



Substance Use In Jamaica Findings from the 2016 National Drug Prevalence Survey

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Outline

- Introduction
- Methodology
- Results
 - The Population Studied
 - Substance Use
 - How common is it?
 - Age of First Use
 - Driving Under the Influence
 - Expenditure on Substances
 - The Ganja Situation: Attitudes, Access, Availability
 - Awareness and Perceptions of the Dangerous Drugs Act
- Summary of Findings

INTRODUCTION

Substance Use

- Substance misuse
 - Implicated as a risk factor for many non-communicable diseases
 - Known to have negative effects on social wellbeing of individuals and societies
- In particular, illicit drug use and harmful use of alcohol and tobacco are all considered important public health concerns globally

Data for Policy Development

- Governments need population prevalence data that will guide policy development directed at
 - Curbing the use of illicit drugs, and the harmful use of alcohol and tobacco
 - Reducing the production, trafficking and use and abuse of drugs
- Ongoing data collection an imperative

National Drug Prevalence Survey

- NCDA in partnership with OAS/CICAD¹ commissioned the 2016 National Drug Prevalence Survey
- Study aimed to determine the extent of drug use among 12 to 65 years olds in Jamaica
- Data provided should inform drug prevention and treatment policies and programmes

¹Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission

National Drug Prevalence Survey

- Specific Objectives:
 - Determine the prevalence of psychoactive substance use: at least once in lifetime, over the past 12 months, over the past 30 days, and former use.
 - Determine the prevalence of psychoactive substance use on the basis of sociodemographic characteristics: gender, age, occupation, schooling, socioeconomic level and place of residence.

National Drug Prevalence Survey

- Specific Objectives:
 - Detect patterns of use of the various substances.
 - Describe aspects related to the use of substances: exposure to supply and use, risk perception, exposure to / awareness of drug prevention strategies.
 - Determine attitudes towards marijuana legislation and its impact on the society.

METHODOLOGY

Study and Sampling Design

- A community based interviewer-administered survey of Jamaicans, resident in Jamaica, aged 12-65 years
- Stratified multi-stage sampling
 - Strata – 14 parishes, KMA², OUC³, Rural areas
 - Stage 1 – Selection of enumeration districts
 - Stage 2 – Selection of dwellings
 - Stage 3 – Selection of eligible household member

Sample Size

- A sample sizes of 4998 households was adequate to estimate 50% prevalence of substance use at the 95% confidence level with a 5.7% margin of error at the national and parish levels.

The Data

- **Data Collection:** Pre-coded standardized questionnaire on tablets used in face to face interviews.
- **Data Management:** Data automatically sent to web-based platform for approval by supervisors then uploaded to the database. The data were then transferred to the SPSS.

Data Analysis

- Nationally representative prevalence estimates weighted to account for sampling design
- Estimates obtained for various sociodemographic categories
- Stata 14.2 used to carry out data analysis

RESULTS

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The Sample Recruited

Age Band (years)	Males	Females	Total
	%(n)	%(n)	%(n)
12-17	13.9 (290)	10.0 (254)	11.8 (544)
18-24	16.2 (338)	15.2 (385)	15.6 (723)
25-34	19.4 (405)	22.9 (580)	21.3 (985)
35-44	16.5 (344)	19.1 (485)	17.9 (829)
45-54	18.3 (382)	19.8 (501)	19.1 (883)
55-65	15.7 (329)	13.0 (330)	14.3 (659)
Totals	45.2 (2,088)	54.8 (2,535)	100.0 (4,623)

- Final sample(4,623) was 92% of target

Population vs Weighted Sample Distribution⁴

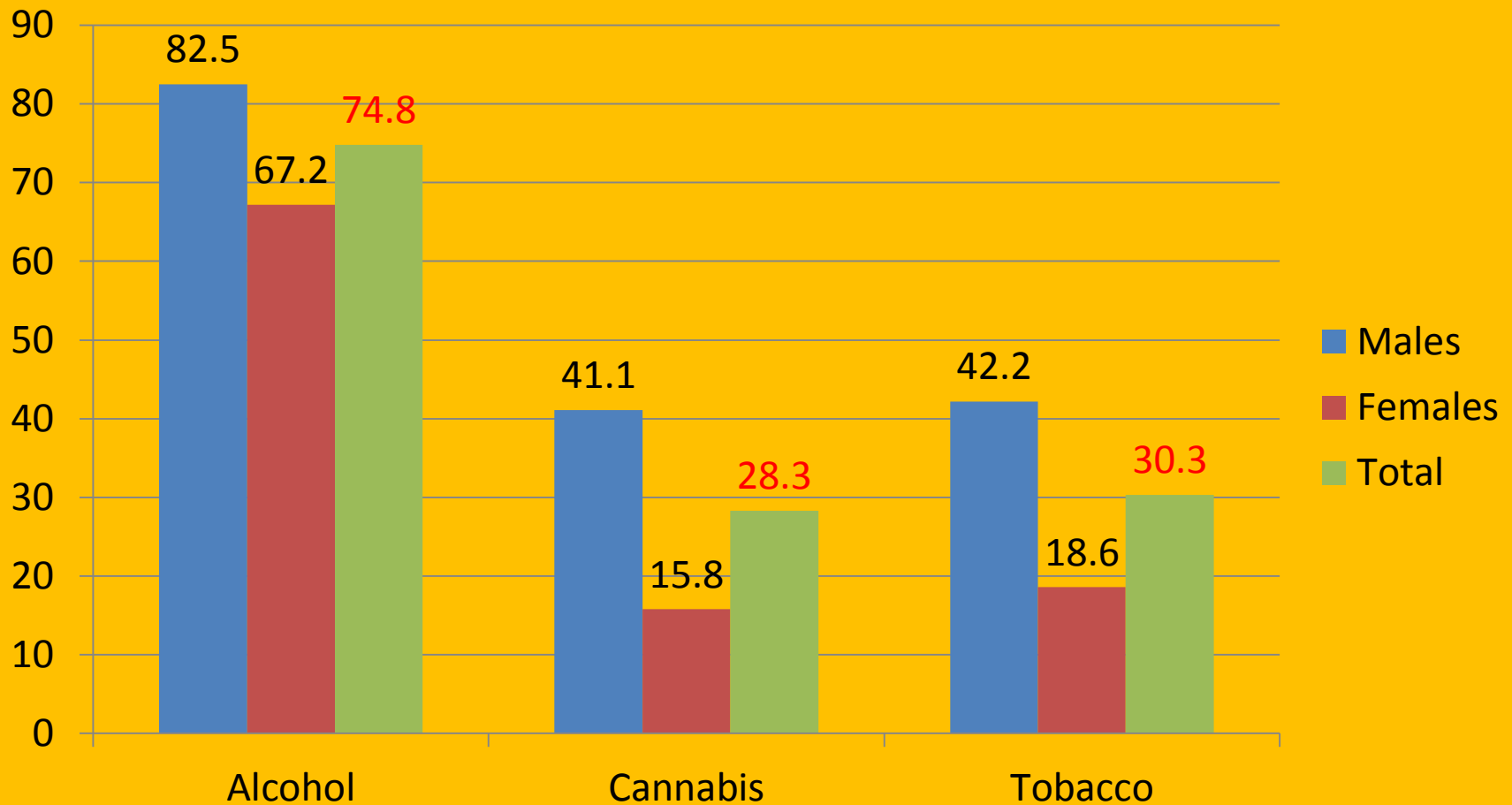
	Males & Females		Males		Females	
Age groups	Pop'n (%)	Wtd Sample(%)	Pop'n (%)	Wtd Sample(%)	Pop'n (%)	Wtd Sample(%)
12-24	33.6	34.0	34.5	34.8	32.8	33.0
25-34	21.7	21.6	21.4	21.3	22.0	22.0
35-44	17.9	17.8	17.1	17.0	18.6	18.5
45-54	15.6	15.6	15.7	15.7	15.6	15.5
55-65	11.1	11.1	11.3	11.2	11.0	10.9

⁴Based on distribution of age by sex by parish for 2013

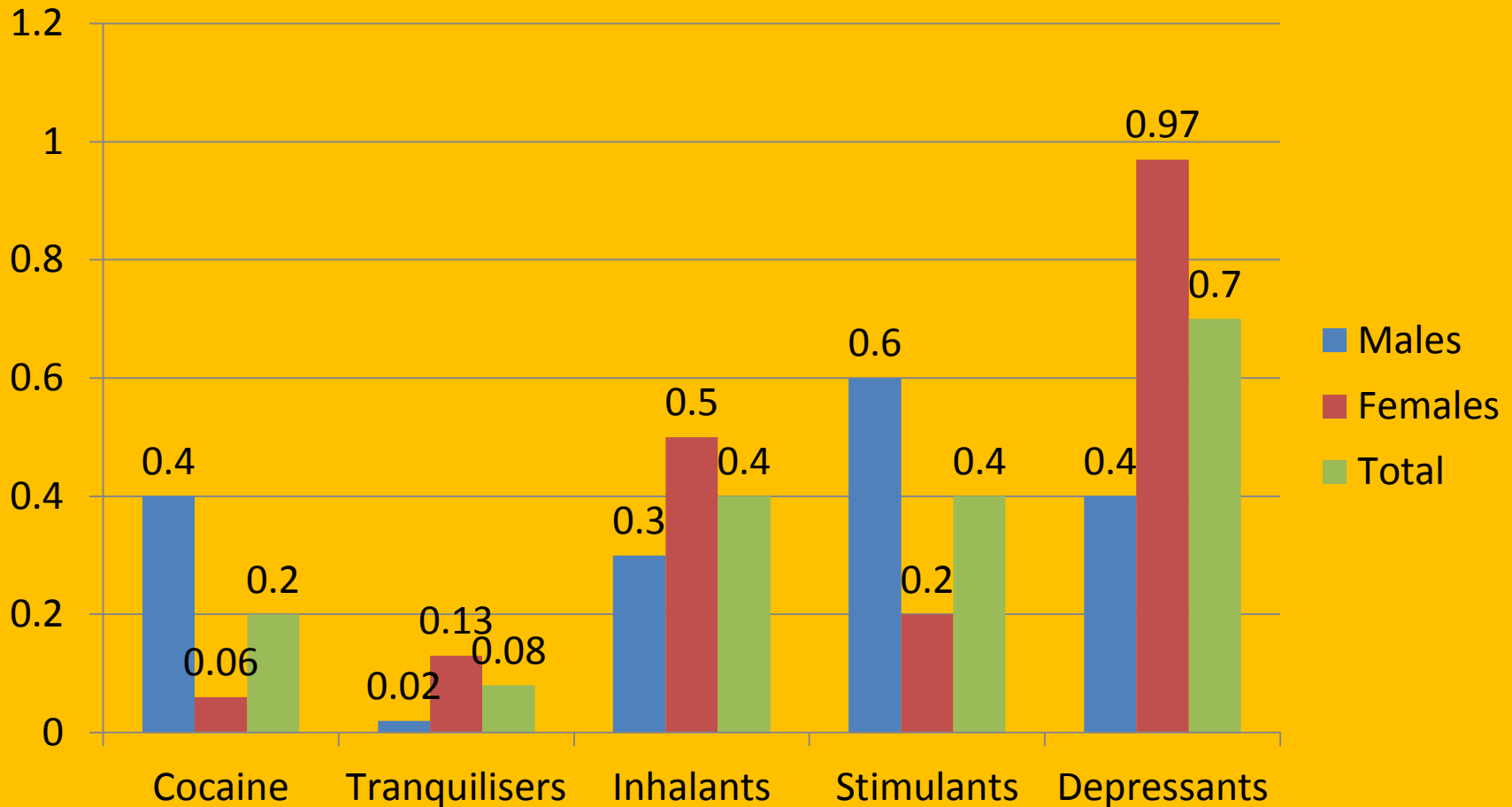
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Prevalence (%) of Lifetime Use

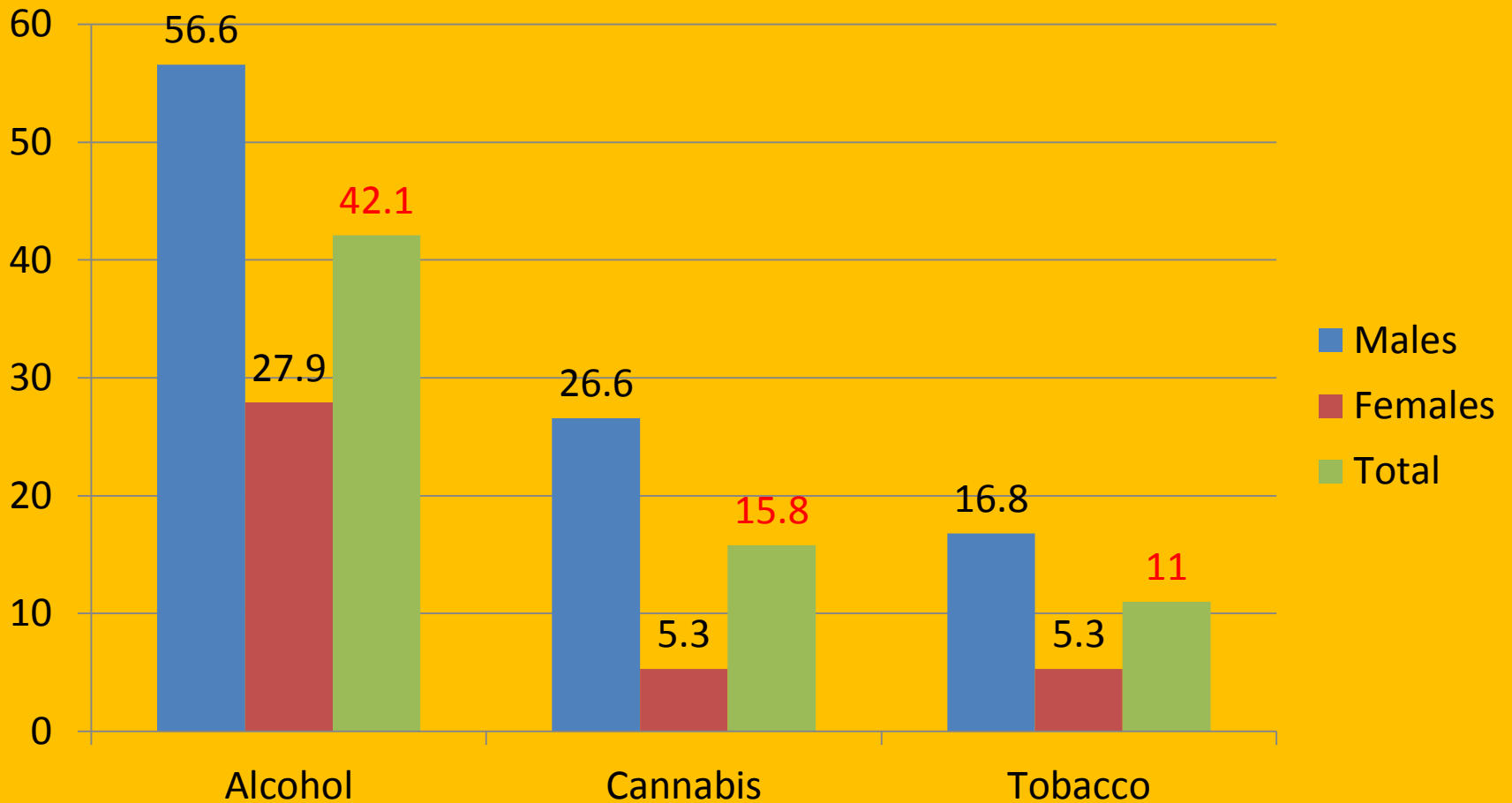


Prevalence (%) of Lifetime Use



Less than 1% of 12-65 year-olds report lifetime use of cocaine , tranquilisers, stimulants, inhalants or depressants.

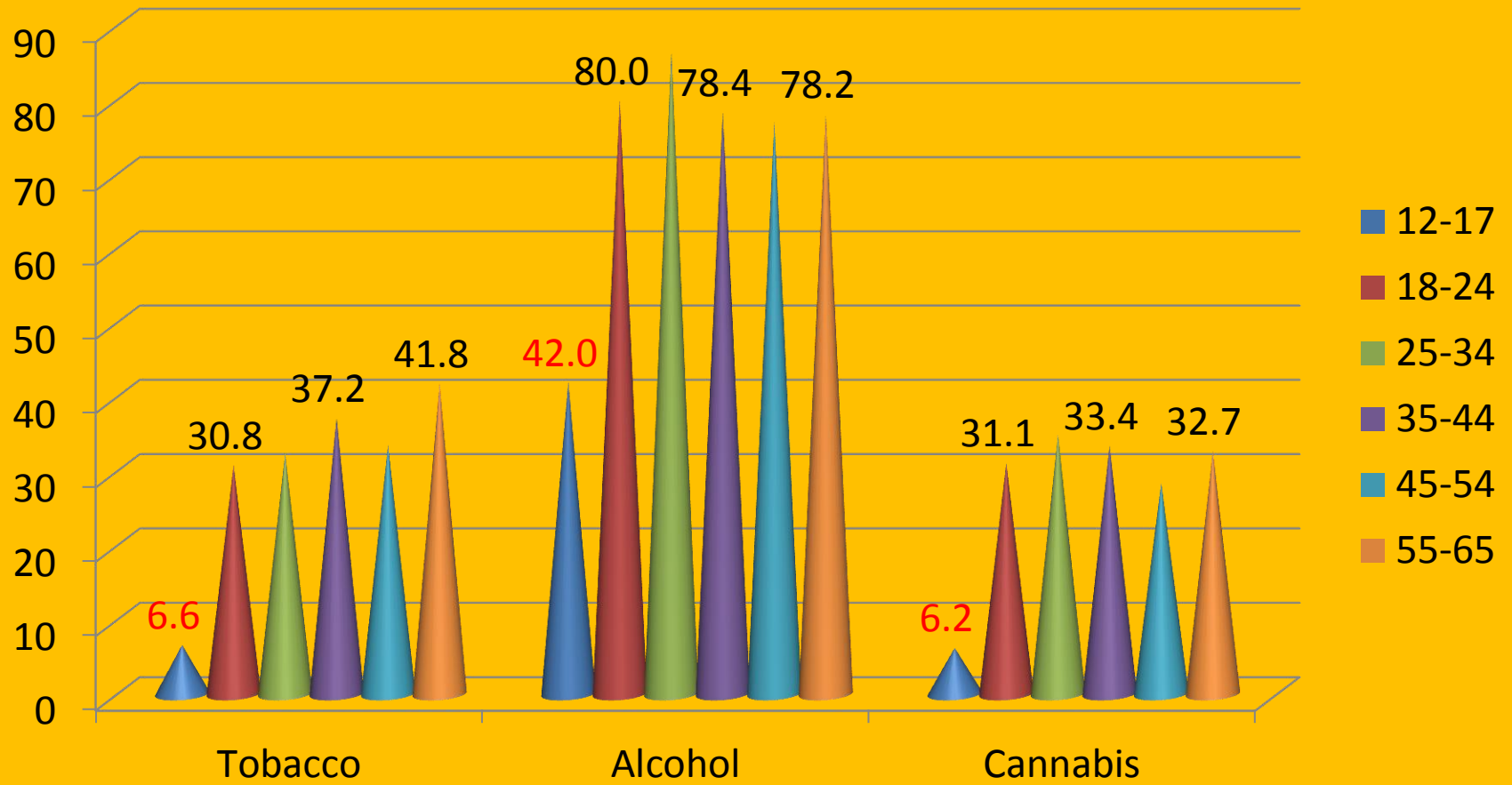
Prevalence (%) of Current Use



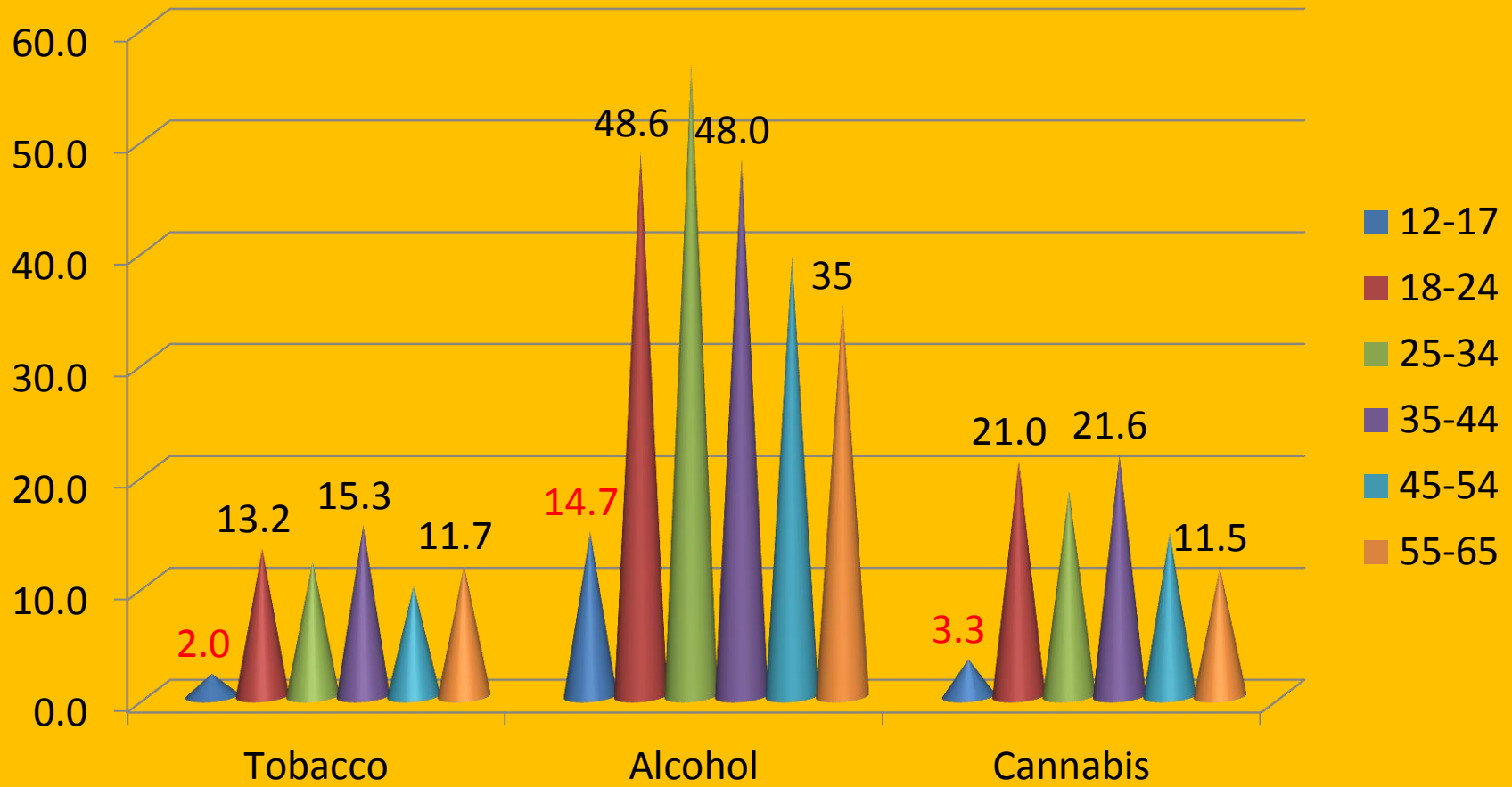
Prevalence (%) Among Lifetime Users

	Alcohol	Cannabis	Tobacco
Use in Past Year	75.9%	63.6%	42.2%
Use in Past month	56.3%	55.4%	36.6%

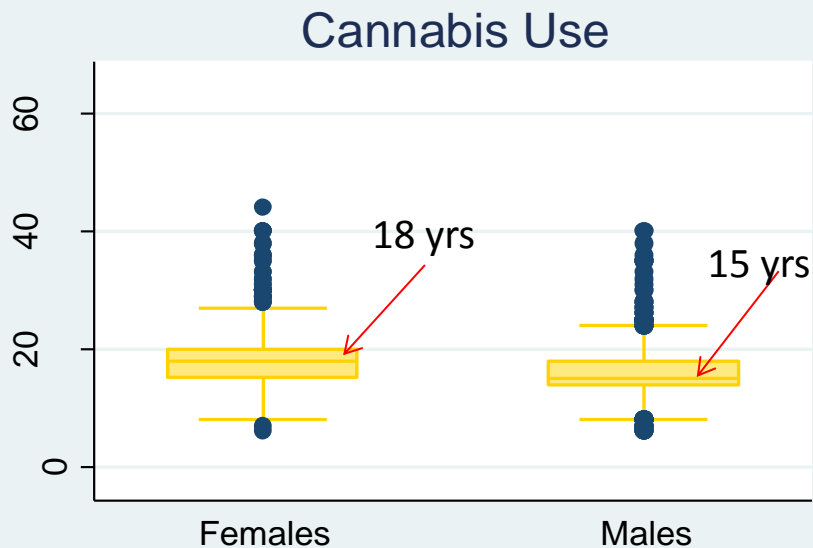
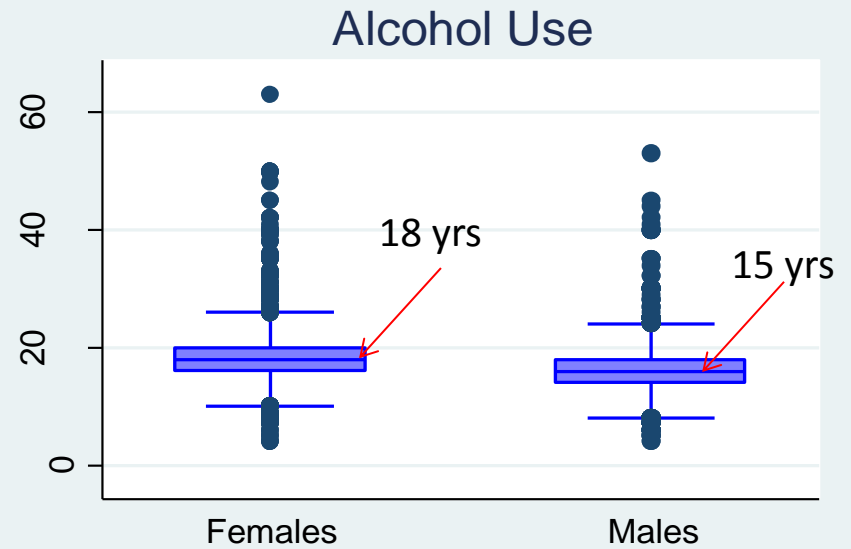
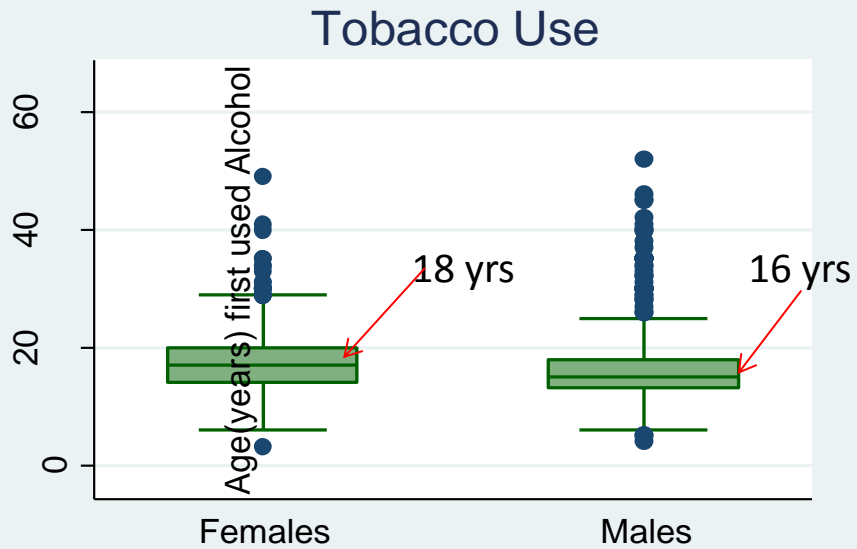
Age-specific Prevalence of Lifetime use



Age-specific Prevalence of Current use



Average (Median) Age of First Use – By Sex



Average age of first use, later in females for all substances.

Driving Under the Influence



1 in every 6
males 18-65
admitted to

**Driving Under the
Influence of Alcohol or
Illegal Drugs**

Driving Under the Influence



1 in 25 females
aged 18-65 years
admitted to

**Driving Under the
Influence of Alcohol**

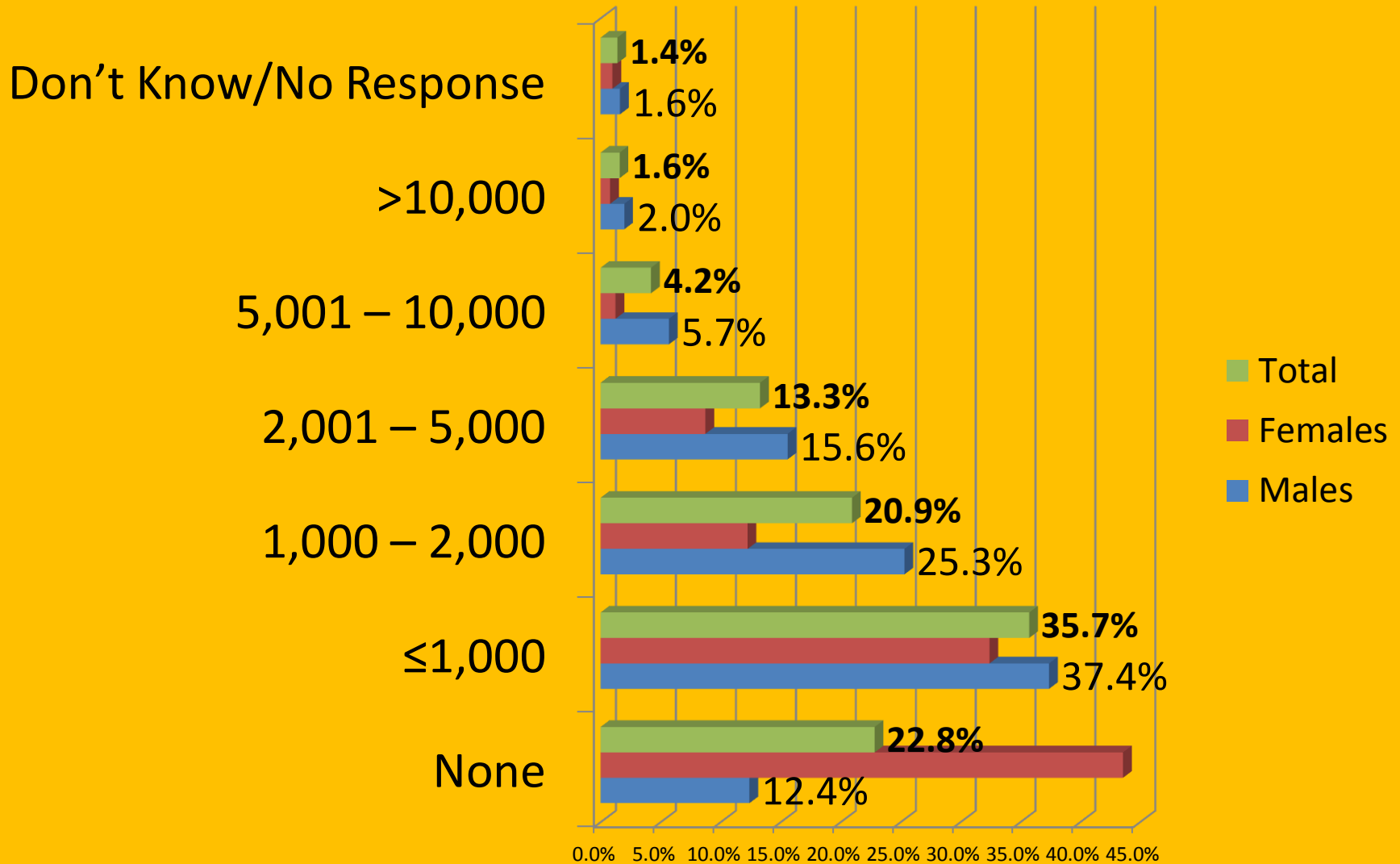
Driving Under the Influence



1 in 17 females
aged 18-65 years
admitted to

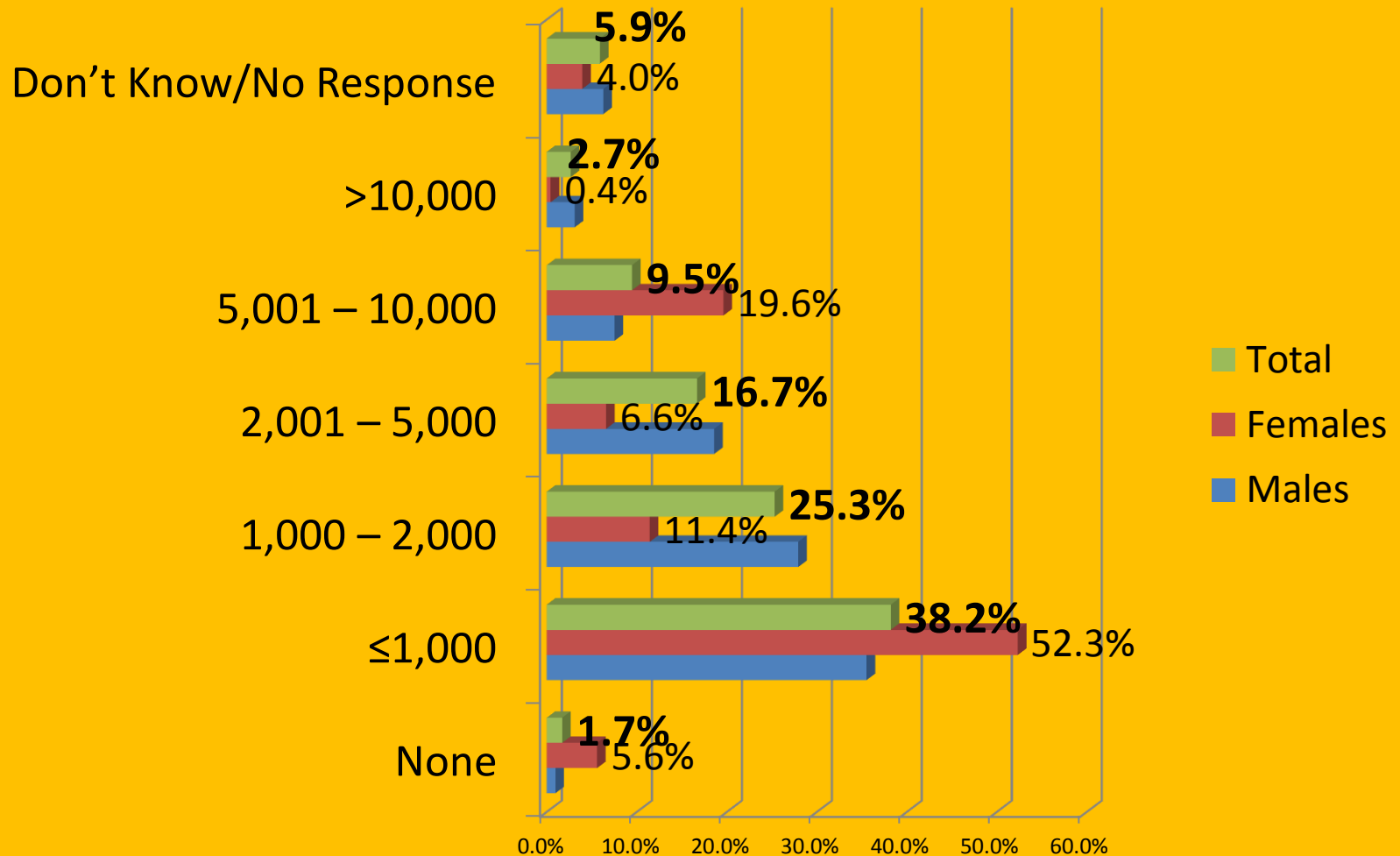
**Driving Under the
Influence of Illegal
Drugs**

Past Month's Expenditure on Alcohol⁵



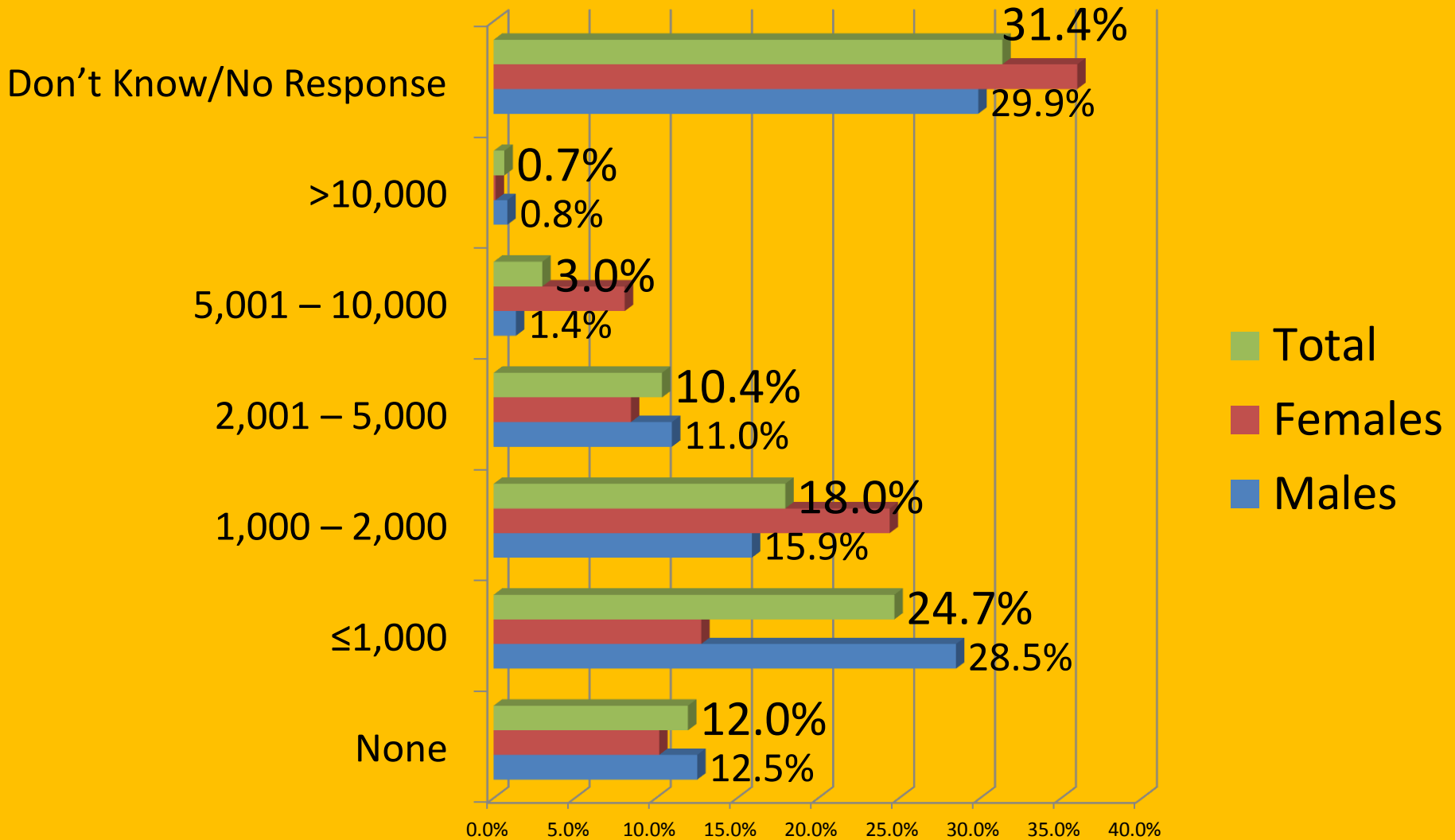
⁵Amongst current users

Past Month's Expenditure on Cannabis⁶



⁶Amongst current users

Past Month's Expenditure on Tobacco⁷



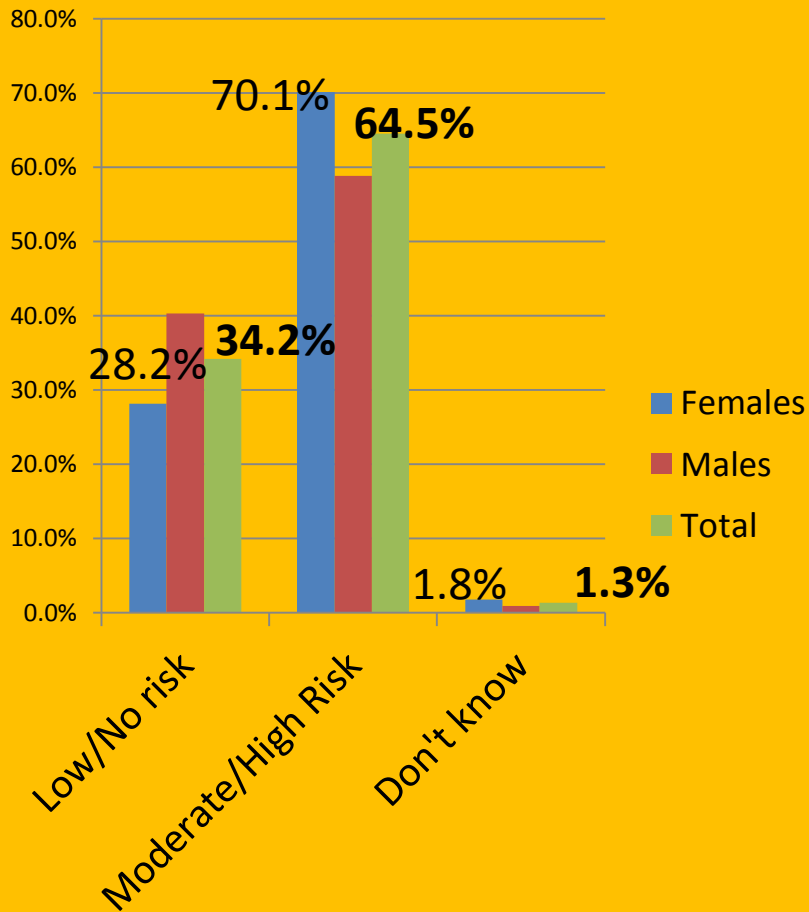
⁷Amongst current users

Outline

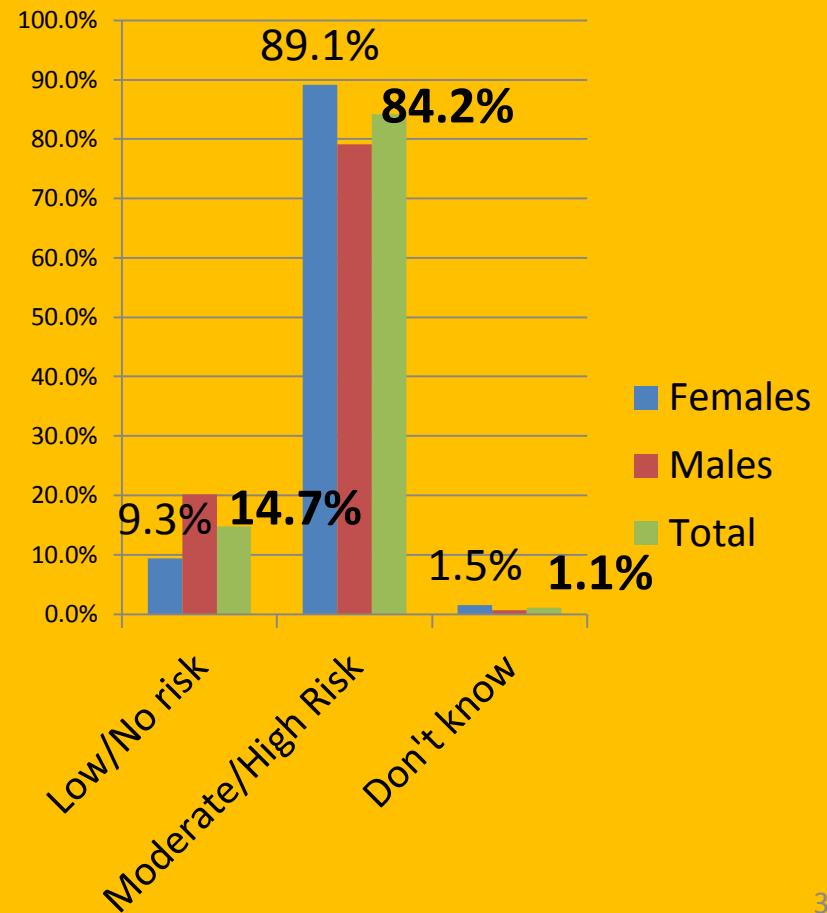
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Perception of Risk Associated with Cannabis Use

Smoking Cannabis sometimes

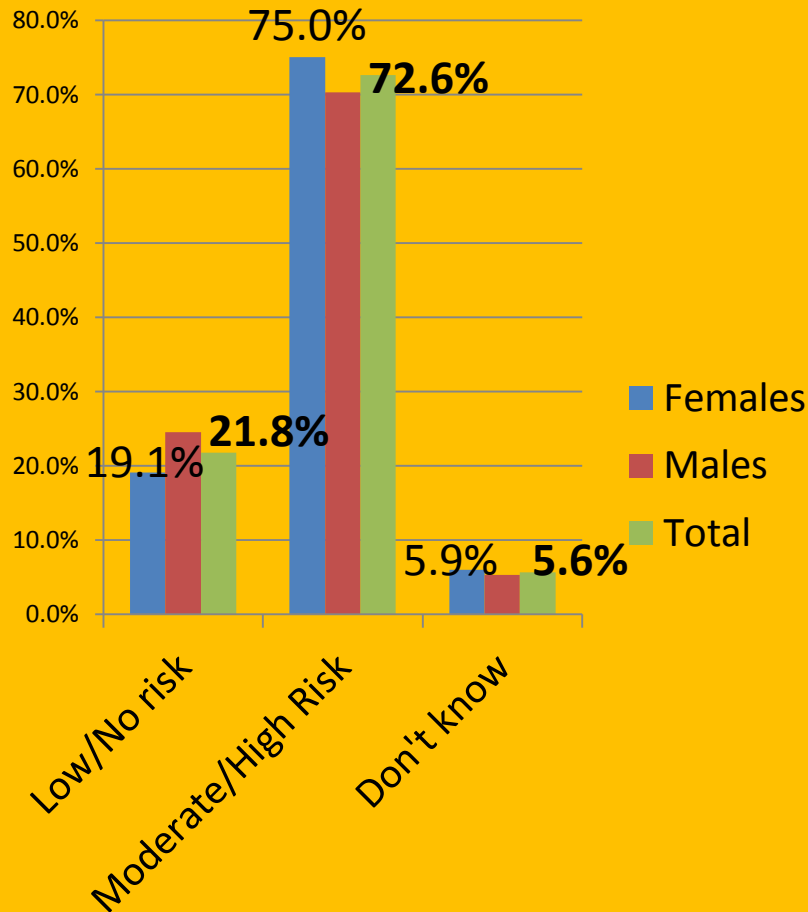


Smoking Cannabis often

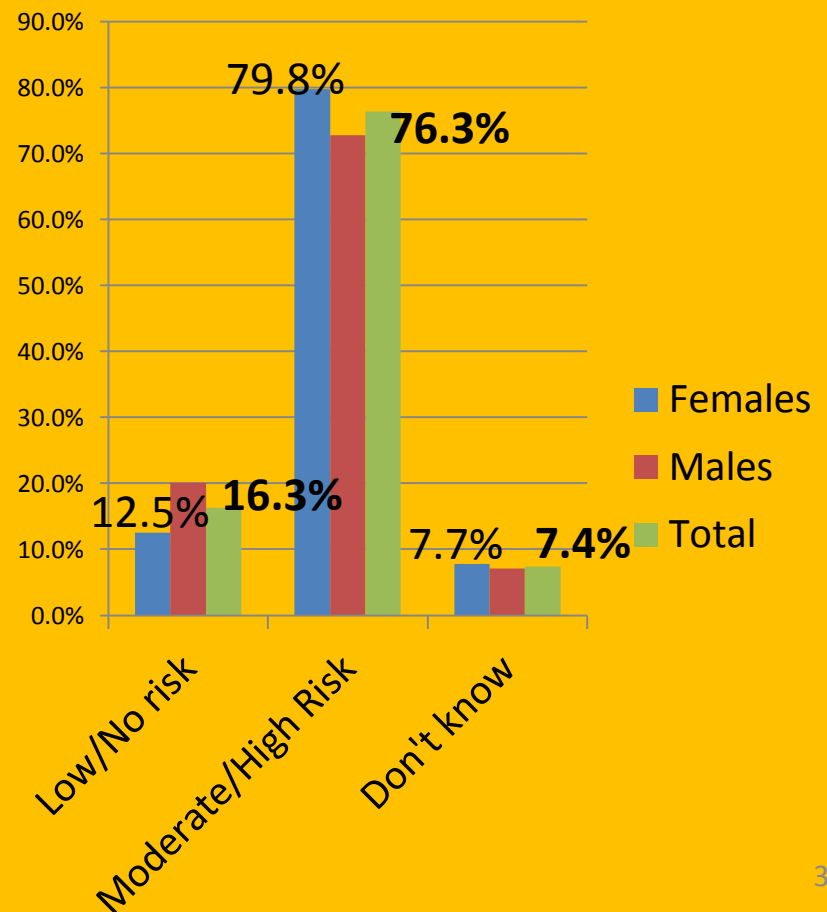


Perception of Risk Associated with Cannabis Use

Using Cannabis in Drinks Often

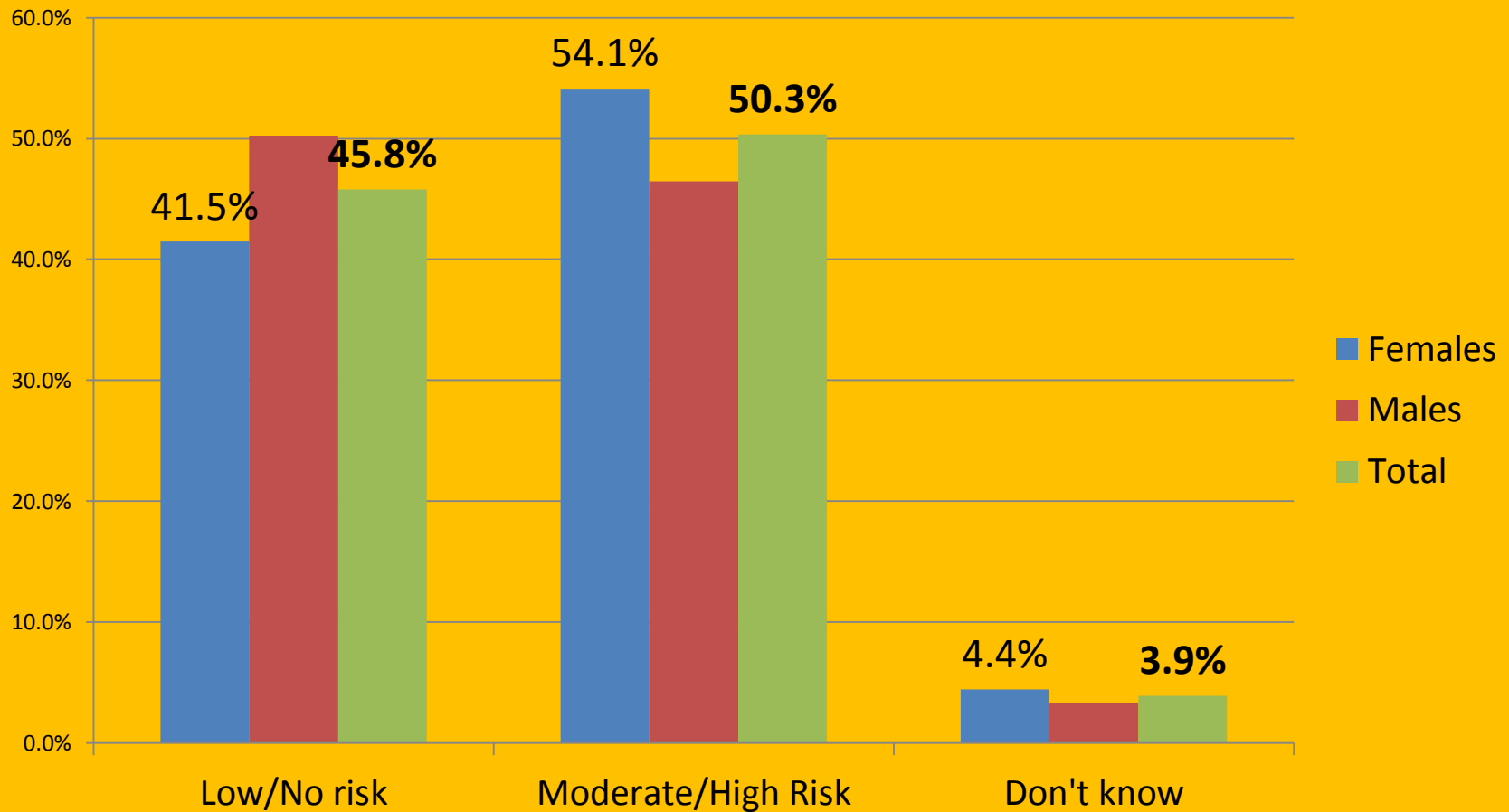


Using Cannabis in Food Often

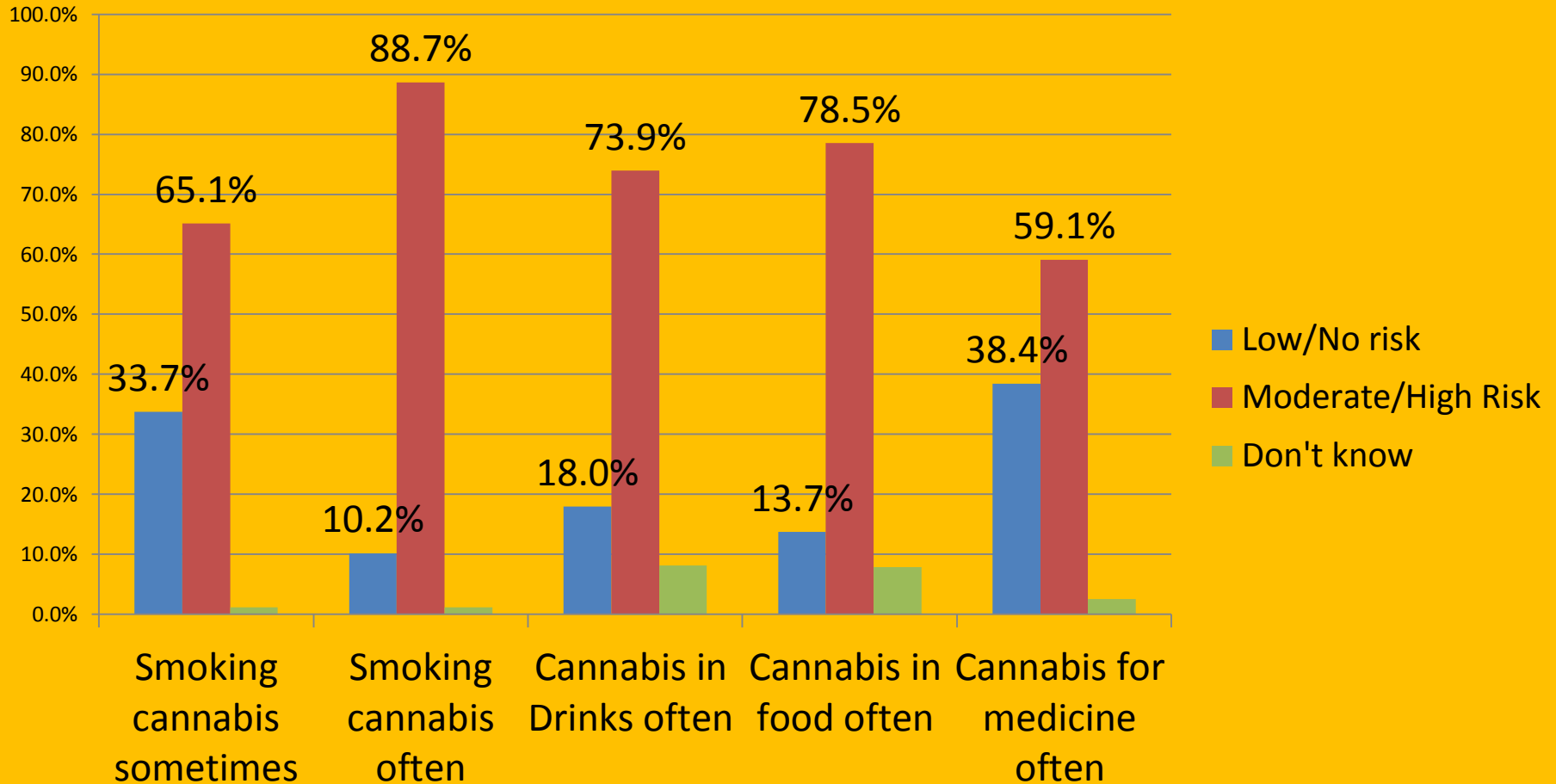


Perception of Risk Associated with Cannabis Use

Using Cannabis for Medicine Often



Perception of Risk Associated with Cannabis Use in 12-17 year-olds

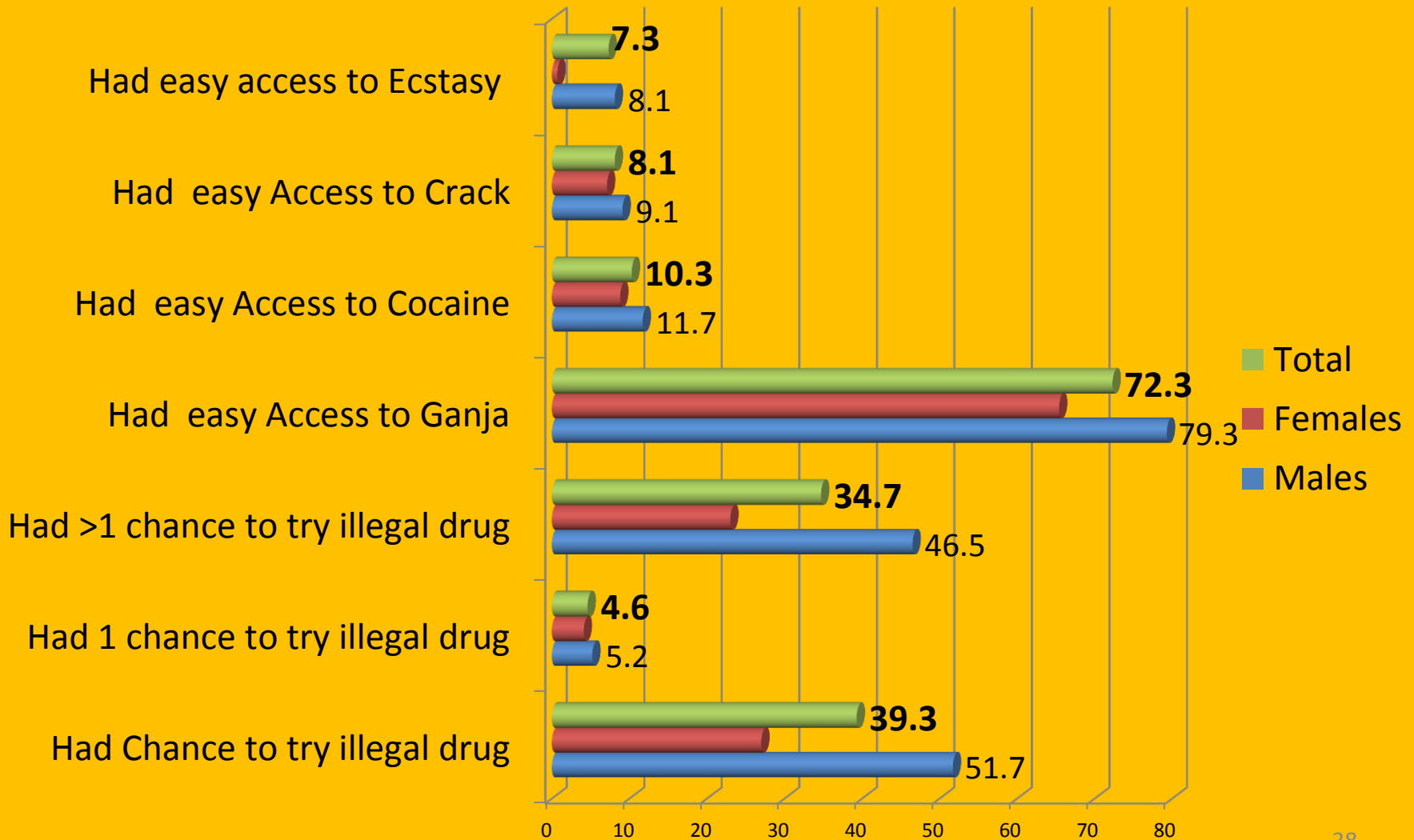


Perception of Risk Associated with Cannabis Use

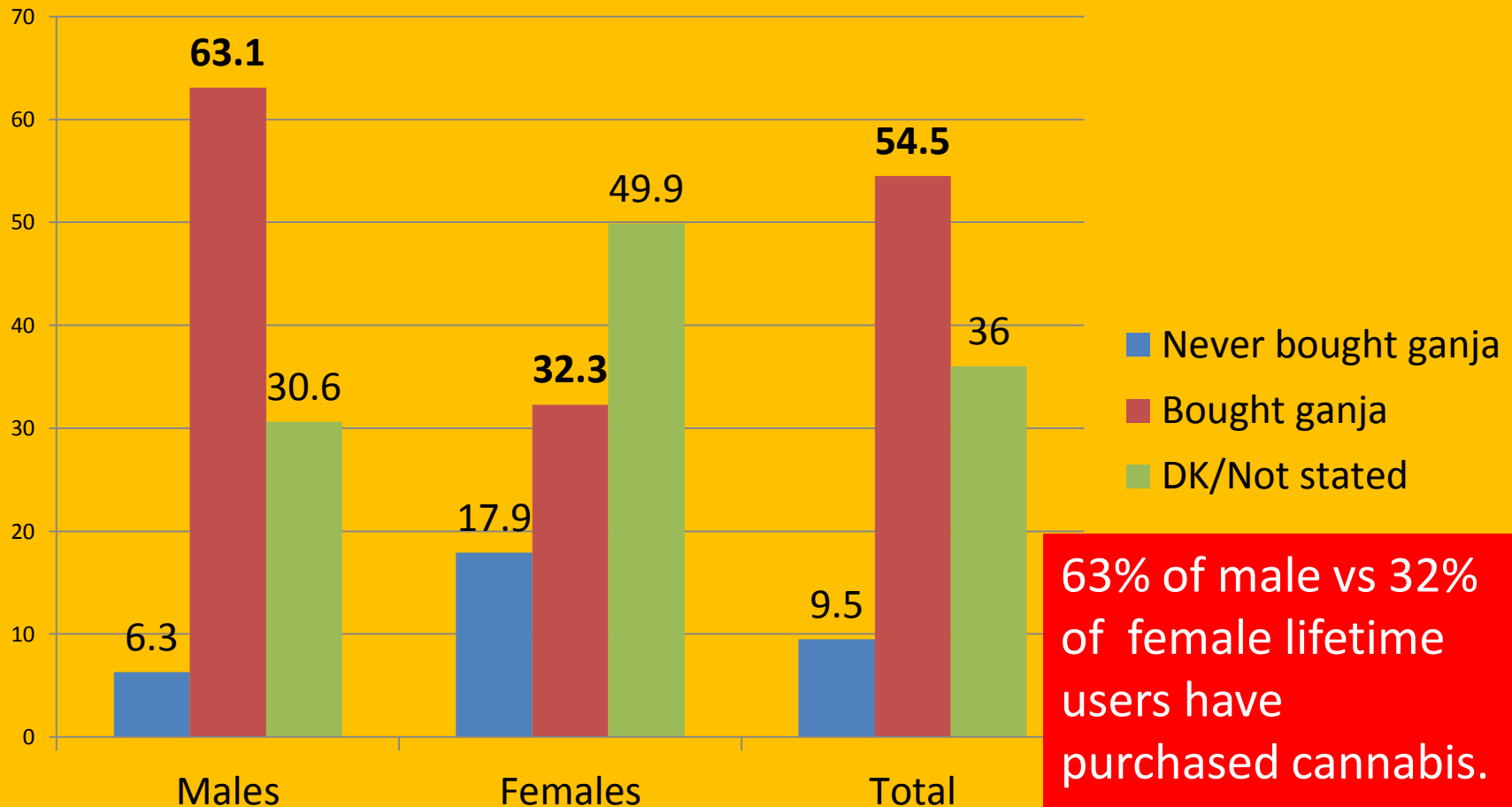
Compared with 12-17 year-olds

- Percentages for low/no risk higher
 - Smoking sometimes in 18-44 yos (35.4 - 41.5%)
 - Use in Drinks often in 18-54 yos (19.3 - 27.0%)
 - Use for medicine often in all age groups (41.2 - 53.4%)

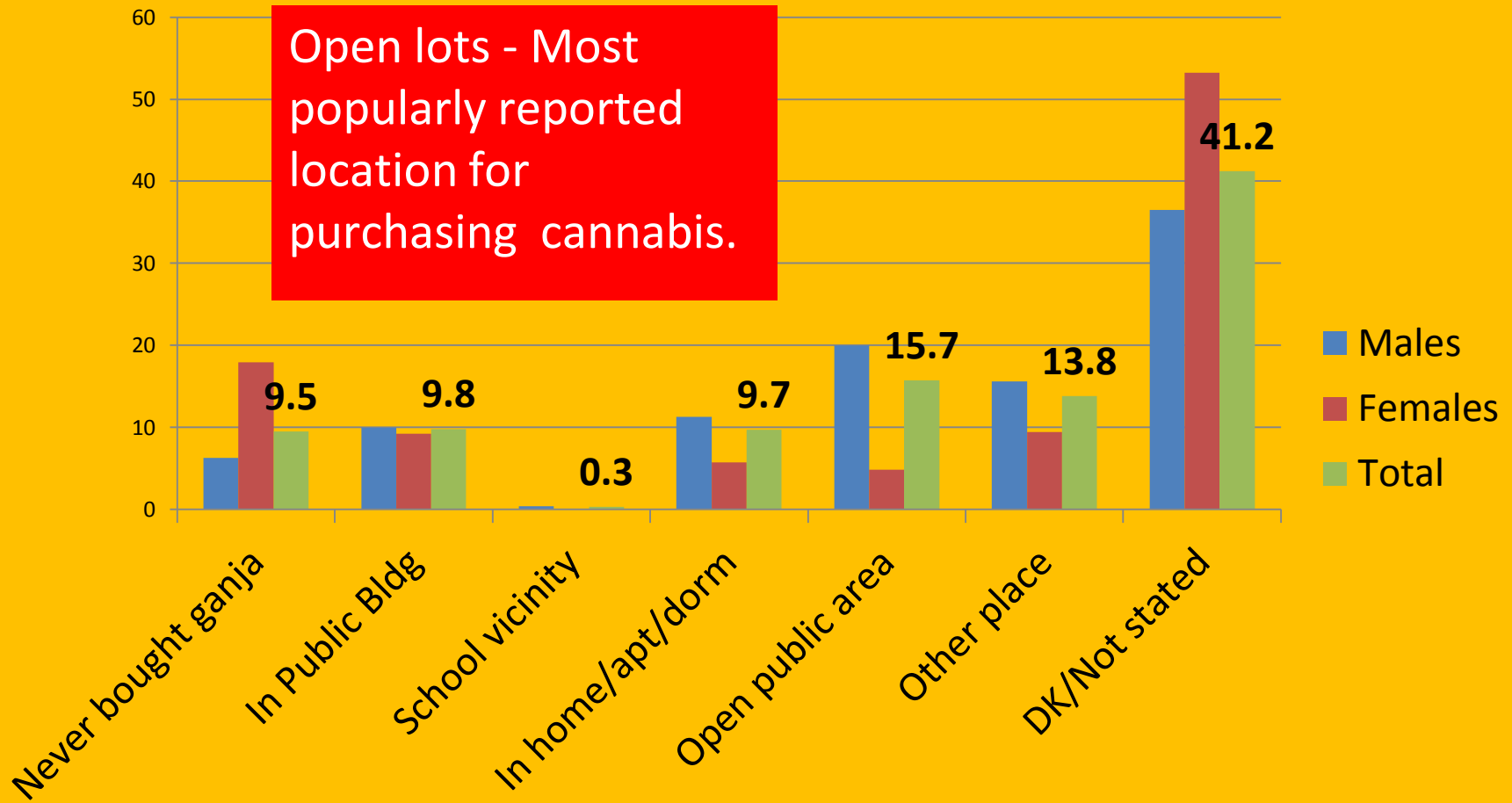
Access (%) to Illegal Drugs



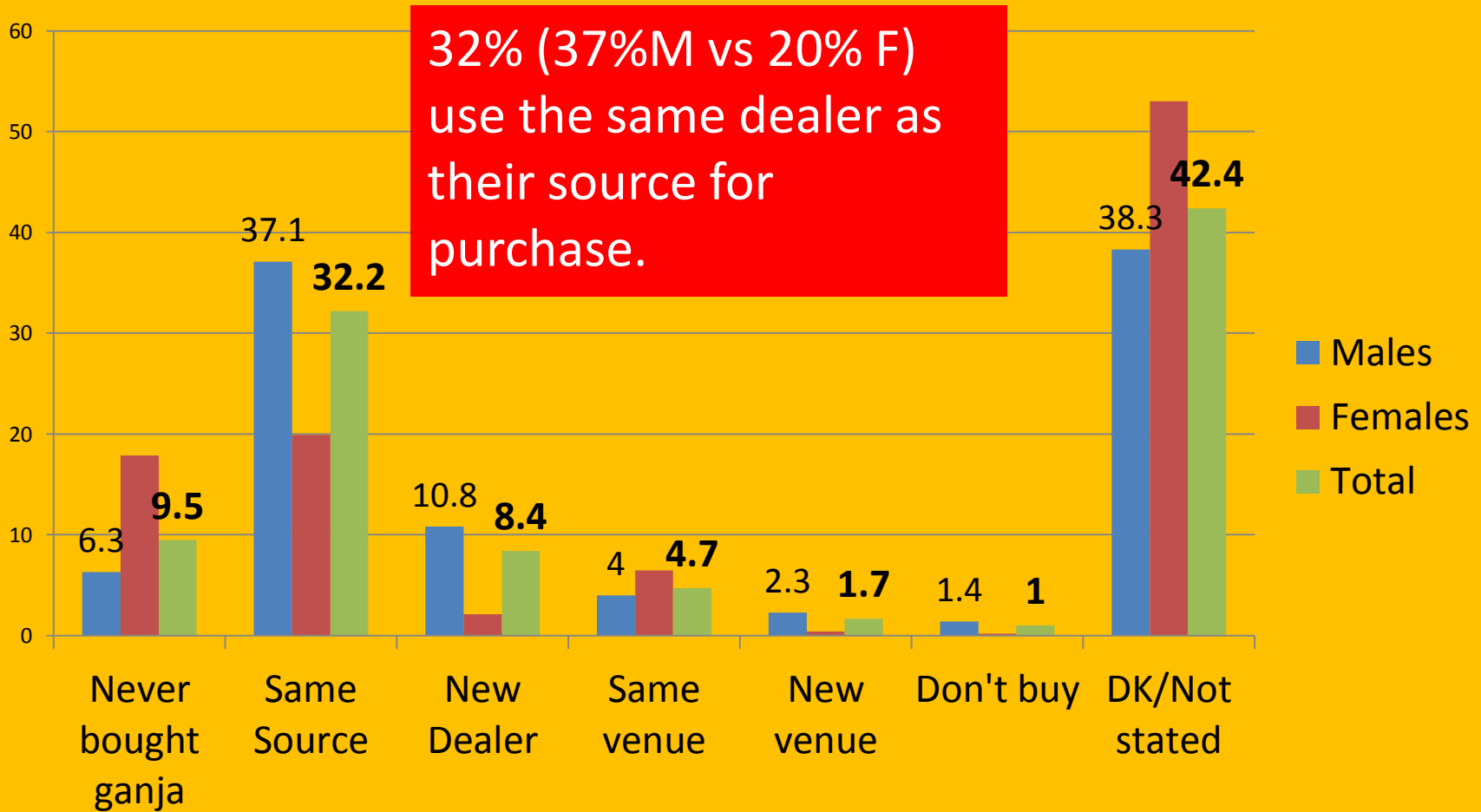
History of Purchasing Ganja (Percentage Distribution)



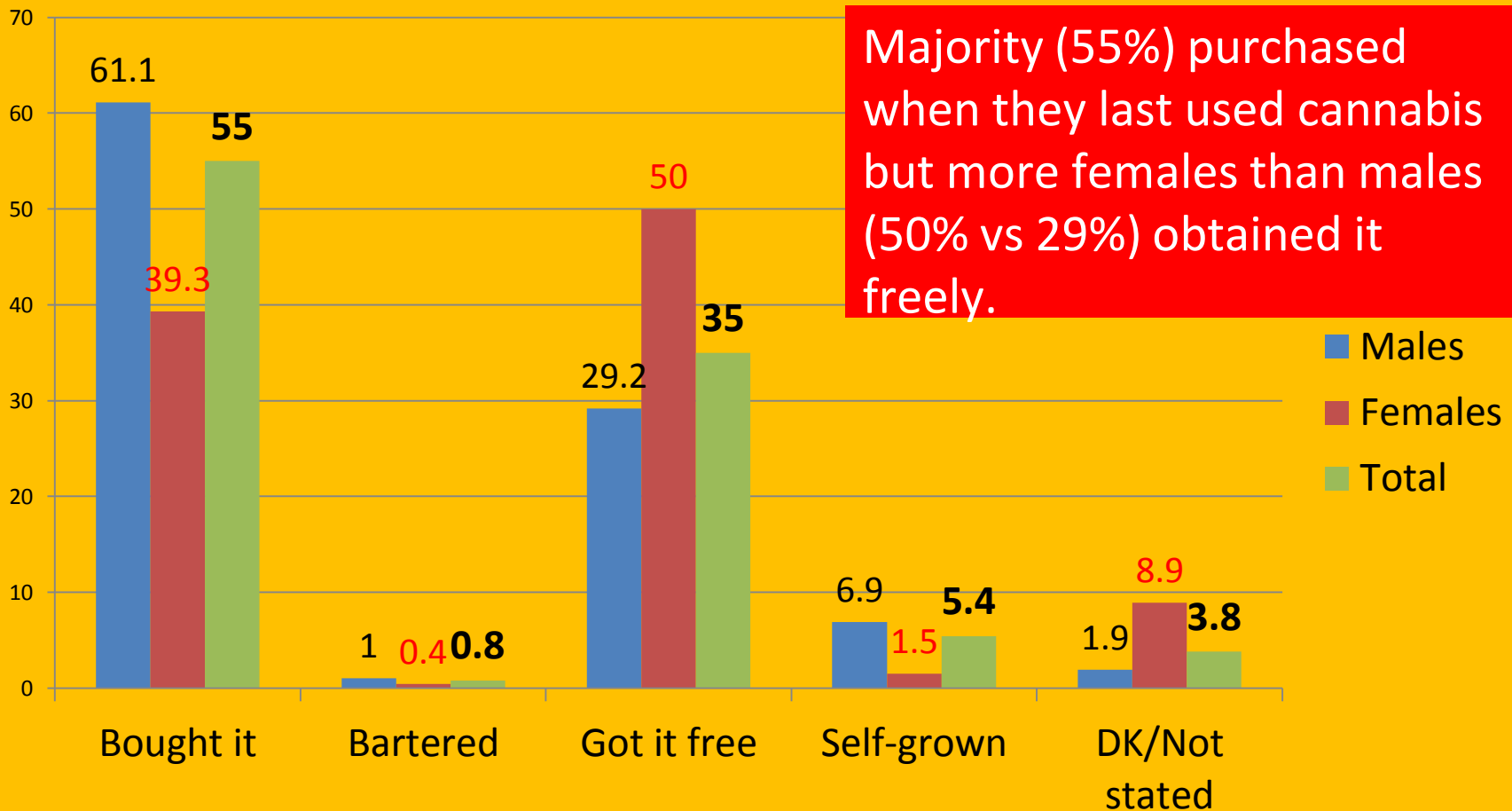
Location of Purchase (Percentage Distribution)



Source for Purchasing (Percentage Distribution)



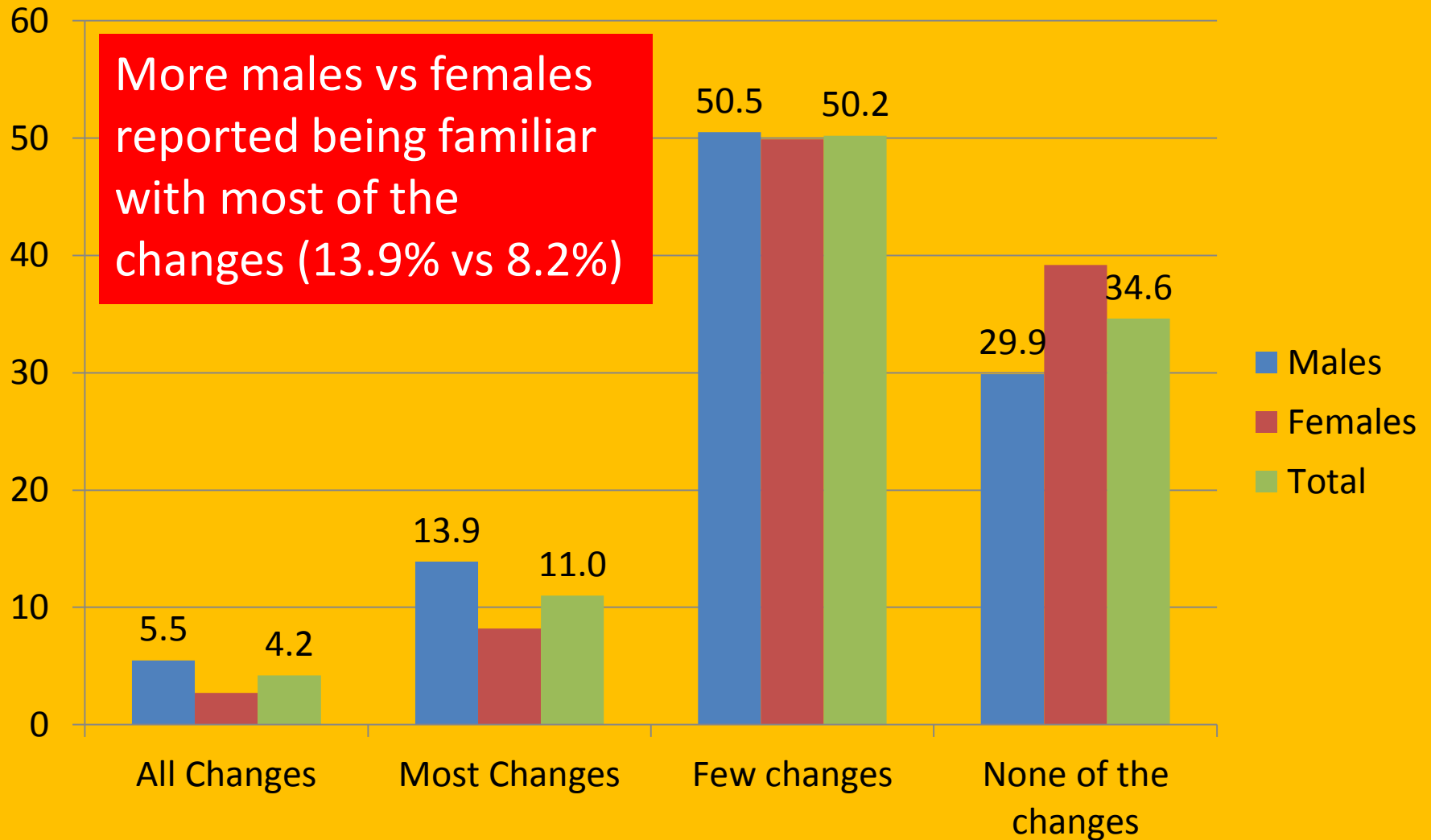
How obtained when last used (Percentage Distribution)



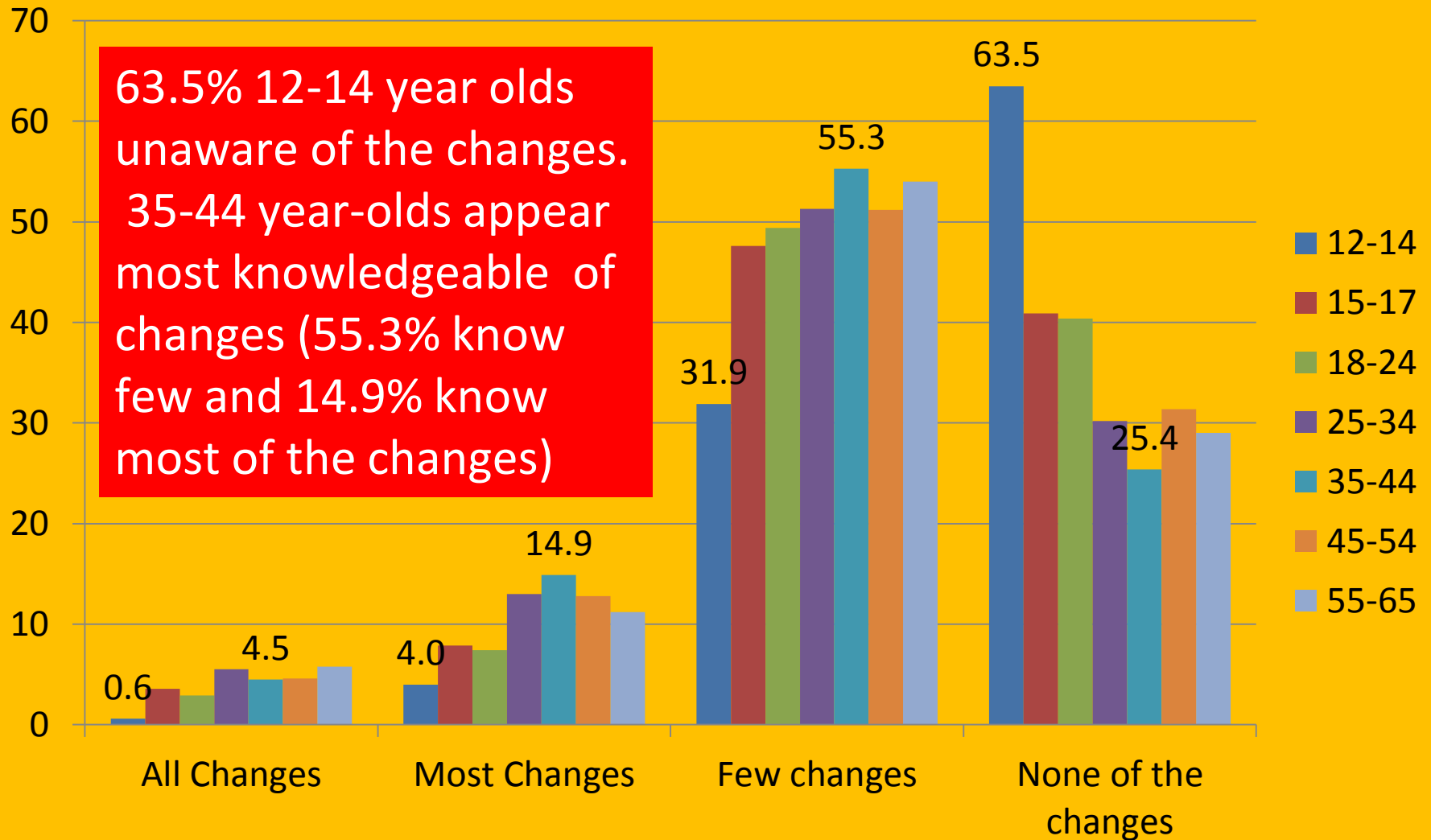
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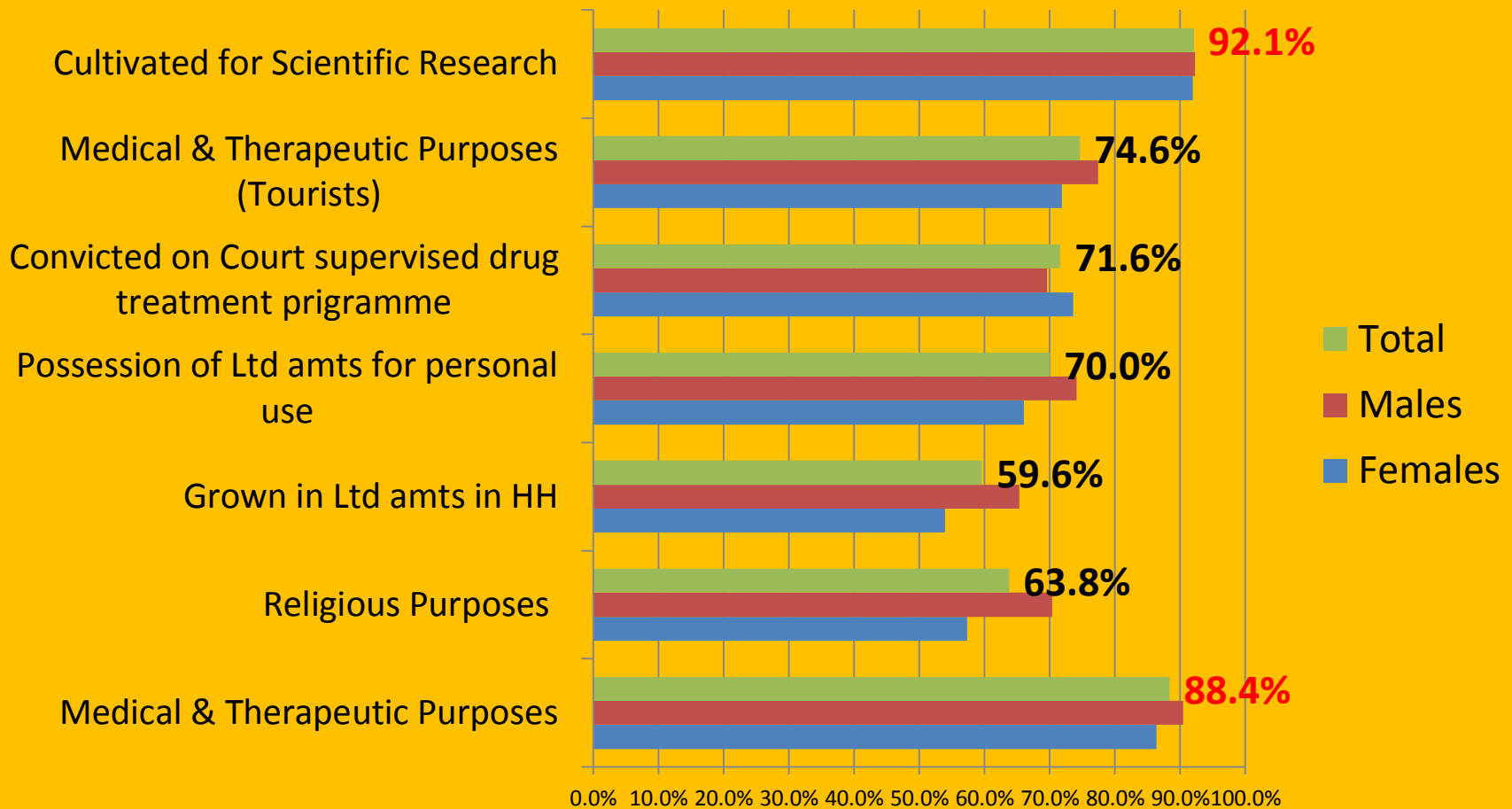
Awareness of Changes to the Dangerous Drugs Act – Sex-specific percentages



Awareness of Changes to the Dangerous Drugs Act – Age-specific percentages



Aspects of Dangerous Drugs Act (Percentage in agreement)



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Summary of Findings

- More than 50% of lifetime users of cannabis or alcohol are current users
- Current alcohol use(42%) most prevalent followed by cannabis (16%) and tobacco (11%)
- There is under-age current use of all three substances – 15%, 3.3% and 2.0% for alcohol, cannabis and tobacco, respectively.
- Average age of first use of alcohol, tobacco or cannabis – 15-16 years in males, later in females

Summary of Findings

- More than 70% of population believe there is moderate to high risk associated with smoking cannabis or its frequent use in food and drinks
- Over 70% of population have easy access to cannabis
- Less than 15% of population aware of most of change in Dangerous Drugs Act
- Nearly 90% of 12-65 year-old Jamaicans believe use of cannabis should be allowed for scientific research or for medical and therapeutic purposes