

2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Among the Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual (LGB) Population Aged 18 or Older

Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

2024



SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

NSDUH Scope and Target Population

- Conducted by the Federal Government since 1971
- Comprehensive household interview survey of substance use, substance use disorders, mental health, and the receipt of treatment services for these disorders in the United States
- Produces estimates representative of the population at national and state levels
- Covers the civilian, noninstitutionalized population aged 12 or older in all 50 states and Washington, DC:
 - Includes households, college dorms, homeless in shelters, civilians on military bases
 - Excludes active military, long-term hospital residents, prison populations, homeless not in shelters
- NSDUH 2022 sample included 71,369 people (including 7,020 LGB adults)

Data from 2022 should not be compared or pooled with data from 2020 or prior years

Why not?

1

Mode effect: Web data collection began in 2020. There were significant differences in estimates between web and in-person modes of data collection.

2

Seasonal effect: There were systematic differences between two-quarter estimates from 2015 to 2019 and corresponding four-quarter estimates. Because 2020 data were mostly collected in only two quarters, these data cannot be compared with the full year of 2022 data.

3

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) definition changes: Starting in 2020, SUDs were defined according to criteria from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 5th edition (DSM-5). Therefore, SUD estimates cannot be compared with 2019 or earlier.

Updated 2021 Estimates

- Prior analyses showed differences in estimates between web and in-person modes of data collection.
- Because the proportion of interviews completed via the web or in-person was not stable between 2021 and 2022, differences in estimates could be due to mode effects rather than real changes in the population.
- In 2022, weighting procedures were updated to stabilize the effect of mode on estimates across years.¹
 - These procedures also were applied to the 2021 analysis weights.
 - Updated 2021 estimates were generated for the 2022 Detailed Tables to facilitate comparisons with 2022 estimates.
 - These updated 2021 estimates should be used for comparison with 2022 estimates.

¹ See Section 3.3.3 in the following reference: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2023). *2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH): Methodological Summary and Definitions*. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2022-methodological-summary-and-definitions>.

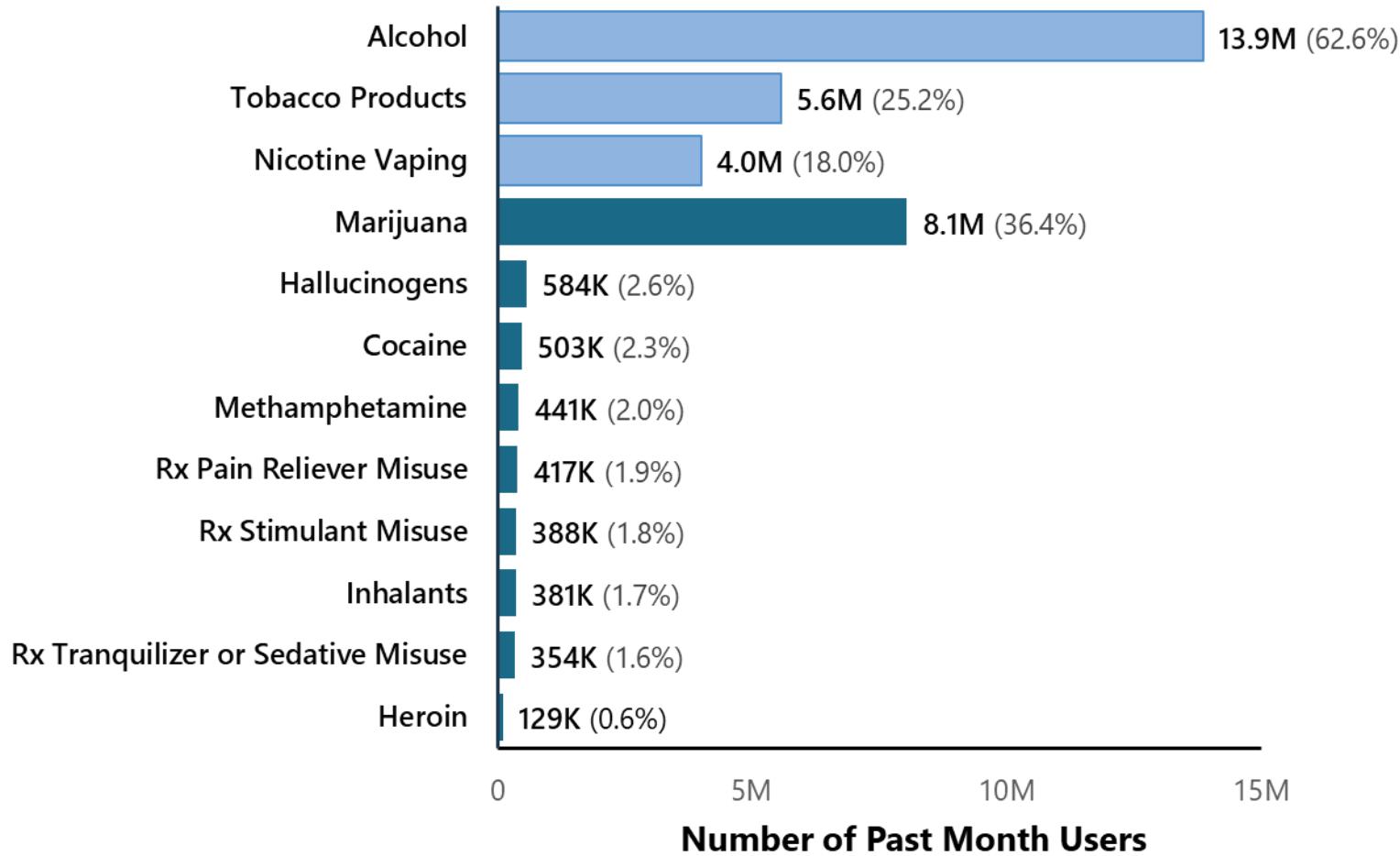
About This Presentation

- Statistical testing was performed for comparisons of estimates across age groups and among sexual identity groups according to procedures described in the 2022 Methodological Summary and Definitions report.¹ Differences were considered statistically significant at the .05 level of significance. Statistically significant differences resulting from these testing procedures are described using terms such as “higher,” “lower,” “more likely,” or “less likely.” Statements use terms such as “similar” or “the same” when a difference was not statistically significant. When estimates are presented without reference to differences across groups, statistical significance is not implied.

¹ See Section 3.2.3 in the following reference: Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2023). *2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH): Methodological Summary and Definitions*. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2022-methodological-summary-and-definitions>.

Substance Use in the Past Month

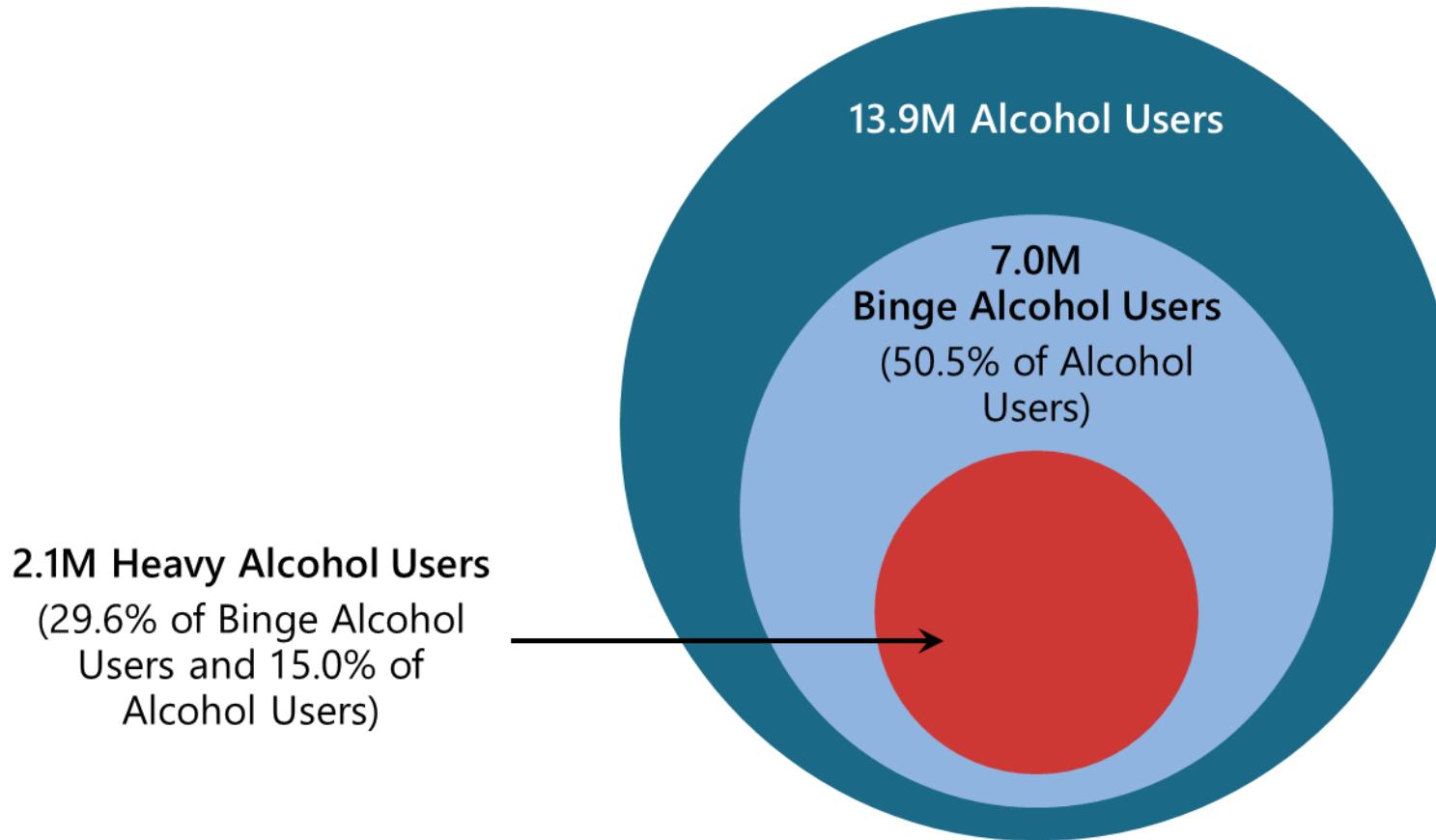
Past Month Substance Use: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older



Rx = prescription.

Note: The estimated numbers of current users of different substances are not mutually exclusive because people could have used more than one type of substance in the past month.

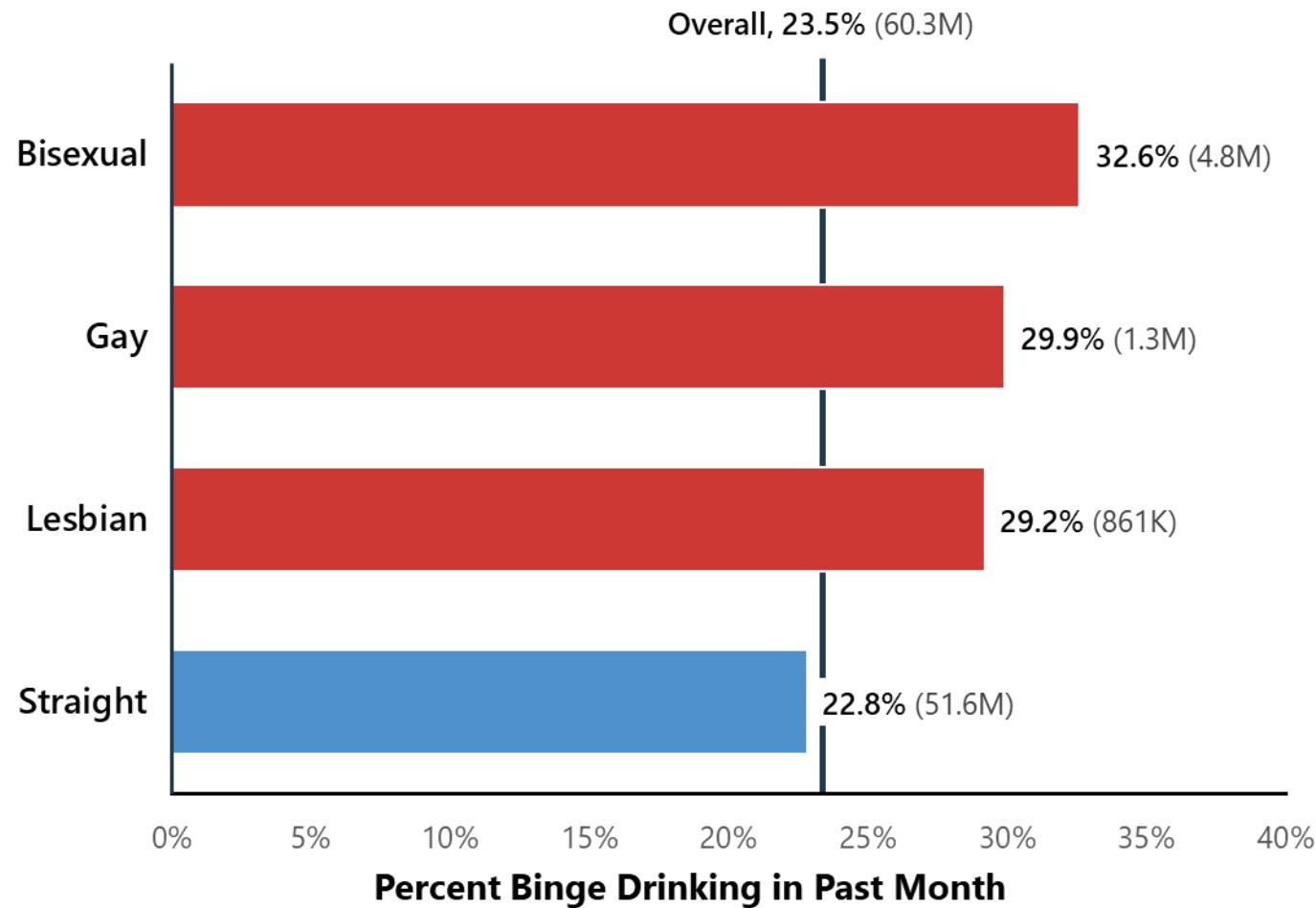
Past Month Alcohol Use, Binge Alcohol Use, and Heavy Alcohol Use: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older



- More than **half** of past month alcohol users were binge drinkers

Note: Binge Alcohol Use is defined as drinking five or more drinks (for males) or four or more drinks (for females) on the same occasion on at least 1 day in the past 30 days. Heavy Alcohol Use is defined as binge drinking on the same occasion on 5 or more days in the past 30 days; all heavy alcohol users are also binge alcohol users.

Binge Alcohol Use in the Past Month by Sexual Identity: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older

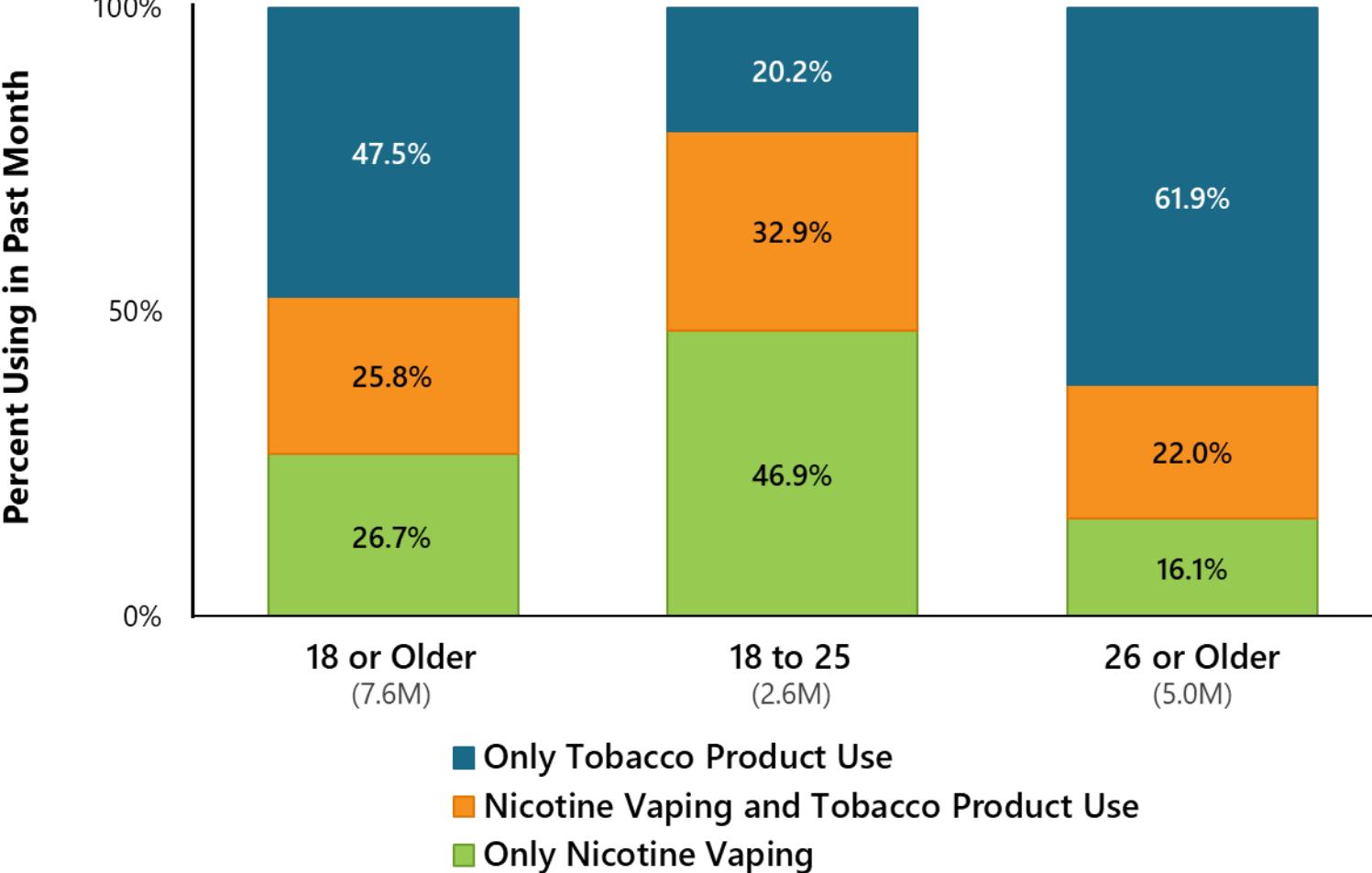


- Binge drinking among **LGB** adults was **higher** than among **Straight** adults

Straight = straight or heterosexual.

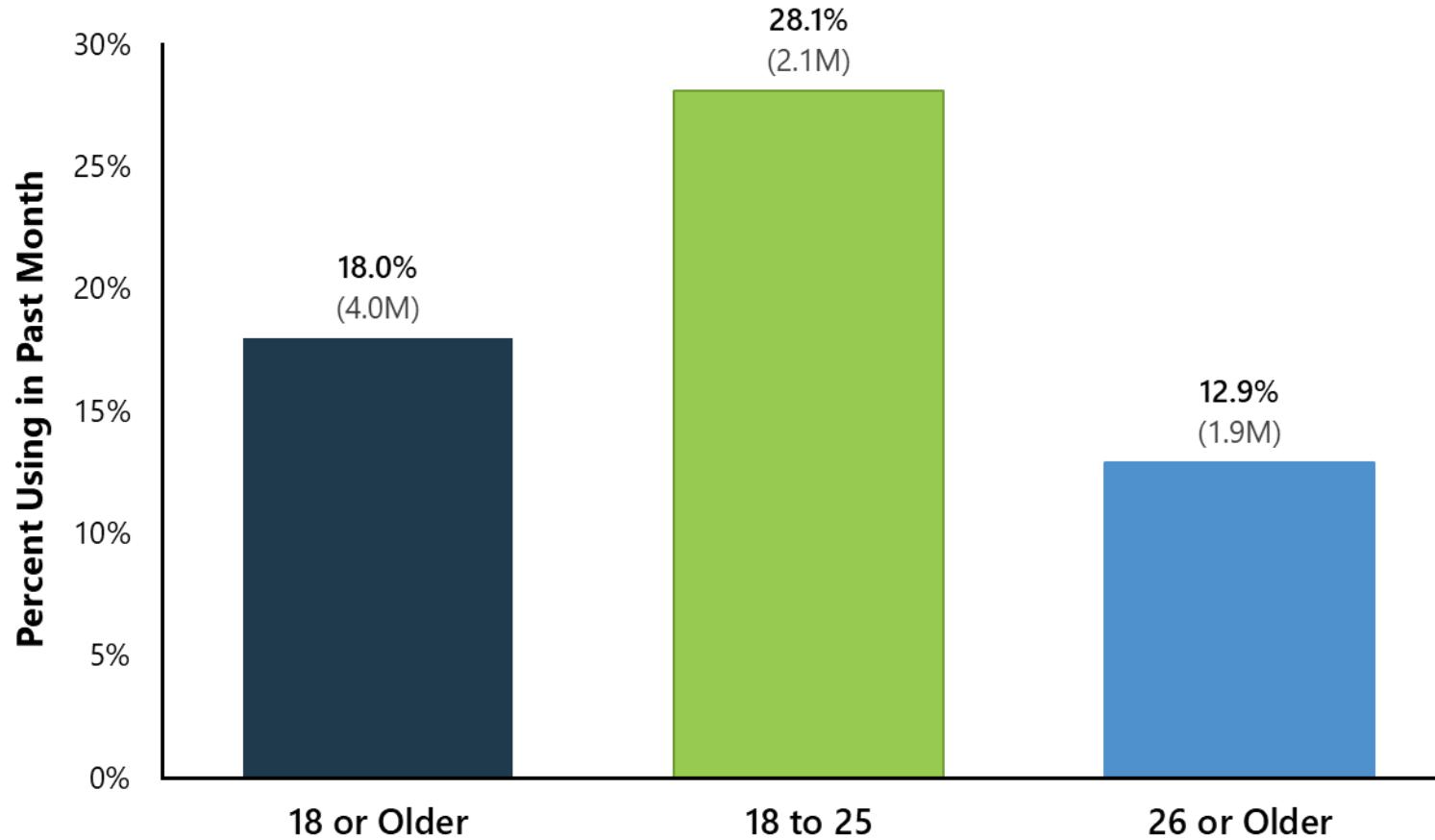
Note: Binge Alcohol Use is defined as drinking five or more drinks (for males) or four or more drinks (for females) on the same occasion on at least 1 day in the past 30 days.

Type of Tobacco Product Use and Nicotine Vaping: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older Who Used Nicotine Products in the Past Month



- Among current nicotine product users, the **use of specific nicotine products varied by age group**
- An estimated **46.9% of LGB young adults aged 18 to 25** who used nicotine products in the past month only vaped nicotine products compared with **16.1% of LGB adults aged 26 or older**

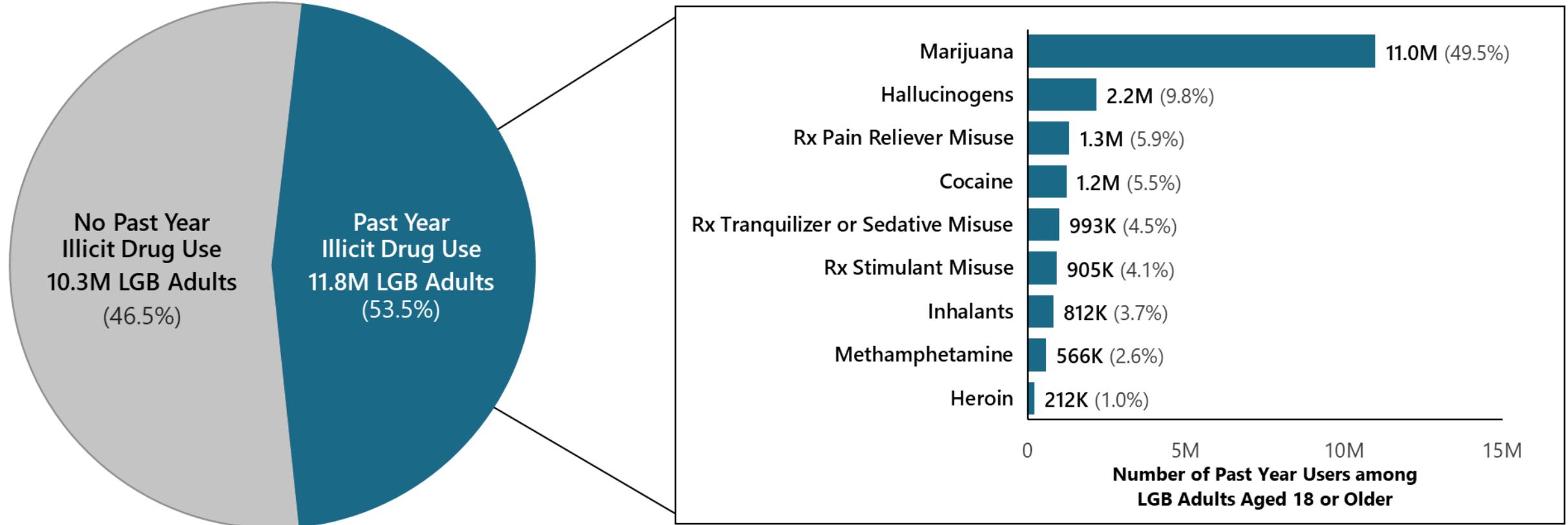
Past Month Nicotine Vaping: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older



- The percentage of people who vaped nicotine was **higher among LGB young adults aged 18 to 25 than among LGB adults aged 26 or older**

Past Year and Past Month Illicit Drug Use

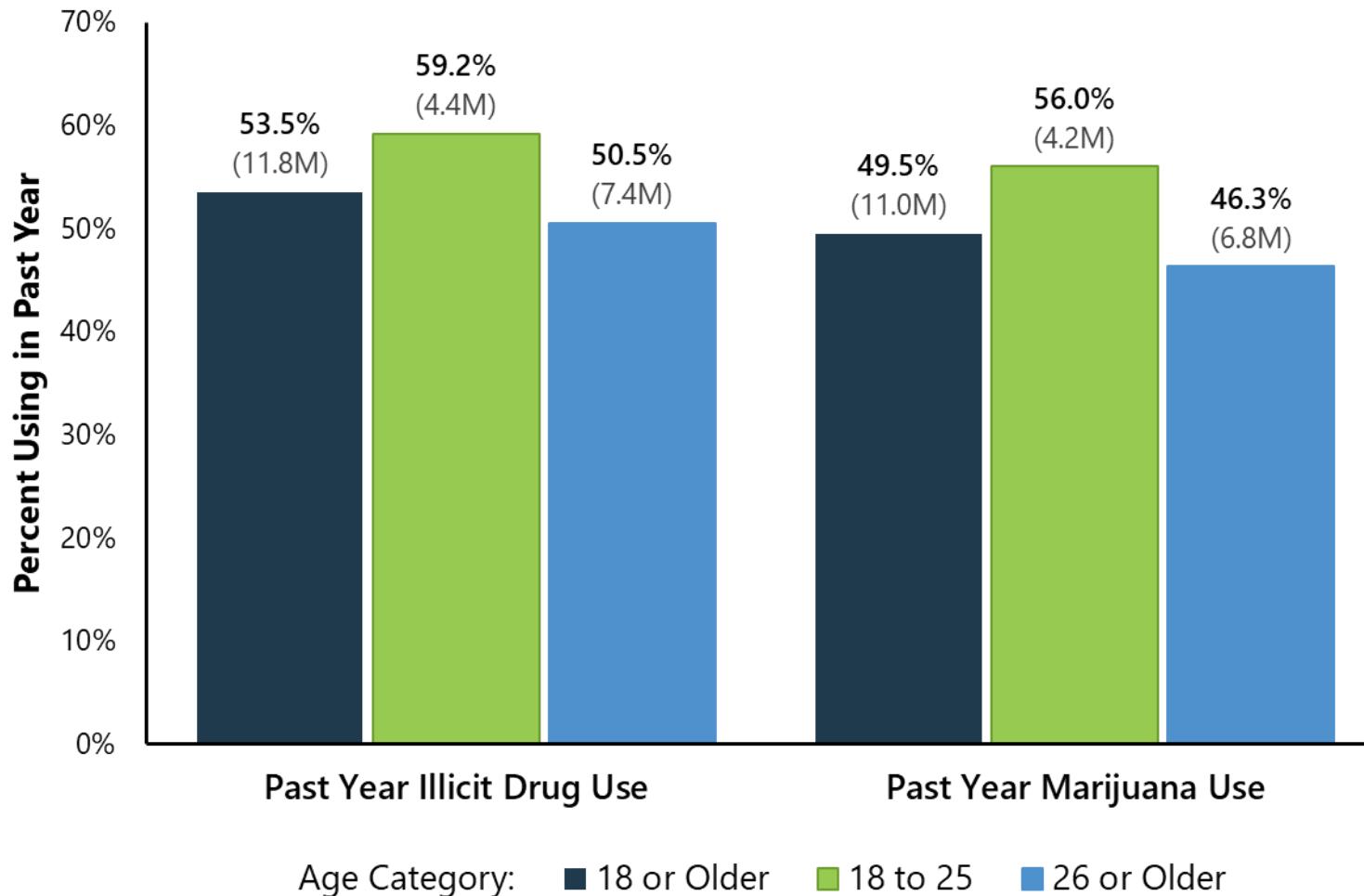
Past Year Illicit Drug Use: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older



Rx = prescription.

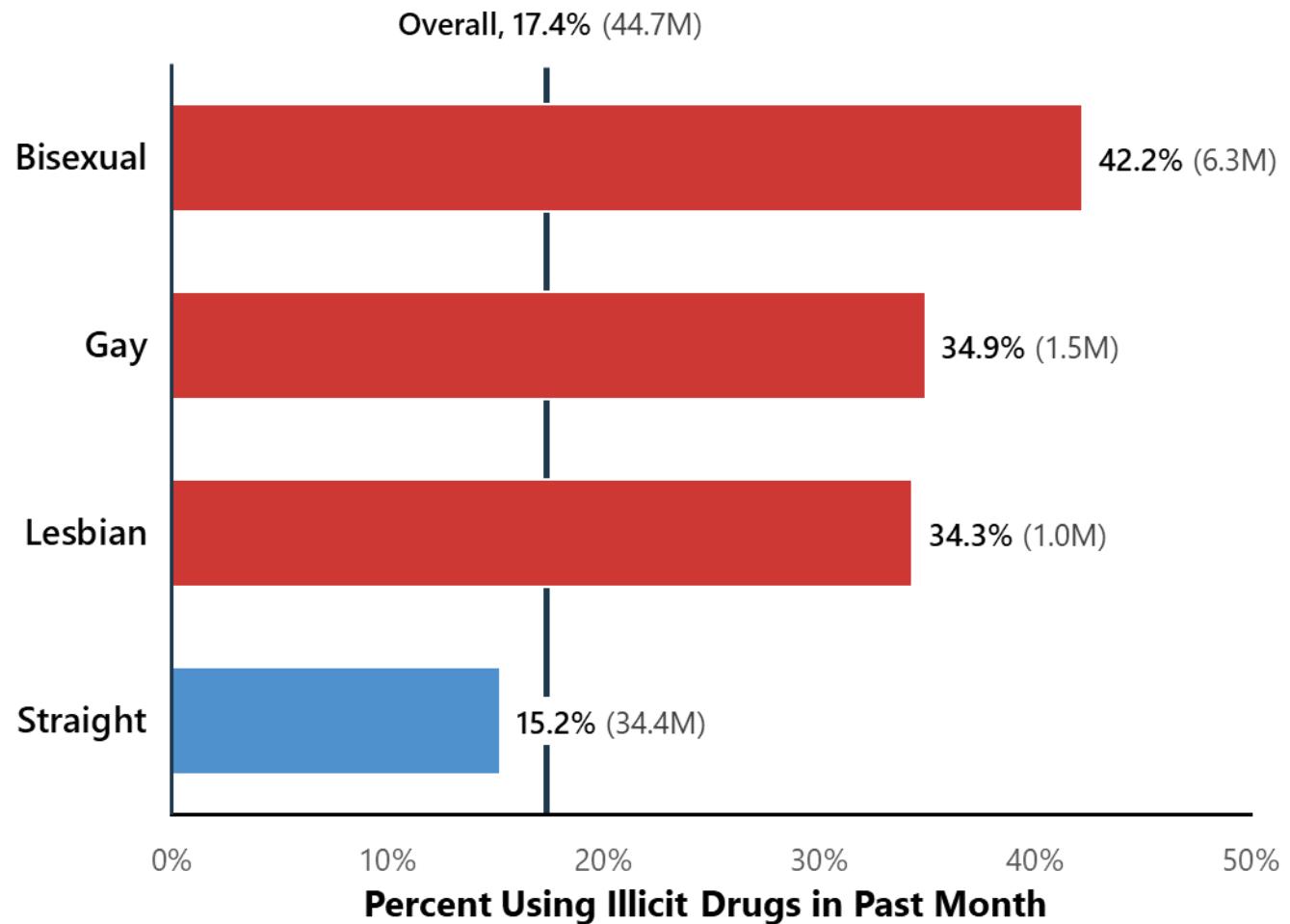
Note: The estimated numbers of past year users of different illicit drugs are not mutually exclusive because people could have used more than one type of illicit drug in the past year.

Past Year Illicit Drug Use and Marijuana Use: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older



- Among LGB young adults aged **18 to 25**, **59.2%** used **illicit drugs** and **56.0%** used **marijuana** in the past year

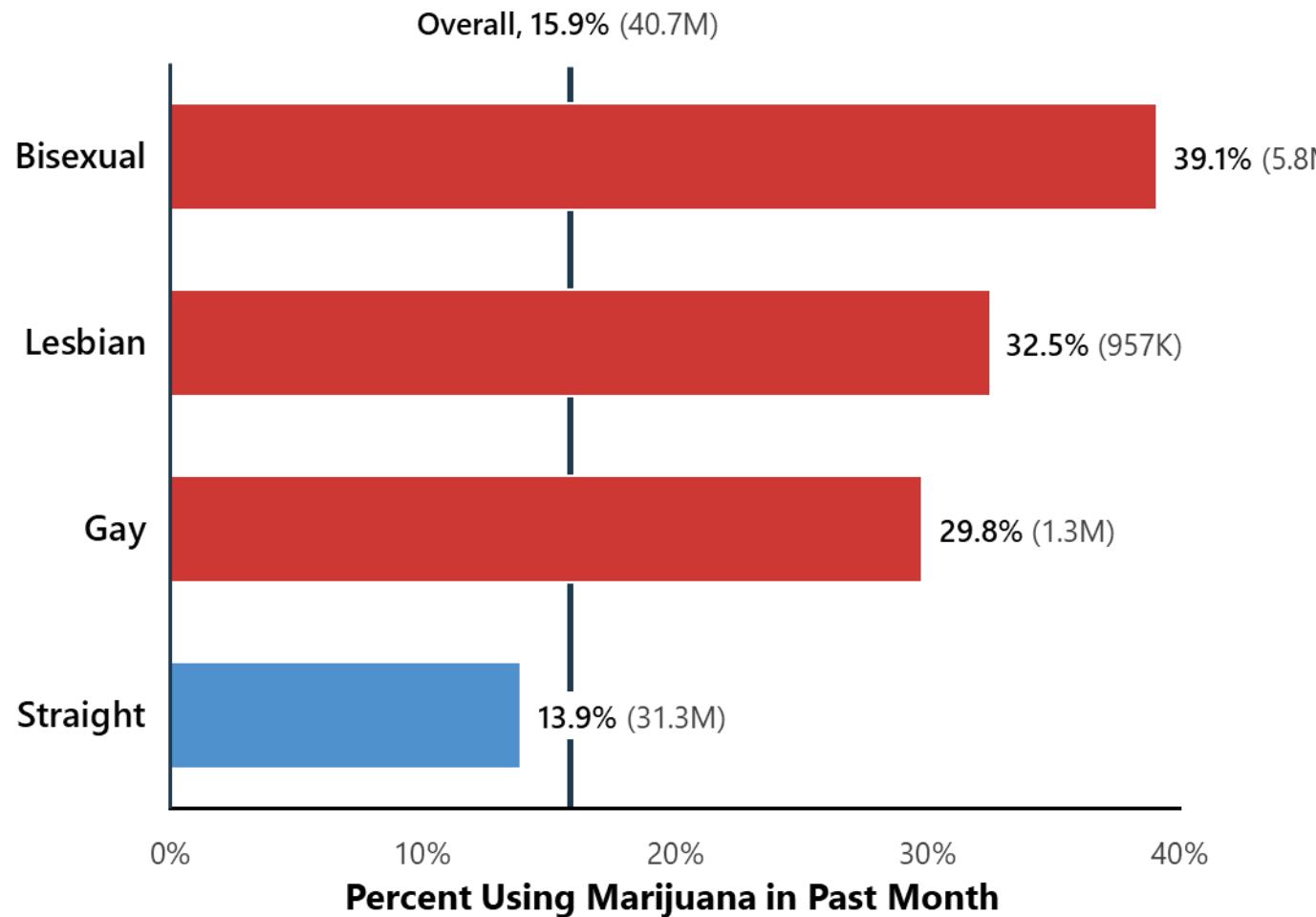
Illicit Drug Use in the Past Month by Sexual Identity: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older



- **LGB adults were more likely to use illicit drugs than Straight adults**

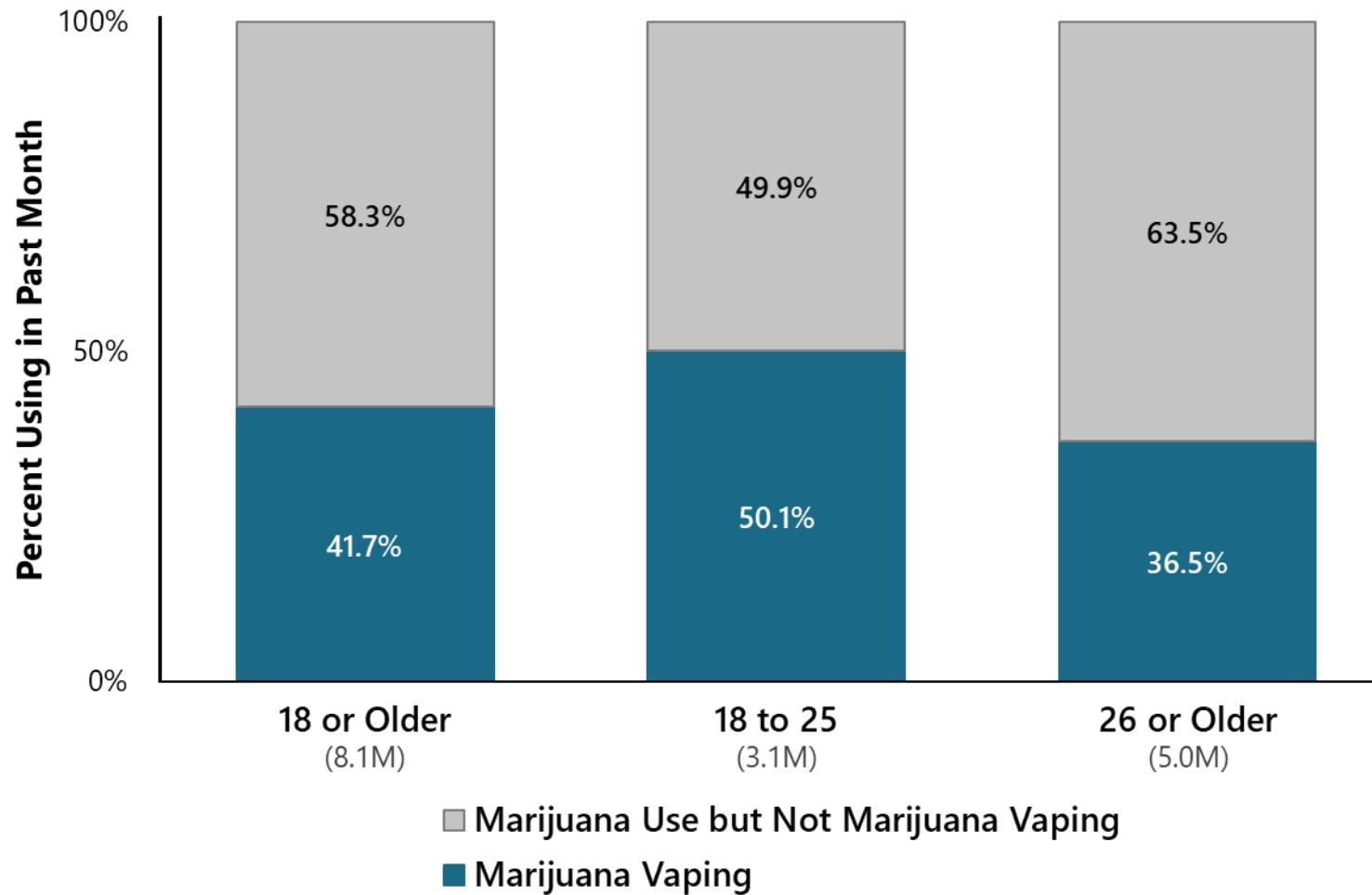
Straight = straight or heterosexual.

Marijuana Use in the Past Month by Sexual Identity: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older



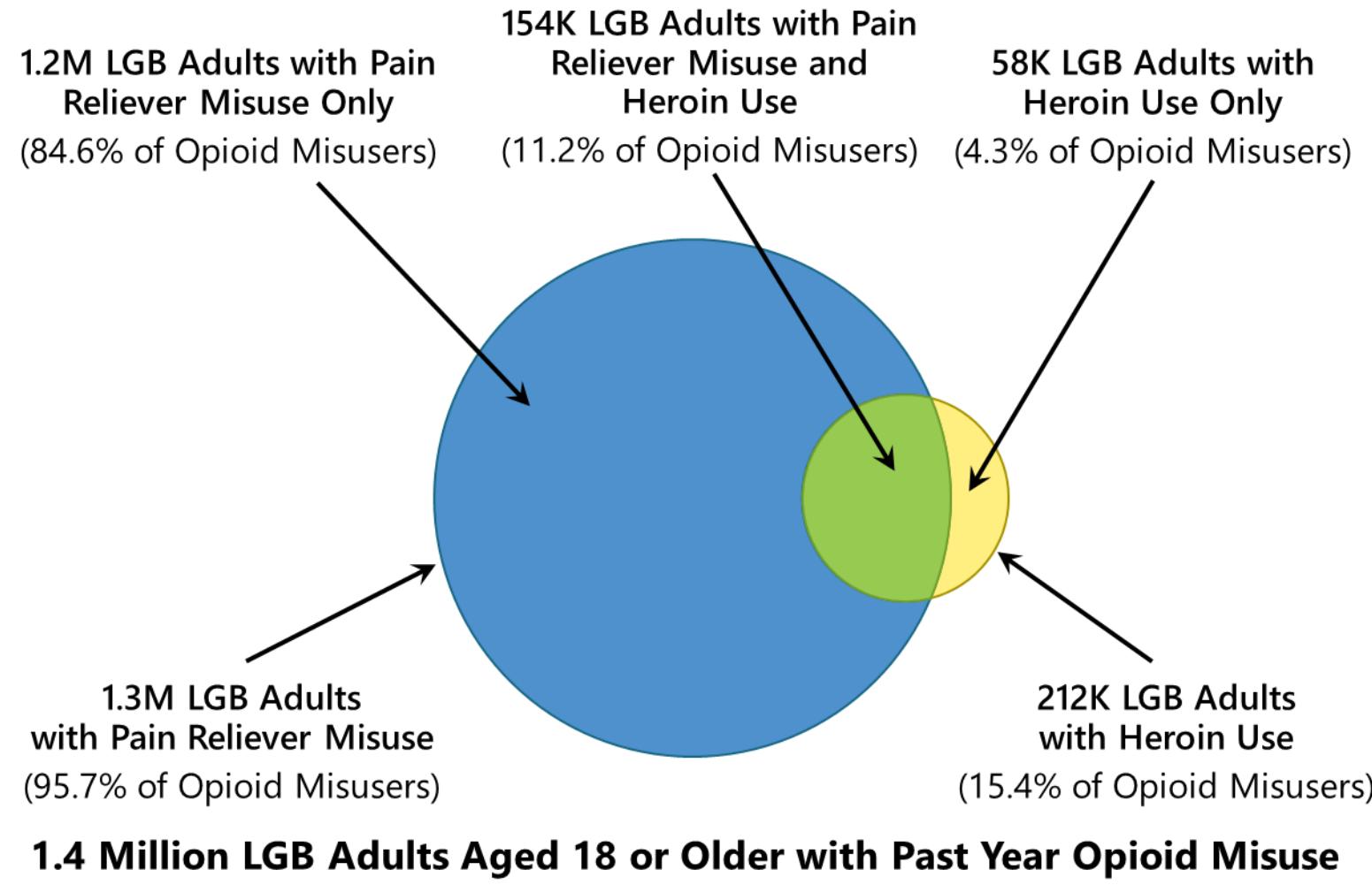
- **LGB adults were more likely to use marijuana than Straight adults**

Type of Marijuana Use: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older Who Used Marijuana in the Past Month

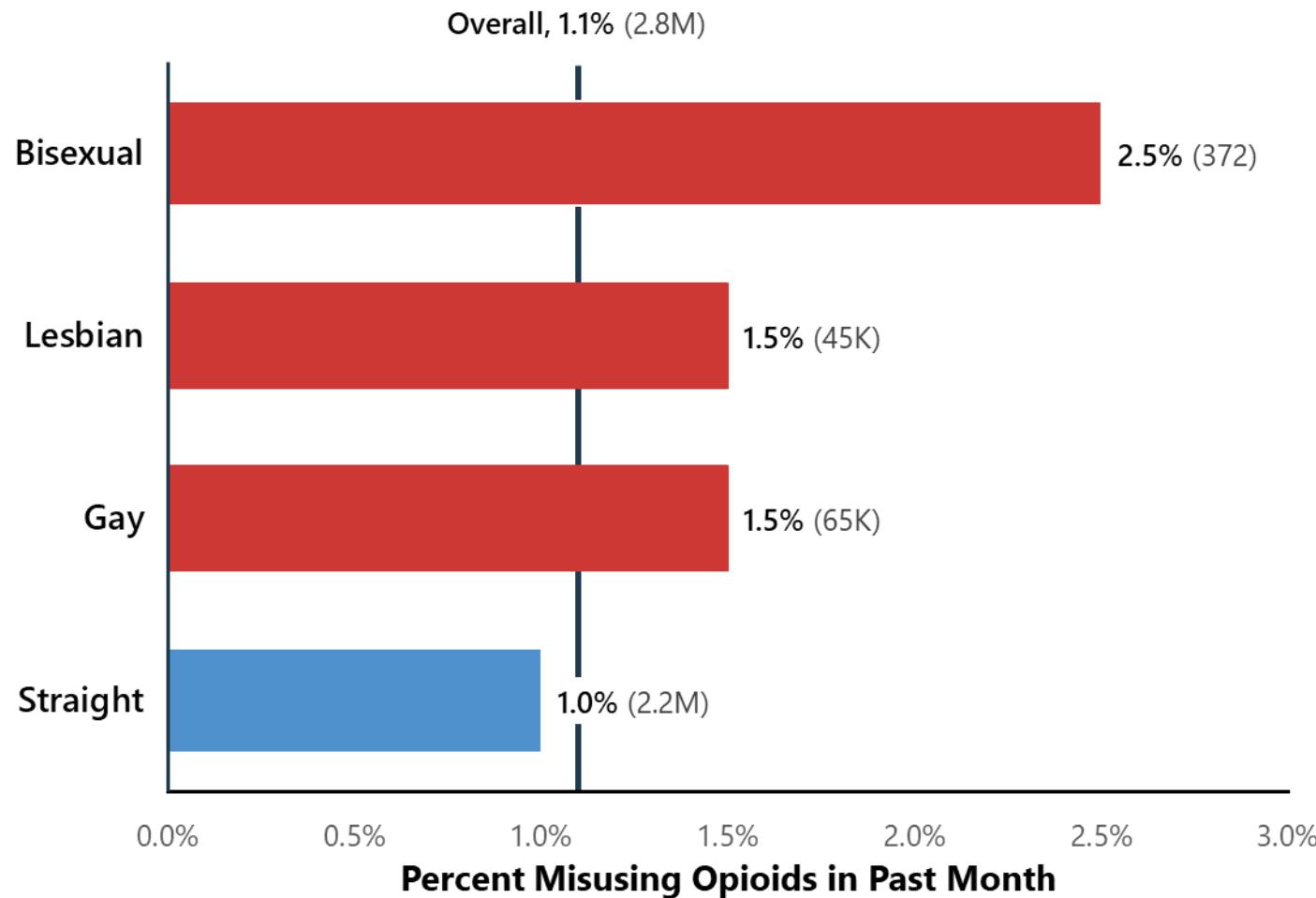


- About **2 in 5** current marijuana users aged 18 or older **vaped marijuana** in the past month

Past Year Opioid Misuse: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older

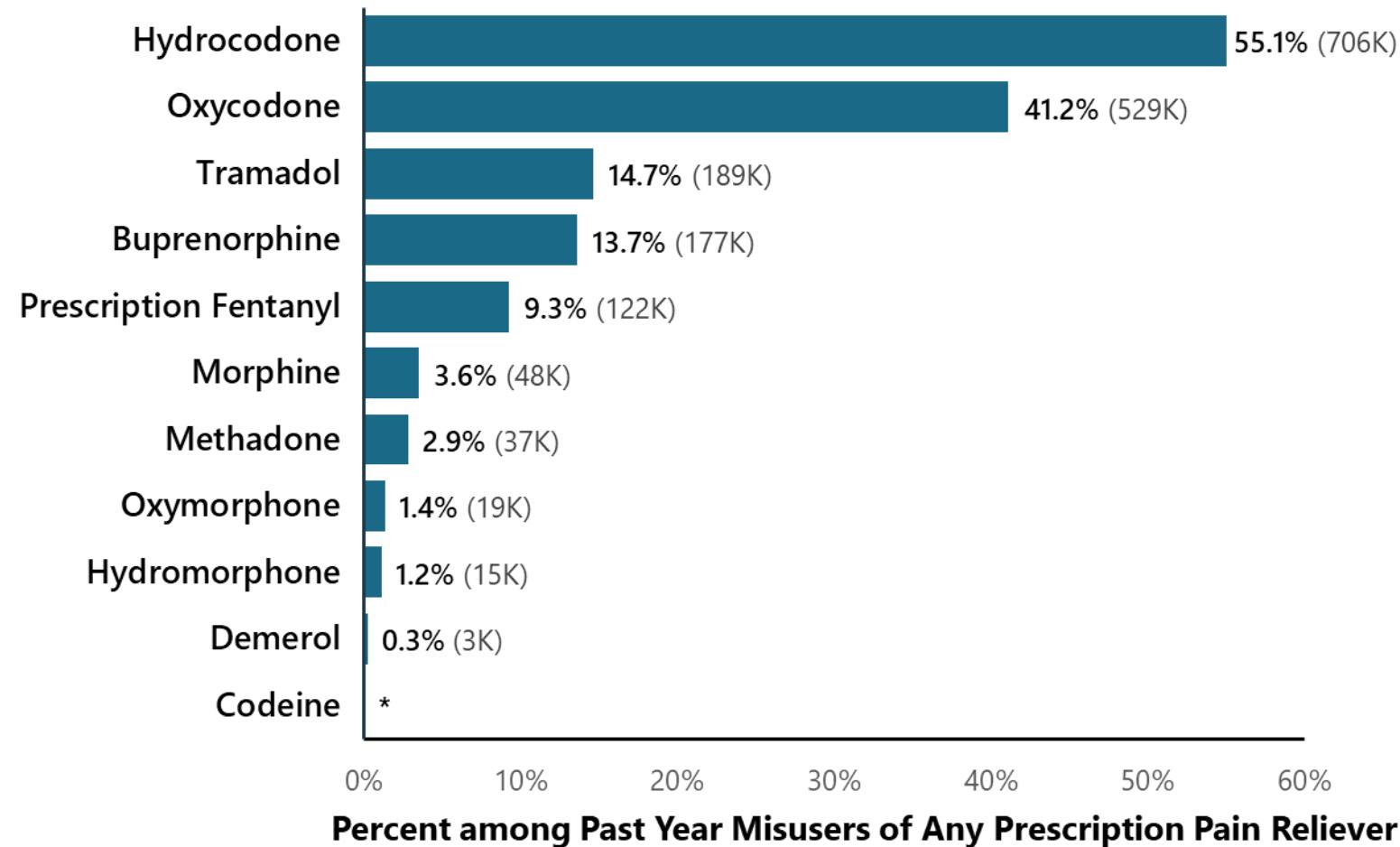


Opioid Misuse in the Past Month by Sexual Identity: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older



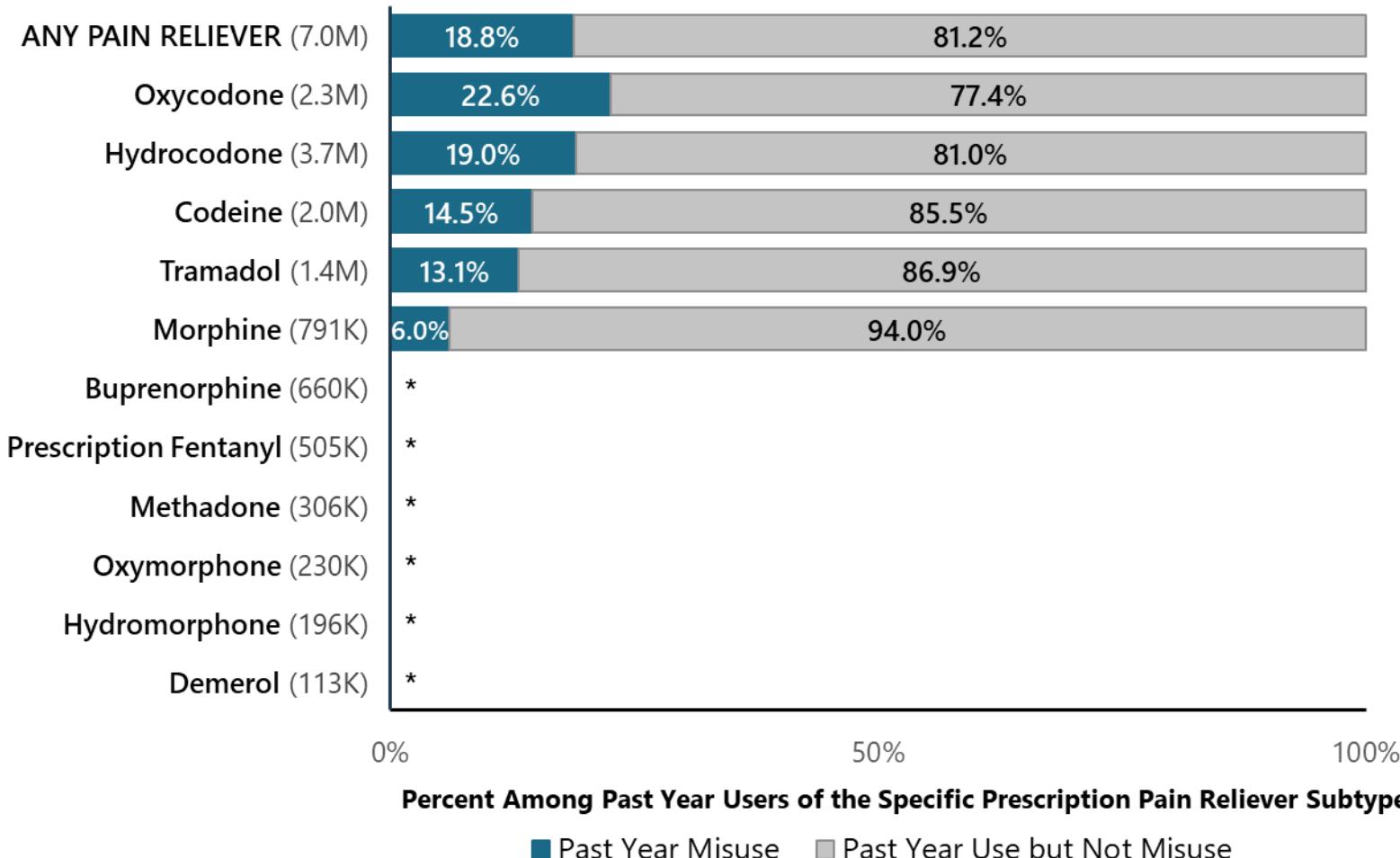
- Bisexual adults were more likely to misuse opioids than Straight adults

Past Year Prescription Pain Reliever Misuse: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older Who Misused Any Prescription Pain Reliever



* Low precision; no estimate reported.

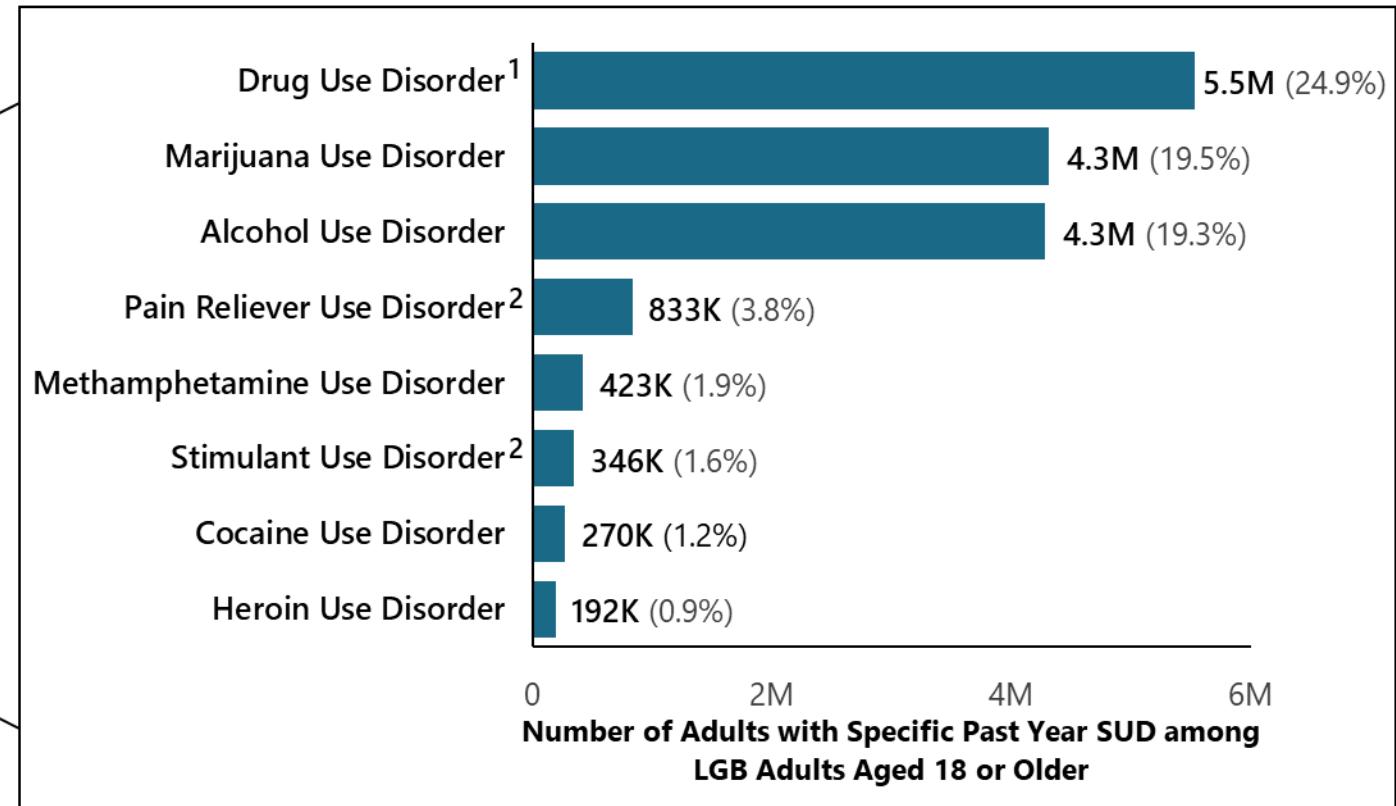
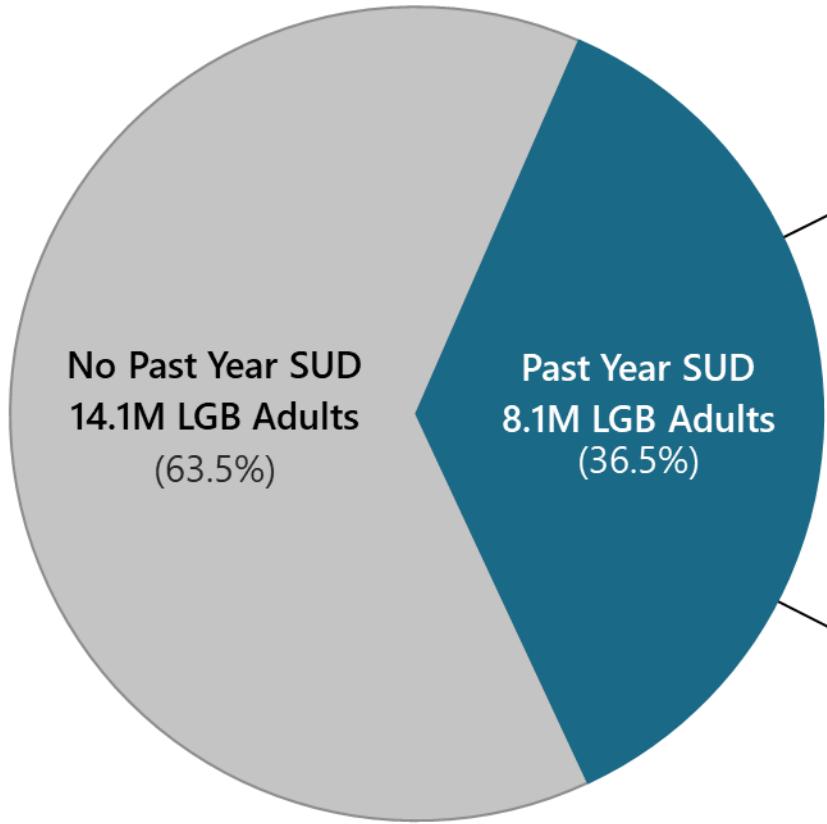
Past Year Prescription Pain Reliever Misuse: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older Who Used the Specific Prescription Pain Reliever Subtype in the Past Year



* Low precision; no estimate reported.

Substance Use Disorder

Past Year Substance Use Disorder (SUD): Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older

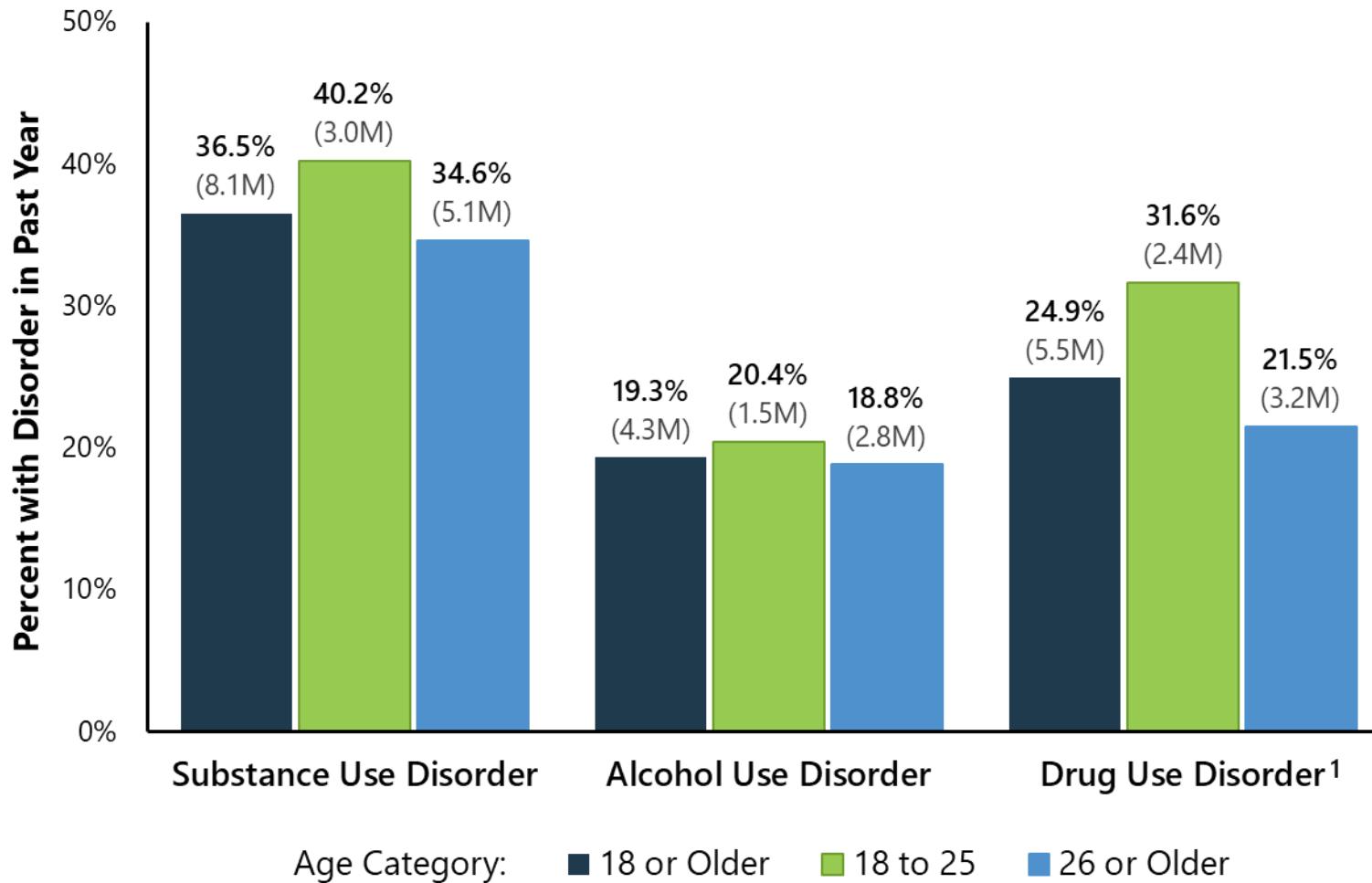


Note: The estimated numbers of people with substance use disorders are not mutually exclusive because people could have use disorders for more than one substance.

¹ Includes data from all past year users of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, methamphetamine, and prescription psychotherapeutic drugs (i.e., pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, or sedatives).

² Includes data from all past year users of the specific prescription drug.

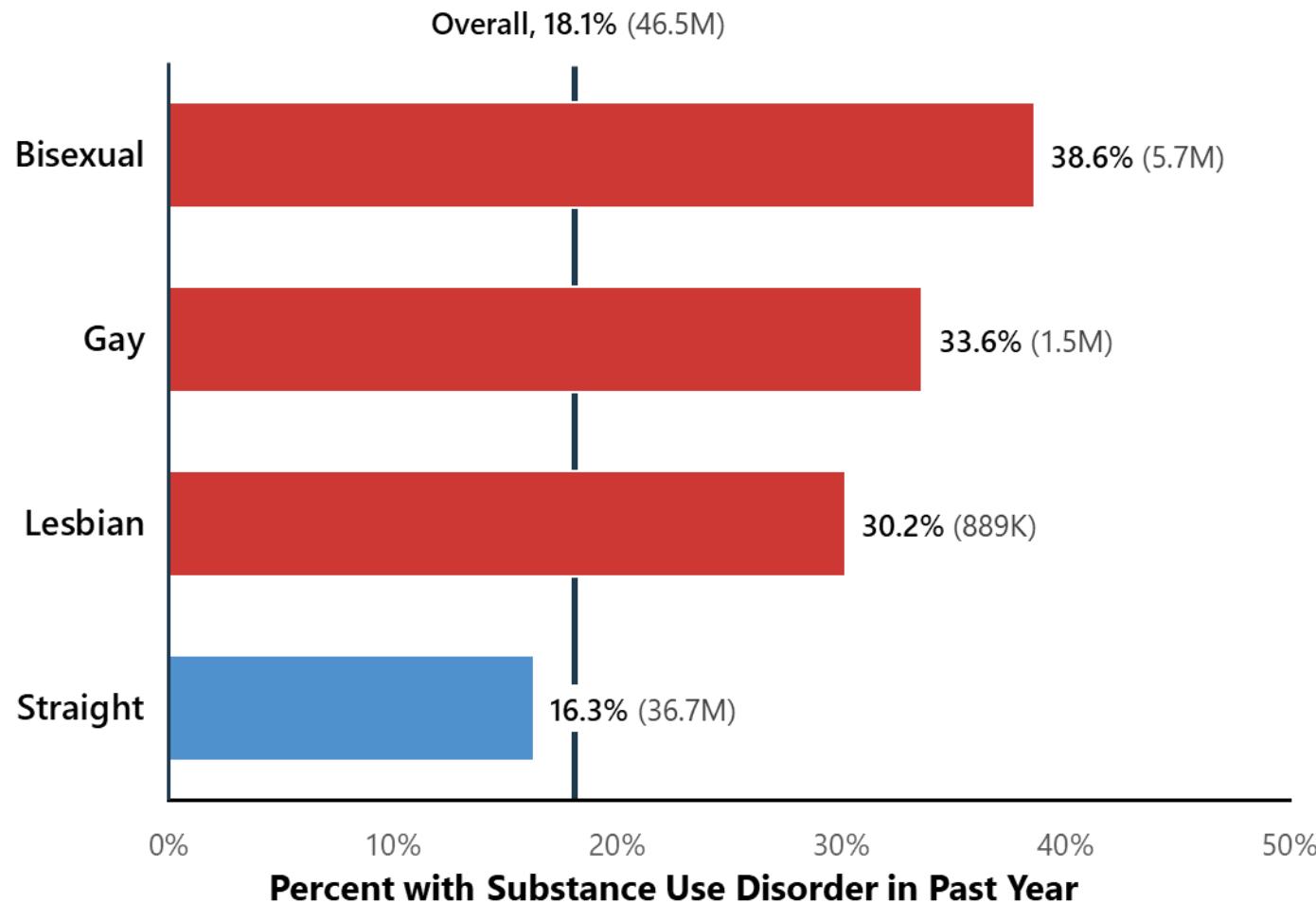
Past Year Substance Use Disorder: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older



- LGB young adults aged 18 to 25 were more likely to have a past year drug use disorder than LGB adults aged 26 or older

¹ Includes data from all past year users of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, methamphetamine, and prescription psychotherapeutic drugs (i.e., pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, or sedatives).

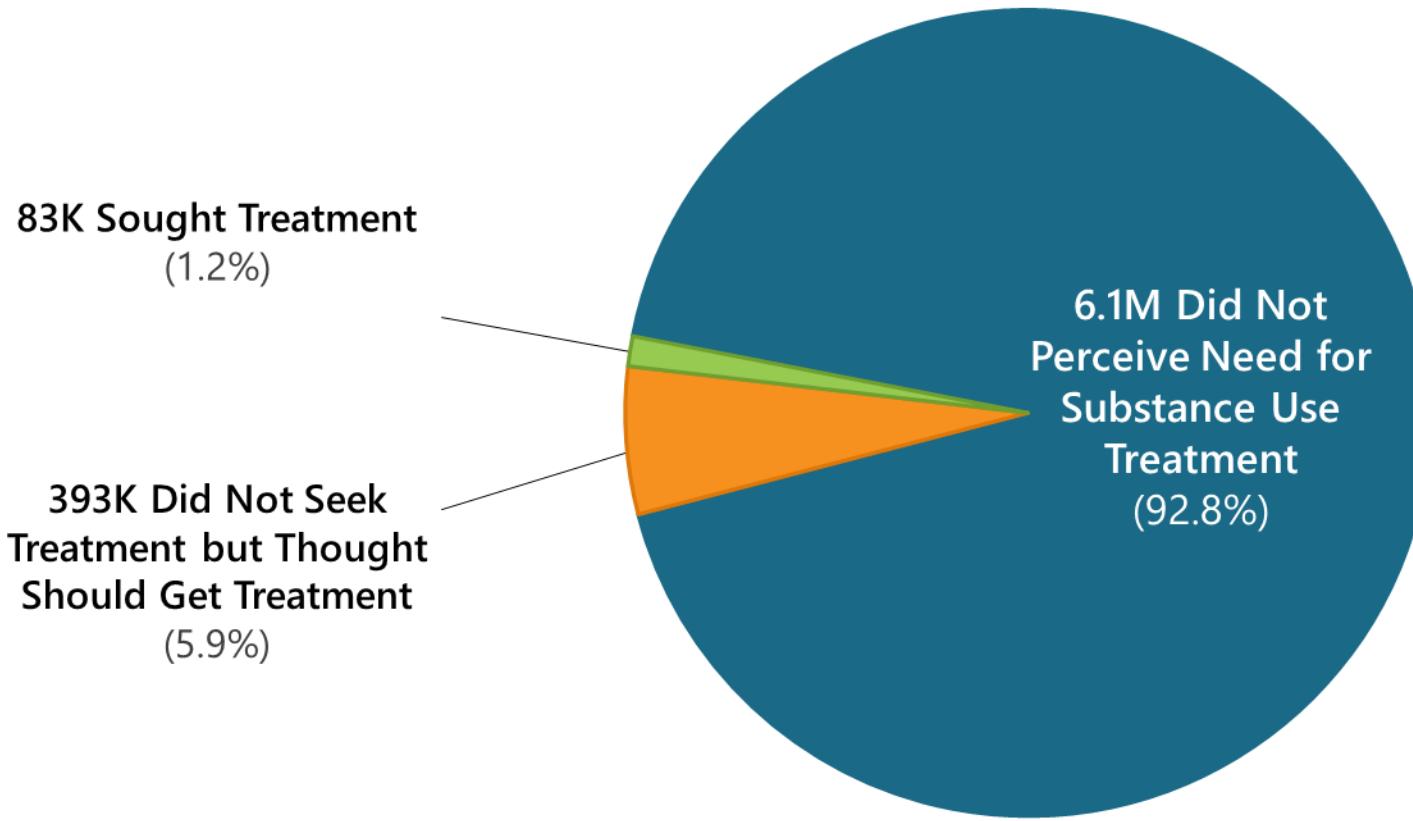
Substance Use Disorder in the Past Year by Sexual Identity: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older



- **LGB adults were more likely to have a substance use disorder than Straight adults**

Straight = straight or heterosexual.

Perceived Need for Substance Use Treatment:
Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older with a Past Year Substance Use Disorder Who
Did Not Receive Substance Use Treatment in the Past Year



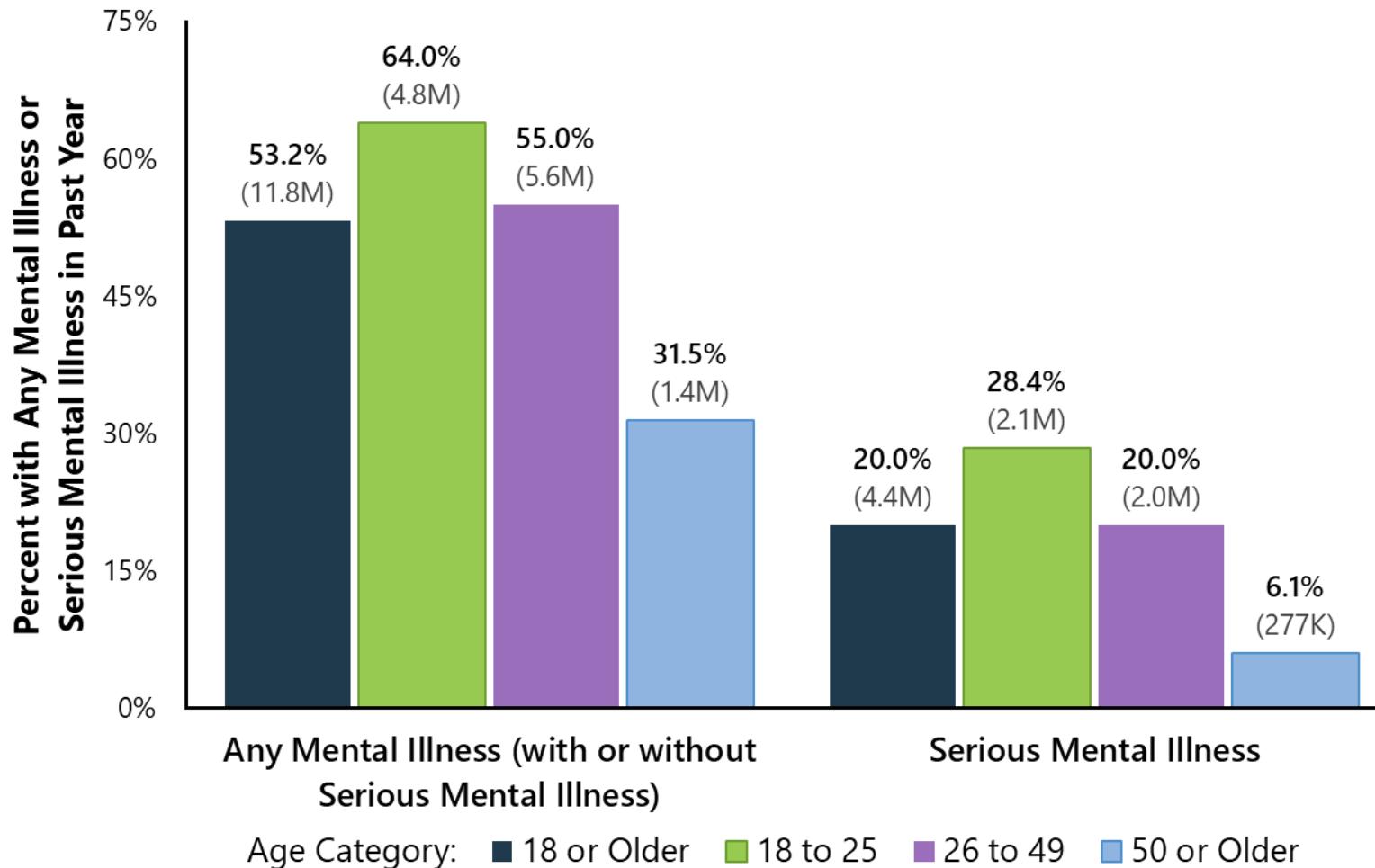
- Nearly all LGB adults with a substance use disorder who did not receive substance use treatment **did not think they needed treatment**

6.6 Million LGB Adults with a Substance Use Disorder Who Did Not Receive Substance Use Treatment

Note: Respondents with unknown perceptions of need for substance use treatment were excluded from the analyses.

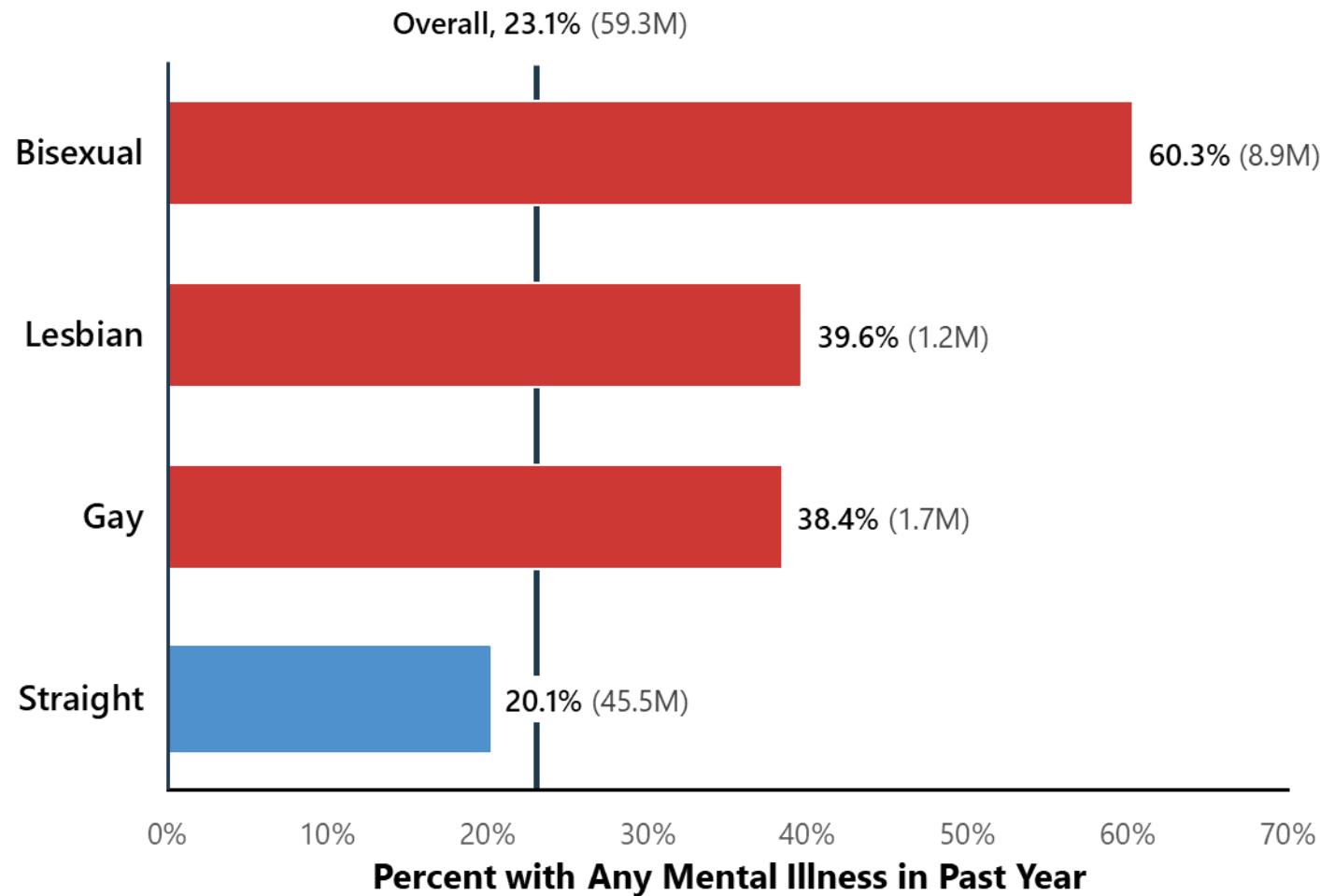
Any or Serious Mental Illness: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older

Past Year Mental Illness: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older



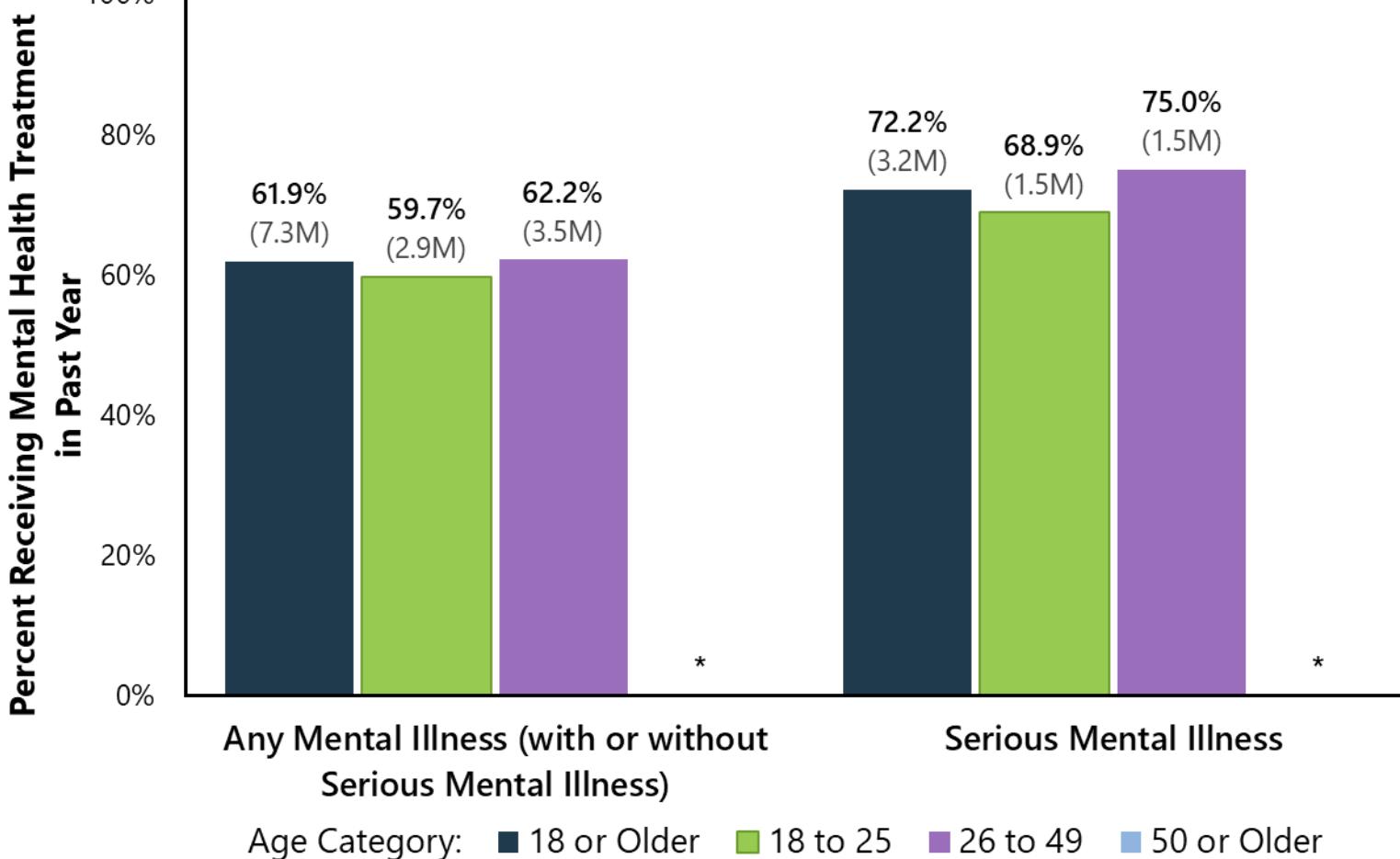
- The prevalence of mental illness was **highest** among LGB young adults aged **18 to 25** for both any mental illness and serious mental illness

Any Mental Illness in the Past Year by Sexual Identity: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older



- **LGB adults were more likely to have a mental illness than Straight adults**

Receipt of Mental Health Treatment in the Past Year: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older with Mental Illness in the Past Year

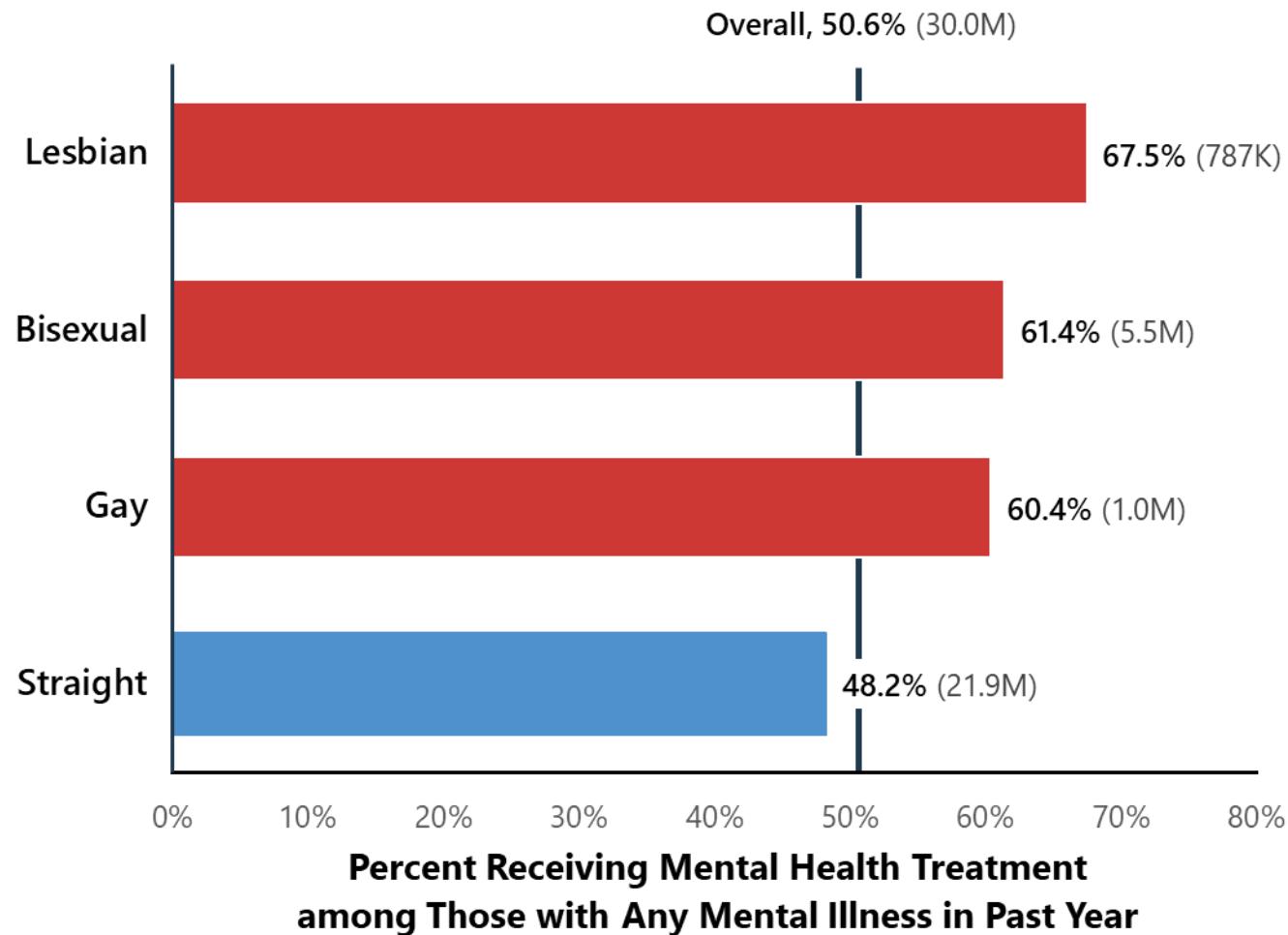


* Low precision; no estimate reported.

SMI = serious mental illness.

Note: Mental health treatment includes treatment/counseling received as an inpatient or as an outpatient; use of prescription medication to help with mental health; telehealth treatment; or treatment received in a prison, jail, or juvenile detention center.

Receipt of Mental Health Treatment by Sexual Identity: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older with a Past Year Mental Illness

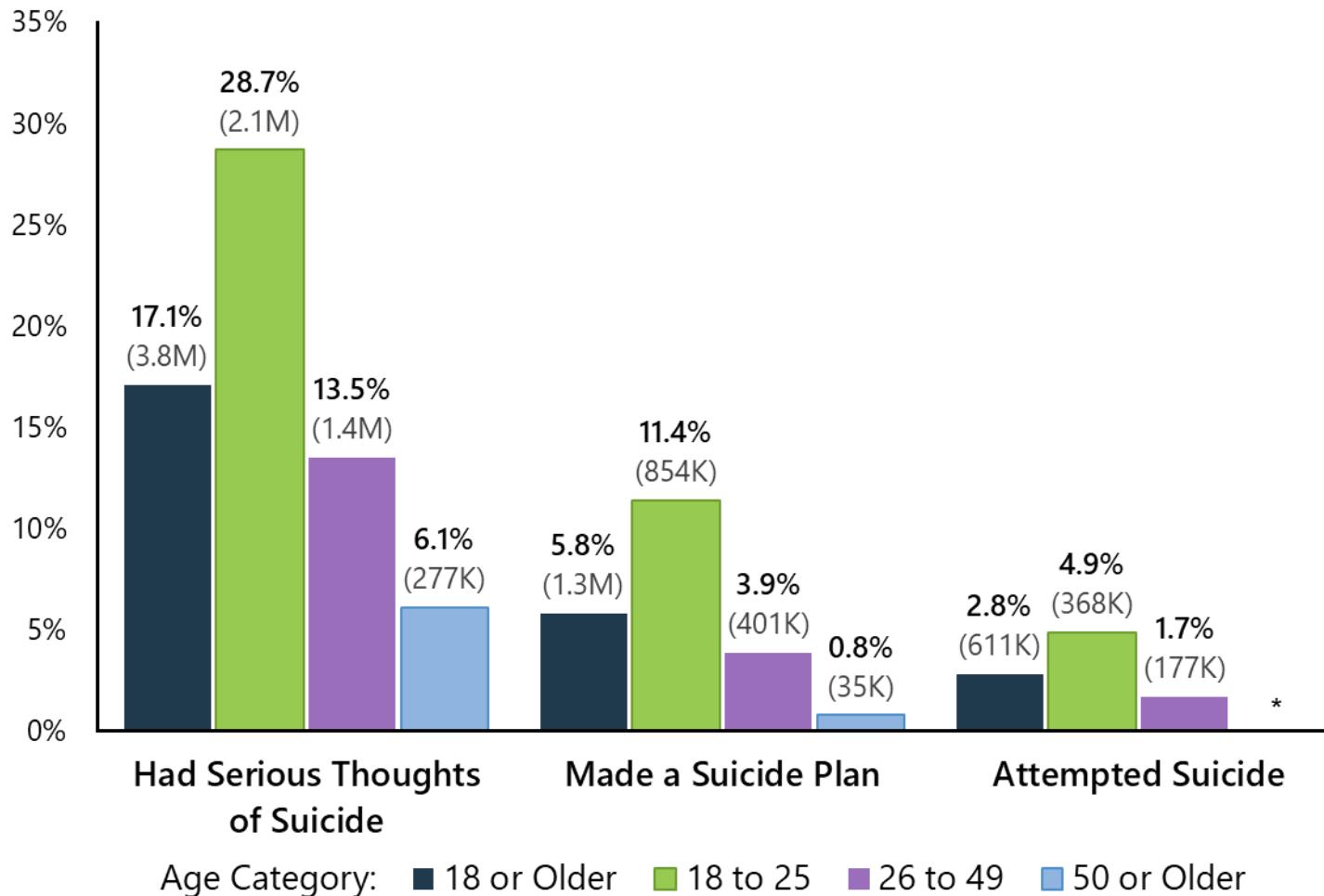


- LGB adults with mental illness were more likely to have received mental health treatment than Straight adults

Serious Thoughts of Suicide, Suicide Plans, and Suicide Attempts

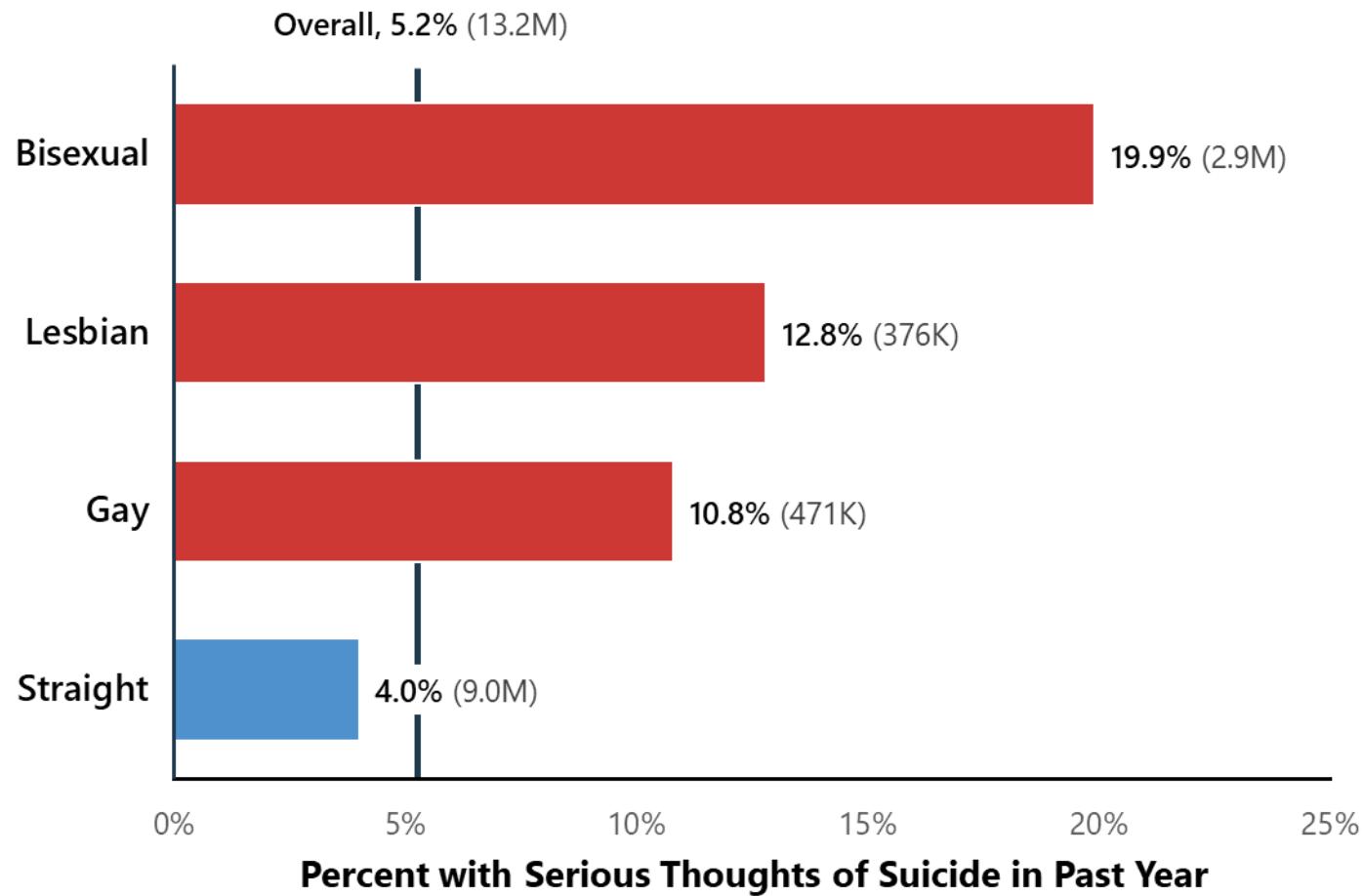
Past Year Serious Thoughts of Suicide, Suicide Plans, or Suicide Attempts: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older

Percent with Thoughts or Behavior in Past Year



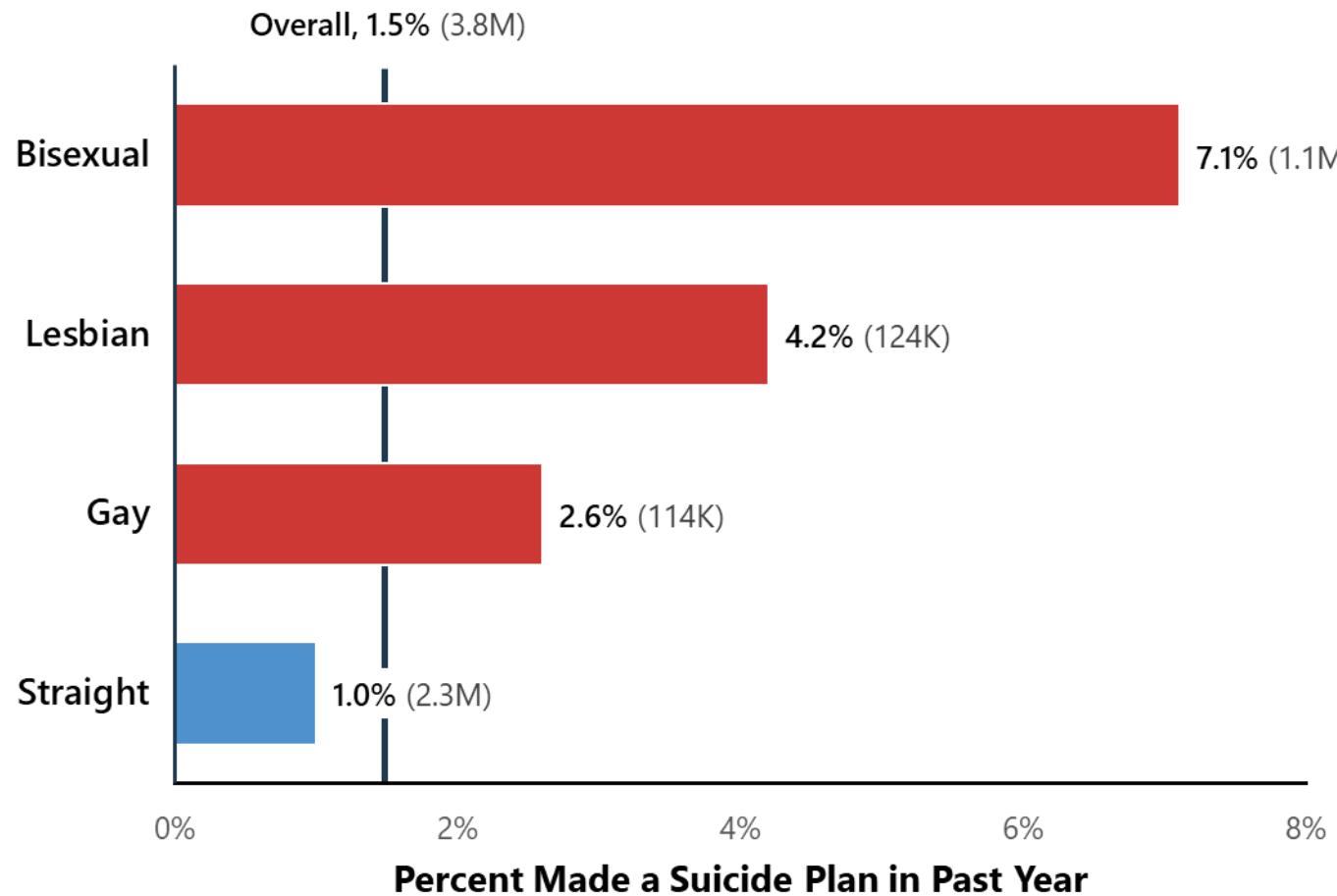
- Thoughts of suicide, suicide plans, and suicide attempts were **highest** among LGB young adults aged **18 to 25**

Serious Thoughts of Suicide in the Past Year by Sexual Identity: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older



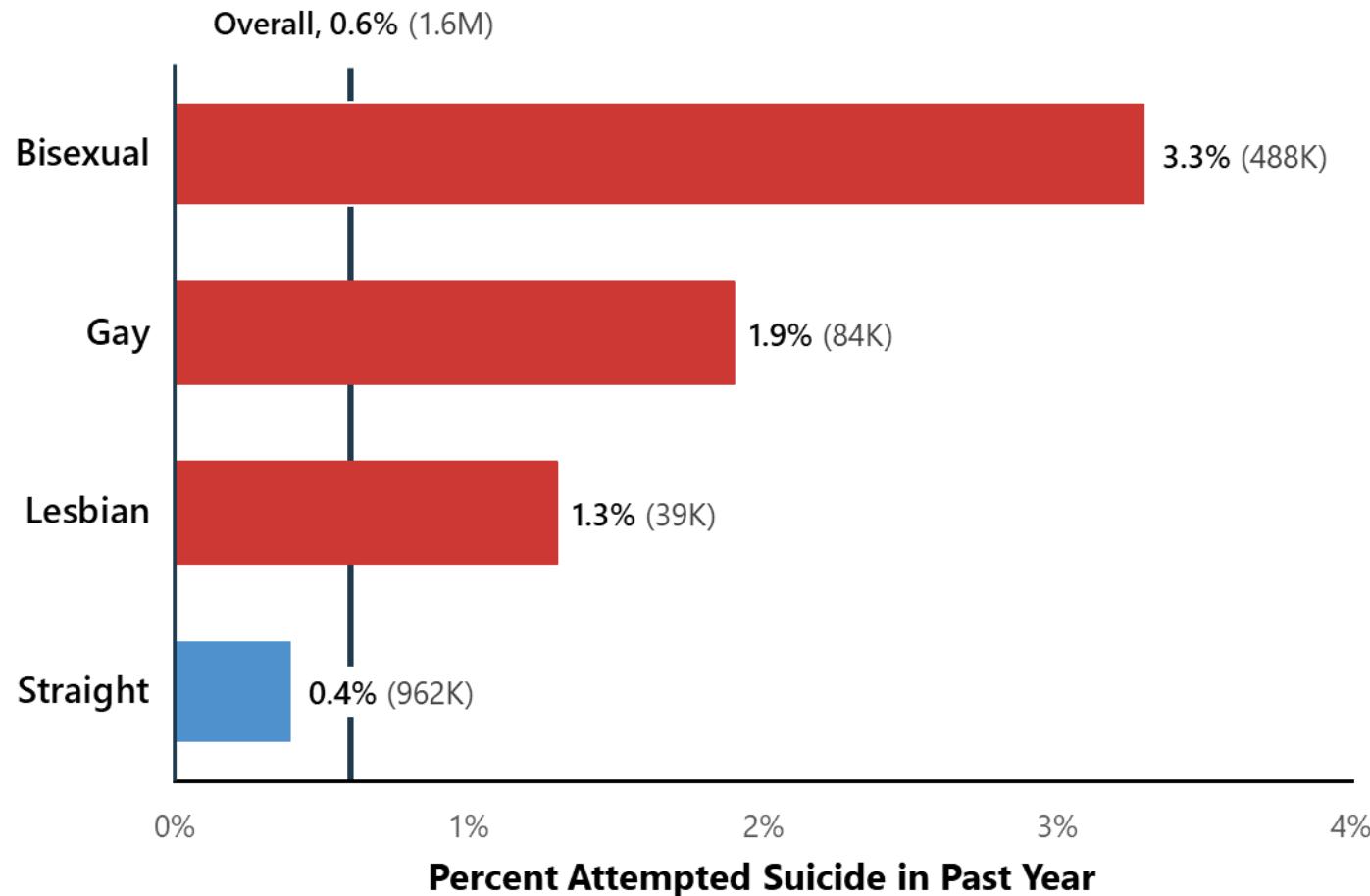
- **LGB adults were more likely to have had serious thoughts of suicide than Straight adults**

Made a Suicide Plan in the Past Year by Sexual Identity: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older



- **LGB adults were more likely to have made a suicide plan than Straight adults**

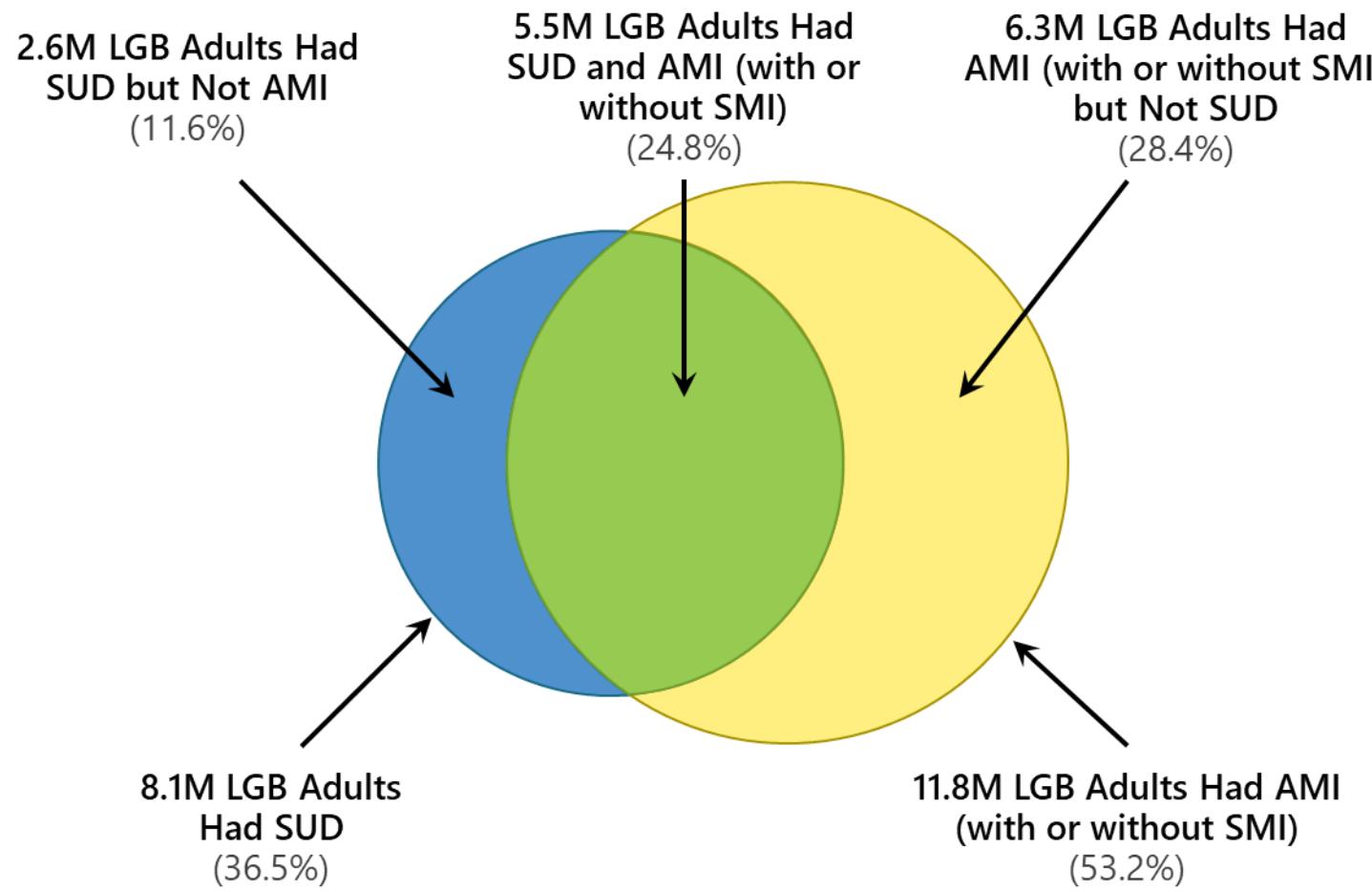
Attempted Suicide in the Past Year by Sexual Identity: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older



- Bisexual adults were more likely to have attempted suicide than Straight adults

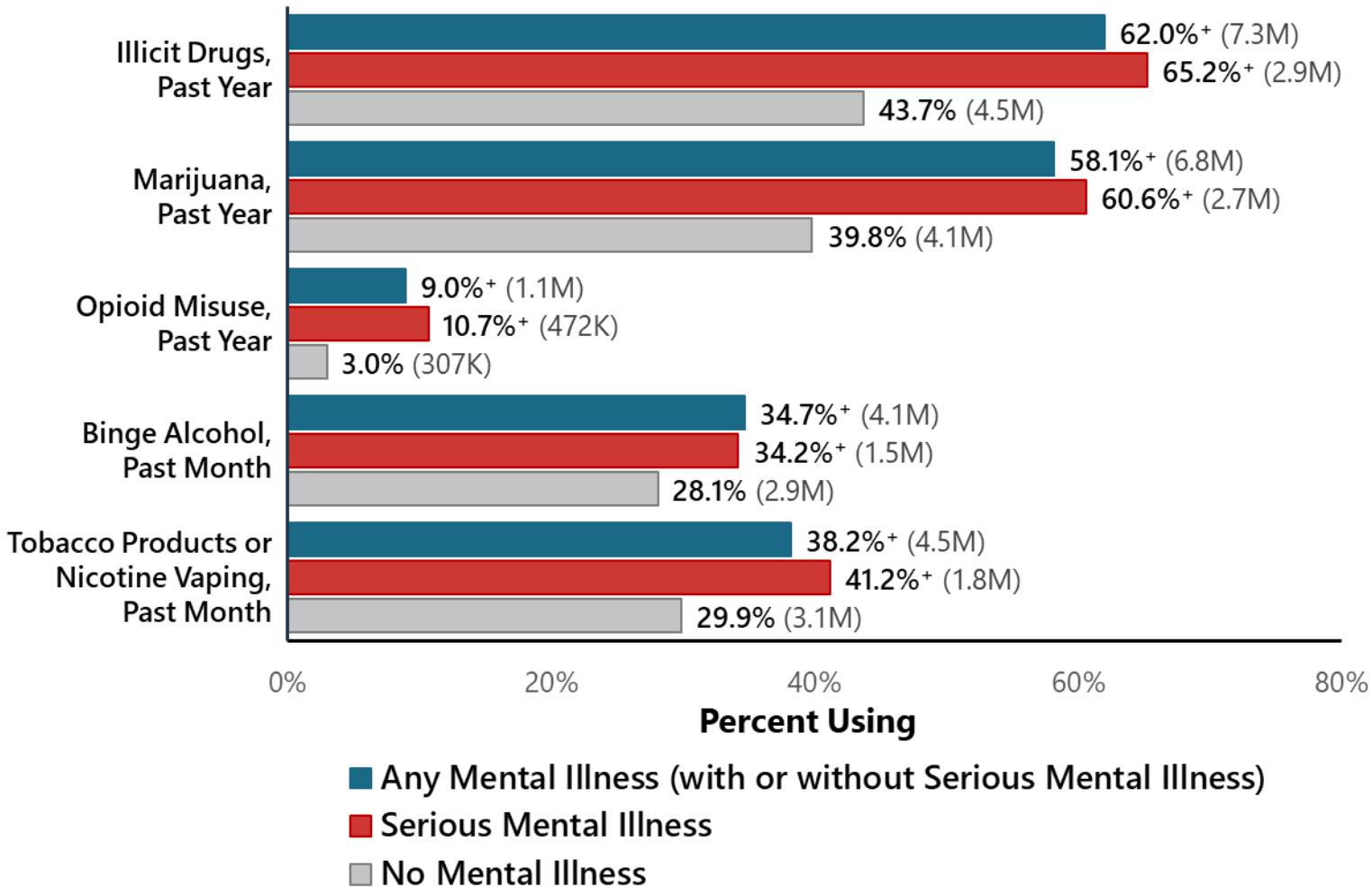
Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorder and Mental Illness: Among Adults Aged 18 or Older

Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorder and Any Mental Illness: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older



- **5.5 million (24.8%) LGB adults aged 18 or older had co-occurring SUD and AMI**
- **73.8% of all LGB young adults aged 18 to 25 had SUD or AMI**

Past Year Substance Use by Mental Illness: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older

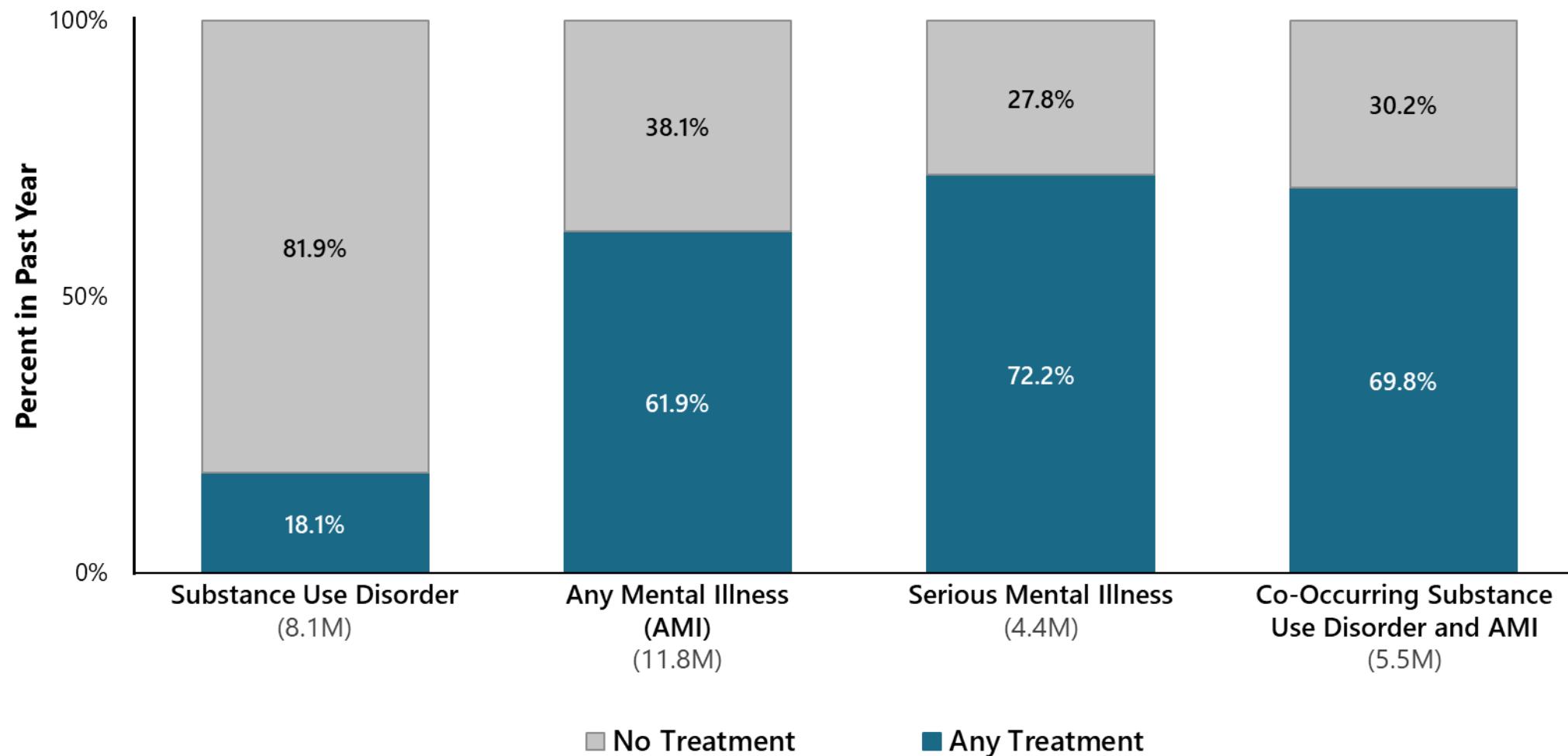


- LGB adults with SMI or AMI in the past year were **more likely** to have used or misused these substances than those without mental illness

AMI = any mental illness; SMI = serious mental illness.

+ Difference between this estimate and the estimate for adults aged 18 or older without mental illness is statistically significant at the .05 level.

Did Not Receive Substance Use Treatment or Mental Health Treatment in the Past Year: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older



Recovery: Among LGB Adults Aged 18 or Older



- **2 in 3 (68.4%) LGB adults who ever had a substance use problem considered themselves to be recovering or in recovery**



- **3 in 5 (59.7%) LGB adults who ever had a mental health issue considered themselves to be recovering or in recovery**