

**NOVEL INTERVENTIONS TO PREVENT DRIVING UNDER
THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS (DUI) ...**

**... AND HELP PEOPLE WITH HARMFUL SUBSTANCE USE
IN CONTACT WITH TREATMENT**

Med støtte fra

TrygFonden



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4 POLICE DISTRICTS & TREATMENT CENTERS IN 27 MUNICIPALITIES

Nordjyllands Police district: Preben B. Klitgaard, Jeanette S. Nielsen, and all 9 municipalities.

Midt- og Vestjyllands Police district: Jørgen Christensen, Luna V. Willadsen, and all 11 municipalities.

Nordsjællands Police district: Brian S. Grayston, Poul Erik L. Thomsen, and 5 municipalities.

Sydsjællands og Lolland-Falsters Police district: Anette Brix, Kirstine B. Klukan, and 2 municipalities.

Need for new interventions to prevent DUI

Alcohol accidents account for 1 in 5 of people who die in traffic accidents (*Vejdirektoratets ulykkesstatistik 2017-2021*).

After years with a decline in the number of people who are severely injured in alcohol accidents, the curve has flattened out (*Vejdirektoratets ulykkesstatistik 2012-2021*).

Indications of underlying harmful substance use:

- High degree of recidivism: 17% receive at least one more DUI conviction within 5 years (*Møller et al., 2015*).
 - Among alcohol-related accidents that cause personal injury between 6am-7pm Monday-Thursday, in 66% of the cases, the driver had a BAC of $>1.2\%$ (*Vejdirektoratets årsrapport 2017-2021*).
- **Need for new interventions to prevent DUI that take into account potential underlying substance use problems.**

Large treatment gap: very few with harmful substance use receive treatment

Only 3% of people with harmful alcohol use and 12% with alcohol use disorder receive public alcohol treatment/counselling – although it is free of charge (*Sundhedsstyrelsen, 2019*).

On average 11 years from problems start until people receive treatment/counselling (*Sundhedsstyrelsen, 2015*).

The police have a high degree of contact with people with harmful substance use due to the large overlap with criminal offenses → The police can refer to treatment/counselling.

The authority of the police and the situation (e.g., DUI charge) may increase awareness of substance problems and hence increase their motivation to accept help.

➤ **Interventions where the police refer people with harmful substance use to treatment may prevent future DUI and reduce the treatment gap.**

Aim: Test new interventions to prevent DUI where the police refer people with presumed harmful substance use to treatment

A police officer encourages relevant citizen to agree to be contacted by a substance use counsellor.

- 1. DUI charge intervention** → In the DUI charge situation.
- 2. DUI screening intervention** → Screening of “Borgertips” and/or lists of recidivists → Home visit or call.



- **Can the interventions be integrated in the daily work?**
- **Do they work as intended?**
- **Which factors support/hinder the implementation?**

Pilot project: Interventions are tested in 4 Police districts and 27 municipalities

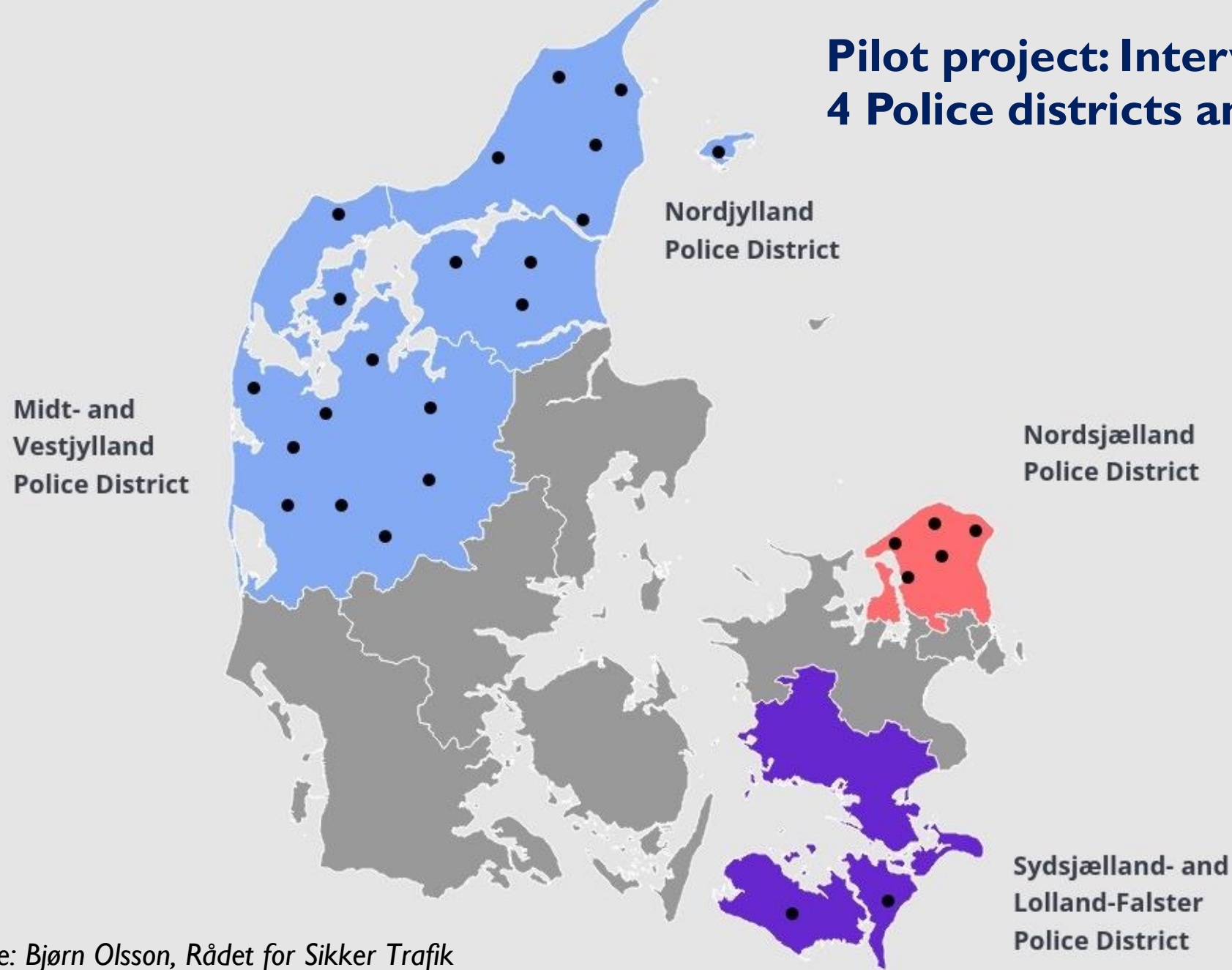


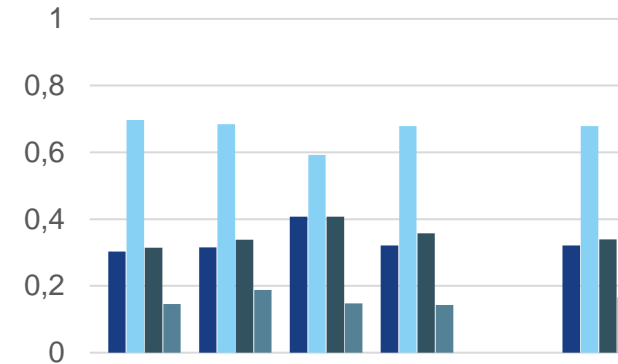
Figure: Bjørn Olsson, Rådet for Sikker Trafik

● Both interventions, but only data regarding DUI-charge referral intervention ● DUI-charge referral intervention ● DUI-screening referral intervention

Data collection: March 2021 - February 2022

Anonymous registrations:

- Police
- Treatment centers

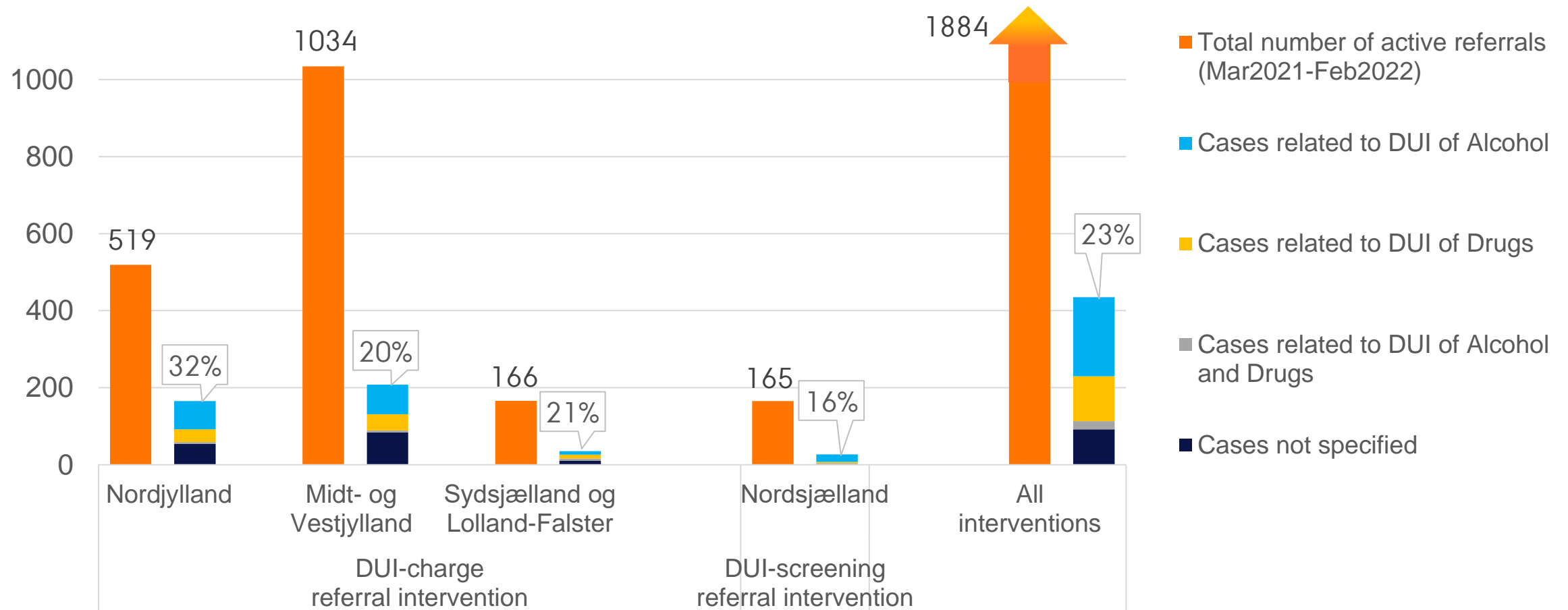


Qualitative interviews:

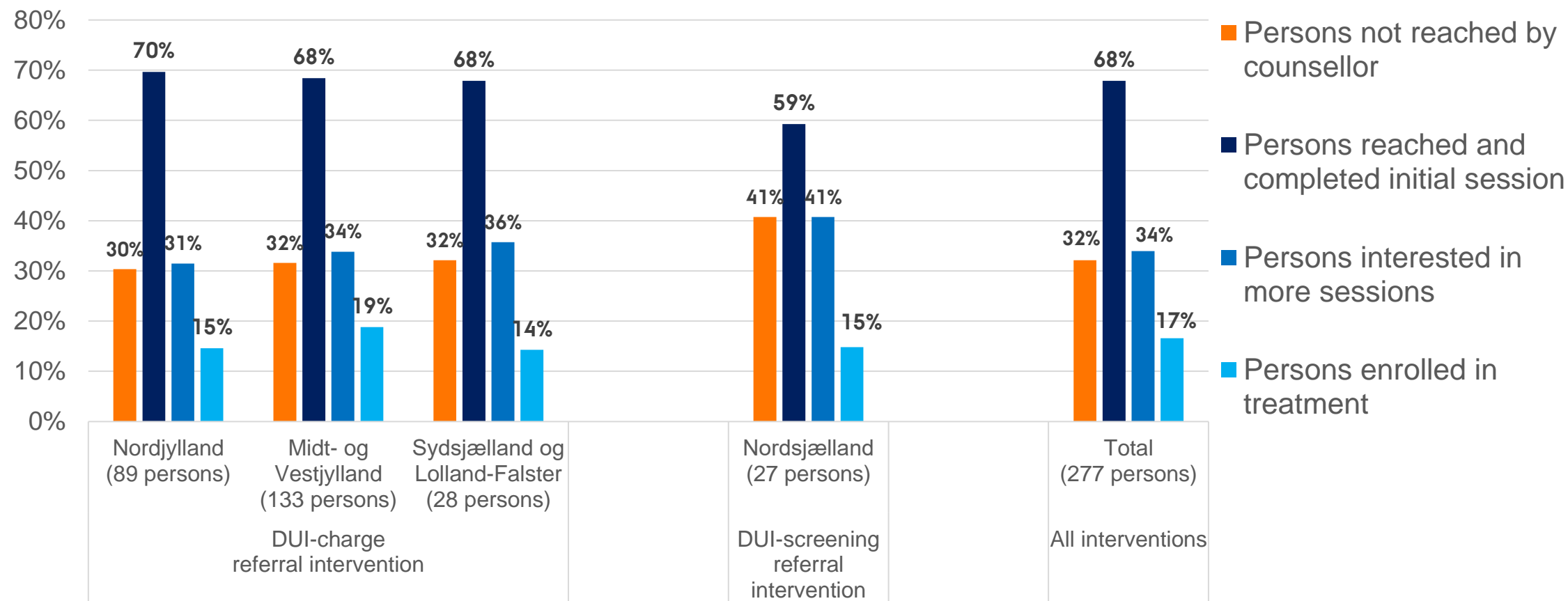
- Police (leaders, officers)
- Treatment centers (leaders, counsellors)
- Referred citizen



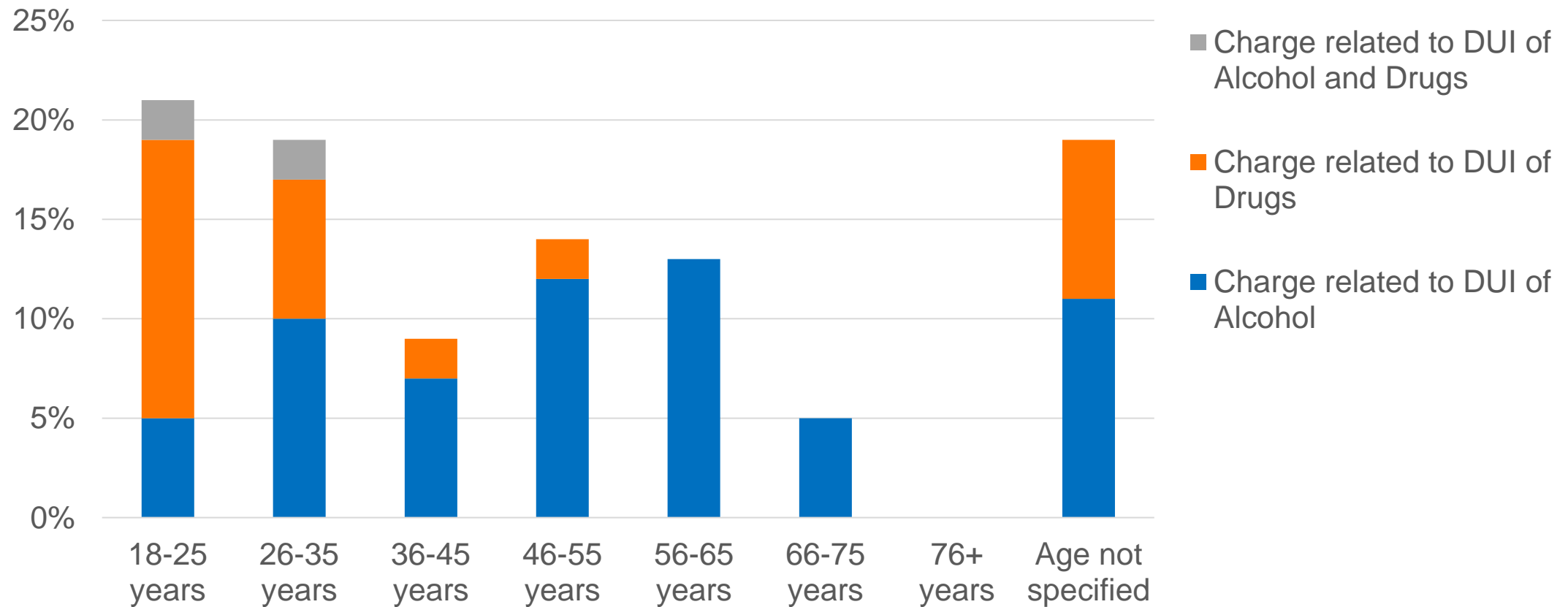
Police: how many received and accepted the offer to be referred to treatment



Treatment contact with individuals who consented to be referred



Individuals charged for DUI who consented to be referred in MVJ and NJ Police districts



Qualitative interviews	N
Police leaders	8
Police officers	6
Treatment center leaders	4
Counsellors	3
Referred citizen	3



Can the interventions be integrated in the daily work?
Do they work as intended?
Which factors support/hinder the implementation?

Police: factors that facilitate and support

ALL INTERVENTIONS

- Meaningful for the officers to reach out and offer help, tired of stopping the same people over and over again.
- The interventions are generally positively received by the target group.
- Good collaboration with the researchers: responsive to implementation in practice
- Motivating to hear about positive experiences from other officers and counsellors.

DUI-CHARGE INTERVENTION

- Simple procedures, easy to remember because the consent form was placed with the blood test kit.
- Works well to deal with the sanctions first; explain what the offer is about; meet the person in an open way (“take off the police cap”); have the conversation in the car.

Police: factors that hinder

DUI-CHARGE INTERVENTION

- Large geographical police districts and many officers involved: challenging to ensure communication to all officers.
- Restrictions on breathalyzers due to COVID-19 (48-hour rule).

DUI-SCREENING INTERVENTION

- Some officers have barriers related to home visits/calls, others do not.
- Far fewer relevant “tips from other citizen” due to COVID-19.

ALL INTERVENTIONS

- Officers request more information about the treatment centers and suggestions on how to best encourage people to accept the offer (motivation techniques).

Recommendations

Ensuring more people charged for DUI are referred to treatment

- Managers at local police stations play a key role in communicating to officers.
- Motivating officers (e.g. video MVJ) for the task.
- Optimal with an employee to follow up on the cases/charges (e.g. SJ-LF).

Motivating more people to consent to be referred to treatment

- Preparing and training the officers more for the tasks: e.g. suggestions on consent form, workshops and e-learning modules (e.g. on motivation techniques), invite counsellors to local stations to talk about treatment offers and “do’s & don’ts”.

Strengthen collaboration and exchange of experience

- Develop forums for exchange of experience; internal (police) and external (e.g. treatment centers).
- Regular meetings between the police and treatment centers (e.g. NS).

Can the interventions be integrated in the daily work? ✓

Do they work as intended? ✓

Identification of factors that facilitate/hinder? ✓

Participating police districts and substance use treatment center still work with the new interventions, and new police districts have started/consider starting.

Report with results and recommendations.
Download at www.crf.au.dk



Thank you!

MASSIVE THANK YOU TO

Participating citizen

Nordjyllands Police and 9 municipalities

Midt- & Vestjyllands Police and 11 municipalities

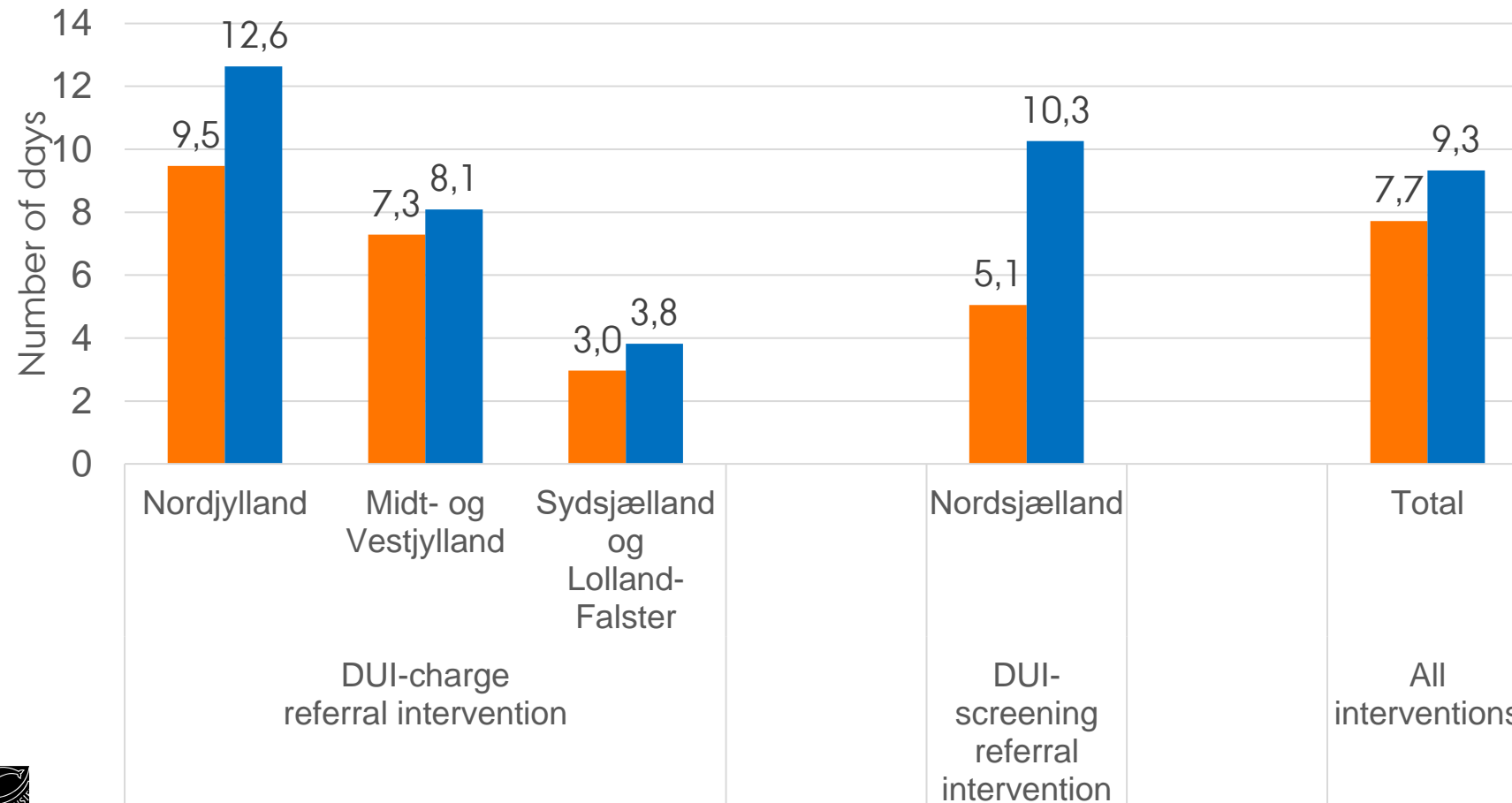
Nordsjællands Police and 5 municipalities

Sydsjællands & Lolland-Falsters Police and 2 municipalities

Advisory Board

TrygFonden

Number of days from an individual consents to be referred until the counsellor calls



■ Number of days from the individual consents until the treatment center gets info from police

■ Number of days from the individual consents until a counsellor makes the first call