

Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society

**EMBARGOED until 10.30 am  
4/8/09**

# Secondary Students and Sexual Health 2008

Australian  
Research Centre  
in Sex, Health  
& Society



# Sample

	<b>2002</b>	<b>2008</b>
Jurisdictions	All	All
School sectors	All	All
Schools	100	105
Students	2388	2926

# Structure of the presentation

- Knowledge of HIV, STIs, Hepatitis and HPV
- Sexual behaviour
- Health status including alcohol use
- Key messages
- A report card

# KNOWLEDGE



# HIV Knowledge

- Remains high and stable since 2002
- For example, Could someone who looks very healthy pass on HIV infection? 82% correct
- Strange declines – Could a person get HIV from mosquitoes? 36% correct, down from 40% in 2002, and 62% in 1992.

# STI Knowledge

- Generally poor but improving
- For example, Chlamydia can lead to sterility in women. 55% correct, up from 36% in 2002
- Once a person has caught genital herpes, then they will always have the virus. 47% correct, no difference from 50% in 2002

# Hepatitis knowledge

- Generally poor but improving in places
- For example, Hepatitis B can be sexually transmitted. 59% up from 41% in 2002.
- It is possible to be vaccinated against Hepatitis C. 10% correct.

# HPV knowledge

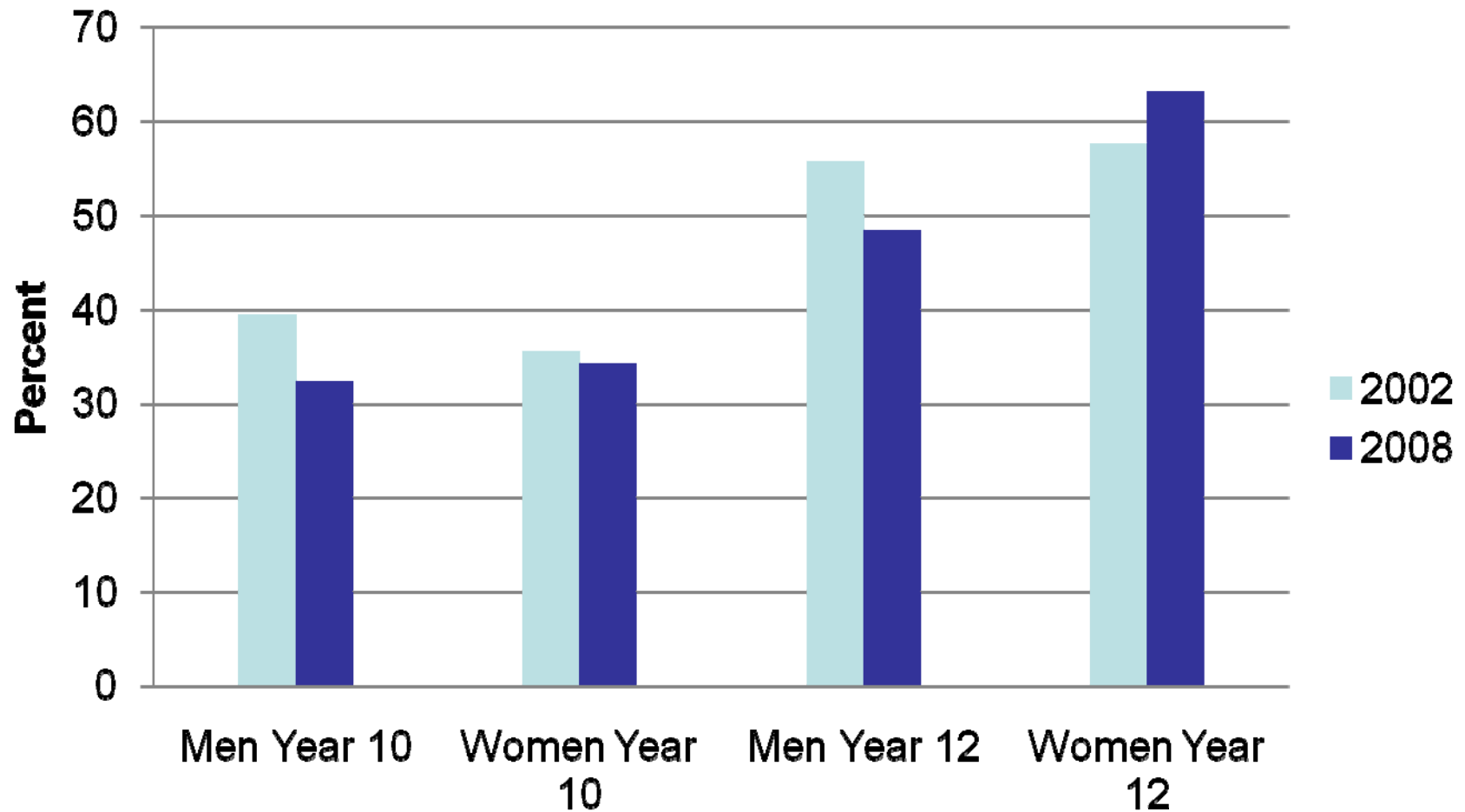
- Extremely poor – on average getting 4 of 17 questions correct
- For example, HPV is a virus that causes genital warts. Correct 14%, don't know 71%
- You can tell if you have HPV. Correct 31%, don't know 60%

# Patterns of knowledge

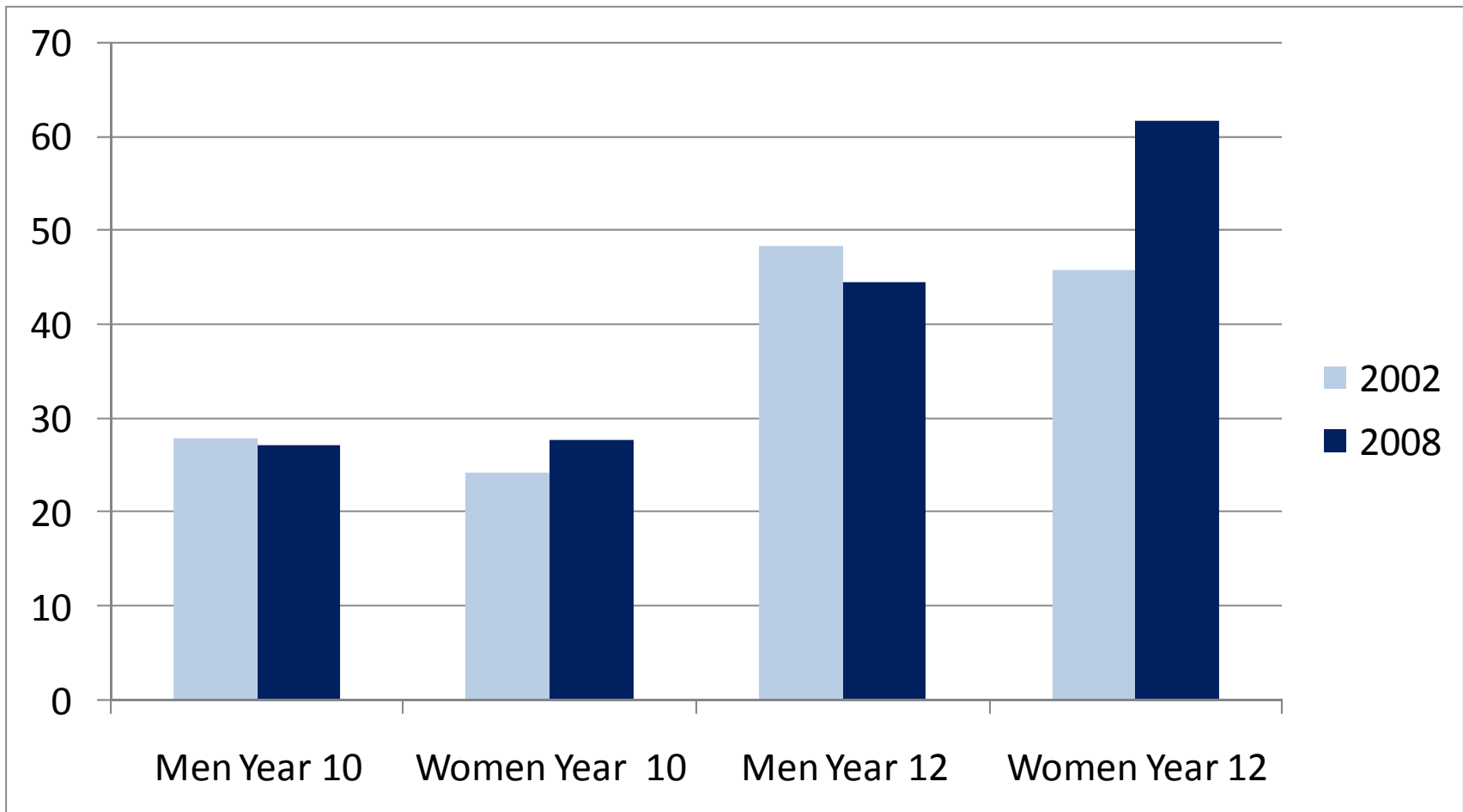
- Young women generally better informed than young men
- Year 12 better informed than Year 10

# SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

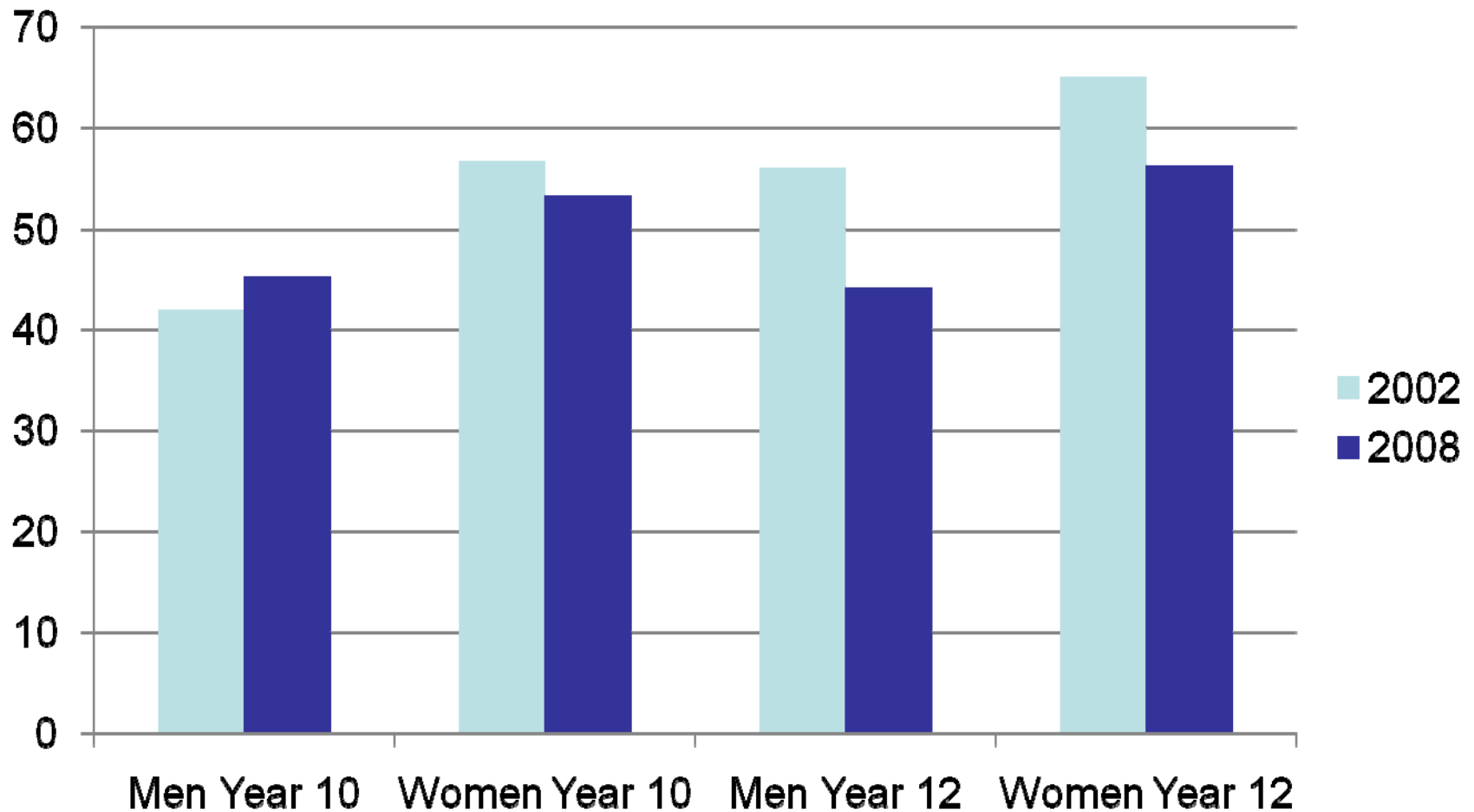
# Oral sex ever



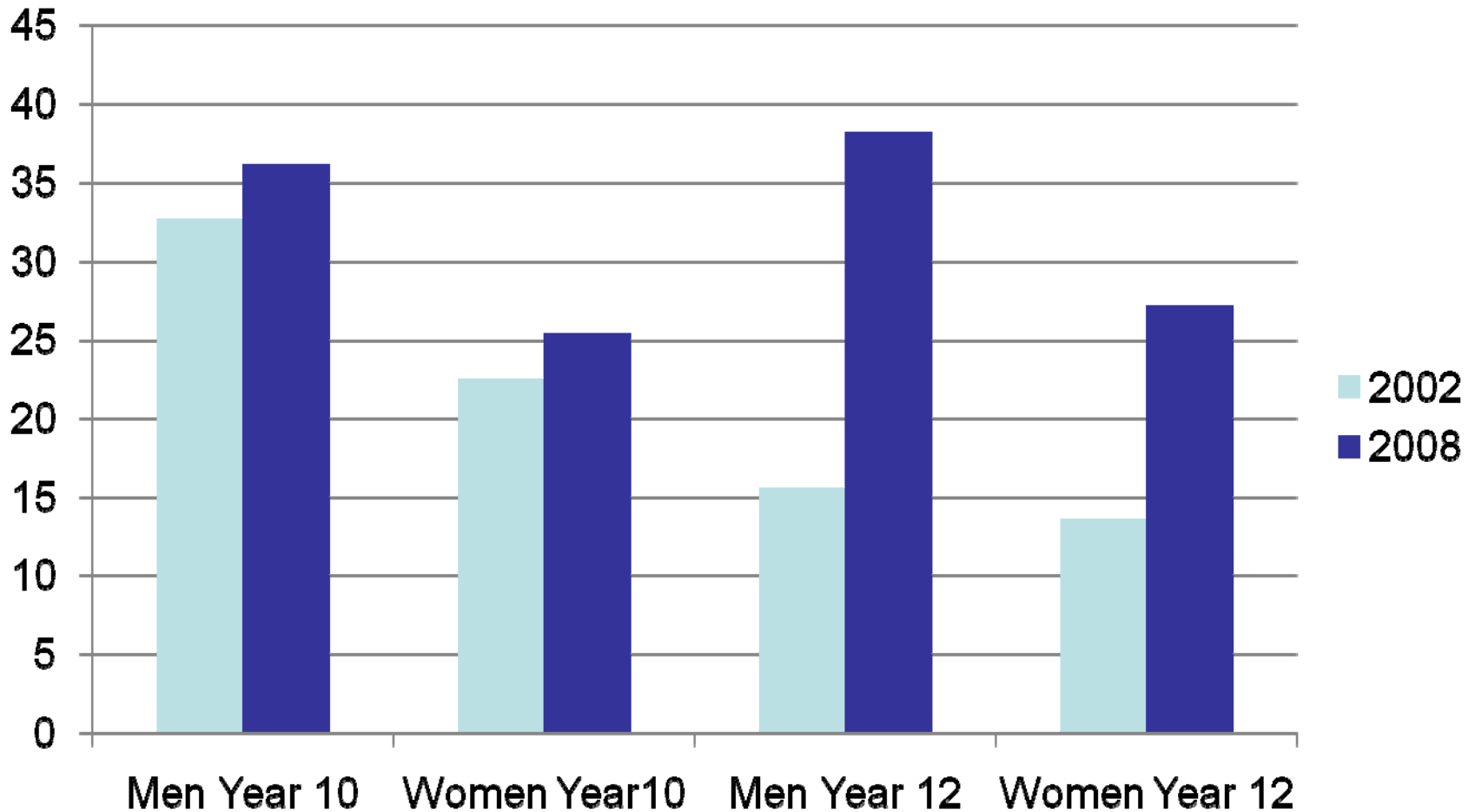
# Intercourse ever



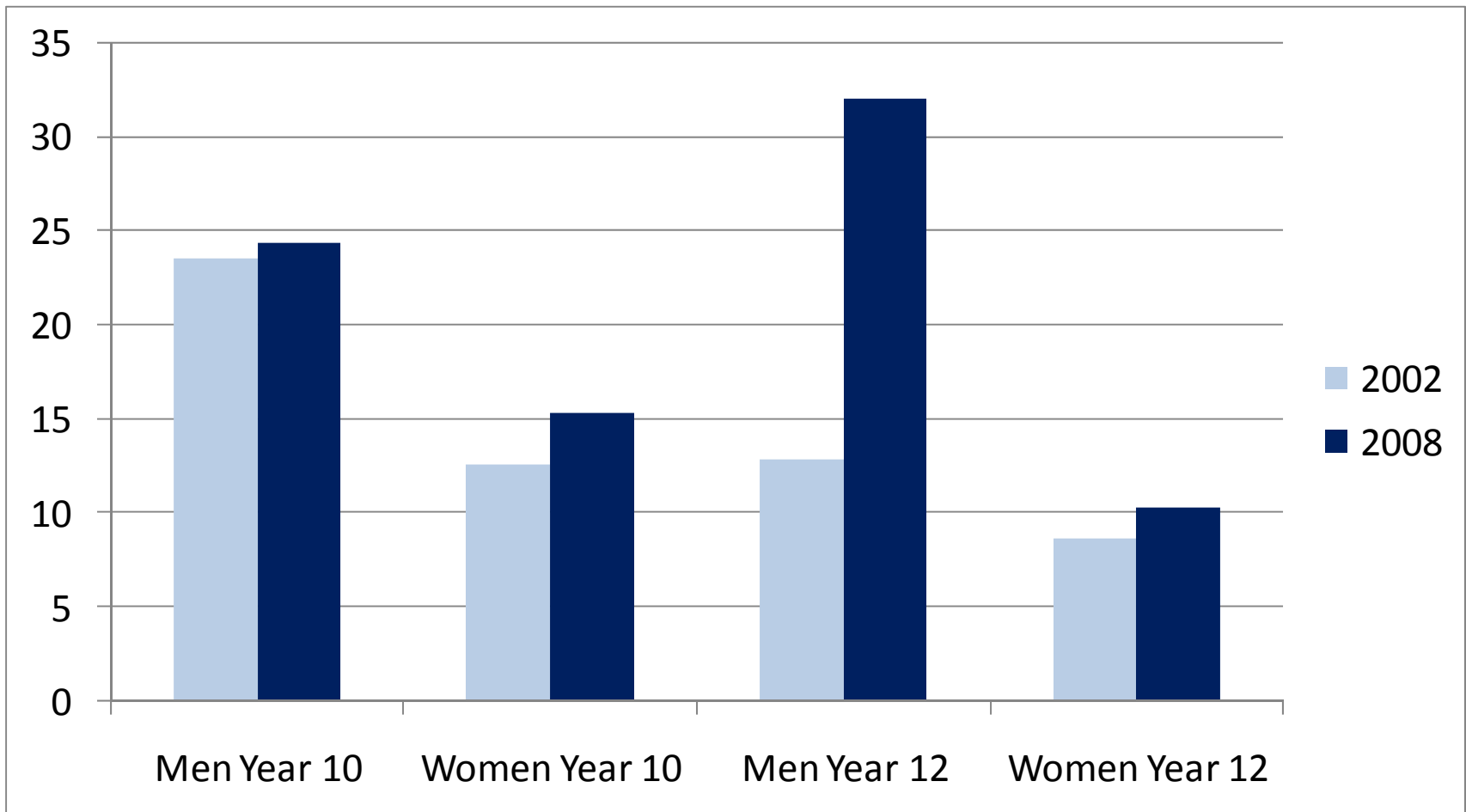
# One intercourse partner in last year



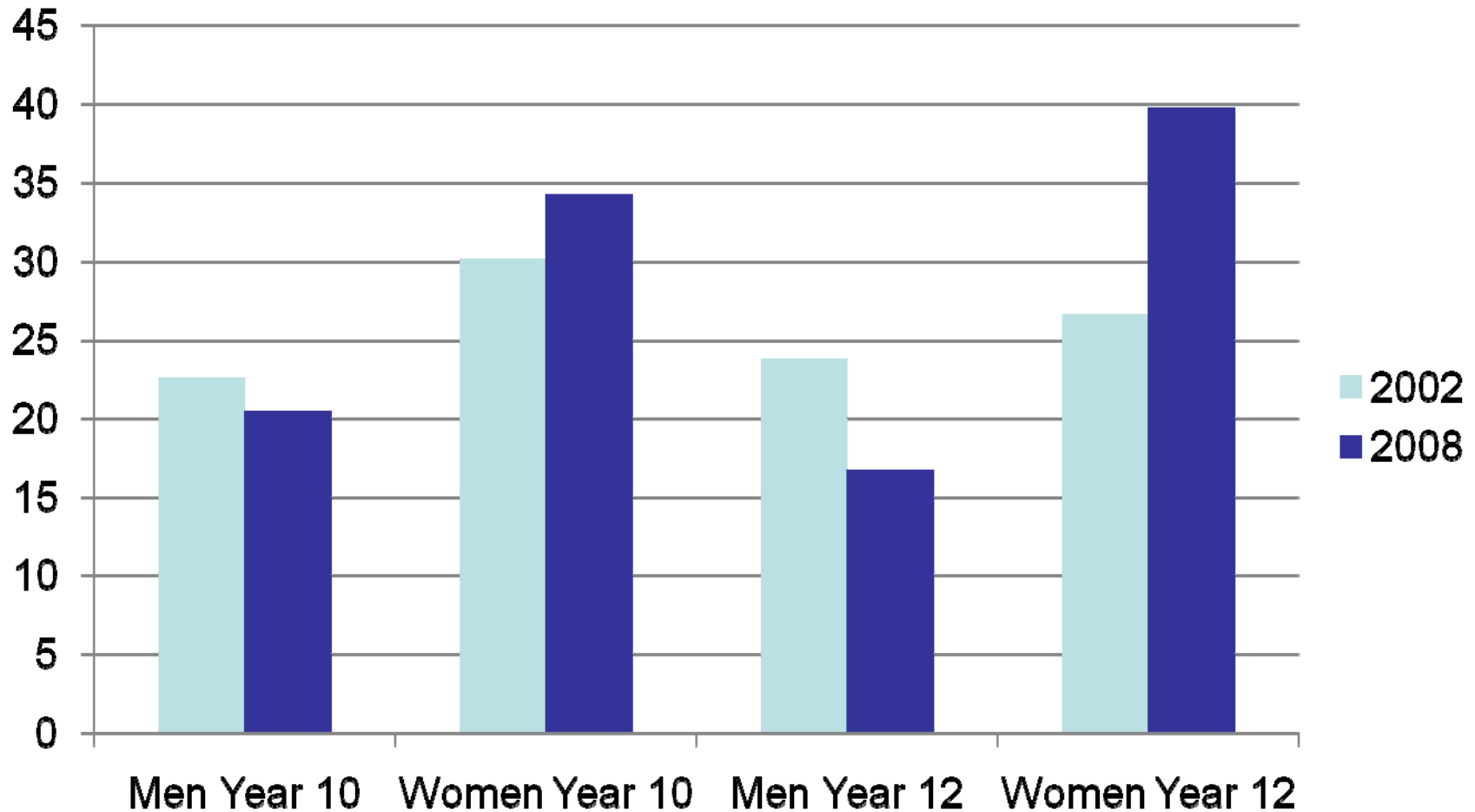
# Three or more intercourse partners in last year



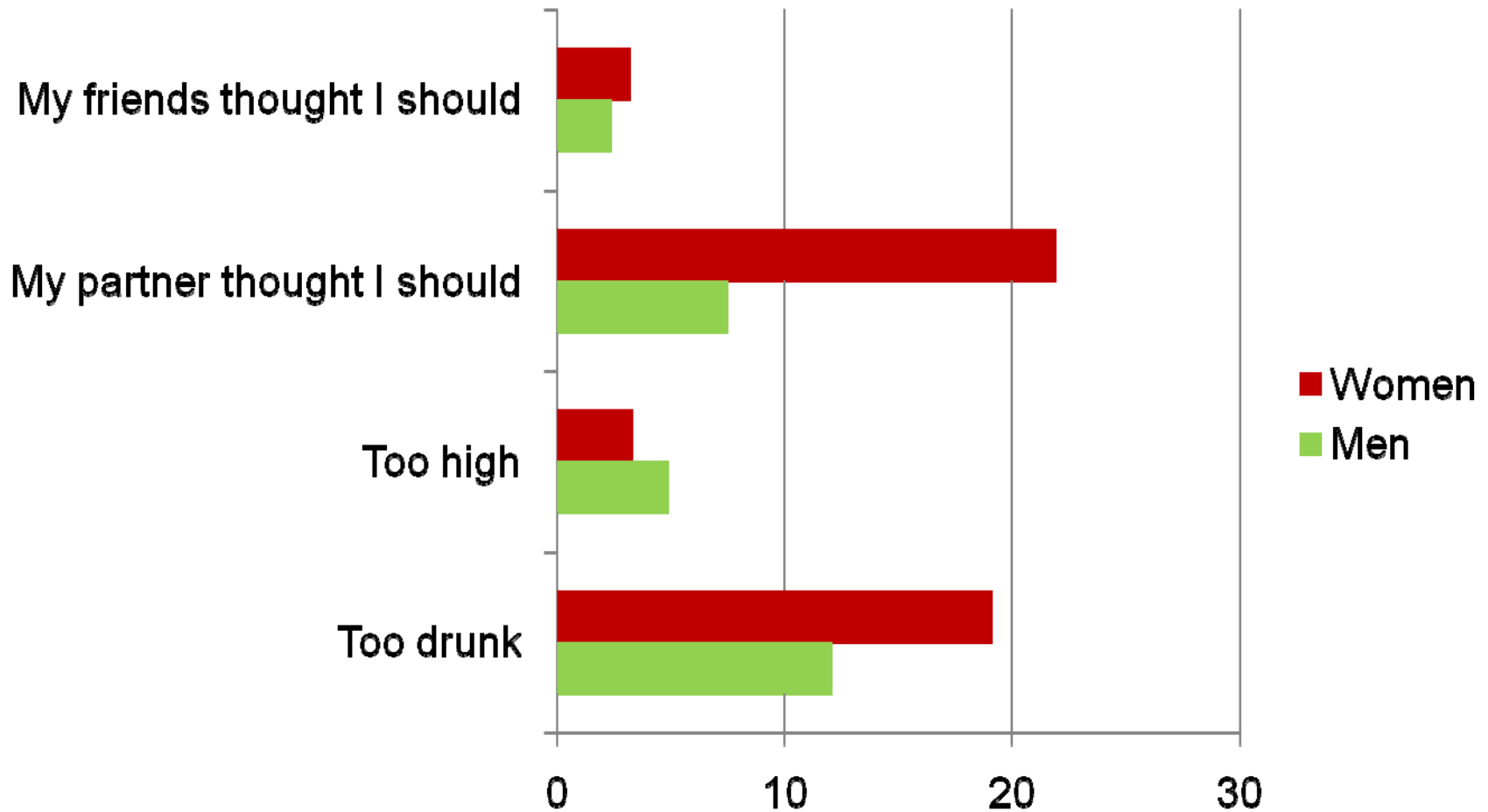
# Three or more oral sex but not intercourse partners in last year



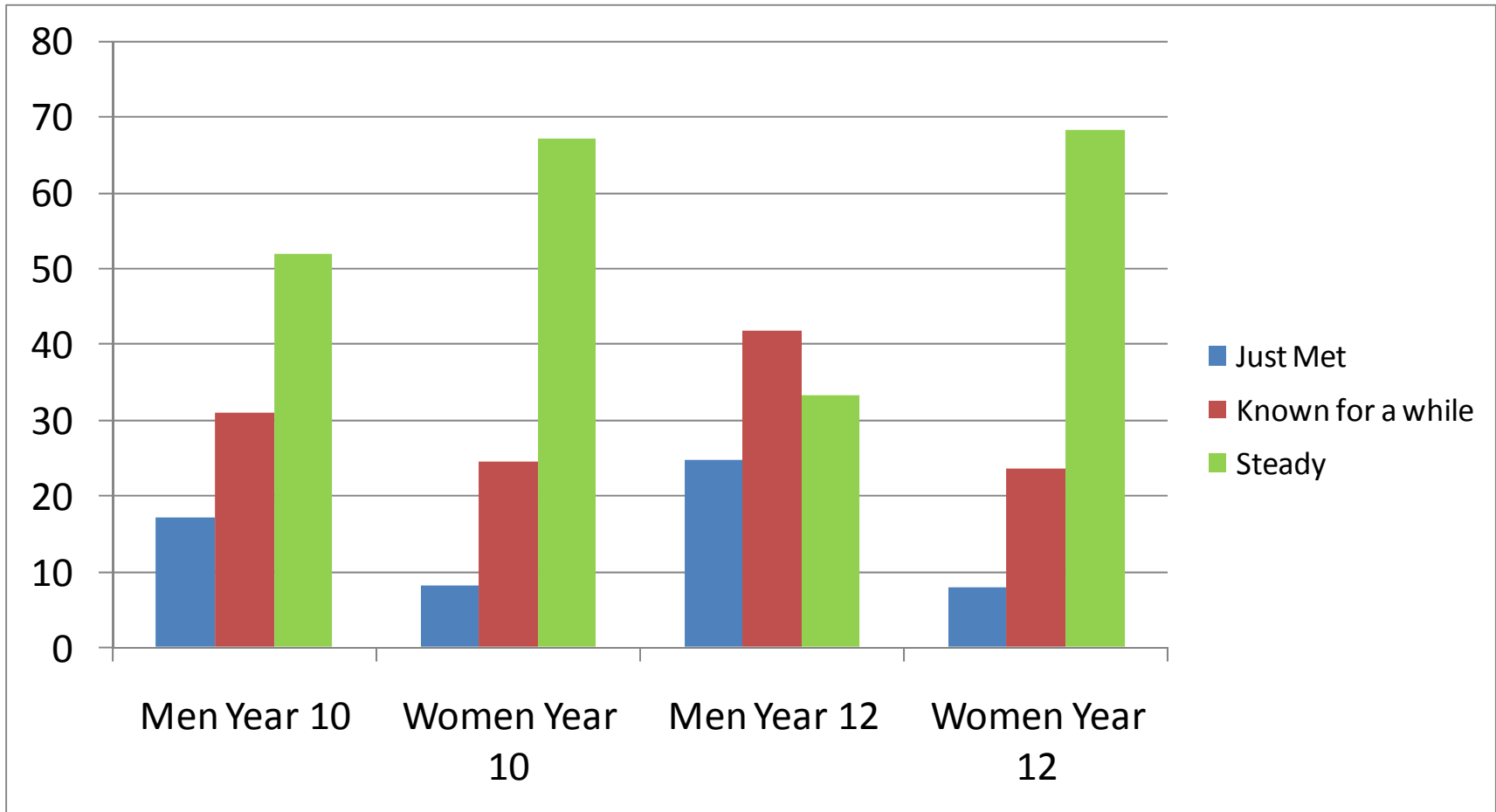
# Ever had unwanted sex



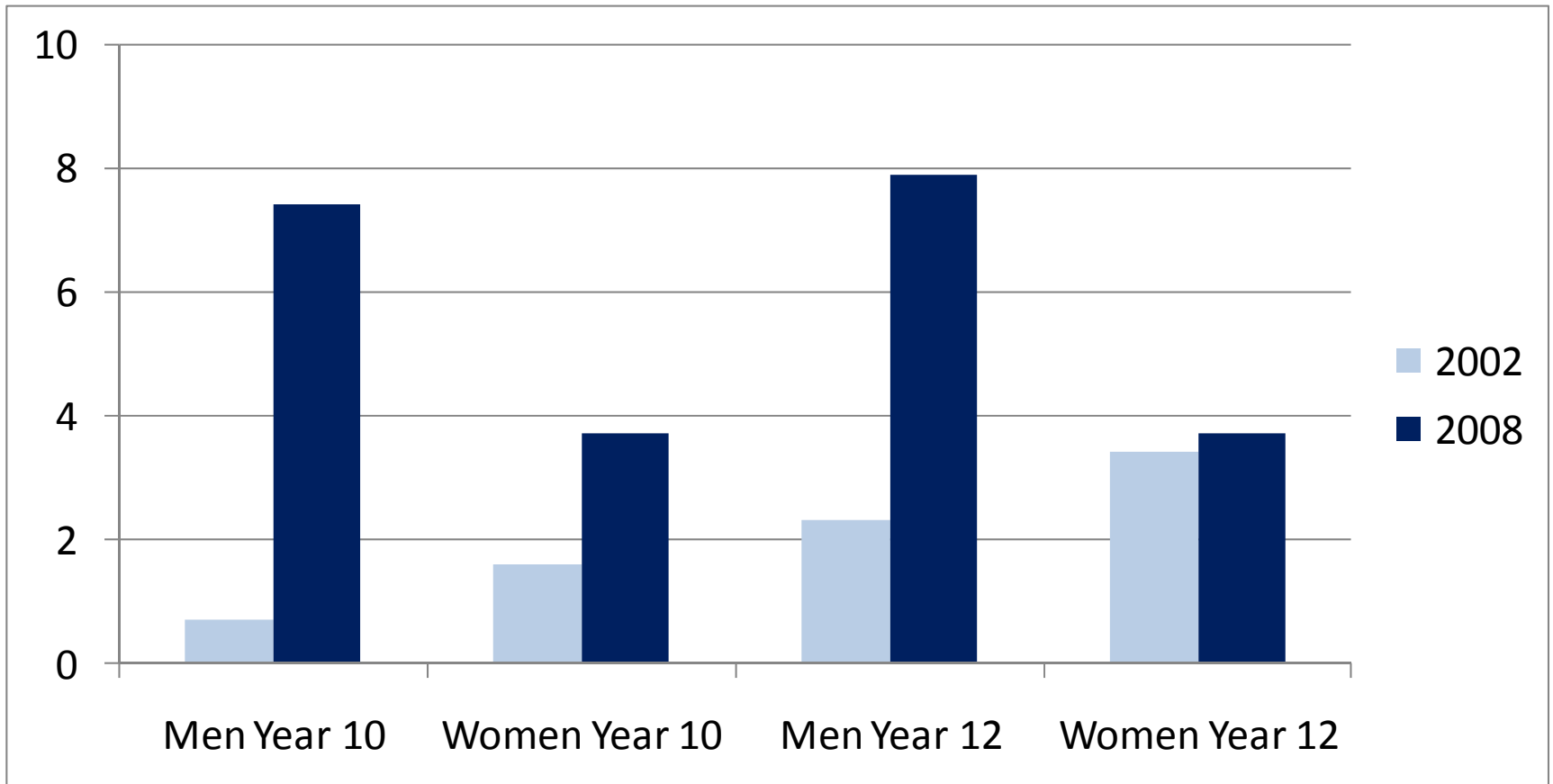
# Reasons for unwanted sex



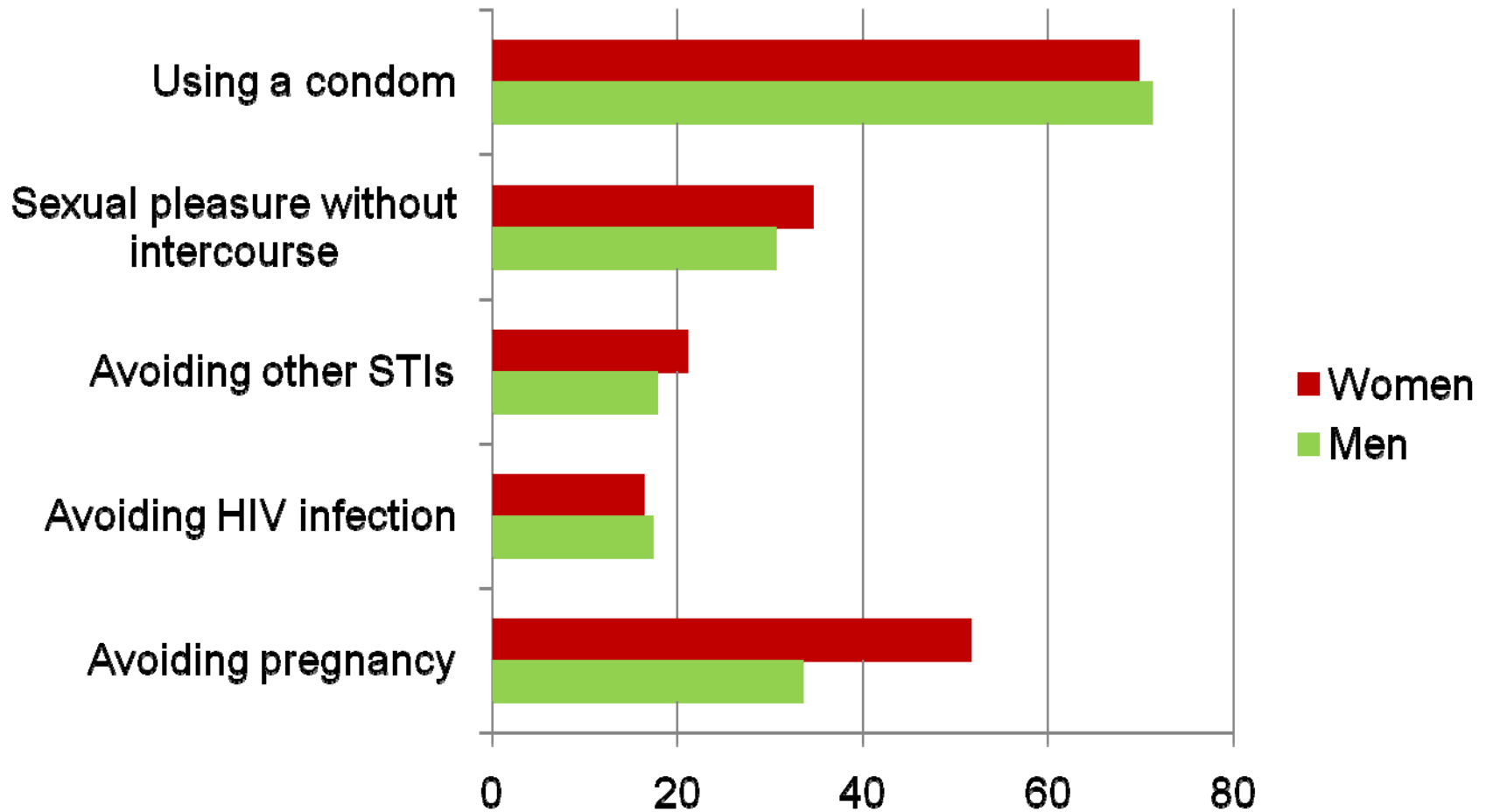
# The most recent sexual encounter



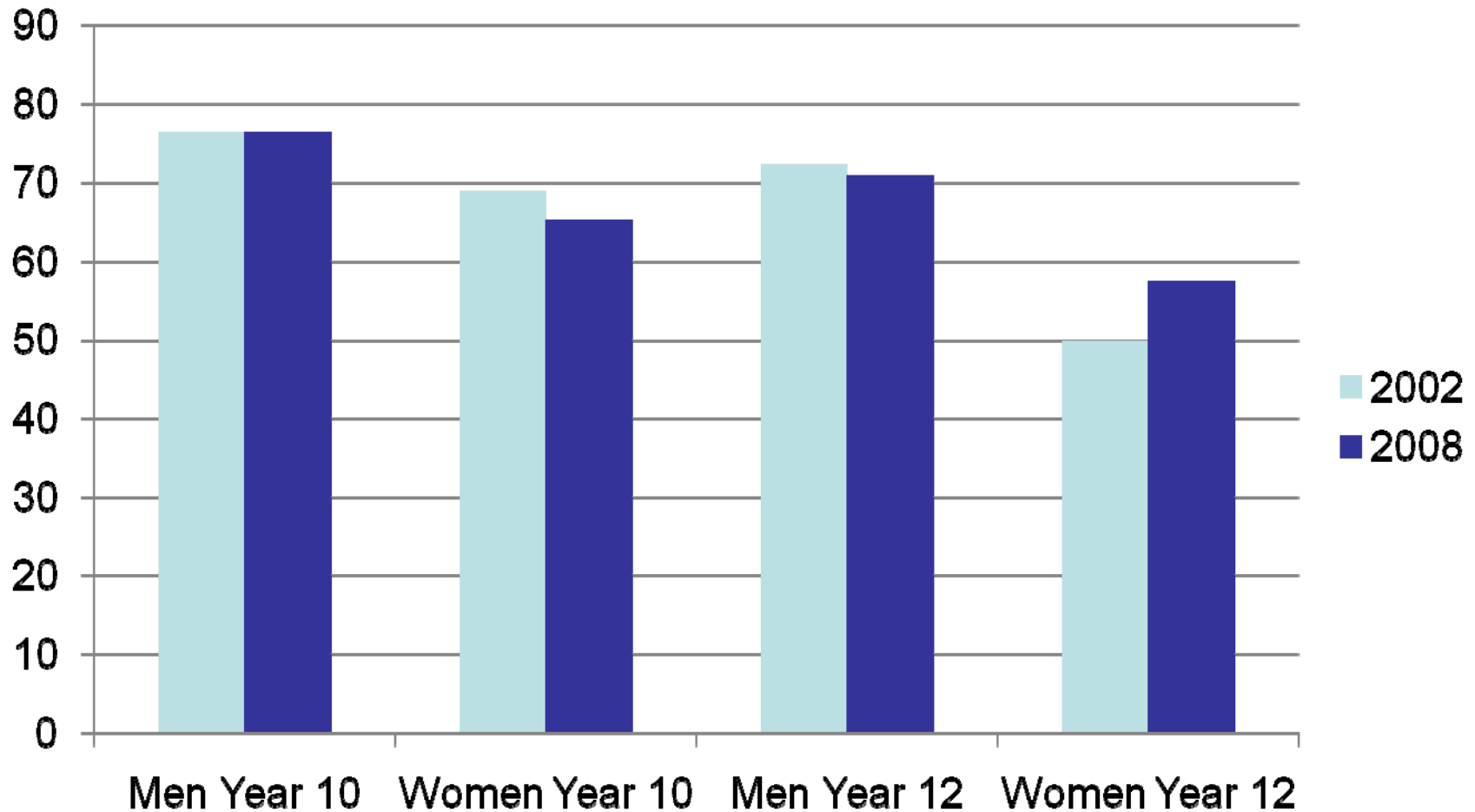
# Same sex partner at most recent sex



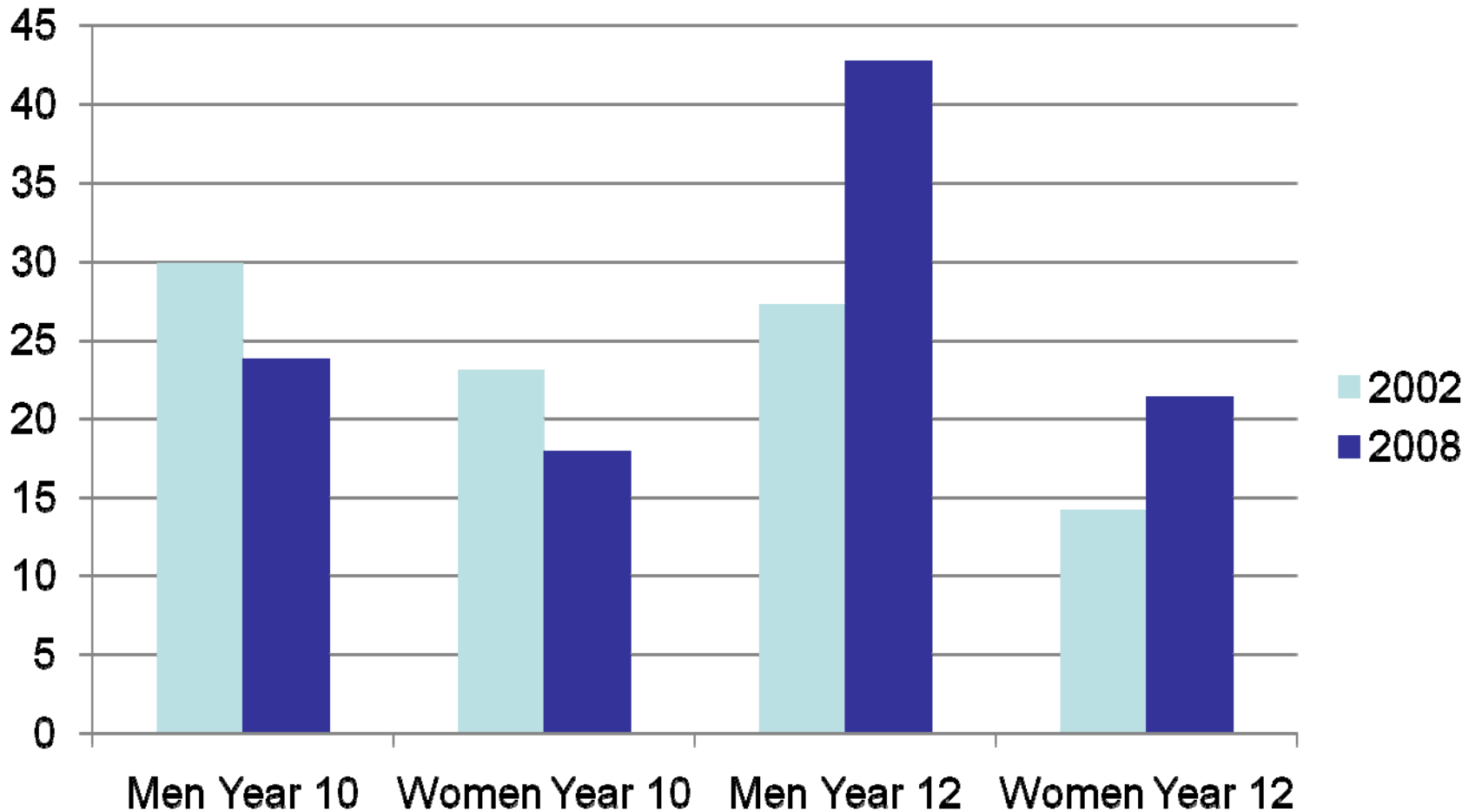
# Topics discussed during most recent encounter



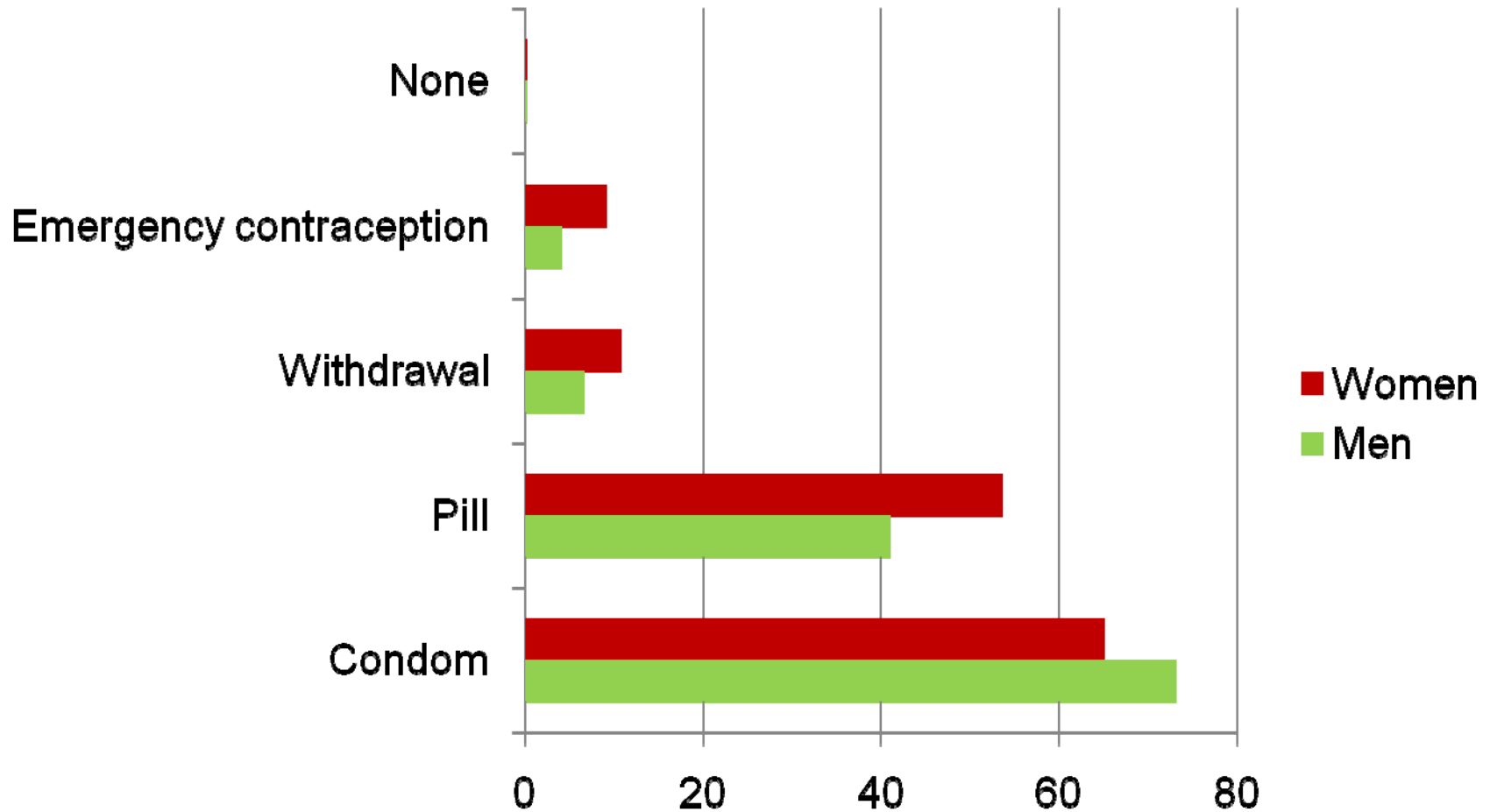
# Condom use at most recent sex



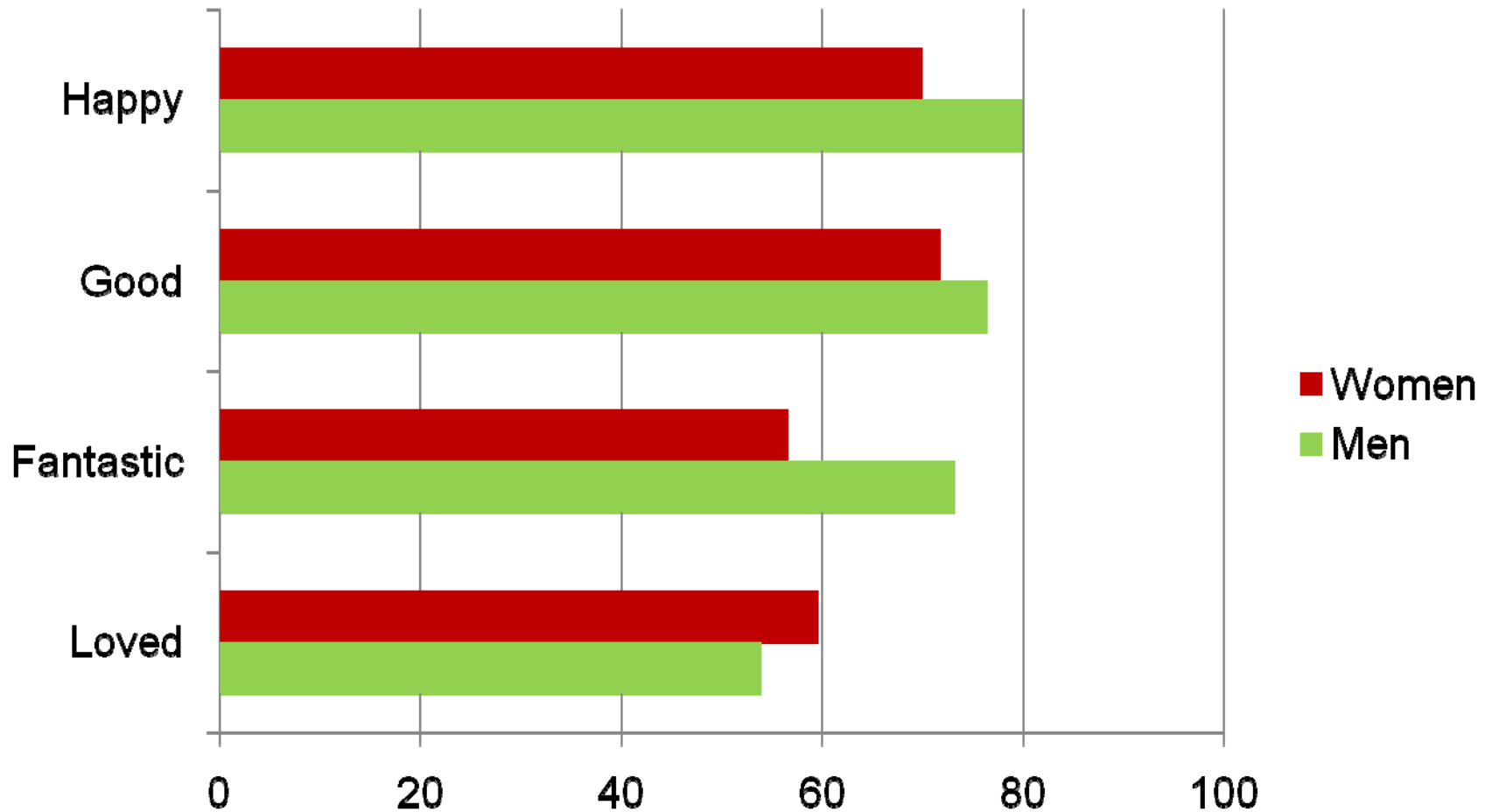
# Drunk or high at most recent sex



# Contraception use

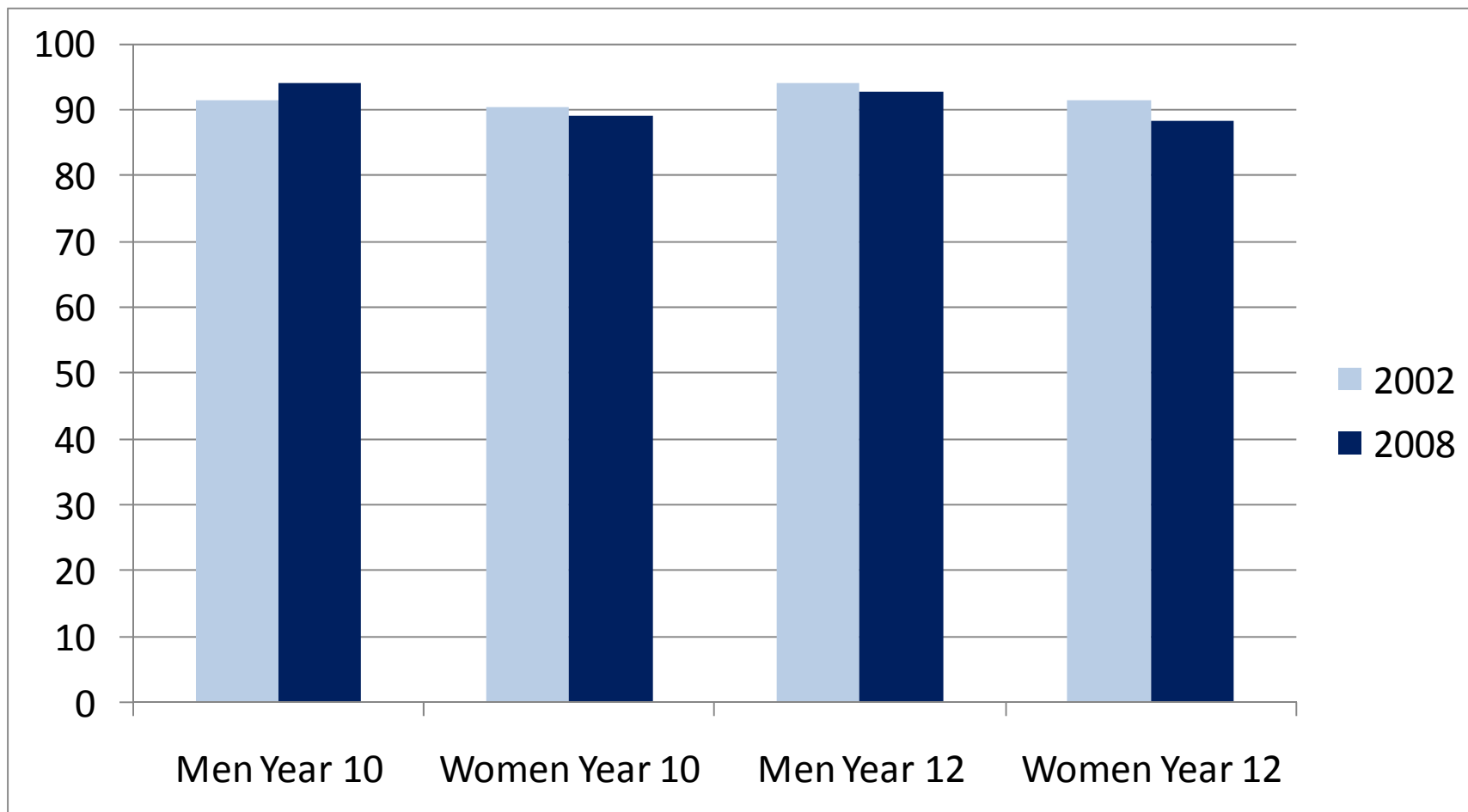


# Positive feelings about most recent sex

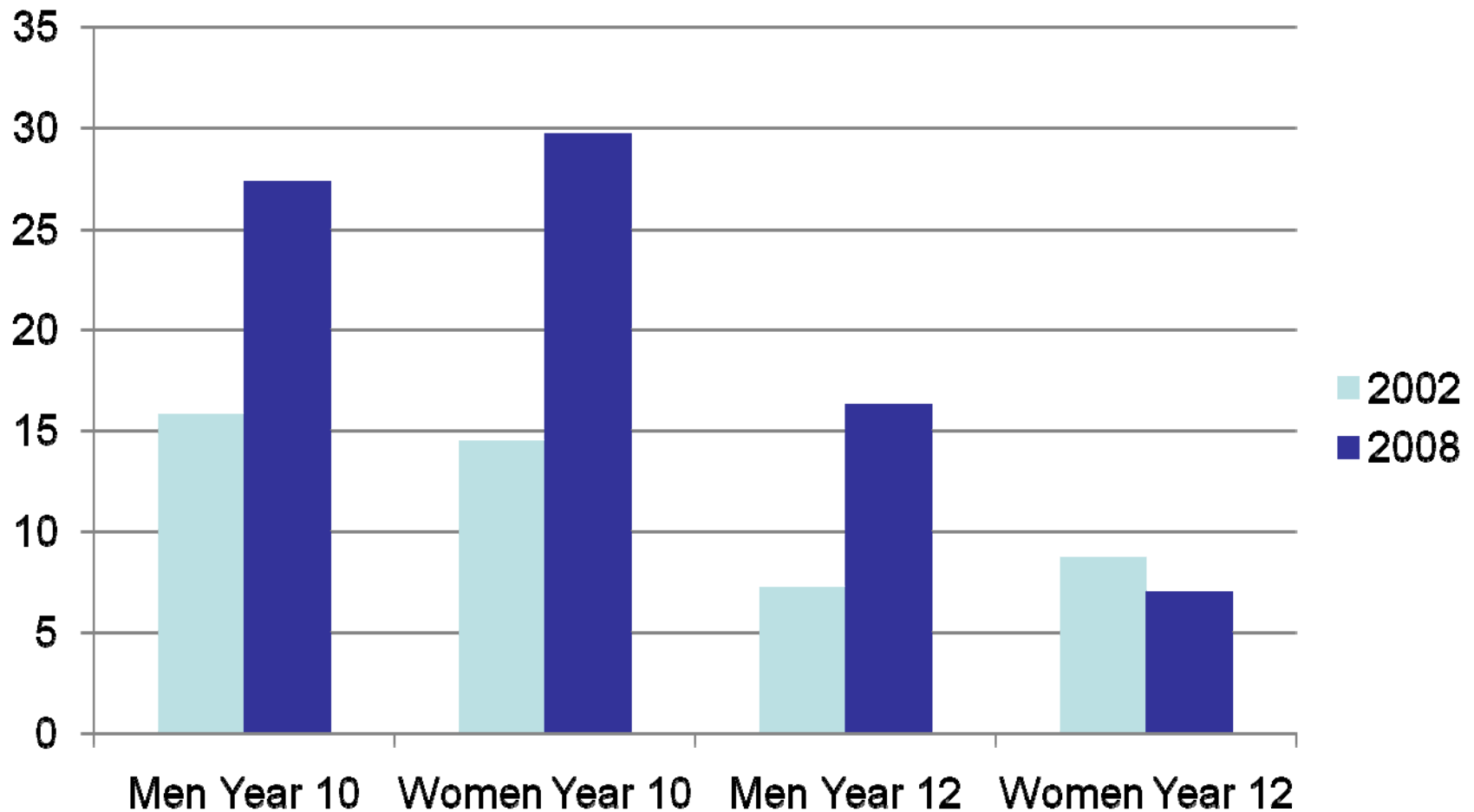


# HEALTH STATUS INCLUDING ALCOHOL USE

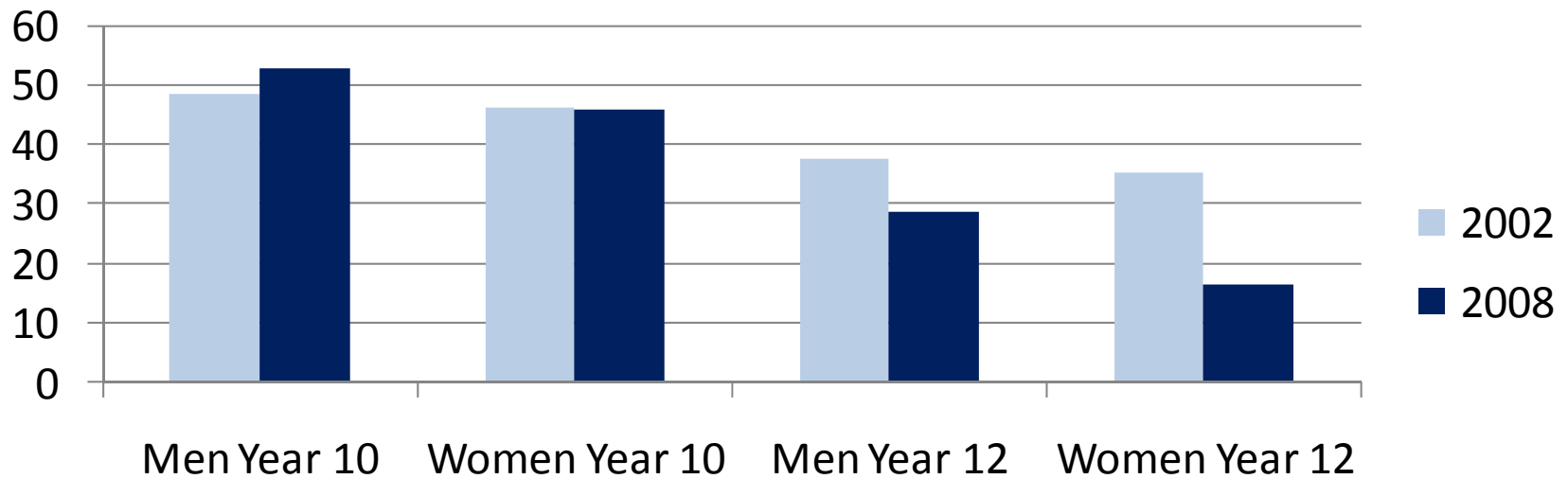
# Students rating their health as good or better



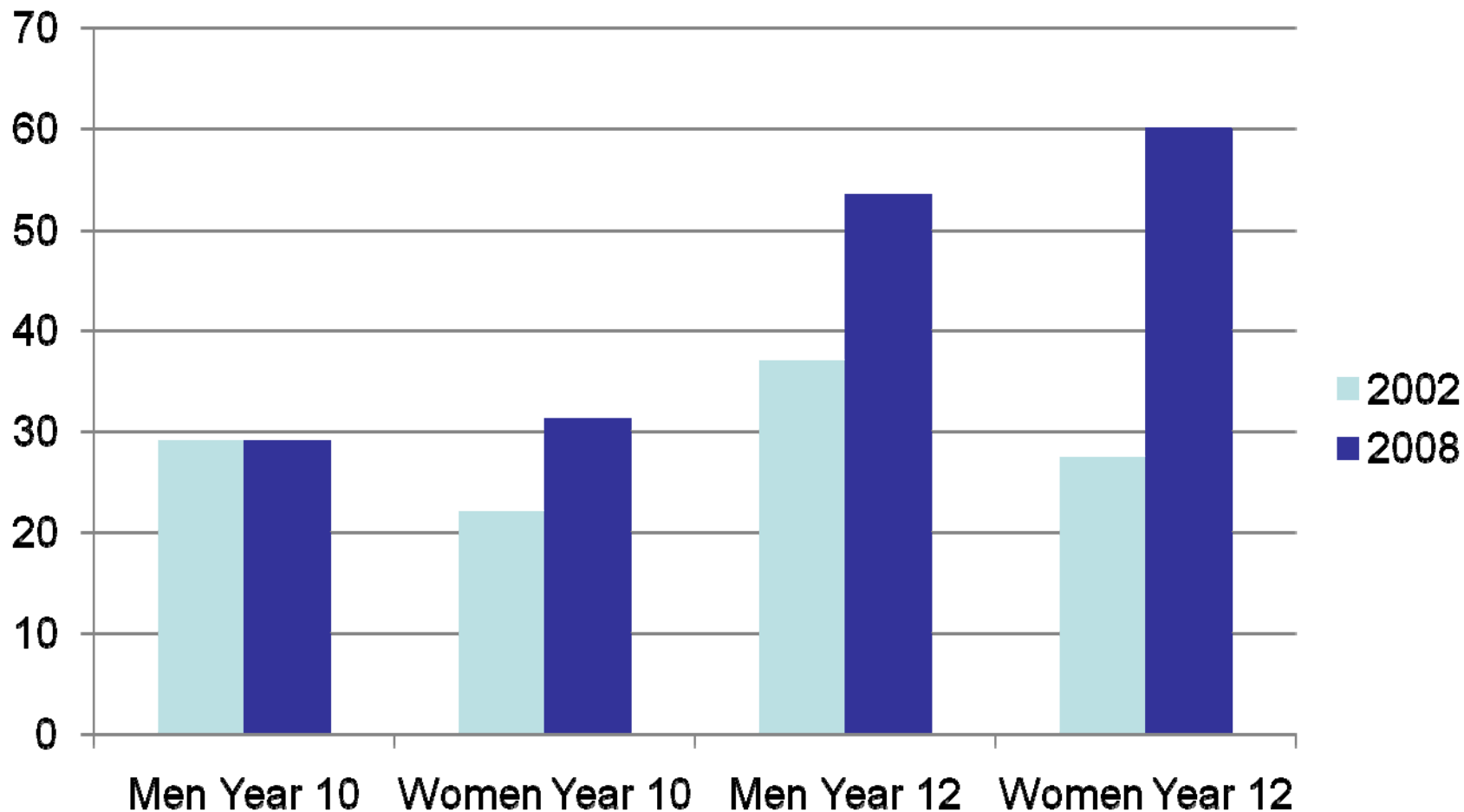
# Never drink alcohol



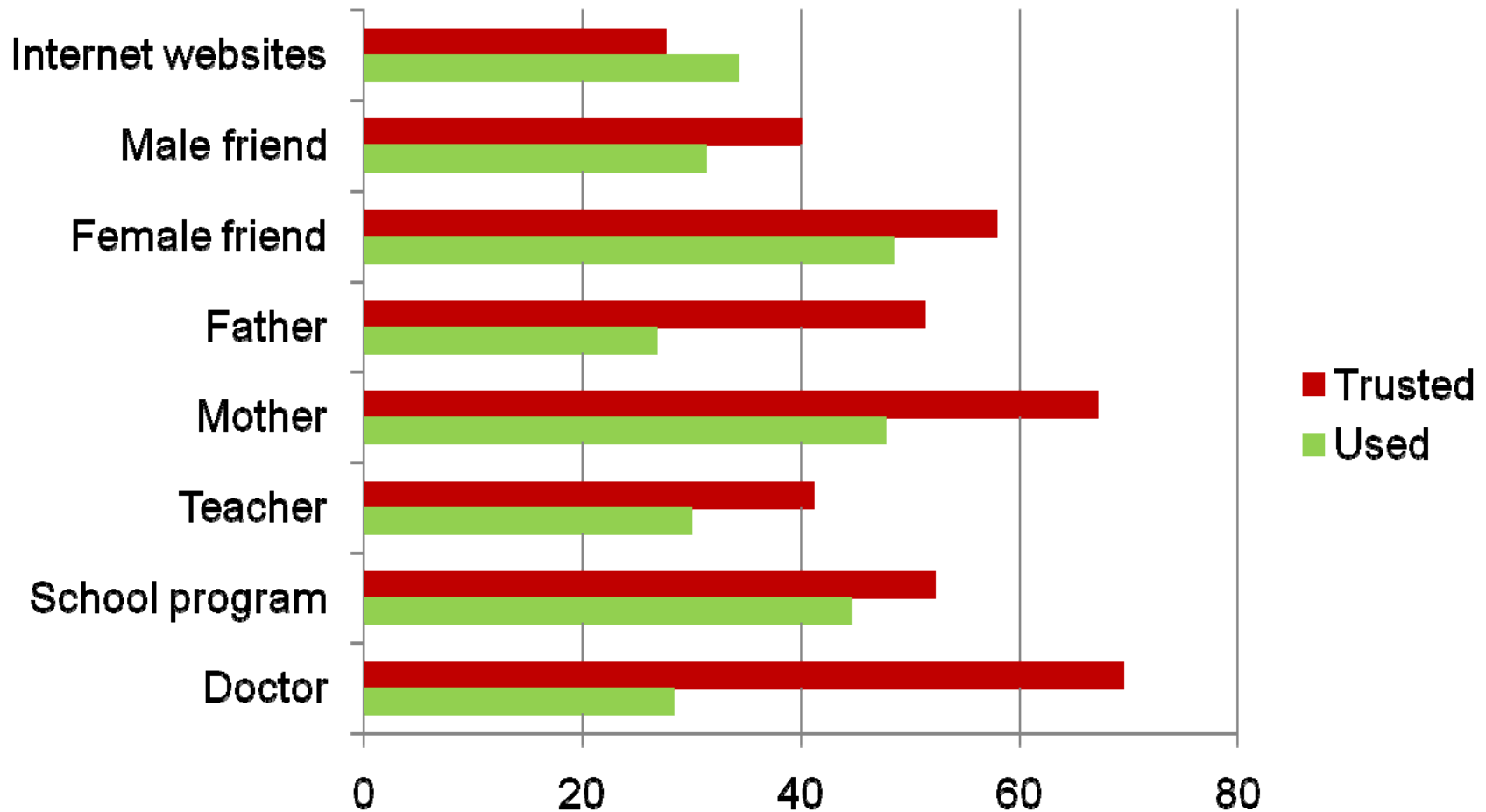
# No binge drinking in previous two weeks



# Three or more episodes of binge drinking in previous two weeks



# Sources of information



# KEY MESSAGES

- HIV knowledge remains good
- STI knowledge is improving
- HPV knowledge is very poor

- Youth cultures are diversifying
- Proportion of sexually active young people is increasing due largely to the activity of young women in Year 12
- Little change in proportion of young people engaging in oral sex

- Among those engaging in sexual intercourse there have been substantial increases in the proportion reporting three or more partners
- Less marked increases are observed in the proportion of young people reporting oral sex with three or more people in the last year with whom they are not having intercourse

- Condom use remains high
- There are increases in unwanted sex for young women
- Pressure from partners and being too drunk are the most commonly offered reasons for unwanted sex

- The number of non-drinkers is generally increasing
- The number of young people bingeing on three or more occasions in the previous two weeks is increasing, particularly in year 12 and among young women
- Young people generally rate their health as good or better

# THE REPORT CARD



- Knowledge

**B+**

- HIV knowledge is declining slightly but knowledge about sexually transmissible infections and hepatitis is improving

- Sexual behaviour

## **B-**

- more young people are sexually active and there are increases in those more highly active
- there is a significant risk reduction in relation to both pregnancy and sexually transmissible infections but condom use is not increasing.

- Alcohol

C-

- more young people are drinking at levels that expose them to a range of short-term risks as well as some longer-term risks. The nexus between alcohol use and sexual behaviour appears to be little addressed if at all

- Overall

**B**

- we are not doing badly, but we could, and we should, do better

# Acknowledgements

- The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
- The research teams involved in the 1992, 1997 and 2002 surveys
- The hundreds of schools and dedicated teachers, and the thousands of students and their parents, who made these surveys possible