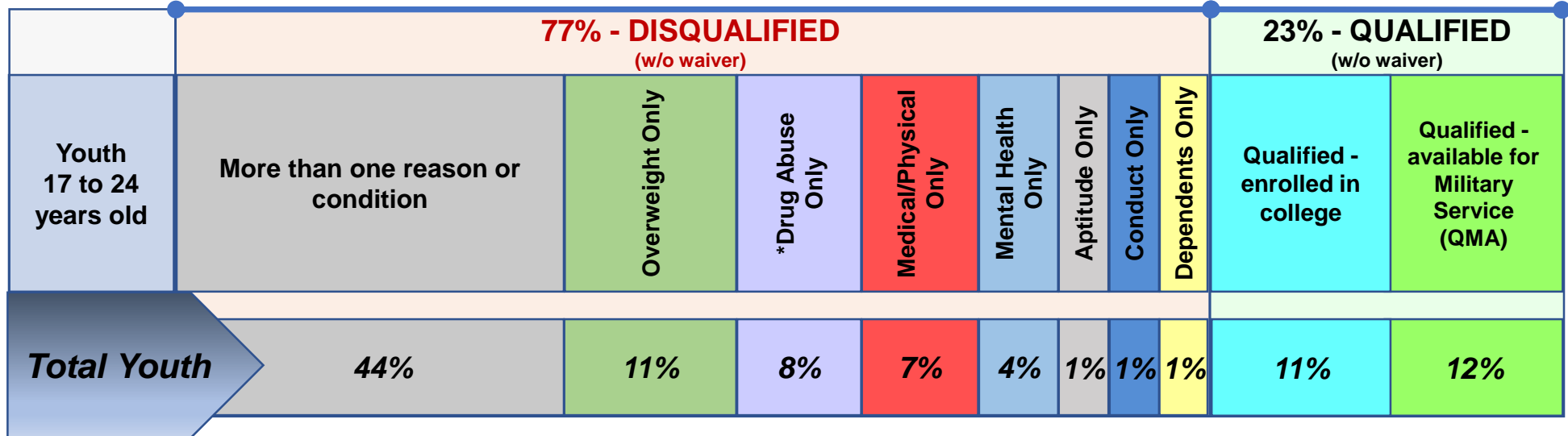




2020 Qualified Military Available (QMA) Study



2020 QMA STUDY KEY FINDINGS

- The proportion of youth eligible for military service without a waiver is 23%. This is a decrease from previous estimates (29%).
- Most ineligible youth are disqualified for multiple reasons (44%).
- The largest increases in disqualification estimates observed between 2013 and 2020 were for mental health and overweight conditions.
- When considering youth disqualified for one reason alone, the most prevalent disqualification rates are overweight (11%), *drug abuse (8%), and medical/physical health (7%).
- The proportion of youth who are Qualified Military Available (QMA), defined as *both* eligible *and* not currently enrolled in college, is 12%.

Note: Youth ages 17–24. Estimates are based on data from CDC’s National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), HHS’s National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), DoD Youth Poll (YP), and the Profile of American Youth 1997 (PAY97). Labels are rounded to the nearest whole percent and may not add to totals due to rounding.

*Drug Abuse: includes a history of drug (including pharmaceutical medications, illegal drugs, and other substances of abuse) and alcohol abuse.