2013 Qualified Military Available (QMA)
Results Summary

Background

The Department of Defense (DoD) 2013 Qualified Military Available (QMA) Study examined the number of youth eligible and available for military service. This number is an important indicator used by the Department of Defense (DoD) to plan recruiting policy and programs. The basic ingredient of this metric is the size of the population aged 17 – 24, reduced by the number who are disqualified or unavailable for military service. The 2013 QMA Study revised and updated previous QMA estimations by using more recent data to estimate the prevalence of disqualifying conditions and by accounting for the correlations of disqualifying conditions that account for overlap among multiple disqualifiers.

The 2013 QMA project used the most recent data from the following sources:

- National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
- National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)
- Joint Advertising Market Research & Studies Youth Poll Survey (JAMRS-YP)
- MEPCOM Production Applicant AFQT score database (MEPCOM)
- Woods & Poole Population Estimates
- 1997 Profile of American Youth (PAY97)1

Methodology & Results Summary

After reviewing the particular guidelines established by DoD Instructions 1304.26, QUALIFICATION STANDARDS FOR ENLISTMENT, APPOINTMENT, AND INDUCTION and 6130.03, MEDICAL STANDARDS FOR APPOINTMENT, ENLISTMENT, OR INDUCTION IN THE MILITARY SERVICES which govern military entrance eligibility criteria, disqualifying conditions were grouped into seven broad disqualification categories: medical/physical, overweight, mental health, drugs, conduct, dependents and aptitude. Disqualification estimates were derived for each of the seven disqualification categories based on data obtained from the sources cited above. Next, a Multivariate Probit Model (MVP) was used to estimate the overlap between disqualifying conditions. This is an accepted method for analyzing binary outcomes that are "seemingly unrelated." After probabilities of disqualifying on each of the conditions and the overlap were calculated, the probabilities were applied to the Woods & Poole population counts to obtain ZIP Code level estimates.

According to the analysis, only 28.6% of the youth population is estimated to be qualified to enlist in the Military without a waiver. Additionally, the 2013 QMA Study estimated that only 17% of youth would qualify without a waiver and be available, not enrolled in college, for enlisted Active Duty Military service. In practice, the Services typical deny enlistment to youth who score in the bottom 30th percentile (i.e., category IV and V) on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT). Incorporating this criterion, only 13% of youth would qualify without a waiver, be available for fulltime enlisted Military service, and score above the 30th

[1] The AFQT test was normed based on results from this study which established youth population scores for the AFQT test.

percentile on the AFQT test. Disqualification rates for each of the 7 overarching disqualification categories are as follows:

1. Medical/Physical = 30% disqualified
2. Overweight = 31% disqualified
3. Mental Health = 15% disqualified
4. Drugs = 30% disqualified
5. Conduct = 10% disqualified
6. Dependents = 12% disqualified
7. Aptitude = 9% disqualified

**Note. These percentages represent the proportion of youth 17 -24 who are estimated to have an issue in each category that would disqualify an applicant. Percentages sum to greater than 100% as many youth are predicted to demonstrate more than one issue.*

Furthermore, results from the 2013 QMA Study demonstrated that the majority of youth who would be disqualified for military service would be disqualified for more than one reason. In all, 39% of all youth are predicted to be disqualified from enlisting in the Military for more than one issue (not including college enrollment as a condition). The five most common categories of multiple disqualifications are as follows:

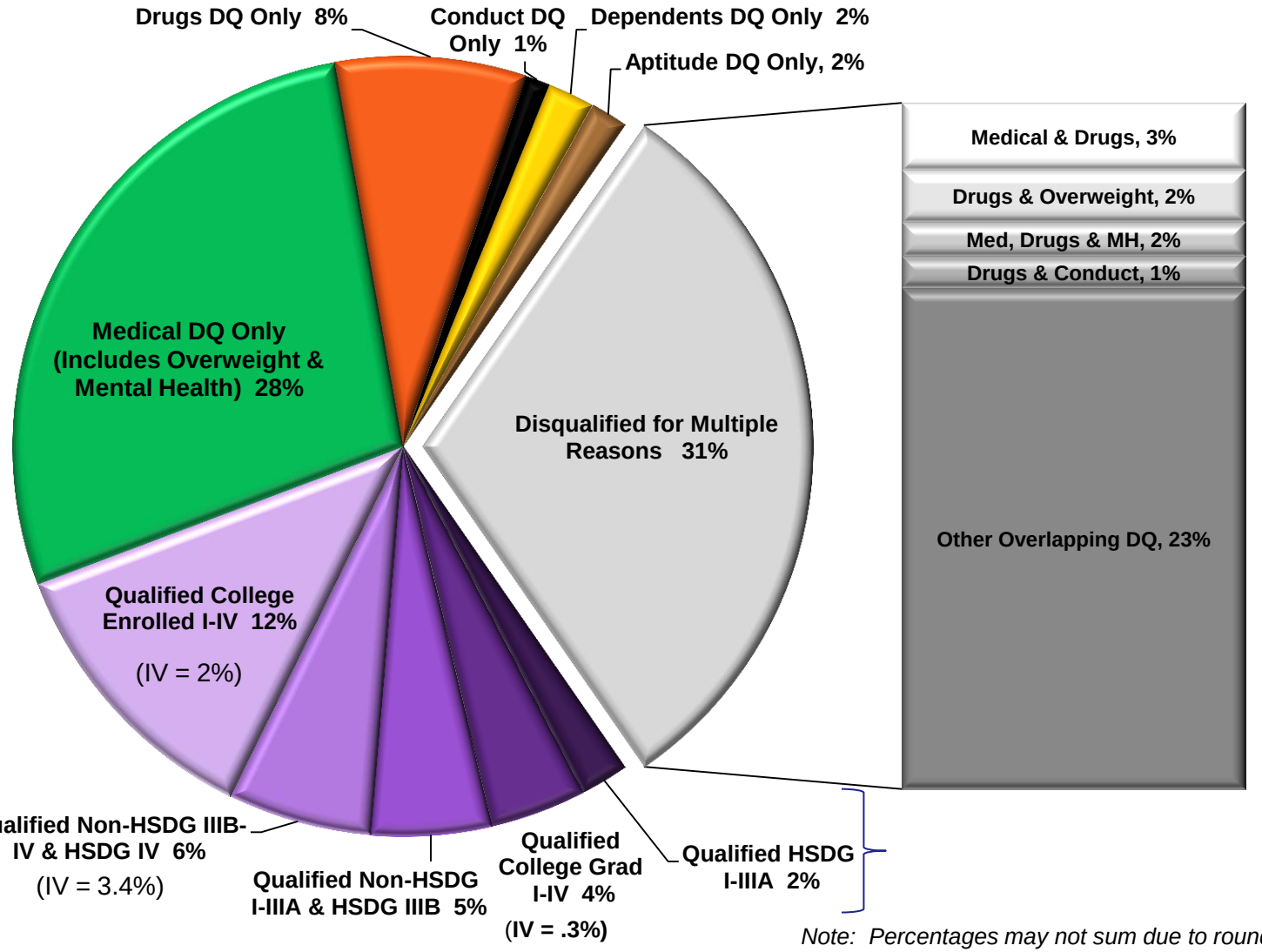
1. Medical/physical & overweight
2. Medical/physical & drugs
3. Drugs & overweight
4. Medical/physical & mental health
5. Medical/physical, drugs, & mental health

Please see the Appendix for graphical representation of these results.

Qualified Military Available

5.8 out of 34.4 million 17-24 year olds

Only 29% of today's youth are eligible to serve!

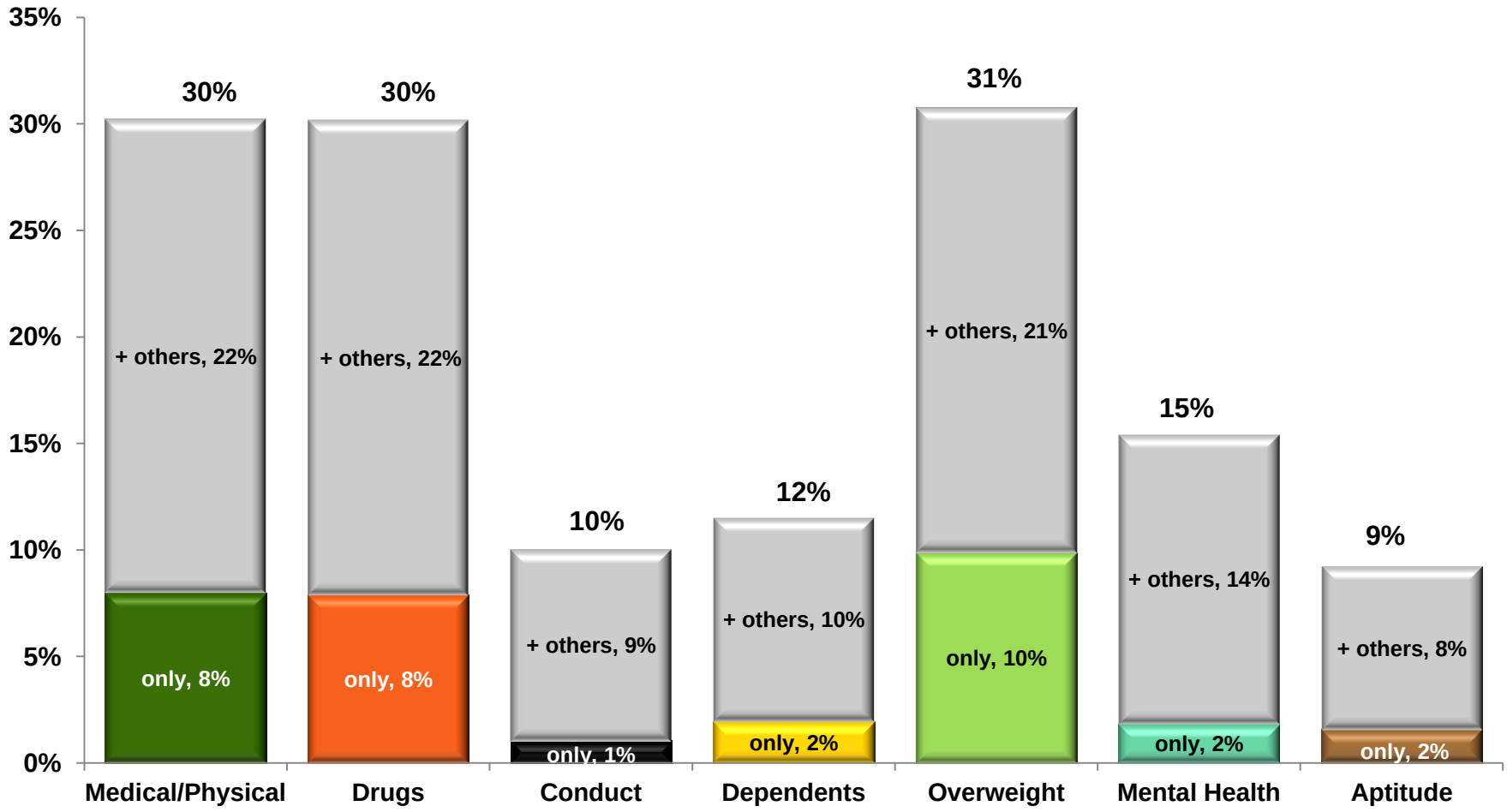


QMA: 17%
(QMA I-IIIB: 13%)

Note: Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Source: DoD QMA Study 2013

QMA Disqualification Categories: Unique & Combined Impact



Note: Percentages may not sum due to rounding.

Source: DoD QMA Study 2013