

# Best Practices for Educating Youth About Drug Use In Peterborough

## Background:

Due to a concern that Peterborough is not applying best practise strategies associated with educating youth about drug use, this project has been developed by the Peterborough Police Service.

The project focuses on researching best practices for educating youth in Peterborough about drug use. The final report will provide a review of current and emerging resources and best practices to help Peterborough be more strategic in aligning drug messaging across organizations in order for drug education messages to have a bigger impact.

## Research Questions:

1. What does the evidence say about strength based, harm reduction, and or peer driven drug education when working with youth?
2. What tools and methods are indicated as being most effective to deliver this message?
3. What evidence exists that indicates the importance of police involvement in delivering this messaging?
4. What are the current drug education requirements for elementary and high school curricula?
5. What strategies are local agencies using in their youth focused drug education and what resources are they using?
6. What resources would local agencies like to have available to them as part of their education strategies?
7. What local agencies are doing drug education in schools?

## Methods:

**Questions 1-4:** Extensive qualitative literature research

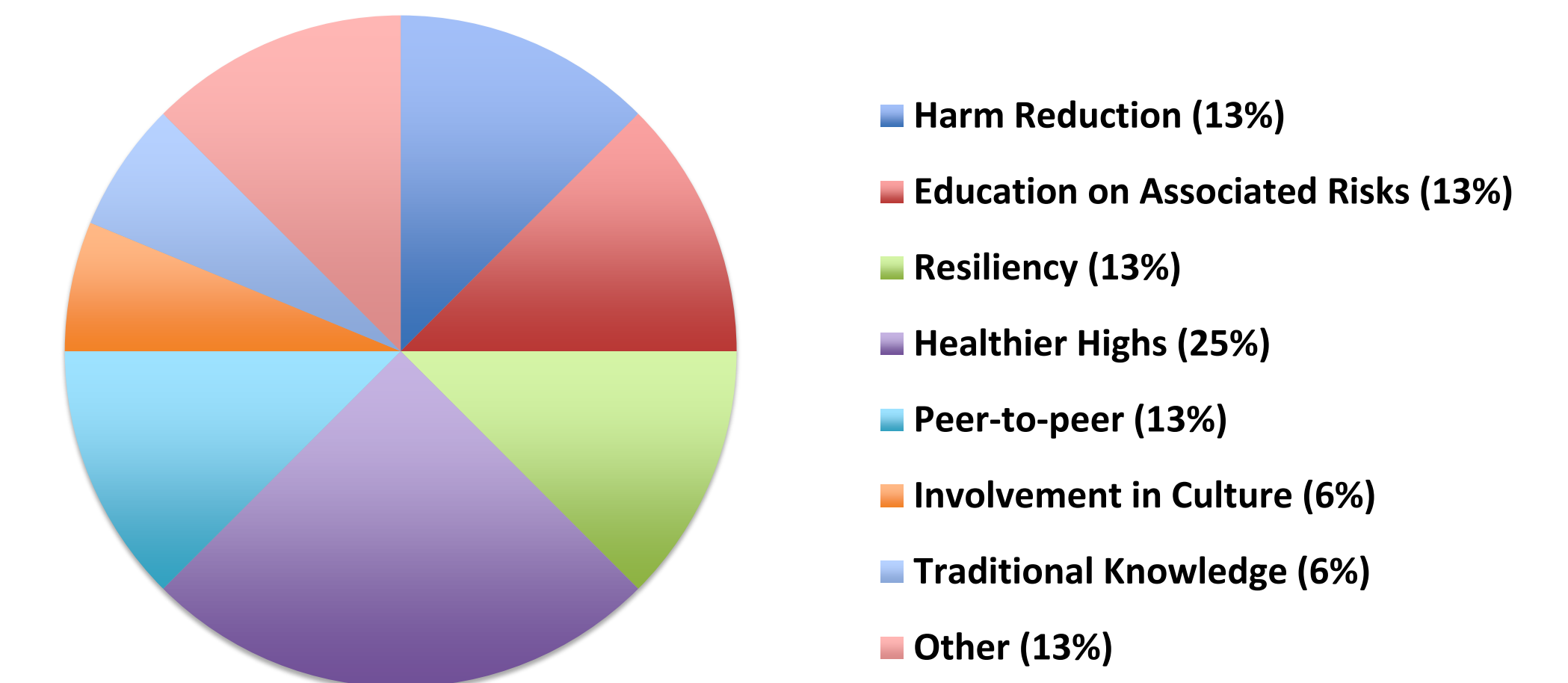
**Questions 5-7:** An online survey was created which consisted of 17 questions and was sent out to local Peterborough agencies that participate in youth drug education.



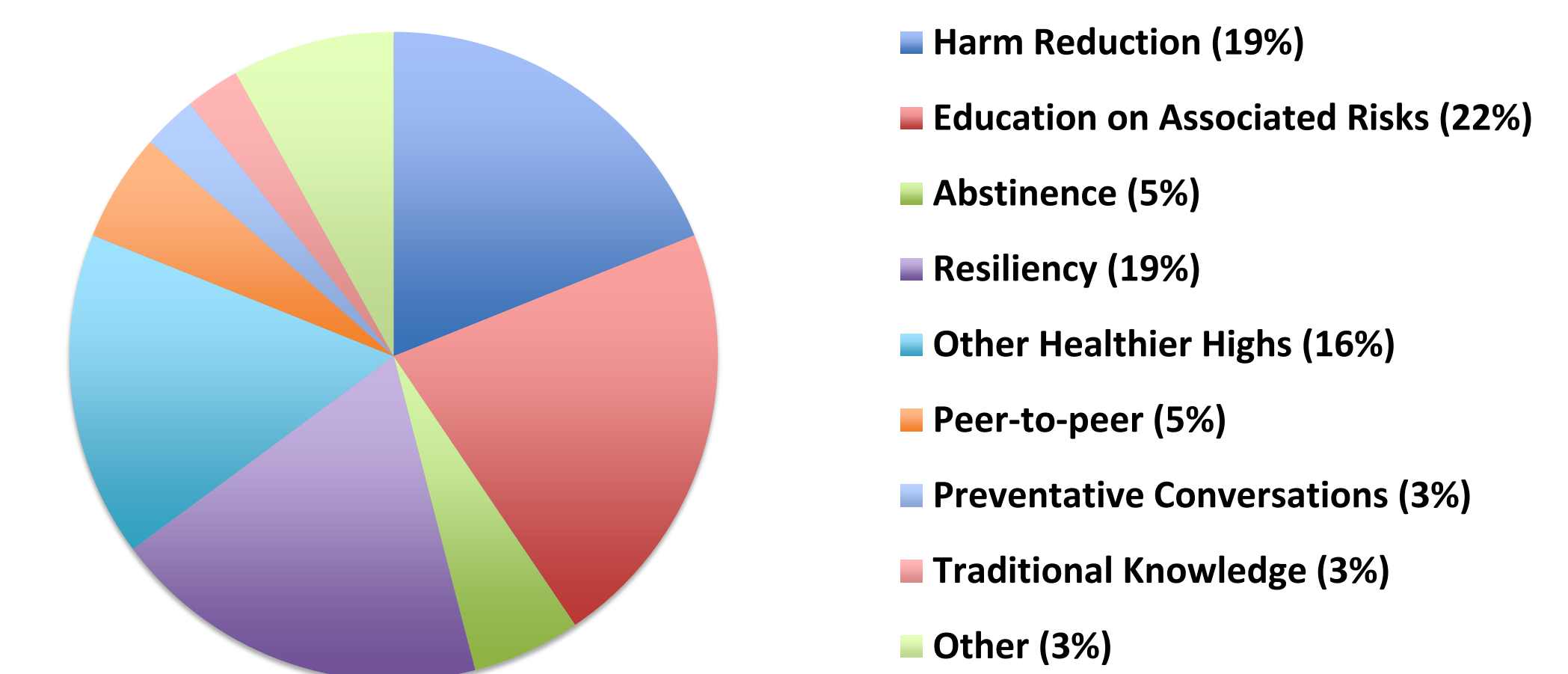
## Results:

- Online resources are an effective, low cost option for drug education that can target a large number of youth
- Interactive delivery methods are superior and strength based programs are more effective than programs on knowledge
- Harm reduction methods are effective at reaching youth already using drugs and don't increase drug use among non-users
- Peers are essential to harm reduction initiatives and can change behaviour and improve knowledge
- The importance of police delivering drug education messages is inconclusive

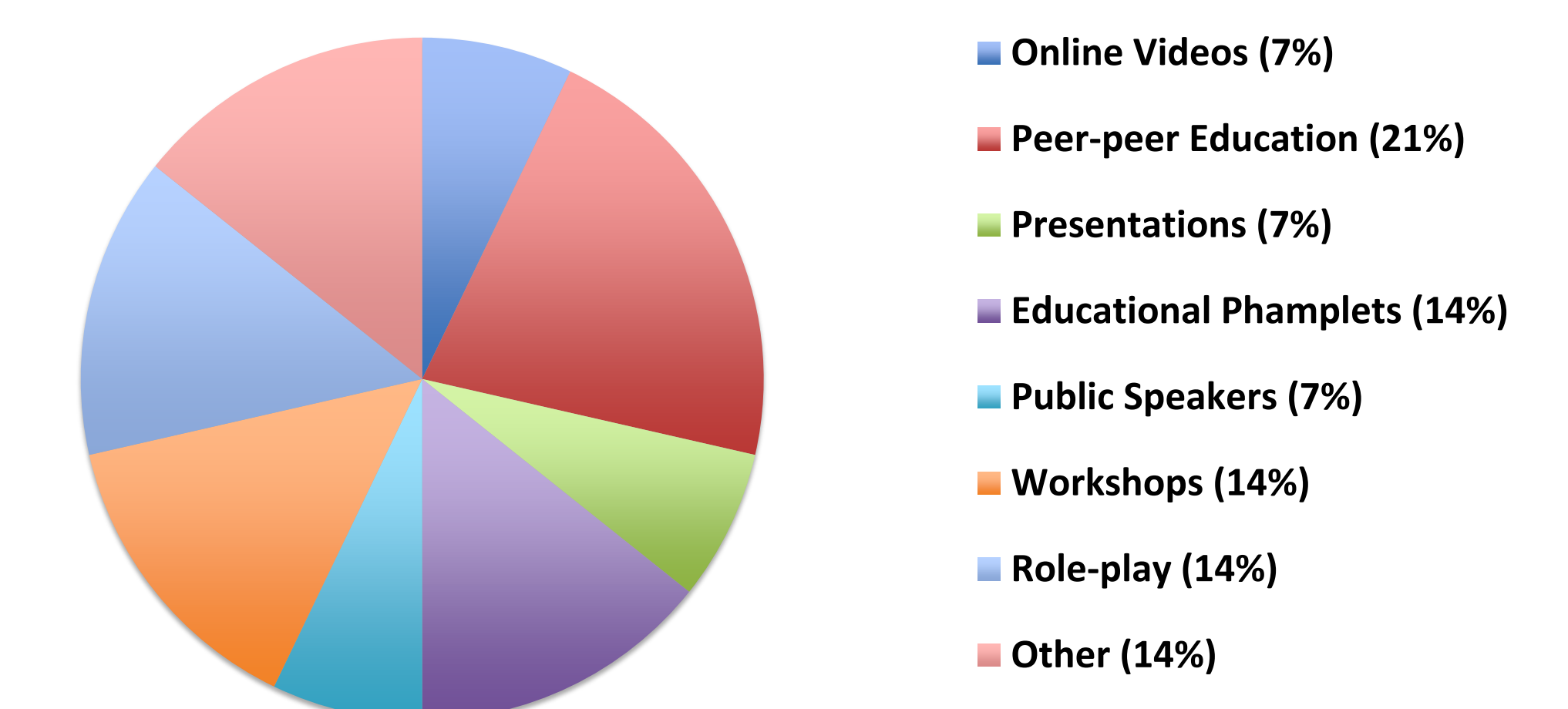
What approach to drug education do you believe has the greatest impact on youth?



What approaches does your organization currently use in your youth focused drug education?



What resources are you currently using?



Are there any resources your agency would like to have available as part of your youth drug education strategies?

