

AARIN Symposium
May 21, 2009

**Drug Market Acquisition Behaviors
among Arrestees in Maricopa
County**



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety

Drug Market Acquisition Behaviors

■ Social Networks

- Exchange of illegal goods requires opportunity and access; this is influenced by personal networks (Griffin & Rodriguez, 2009);
- Examples of gender, age, group affiliation;

Drug Market Acquisition Behaviors (cont.)

■ Risk Management Behaviors

- Modify uncertainty and risk associated with involvement in illegal activities (Eck, 1995);
- Social networks act as screening mechanism; buyer knows who seller is, or knows someone who knows a seller and can vouch for that person;
- Routine activities -- Transactions made in familiar area using routine activities of everyday life where people naturally congregate;

Drug Market Acquisition Behaviors (cont.)

- **Unique dynamics of different drug markets**
 - Drug markets can differ considerably from one another including how users buy and consume drugs (Curtis & Wendel, 2000; Riley, 1997);
 - Example: Crack transactions more frequent, utilized more extensive networks of dealers; marijuana sales characterized by acquaintance relationships;

Drug Market Addendum

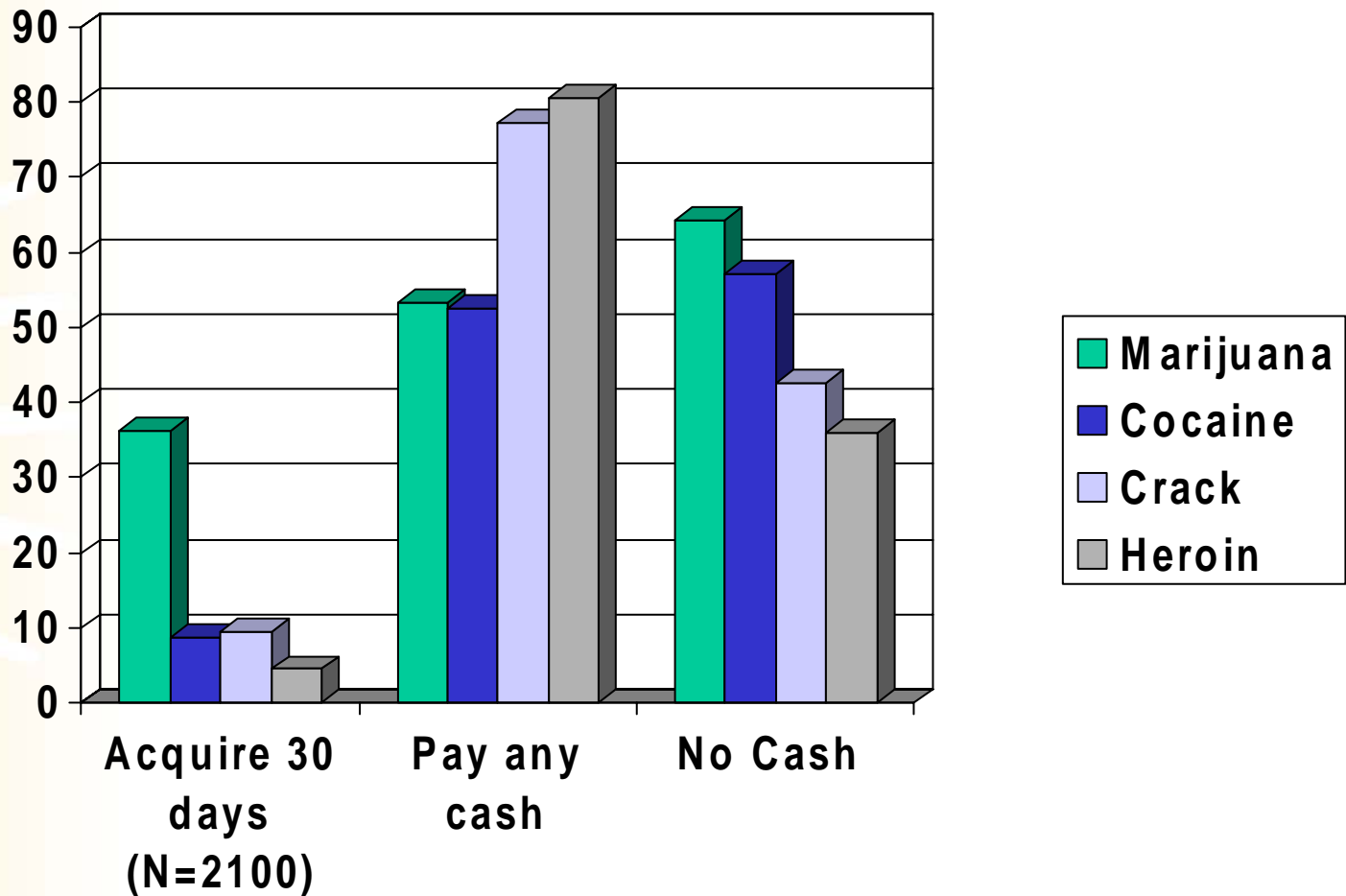
- If acquired with cash:
 - Cash and anything else (trade other drugs, property, steal drug, trade sex, other);
 - Buy directly or someone purchased it for you?
 - Purchase from regular source?
 - Purchase in/outside neighborhood?
 - Type of place (store, residence, hotel, on street, outdoor area)
 - How easy/difficult to get drug?
 - If tried to buy drug but could not, why?

Drug Market Addendum (cont.)

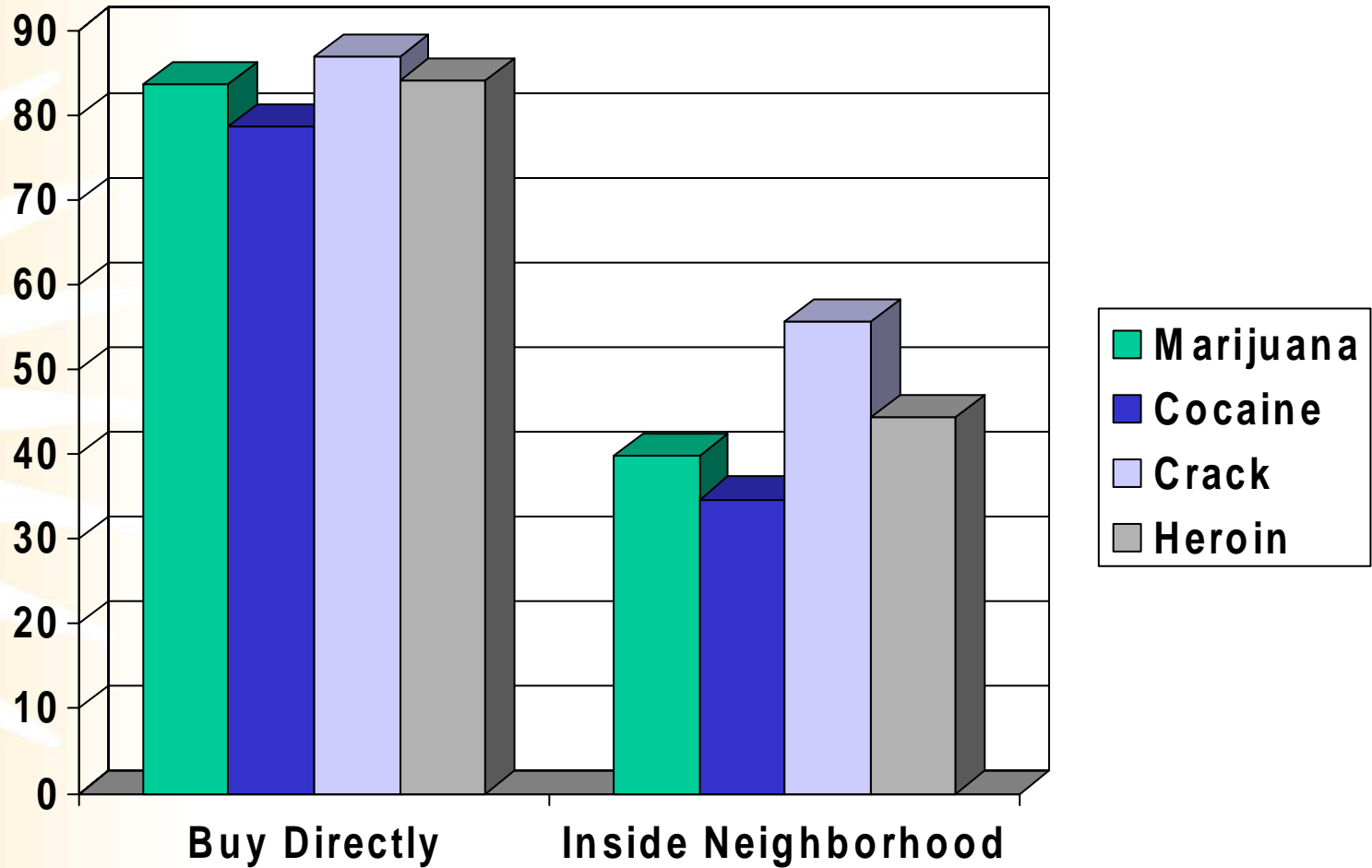
- **If acquired drug without paying cash**
 - How (make/grow; on credit; fronted to sell; trade other drugs, property, sex; gift/shared)
 - Acquire in/outside neighborhood?
 - How many times on that same day?
 - How many different people?

Preliminary Findings: Drug Market Addendum

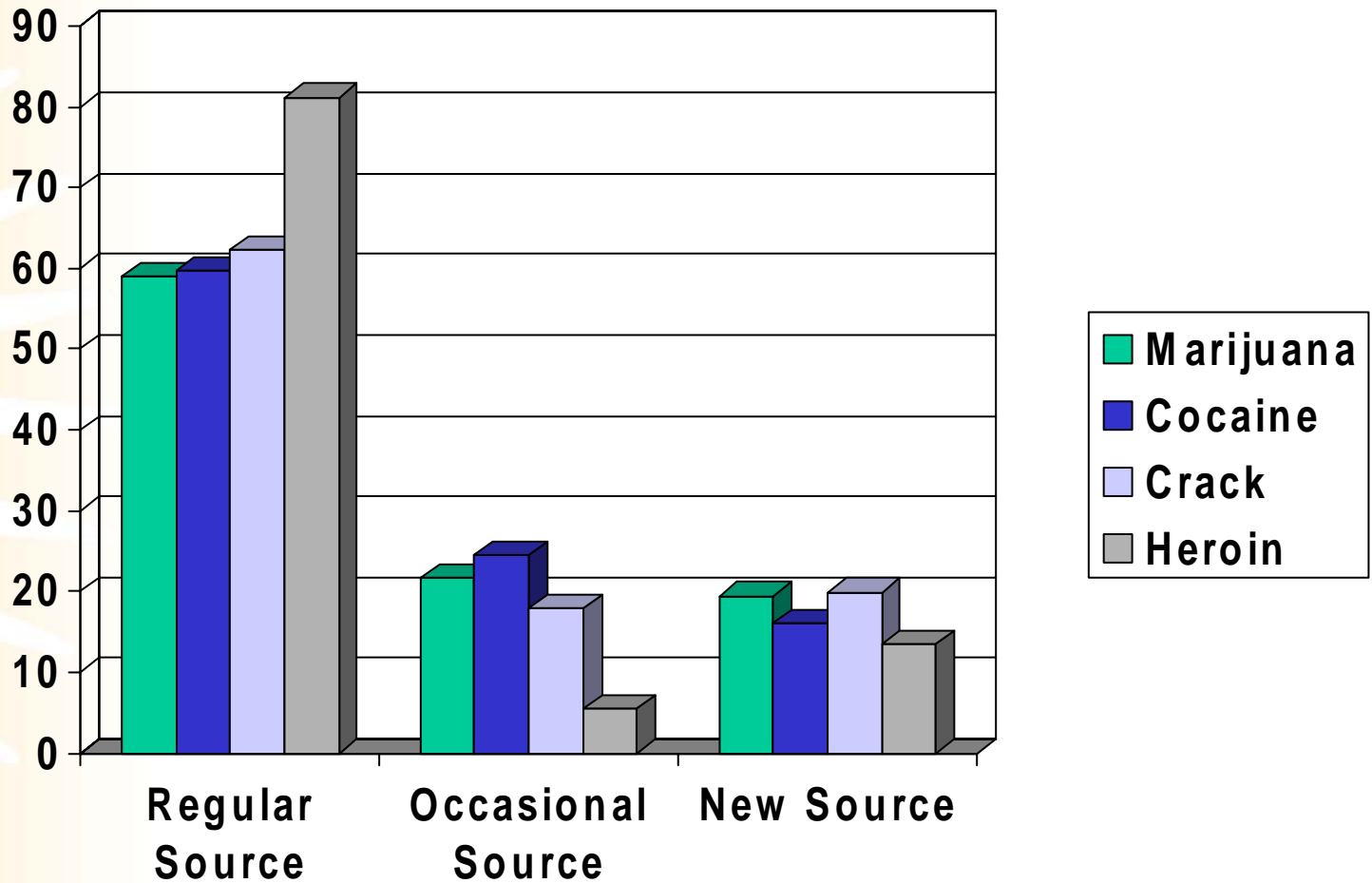
Acquisition in Past 30 Days



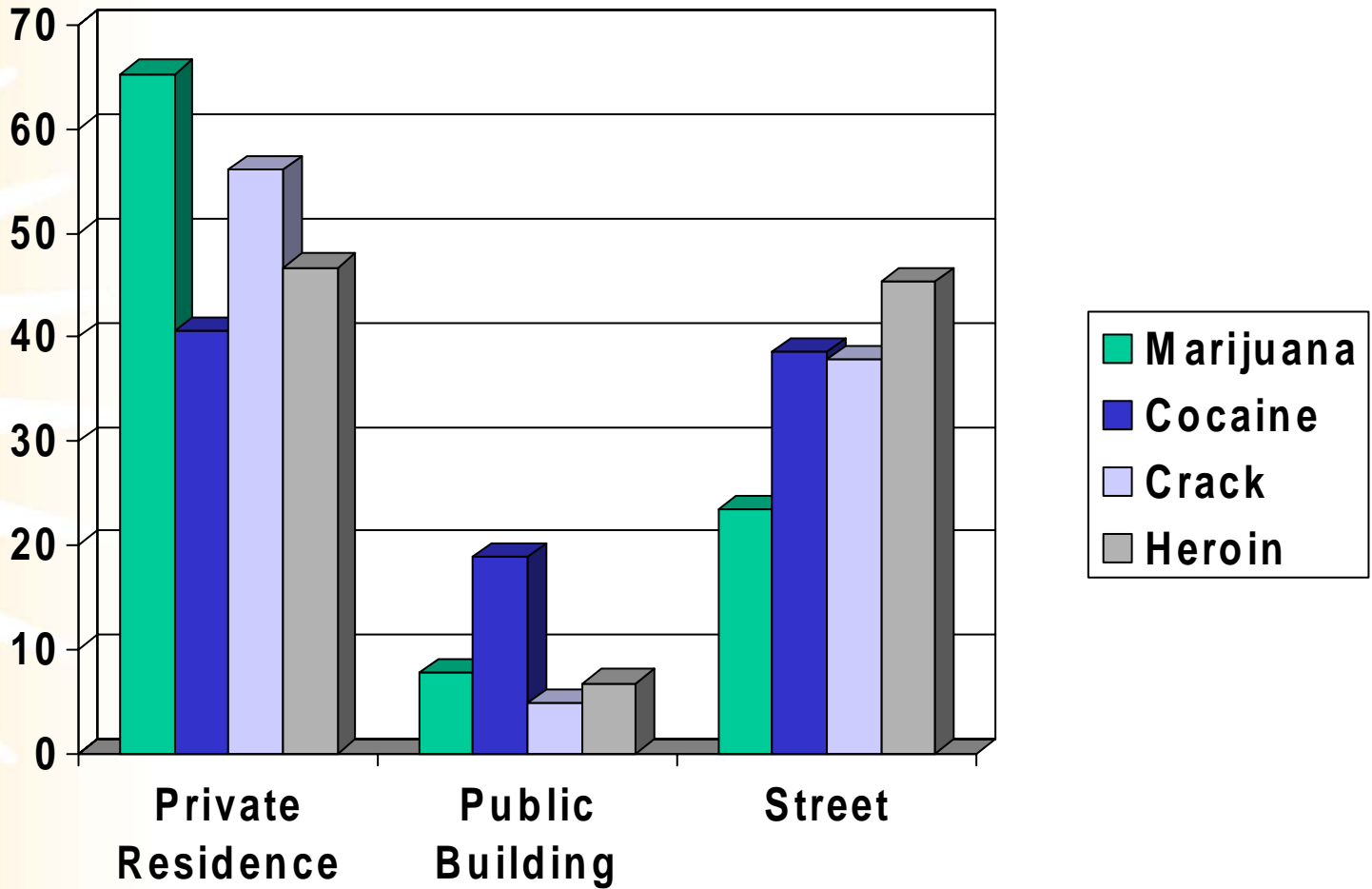
Last Cash Drug Acquisition



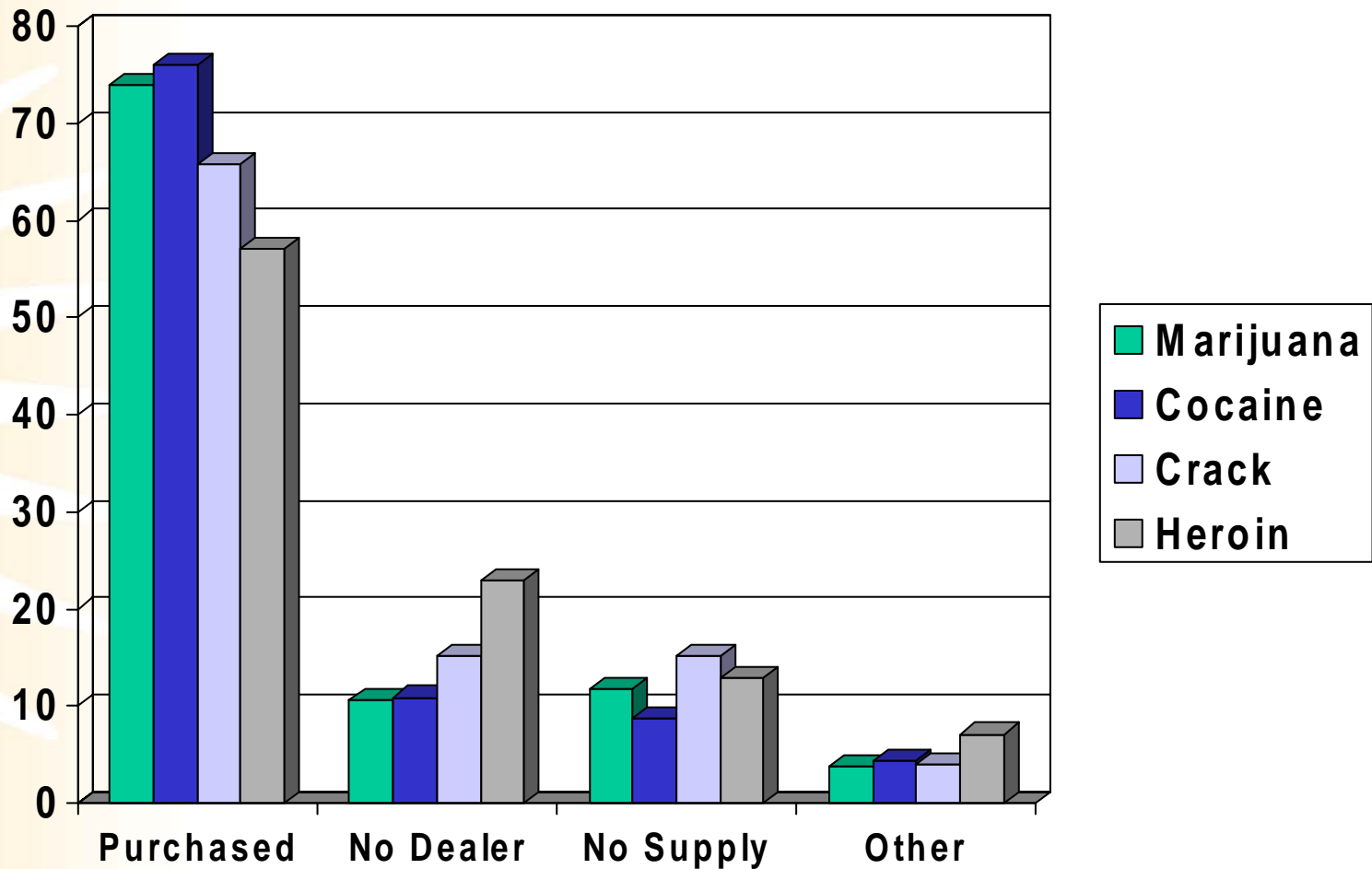
Last Cash Drug Acquisition by Source



Last Cash Drug Acquisition by Location



Availability of Drug



Significant Findings by Gender

- Few significant differences in drug market acquisition behaviors by gender;
- Men more likely to acquire marijuana and powdered cocaine;
- Women more likely to acquire crack cocaine;
- Men more likely to directly purchase heroin;
- Men more likely to purchase marijuana on the street;

Conclusions

- Value of continued examination of drug market data:
 - Inform street level law enforcement approaches to disrupt street drug market activity;
 - Assist in understanding of drug use acquisition behaviors for public policy and prevention programs;

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VIOLENCE | PREVENTION
***and* | COMMUNITY SAFETY**
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