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The Increase of Fentanyl Use in Young Adults and Its Relationship to Mental Illness

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Increase of Fentanyl Use in Young Adults and Its Relationship to Mental Illness

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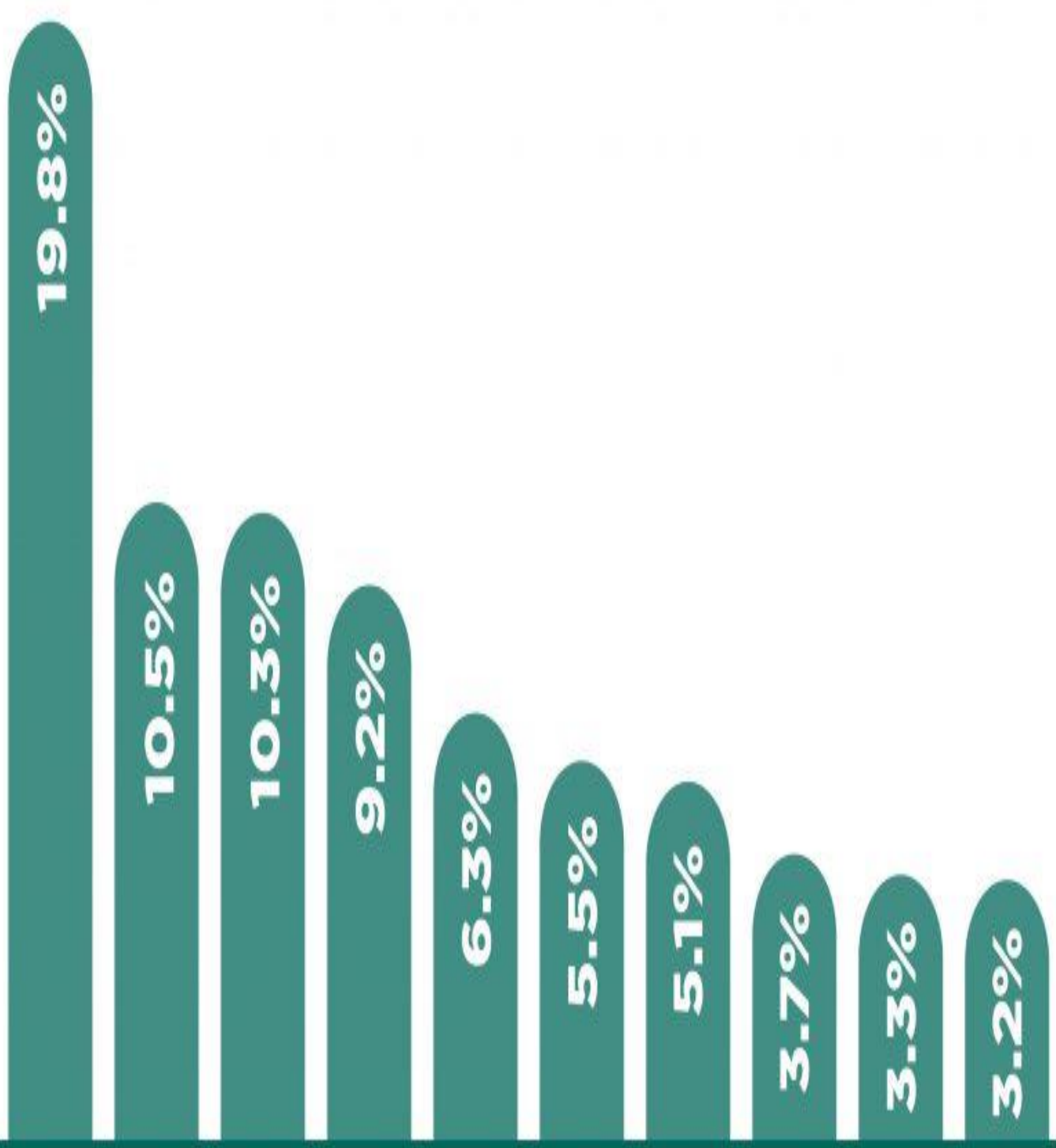
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Background- The Opioid Epidemic

- Fentanyl is popular because of the high potency
- Fentanyl use is a major threat to the physical and mental health of the overall population
- Increasingly common to find this synthetic opioid mixed with other illicit drugs
- 42,700 overdose deaths from Fentanyl alone in 2020
- Fentanyl OD's rates are rising 2.5x faster than heroin OD's

Most Overdose Deaths Involve One or More Illicit Drugs

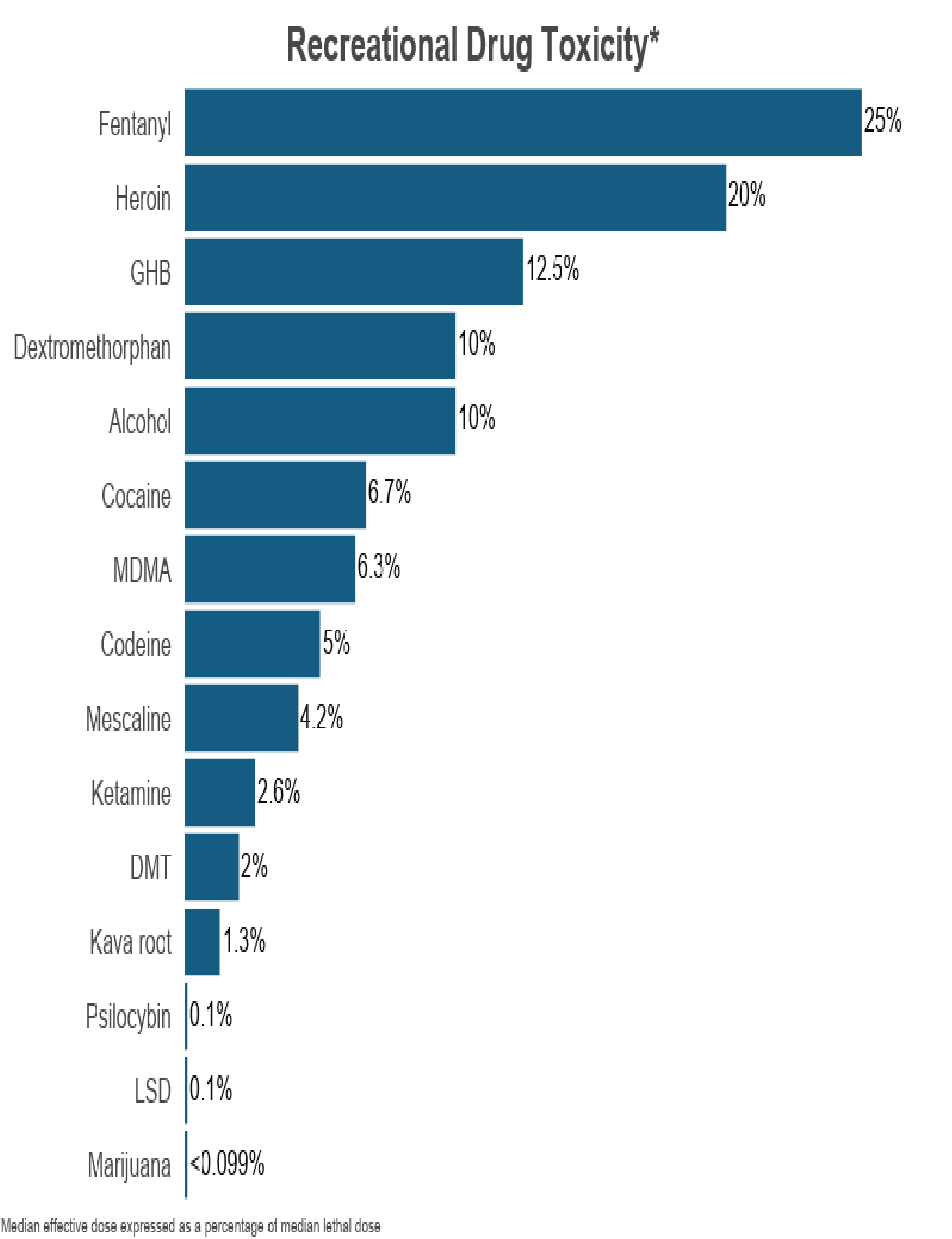
The 10 most frequently occurring opioid and stimulant combinations accounted for 76.9% of overdose deaths.



Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl's*	Heroin	Prescription Opioids	Cocaine	Methamphetamine
19.8%	10.5%	10.3%	9.2%	6.3%
5.5%	5.1%	3.7%	3.3%	3.2%

Background- Mental Health Crisis

- According to the National Allegiance of Mental Health 50% of lifetime mental illness develops in young adults by age 14, and 75% by 24
- Approximately two-thirds of all young adults have symptoms of anxiety and depression



Study Objectives

- The scope of the research focuses on studies on self-medication due to mental disorders.
- This research aims to present a synthesized review of the relationship between fentanyl abuse in young adults and mental illnesses
- The research will be conducted through a literature review and include a statistical review and available data sets.

57.5 percent of Whitman students report having experienced a panic attack

27% of people between the ages of 18 and 24 have a DIAGNOSABLE MENTAL ILLNESS according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness

47.8 percent report having experienced insomnia

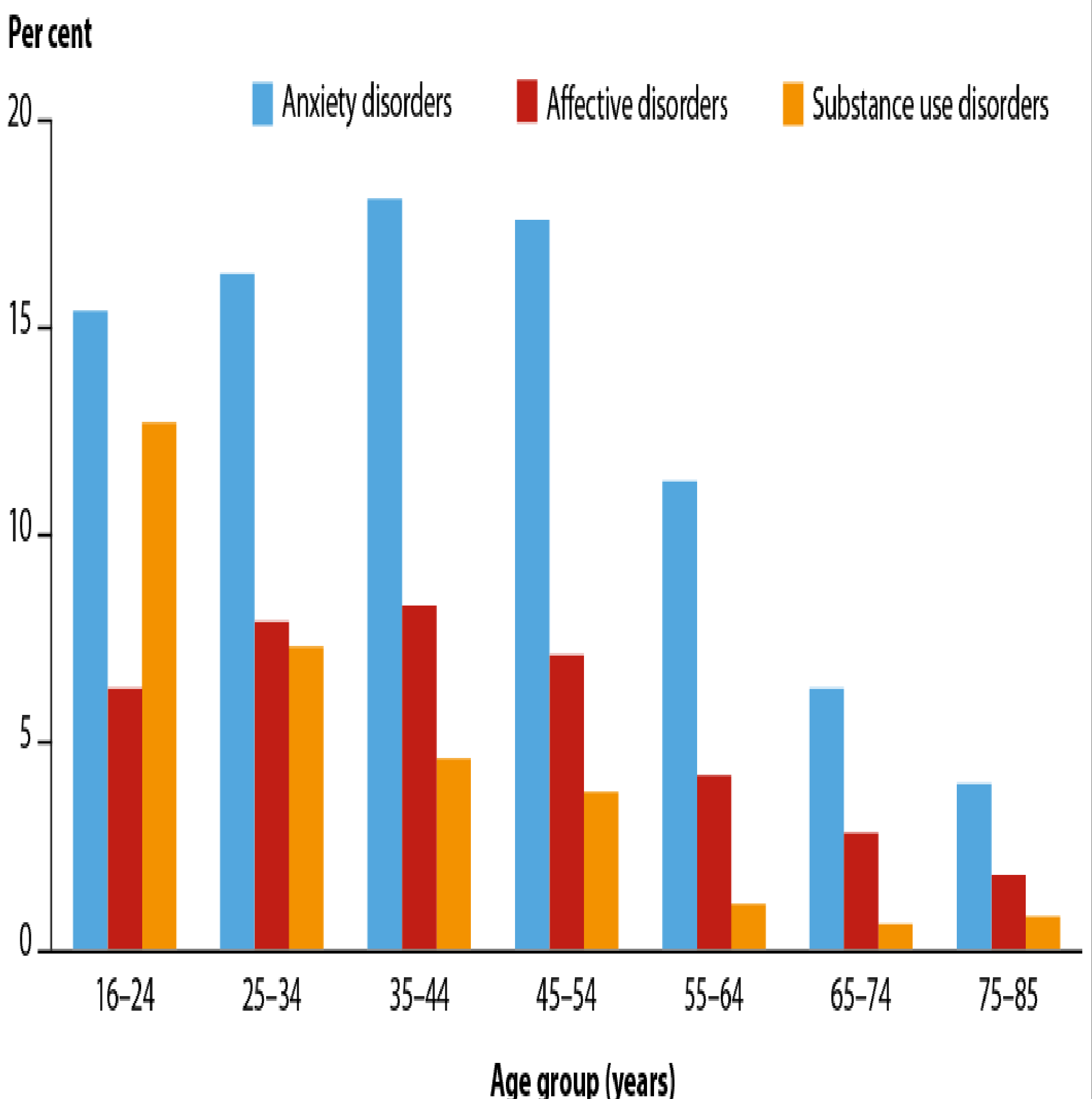
Stigma surrounds mental health issues on campus

Have you ever taken medication for a mental health issue?

14.9% are currently, 7.2% have in the past, 77.9% have not

Of those who have taken medication, 67.1% found it effective

Conclusion



- The study aims to present a synthesized review of the relationship between fentanyl abuse in young adults and mental illnesses
- It is hoped that this study will bring awareness to the fentanyl epidemic, the influence that mental health factors have on a person becoming a fentanyl user, and alternative ways people can get involved to help aid this matter.

Future Implications

- We hope by this study that people who are seeking treatment options for substance abuse are also given the opportunity to seek psychological therapy for their mental disorders to learn healthy coping mechanisms or learn to successfully overcome past traumas.

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