

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



Melbourne, Australia

www.latrobe.edu.au/arcshs

Sample

	2002	2008
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

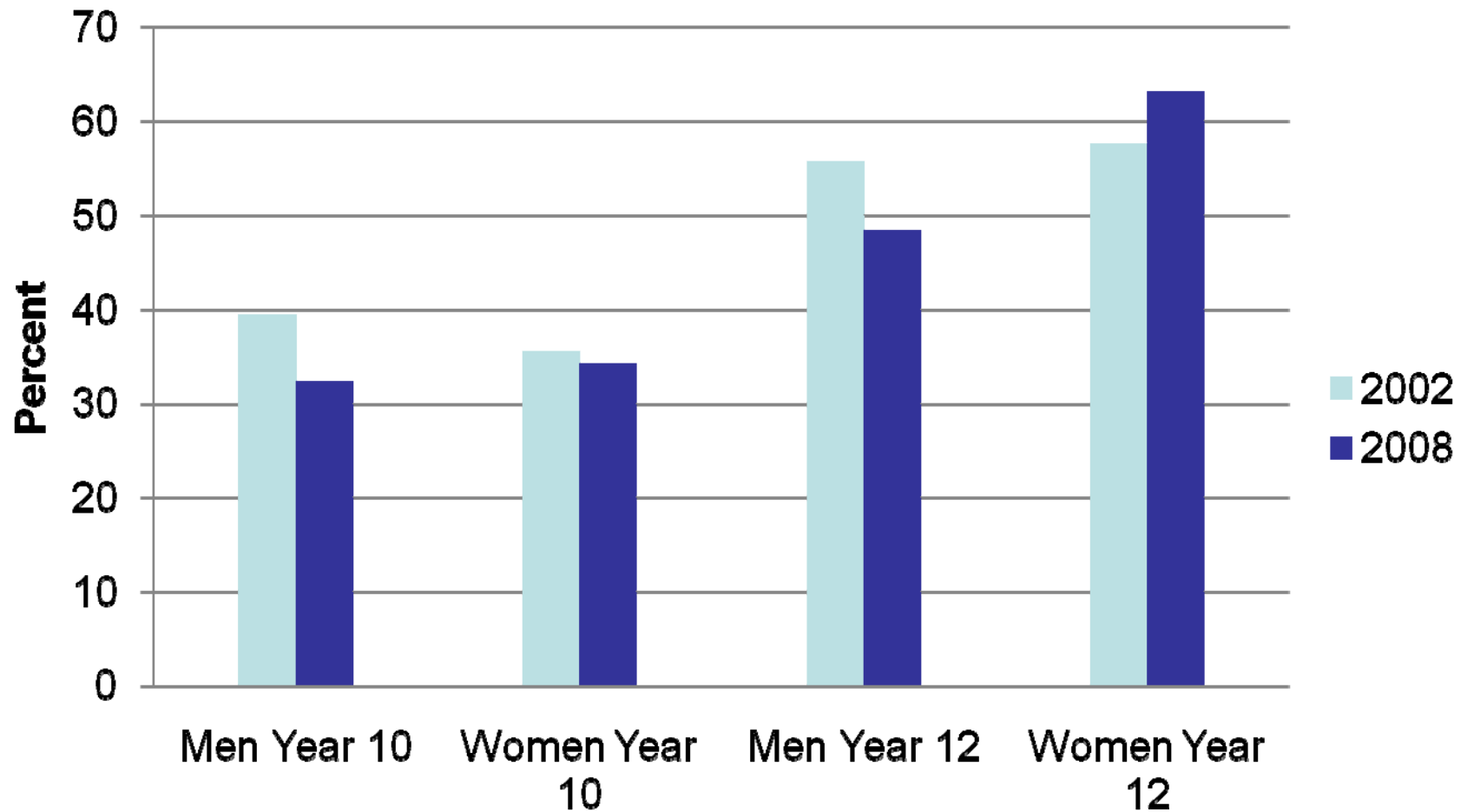
- Extremely poor – on average getting 4 of 17 questions correct
- For example, HPV is a virus that causes genital warts. Correct 14%, don't know 71%
- You can tell if you have HPV. Correct 31%, don't know 60%

Patterns of knowledge

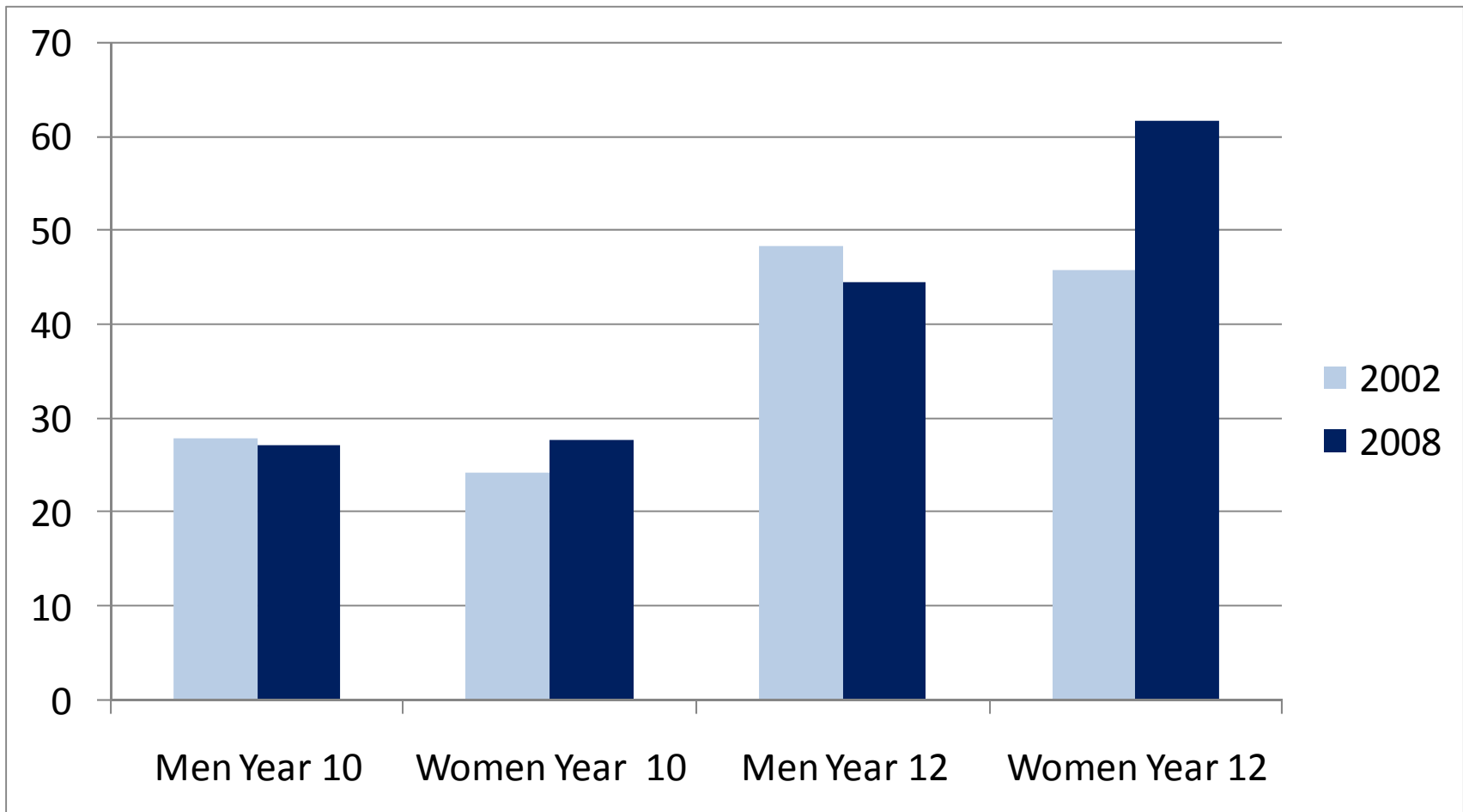
- Young women generally better informed than young men
- Year 12 better informed than Year 10

SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

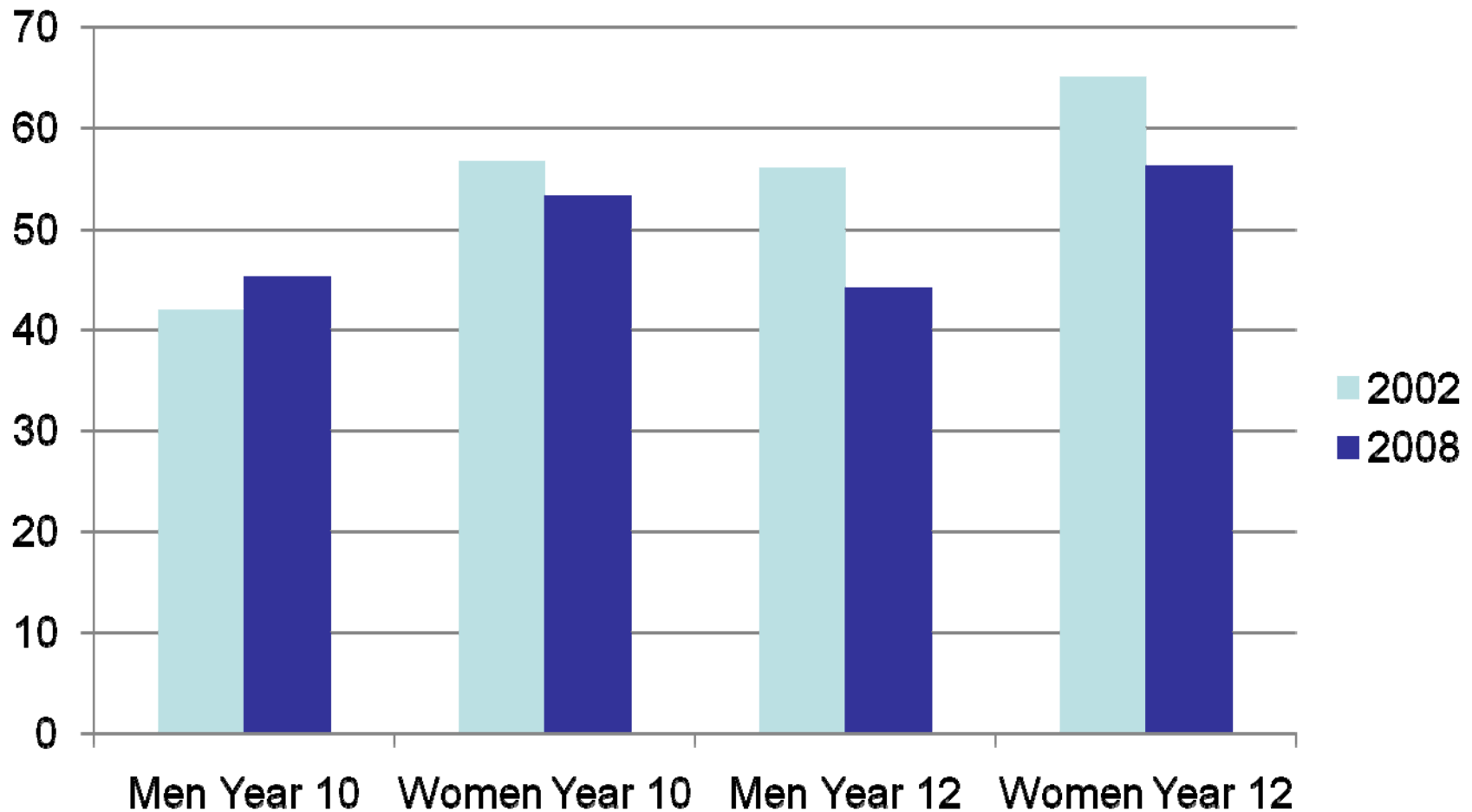
Oral sex ever



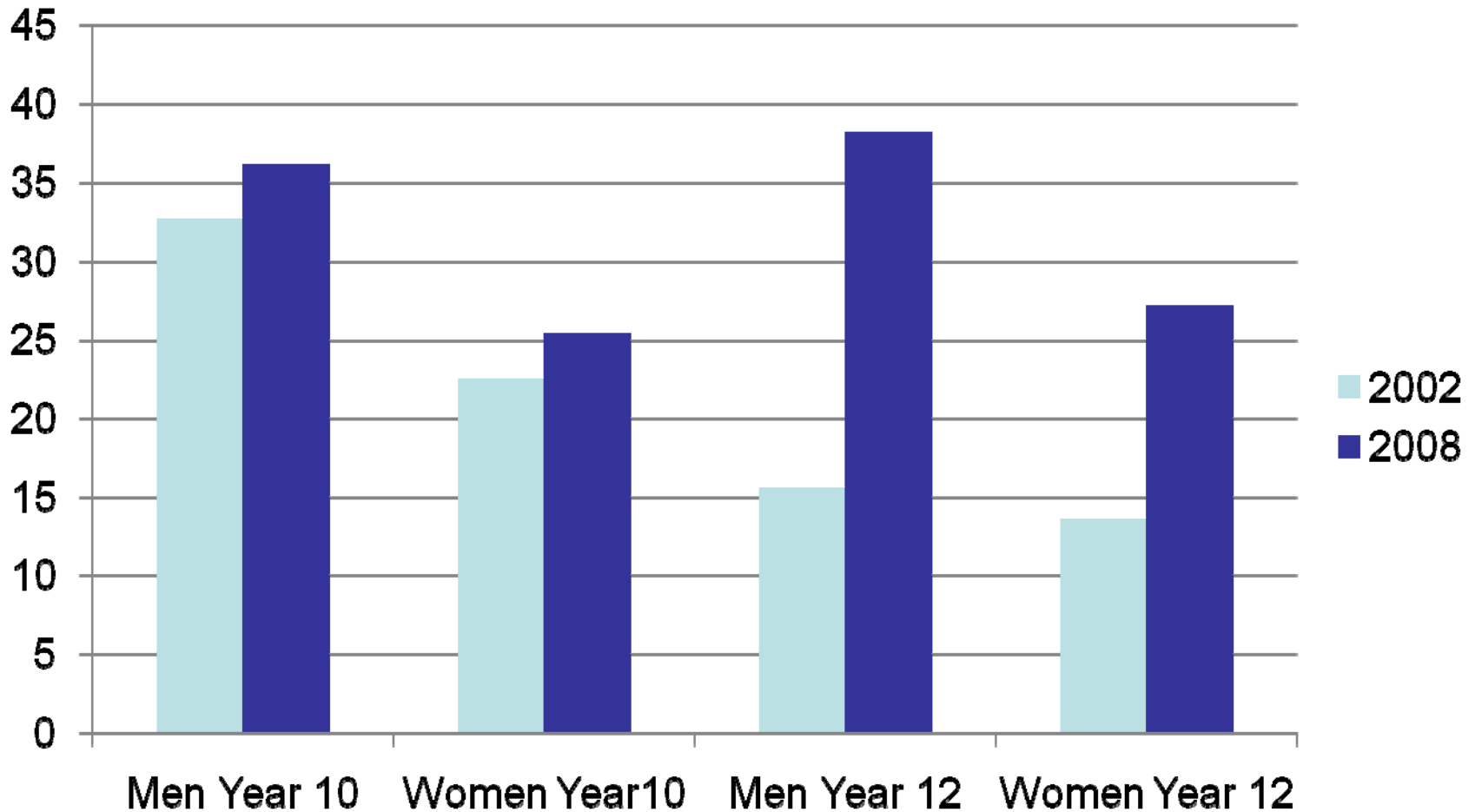
Intercourse ever



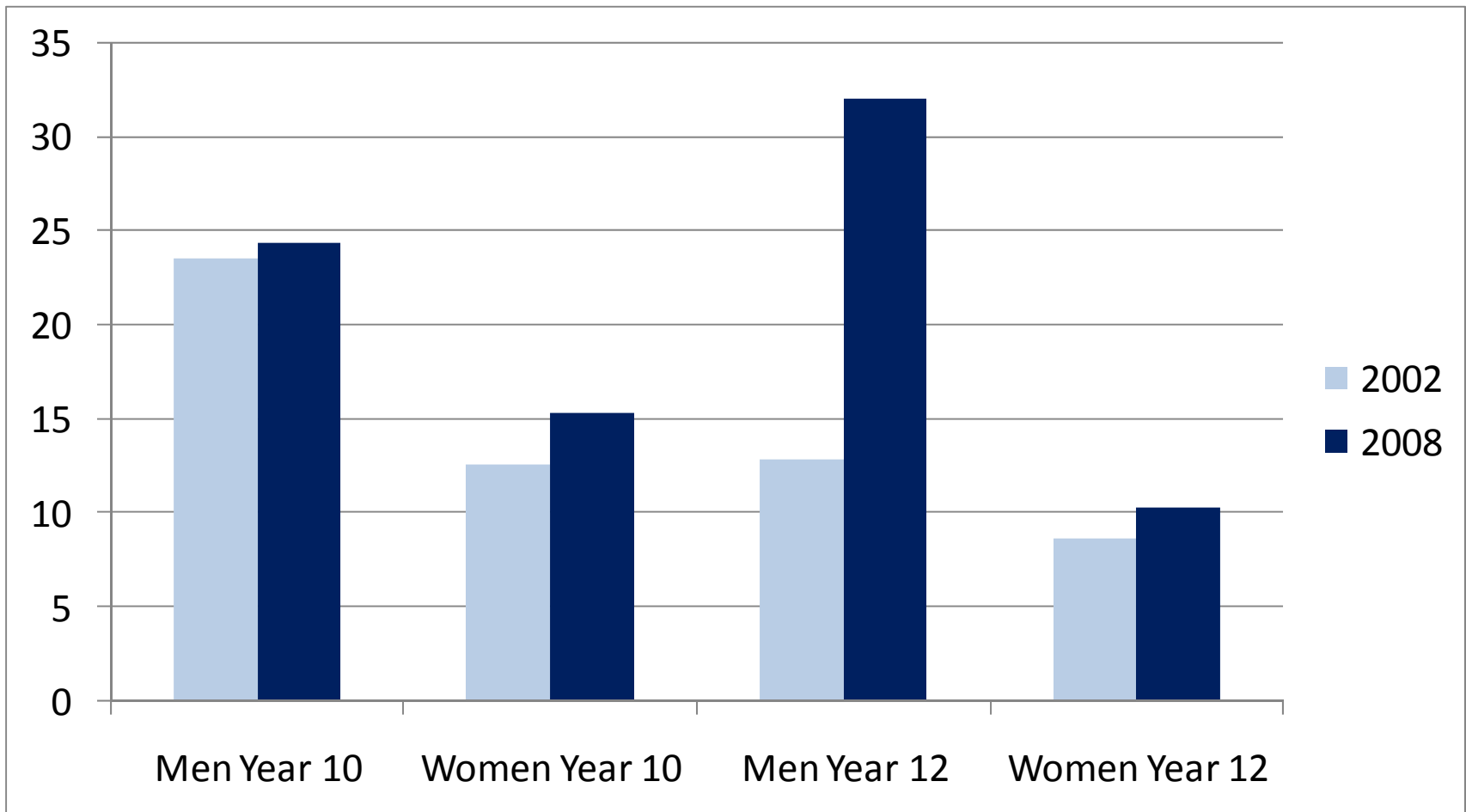
One intercourse partner in last year



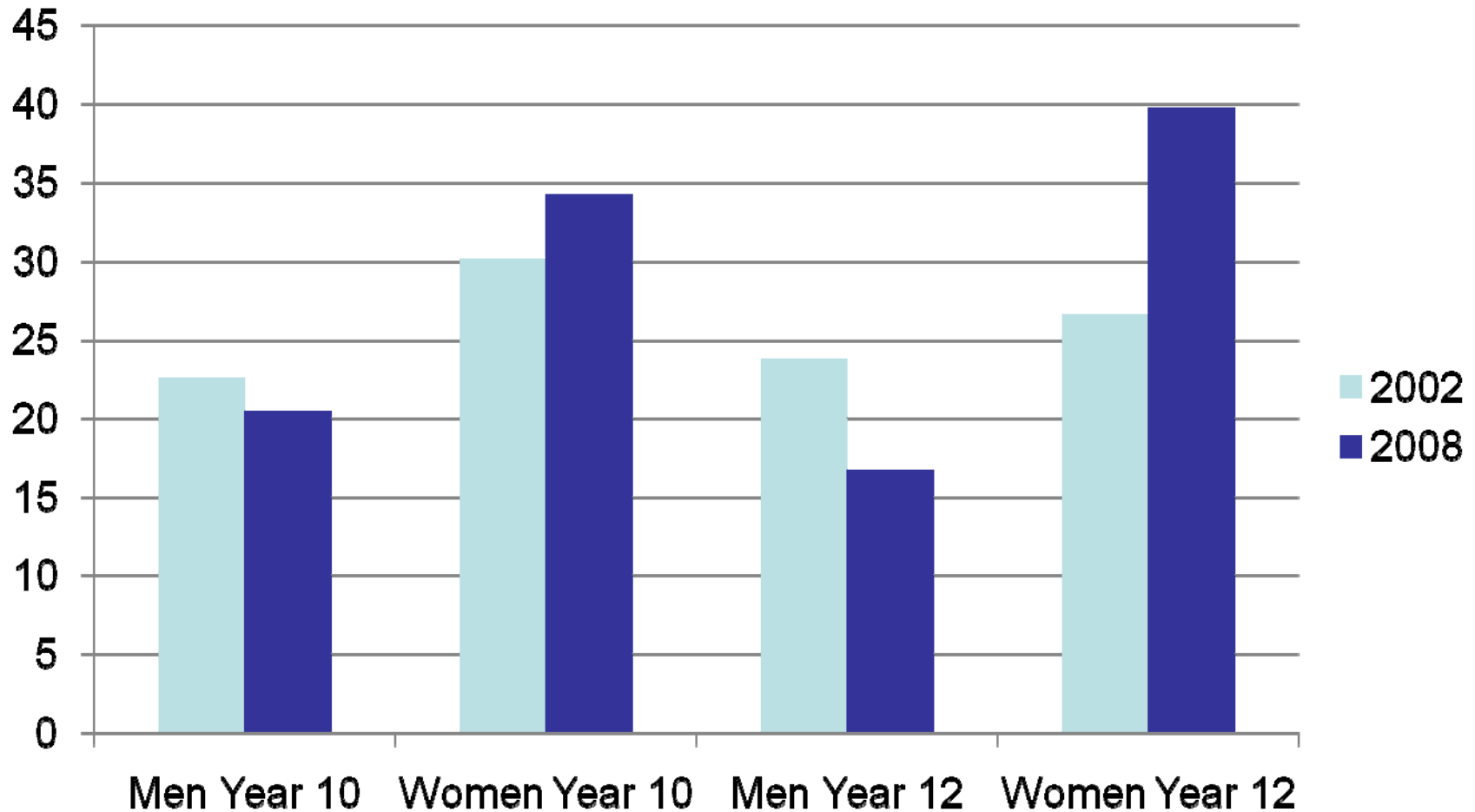
Three or more intercourse partners in last year



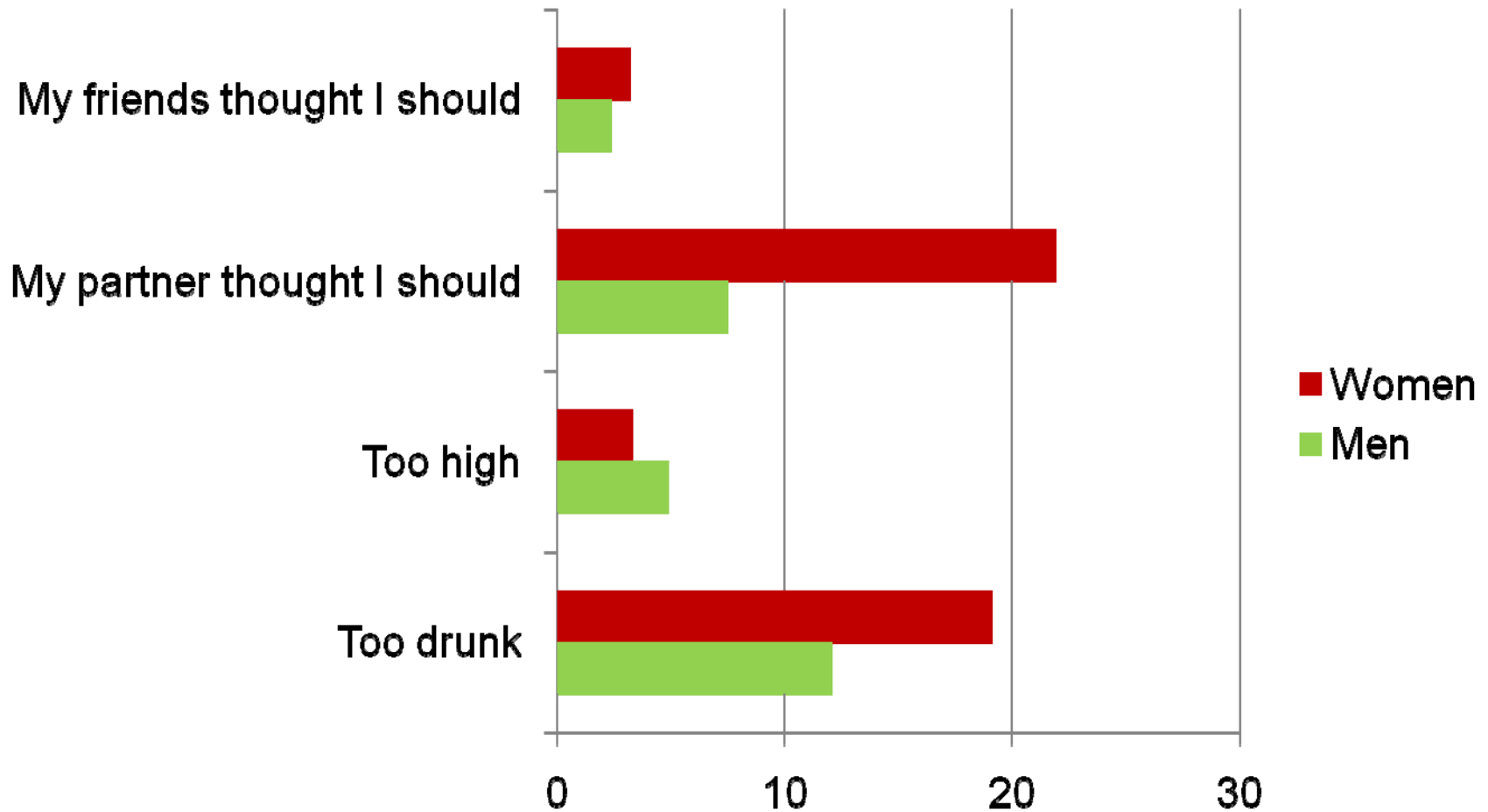
Three or more oral sex but not intercourse partners in last year



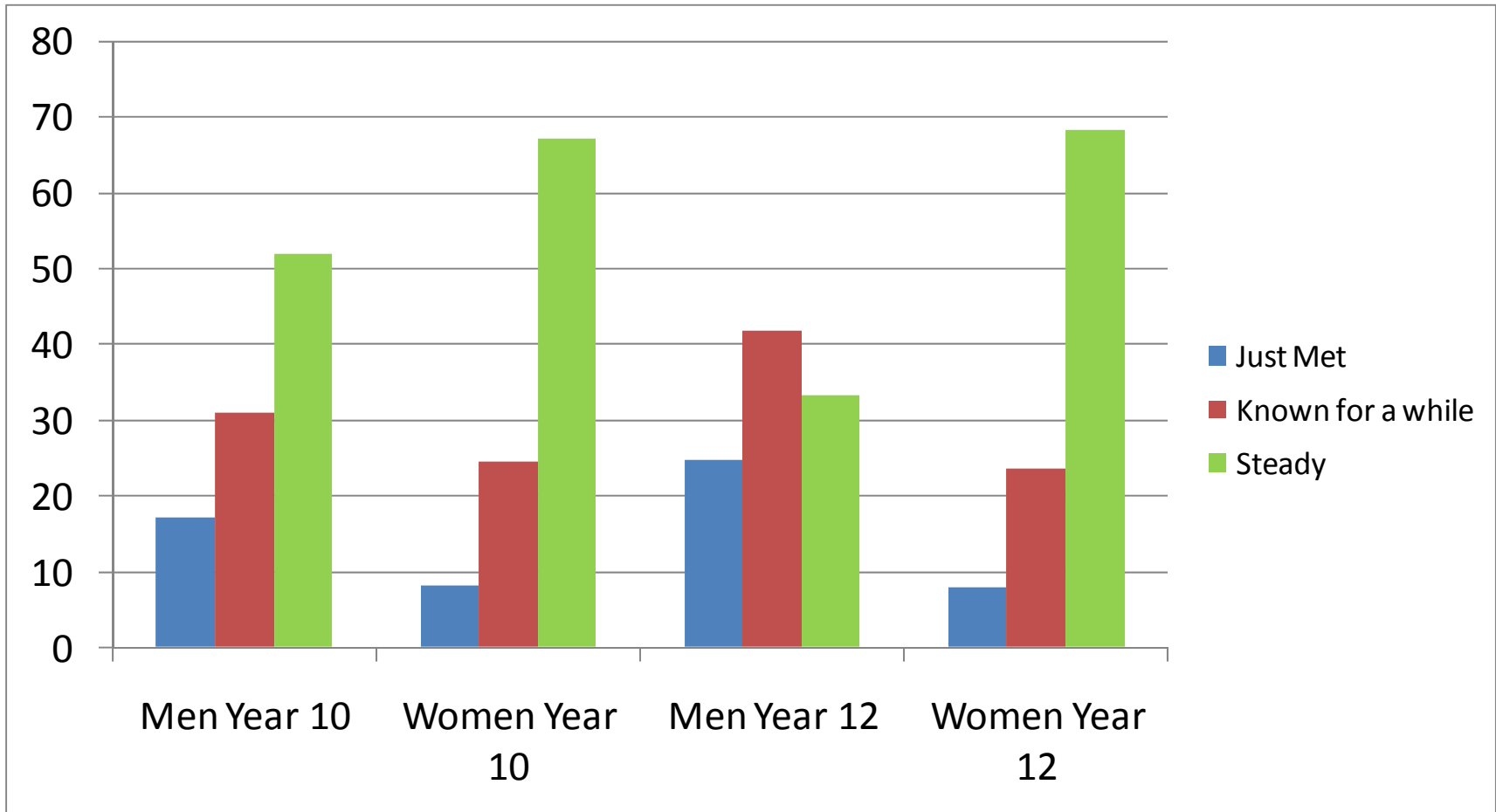
Ever had unwanted sex



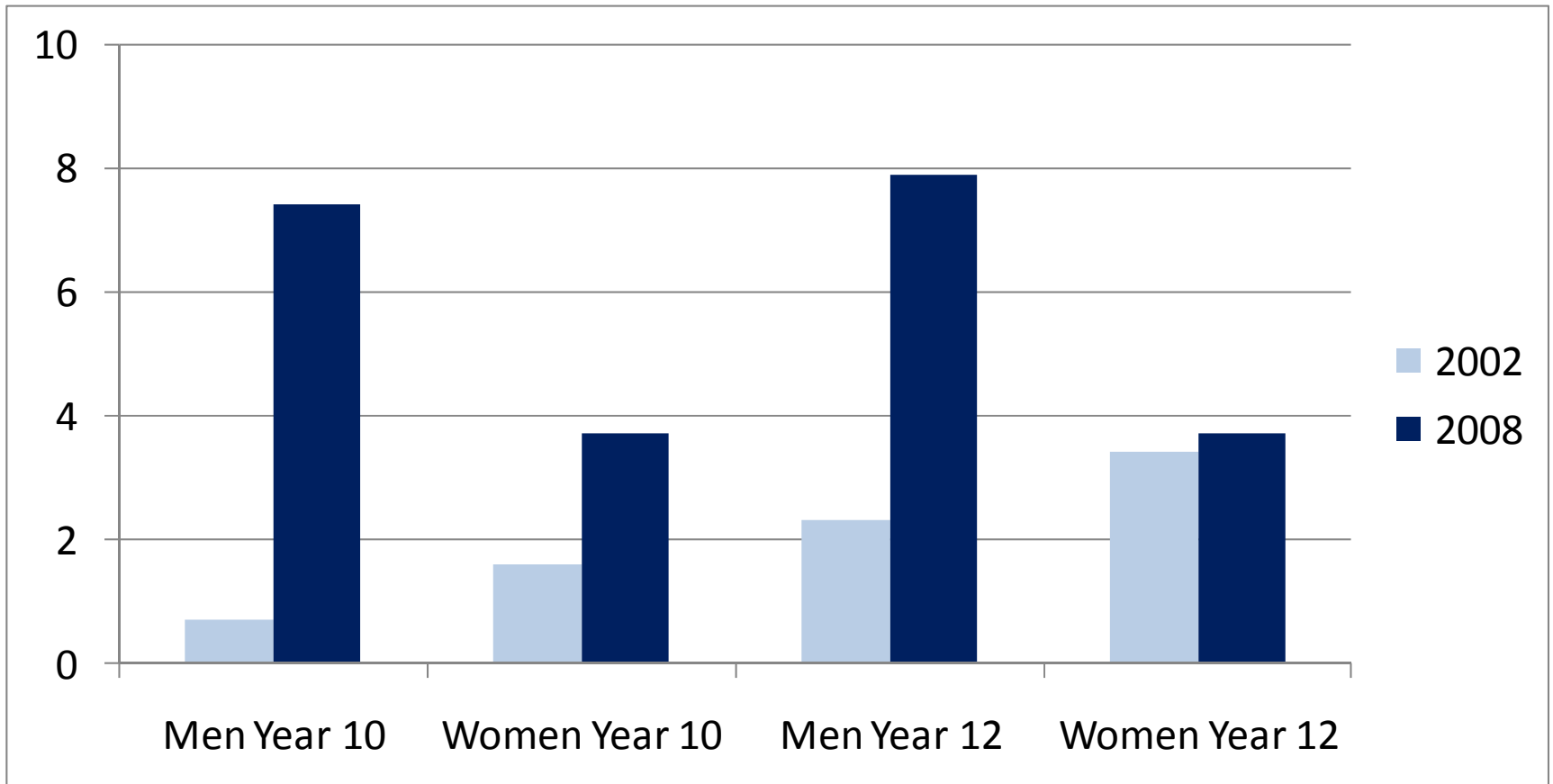
Reasons for unwanted sex



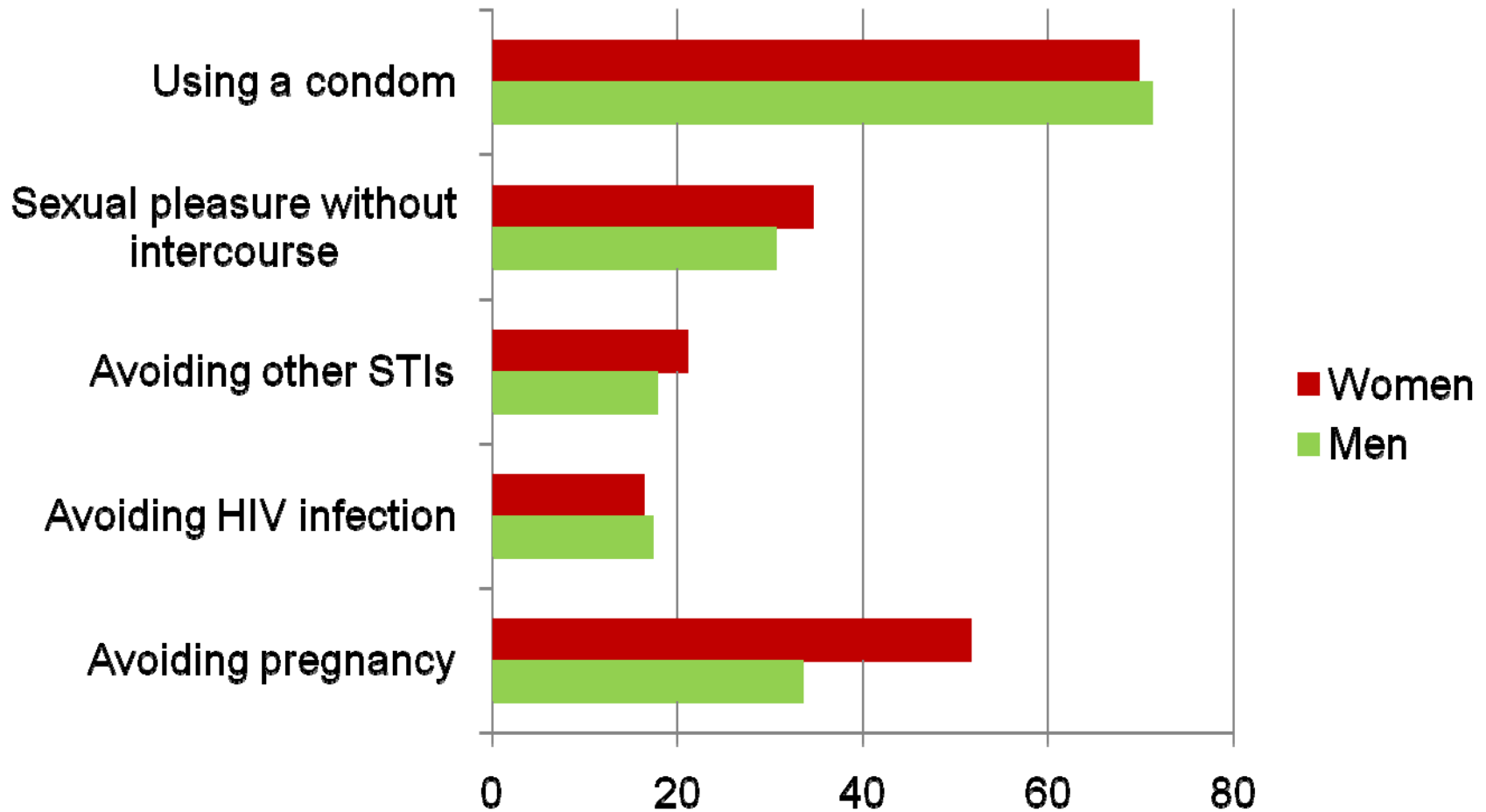
The most recent sexual encounter



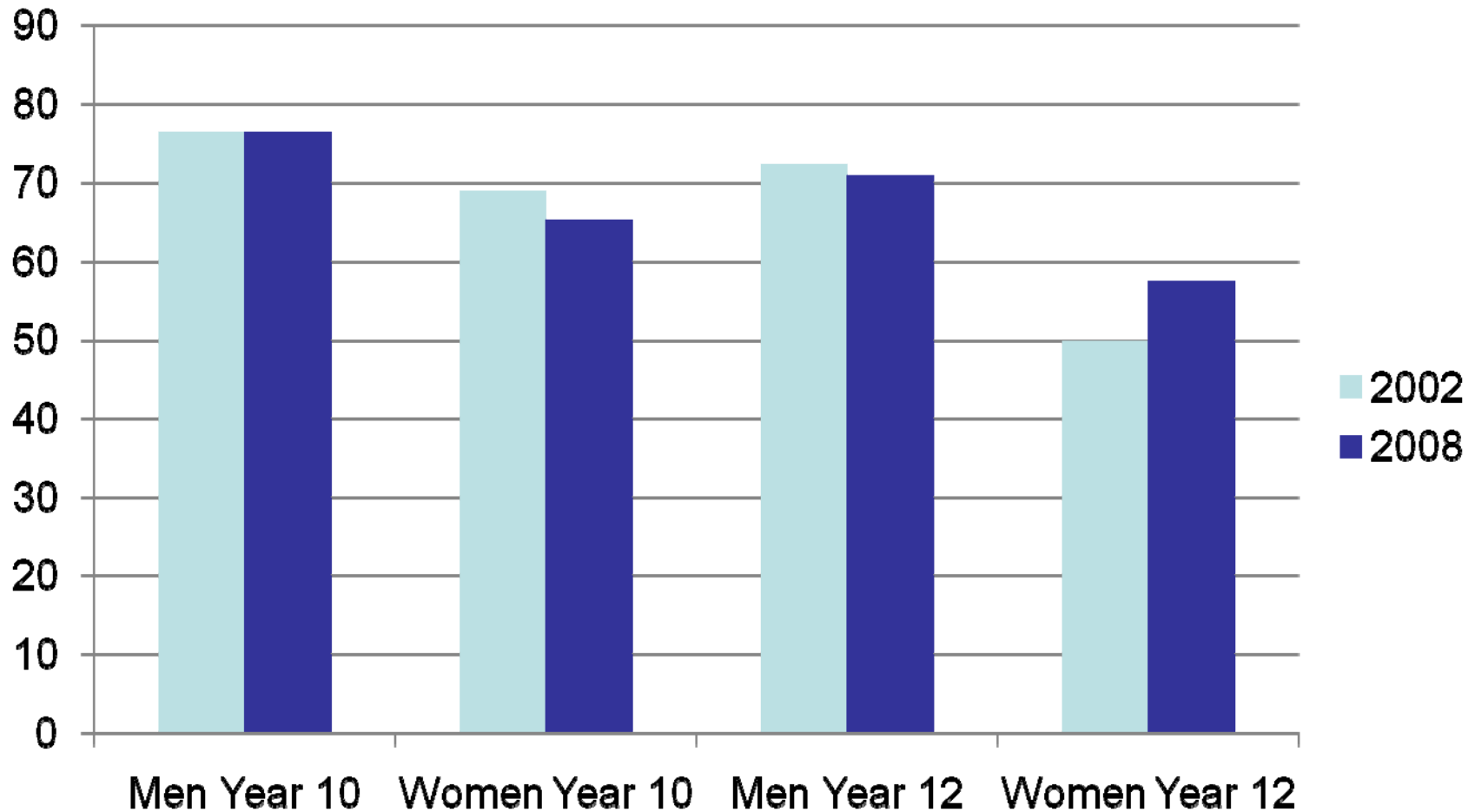
Same sex partner at most recent sex



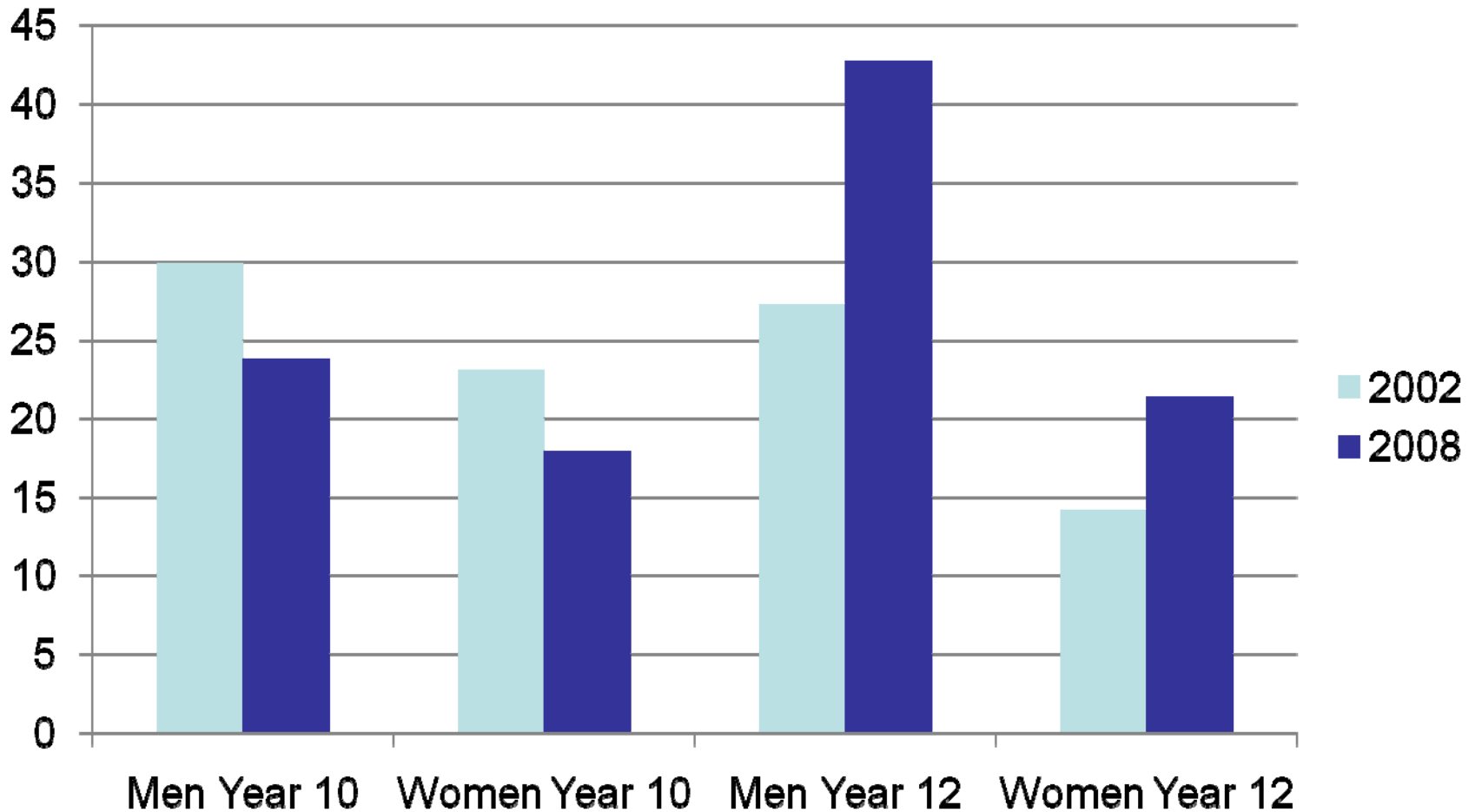
Topics discussed during most recent encounter



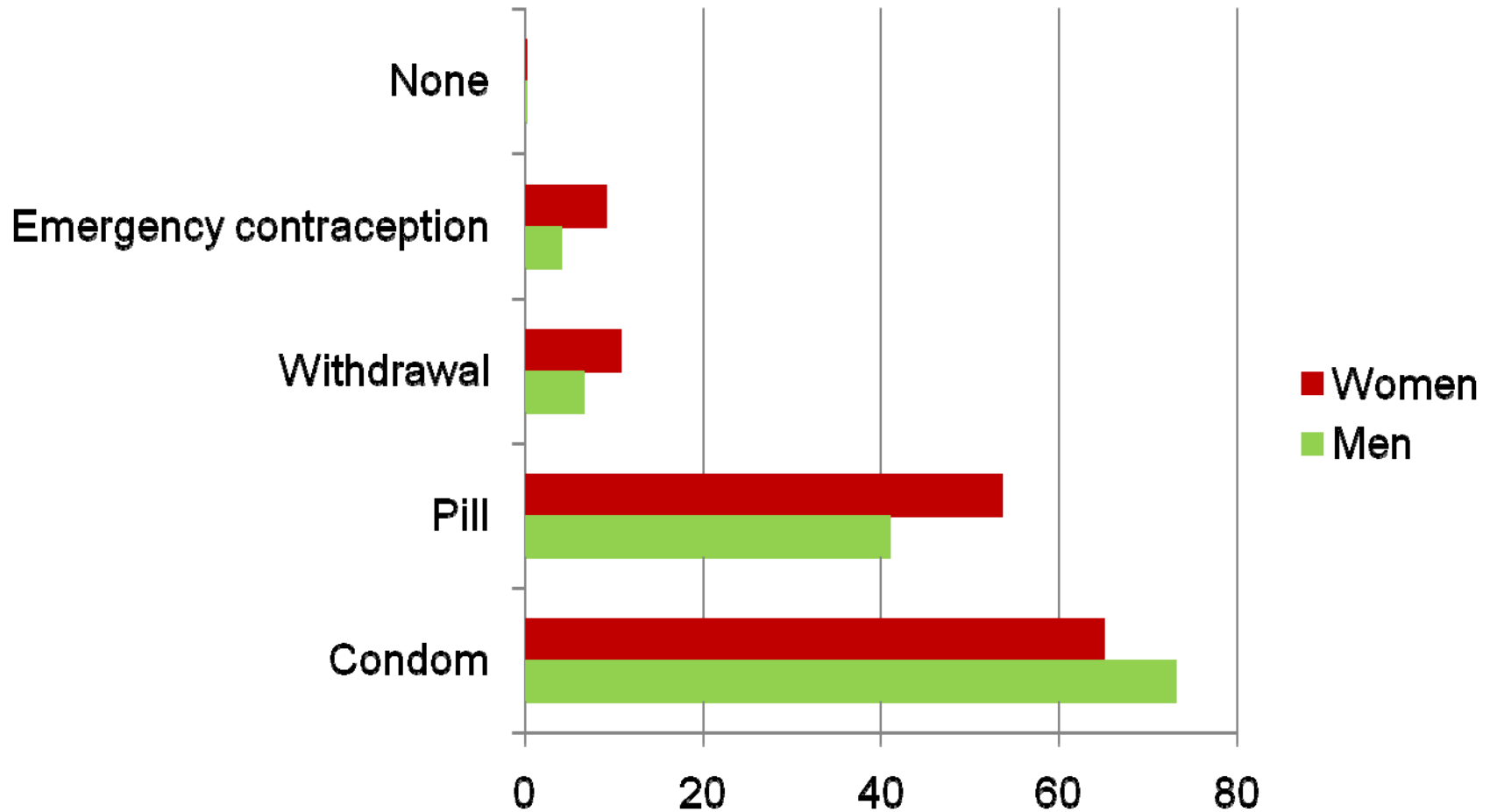
Condom use at most recent sex



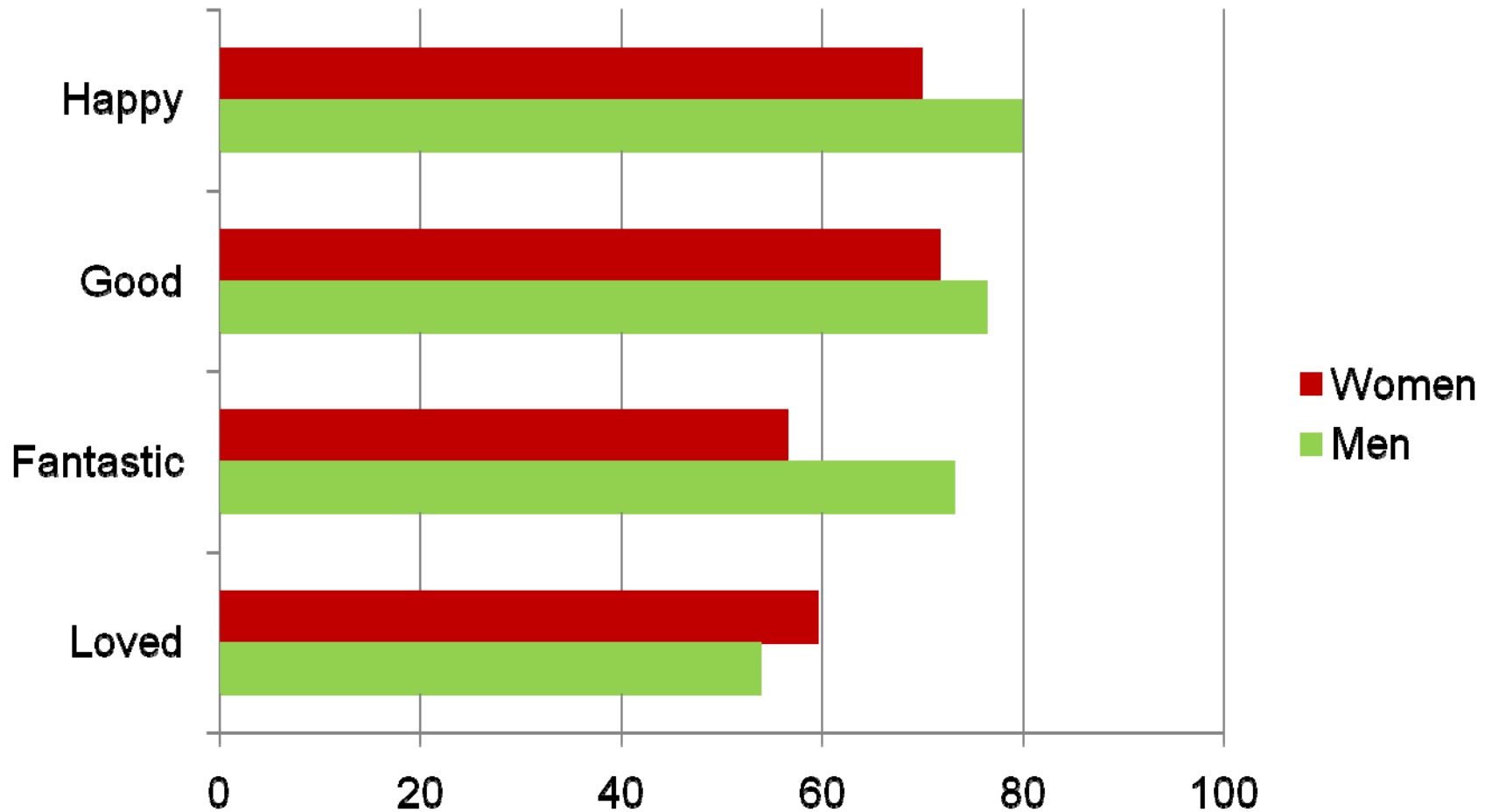
Drunk or high at most recent sex



Contraception use

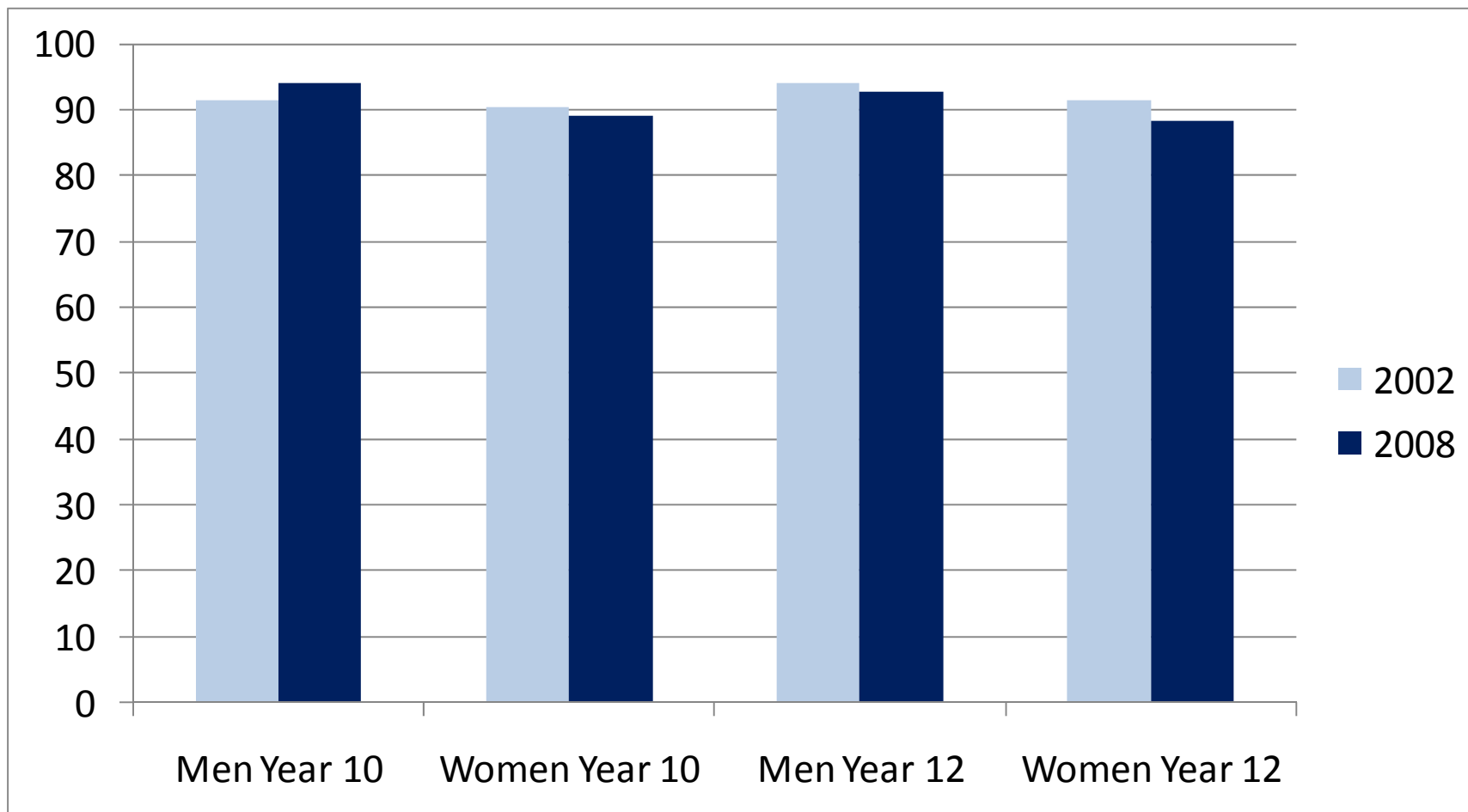


Positive feelings about most recent sex

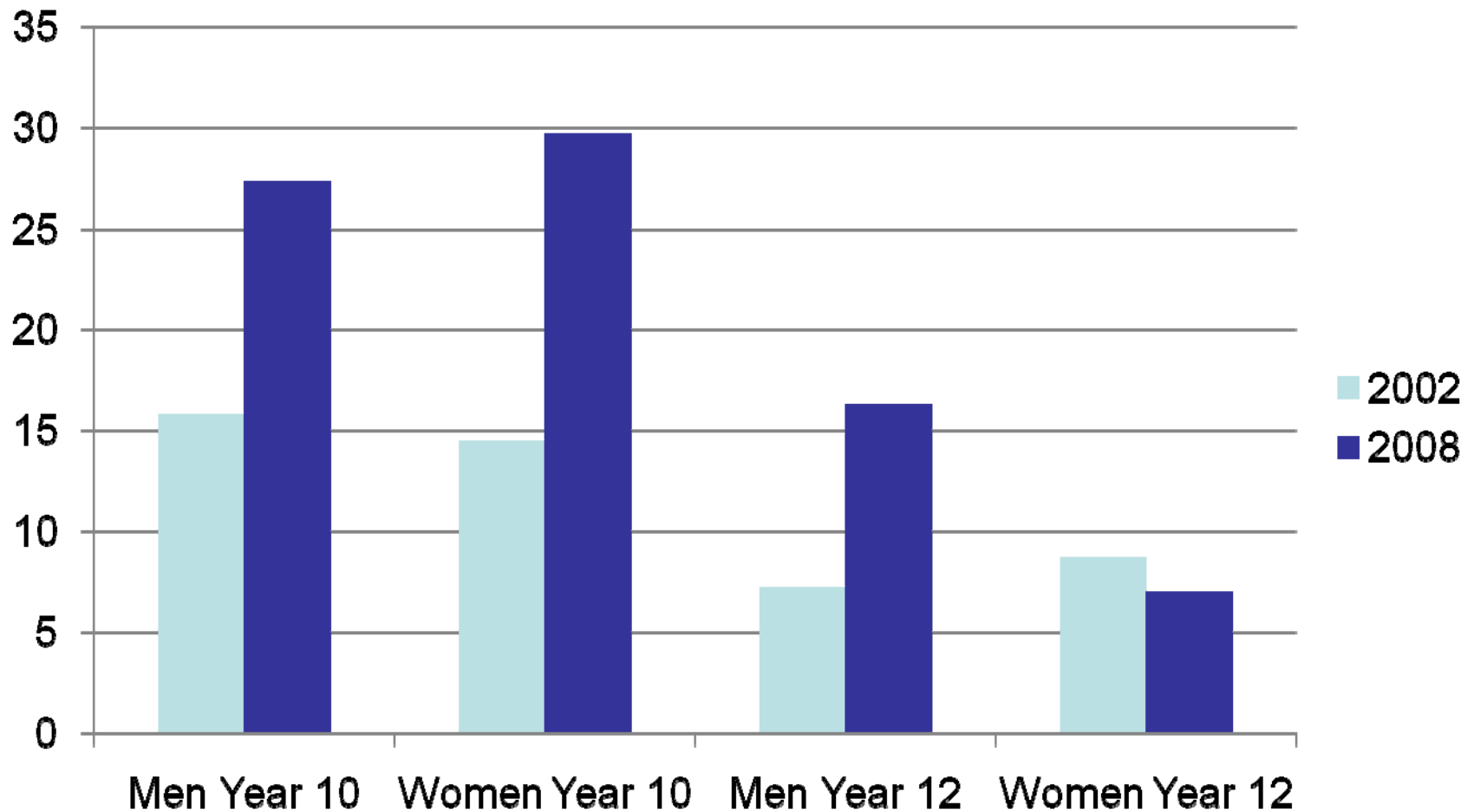


HEALTH STATUS INCLUDING ALCOHOL USE

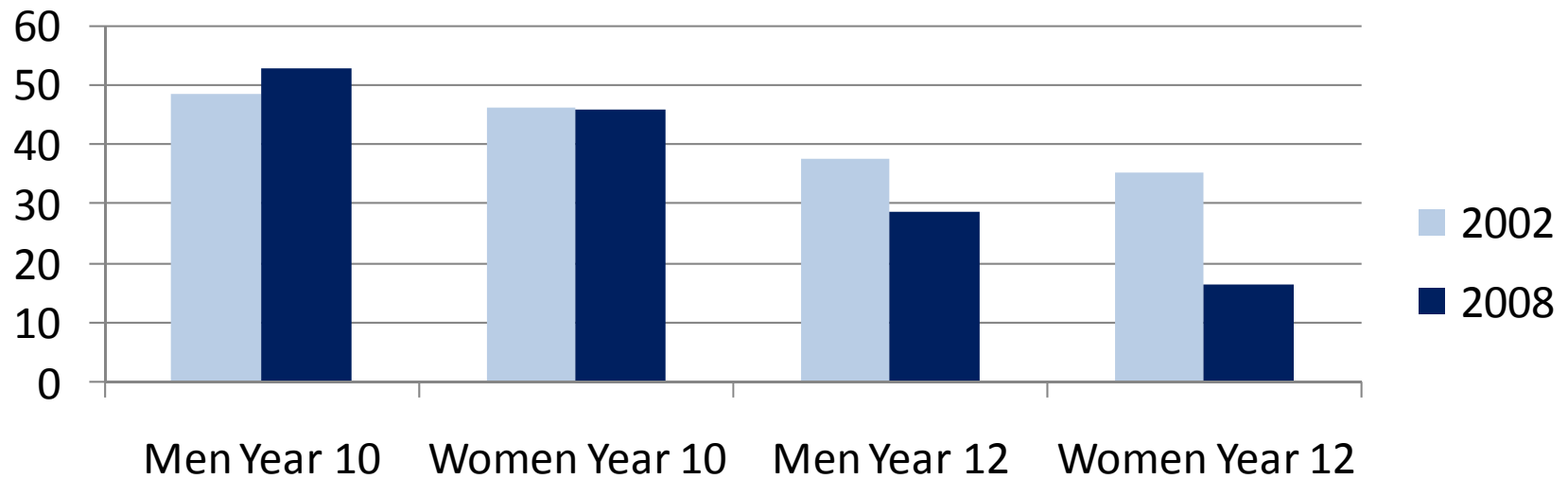
Students rating their health as good or better



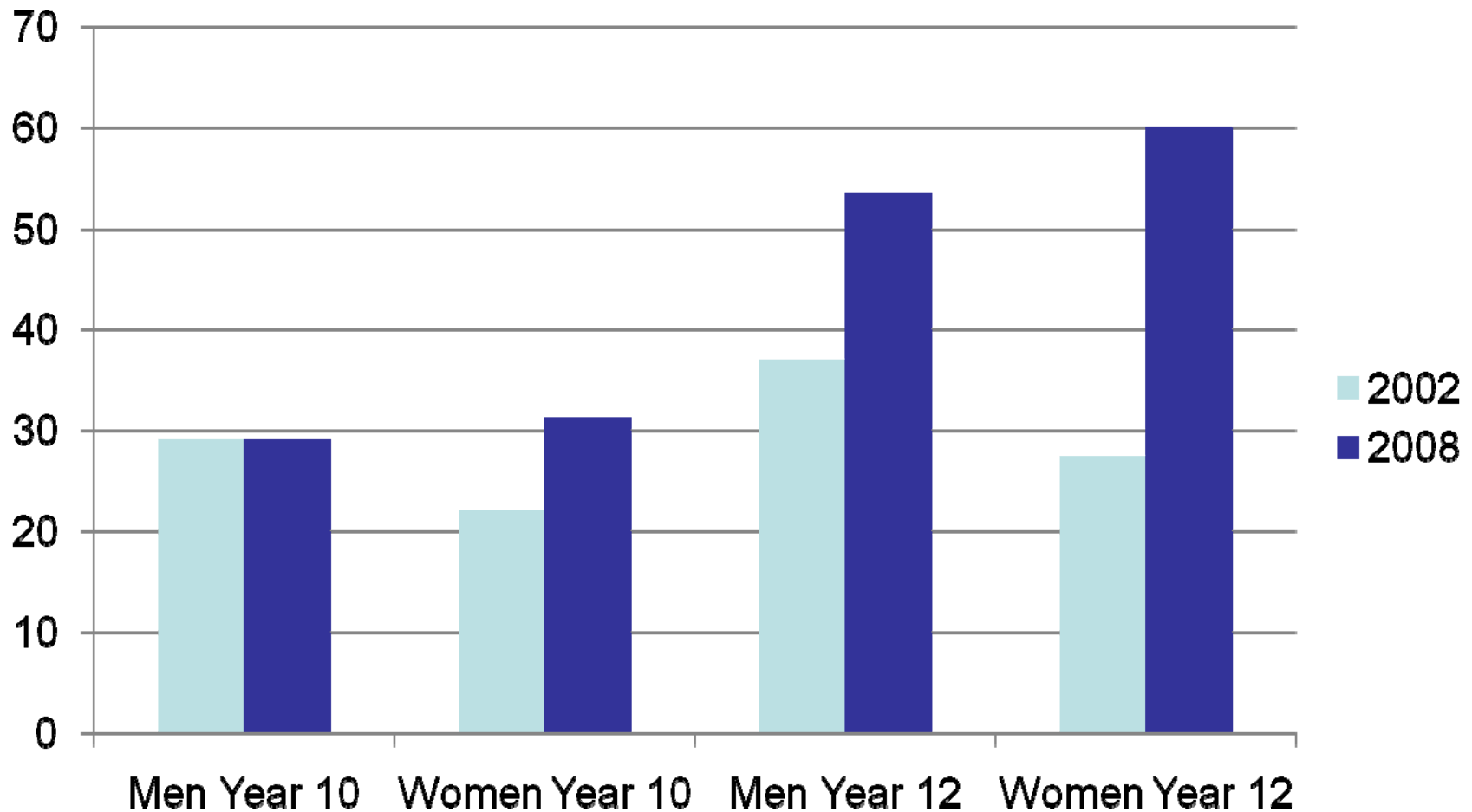
Never drink alcohol



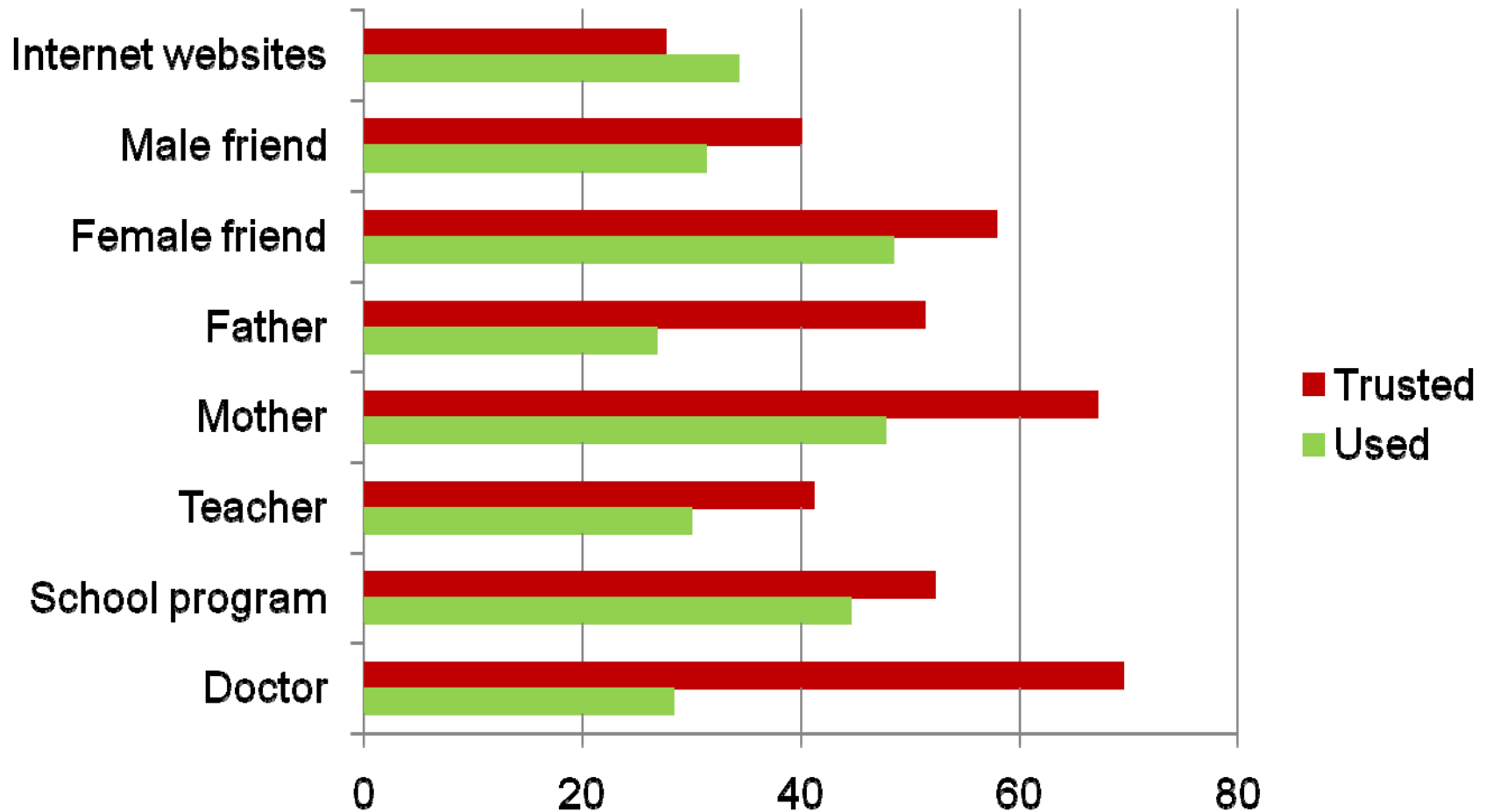
No binge drinking in previous two weeks



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