



# Grenada Public Sector Drug Prevalence Survey

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# Survey rationale

- n Serious burdens imposed by drug abuse
- n Need for sustainable solutions
- n Unavailability of complete and consistent data sets on patterns of drug use for adults – **major barrier**



# Presentation Outline

- n Survey's objectives
- n Research methodology
- n Major findings
- n Principal constraints to drug control
- n Proposed recommendations



# Survey's Objectives

- n Determine the prevalence of drug use among public servants & adults in Grenada
- n Provide baseline data for future calculation of incidence rates.



# Research methodology

- n Use of self administered questionnaire
- n **Target Population:** The public service (4,993 workers – approx. 6% of national population)
- n **Sample:** 1,482 public servants or 29.7% of the public service

“This captive audience provided an excellent sample, both with respect to its size and demographic diversity for assessing the prevalence of drug use in the Grenadian workplace, and among adults generally.”



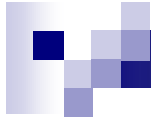
# Key research indicators

- n Workplace morbidity
- n Awareness of drug use policy
- n Exposure to drugs and drug use
- n Perception of health risk
- n Drug use prevalence



# Respondents demographics

<b>Demographic indicator</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	30.0
female	<b>60.6</b>
<b>Age</b>	
Less than 20 years	<b>32.8</b>
21-30 years	26.2
31-40 years	21.5
41-50 years	15.3
51+ years	4.2
<b>Ministerial representation</b>	
Ministry of Education	<b>56.5</b>
Ministry of Finance and Planning	11.5
Ministry of Health	7.3
<b>Position in the workplace</b>	
Professional	<b>60.8</b>
Service workers	12.1
Executive	9.6
Skilled tradesmen	3.2
Unskilled	1.0

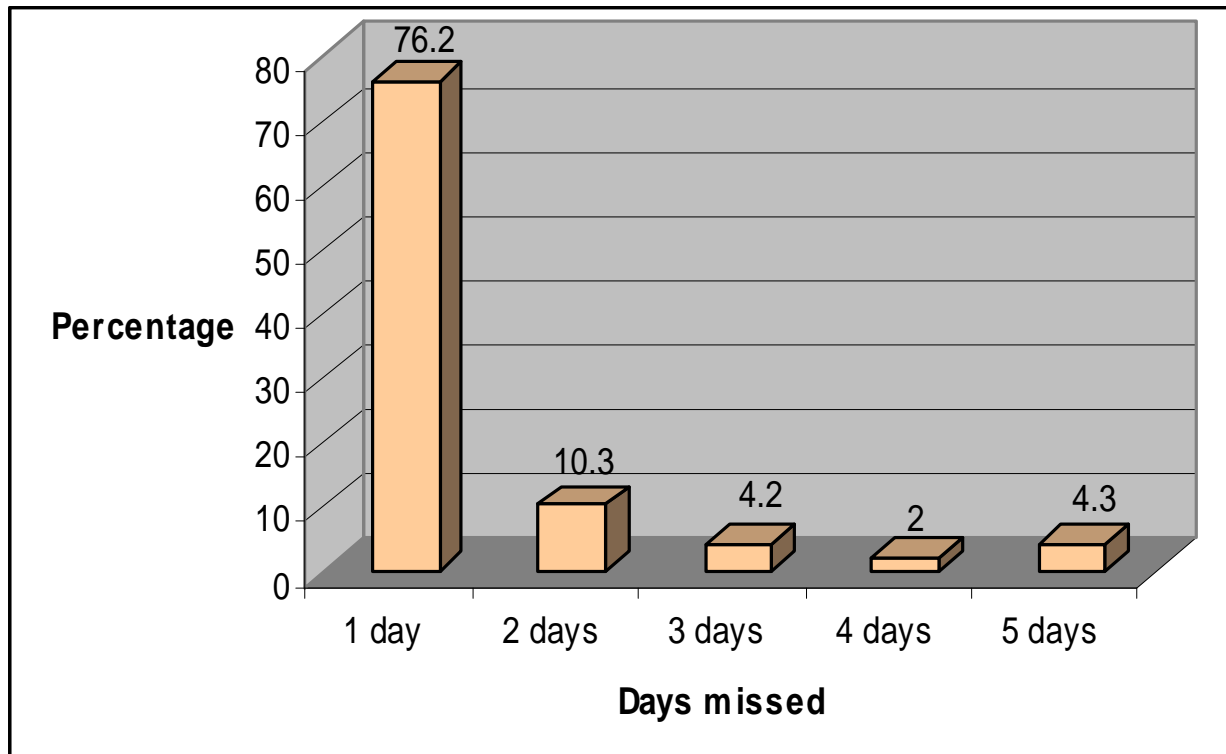


# **Indicator 1:**

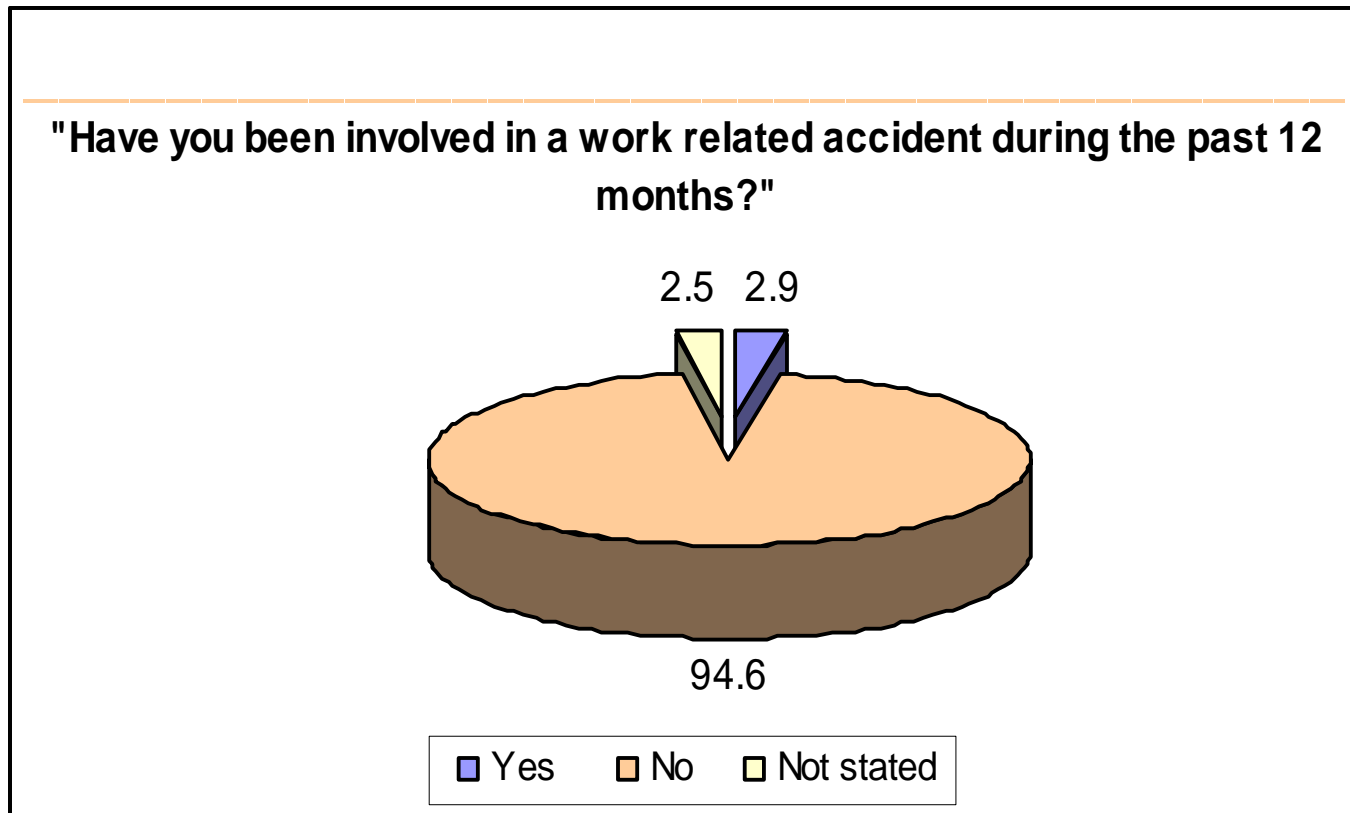
Workplace morbidity and drug use policy

# Morbidity induced absenteeism

Number of days of work missed during the last 30 days  
due to sickness or injury

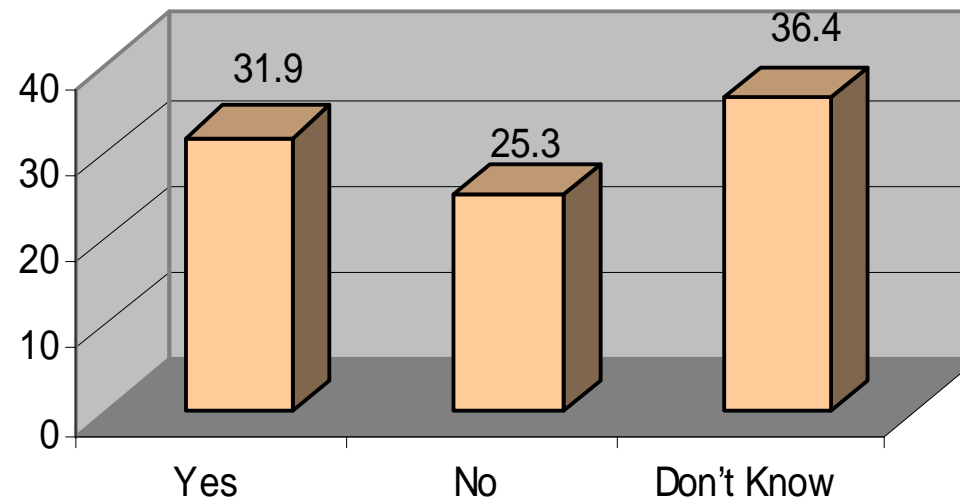


# Past year prevalence of work related accidents



# Workplace policy on drugs

"At your workplace, is there a written policy regarding employee use of drugs and alcohol?"



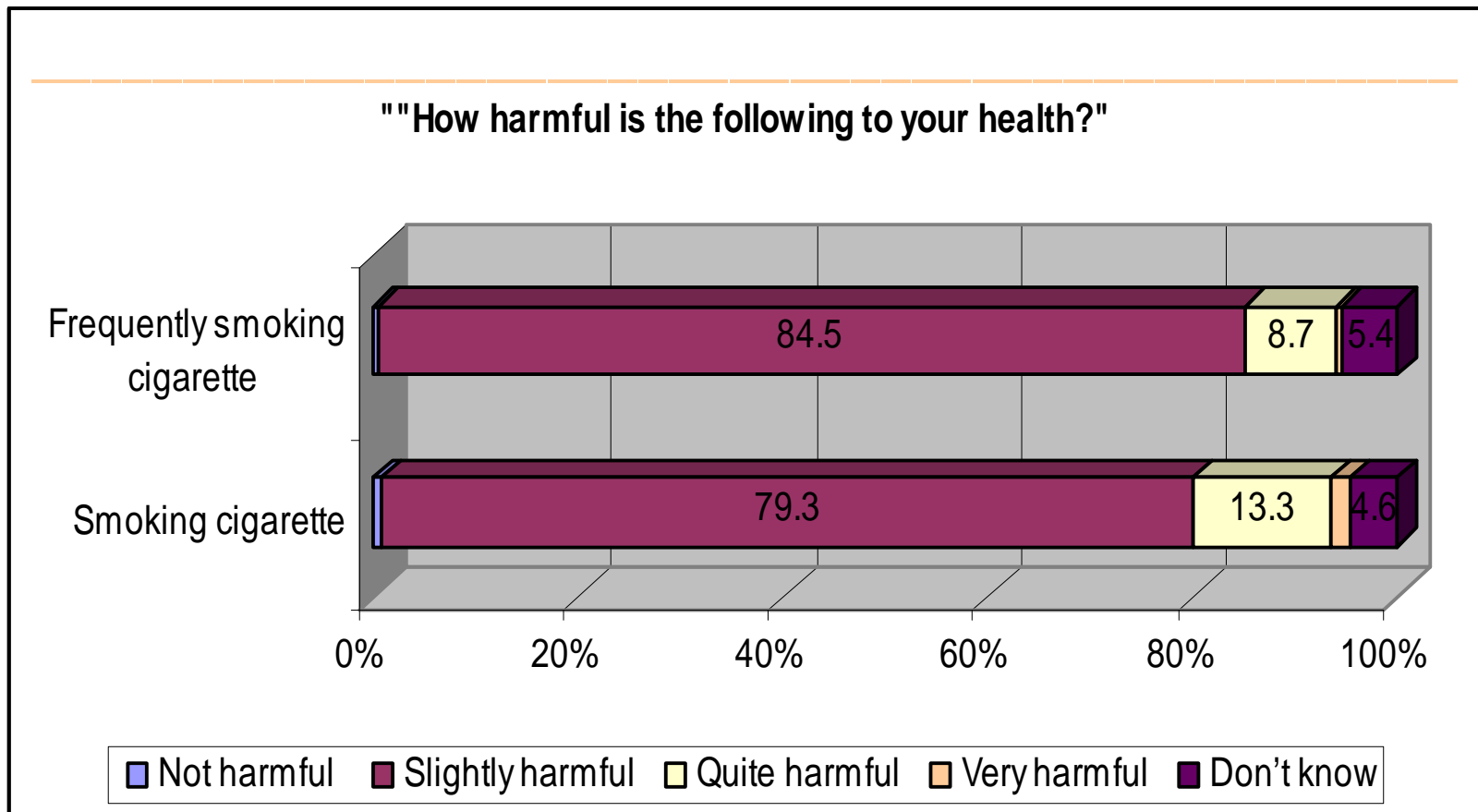
Level of awareness



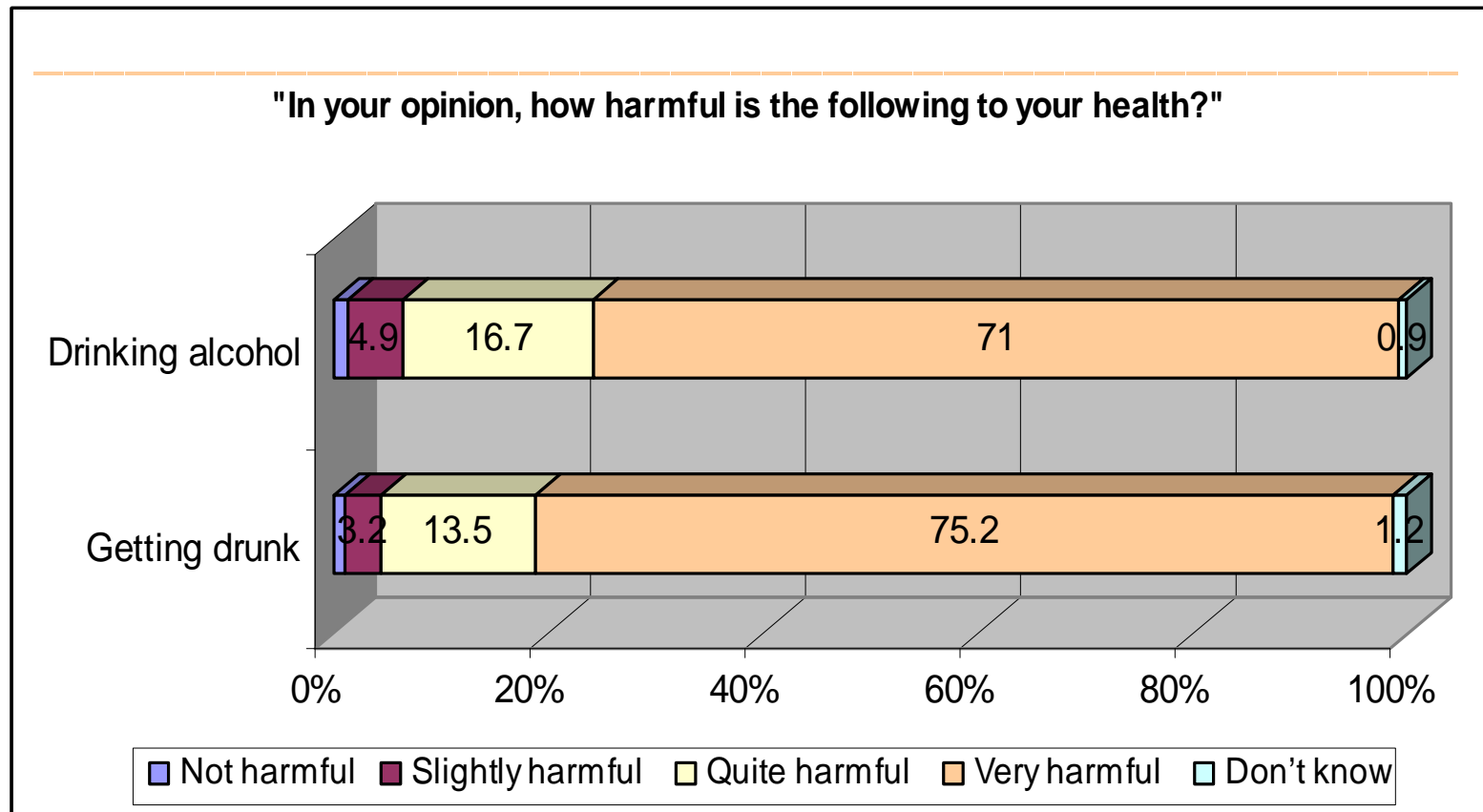
# **Indicator 2:**

## Perception of health risk

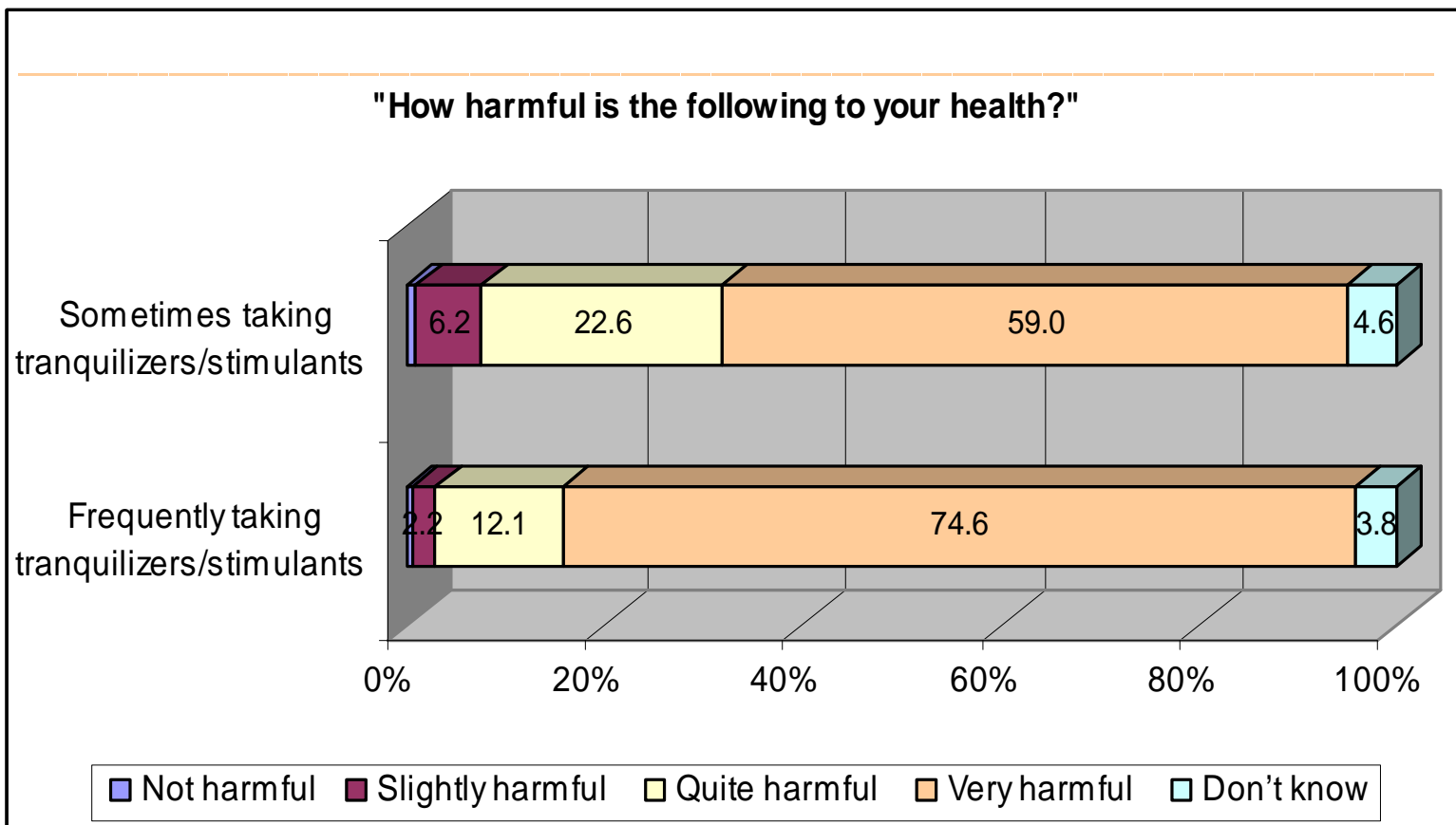
# Smoking cigarettes



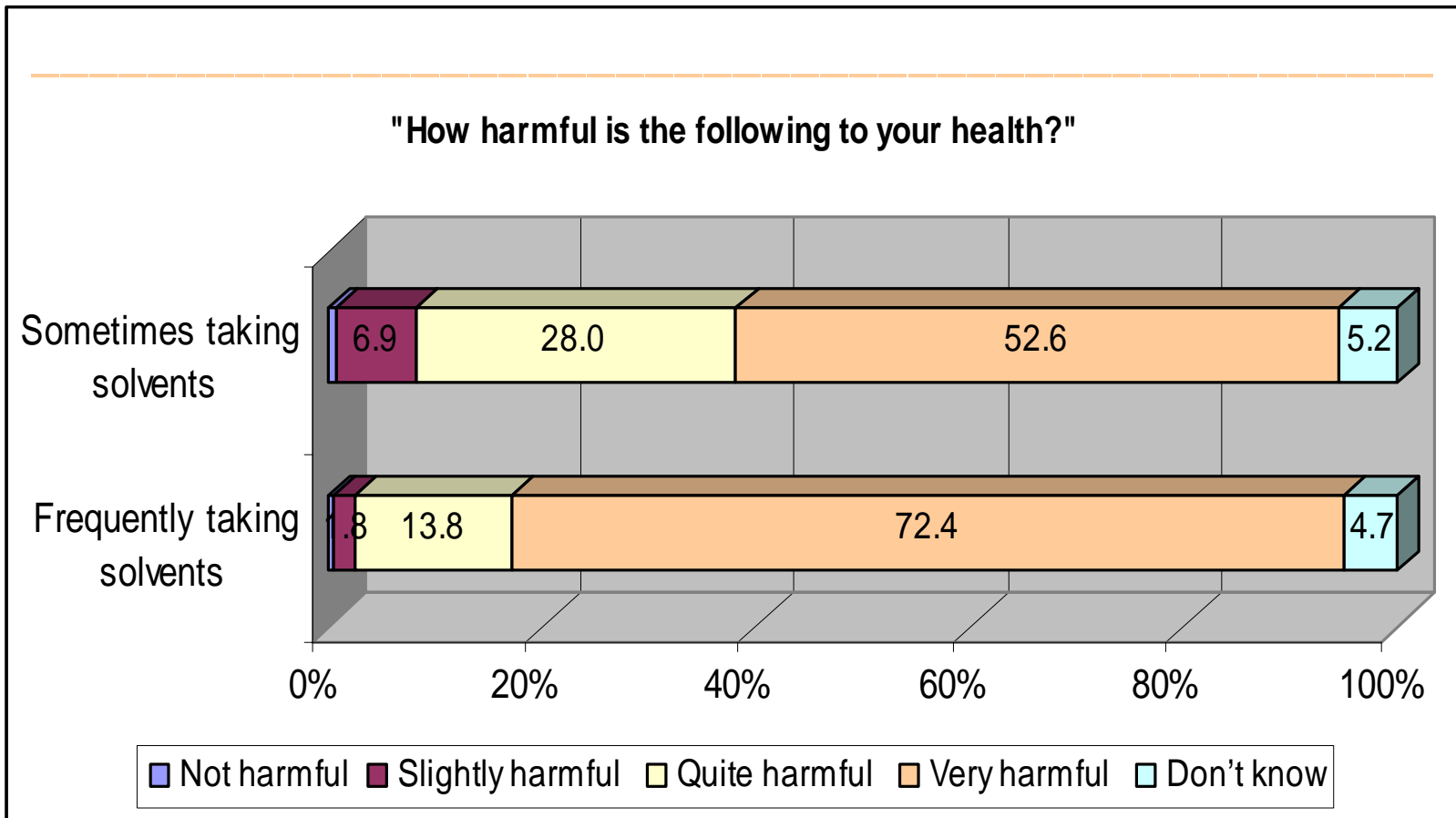
# Drinking alcohol



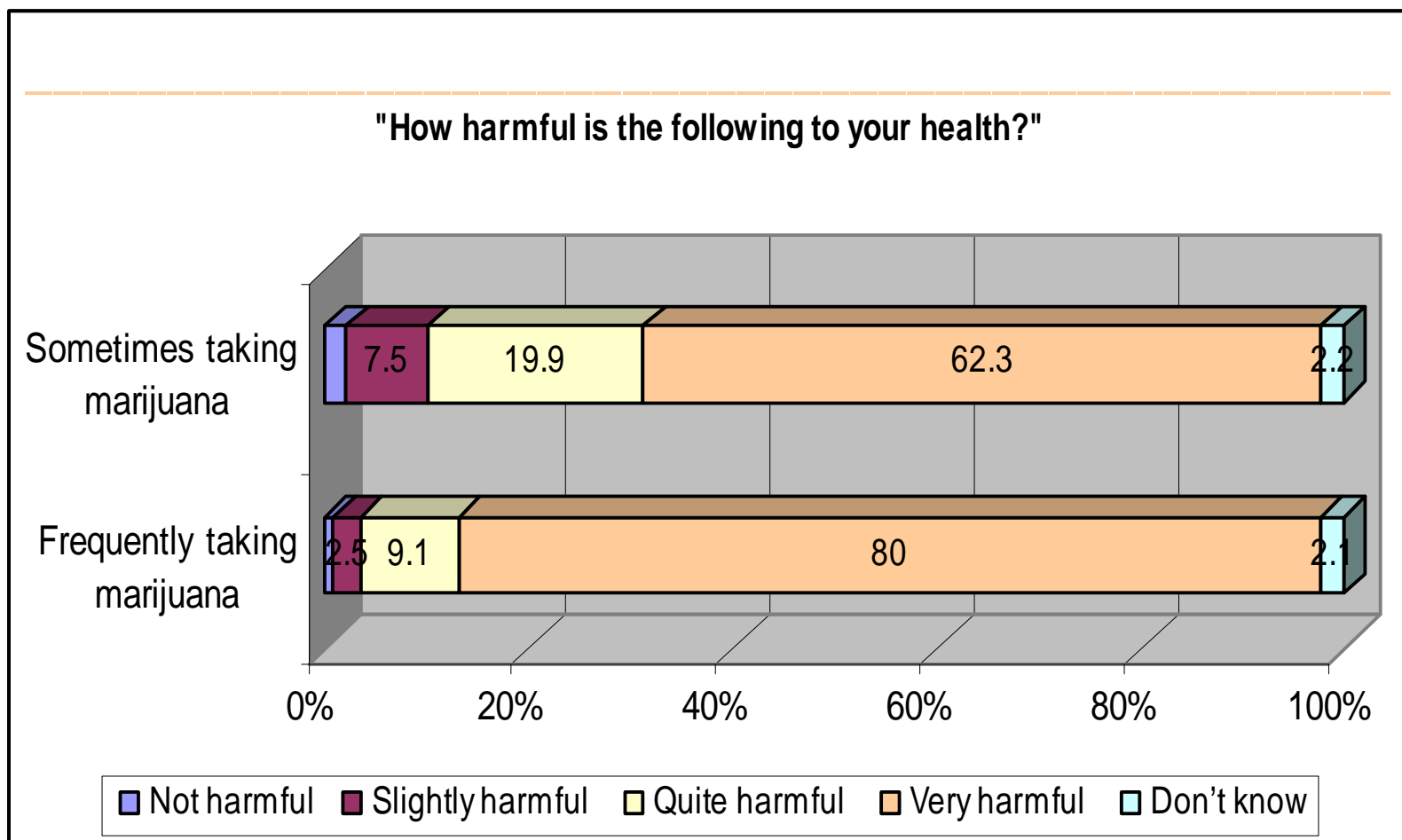
# Taking tranquilizer/stimulant without a prescription



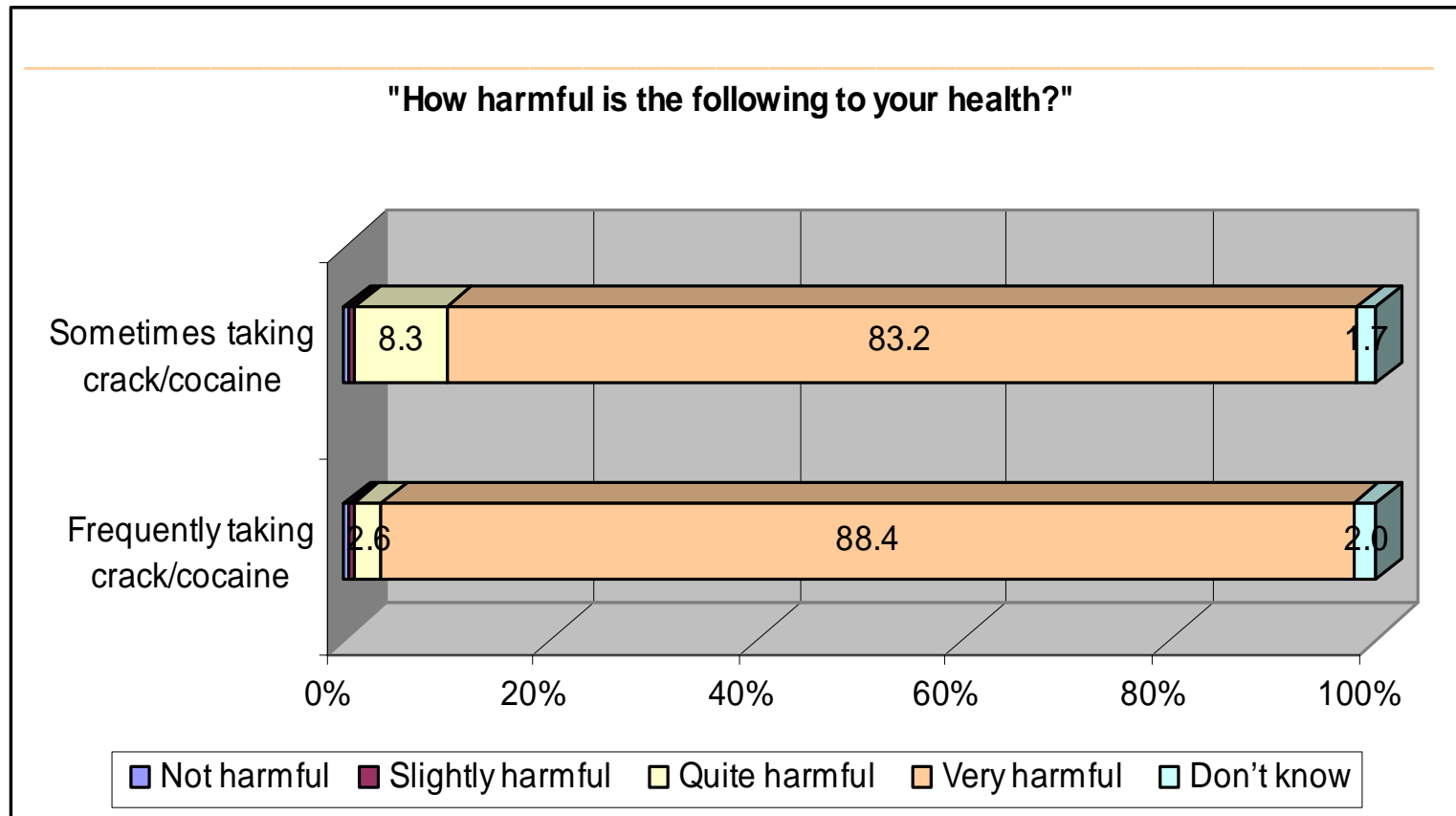
# Taking solvents



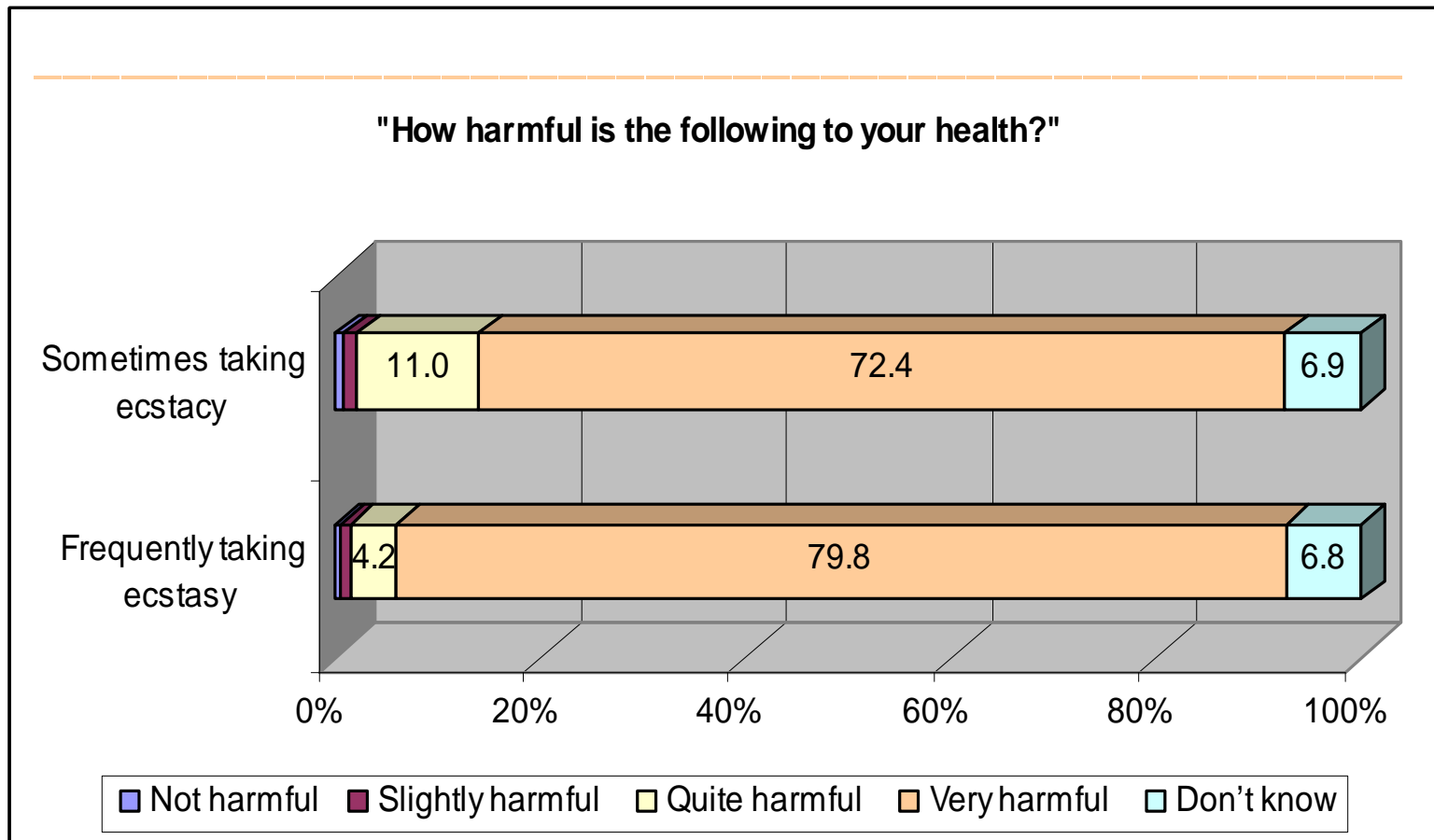
# Taking marijuana



# Taking crack cocaine



# Taking ecstasy



# Matrix summarizing perceptions of health risk

Drug	<i>Degree to which drug is described as very harmful to human health</i>	
	<b>Sometimes taking the drug (1 – most commonly reported)</b>	<b>Frequently taking the drug (1 – most commonly reported)</b>
Crack/cocaine	1	1
Ecstasy	2	3
Alcohol	3	4
Marijuana	4	2
Tranquilizers/stimulants	5	5
Solvents	6	6
Cigarette smoking	7	7



# **Indicator 3:**

## Prevalence of drug use

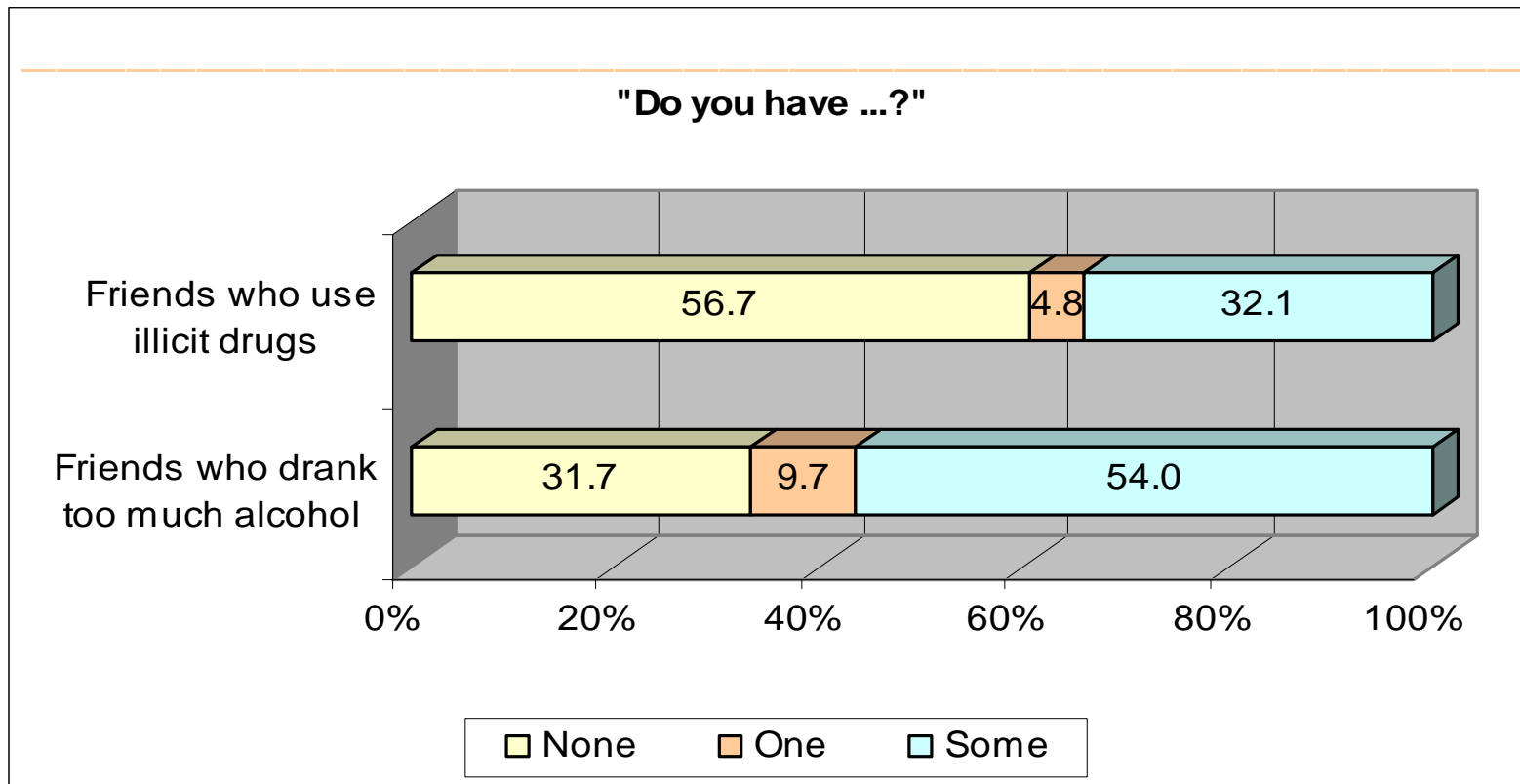
Drug	Percent prevalence		
	Lifetime	Past-year	Current
Alcohol	<b>76.0</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>41.6</b>
Stimulant	2.7	1.5	1.1
Cigarette	<b>26.9</b>	3.2	2.6
Tranquilizers	5.2	2.3	1.3
Marijuana	<b>12.3</b>	1.2	0.5
Opium	<b>0.3</b>	0	0
Cocaine paste	<b>0.3</b>	0	0
Ecstasy & Meth	<b>0.3</b>	0	0
Non-prescription drug	2.5	1.4	<b>0.8</b>
Solvent/inhalant	<b>0.8</b>	-	-
Hashish	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Cocaine HCL	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Hallucinogen	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Heroin	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Crack	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Morphine	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>



## **Indicator 4:**

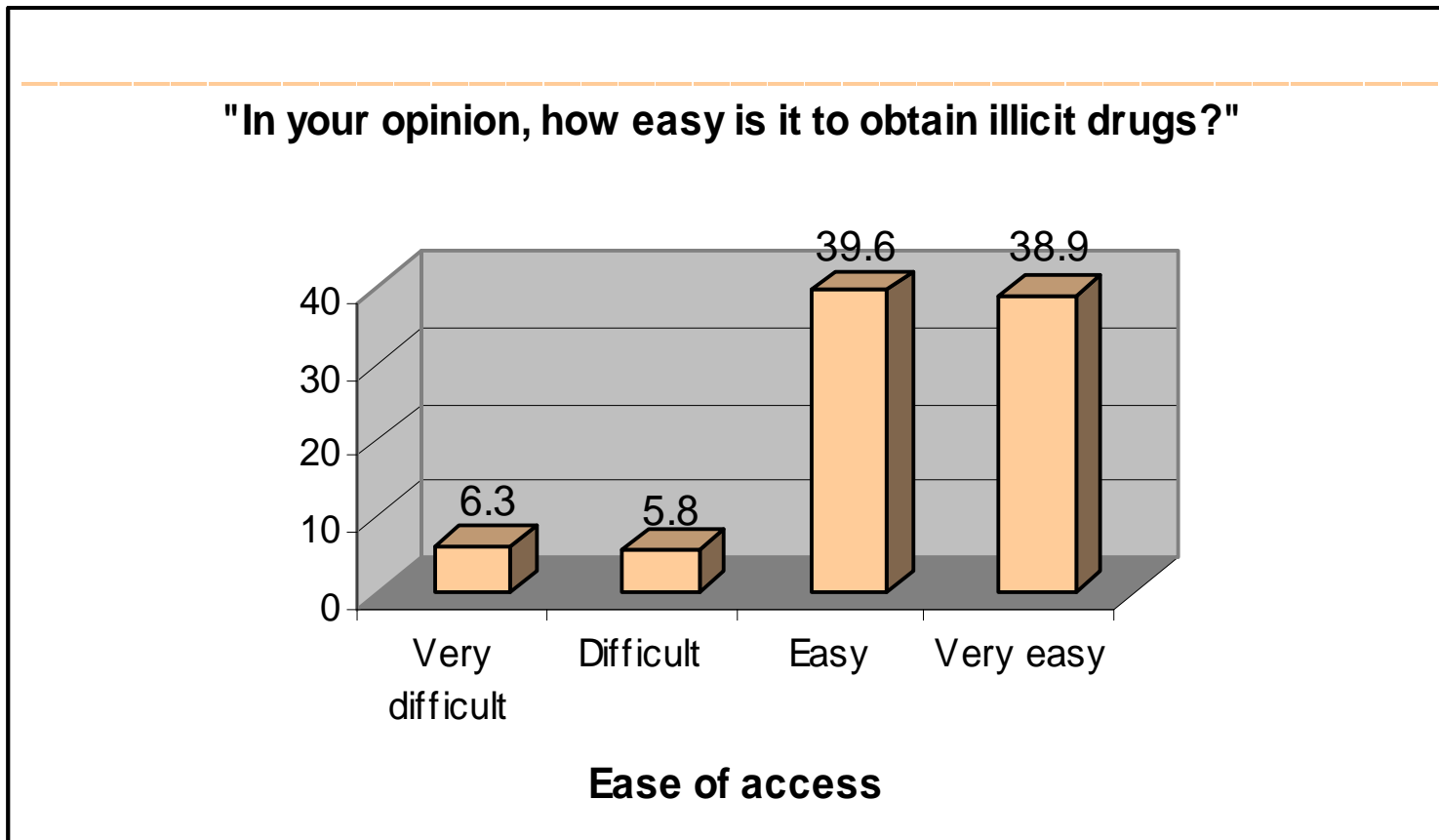
Exposure to drugs and drug use

# Drug use among peers



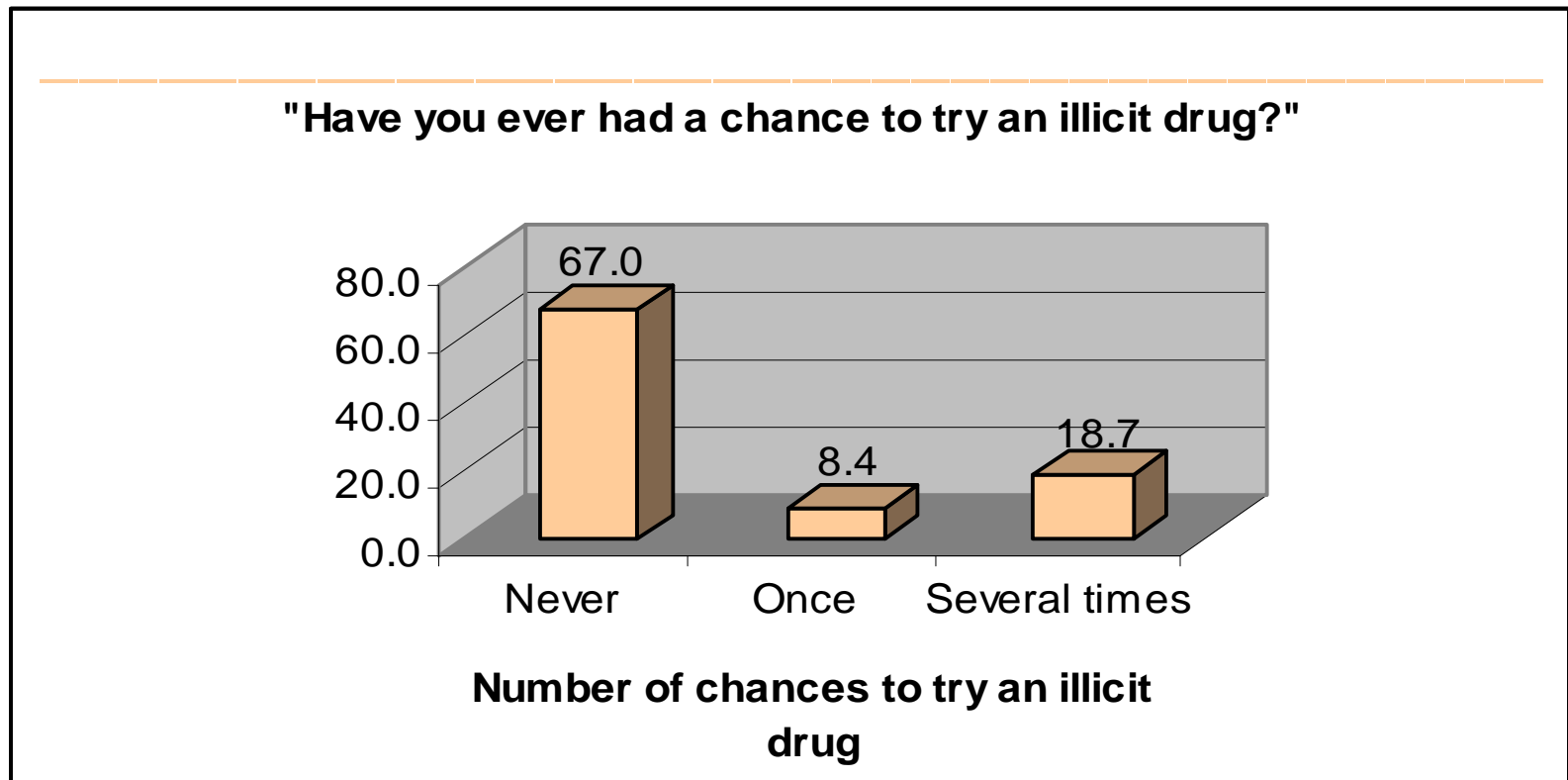
**26.8% more respondents had at least one friend who drank too much alcohol compared to friends who used illicit drug**

# Accessibility of illicit drugs



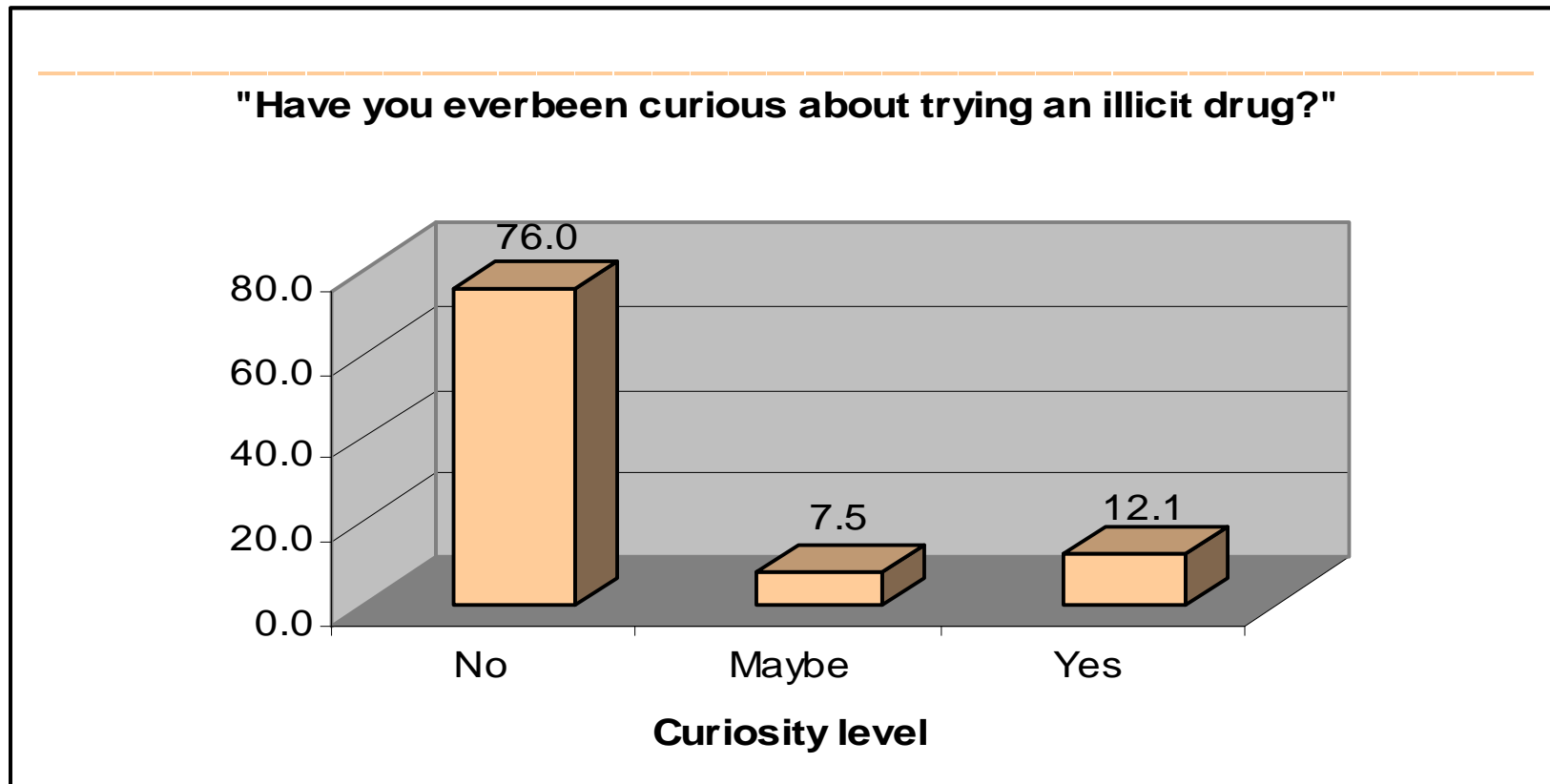
**Almost four of every five (78.5%) respondents noted that it was easy or very easy to obtain illicit drugs**

# Opportunity to try an illicit drug



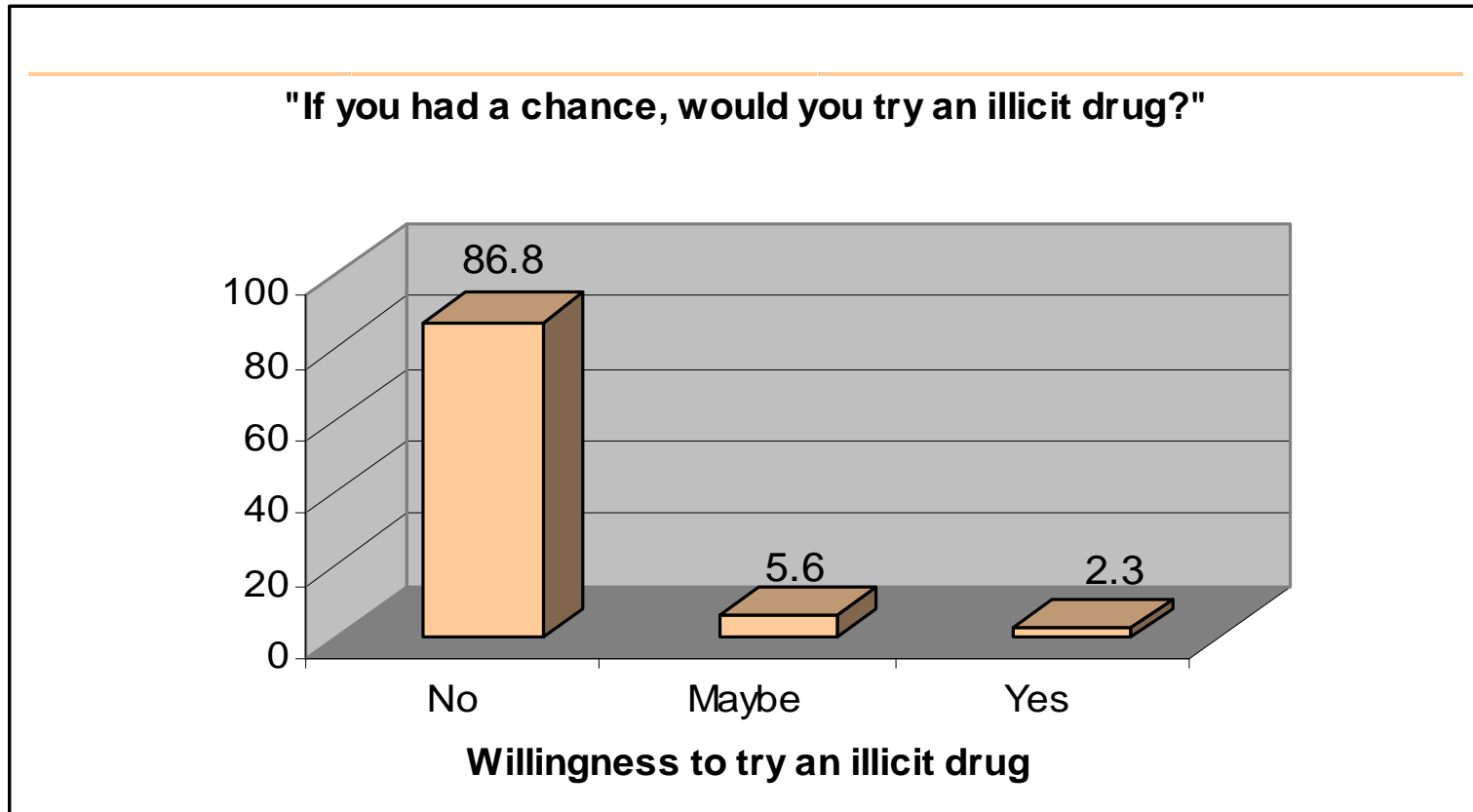
Two of every ten respondents (27.1%) had some previous opportunity.

# Desire/curiosity to use illicit drug



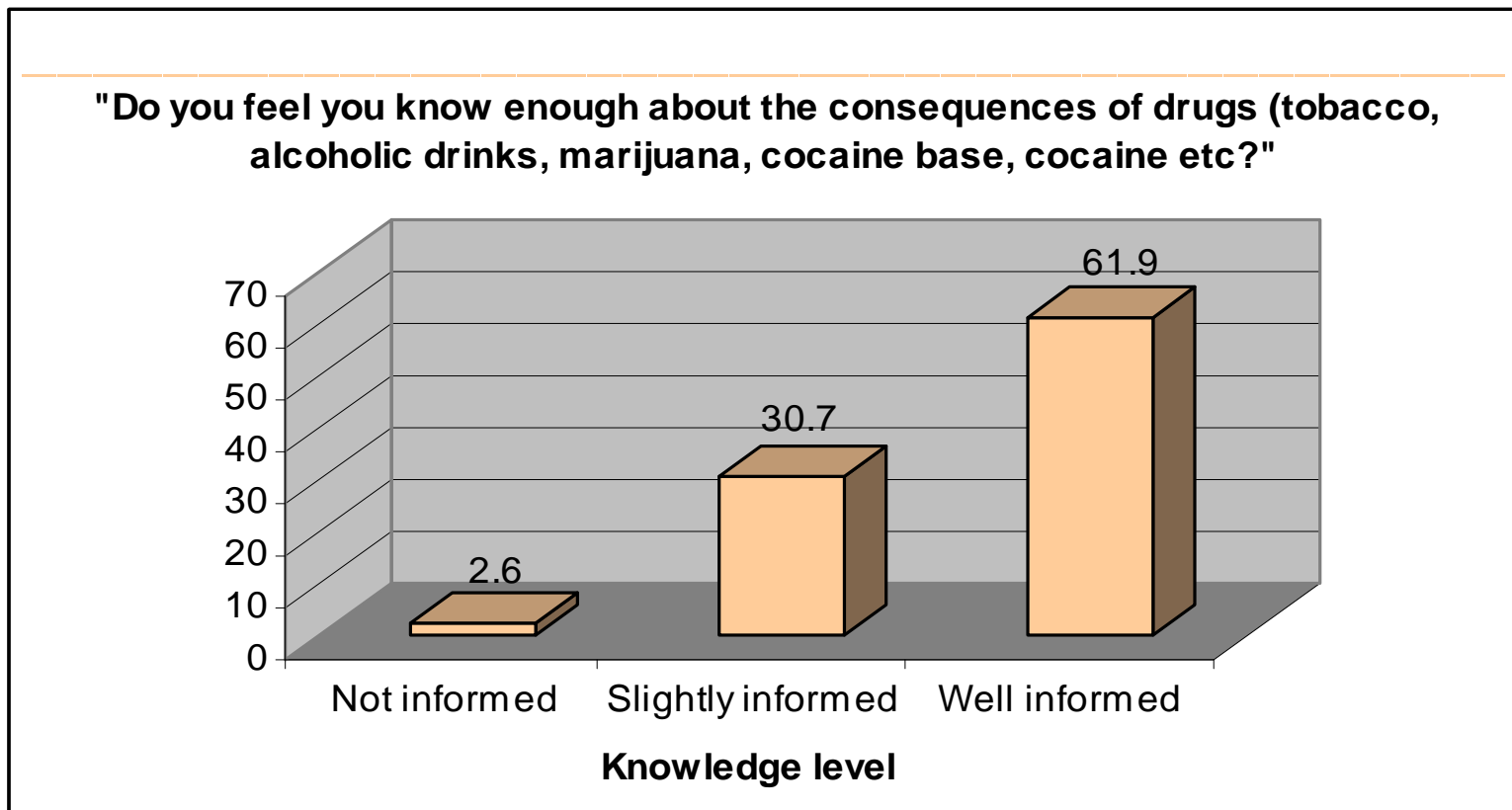
Almost one in every five respondents (19.6%) reported some level of curiosity.

# Willingness to try an illicit drug



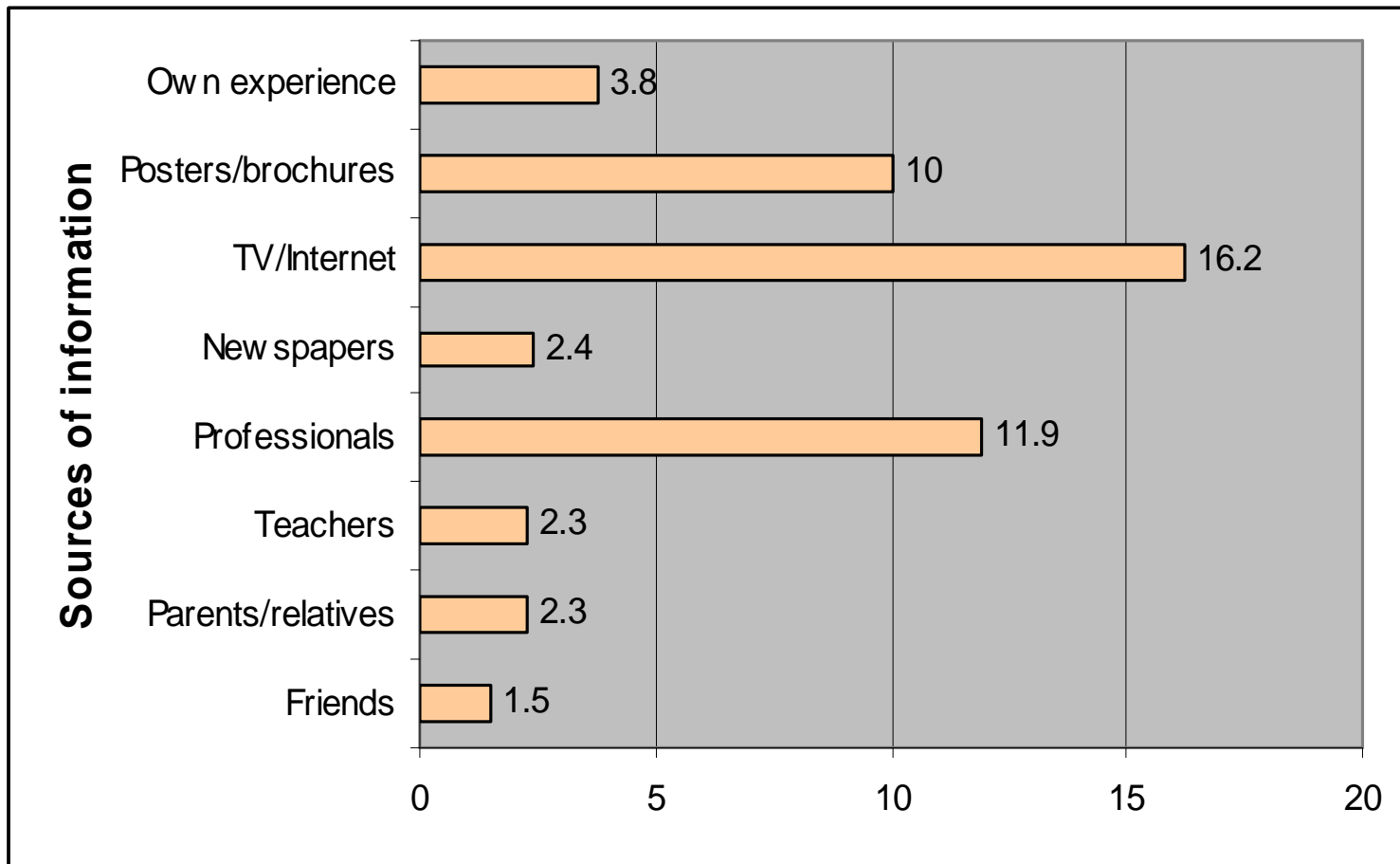
**Less than 10% (7.9%) reported any degree of willingness to try an illicit drug.**

# Knowledge of the consequences of drug use

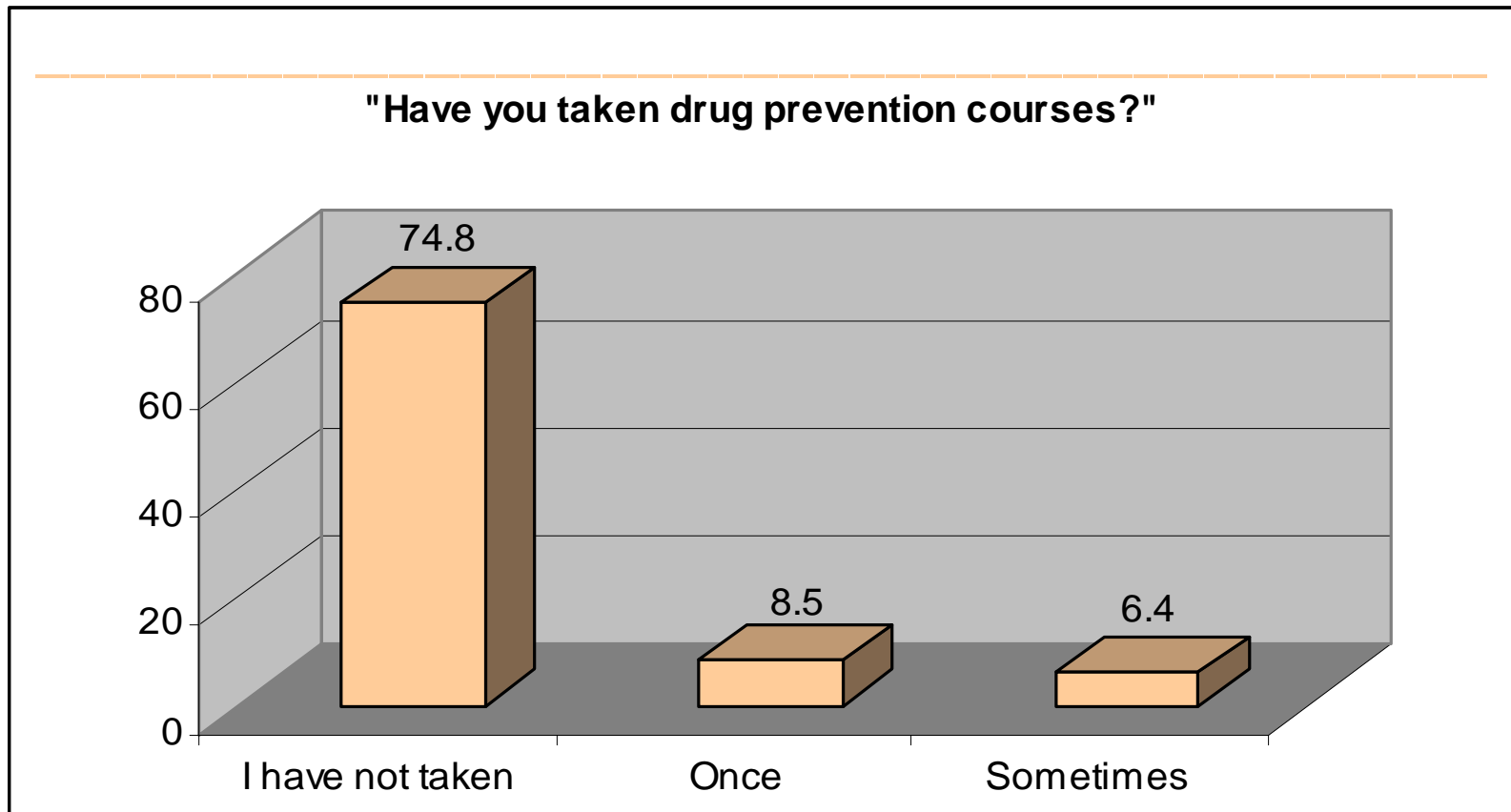


**Nine in every ten respondents (92.6%) reported that they had some knowledge.**

# Source of drug-related information



# Drug prevention education





# Conclusions

- n Prevention of drug use/abuse within the Grenadian public sector is constrained by the following factors:
  - o Significant lack of knowledge among public servants regarding the status and/or availability of a workplace policy on drugs and alcohol.
  - o Medium to high level of ignorance among public servants about the health risks associated with a range of drug taking behaviours (especially cigarettes, solvents and inhalants, tranquilizers, marijuana at low frequency).
  - o High to medium prevalence of alcohol, cigarette smoking, and to a lesser extent marijuana and prescription drugs within the public sector.
  - o Accessibility of illicit drugs, and the desire among less than 10% of the public service to try an illicit drug in the future.



# Priority issue analysis

Priority issue	Scale of problem (global, regional & national)	Level of concern (low, medium & high)	Ability to adequately address issues (low, medium, high)	Priority ranking (1 – most severe)
Lack of knowledge about the status of a workplace policy on drugs and alcohol	National	Medium	High	2
Ignorance of the health risks associated with drugs	National	High	High	1
Accessibility of drugs	National, regional & international	High	Medium/low	1
High prevalence of alcohol, cigarette and prescription drug use	National	High	Medium	3
Desire to try an illicit drug	National, regional & international	Medium	Medium	3



# Proposed recommendations

- q Develop and implement an integrated public awareness and education strategy targeting the public sector, which highlights the health risks and socio-economic implications of drug use including alcohol and cigarette smoking.
- q Embark on a public awareness campaign within the public service to stimulate awareness of existing workplace policies on drug and alcohol. It is highly recommended that existing workplace policies on drugs be reformed through active involvement of all stakeholders, including policy makers.
- q Develop and implement an alternative livelihood project targeting current and potential drug traffickers.
- q Upgrade and strengthen local capacity to intercept illicit drugs at both national and local levels.
- q Develop a 5 year plan that identifies the strategic research directions for drug control in Grenada.



Thank you