

# An increased understanding of the characteristics of *methamphetamine 'cooks'* may assist law enforcement personnel to reduce *harms* related to *methamphetamine* and *clan labs*

## Patterns of methamphetamine production and use among an international sample of methamphetamine 'cooks'

Cheneal Puljević<sup>1</sup>, Jason Ferris<sup>1</sup>, Renee Zahnow<sup>2</sup>, Isabella Benfer<sup>1</sup>, Adam Winstock<sup>3,4</sup>

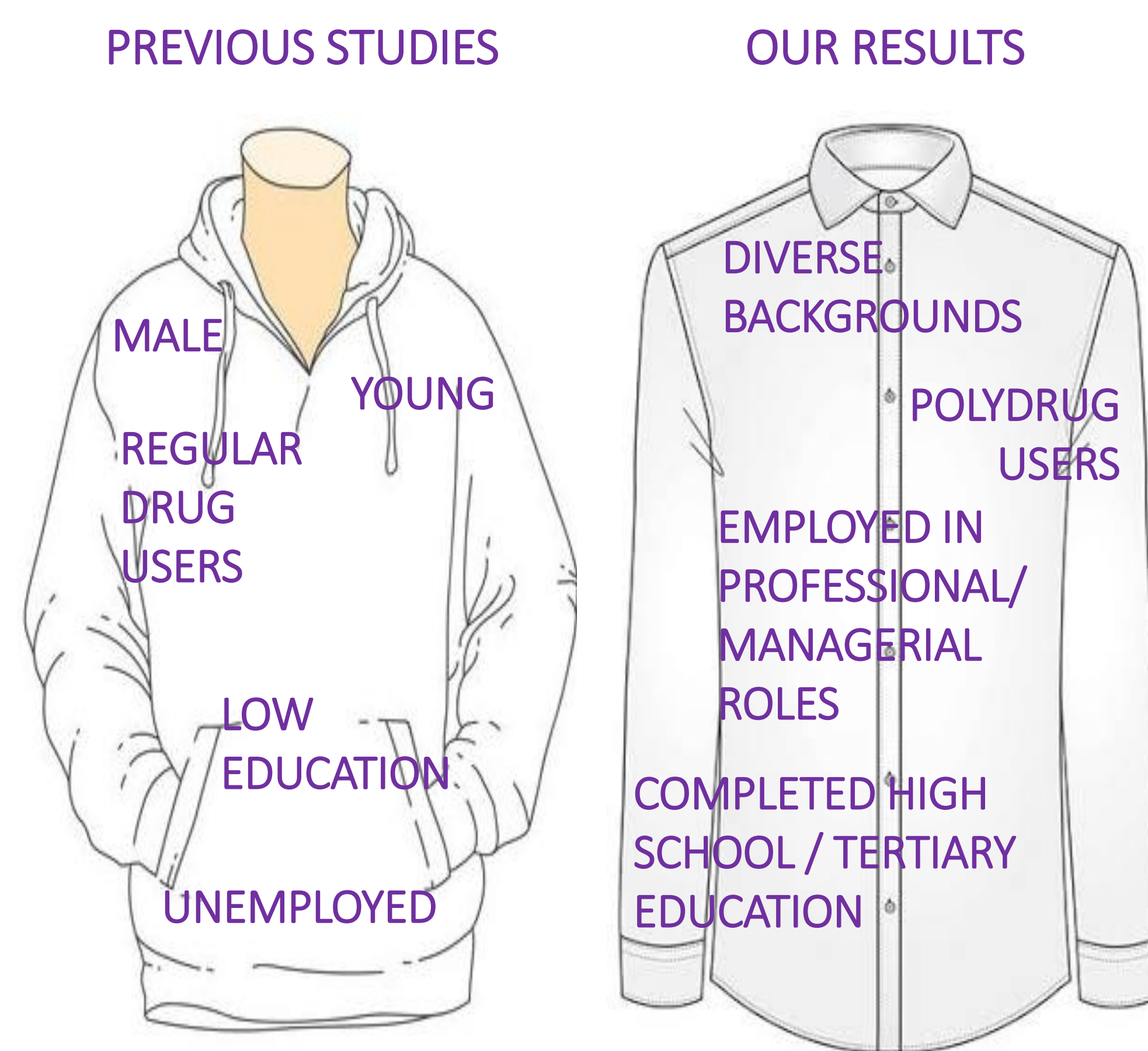
### BACKGROUND

- 'Cooks' are individuals who manufacture methamphetamine in clandestine laboratories (clan labs).
- Clan labs pose a serious threat to public health through chemical exposure in residential neighbourhoods, and through serious injuries to cooks, neighbours, and emergency responders.
- All previous studies describing cooks involve qualitative interviews with small samples (n<30), in small geographic areas of the USA.

### METHODS

- Data drawn from the 2017 and 2018 Global Drug Surveys
- Identified 125 individuals who self-reported previous use and manufacture of methamphetamine in the past 12 months
- Produced descriptive statistics for socio-demographic variables, illicit drug use, and patterns of methamphetamine use and production
- Compared patterns of methamphetamine use for cooks and users among respondents from the 5 countries with the highest number of cooks

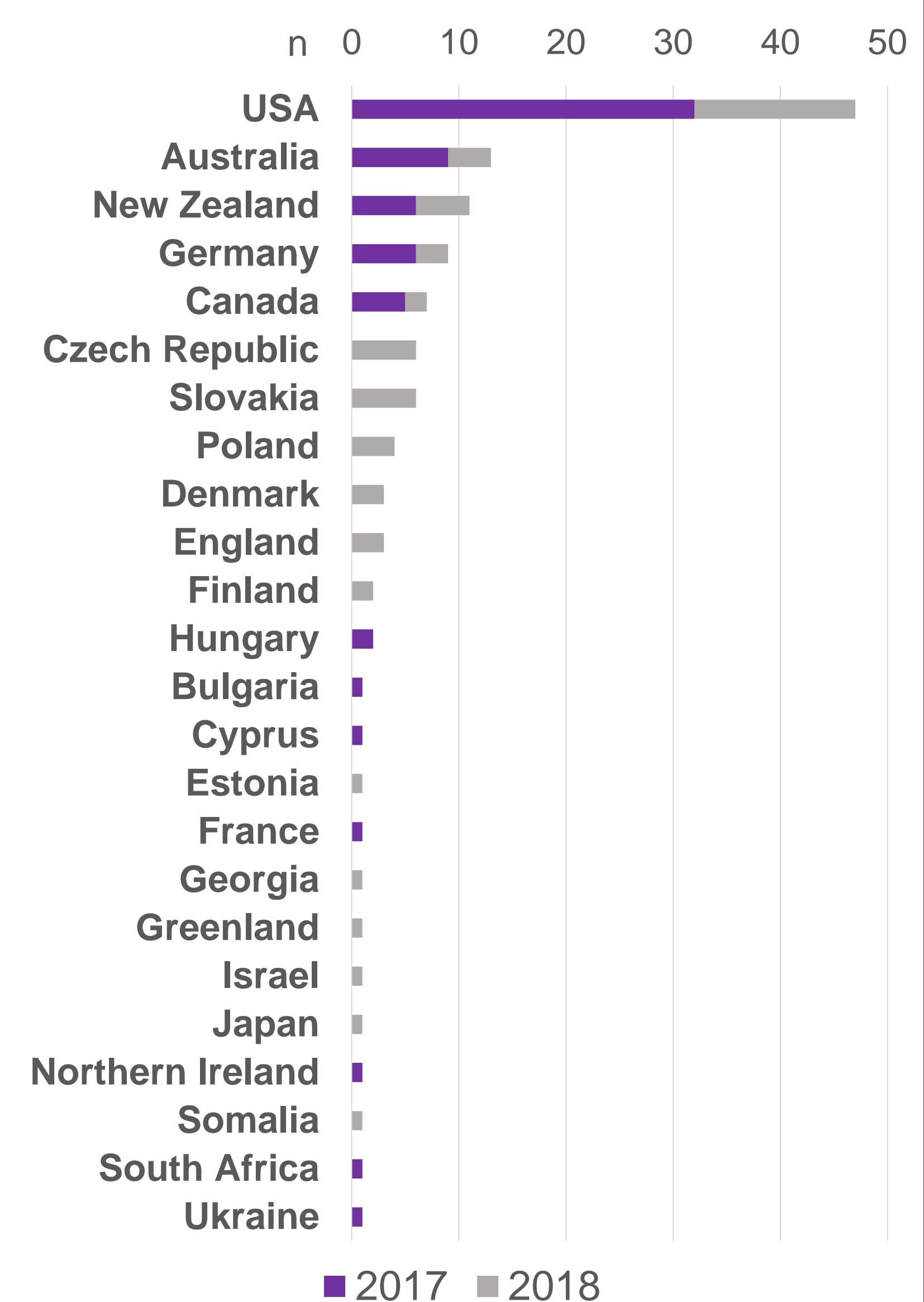
### RESULTS: Who are the cooks?



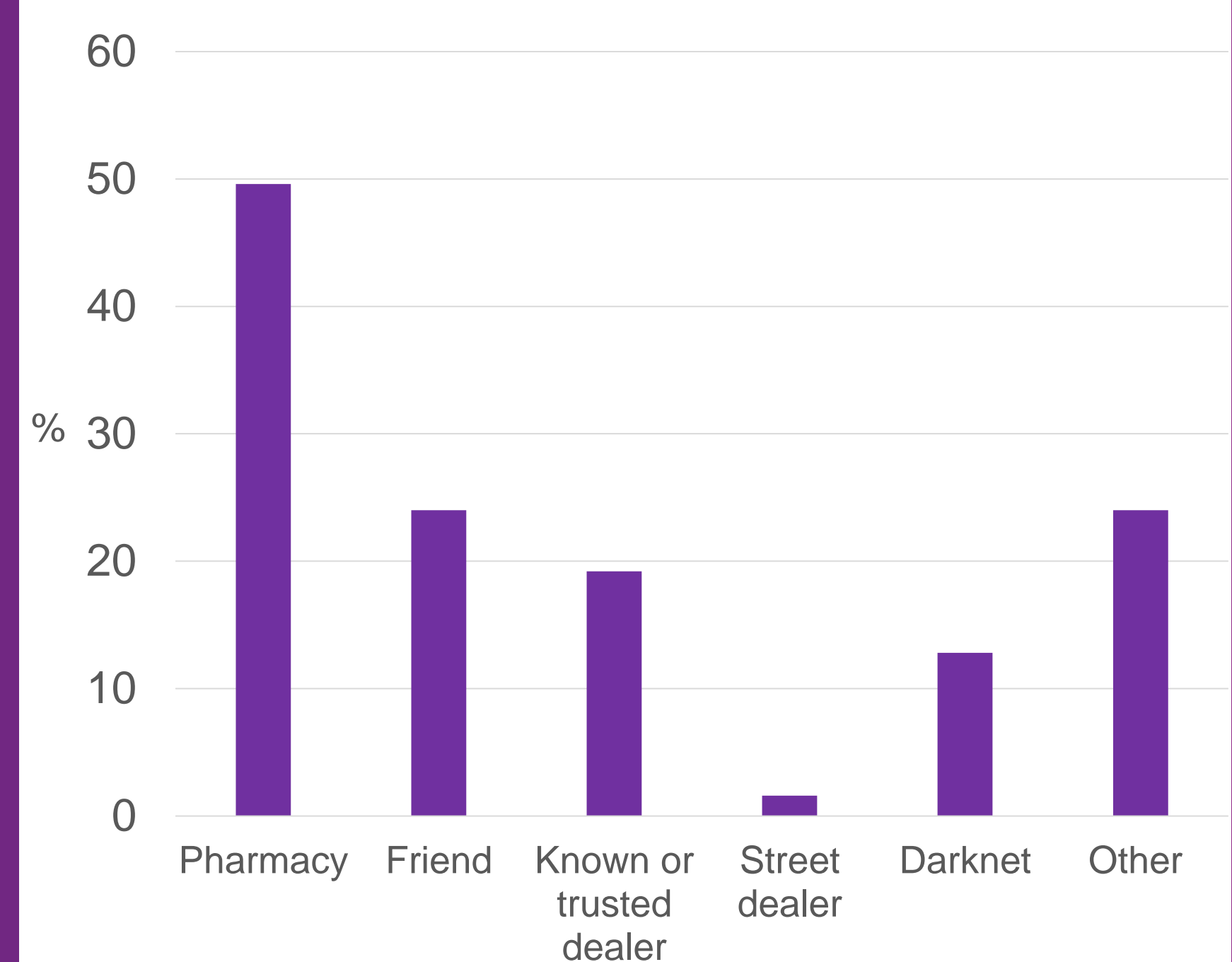
### DISCUSSION

- This study describes the socio-demographic characteristics and patterns of methamphetamine production and use among a sample of 125 cooks from 24 countries.
- Contrary to previous studies, our findings show a diversity of socio-economic and demographic characteristics across cooks.
- This increased understanding of cooks' socio-demographic profiles and methamphetamine production could be used by law enforcement personnel to reduce the harms associated with the clandestine manufacturing of methamphetamine.

### RESPONDENTS' COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

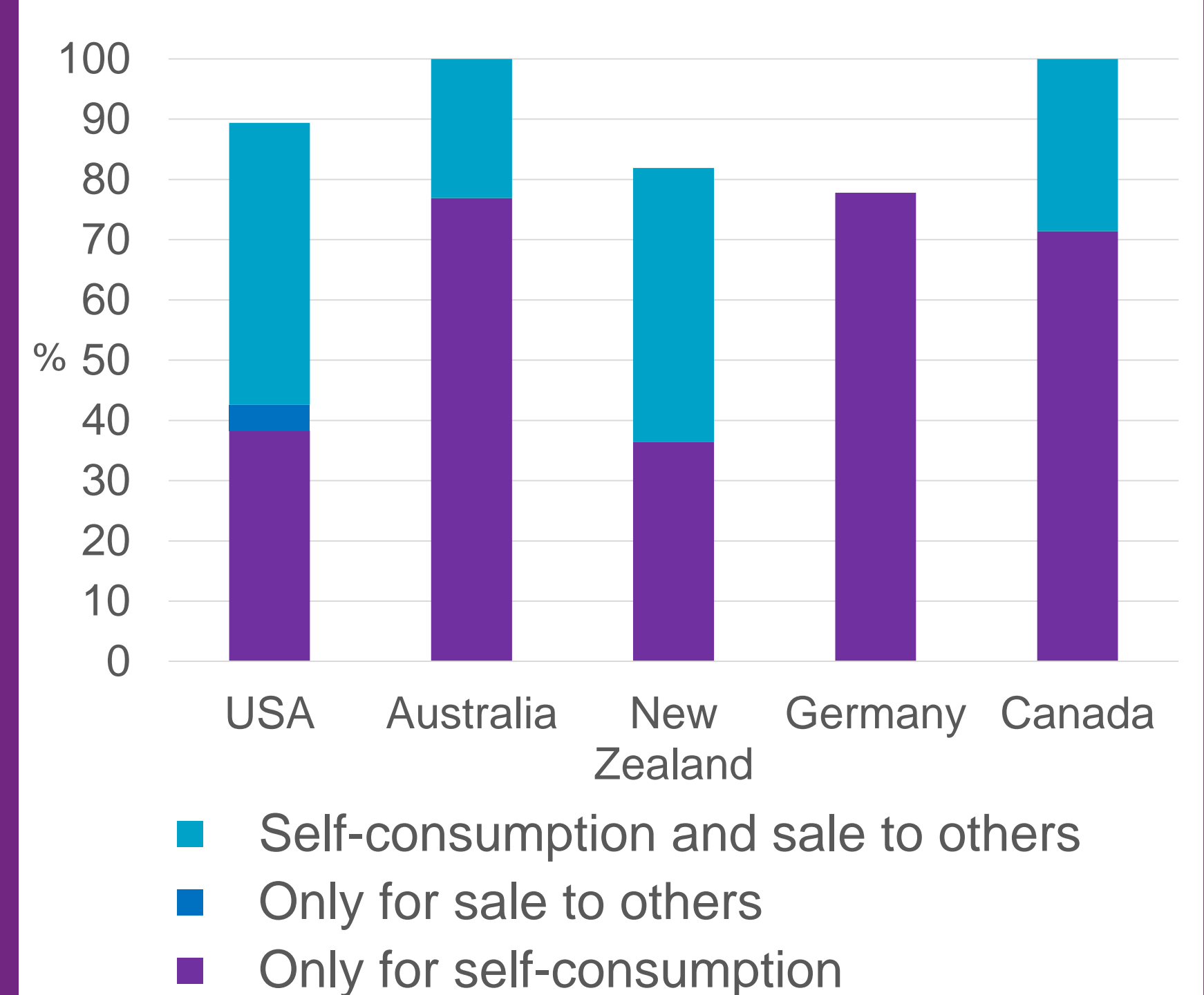


### SOURCE OF PRECURSORS\*



\*Chemicals required for the manufacture of illicit drugs. For methamphetamine, precursors are typically cold and flu tablets containing ephedrine/pseudoephedrine.

### PURPOSE OF PRODUCTION



<sup>1</sup>Centre for Health Services Research, The University of Queensland <sup>2</sup>School of Social Science, The University of Queensland

<sup>3</sup>University College London <sup>4</sup>Global Drug Survey Ltd, London, UK