

Young adults want to #BeHeardNotHarmed: preferences for drug checking services

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Disclosure of interest: None

Campaign / Method

#BeHeardNotHarmed Campaign: A youth-led initiative launched in the summer of 2018 after 8 deaths at festivals from adulterated drugs.

Young adults—the largest group of people who use drugs—are consistently excluded from drug policy and service design.

#BeHeardNotHarmed 2023 Survey: SSDP co-designed an advocacy survey focused on young adults' perspectives on consumption, partying, and service access/preferences.

366 young adults completed the survey from December 2022 to October 2023.



Demographics



29

Median
Age



52%

Female



42%

Heterosexual



41%

Queer



39%

Students



85%

Attended a
music festival
in the past
year



61%

Attending nightlife
venues at least a
few times a year



91%

Used an illicit
drug in the
previous year

Testing and service preferences



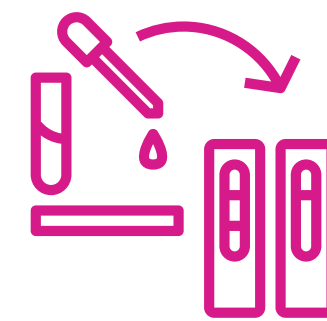
86%

Would test their drugs at a drug checking service



53%

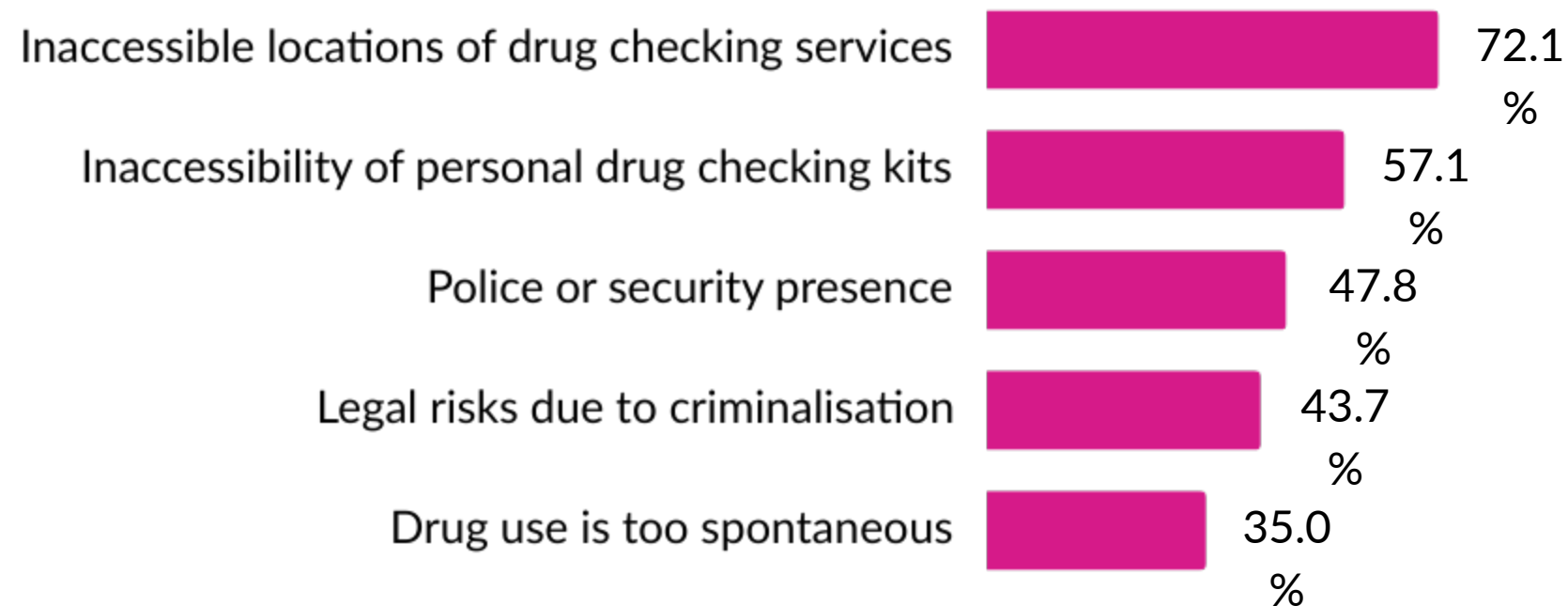
Had never tested their drugs



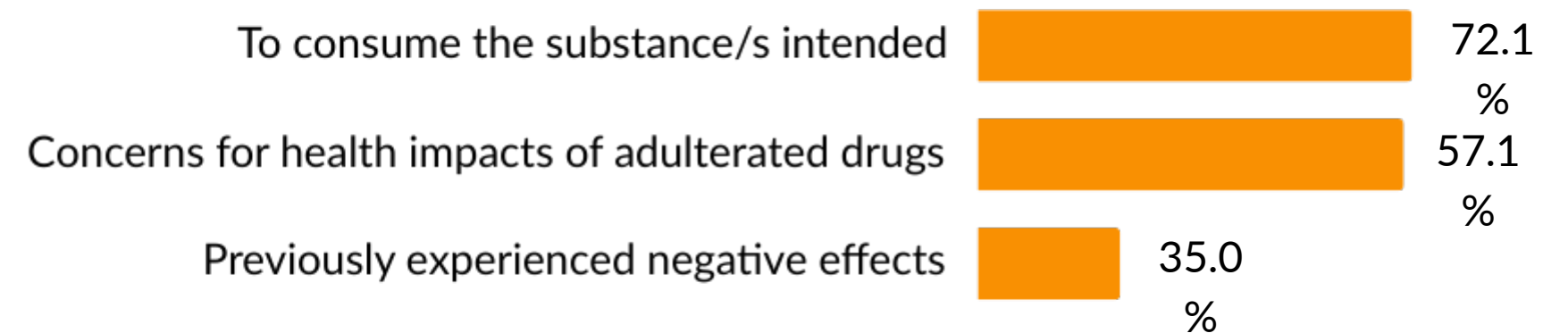
26%

Had personally tested their drugs

Barriers to accessing drug checking services

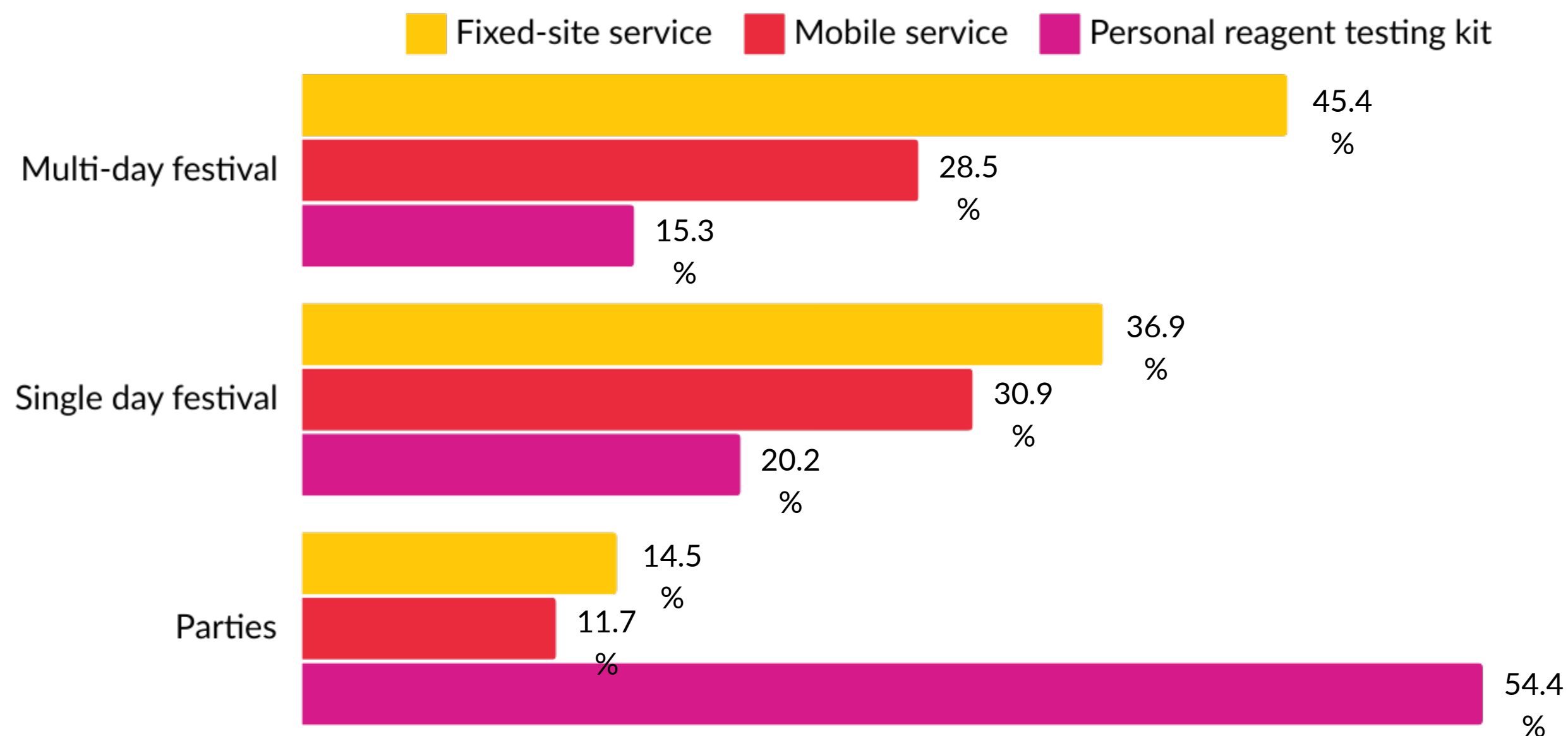


Reasons to access drug checking services



Testing and service preferences

Preferred access to drug checking services when going to different events



73%
Prefer to access a
service run by
peers

Implications

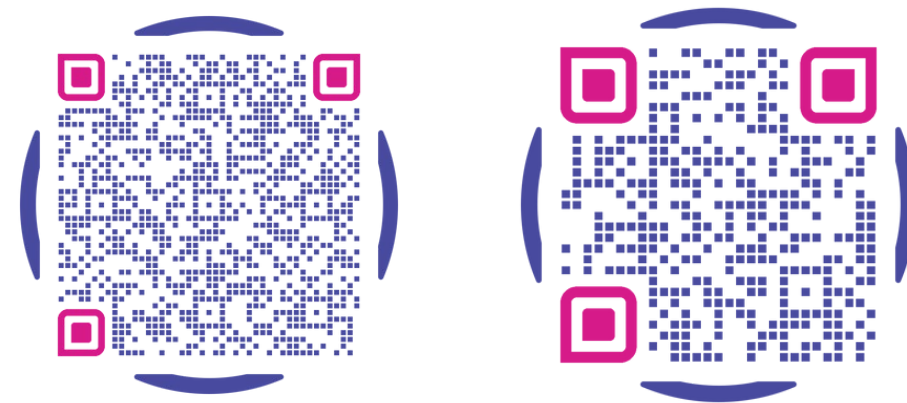
The #BeHeardNotHarmed 2023 Survey underscore the **significant** demand among young adults in Australia for **drug checking services**.

Three key implications of these findings:

1. Expanding available services through policy reform
2. Tailoring service delivery
3. Community involvement

By **amplifying youth voices**, we can transform drug policy.

View the full report here



Thank you

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