Trauma In The Community

Family Addiction Support Network &
National Family Support Steering Group

19th September 2024

CityWide

CityWide Drugs Crisis Campaign

Our Communities

People who use Drugs, their Families and the Wider Community

Our Community Expertise

The knowledge and understanding that people have of the impact of drugs in their own life, on the lives of family members and loved ones and on the wider community life

The Community Together in Solidarity…learning from experience?

History from late 1970s to 1996

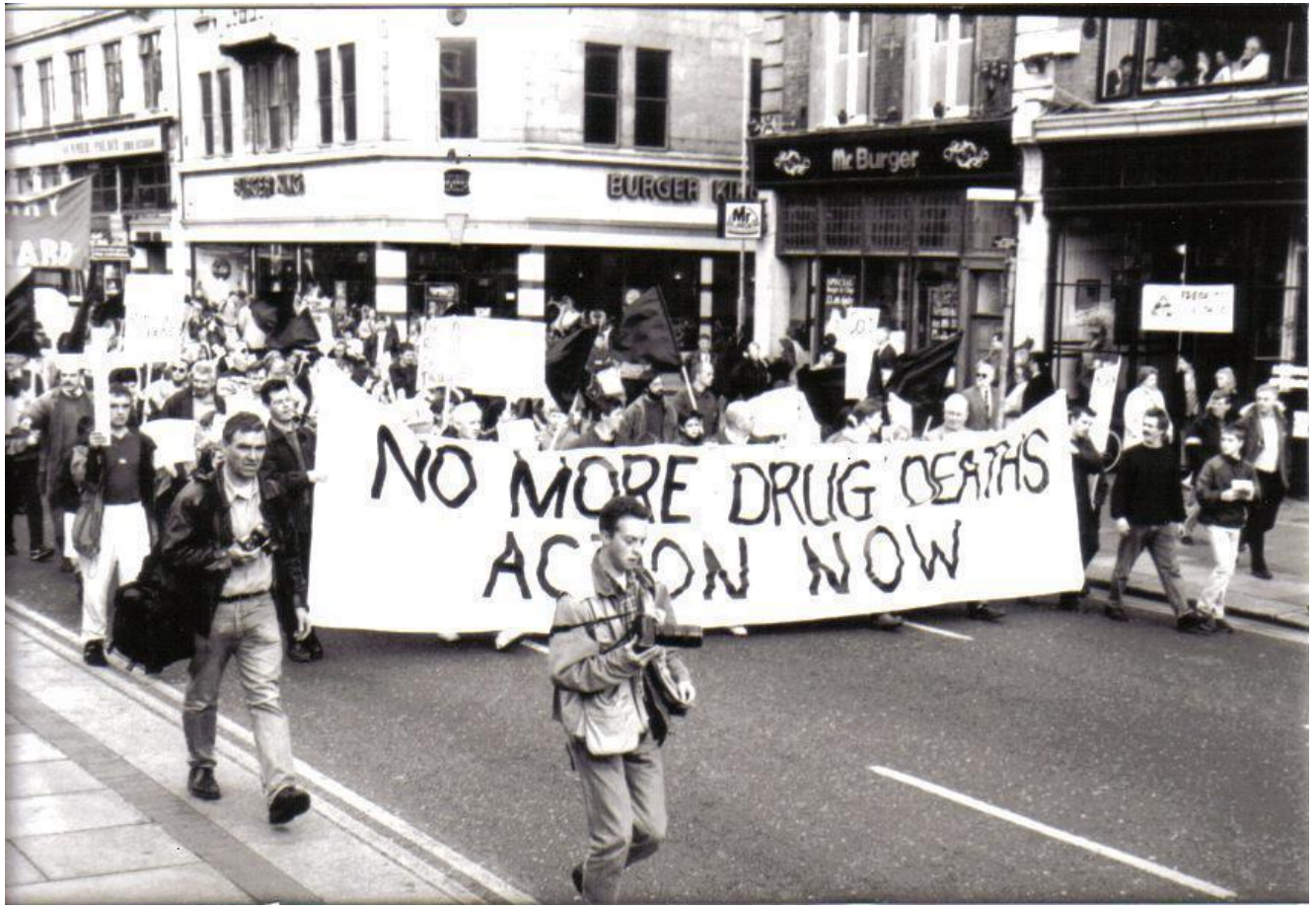
- Emergence of *heroin problem in Dublin* in late 70s
- Community response in early 80s – CPAD *focus on supply*
- *Bradshaw Report* 1982/*Government Task Force* report 1983 – Recession

- No longer news – why? but *heroin is spreading across Dublin*
- *Local Initiatives* to set up services late 1980s/early 1990s

- 1995 *Street Campaign* - COCAD, Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign
- Killing of Veronica Guerin 1996
- *Rabbitte Report 1996*– Setting up of Drug Task Forces and NDST

HERS
JACKIE
LEDDEN

Community Campaigns…



Community Campaigns…

BALLYFERMOT S.T.A.R
SUPPORT
TREATMENT
AFTERCARE
REHABILITATION
North West
Inner City

A Voice for Families

- Citywide - A Community Development Approach to Drugs
- To ensure the voices of communities, families and people who use drugs are heard in relation to policies and decisions that affect them
- Families are essential part of community engagement on the drugs issue

Members of ***DATFs (Drug and Alcohol Task Forces) and***
the ***National Oversight Committee for the NDS***

Service of Commemoration and Hope

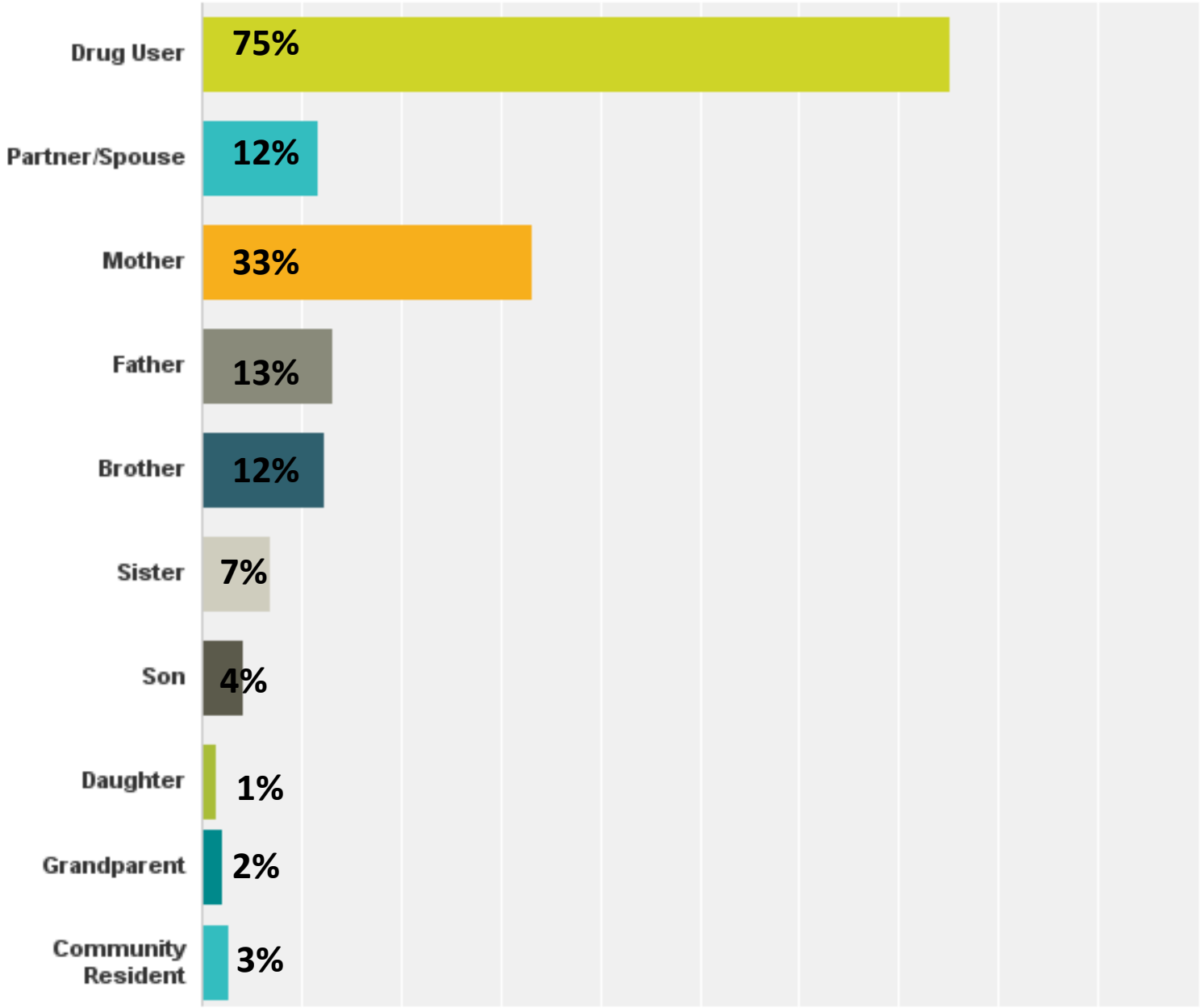
Dublin 1: Christmas Tree Memorial in memory of all those who have died

Drug-Related Intimidation and Community Violence in Drugs Task Force Areas

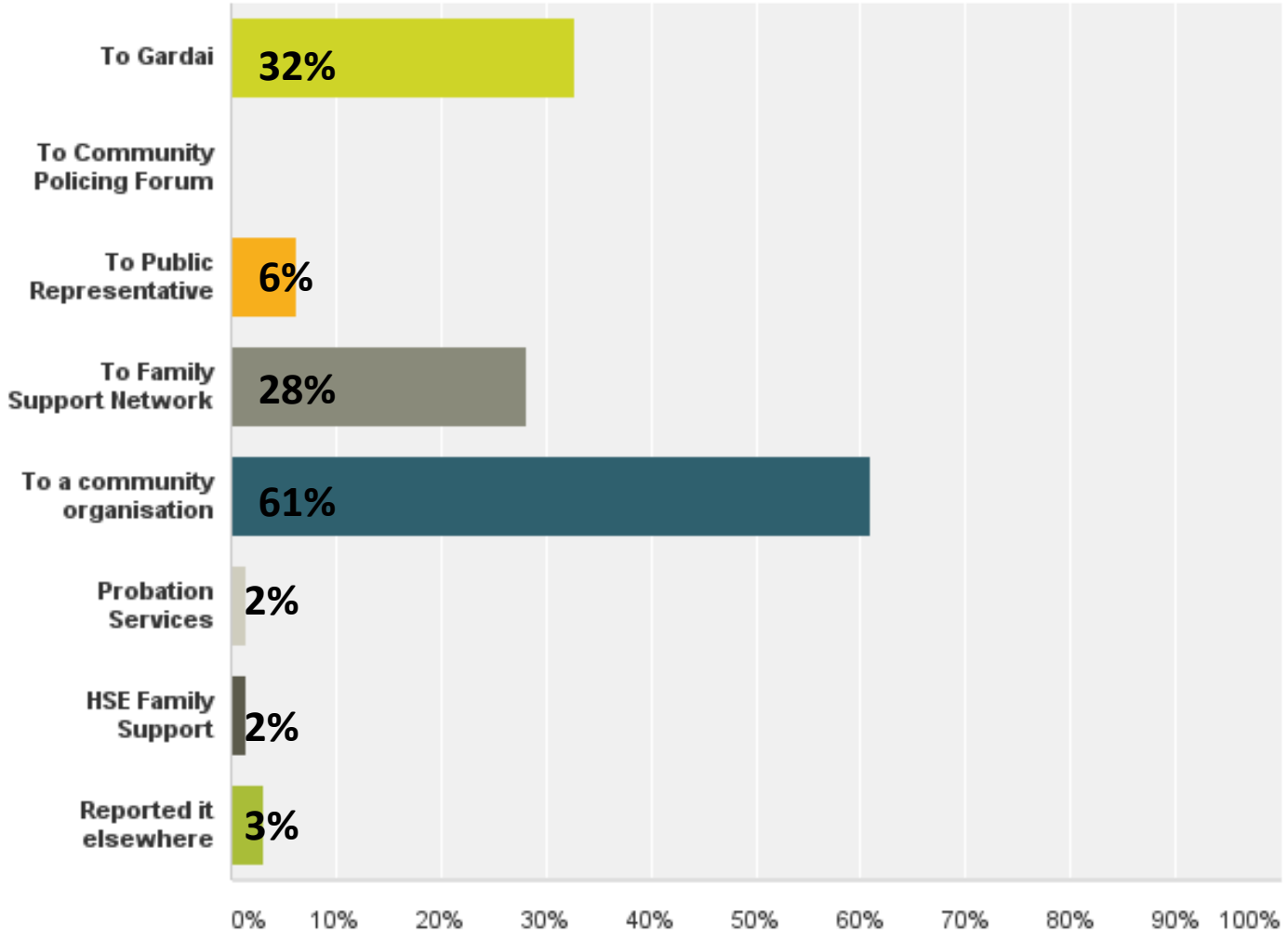
CityWide
Drugs Crisis Campaign

HRB
Health Research Board

Q6: Who is the intimidation or violence directed at?



Q. 13 – If the victim/family previously reported the incident, who did they report it to?



Community Development Approach to Delivering Services

- *The role of our Community Drug Projects*
  - Providing services for people who use drugs and their family members across all of the issues that are impacting on people's lives
  - Developing partnerships with all the relevant state agencies and voluntary bodies
  - Supporting and promoting reintegration of people back into the community and a positive community response to the drugs issue. ***Citywide Research Aileen O'Gorman 2019***
- *Supporting the development of Peer-led Services and Supports for Families and People who use drugs (lived experience)*
- *Advocating for policy and service change*

Impact of Drug-Related Stigma

- Stigma prevents people seeking help
- Stigma has a negative impact on recovery
- Stigma places blame on people for their own situation
- Stigma leads to depression and isolation
- Stigma is long-lasting

People don't understand…the family is to blame…wouldn't happen in my family

Silenced…depressed…isolated…helpless…fearful…ashamed…a failure

Stop the Stigma Campaign

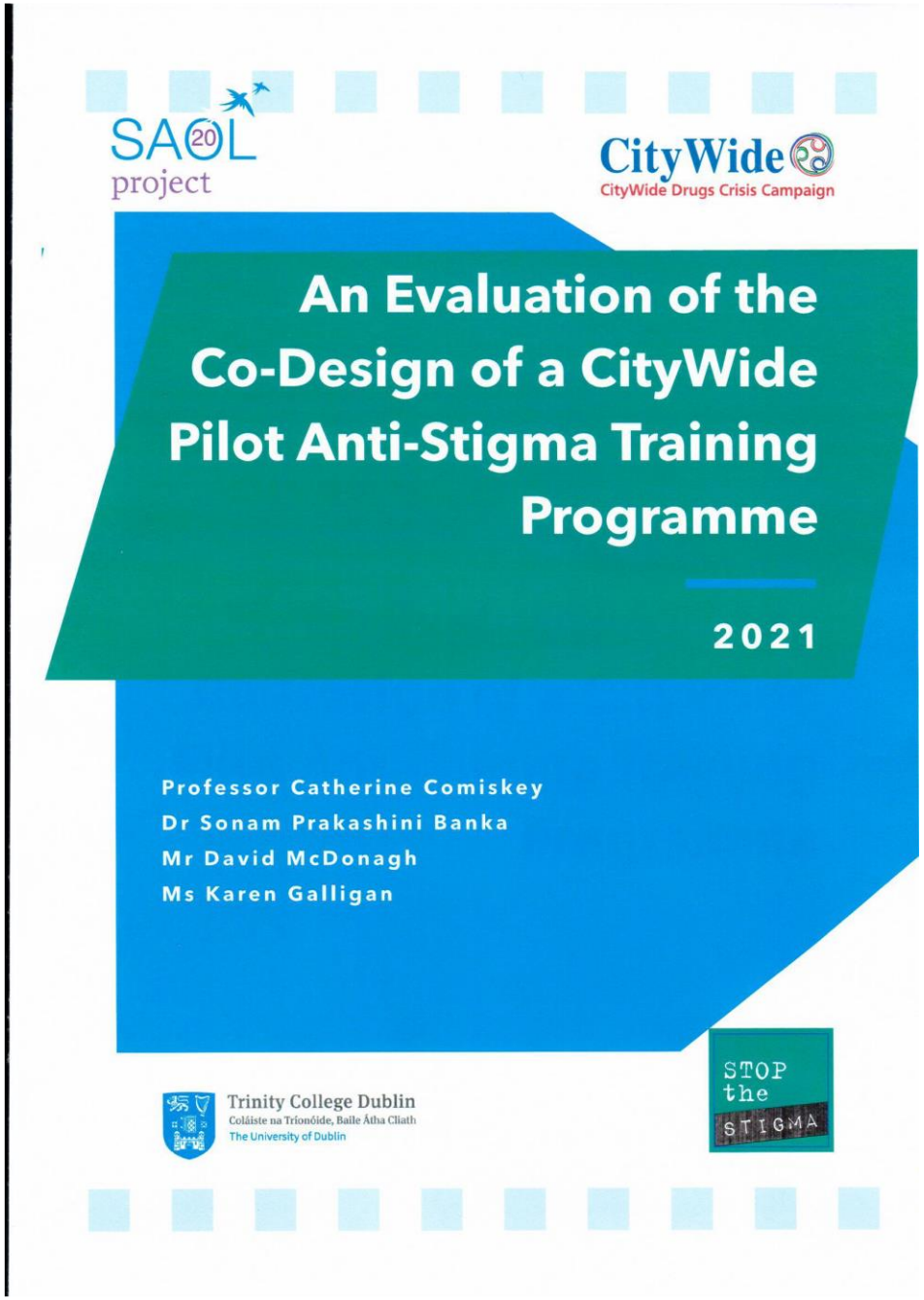
- stopthestigma.ie

STOP the STIGMA

Addiction is a health issue not a crime

stopthestigma.ie

#stopthestigma



STOP the STIGMA

Addiction is a health issue not a crime

Decriminalisation - the community debate…

- Do you think a person should be seen as a criminal because he/she uses a drug and/or has a problem with drug use?
- Distinction between the drug and the person who uses the drug
- Looking at the International evidence – over 30 countries, all UN bodies including WHO
- Drug use does not increase & harms are decreased
- Addressing Impact of Drug-related Stigma

Oireachtas Committee on Drugs

- Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Report January 2024
- Oireachtas Committee to consider implementation of CA recommendations
- Call for Families to be re-instated to National Oversight Committee **NOW**
- Development of next National Drugs Strategy from 2025 onwards

diction
a health
ue not
crime