



Adolescence without Shelter: A Report on the AFM Winnipeg Street Youth Survey

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Why do this research?

- Family background
- Physical and sexual abuse
- Mental health issues
- Substance use issues
- Criminal behavior
- Suicide



Demographic description

- Males (n = 81) average 21 years of age, females (n = 63) 19.5
- Not well educated (75% no high school diploma) (68% of those 18+)
- Most (65%) had held a job (about ½ full-time) in past year
- Main source of income is work (28%), gov. support (33%), panhandling (11% of males) or family/friends (11% of females)

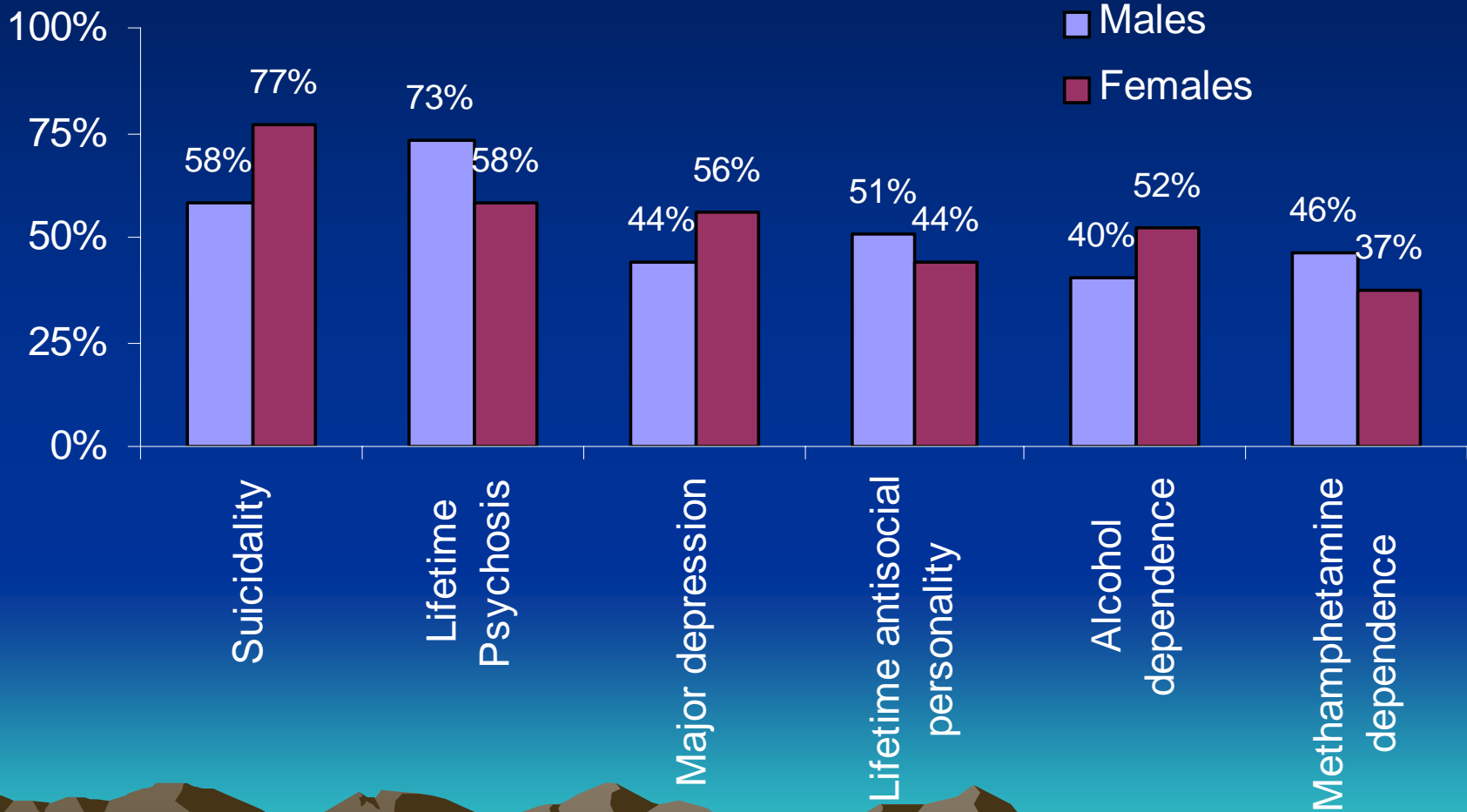


Mental Health

- Poor mental health
- 22% reported being diagnosed with major depression
- 14% reported being diagnosed with ADHD
- Much higher rates from interview
 - 49% major depression symptoms
 - 66% lifetime psychosis symptoms
 - 48% anti-social personality disorder symptoms
 - 66% suicidal
- Many had symptoms of more than one mental illness (about 90% had symptoms of two or more mental illnesses)

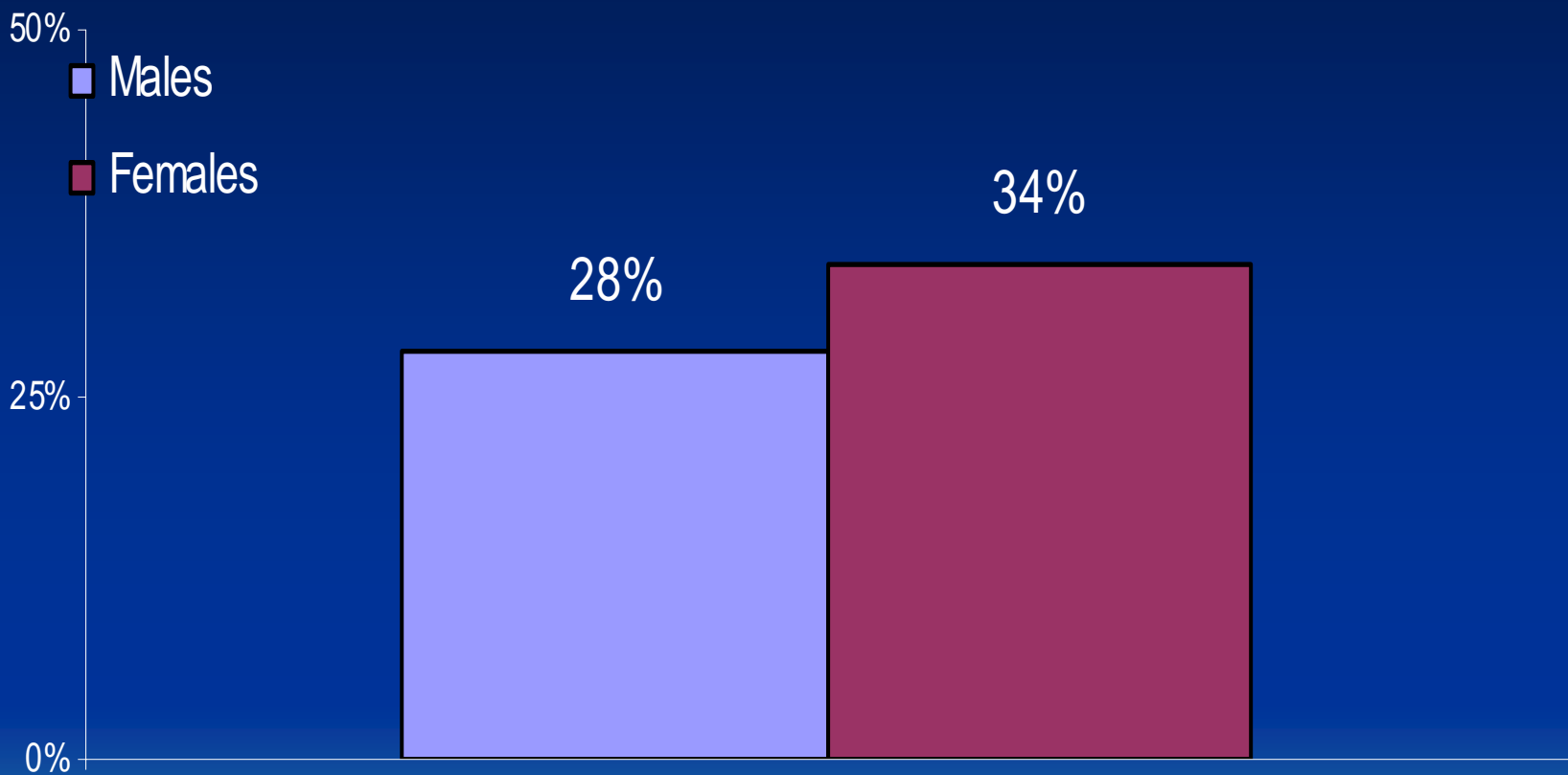


Most common mental illnesses



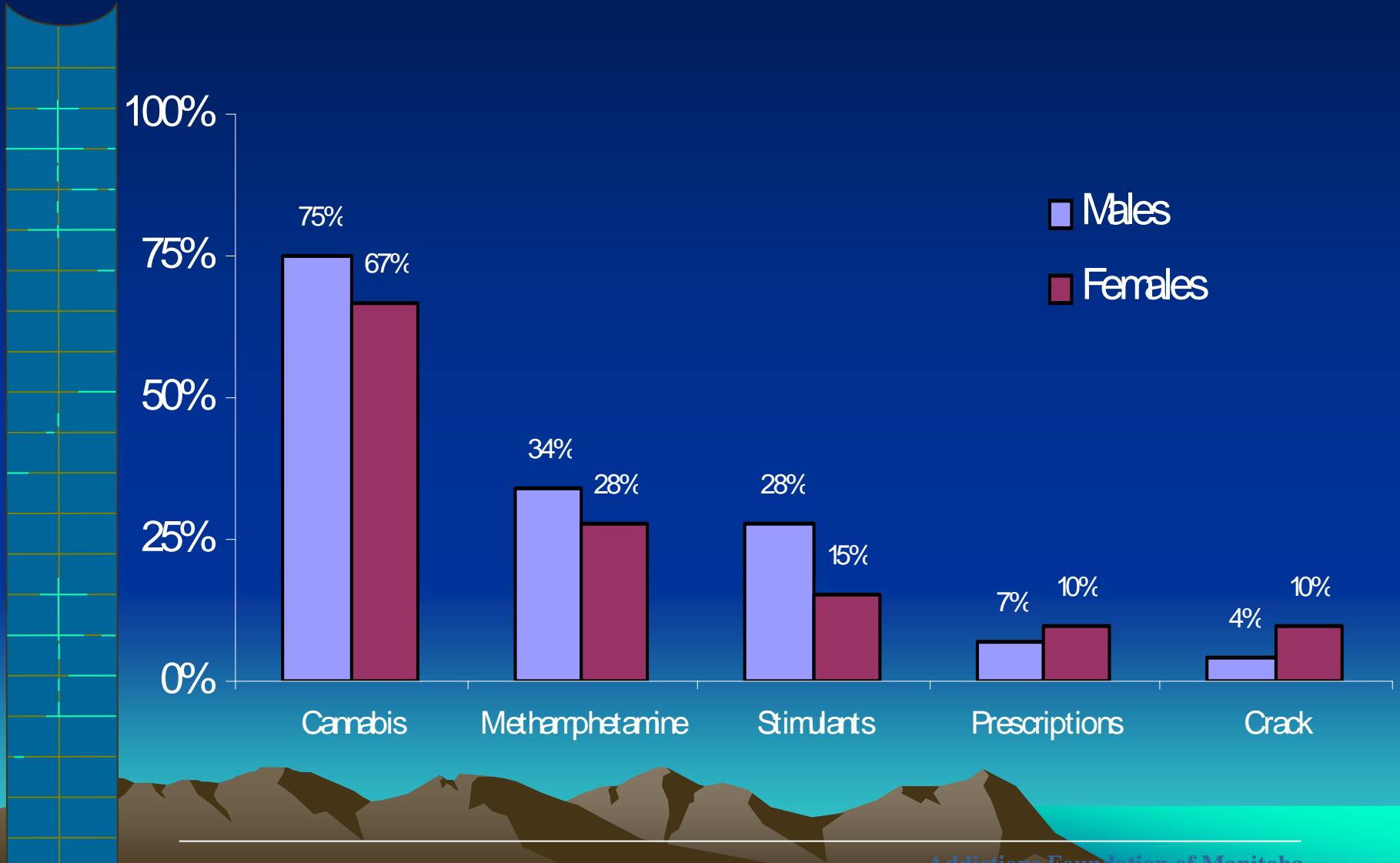


Percent of males and females at high risk for suicide





Drugs used frequently





Substance Use

- Almost all used cannabis
 - 61% of males and 51% of females used daily
- Almost all used alcohol, about 1/3 drank at least twice a week
- Magic mushrooms popular
 - 64% of males and 50% of females used
- Methamphetamine use common
 - 55% of males had used in past year (18% used daily, 16% used more than once a week)
 - 52% of females had used in past year (21% used daily, 7% used at least weekly)



Injection Drug Use

- 37% of males & 35% of females had ever injected
- 20% of males & 28% of females injected in the past year (of these, 20% of males and 24% of females injected daily)



Family and Home Issues

- 27% of males and 43% of females reported that their home was not a safe place
- 49% of males and 59% of females reported being physically abused growing up
- 45% of females and 12% of males reported sexual abuse – usually by age 8



Summary & Conclusions

- Substantial mental health issues
- Abusive background
- Heavy drug use, especially cannabis, hallucinogens, stimulants, methamphetamine
- Some injection drug use
- Poor health and lack of contact with social services
- Lack of education/difficulty with work
- Difficult to work with group, given the range of overlapping issues



Now what?

- Funding from Mb. Health has allowed AFM to initiate a project targeted to street involved youth in Winnipeg & Thompson
- Two fulltime counselors are being hired to work closely with agencies that are already working with the target group.
- The counselors will augment the resources of the community agencies by providing street outreach, AOD counseling, assessment and referral services