

**CARICOM/CICAD Demand Reduction Training Workshop &
Meeting of Caribbean National Observatories on Drugs**

St. George's, Grenada, September 10 – 14, 2007

Comparative Study of Drug Use among Secondary School Students in the Caribbean

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CICAD

Summary

- n Introduction
 - How this all started
 - Current Status
 - General and Specific objectives
- n Methodology
- n Results
- n Conclusions
- n Implications of Results
- n Discussion

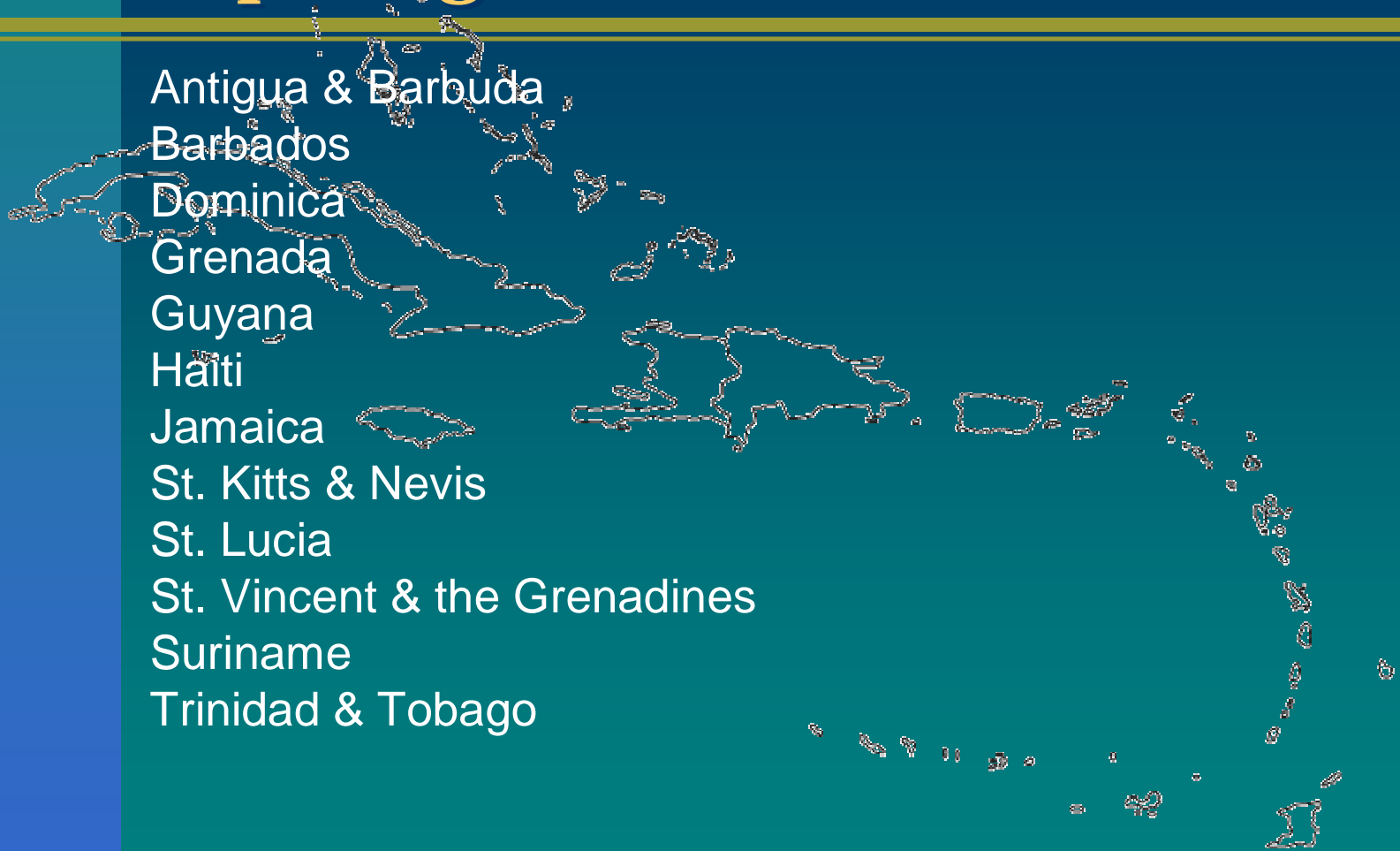
Introduction

- n Around March 2006, we (the OID) were in the process of reviewing the school surveys being implemented in the Caribbean.
- n It was soon realised that we had a rare opportunity
- n A decision was made to implement secondary school surveys in ALL Caribbean member states of the OAS
- n The results of this research were to be published in a comparative report on drug use in the Caribbean.
- n Eighteen months later.....

Introduction Cont'd

- n We have been able to implement surveys in 12 of the 14 member states in 2005 and 2006 (Guyana in early 2007).
- n All 12 have so far produced a working database
- n We have begun the preliminary analysis of the data
- n The comparative report is currently in preparation and will be ready by the next CICAD Meeting later this year

Participating Countries



Objectives

n General Objectives

- To estimate the magnitude of illicit and licit drug use among secondary school students in the Caribbean and its distribution according to select demographic variables
- To determine the perceived risk of drug use, access to drugs, availability of drugs, and frequency of use
- To examine risk and protective factors for drug use by school students.

Methodology

- n Sample Frame
- n Sampling method
- n Data Collection
- n Entry
- n Analysis

SAMPLE

COUNTRY	Census or Sample
1. Antigua	Census
2. Barbados	Sample
3. Dominica	Census
4. Grenada	Census
5. Guyana	Sample
6. Haiti	Census
7. Jamaica	Sample
8. St Kitts	Census
9. St Lucia	Sample
10. St Vincent	Sample
11. Suriname	Sample
12. Trinidad	Sample

The Questionnaire

- n Demographics
- n Performance in school
- n Beliefs about future education
- n Delinquency
- n Perception of risk
- n Prevalence, Incidence, Frequency of Use
- n Availability of drugs
- n Other (depending on requirements of country)
- n See example

Data Entry

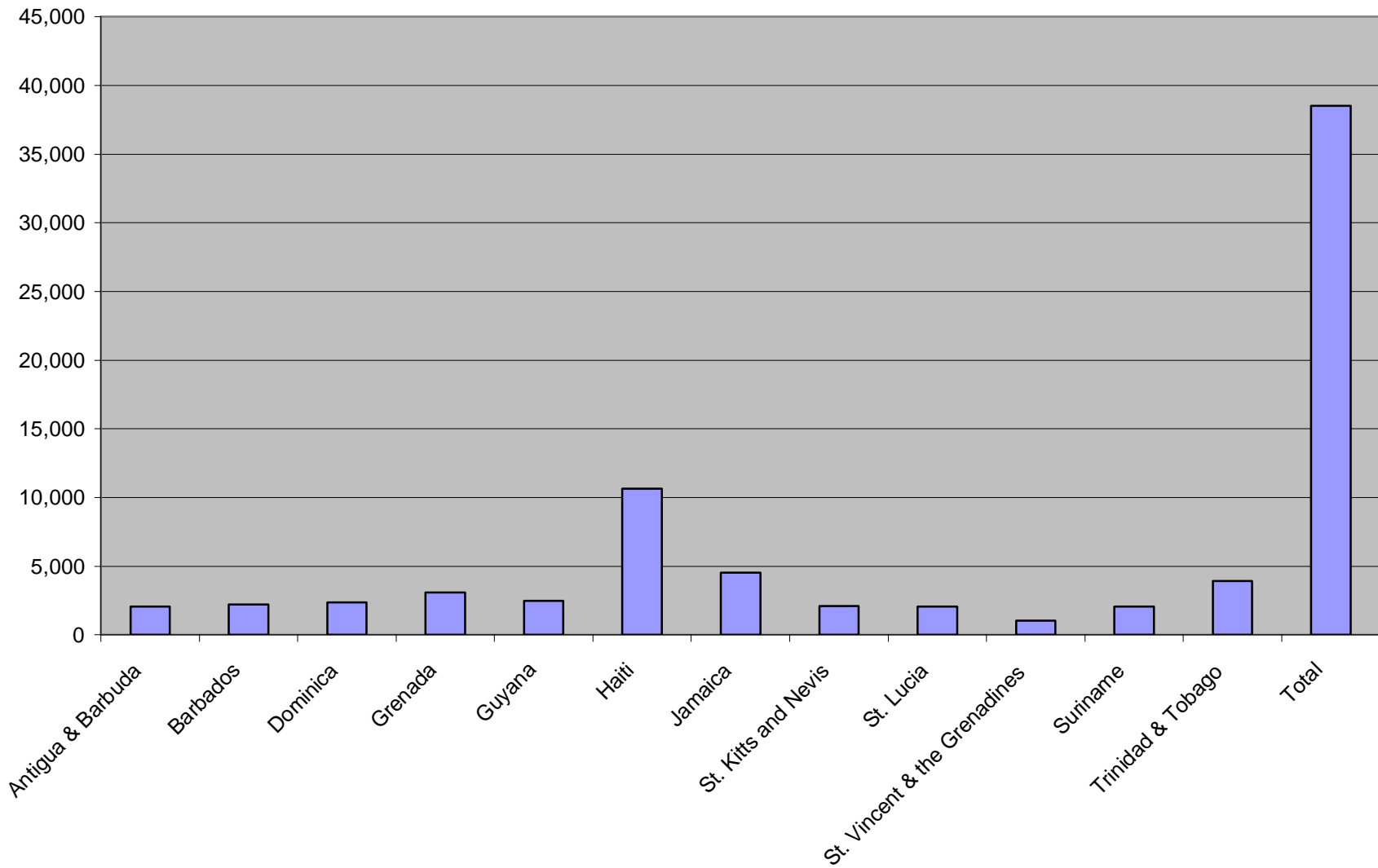
- n Standard Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet
 - Adjusted to match questionnaire
 - Double data entry for verification
 - Pop up windows with data codes
 - Range of values entry restrictions
 - [See example](#)

Processing and Analysis

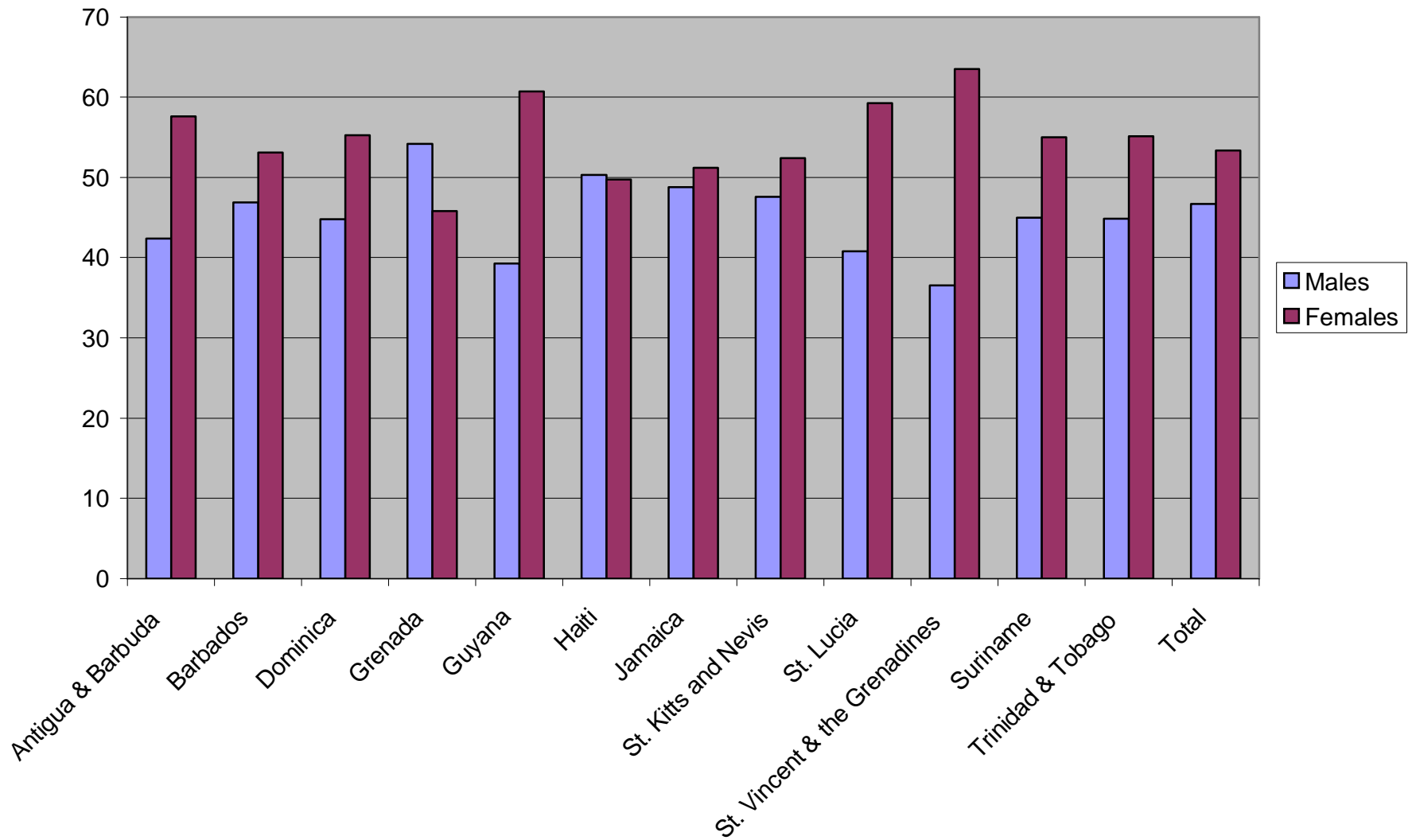
- n SPSS - Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
- n SAS – Statistical Analysis Software

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

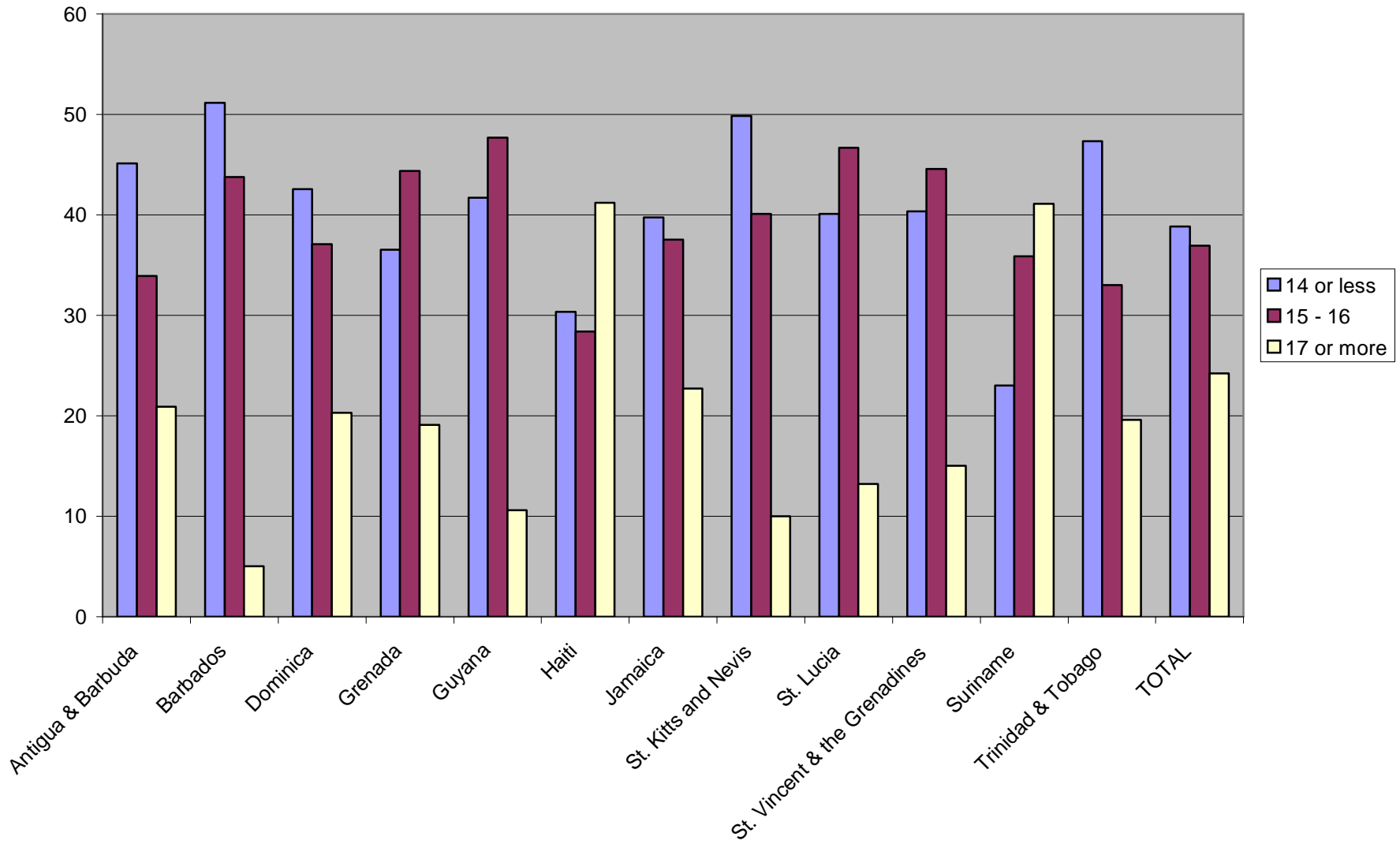
Sample Sizes



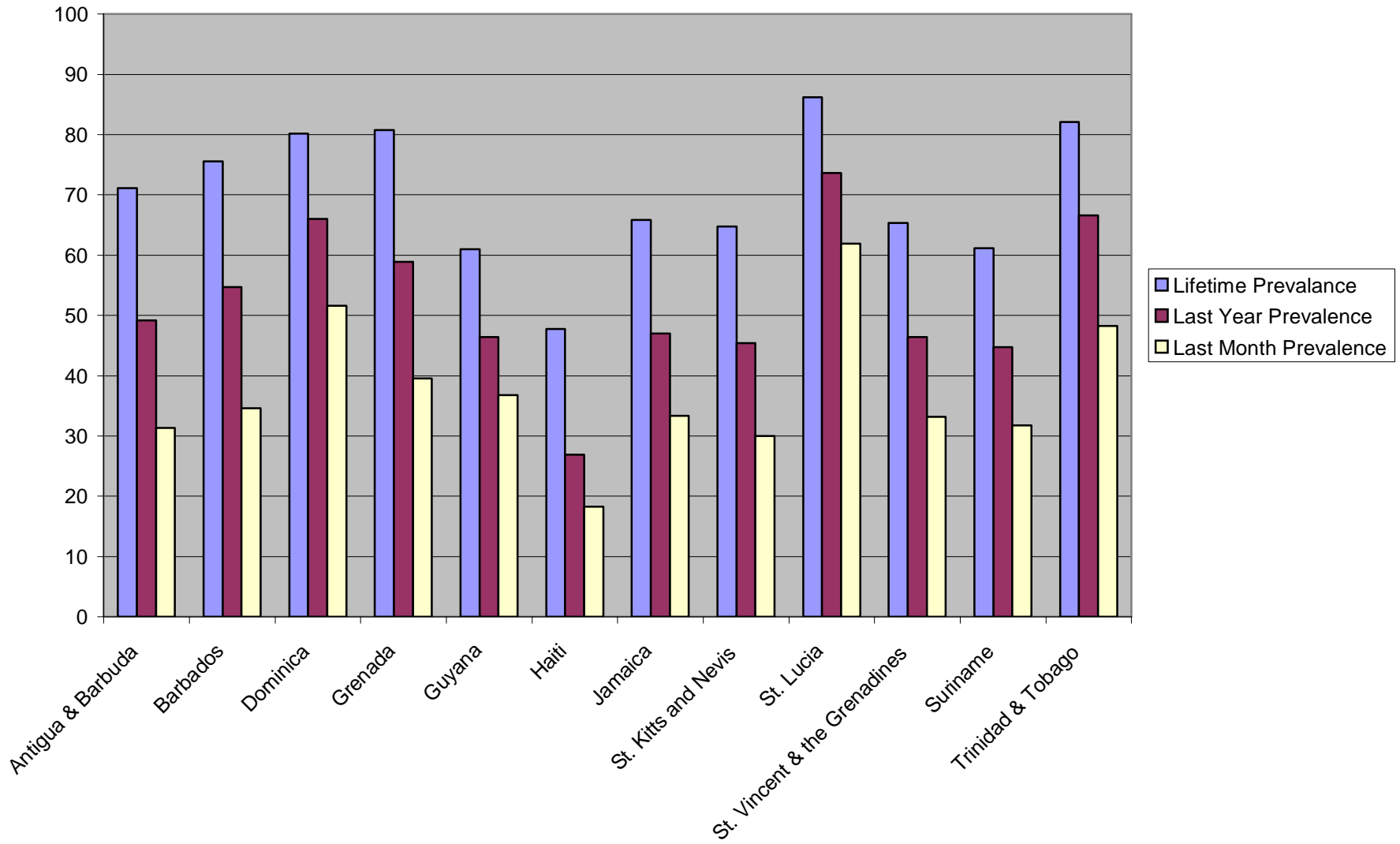
Distribution of Sample by Gender



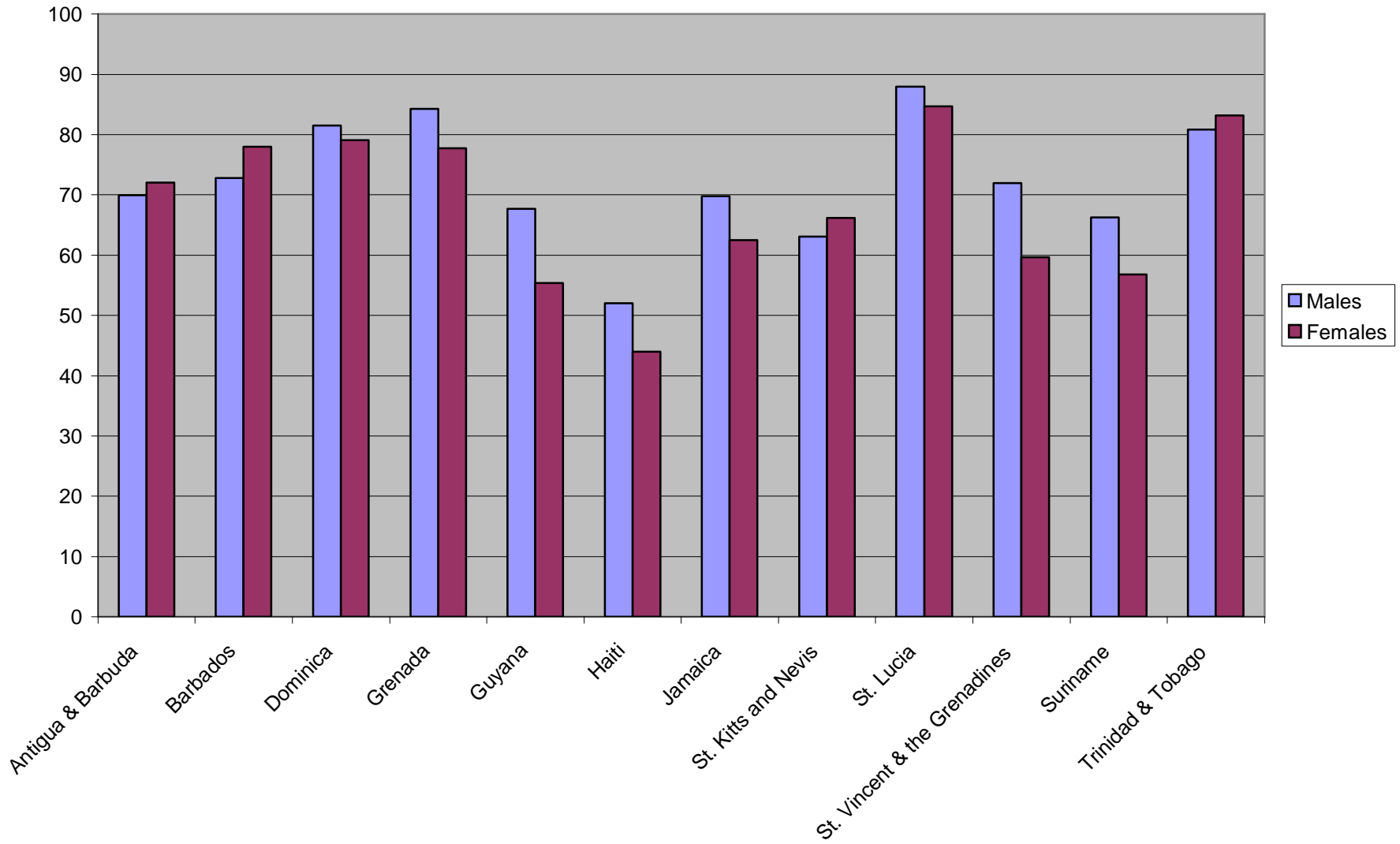
Distribution of Sample by Age Group



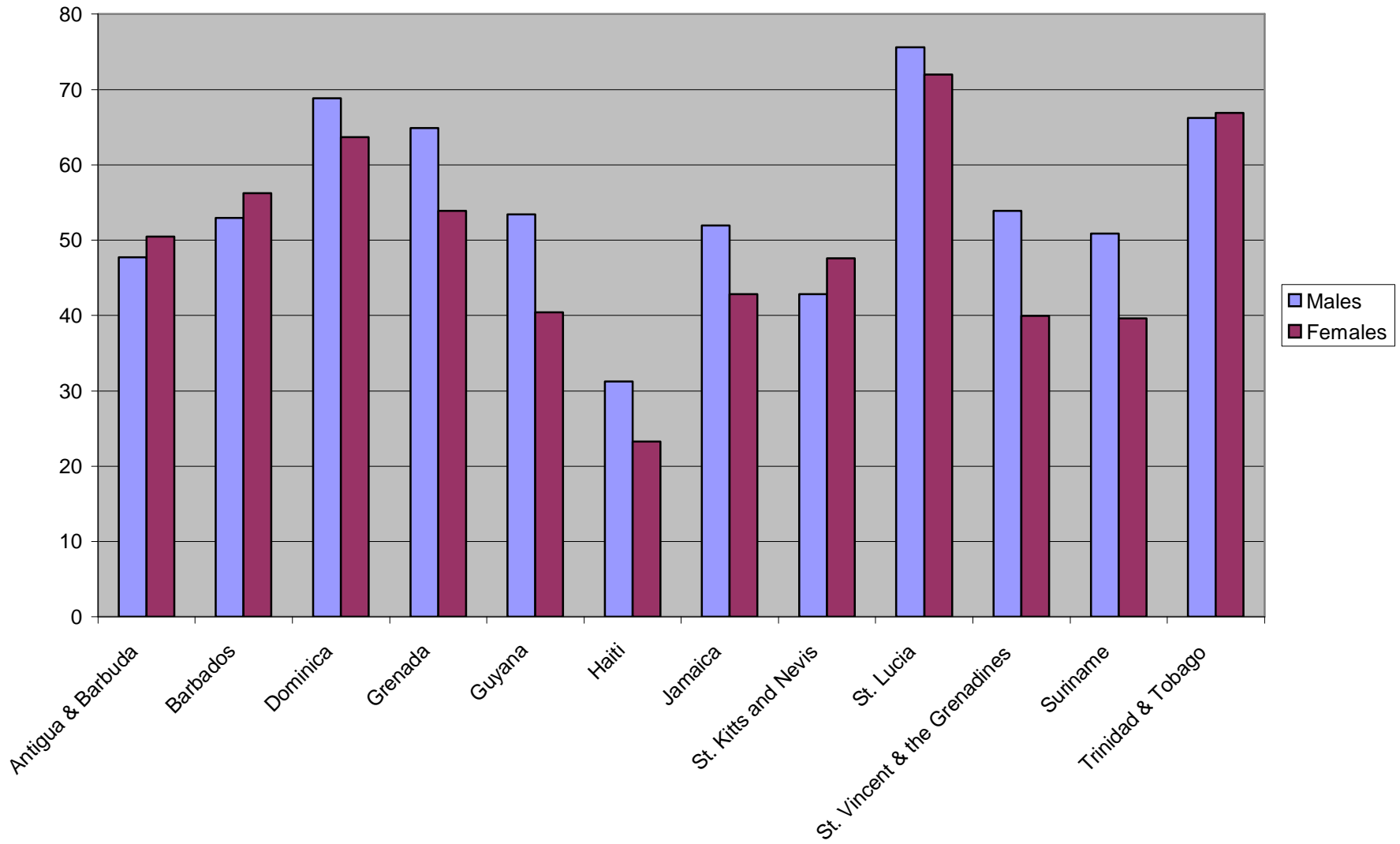
Lifetime Last year, and last month prevalence of alcohol



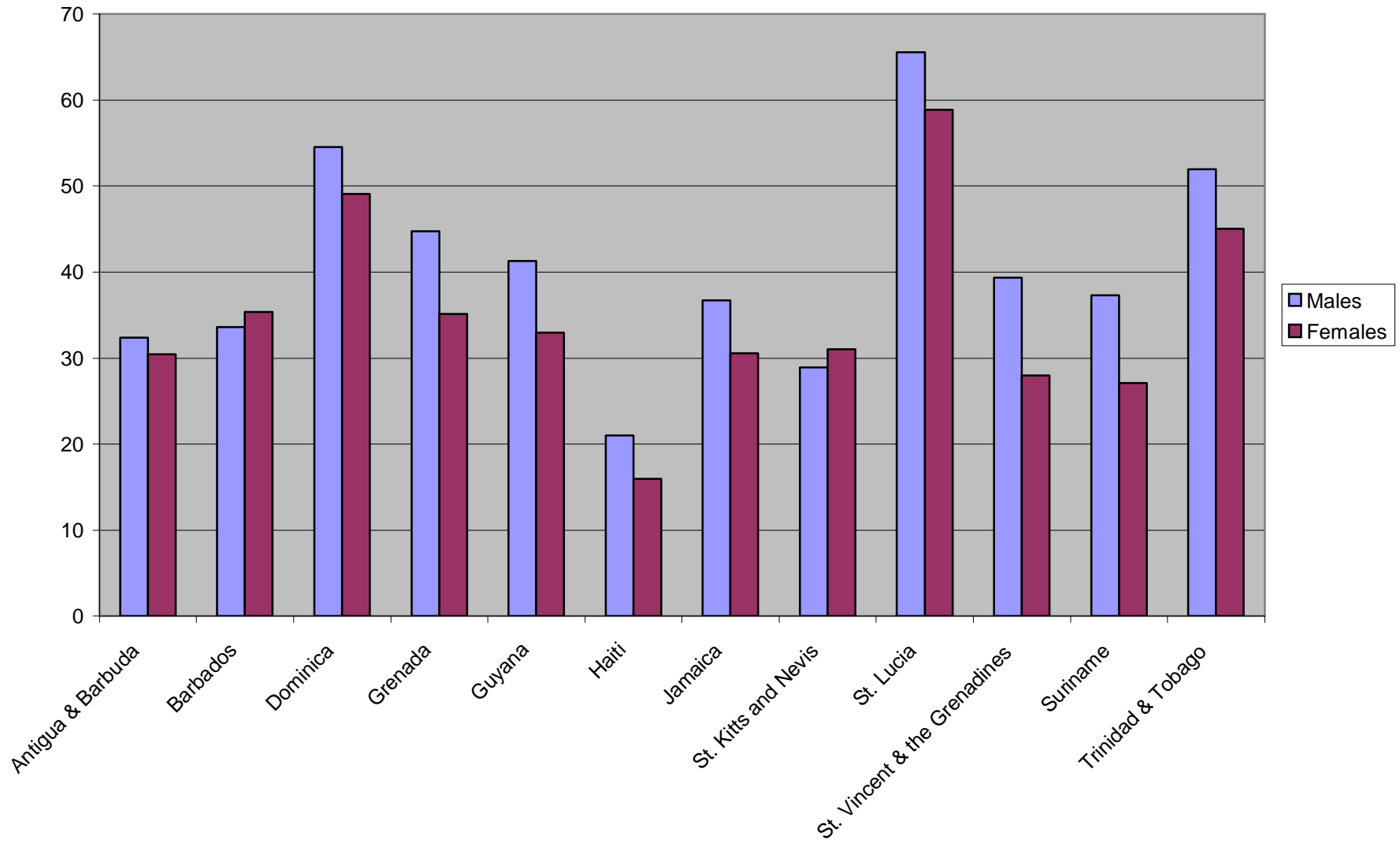
Lifetime Prevalence of Alcohol by Gender



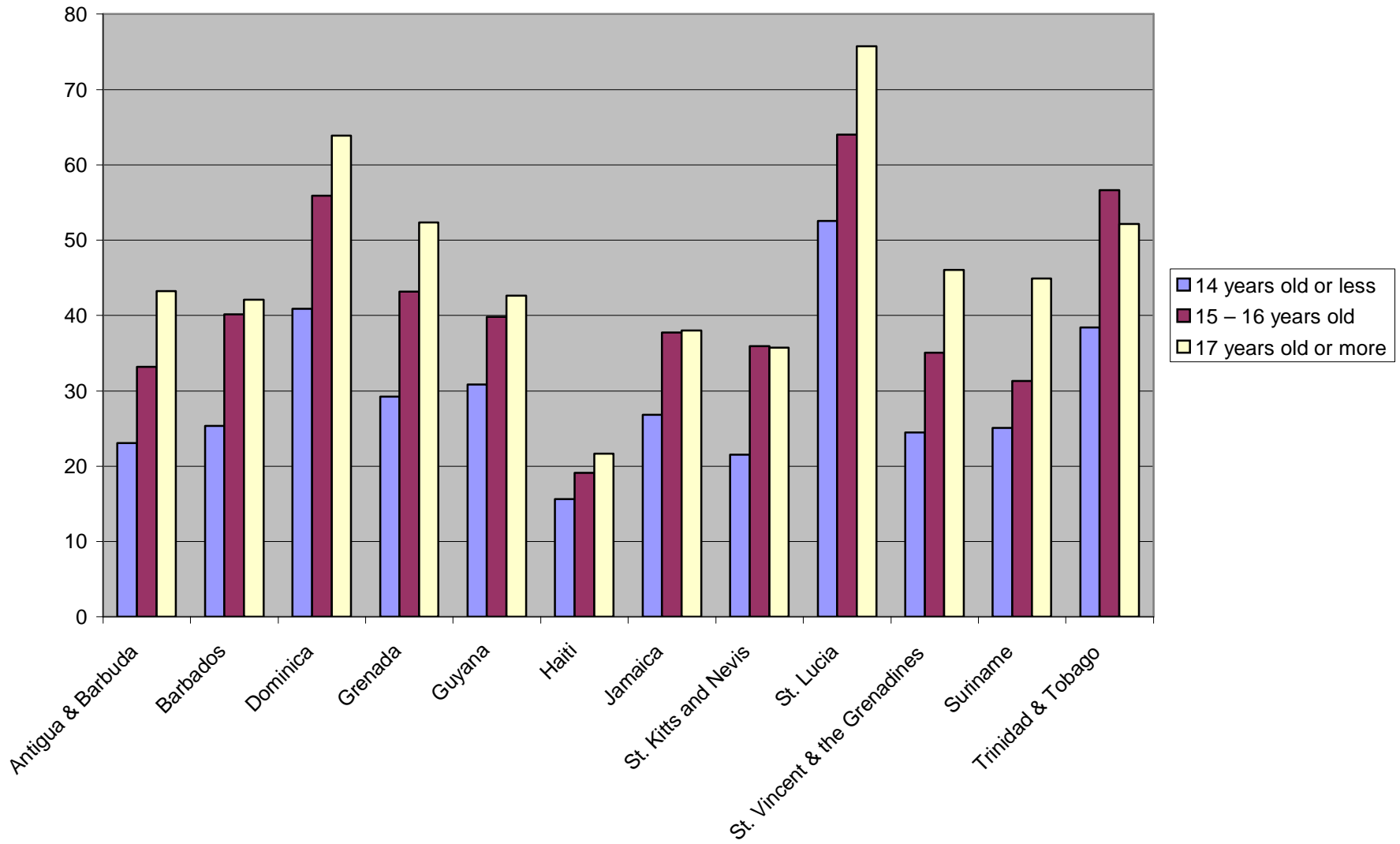
Last Year Prevalence of alcohol by Gender



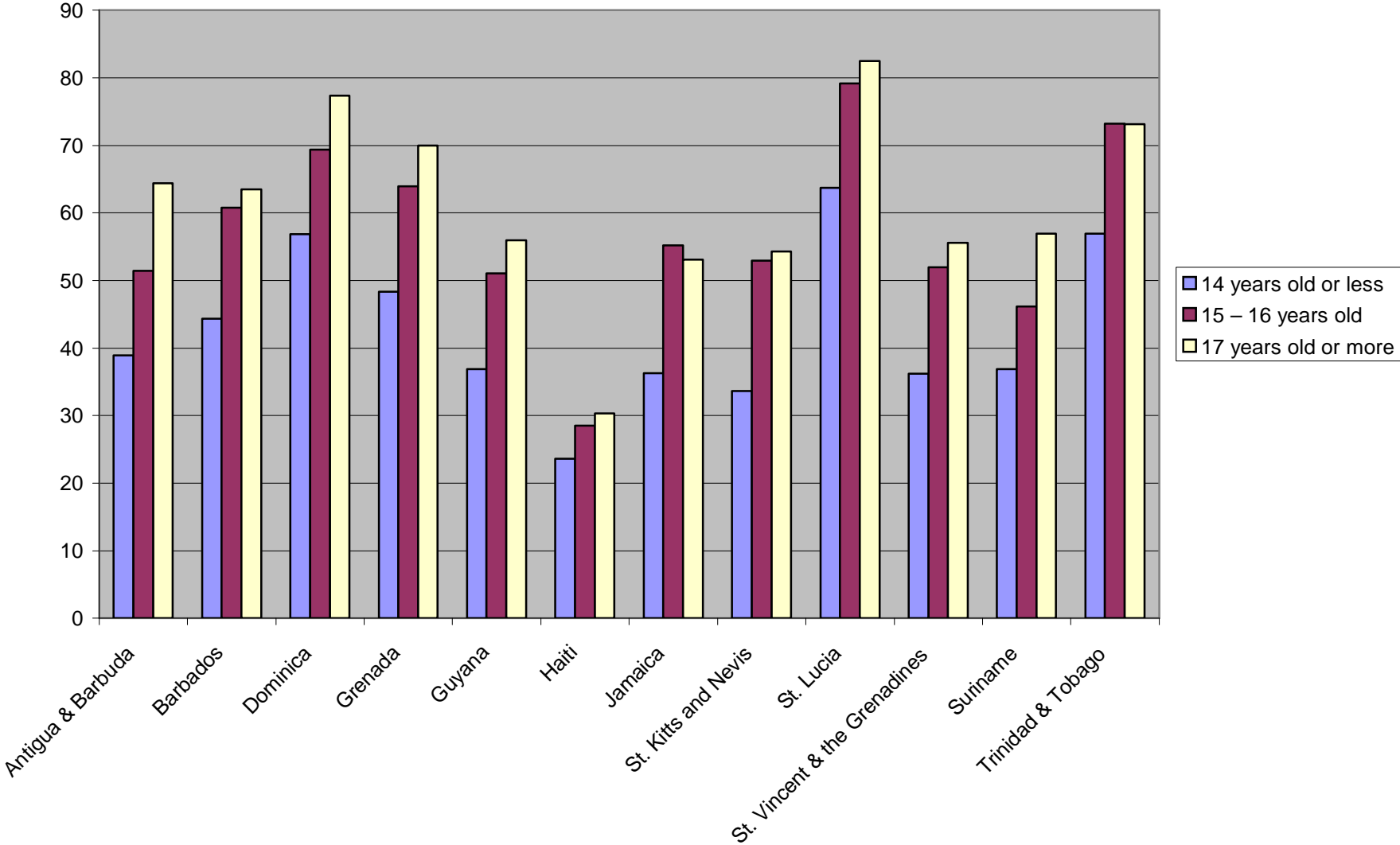
Last Month Prevalence of Alcohol Use by Gender



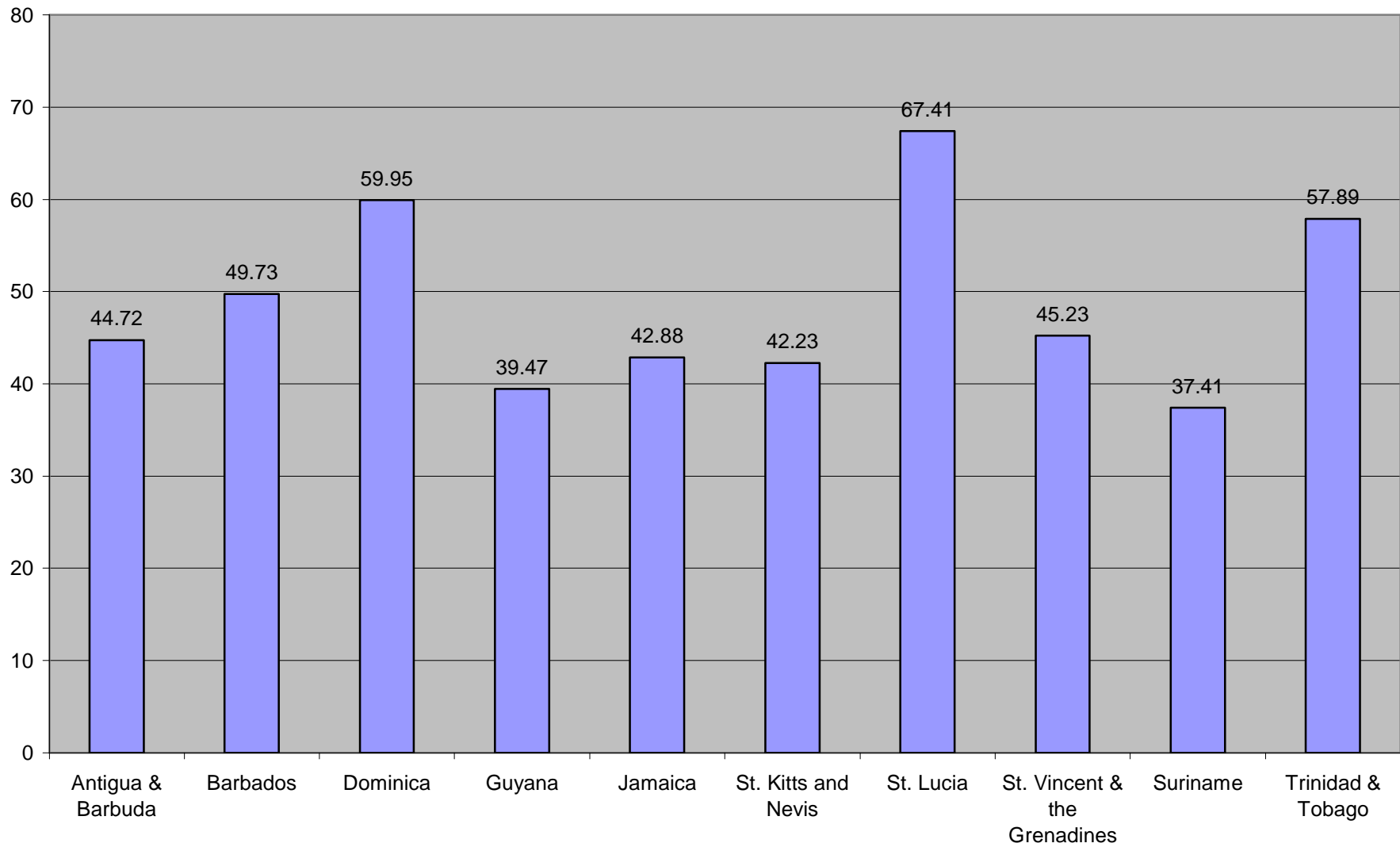
Last Month Prevalence of Alcohol Use by Age Group



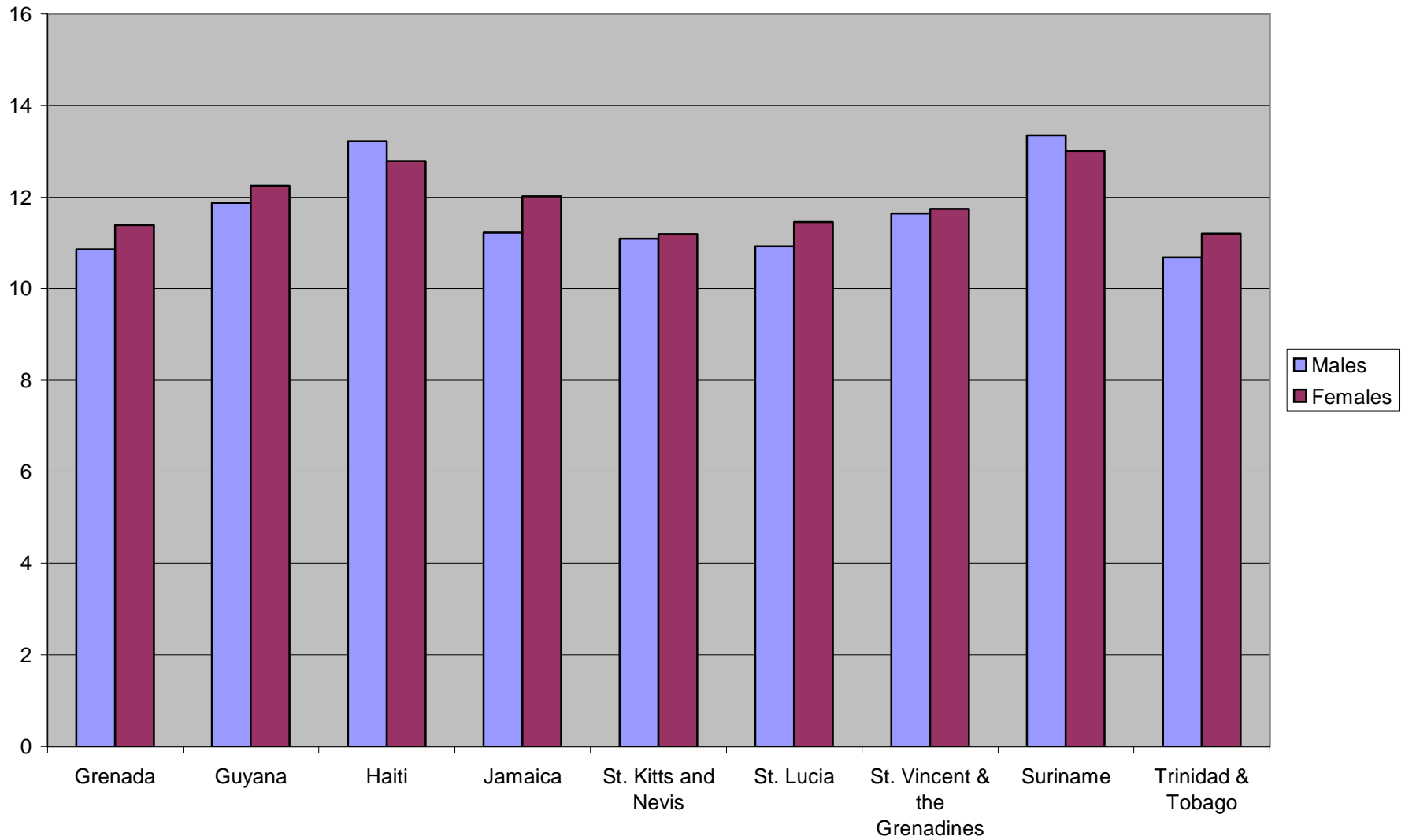
Last Year Prevalence on Alcohol Use by Age Group



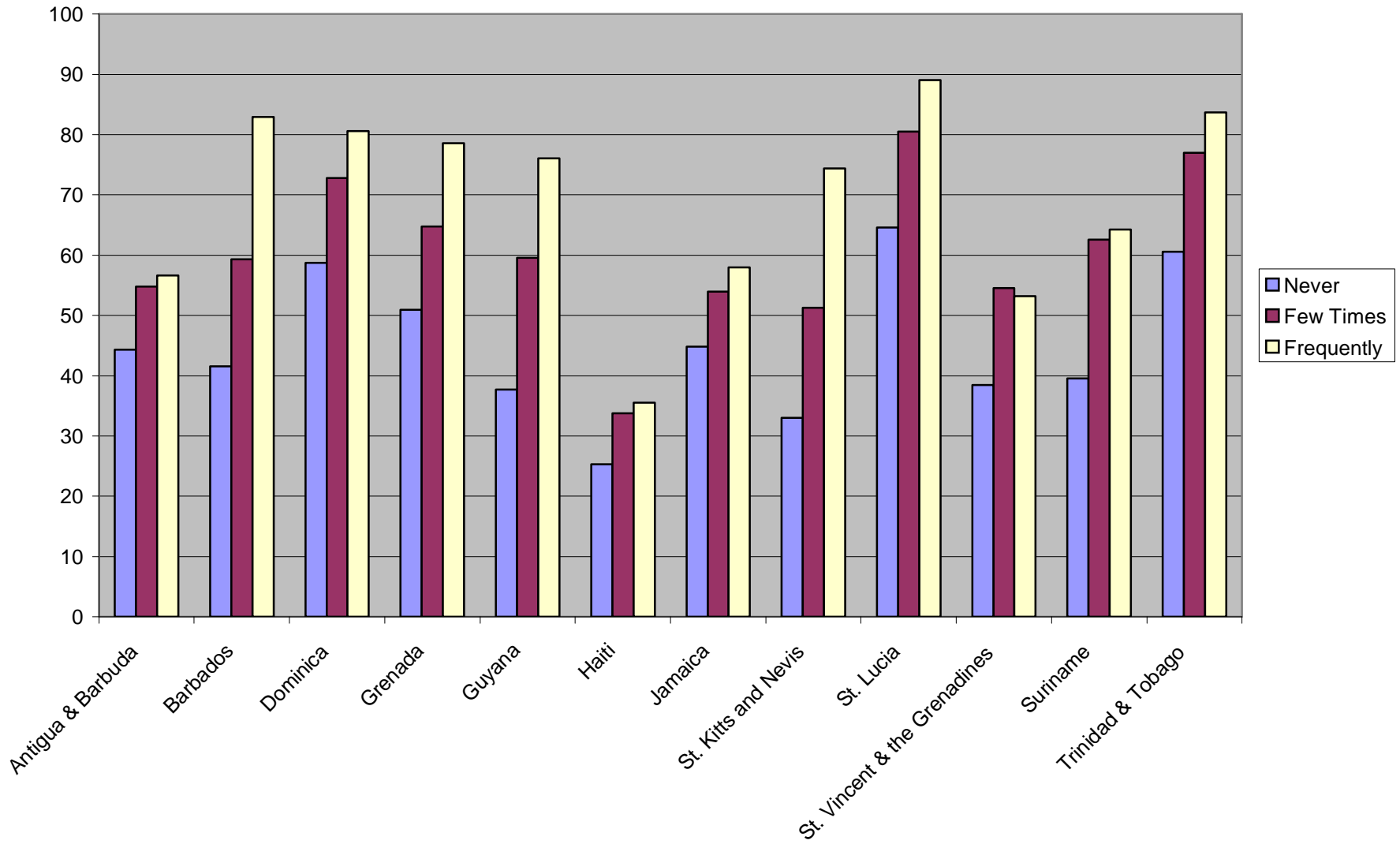
Last Year Incidence of Alcohol Use



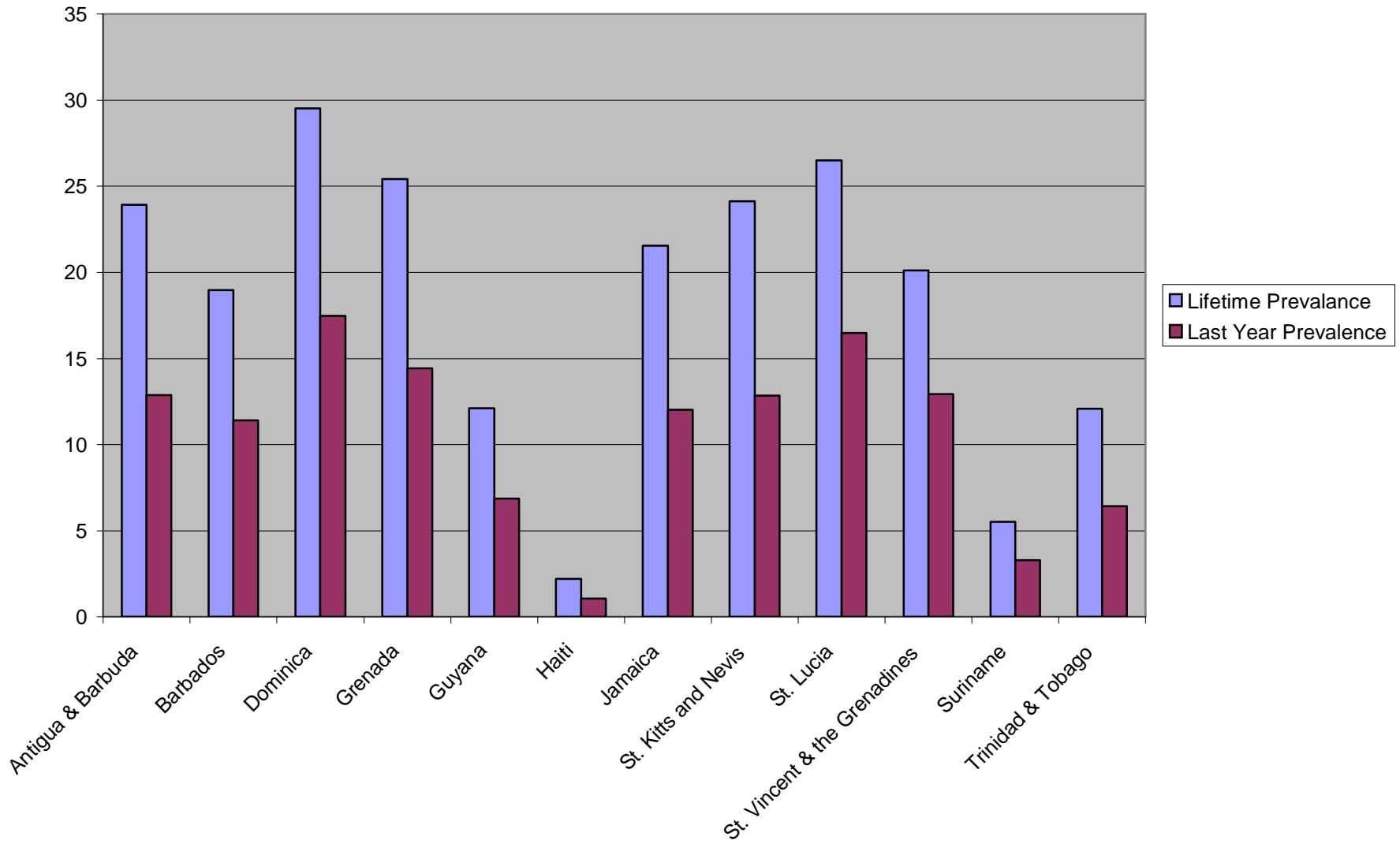
Average Age of First Use of Alcohol by Gender



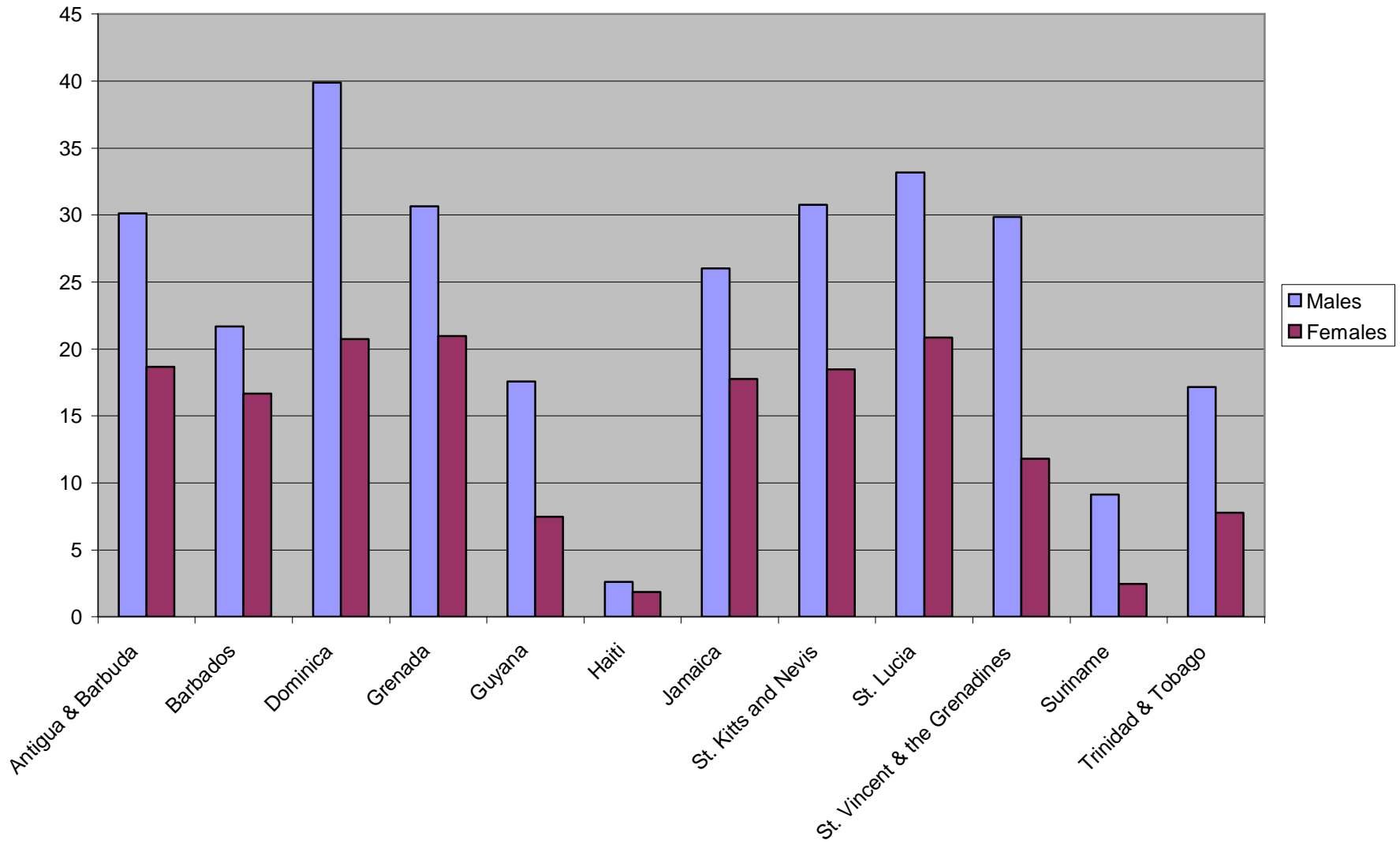
Lats year Prevalence of Alcohol Use by Behavioural Problems



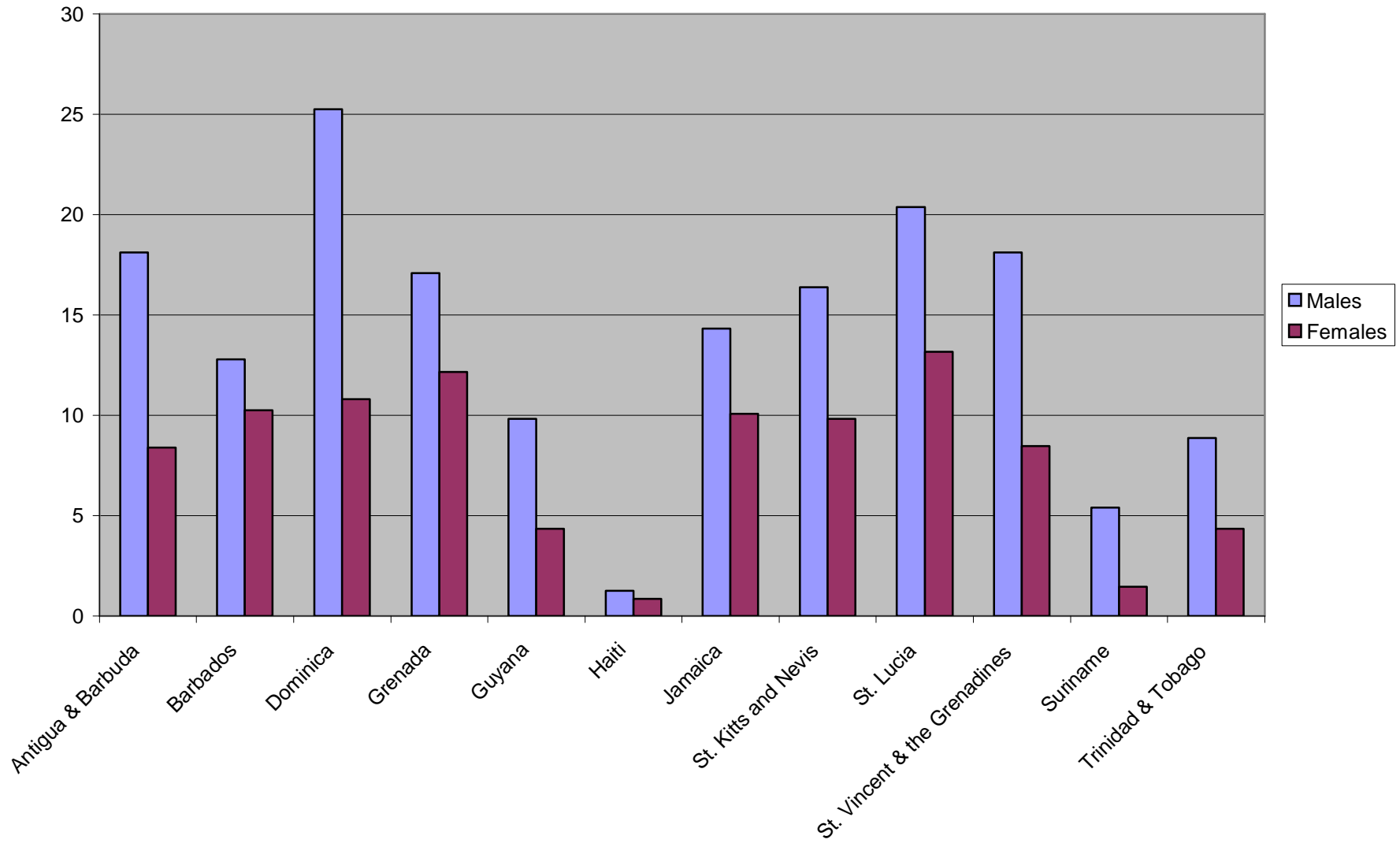
Prevalence of Marijuana Use



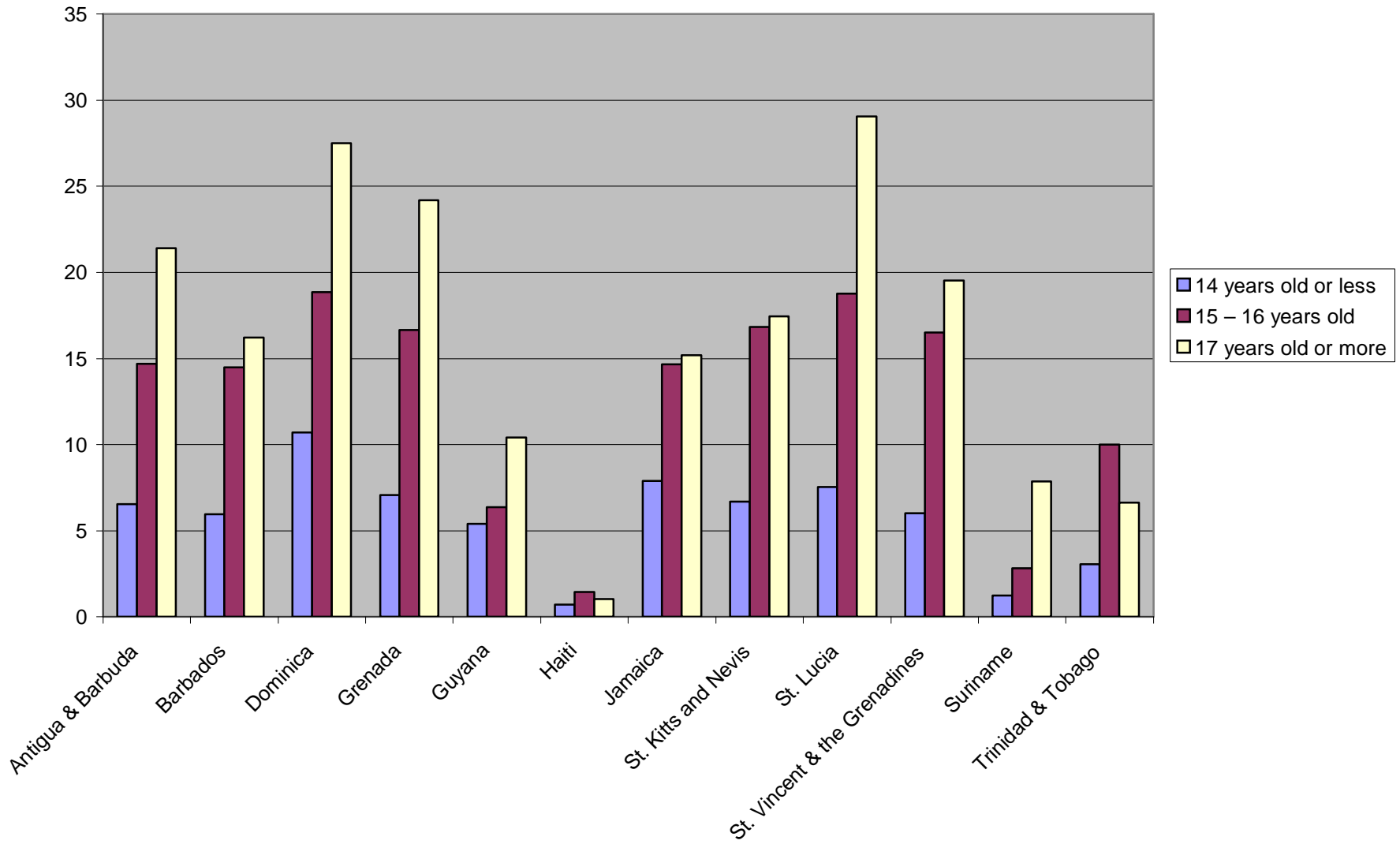
Lifetime Prevalence of Marijuana by Gender



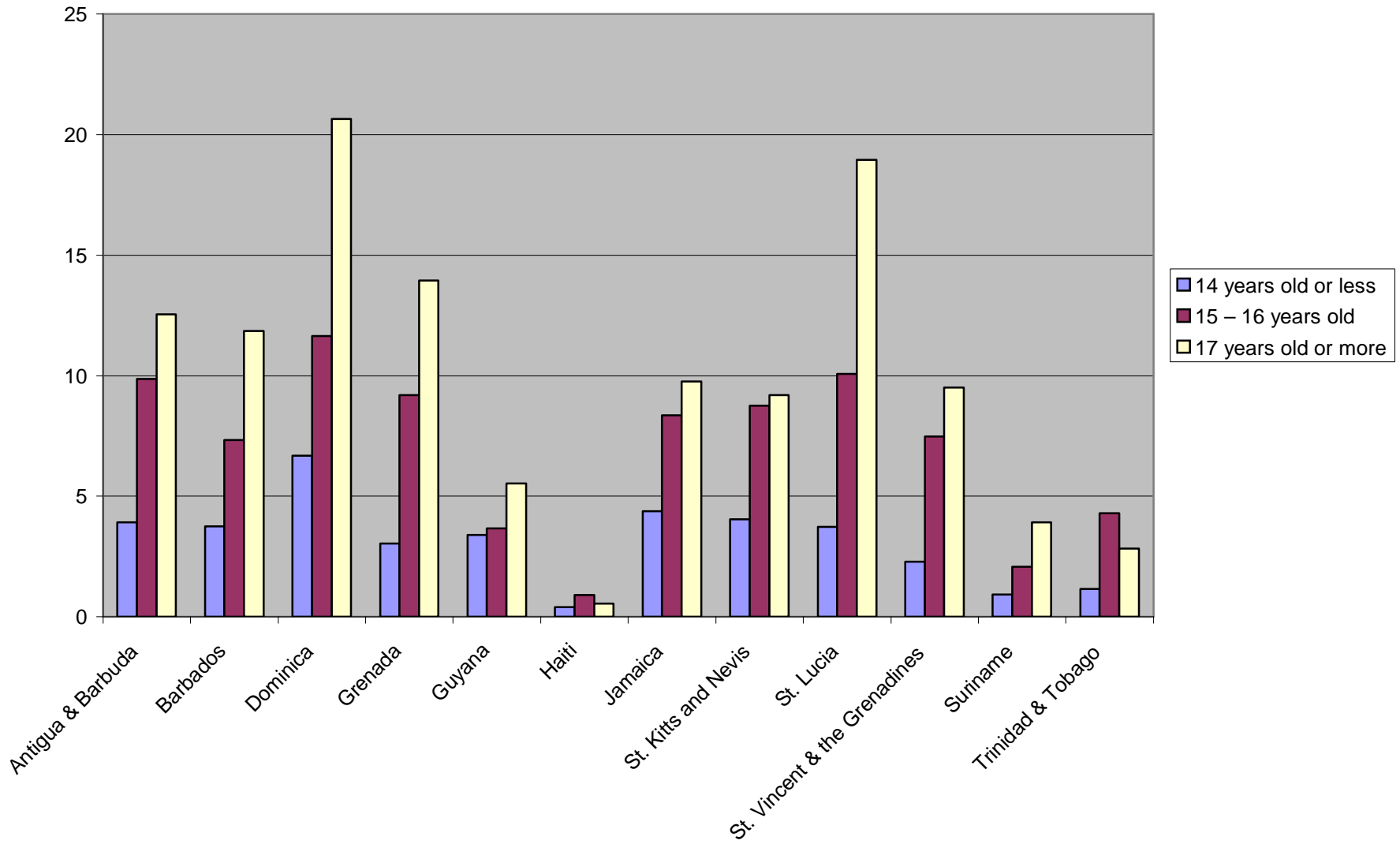
Last Year Prevalence of Marijuana Use by Gender



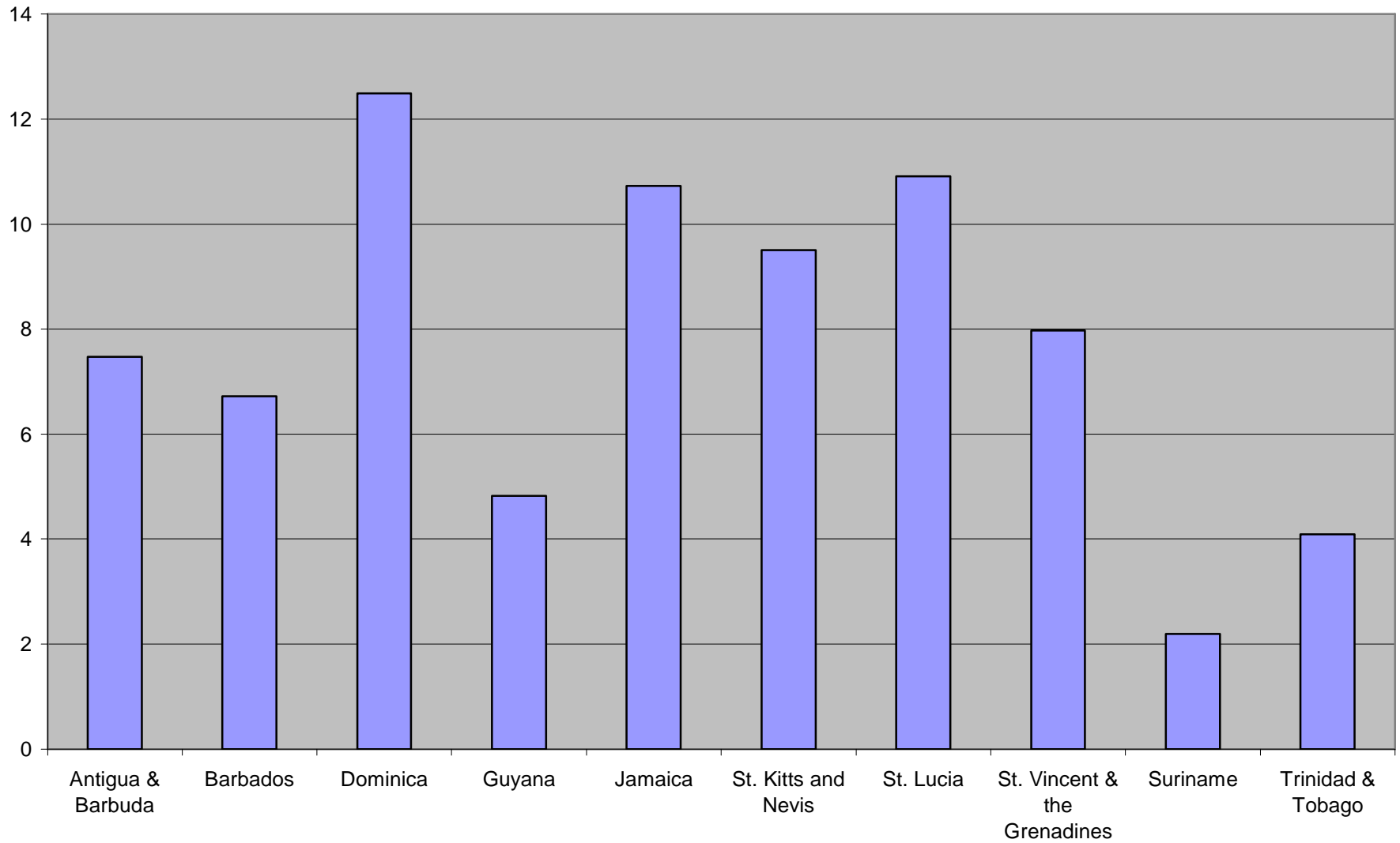
Last Year Prevalence of Marijuana Use By Age Group



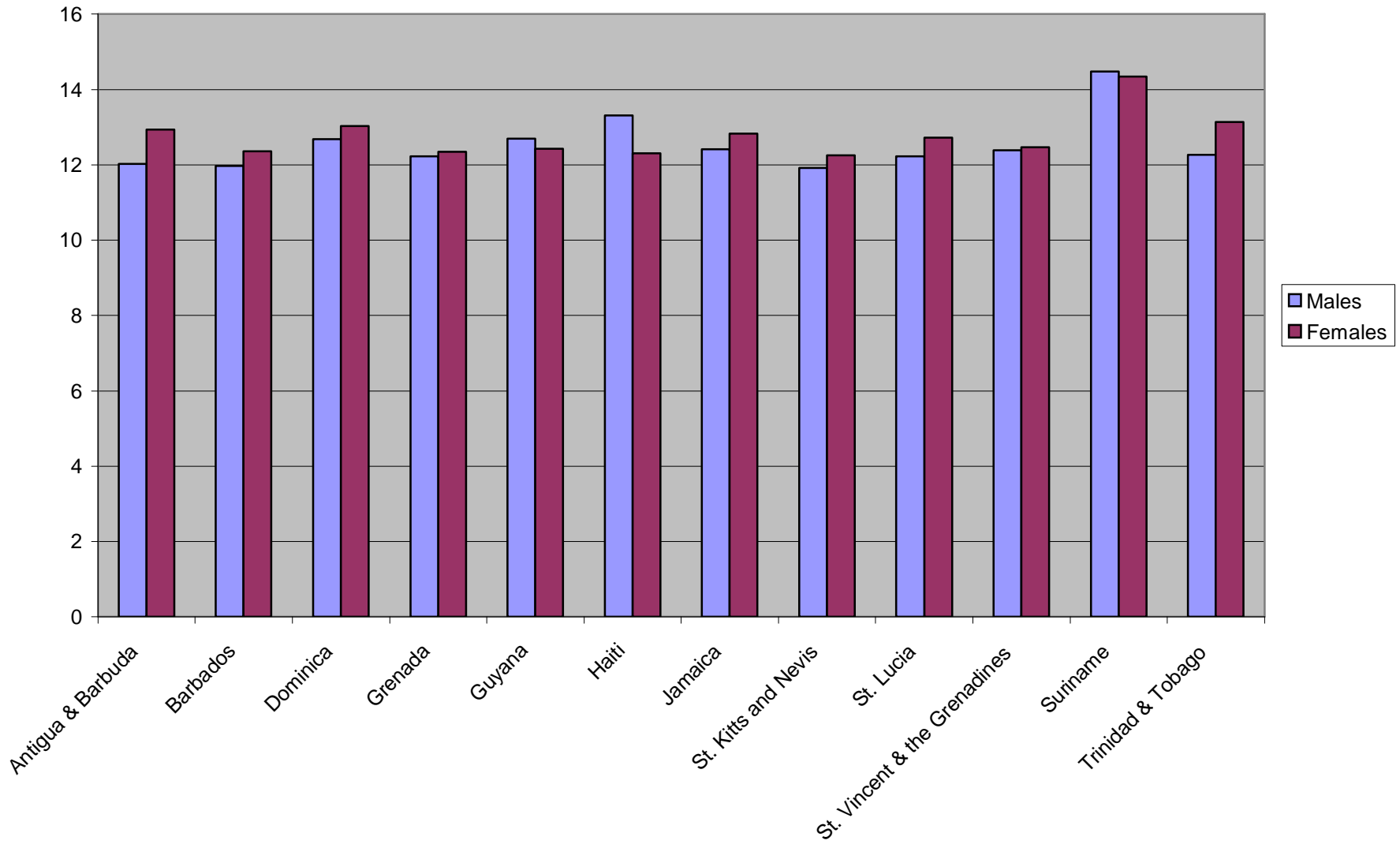
Last Month Prevalence of Marijuana Use by Age Group



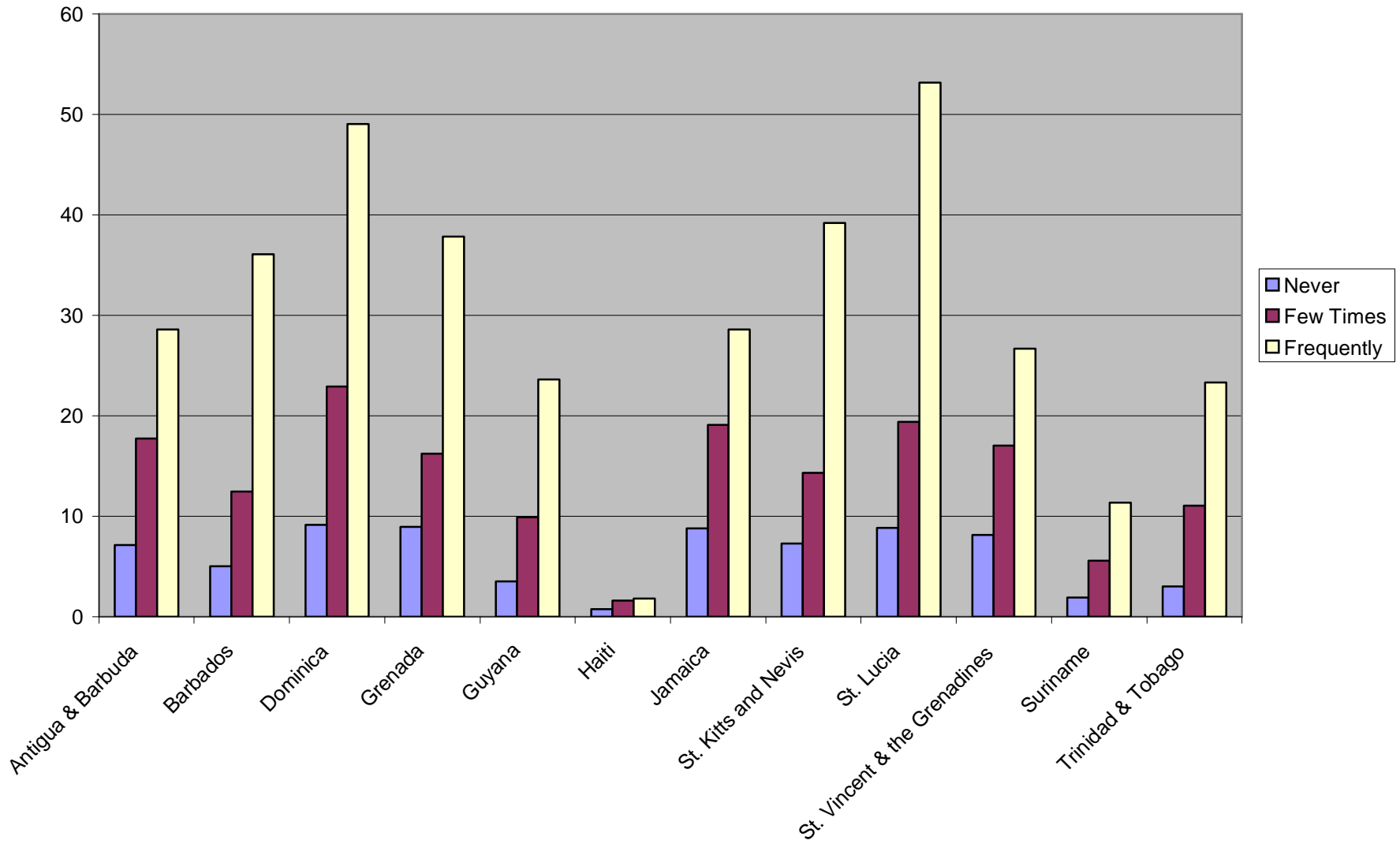
Last Year Incidence of Marijuana Use



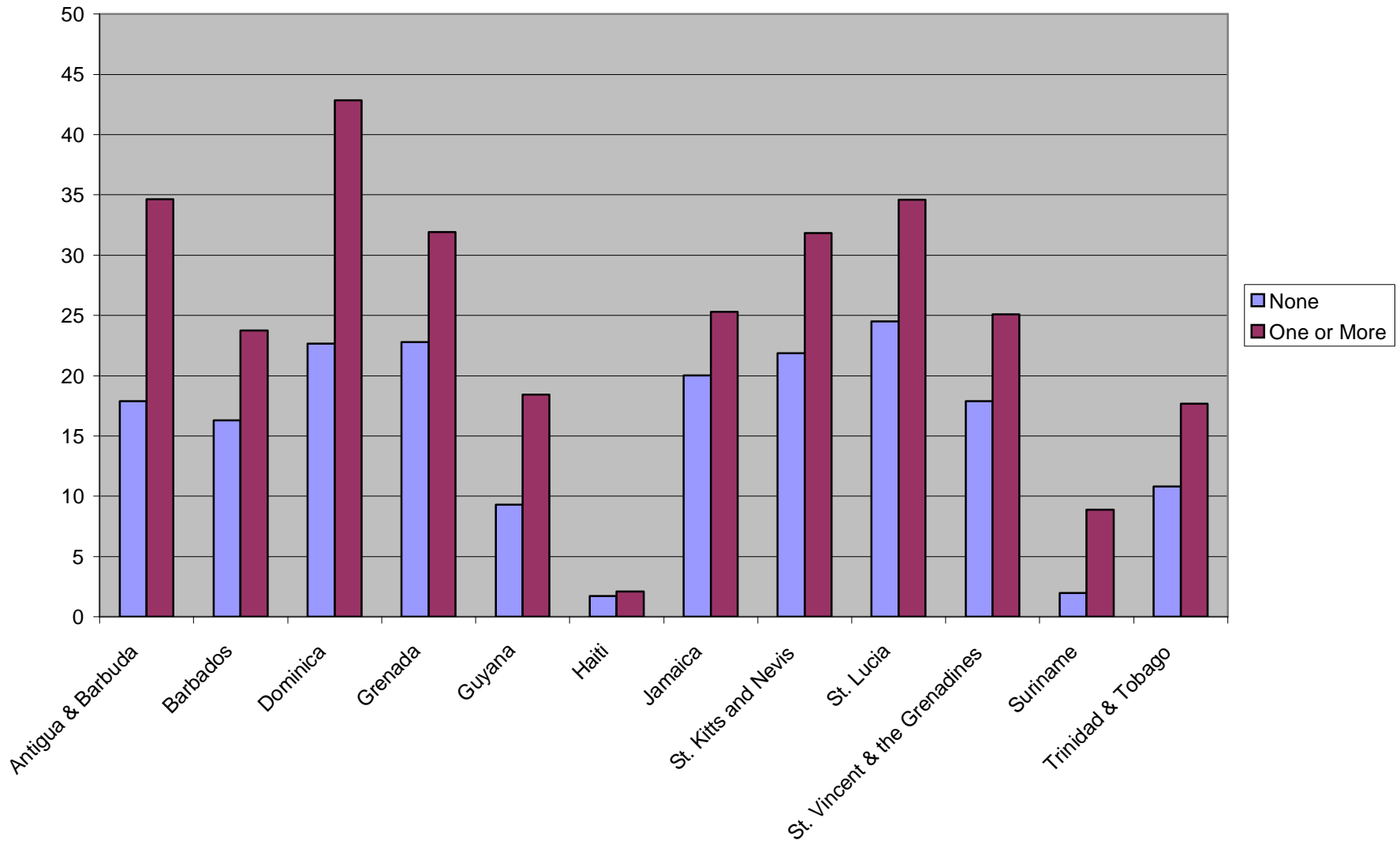
Average (median) Age of First Use of Marijuana by Gender



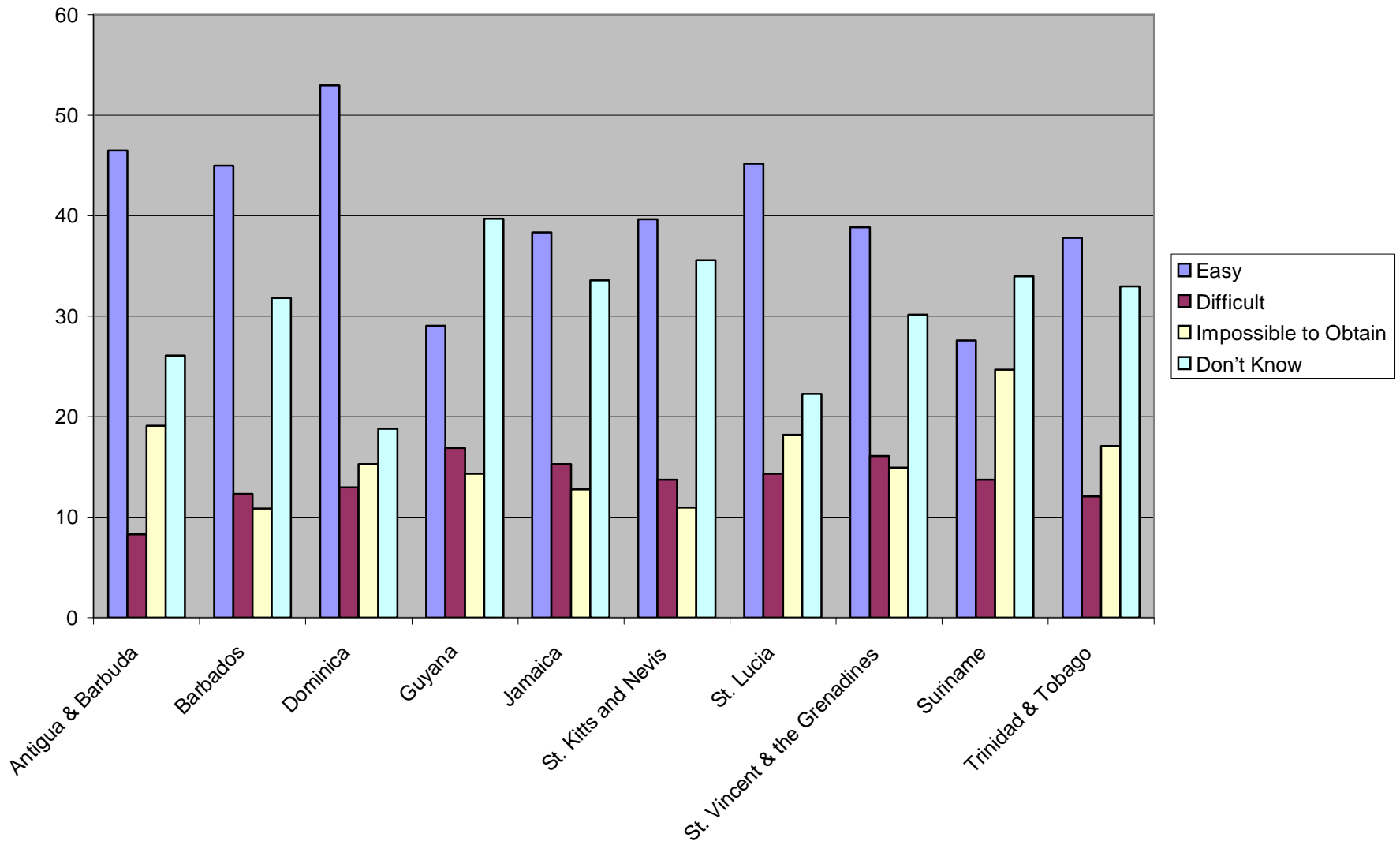
Lifetime Prevalence by Behavioural Problems During School Years



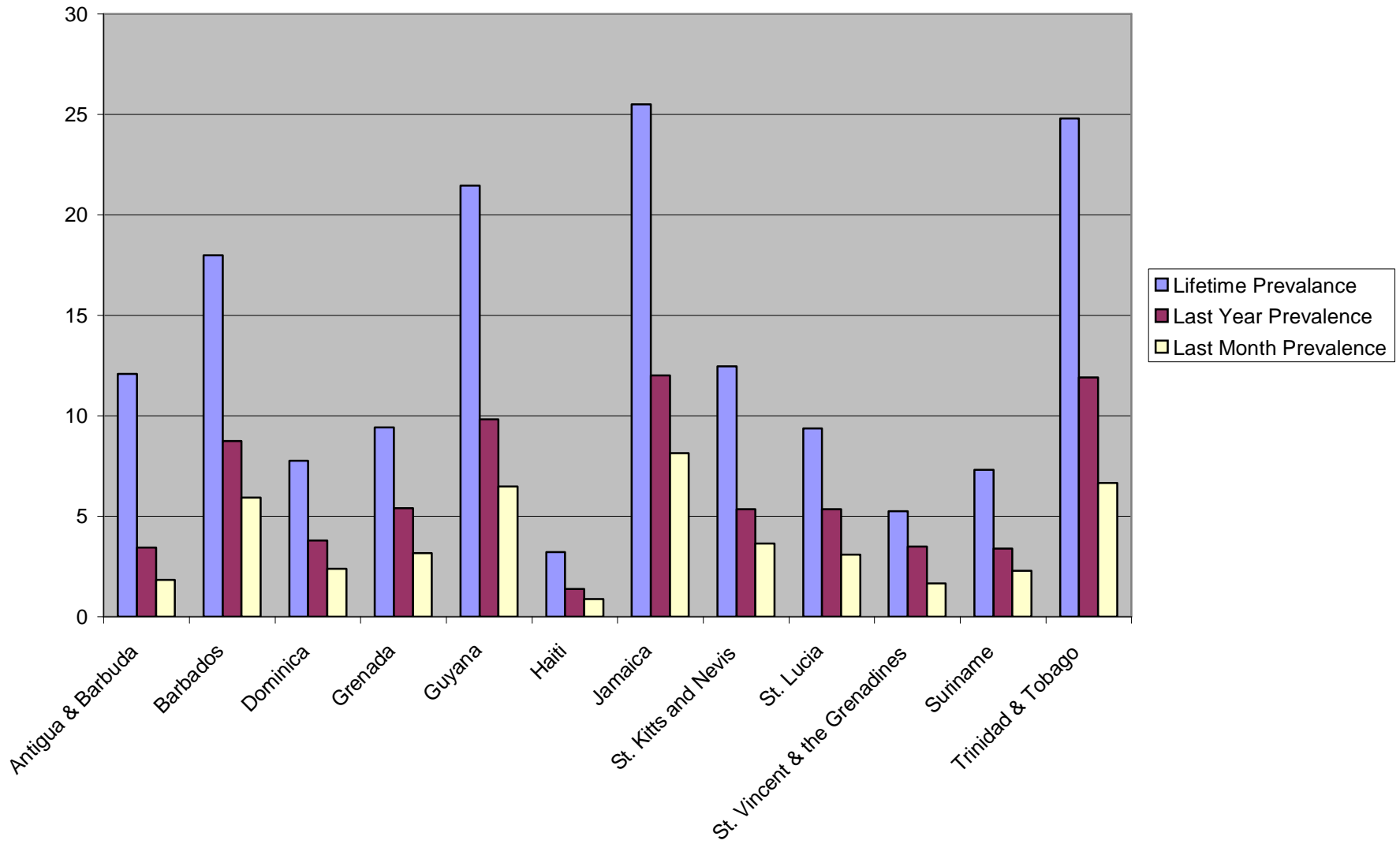
Lifetime Prevalence of Marijuana Use by Number of School Years Repeated



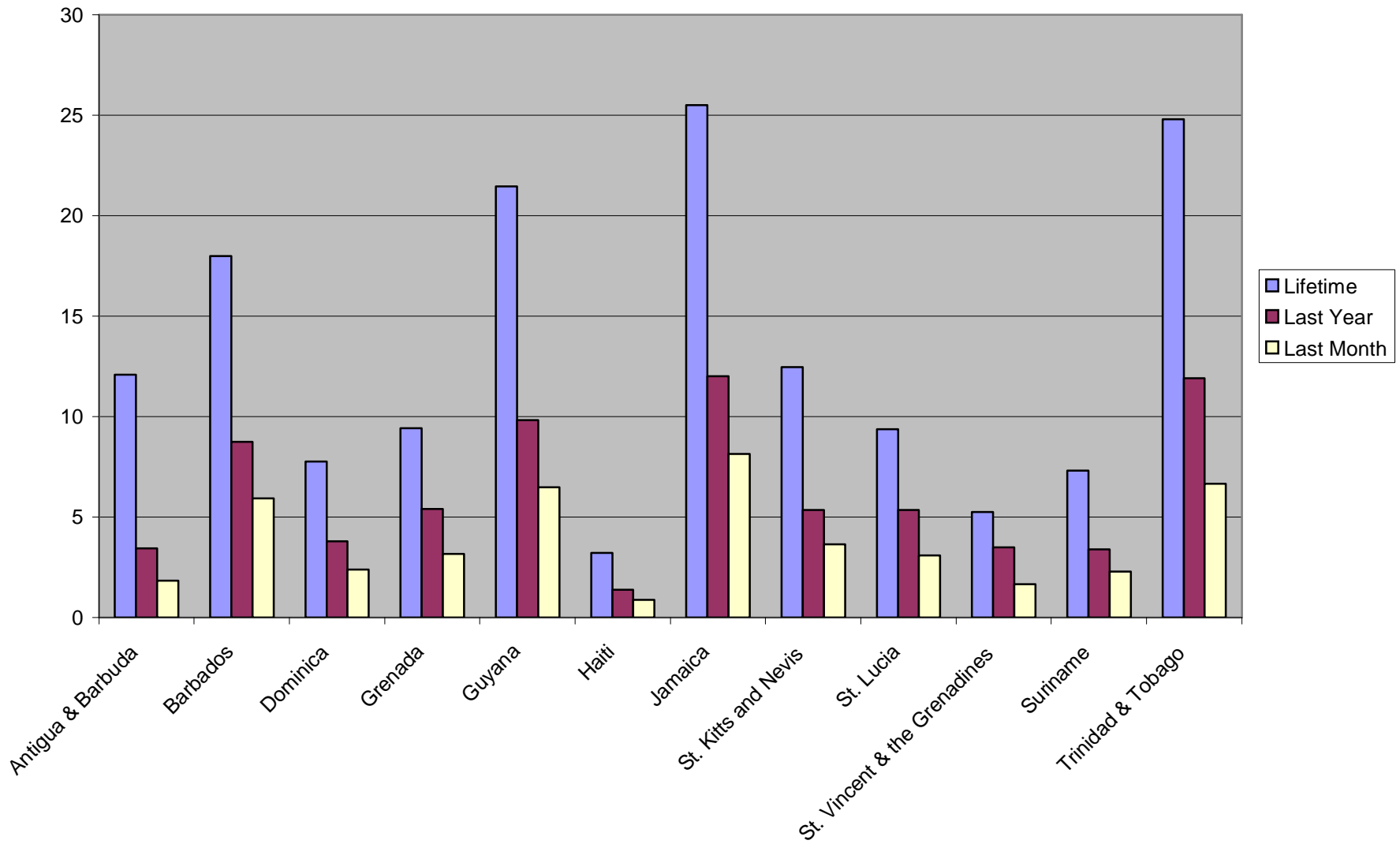
Access to Marijuana



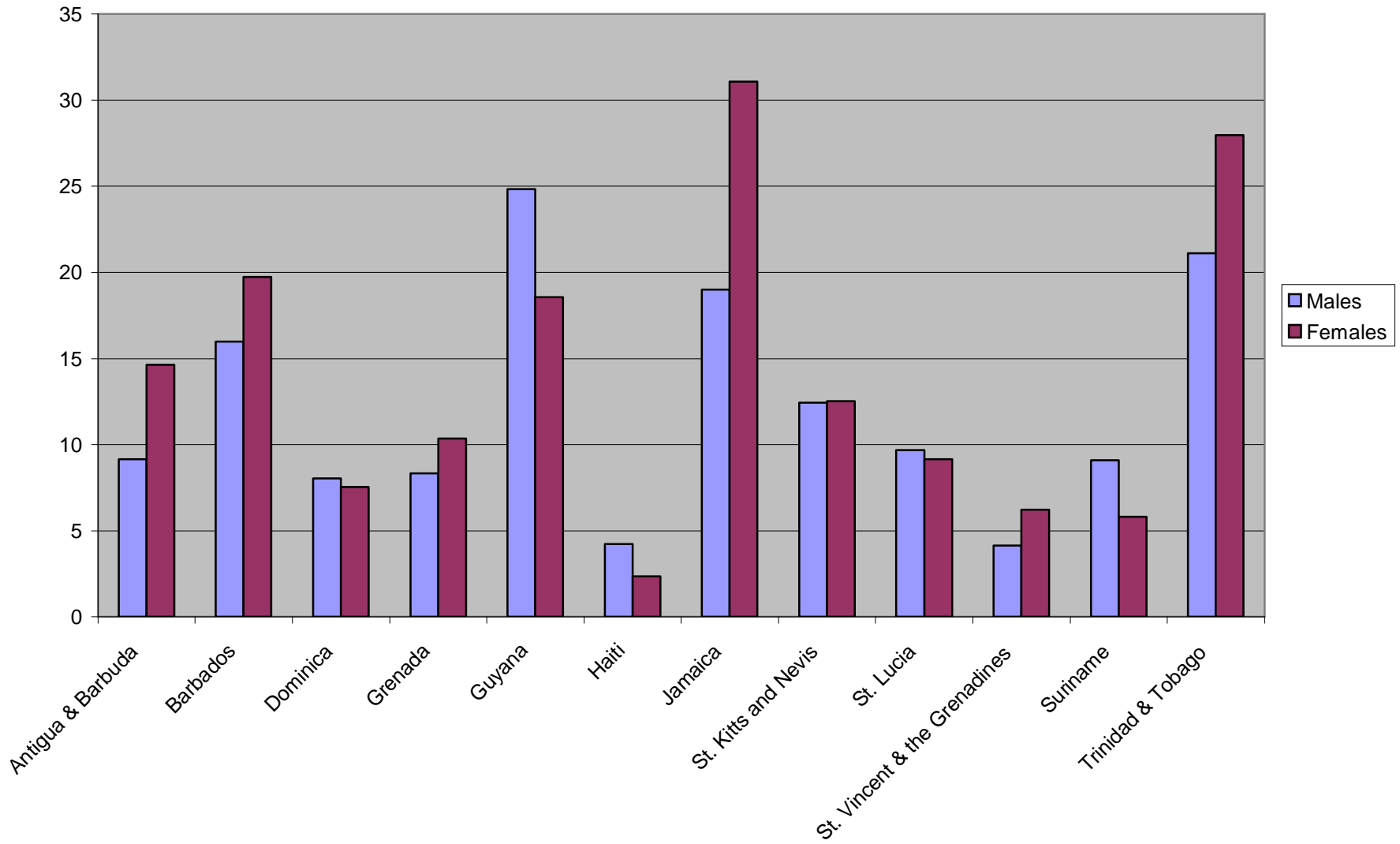
Prevalence of Inhalant Use



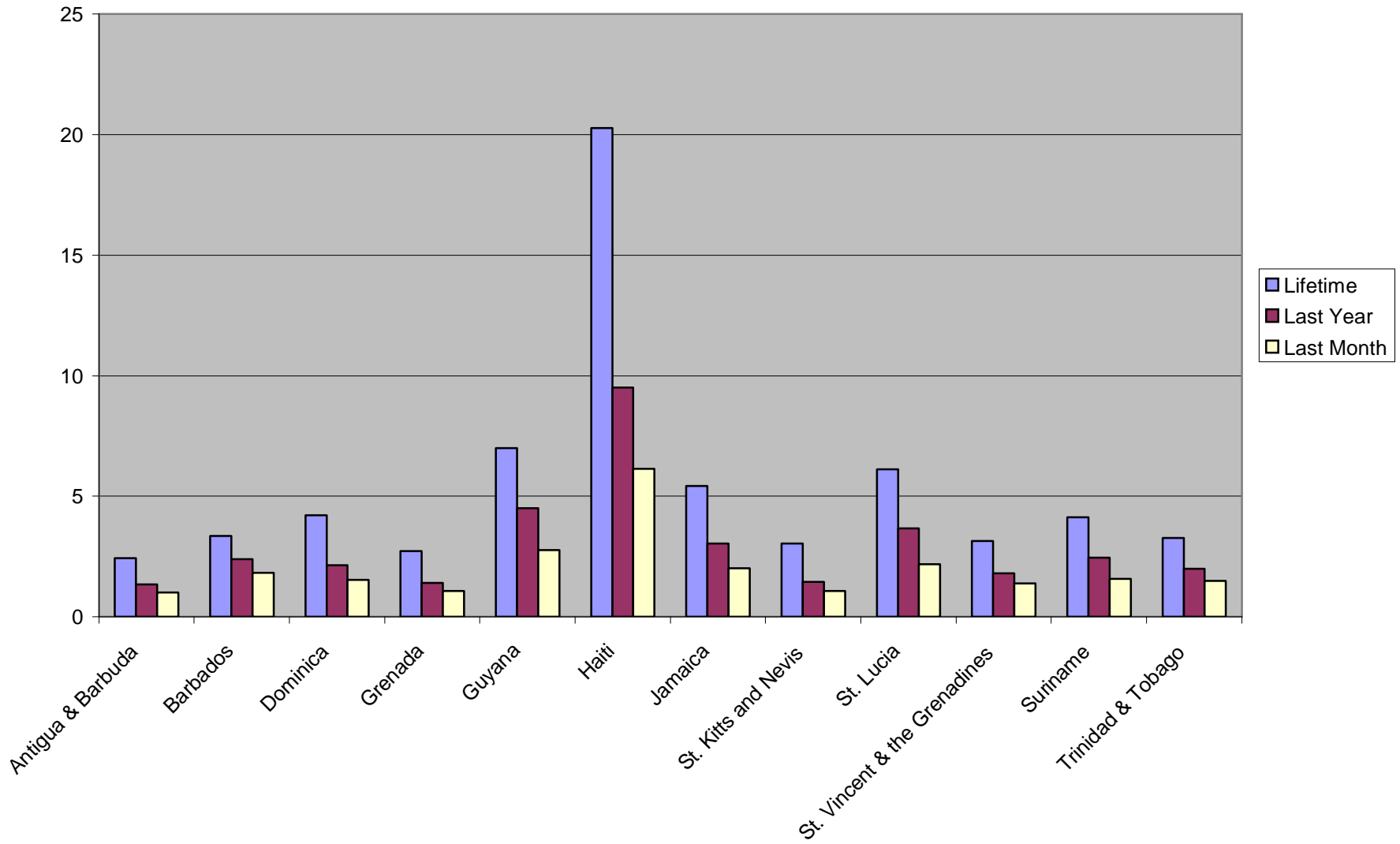
Prevalence of Inhalant Use



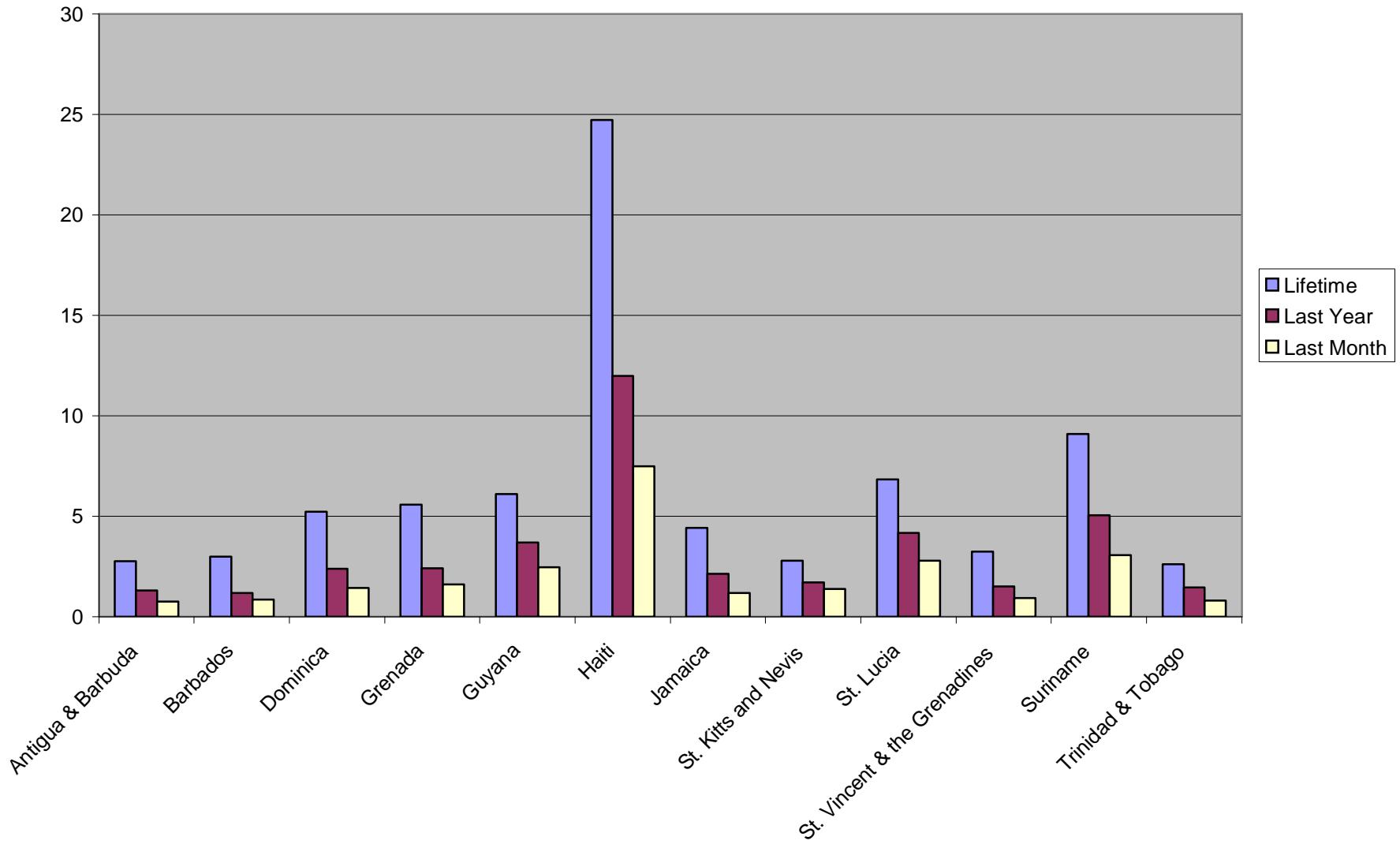
Lifetime Prevalence of Inhalant Use by Gender



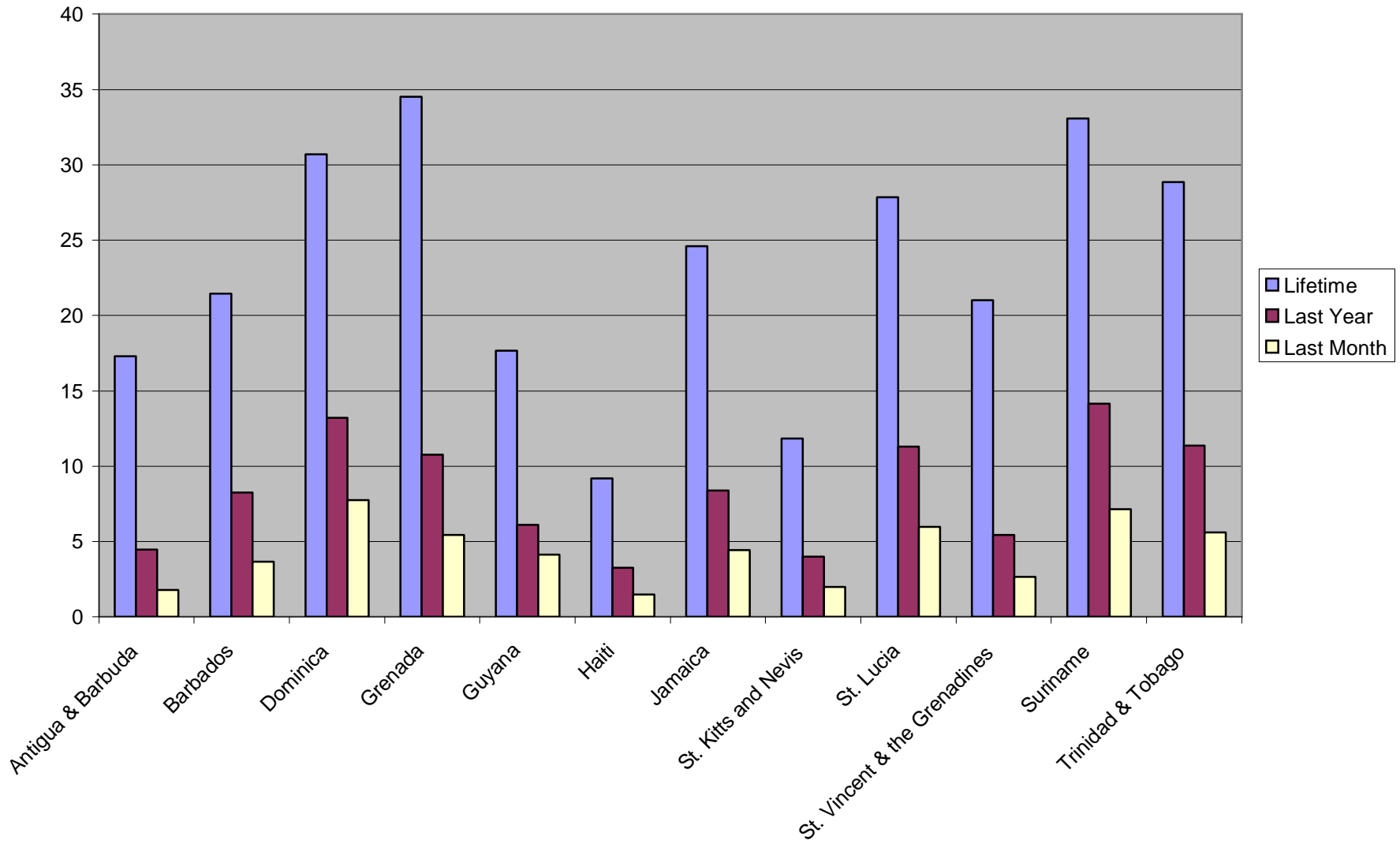
Prevalence of the Use of Stimulants



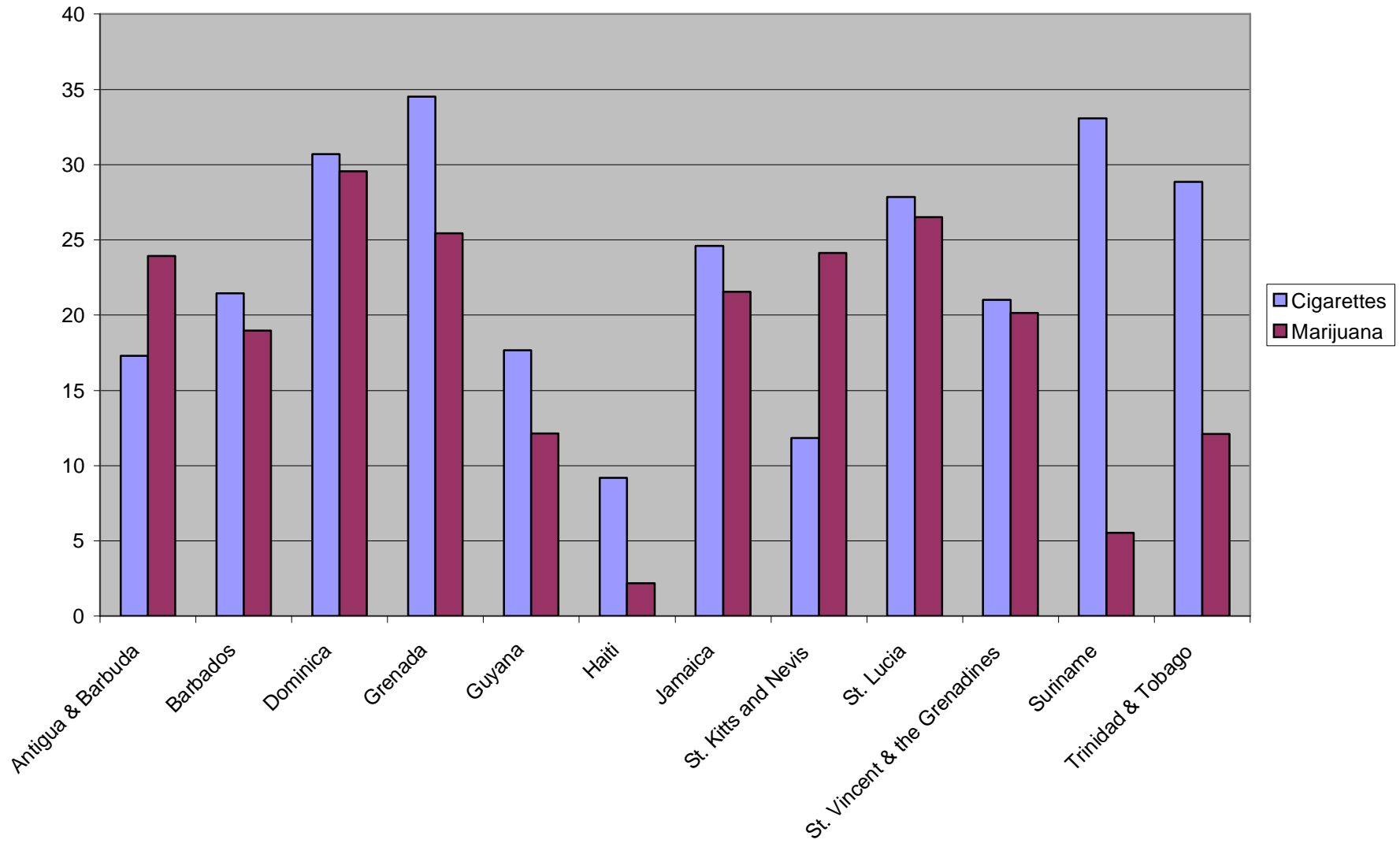
Prevalence of Tranquilisers



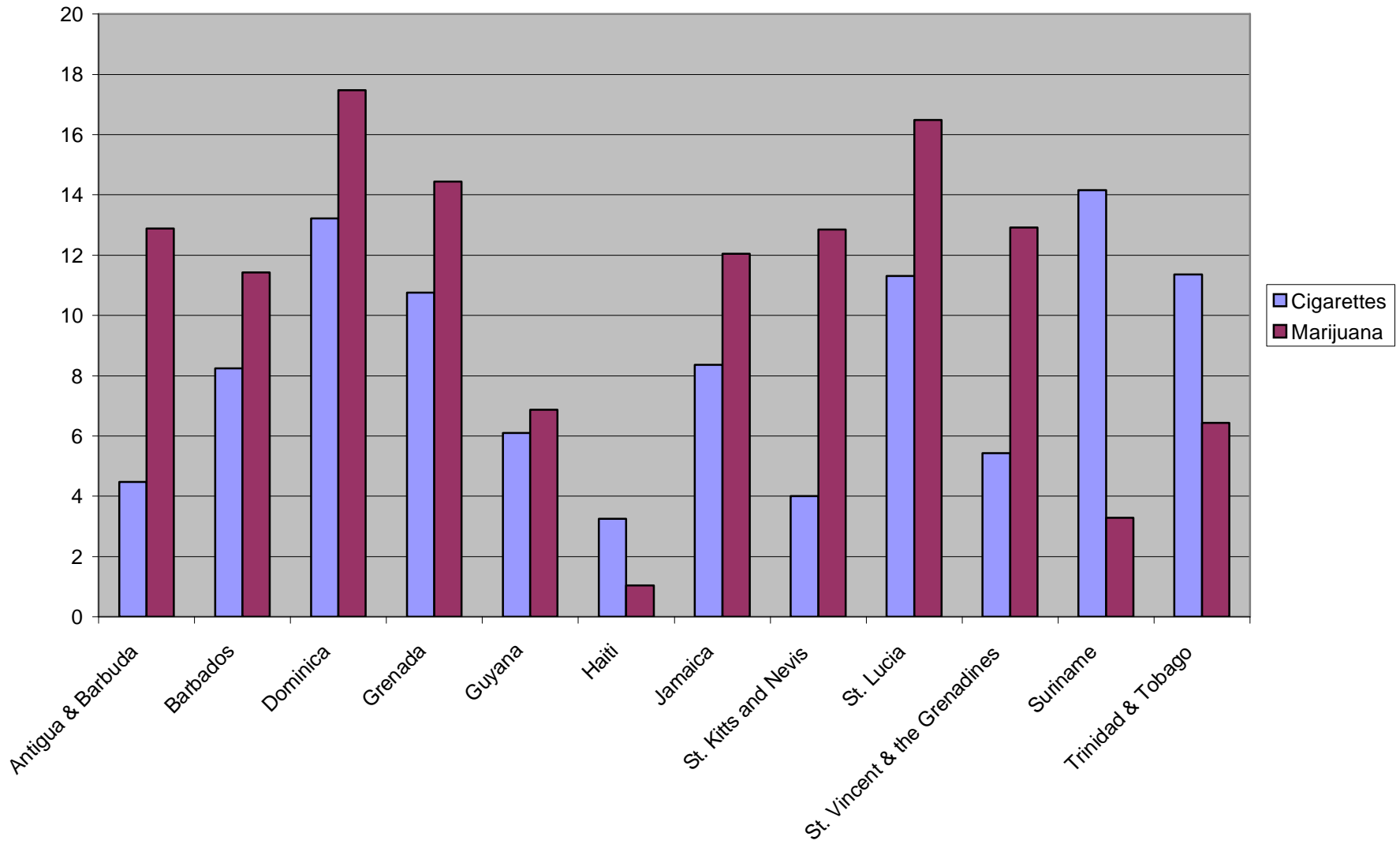
Prevalence of Tobacco Use (cigarettes)



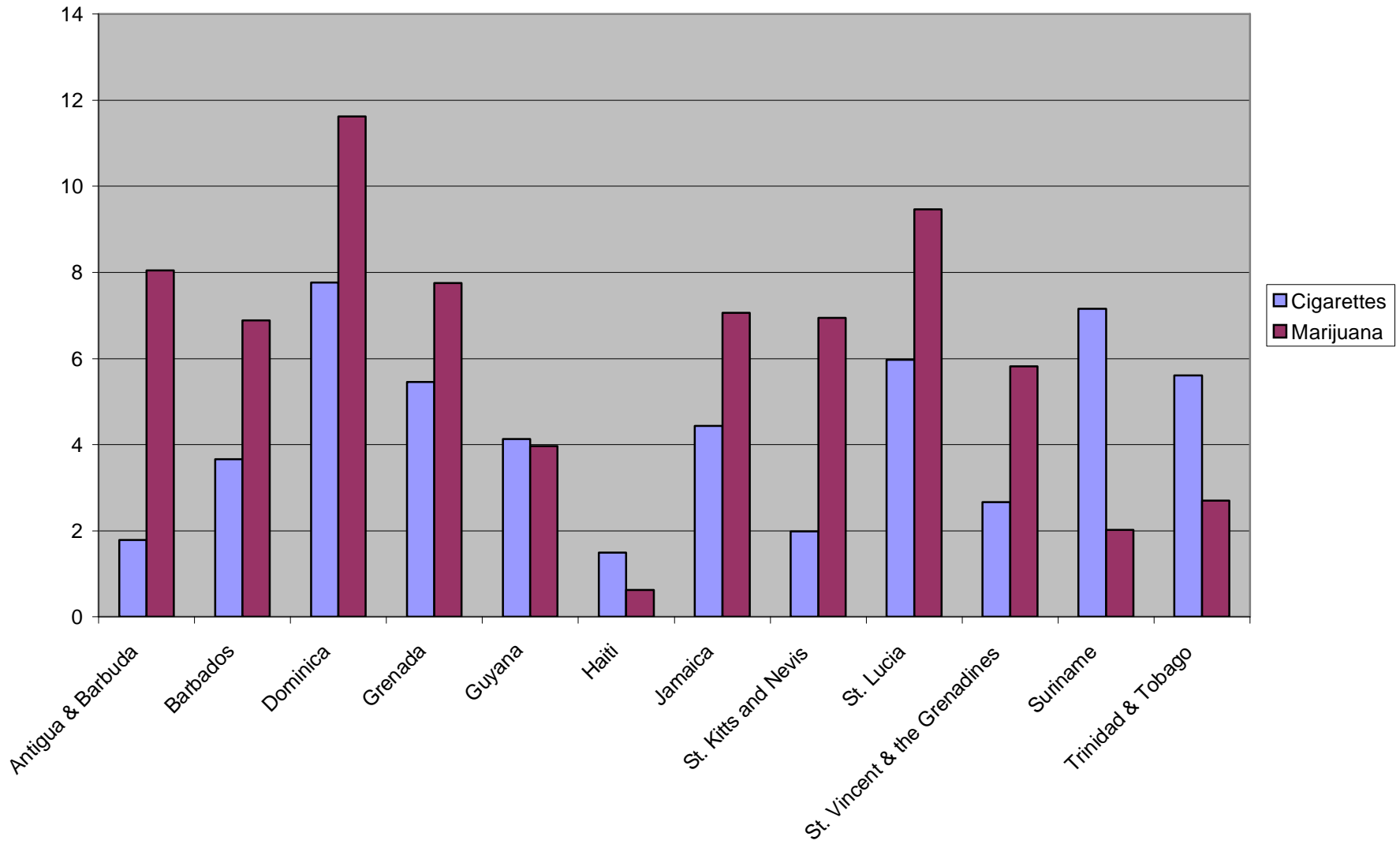
Lifetime Prevalance of Cigarettes vs Marijuana



Last Year Prevalence of Cigarette vs Marijuana Use



Last Month Prevalence of Cigarette Use vs. Marijuana Use



Conclusions

- n Although data is still preliminary, there are some interesting conclusions to be drawn
- n Drug use in the region is very uniform in most aspects, but in others, each country has its own unique drug taking behaviour (e.g. Tranquilizers and stimulants in Haiti, Beady in Jamaica, gender differences in Barbados)
- n Alcohol use is relatively high in the Caribbean while cigarette use is relatively low.
- n Inhalant use appears to be very high in a few countries, but this needs to be studied further.
- n In most countries, past year and past month use of marijuana use exceeds cigarette use

Questions & Comments
