



JCOIN 026: AmeriSpeak Brief Stigma Survey

Survey 1: Opioid Use Disorder Perceptions, Knowledge, and Stigma of the General Population Results

NORC (February 2020). The general public's views towards opioids and core JCOIN items: An AmeriSpeak Omnibus General Population Survey 1. Chicago, IL: NORC

Pilot Survey Content & Analysis

Fielded February 27 –March 2, 2020

Sample size = 1,036

Overview of Pilot Survey Questions

- 5 Sections of Questions on:
 - Disagreement/agreement on **policies** related to opioid use disorder (OUD) and treatment of people with OUD
 - Disagreement/agreement with **personal discrimination and stigma** statements related to people with current/post OUD
 - Disagreement/agreement with **punishment** of people with OUD and access to treatment while incarcerated or on parole
 - Disagreement/agreement with **statements (factual and not)** about OUD, people with OUD, treatment of OUD
 - Personal and family/friends **experience** with opioids, overdose, and criminal justice system

Analysis Methodology

- Performed Z-transform on each question to standardize the two response scales
 - Strongly disagree
 - Somewhat disagree
 - Neither disagree nor agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Strongly agree
 - Do not agree at all
 - Slightly agree
 - Somewhat agree
 - Strongly agree
 - Completely agree
- Developed scales for:
 - Stigma related to OUD
 - Policies to benefit people with OUD
 - Criminality of OUD
 - Discrimination against people with OUD
- Convert scale z-scores back to a 5-point disagree/agree scale
- Perform cross-tabulations of scale scores and characteristics

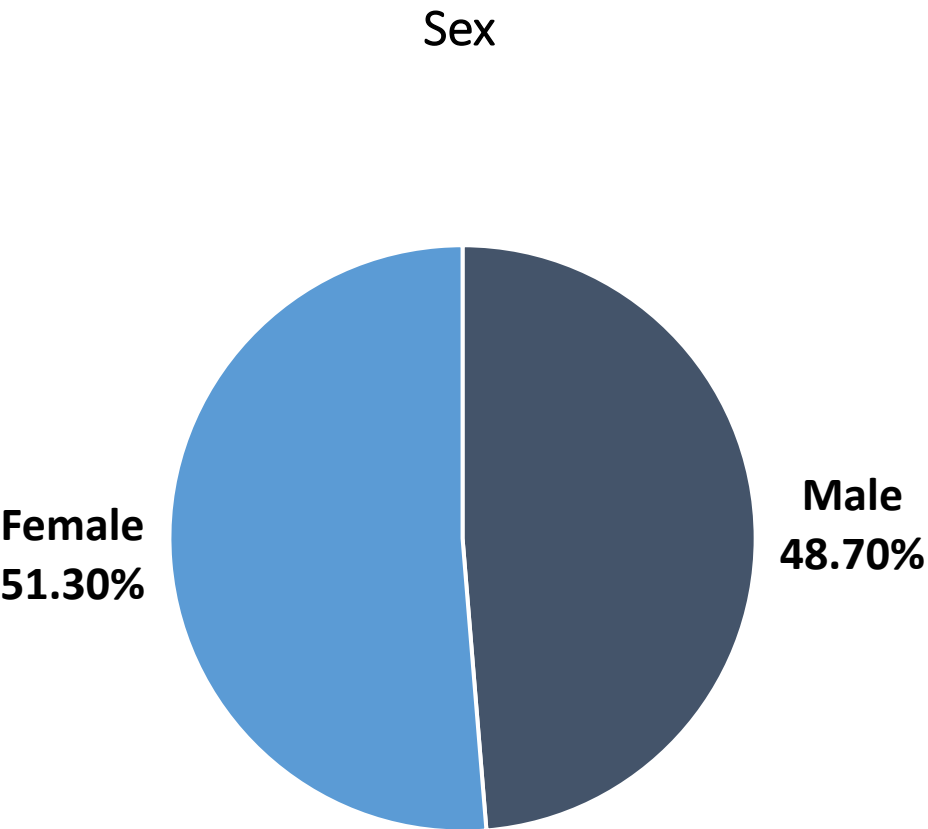
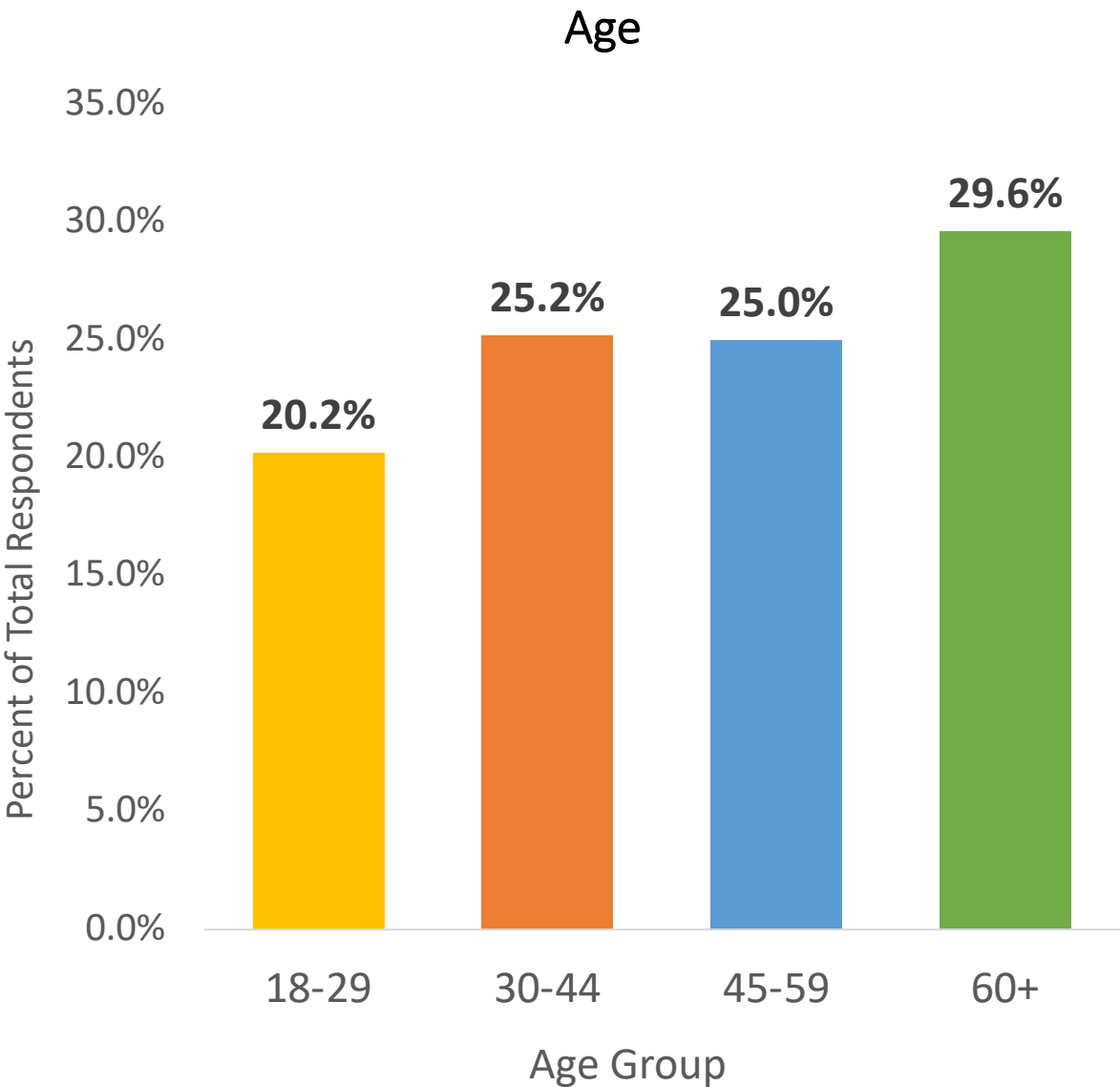
Key Demographics

Amerispeak Standard Profile Data:

- Sex (M/F)
- Age
- Race/ethnicity
- Education level
- Housing Type
- Ownership of Living Quarters
- Marital status
- Employment status
- Household income
- Region
- Metropolitan Statistical Area (urban/rural)
- State
- Number in household and age
- Internet Access at Home
- Home Phone Service

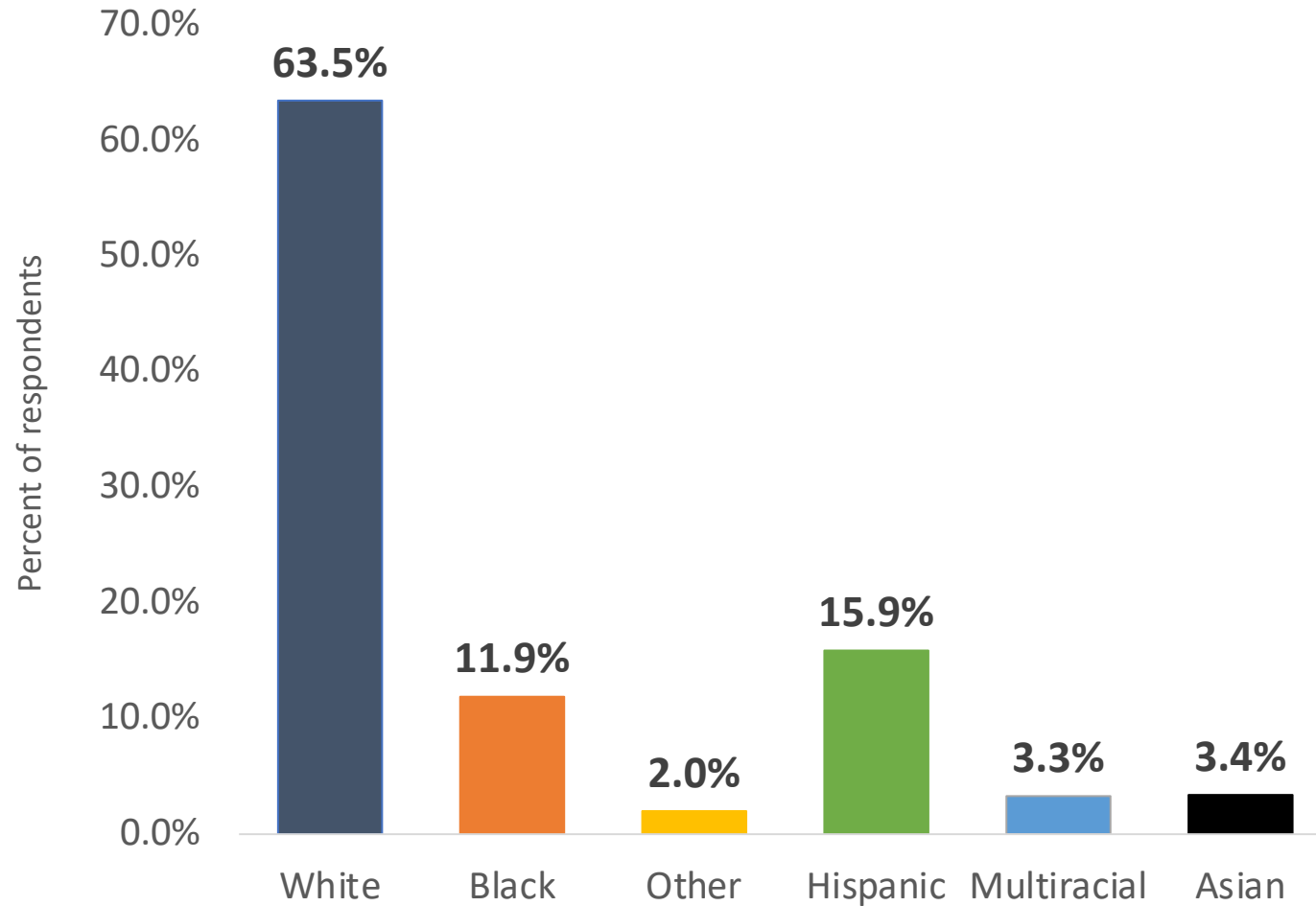
Results: Demographics

Characteristics of Pilot Survey Respondents

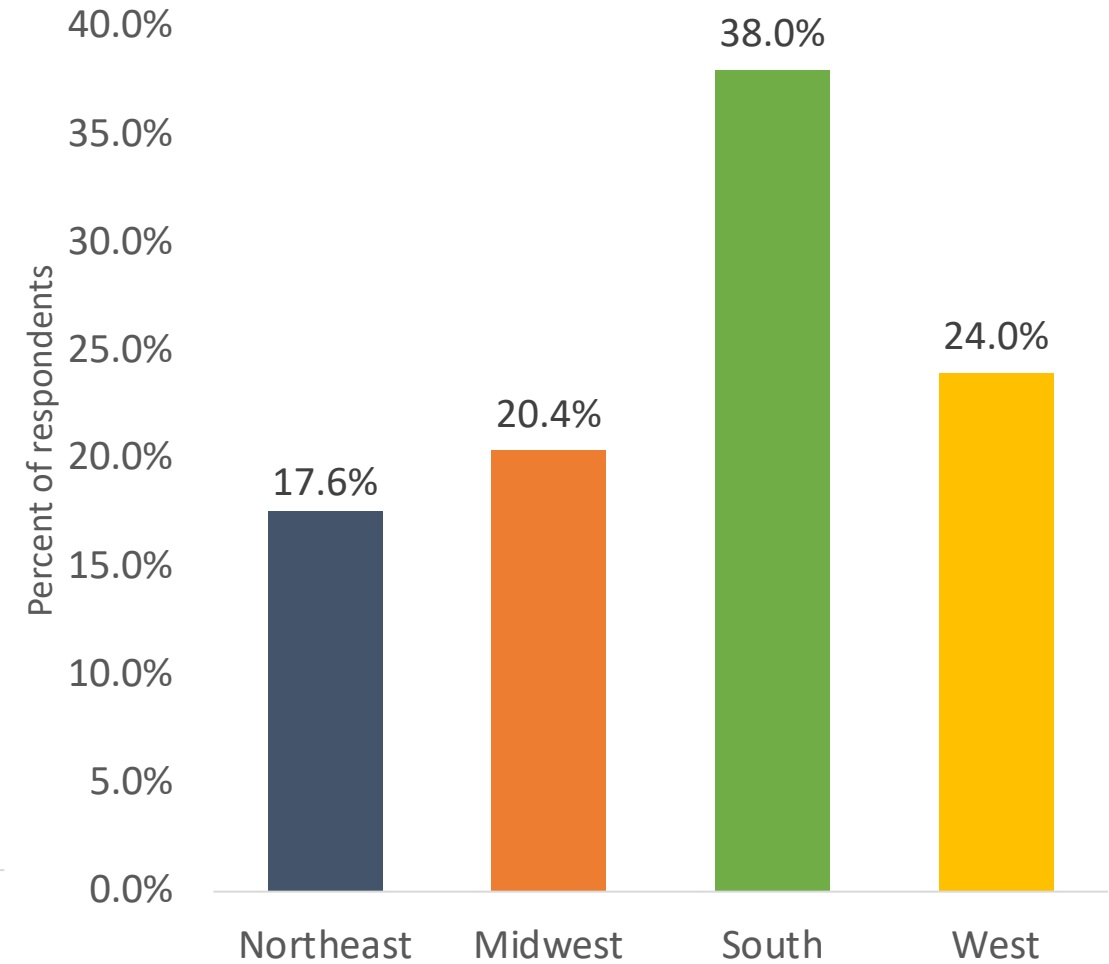


Characteristics of Pilot Survey Respondents

Race/Ethnicity

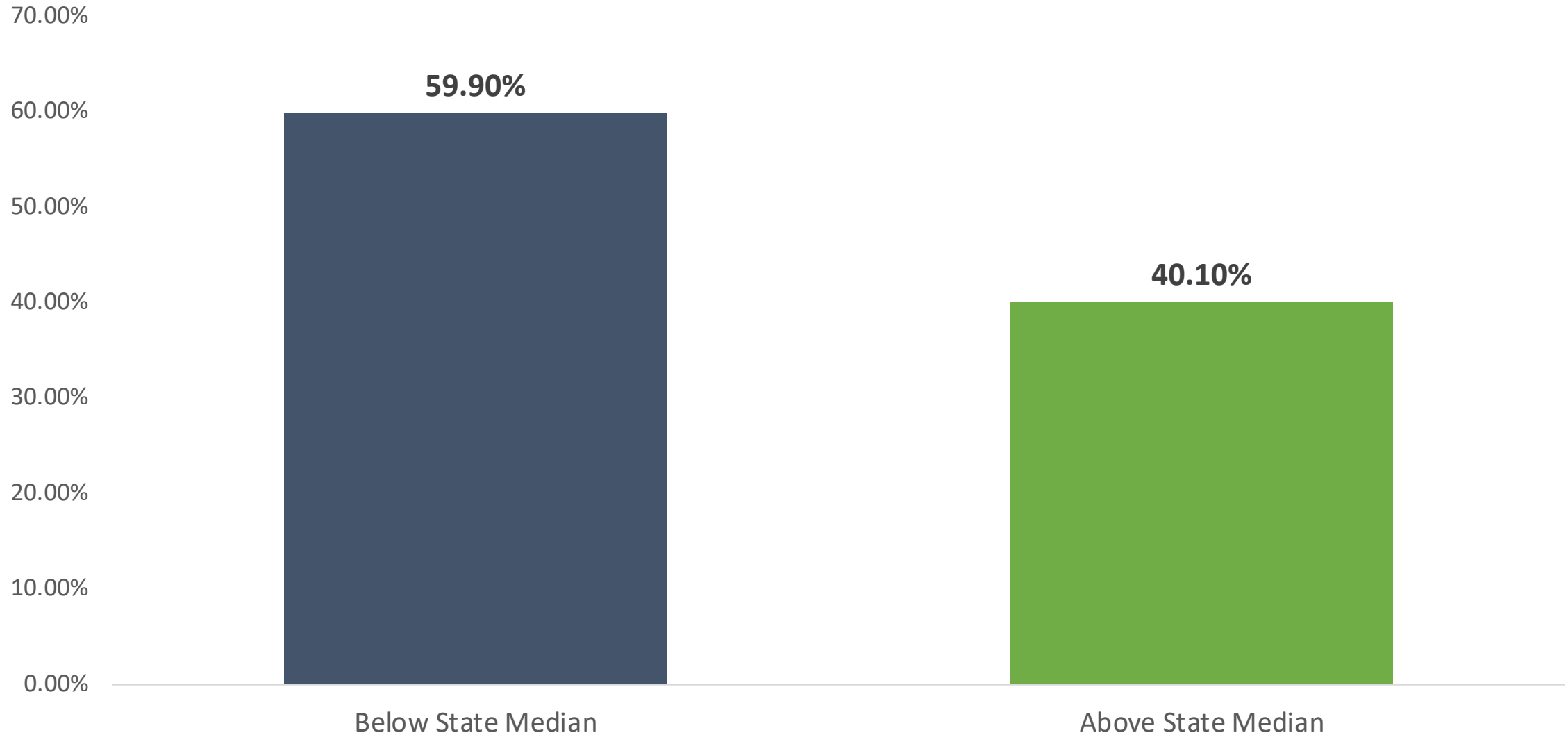


Geographic Region of the U.S.



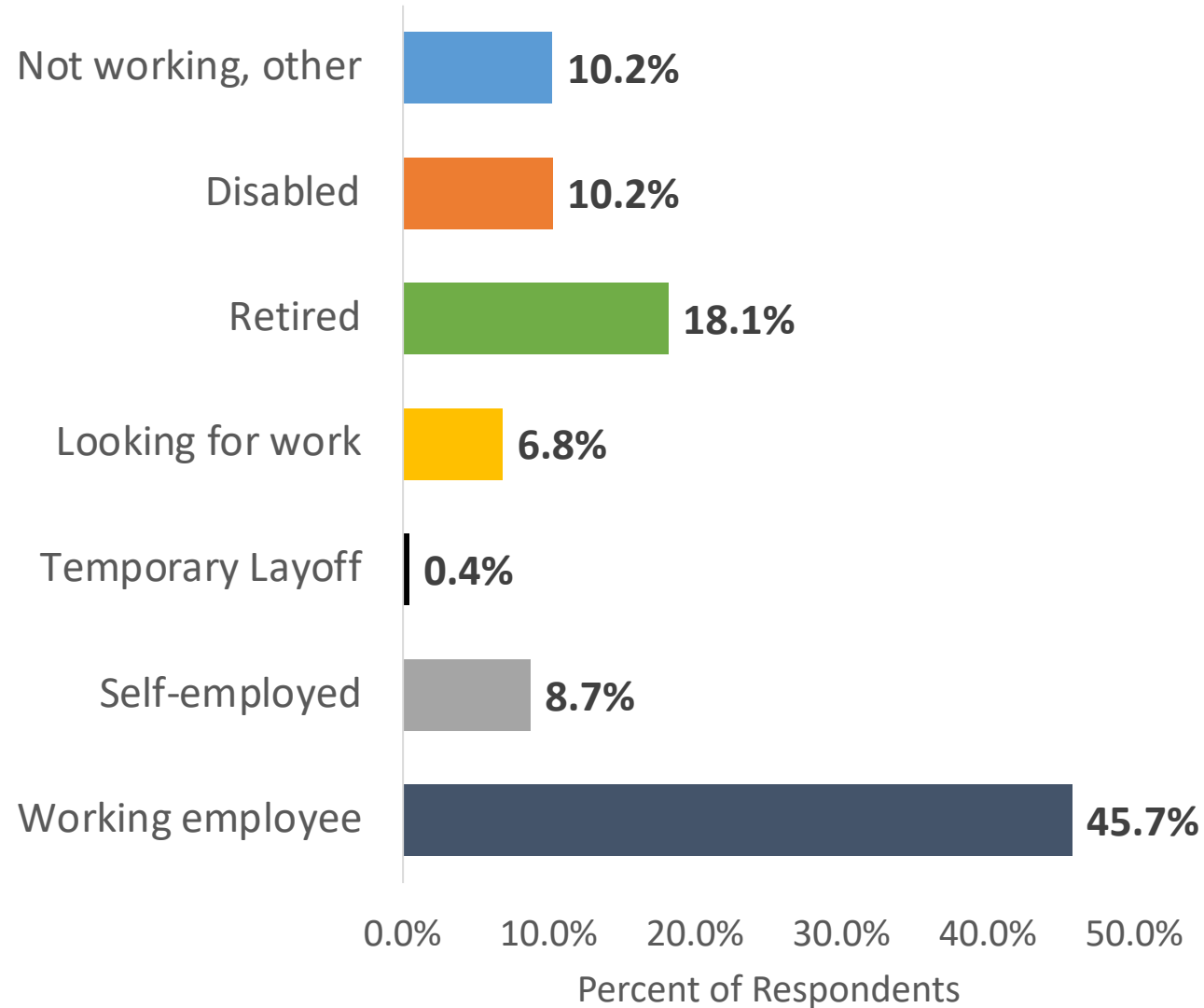
Income

The majority of respondents' household income is below the state median

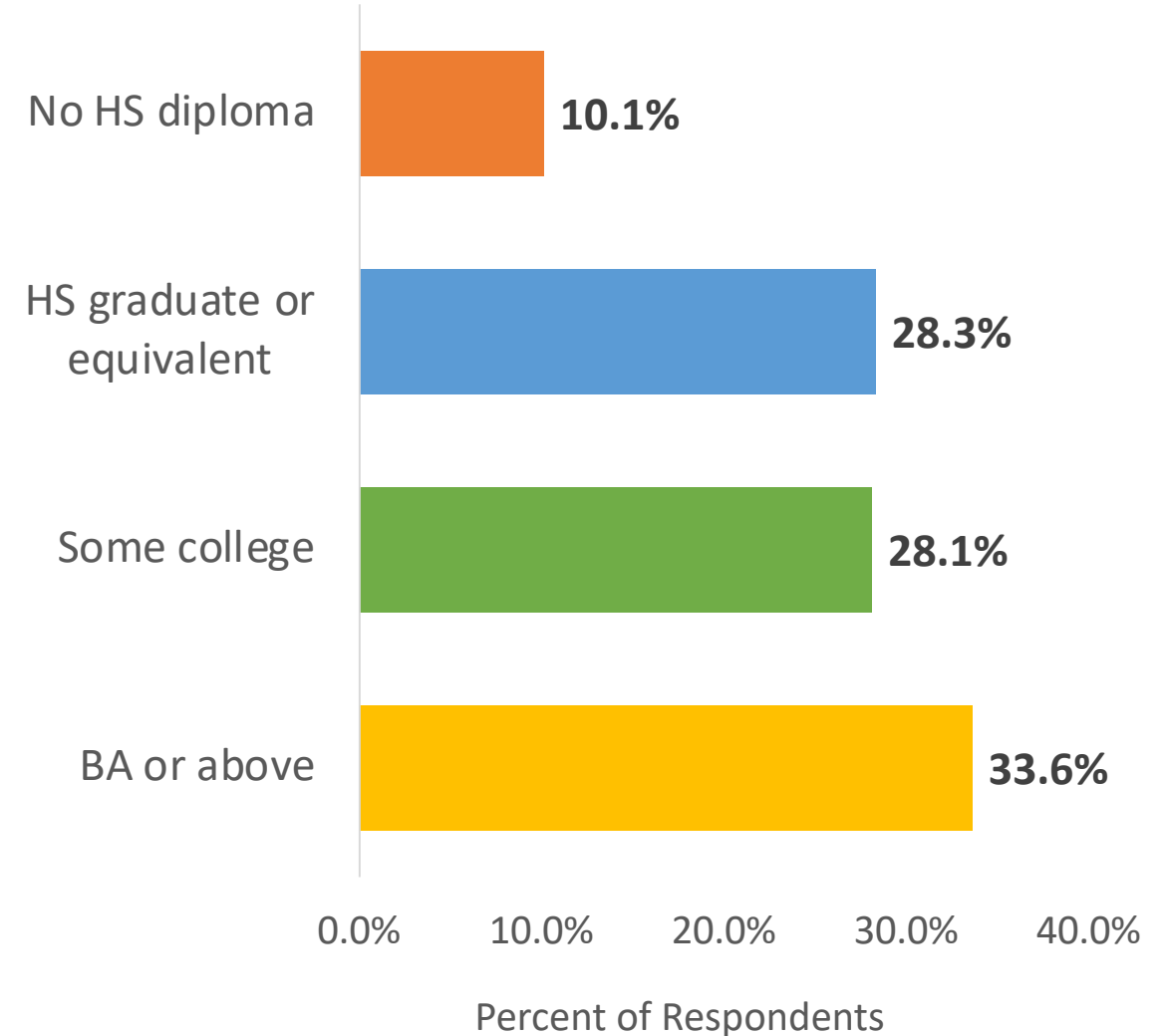


Employment Status and Education Level of Pilot Survey Respondents

A little over half of respondents are employed

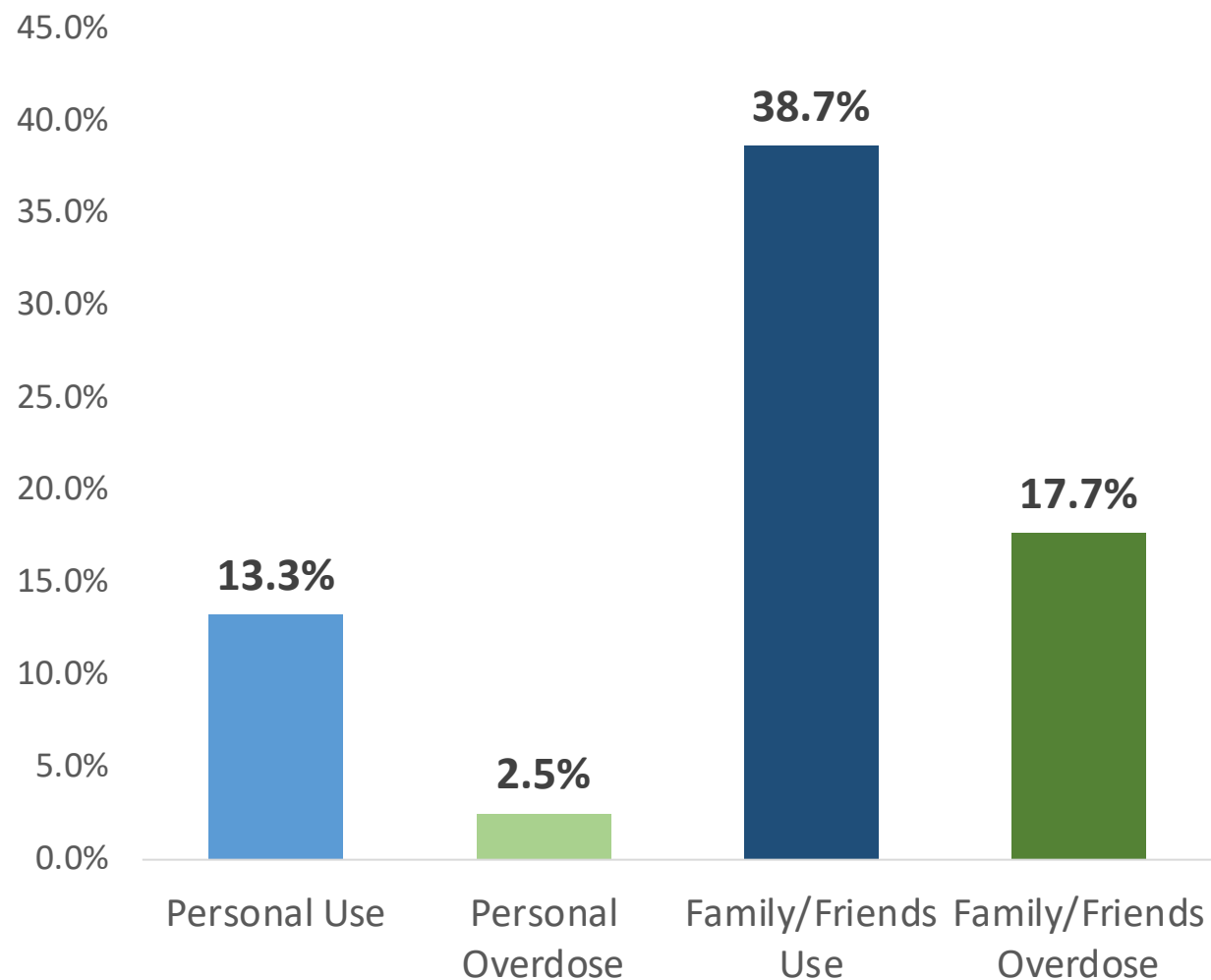


Majority of respondents have a HS diploma or equivalent or higher degree

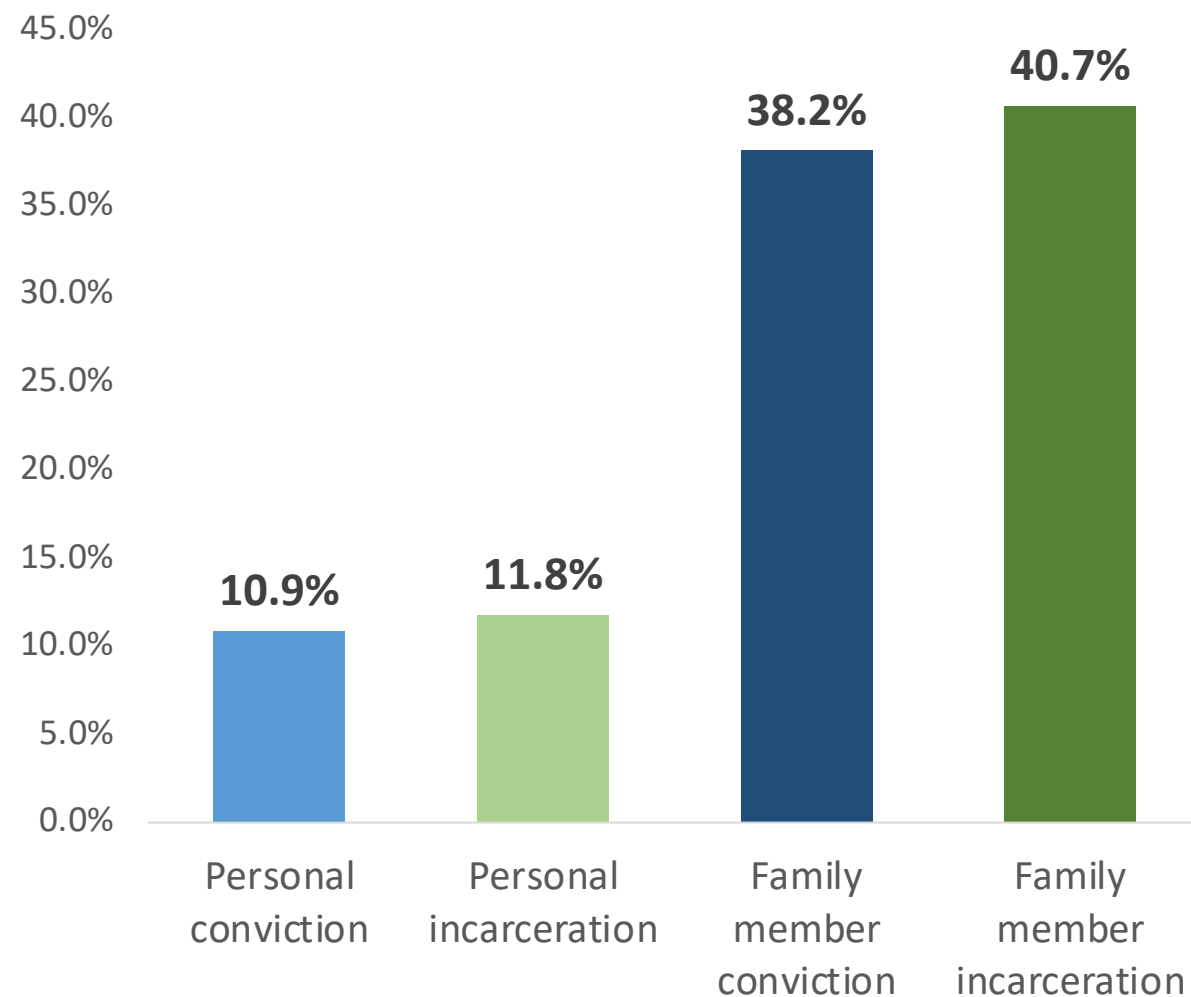


Opioid Use and Criminal Justice Experience

More common to have family/friends who have misused opioids or overdosed on opioids than have personal opioid experience



More common to have family/friends who have been convicted or incarcerated than have been convicted or incarcerated personally



Results: Proposed Scales

Stigma Scale

- A. I would be willing to have a person with a **past history** of opioid use disorder/addiction start **working closely** with me on a job.
- B. I am comfortable having a person with a **past history** of opioid use disorder/addiction **marry into my family**.
- C. I would be willing to have a person with a **current** opioid use disorder/addiction start **working closely** with me on a job.
- D. I would be willing to have a person with a **current** opioid use disorder/addiction **marry into my family**.
- E. People with a **current** addiction to opioids/prescription pain medications are **more dangerous** than the general population.
- F. A person who is **currently** addicted to opioids/prescription pain medication **cannot be trusted**.

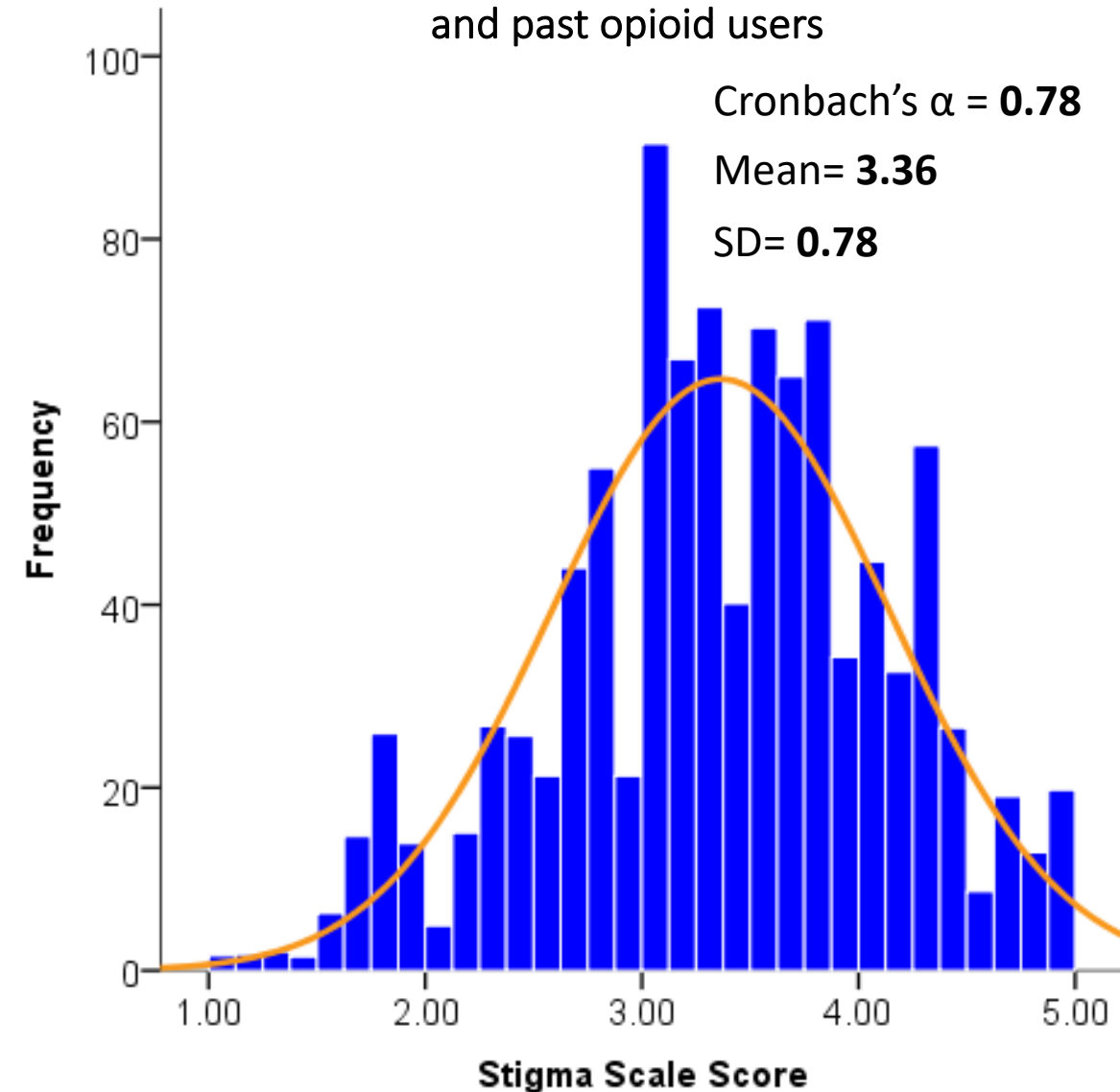
Stigma Scale Scores

People have moderate stigma towards current and past opioid users

Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.78$

Mean= **3.36**

SD= **0.78**



People have more stigma towards current opioid users than people with a history of use

Current: Cannot be trusted

3.41

Current: Dangerous

3.38

Current: marry into family

3.98

Current: work closely

3.79

History: marry into family

2.94

History: work closely

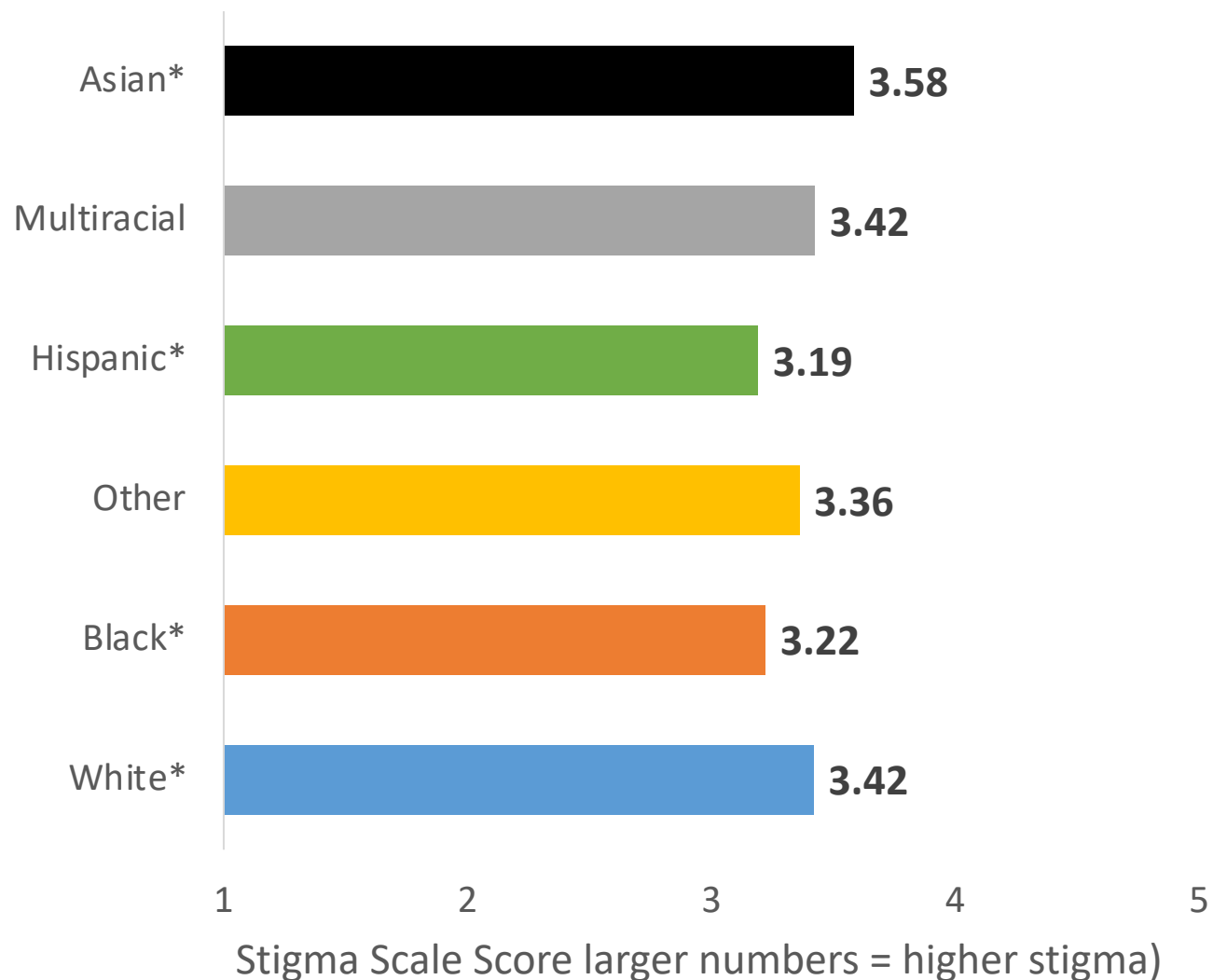
2.65

Response Scale (larger numbers = higher stigma)

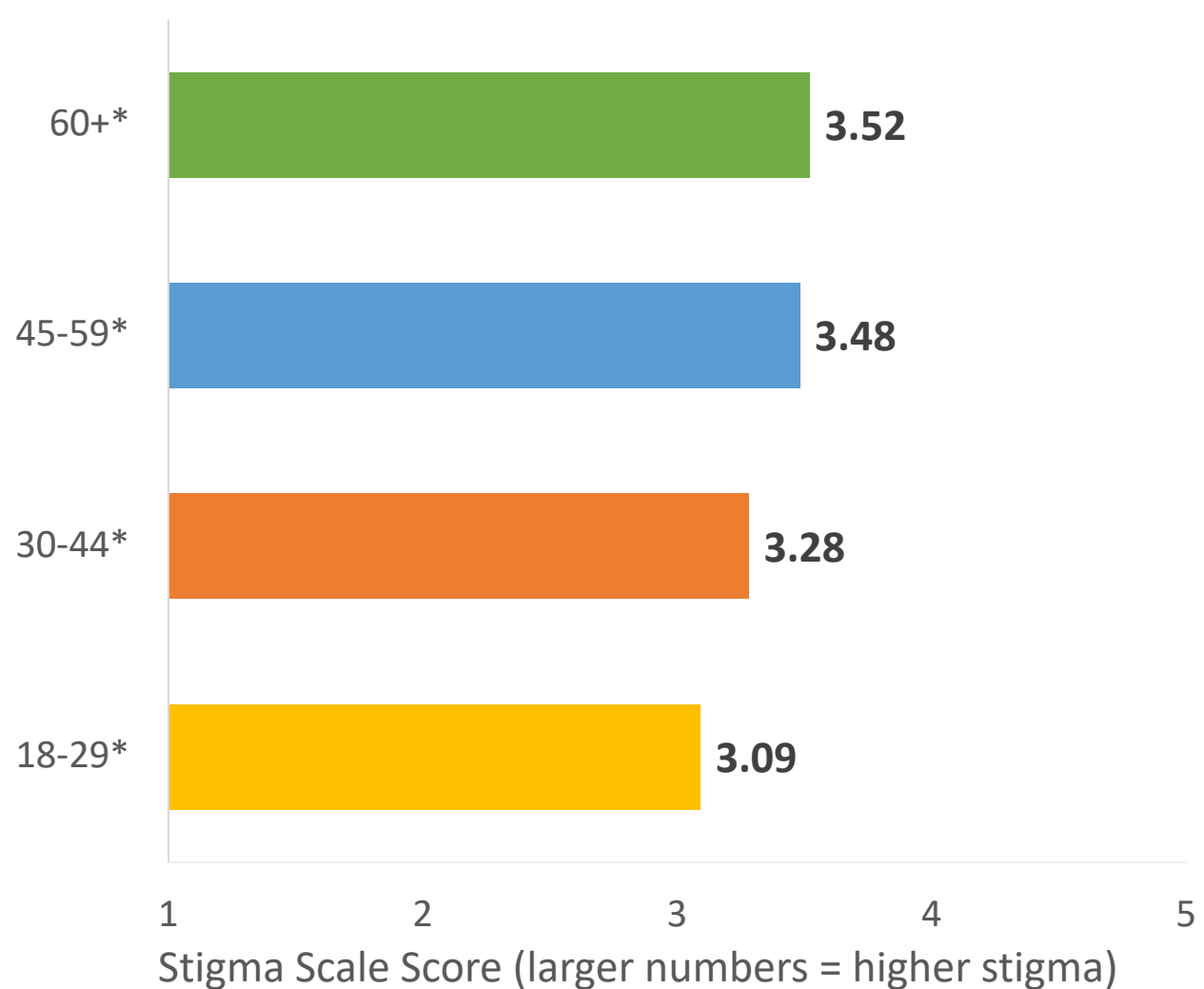
There are differences in stigma by race/ethnicity and age groups.

Whites, Multiracial, and Asians have higher stigma

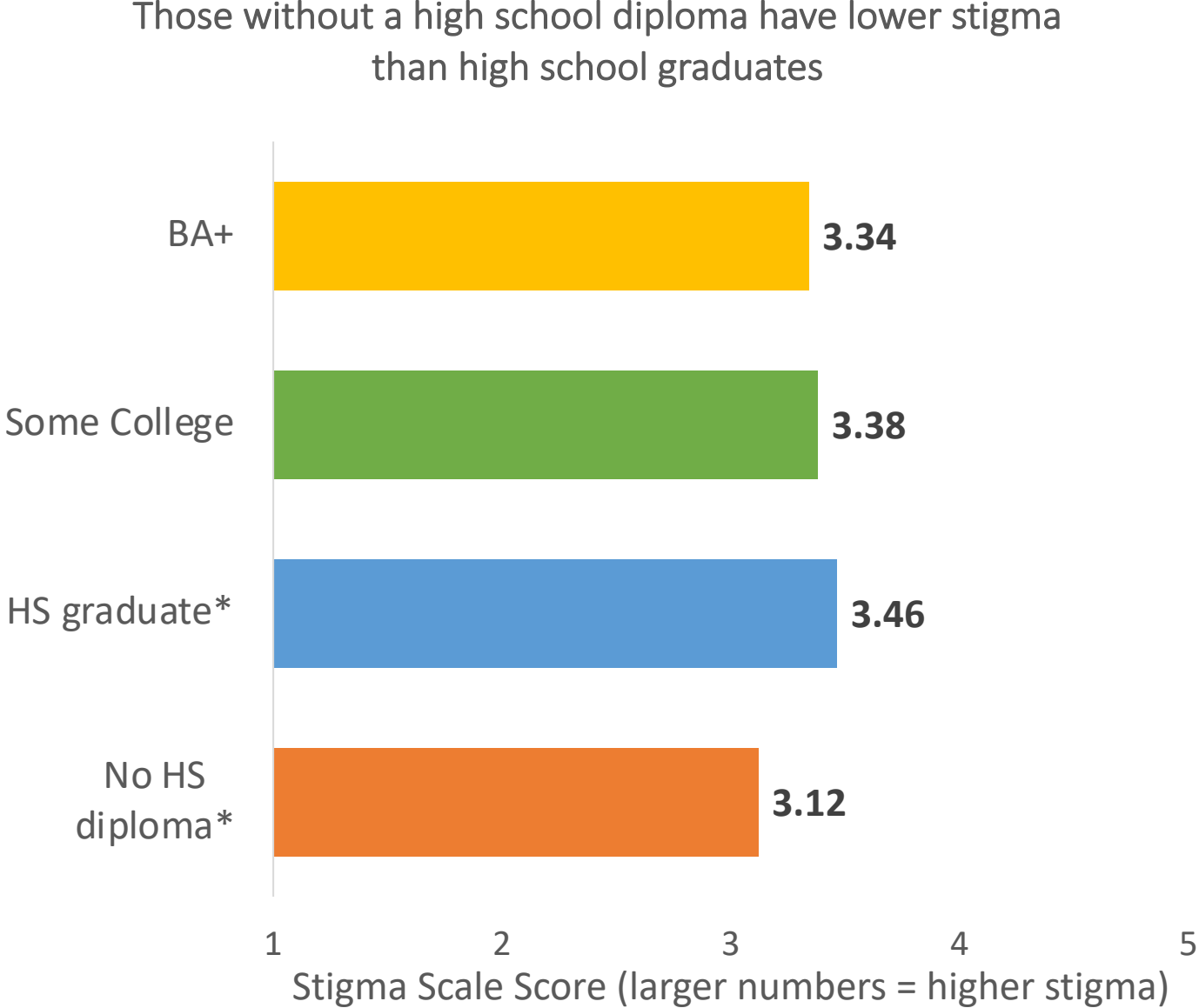
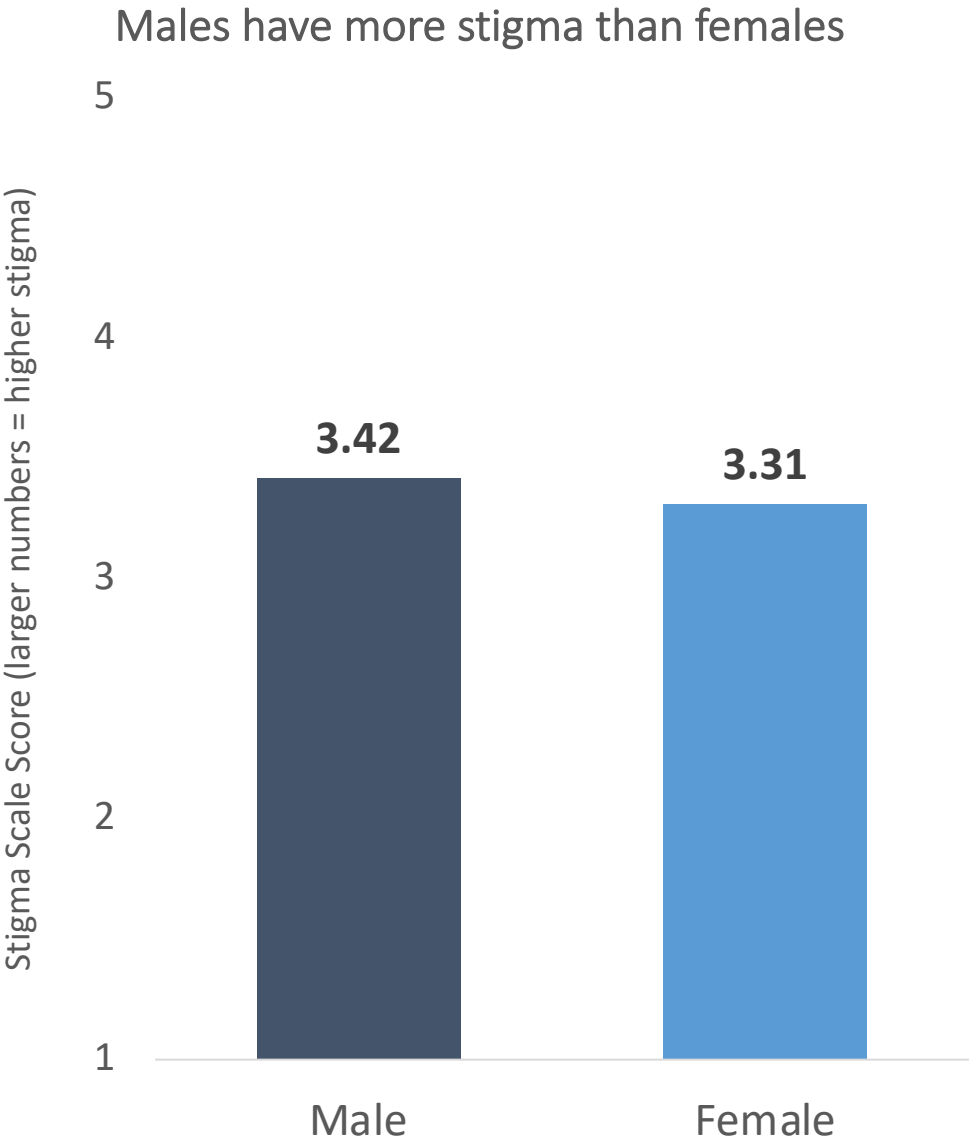
*indicates statistically significant differences were observed



Younger individuals have less stigma than older individuals



There are differences in stigma between gender and education level



Additional Stigma Scale Cross-tabulations

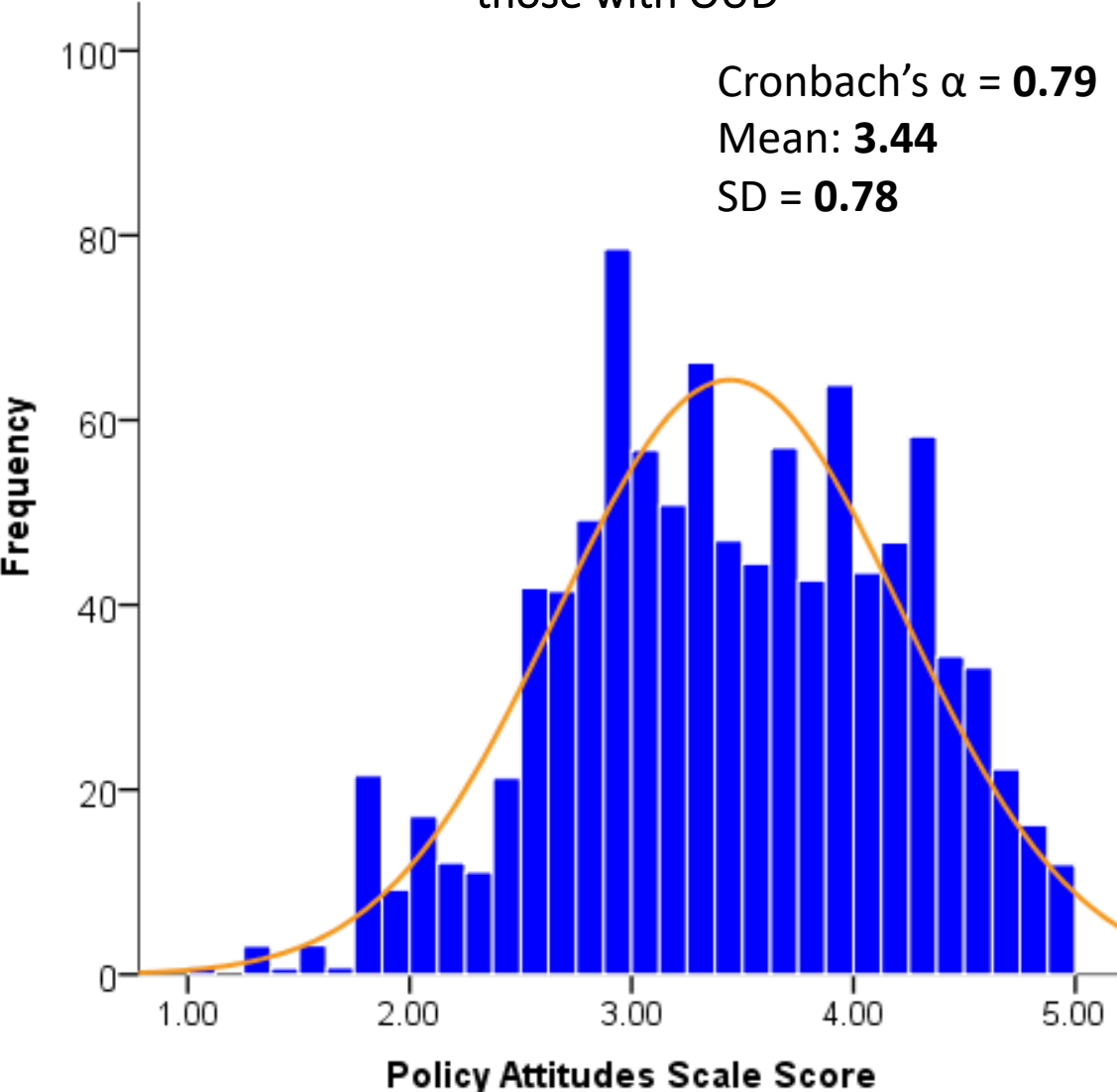
Characteristic	Finding
Personal opioid misuse experience	People who have ever misused opioids have less stigma than people who never misused
Family opioid misuse experience	No statistically significant difference
Personal history of incarceration or conviction	People with a criminal justice history have less stigma than those with no criminal justice history
Family history of incarceration or conviction	No statistically significant difference
Income	Those who make above their state median income have more stigma than those who make below
Employment Status	Retired people have more stigma than any other employment status
Region	No statistically significant difference
Medicaid State Expansion	No statistically significant difference

Policy Attitudes Scale Items

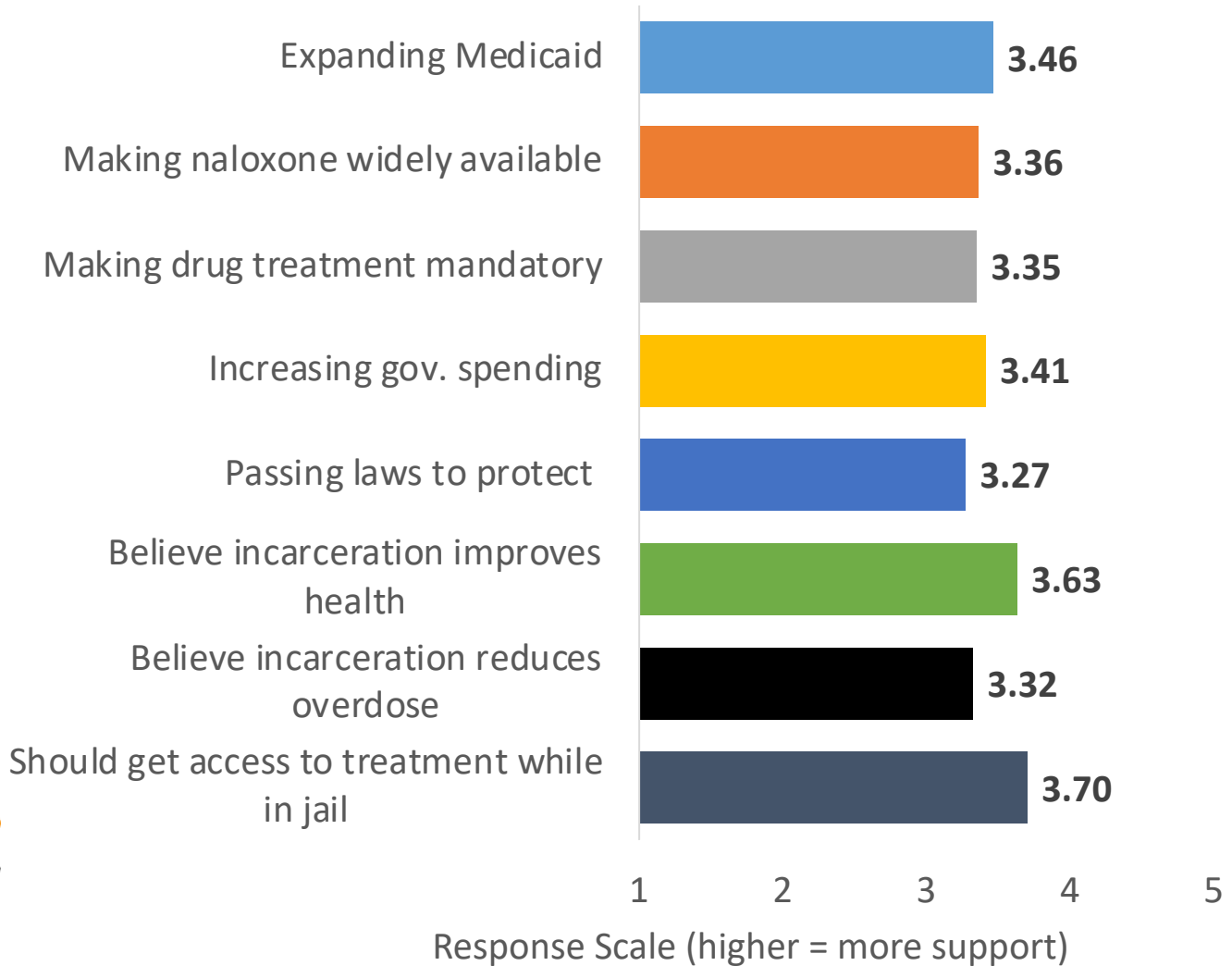
1. I favor **expanding Medicaid insurance** benefits for low income families to provide coverage for **treatment of opioid use disorders**/addiction problems, including addiction to prescription pain medications.
2. I favor **making naloxone** (also known as “Narcan”), a medication that can quickly reverse the effects of a person experiencing an opioid overdose, **widely available** and affordable without a prescription.
3. I believe that making drug treatment **mandatory** is an effective way to help people with an opioid use disorder.
4. I favor **increasing government spending** to improve treatment of opioid use disorder/addiction.
5. I favor passing laws to **protect people from criminal charges** for drug crimes if they seek medical help for experiencing an opioid/prescription pain medication problem.
6. I believe that **incarceration**/jail is an effective way to **improve the health** of people with an opioid use disorder.(item reverse coded for scale)
7. I believe that **incarceration**/jail is an effective way to **reduce the risk of overdosing** for people with an opioid use disorder.(item reverse coded for scale)
8. I believe that **people in jail/prison** with an opioid use disorder/addiction problem should get **access to medication** for opioid use disorder (e.g., methadone, buprenorphine, or naltrexone)

Policy Scale Scores

People generally agree with policies that would benefit those with OUD

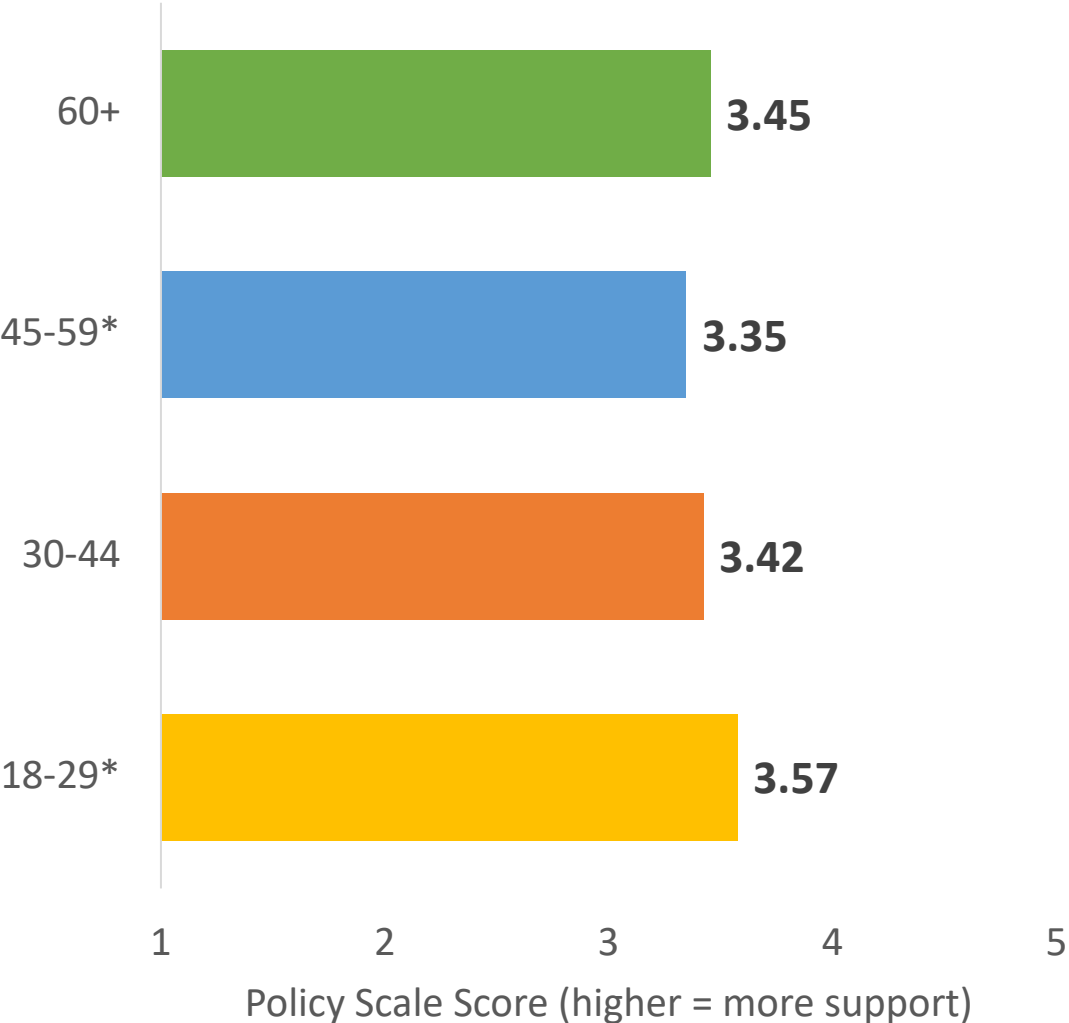


People more strongly agree that people in jail or prison should get access to treatment for OUD

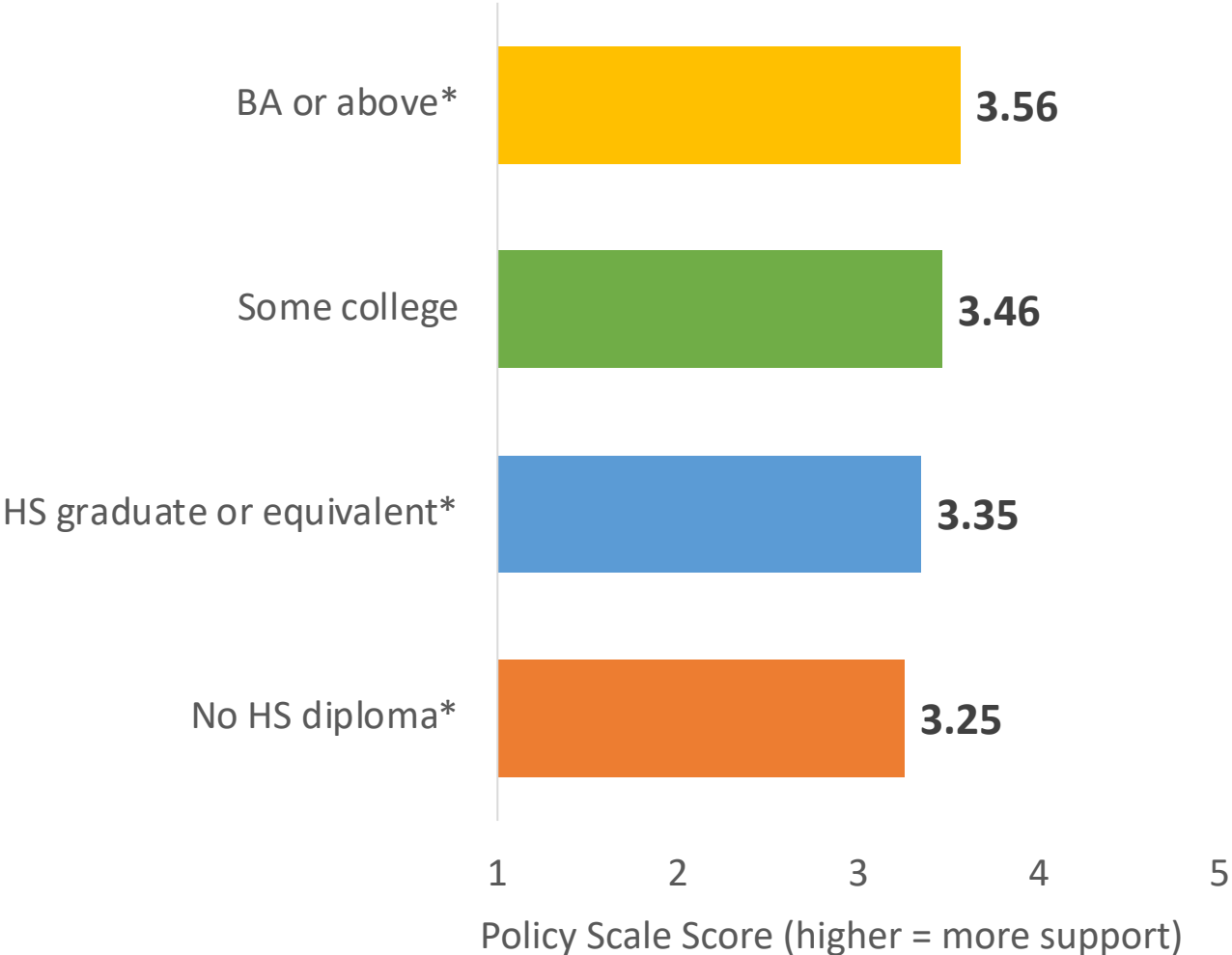


Support for policies benefitting those with OUD differs by age and education

Ages 18-29 have more support for policies than those ages 45-59



Those with a BA or above have more support for policies than those without any college



Additional Policy Scale Cross-tabulations

Characteristic	Finding
Personal opioid misuse experience	Participants with personal opioid misuse have more support for policies that benefit those with OUD than those without
Family opioid misuse experience	Participants with family/friend experience with opioid misuse have more support for policies that benefit those with OUD than those without
Personal history of incarceration or conviction	People with a personal criminal justice history have more support for policies that benefit those with OUD than those without
Family history of incarceration or conviction	People with a family criminal justice history have more support for policies that benefit those with OUD than those without
Income	Support for policies that benefit those with OUD is higher among those with incomes below their state median
Race	No statistically significant difference
Sex	No statistically significant difference
Employment Status	No statistically significant difference
Region	No statistically significant difference
Medicaid State Expansion	No statistically significant difference

Criminality Scale Items

1. I favor **arresting and prosecuting** people who **obtain opioids**/pain medication from sources other than a medical provider.
2. I favor **arresting and prosecuting** people who **use opioids** in a way not as prescribed by a doctor.
3. People **found guilty** of misuse of opioids/prescription pain medication need to be **sentenced to jail or prison**.
4. Individuals who are **incarcerated** with an opioid use disorder/addiction should get **access to evidence-based treatment** while incarcerated.
5. Individuals who are **on parole or probation** with an opioid use disorder/addiction should get **access to evidence-based treatment**.

3-Item Criminality Scale

Cronbach's α : **.87**
Mean = **3.25**
SD = **1.09**

Incarceration for OUD Item Means

Those who misuse opioids need
to be sentenced to jail/prison

2.85

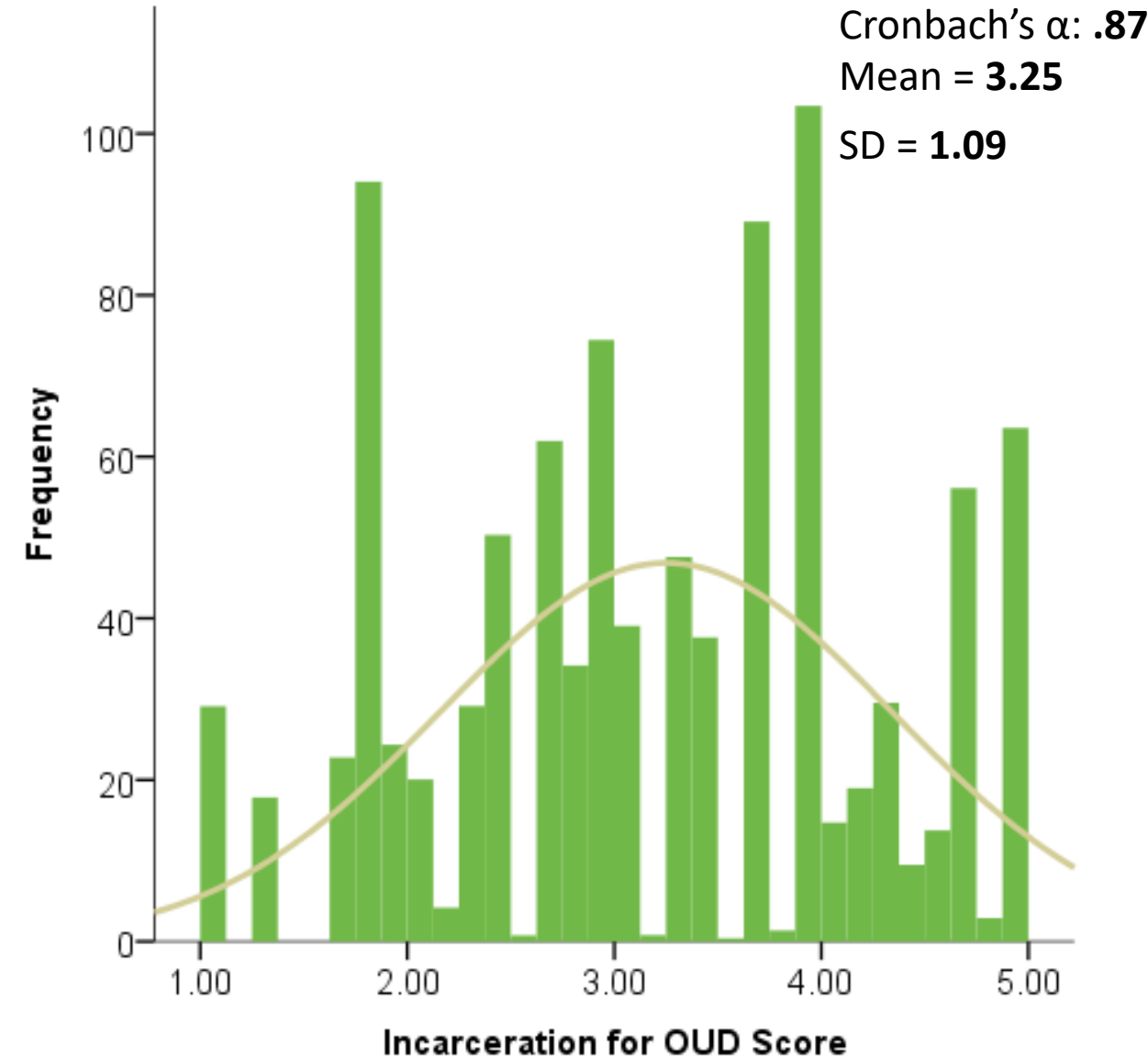
Arresting for obtaining from
source other than doctor

3.51

Arresting for use not prescribed
by a doctor

3.39

Response Scale (higher score = higher criminality)



Criminality Scale Cross-tabulations

Characteristic	Finding
Personal opioid misuse experience	People who have personally misused opioids have lower support for punitive policies for those with OUD.
Family opioid misuse experience	People whose family members or close friends have misused opioids have lower support for punitive policies for those with OUD.
Personal history of incarceration or conviction	No significant difference
Family history of incarceration or conviction	No significant difference
Income	No significant difference
Race	No significant differences
Sex	No significant differences
Employment Status	No significant differences
Region	No significant differences
Medicaid State Expansion	No significant difference

Discrimination Scale

- Four items about discriminatory policies captured acceptance of discrimination toward people with OUD/misuse
 - **Schools** dismiss students
 - **Physicians** deny treatment
 - **Employers** deny employment
 - **Landlords** deny housing
- Statistically significant differences between groups:
 - People **ages 18-29** have **less** acceptance of discrimination than older age groups
 - Individuals who have **personally misused opioids** have **less** acceptance of discrimination

Mean: **3.13**

SD = **.88**

Cronbach's α = **.71**

Knowledge and Belief Items

- 16 knowledge and belief items
- Factor analysis resulted in one **5-item knowledge and beliefs scale**
- **Disregard of OUD** as a medical condition:
 - Lack **self control**
 - **Moral failing**
 - Quit **anytime**
 - Medication is a **hoax**
 - Substituting **drug abuse**
- We found significant differences in our measure of *disregard for OUD as a medical condition* by **education**, **income**, **age**, **race**, **sex**, and **employment status**

Mean = **2.59**

Std. Dev. = **.78**

Cronbach's α = **.72**

Key Takeaways

Demographics	Scales				
	Stigma	Policy	Criminality	Discrimination	Knowledge
Race/ethnicity	*				*
Age	*	*		*	*
Sex	*				*
Education	*	*			*
Income	*	*			*
Personal criminal justice history	*	*			
Personal opioid misuse	*	*	*	*	
Family/friend criminal justice history		*			
Family/friend opioid misuse		*	*		

STIGMA:

- **Lack of knowledge** of OUD as a medical condition (+), **age** (+), personal experience with opioid misuse (-), and a personal experience with the criminal justice system (-) associated with stigma
- Compared to Whites, being **Asian** (+) and Black (-) affected stigma.

CRIMINALITY:

- **Lack of knowledge** of OUD as a medical condition (+), exposure to opioid misuse (-), being Black (-), **age** (+), **male** (+) associated with viewing opioid use as a criminal activity.

POLICY:

- **Lack of knowledge** of OUD as medical condition (+), exposure to opioid misuse (-), having a BA degree or above (-), being Black (-) and non-Hispanic Other (-) associated with opposing policies that increase access and treatment of OUD

- YA respondents reported **mid-level stigma** – mean stigma score 3.03 (sd=0.69)
- YAs have **lower levels of discrimination** toward people who misuse opioids – mean score 2.80 (sd=.81)
- **Age** (+), **income** (+), and family opioid misuse (-) are significantly associated with stigma.
- **Age** (+), **education** (+), employment (-), and family or friend history of opioid misuse (-) was significantly associated with acceptance of discrimination.
- **Lifetime personal opioid misuse** (+) and criminal justice experience (-) were associated with supportive policy attitudes.