RMPDS 19TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Comparison of Self-Reported Driving While Feeling the Effects of **Psychedelics, Alcohol, and Marijuana** Across Multiple Data Sources

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Introduction

- Driving and alcohol use has been rigorously evaluated, marijuana is undergoing evaluation[1]
  - >10,000 people are killed in the US annually because of drivers under the influence[2]
- Particular interest in psychedelics
  - Colorado and Oregon have decriminalized use of psilocybin



Research Questions

How does the prevalence of self-reported driving while feeling effects differ between psychedelics, alcohol, and marijuana?

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What characteristics are associated with driving while feeling the effects of psychedelics?



Data Sources

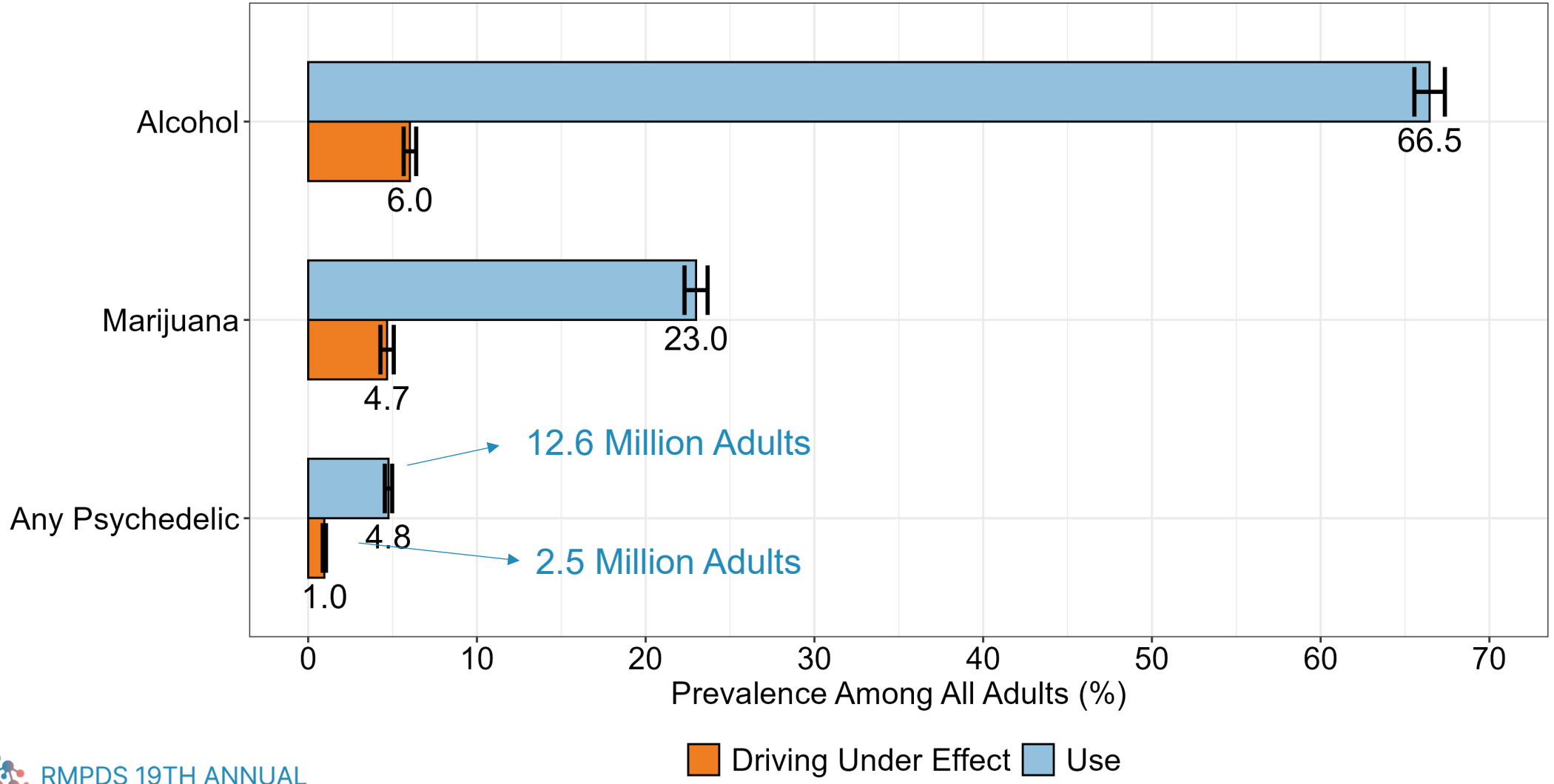
- **National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)[3]:** 2023
  - Prevalence of last year use & driving while feeling effects of alcohol
  - Prevalence of last year use & driving while feeling effects of marijuana
- **National Survey Investigating Hallucinogenic Trends (NSIHT):** 2nd quarter 2024
  - Prevalence of last year use & driving while feeling effects of psychedelics
  - Characteristics associated with driving while feeling effects of psychedelics

"Have you driven a car while still *feeling the effects* of psychedelics in the last 12 months?"

Results

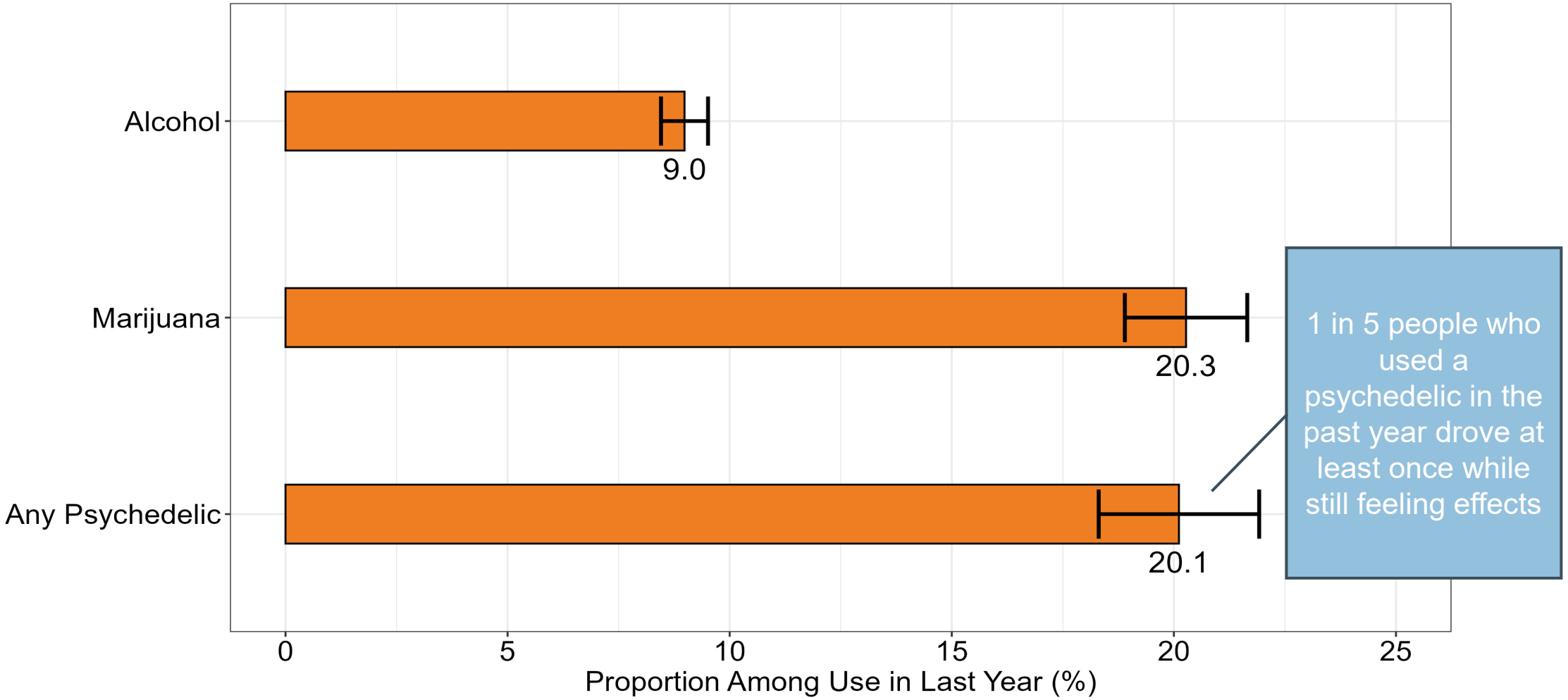
National Prevalence of Use and Driving While Feeling Effects

Among All Adults in the United States



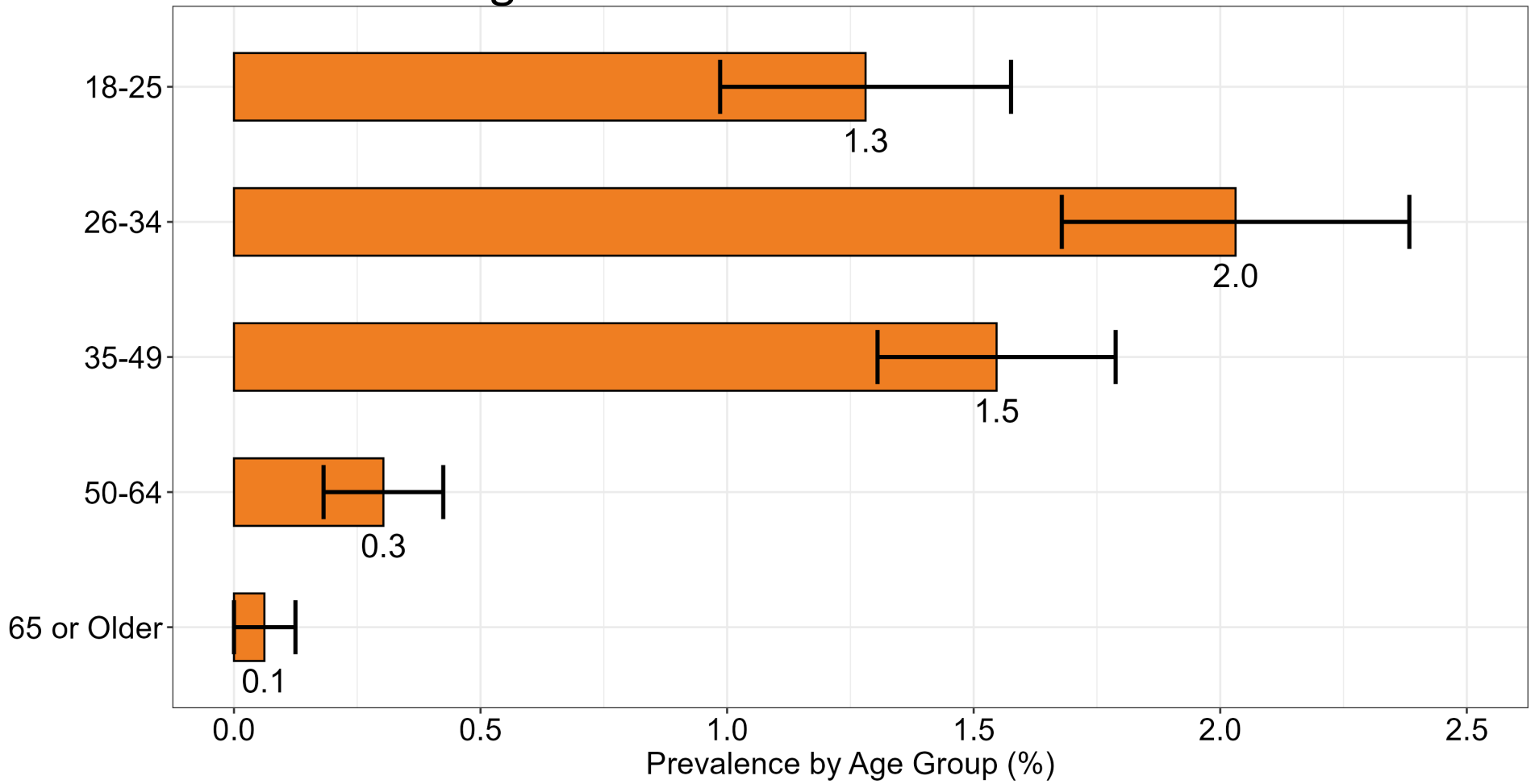
Proportion of Driving While Feeling Effects

Among Adults Reporting Past-Year Use



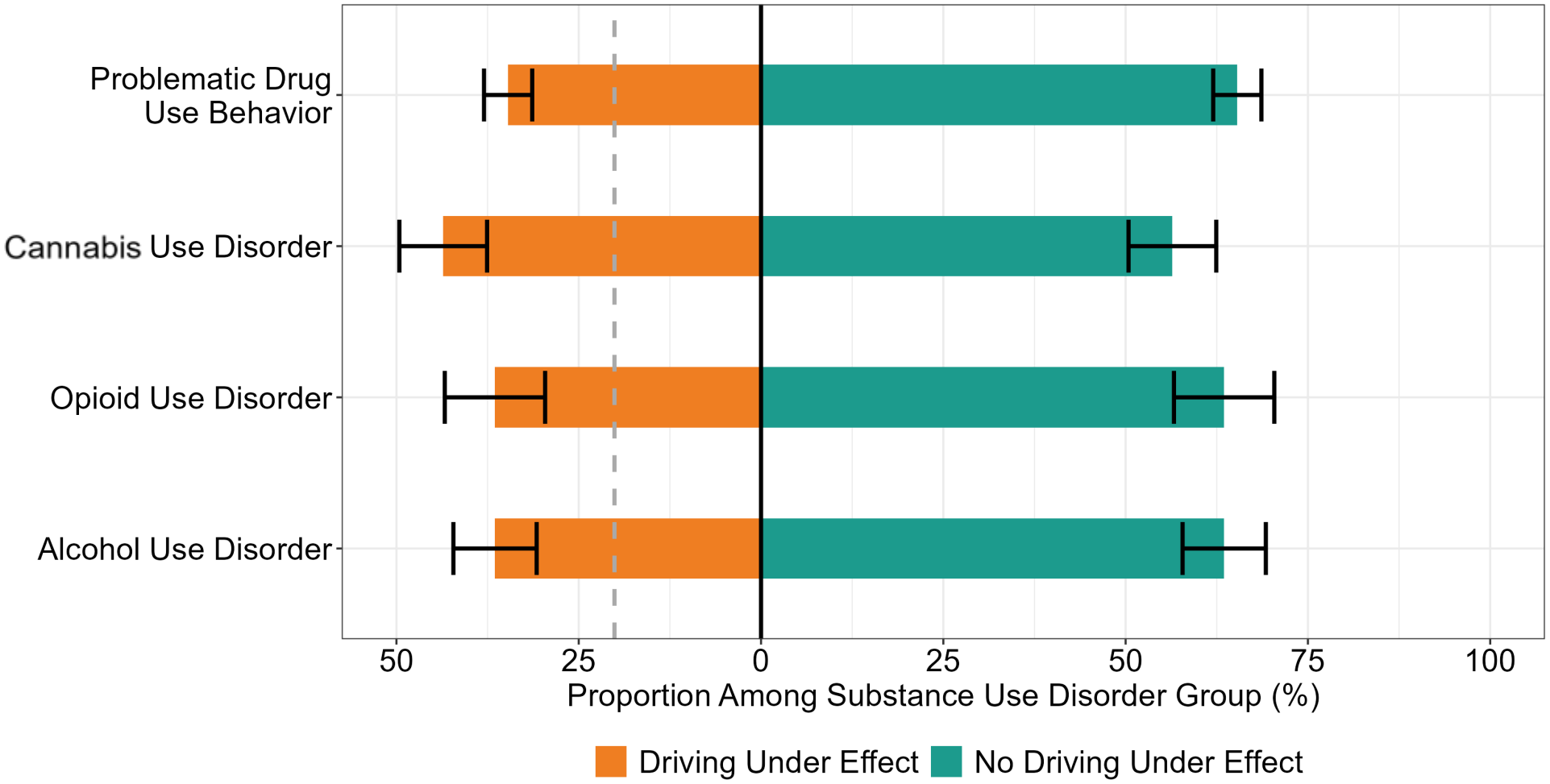
National Prevalence of Driving While Feeling the Effects of Psychedelics by Age

Among All Adults in the United States



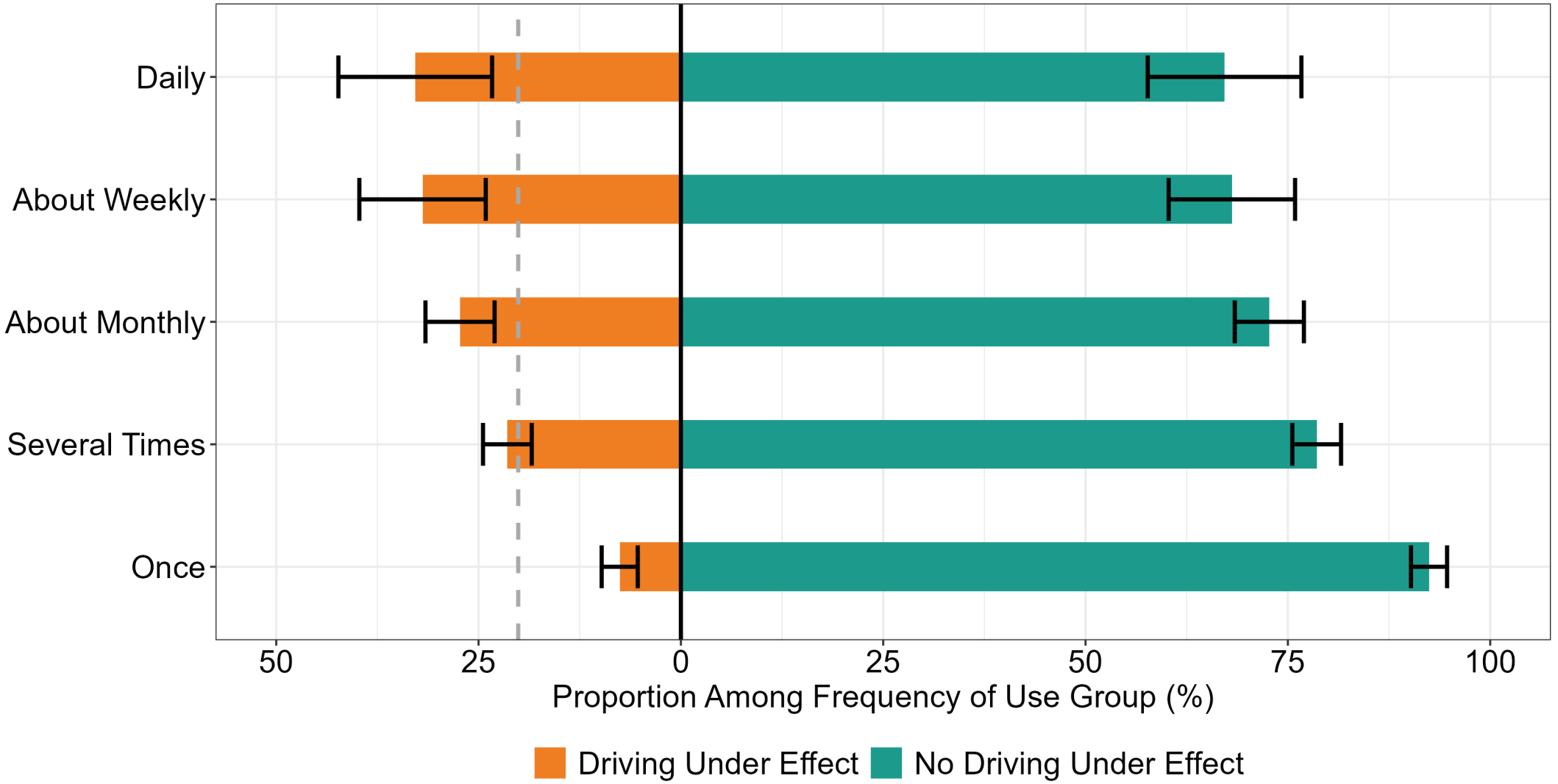
Substance Use Disorder & Driving While Feeling the Effects of Psychedelics

Among Adults Who Have Used Psychedelics in the Past Year



Frequency of Use & Driving While Feeling Effects of Psychedelics

Among Adults Who Have Used Psychedelics in the Past Year



Key Takeaways

- The proportion of driving while feeling effects is higher for psychedelics compared to alcohol, and is similar marijuana
  - Prevalence is lower = overall counts are lower
- Characteristics associated with DUI of psychedelics:
  - Comorbid SUD
  - Increased frequency of use
  - Younger than 50
- We want to better understand what people mean when they self-report



Next Steps

Prevent Injuries	Evaluate occurrence of related crashes/injuries to inform prevention measures, including testing
Study the Mechanism	Conduct studies to better understand *how* psychedelics impair driving function, like cannabis studies out of University of Colorado/RMPDS
Understand Effects	Describe the tangible effects of psychedelics on driving, including time course for individual substances
Actively Monitor	Use tools like NSIHT to conduct population-level monitoring of behaviors and characteristics associated with driving and psychedelics

More Information Coming Soon: Homepage — Colorado Department of Transportation

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Thank you!

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References:

1. Brooks-Russell, A., Brown, T., Friedman K., *et al*. Simulated driving performance among daily and occasional cannabis users. *Accident Analysis & Prevention* (2021). DOI: 10.1016.
2. GAO. Reducing Deaths Caused by Impaired Driving in the U.S. *U.S. Government Accountability Office* (2023). https://www.gao.gov/blog/reducing-deaths-caused-impaired-driving-us
3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2024). National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2023. Retrieved from https://www.samhsa.gov/data/