

**ESPAD**

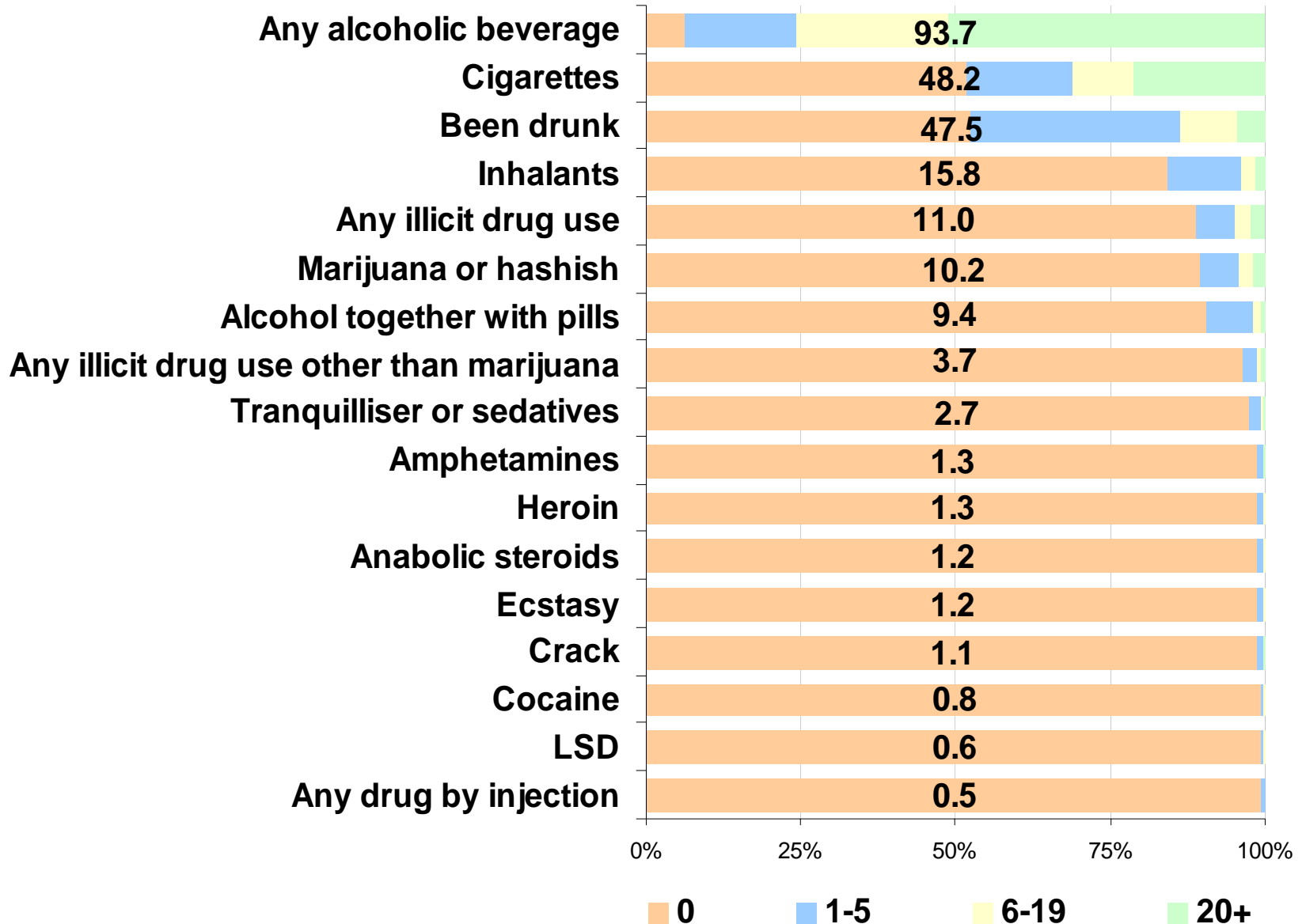
**European School  
Survey Project  
on Alcohol and Other  
Drugs**

**2003**

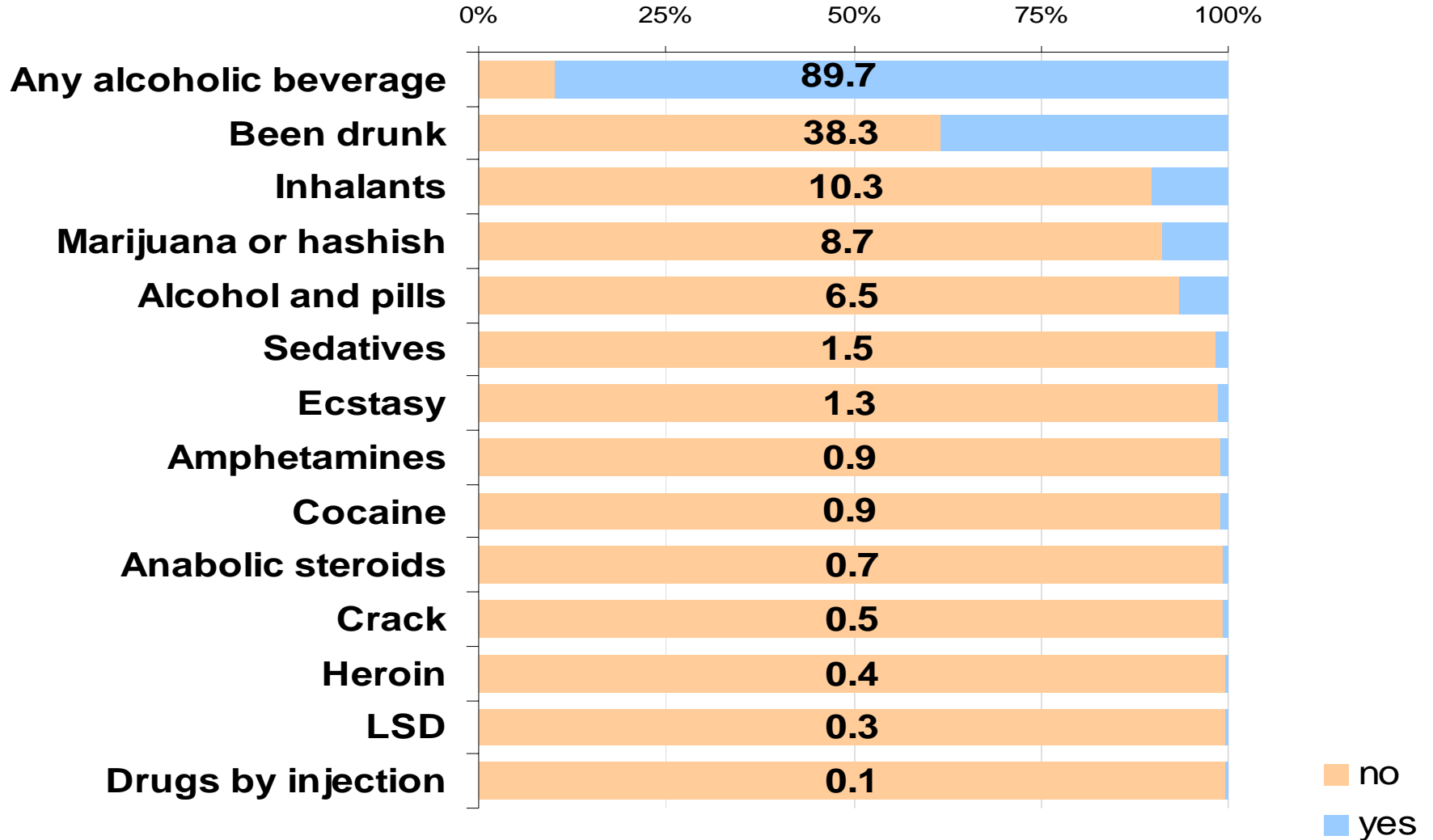
# Background information

- National ESPAD study co-ordinated by *sedqa* in collaboration with the Education Division.
- 3500 Form 5 students born in 1987 were included in the analysis
  - 1557 boys
  - 1943 girls

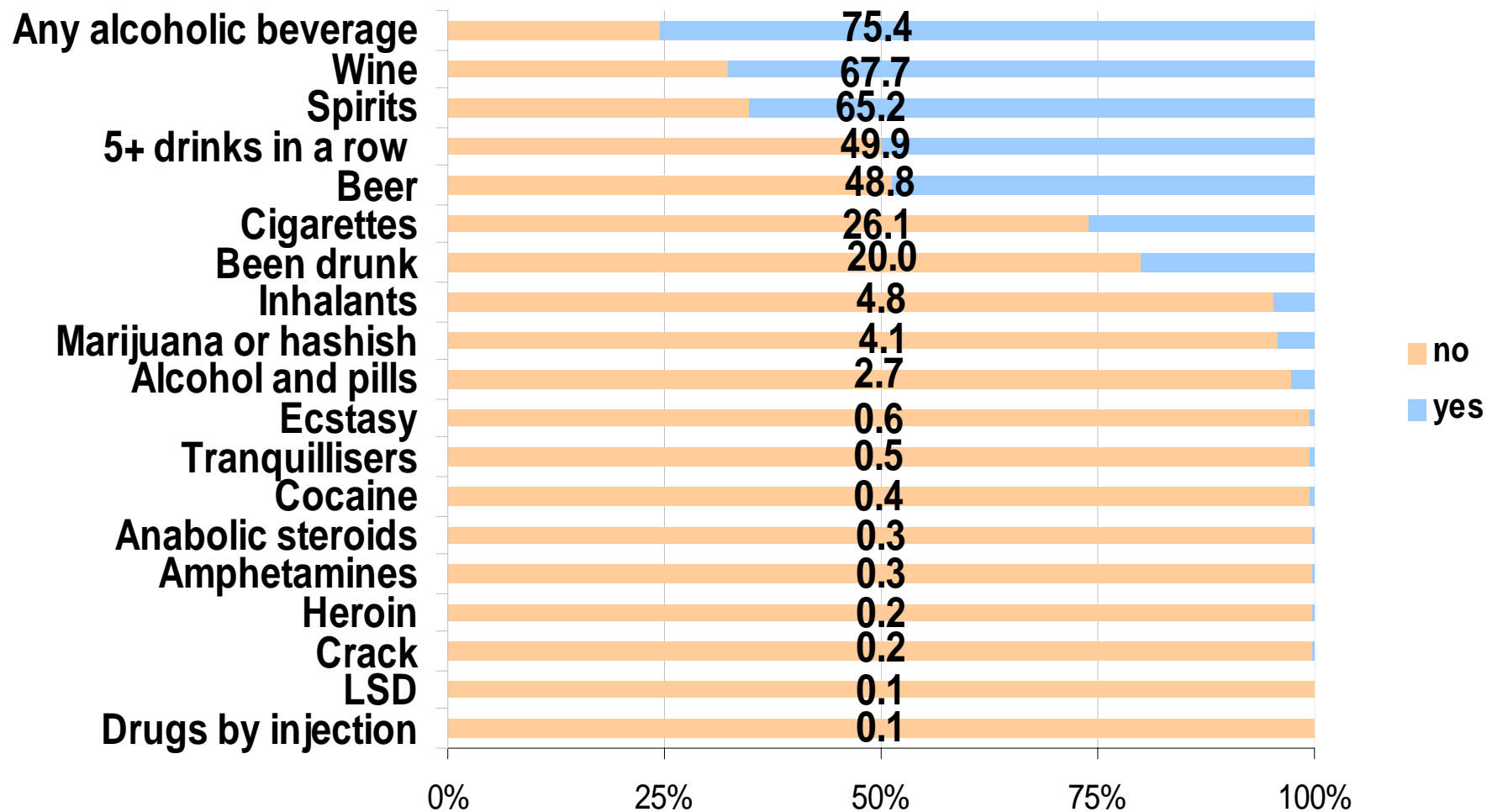
# Frequency of lifetime substance use



# Annual use of substances



## Substance use in the last 30 days

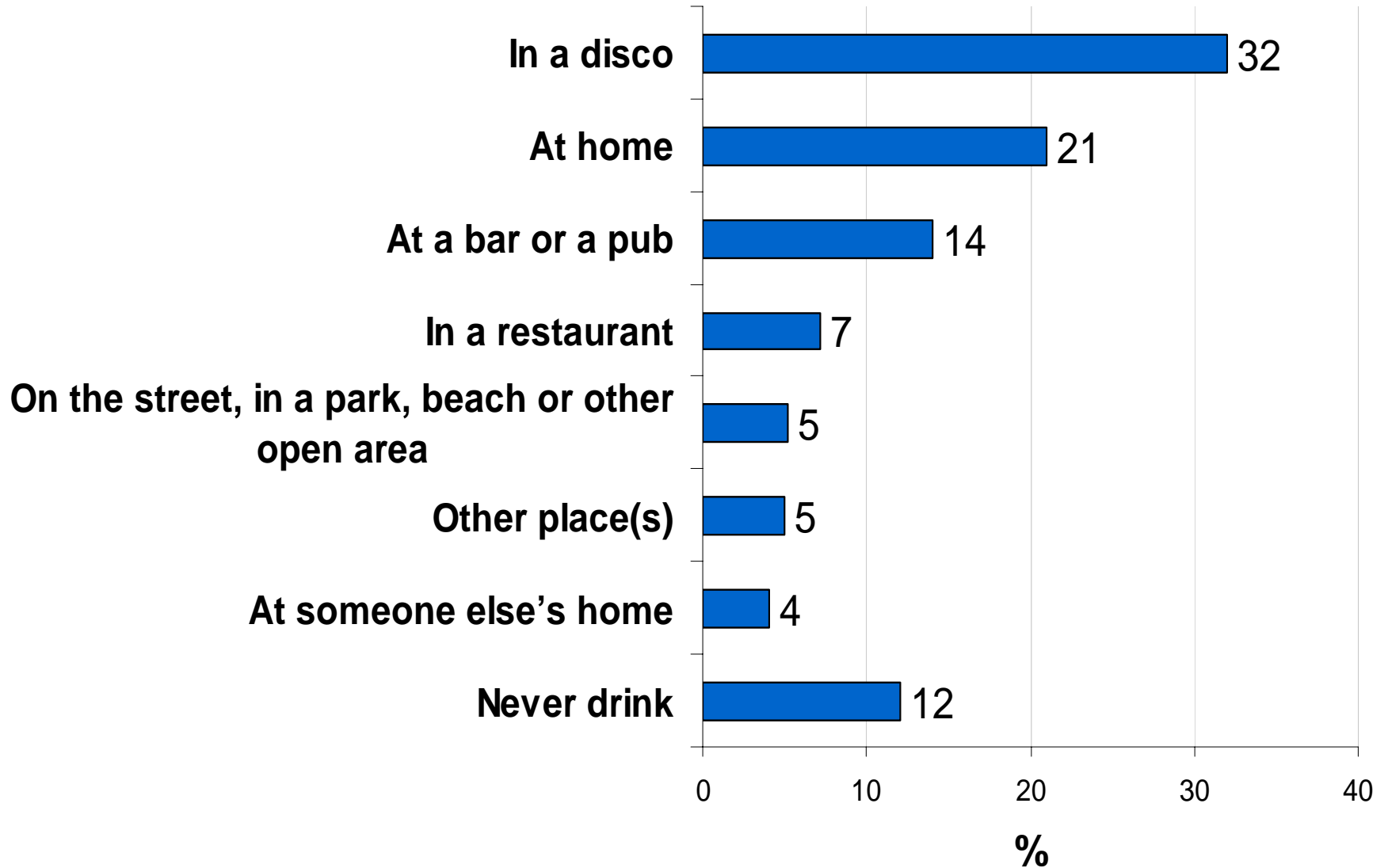


# Gender differences in substance use

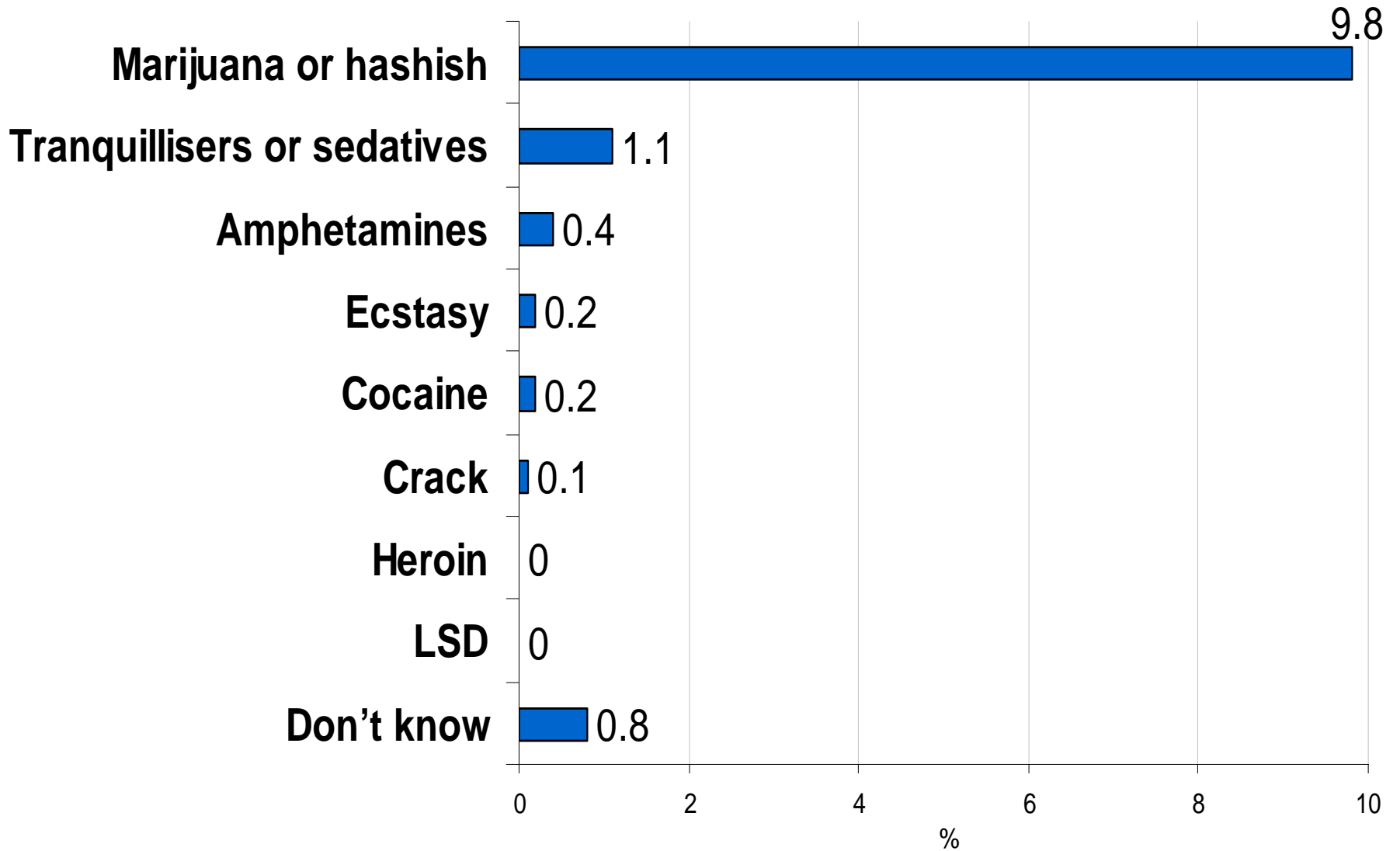
A higher proportion of males than females report:

- consuming alcohol, binge drinking & drunkenness in all time frames in which they were measured
- using marijuana during their lifetime and the last 12 months

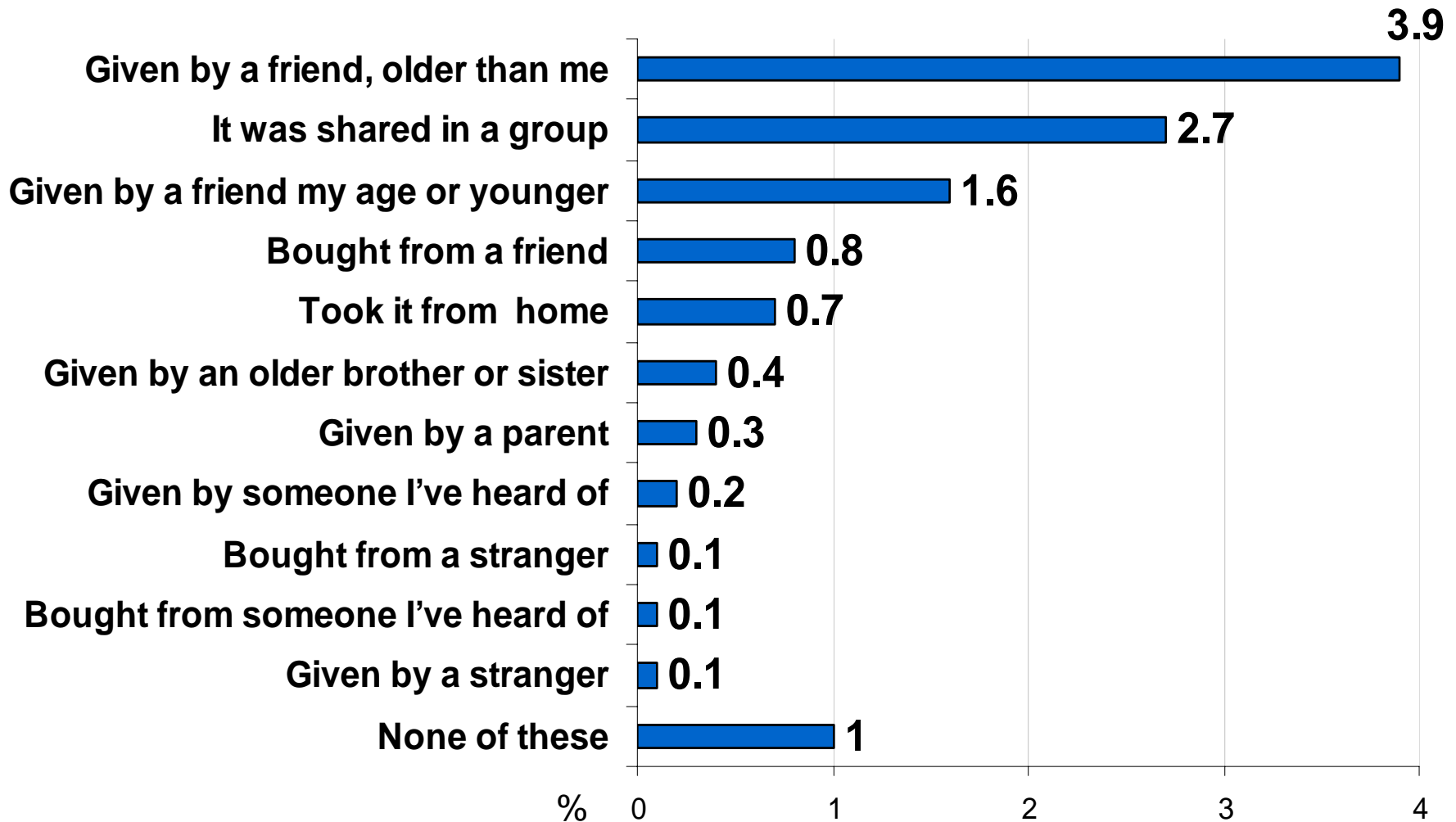
# Drinking venue on the last drinking occasion



# First drug ever used



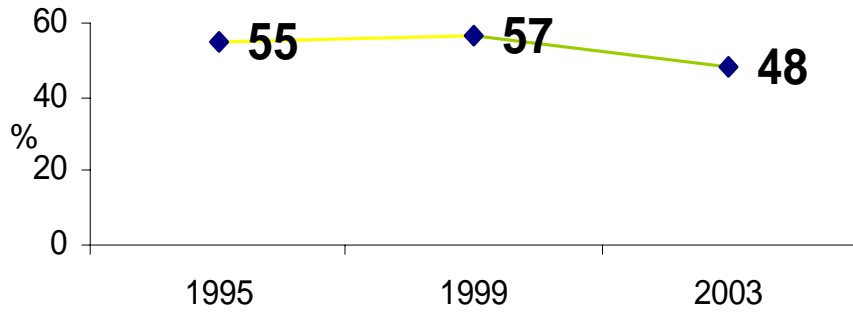
## Method of obtainment of first substance on first occasion



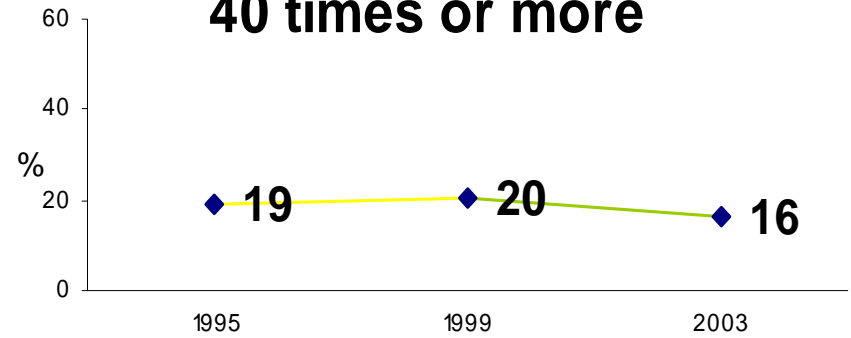
# Changes in substance use 1999-2003

- In general, the use of substances remained stable between 1999-2003
- The principal exceptions were:
  - Tobacco use, which declined
  - Marijuana use, which increased amongst males

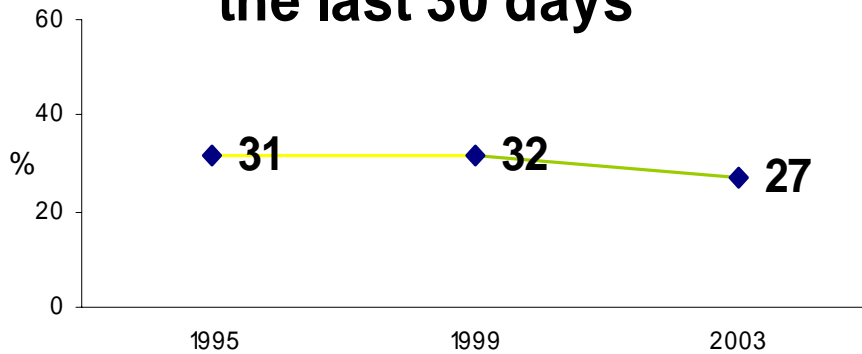
## Lifetime use of cigarettes



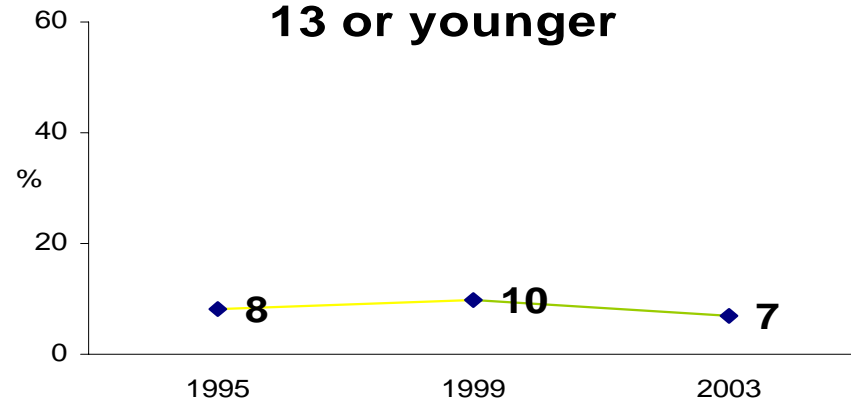
## Lifetime use of cigarettes 40 times or more



## Cigarette smoking during the last 30 days



## Daily smoking at the age of 13 or younger



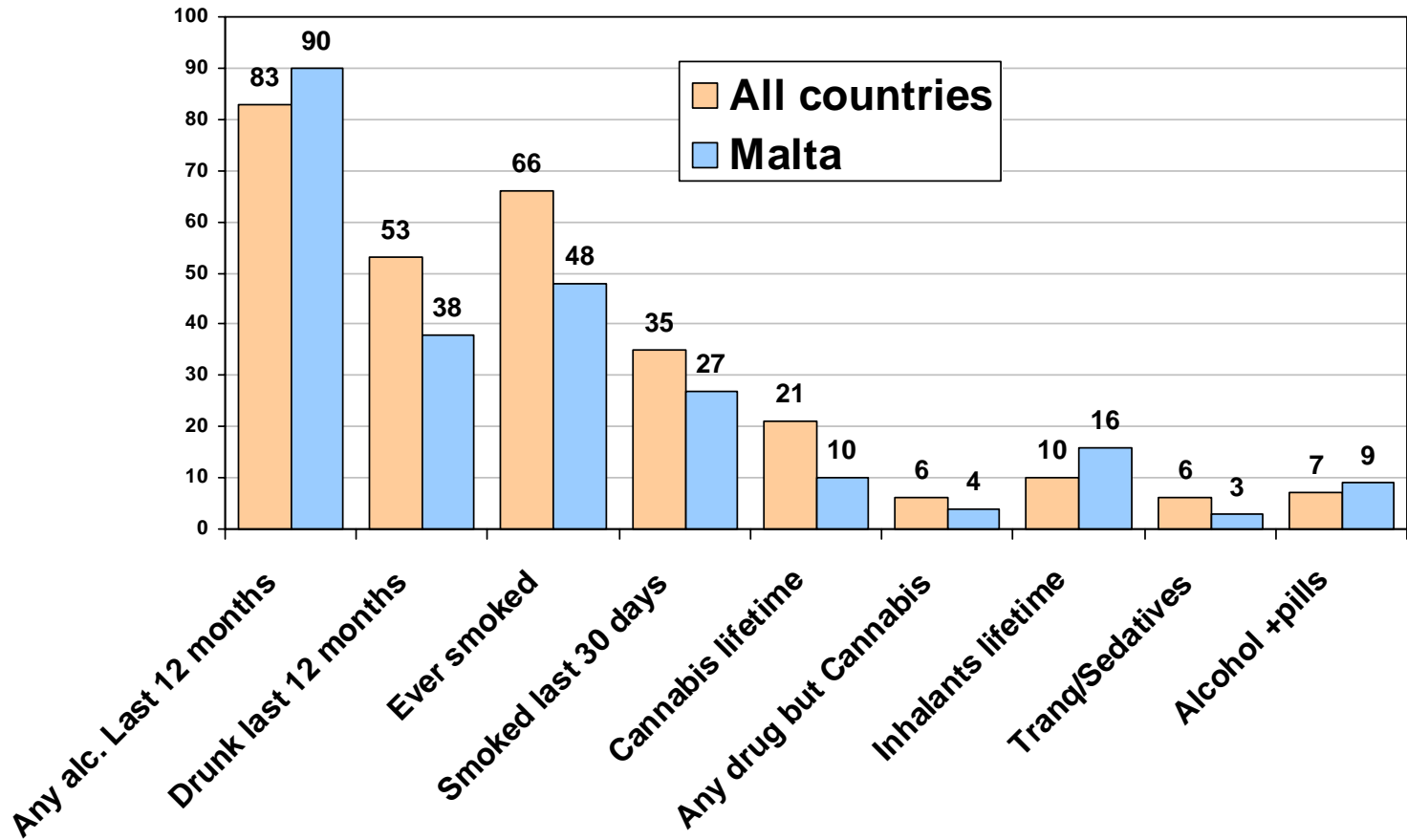
# Changes between 1999 and 2003 in cigarette use: Gender differences

- Decline in cigarette smoking in the last 30 days greater for females (34% to 26%) than males (29% to 28%).
- Decline in daily smoking by the age of 13 greater for males (9% to 5%) than females (10% to 8%).

# Changes between 1999 and 2003 in marijuana use

- Overall marijuana use 'increased' by just under 3%.
- Increase greater for males (7.4% to 12.7%) than females (7.1% to 8.3%).

# Malta compared to other European countries participating in ESPAD



# Conclusion

- The licit substances, alcohol & tobacco, are most commonly used amongst 15-16 year old students.
- The use of illicit substances is not widespread.
- Between 1999 and 2003 there was little change in the prevalence of use of most substances.
- The principal exceptions were:
  - tobacco use, which declined
  - marijuana use, which increased amongst males