

Swedish Drug Users Union

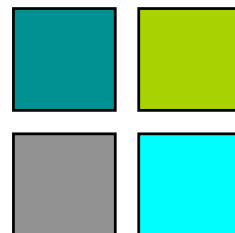
The general opinions attitudes on drug issues.

Report from a public poll.

3rd of December 2008

Per Fernström

Viktor Wemminger



The general opinions attitudes on drug issues.

- Swedish Drug Users Union main task is to strengthen and look after the opiate users and/or those who have Opioid Substitution Therapy (methadone/buprenorphine) social and public interests. Swedish Drug Users Union was founded in 2002.
- Target audience: a cross-section of the Swedish population regarding age, sex and geography, in the age group 18-74 years.
- The survey covers 1000 interviews which was conducted over Novus Internet Panel during the period November 27 to December 1 2008.



Implementation

The survey was conducted via interviews with a selection of respondents in Novus Web Panel during the period 27 November to 1 December 2008. A total of 1000 respondents aged 18 to 74 years was interviewed.

The selection of the study is made to represent the population of Sweden aged 18 to 74 years.

Novus Opinions Web Panel consists of 12 000 active respondents, spread across the country. Recruitment is done primarily via random telephone interviews. For each survey a stratified selection from the web panel is drawn from the relevant public. In the data processing the results are considered with regard to gender, age and political views.

In any survey, the results are considered to be approximations. The reliability of the results are determined by the questions characteristics in terms of expression and furthermore the form of selection and interview form.

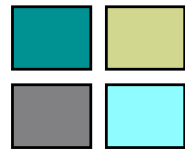


Key Findings:

The general opinions attitudes on drug issues.

- The study shows that men, young people 18-35 years of age and people in large cities have a slightly more liberal approach towards drugs. They believe in a larger extent than others that, for example, possession or cultivation of cannabis not should be penalized at all or should be considered a minor crime with fines as punishment. They have also tried illegal substances in a greater extent than others.
- The family has the greatest importance, together with doctor/medical care in the handling of problematic drug users. In the first instance it's the family who are most important but the doctor/medical care is primarily seen as the most important. Prevention activities and education is clearly seen as the best methods to counteract drug abuse.
- The majority are in favor of the society to provide sterile needles/syringes but against that society should provide heroin to those who can not be treated in any other way.

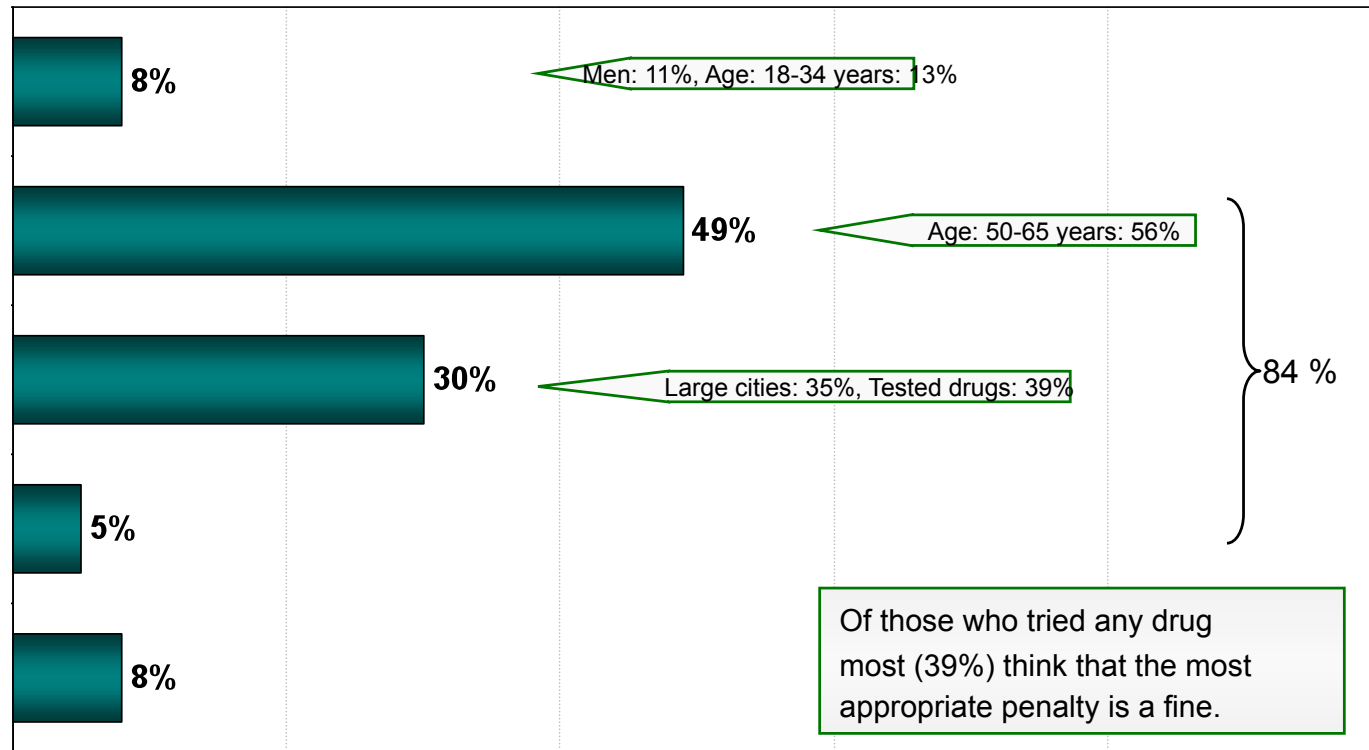




Result

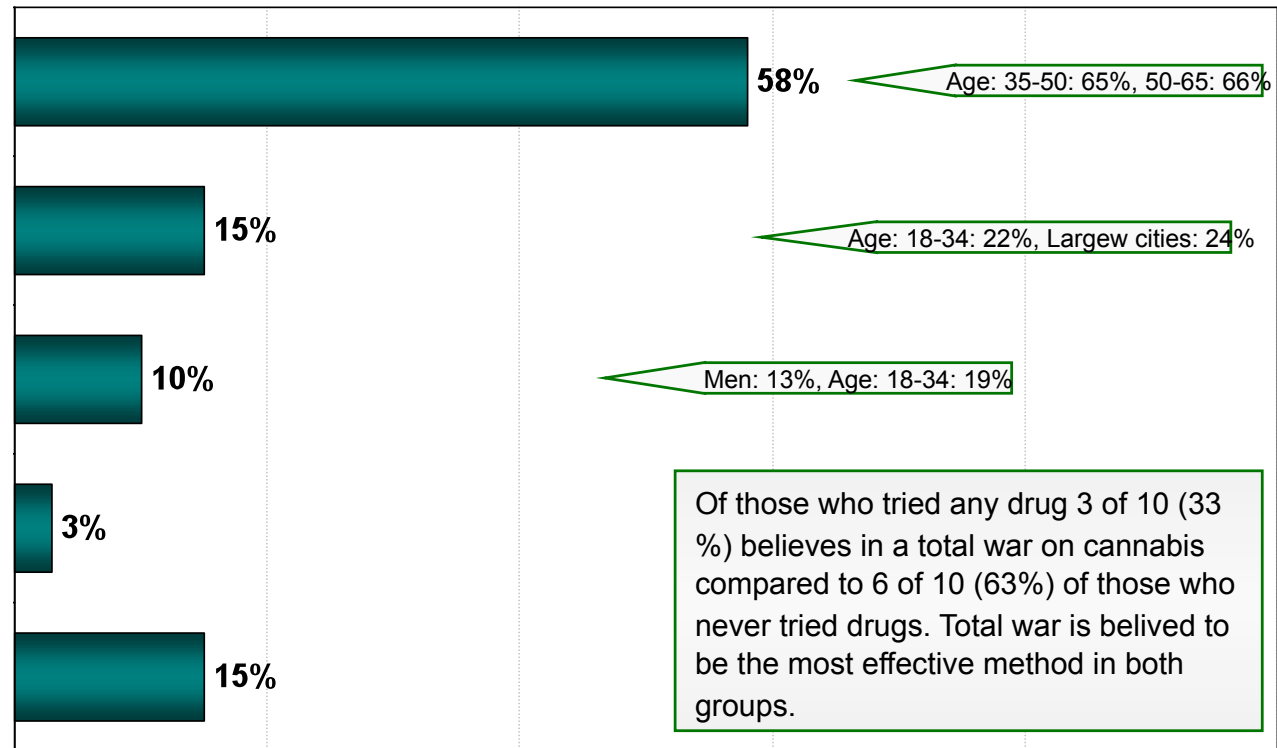
8 of 10 believes that growing/possession of cannabis for personal use should be penalized. 1 of 10 believes that no penalty at all should be sentenced.

How would you punish people for growing and/or possession of cannabis for personal use?



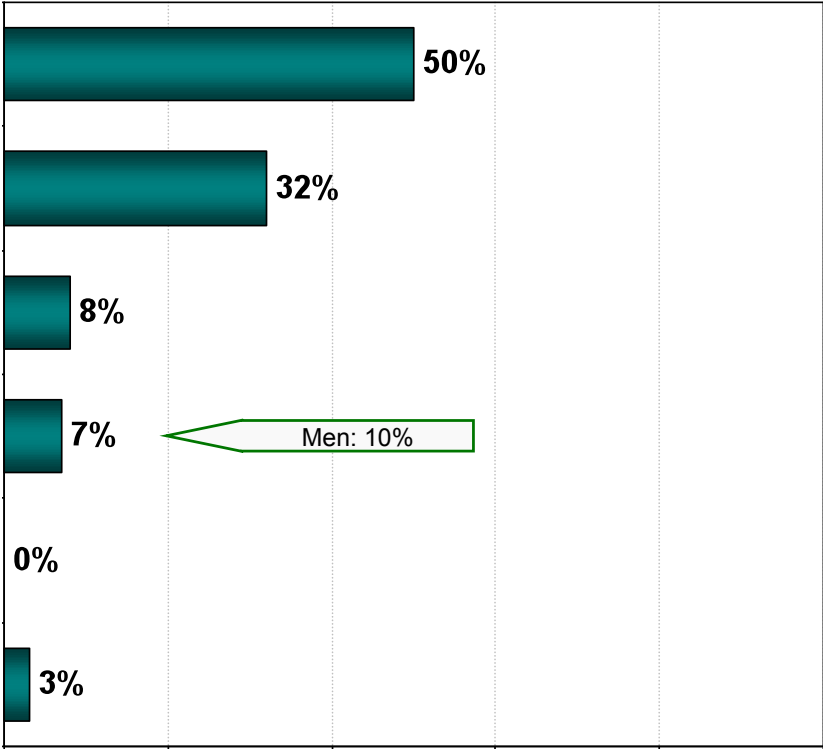
6 of 10 believe that a total war against cannabis is the most effective method to control cannabis.

What is the most effective policy to control cannabis in your opinion?



50% says that the main argument against using drugs is that it is bad for their health.

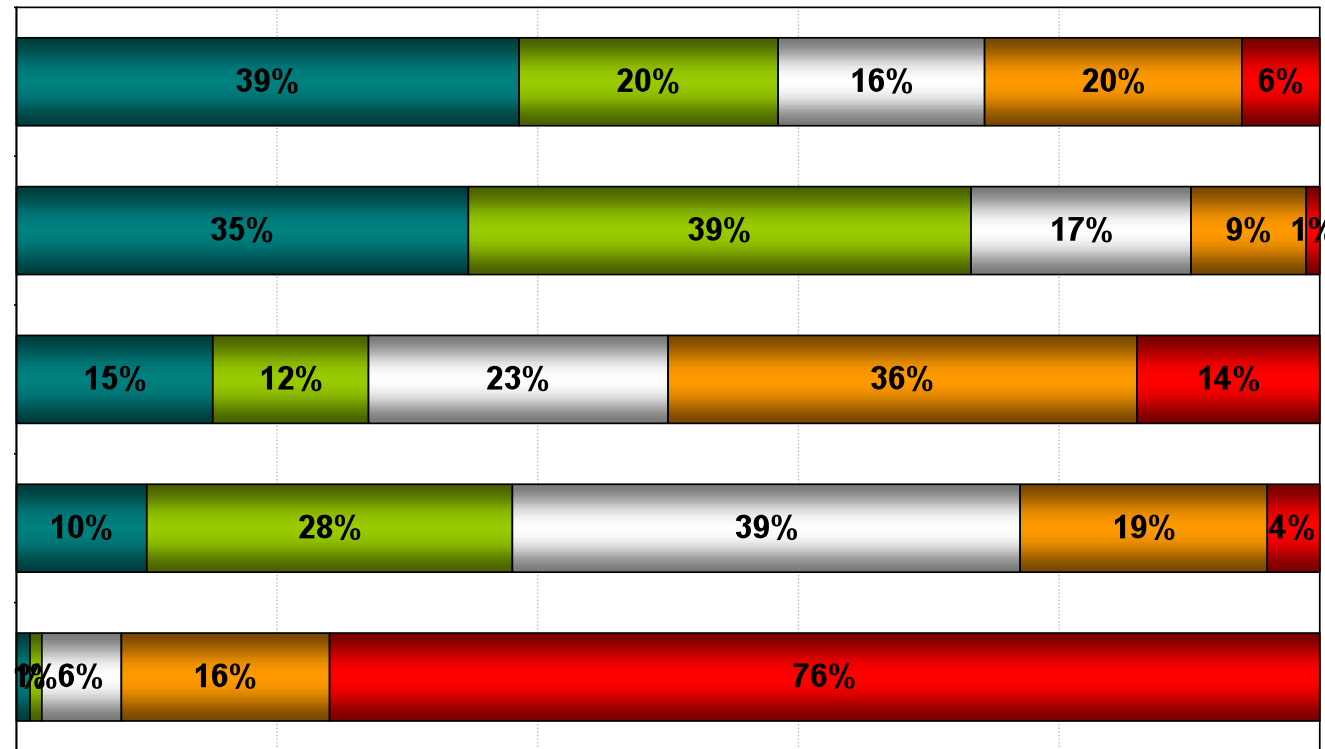
What is the most important argument that stops you from using illegal drugs?



Family are most important in handling problematic drug users.

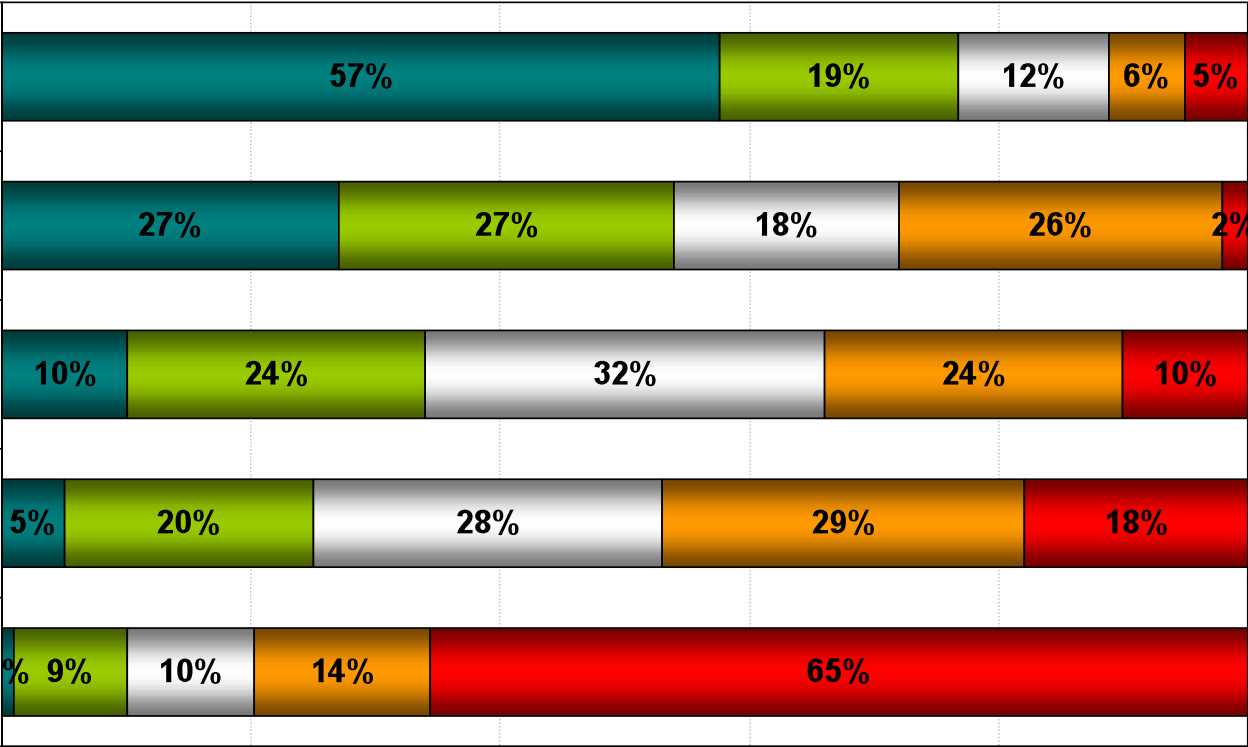
Doctor/medical care are most important when combining first and second hand choice.

Rank the following people according to their importance in dealing with problematic drug users.



Prevention and education is considered best to counteract drug abuse.

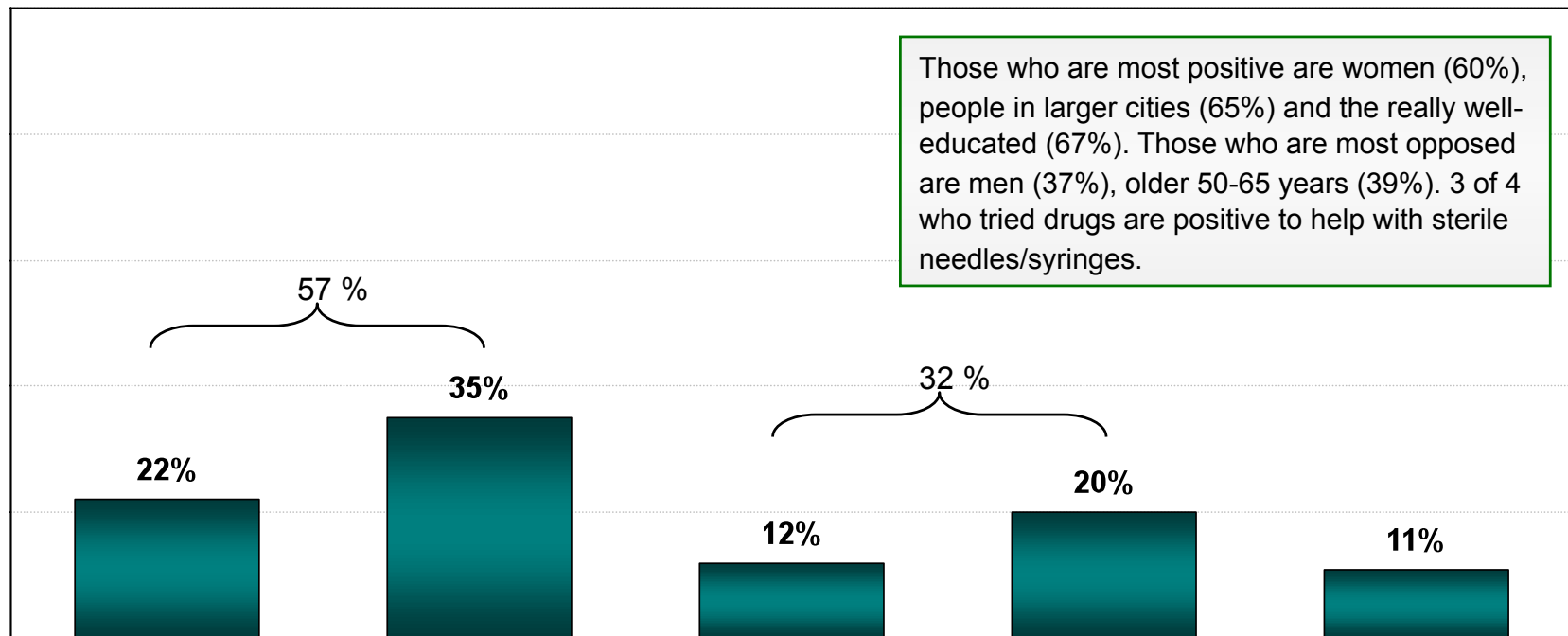
Rank the following actions after the role you think they have to counteract drug abuse.



More than 50% are in favor of the society to provide sterile needles/syringes.

To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

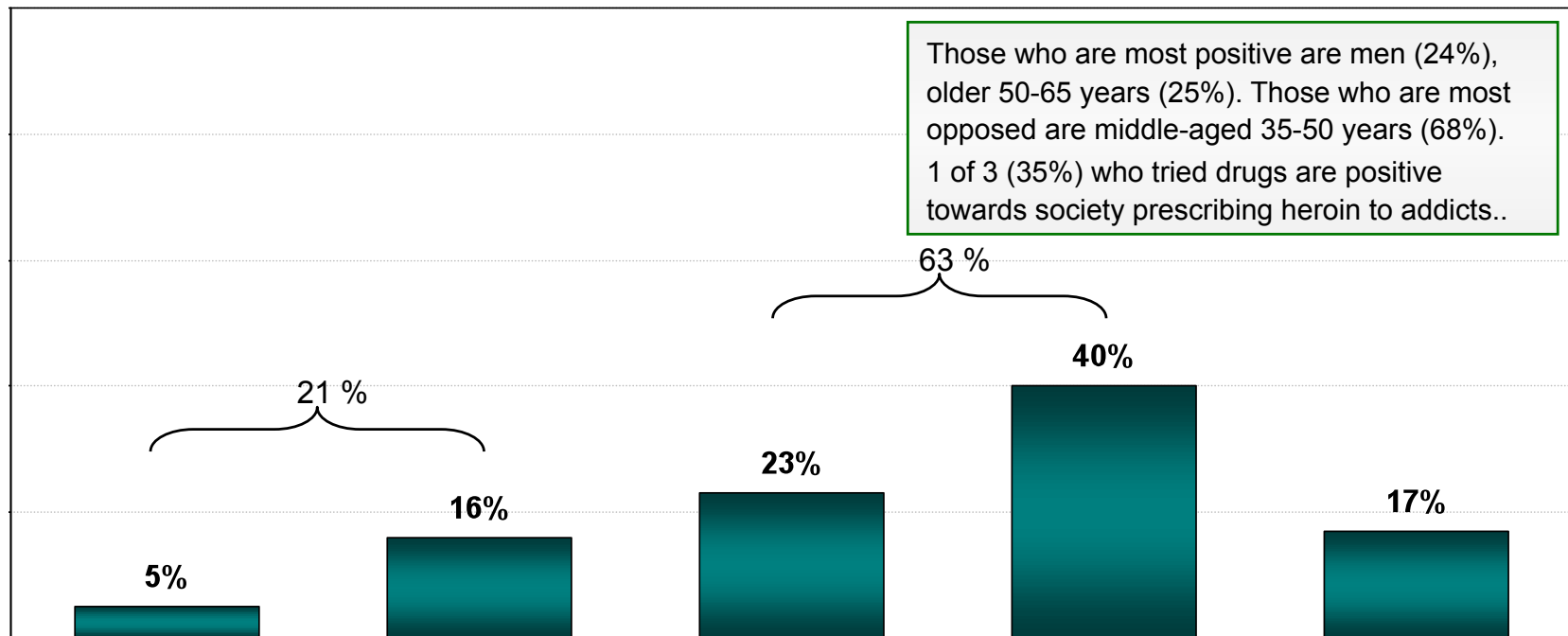
a) Society should provide sterile needles to drug users to stop the spread of blood born infections like HIV and hepatitis.



2 out of 3 are against that society should prescribe heroin for addicts who cannot be treated in any other way.

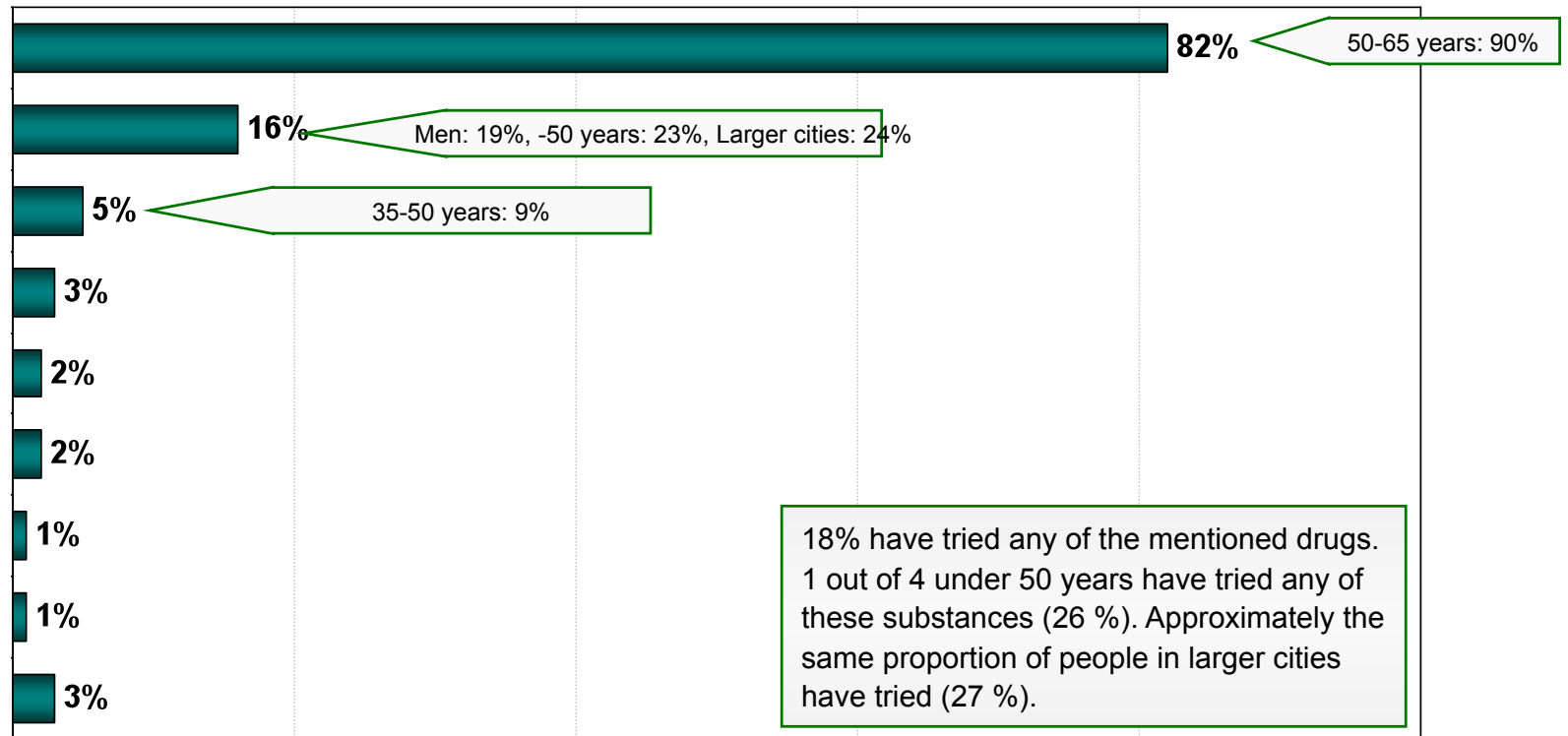
To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

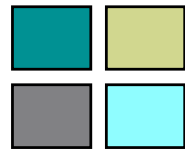
b) Society should prescribe heroin for those addicts who cannot be treated in any other way?



1 out of 5 have tried illegal substances/drugs. 9 out of 10 who have tried illegal substances/drugs tested cannabis.

Which of the following illegal substances have you tried?





Summary

Summary

The general opinions attitudes on drug issues

- 8 of 10 believes that growing/possession of cannabis for personal use should be penalized
 - 1 of 10 believes that no penalty at all should be sentenced.
- 6 of 10 believe that a total war against cannabis is the most effective method to control cannabis.
- 50% says that the main argument against using drugs is that it's bad for their health.
- Family are most important in handling problematic drug users.
 - Doctor/medical care are most important when combining first and second hand choice.
- Prevention and education is considered best to counteract drug abuse.
- More than 50% are in favor of the society to provide sterile needles/syringes.
- 2 out of 3 are against that society should prescribe heroin for addicts who cannot be treated in any other way.
- 1 out of 5 have tried illegal substances/drugs.
 - 9 out of 10 who have tried illegal substances/drugs tested cannabis.

