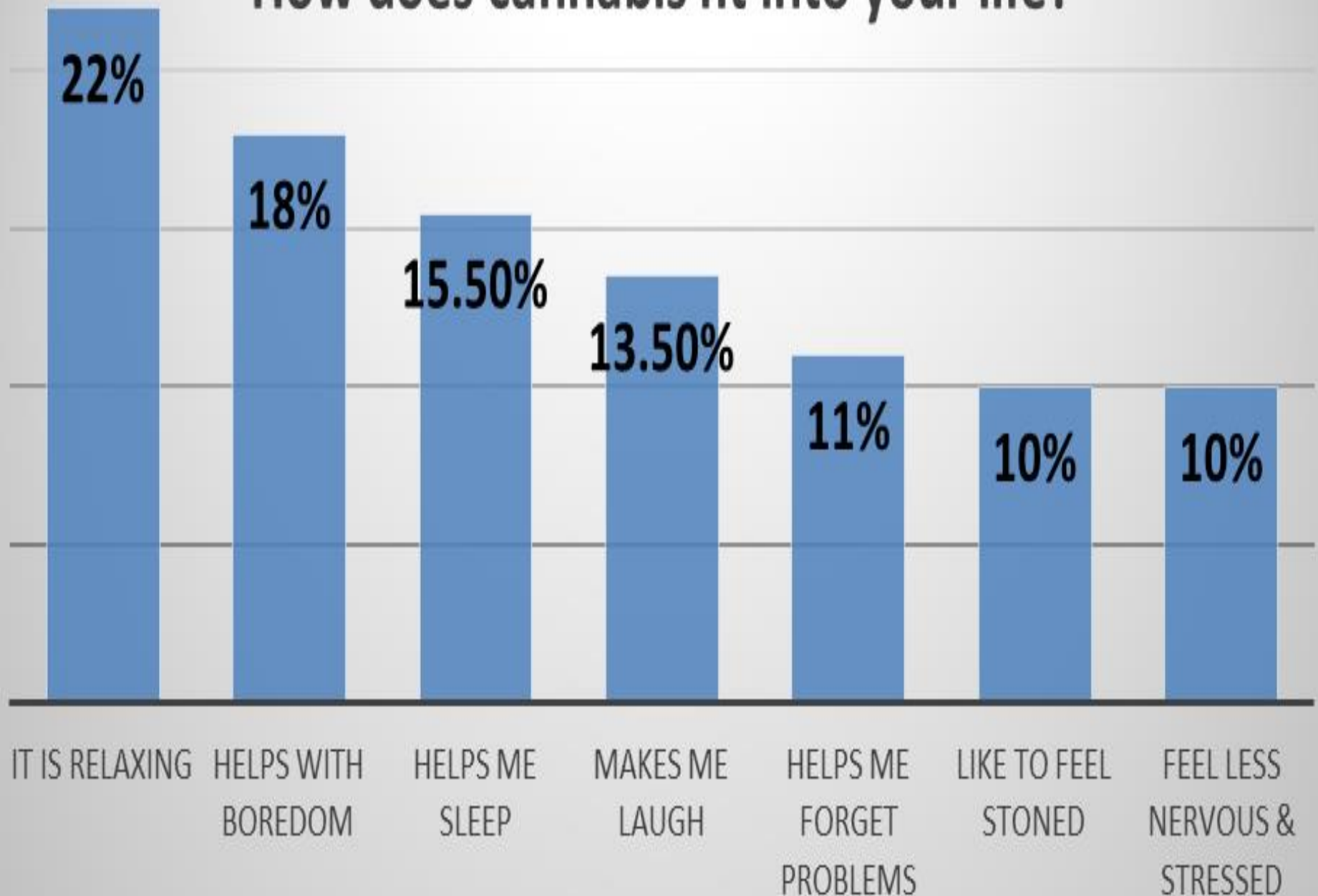
Hours A Day Spent Under The Influence n=58



Amounts used a day when smoking



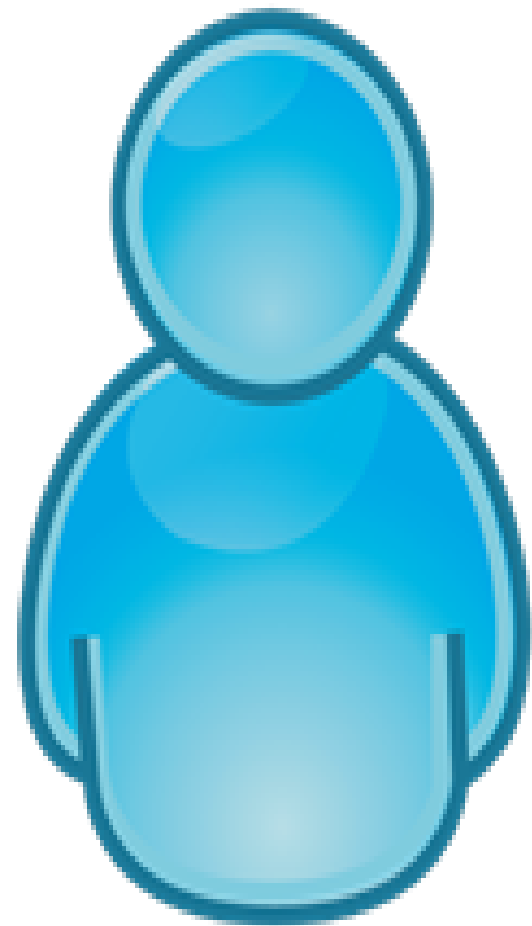
How does cannabis fit into your life?



Spend on Cannabis

	Participants	Weekly	Monthly	Annually
Totals	53	€5,705	€22,820	€327,820

Average spend per participant



Weekly

€108

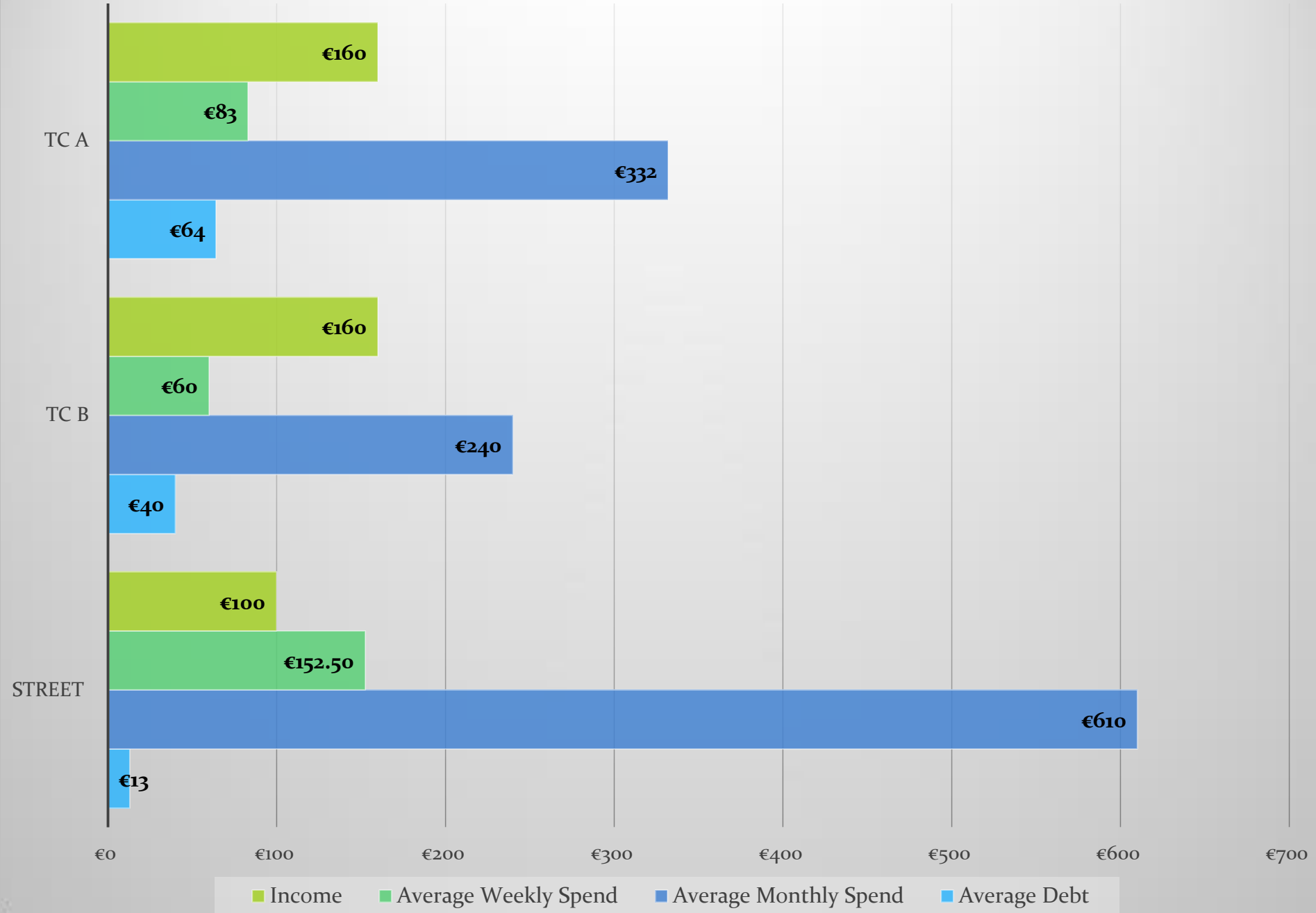
Monthly

€432

Annually

€5,184

Income, Average Spend & Average Debt



Cannabis and the night-time economy

- Important is the consider the different profiles of users – one group daily users, smoking more than 2g a day, nighttime economy is being played out all day.
- Responses and interventions – broadly and in relation to nighttime. Features of these responses that are useful to wider nighttime context.
- Night-time orchestrated through texts – what is available – substance driven nighttime activity, nighttime economy – more dealers.
- Very difficult to address supply so responses have to be community and individually driven.



Recommendations

1. Current knowledge base
2. Prevention & early intervention
3. Targeted responses to daily users
4. Maintaining the focus of cannabis on community conversations and responses

Wider implications

- Neo-liberal and legalisation agenda – impacting all aspects of society in same way, potentially severe impact within communities that don't have positive and constructive nighttime economy.
- Community practitioner concerns that for young people in Ballymun that day time is night-time - huge long-term impacts on their QOL -education attainment, progression, repeating intergenerational patterns with a different substance.