

Cannabis Use in Canada

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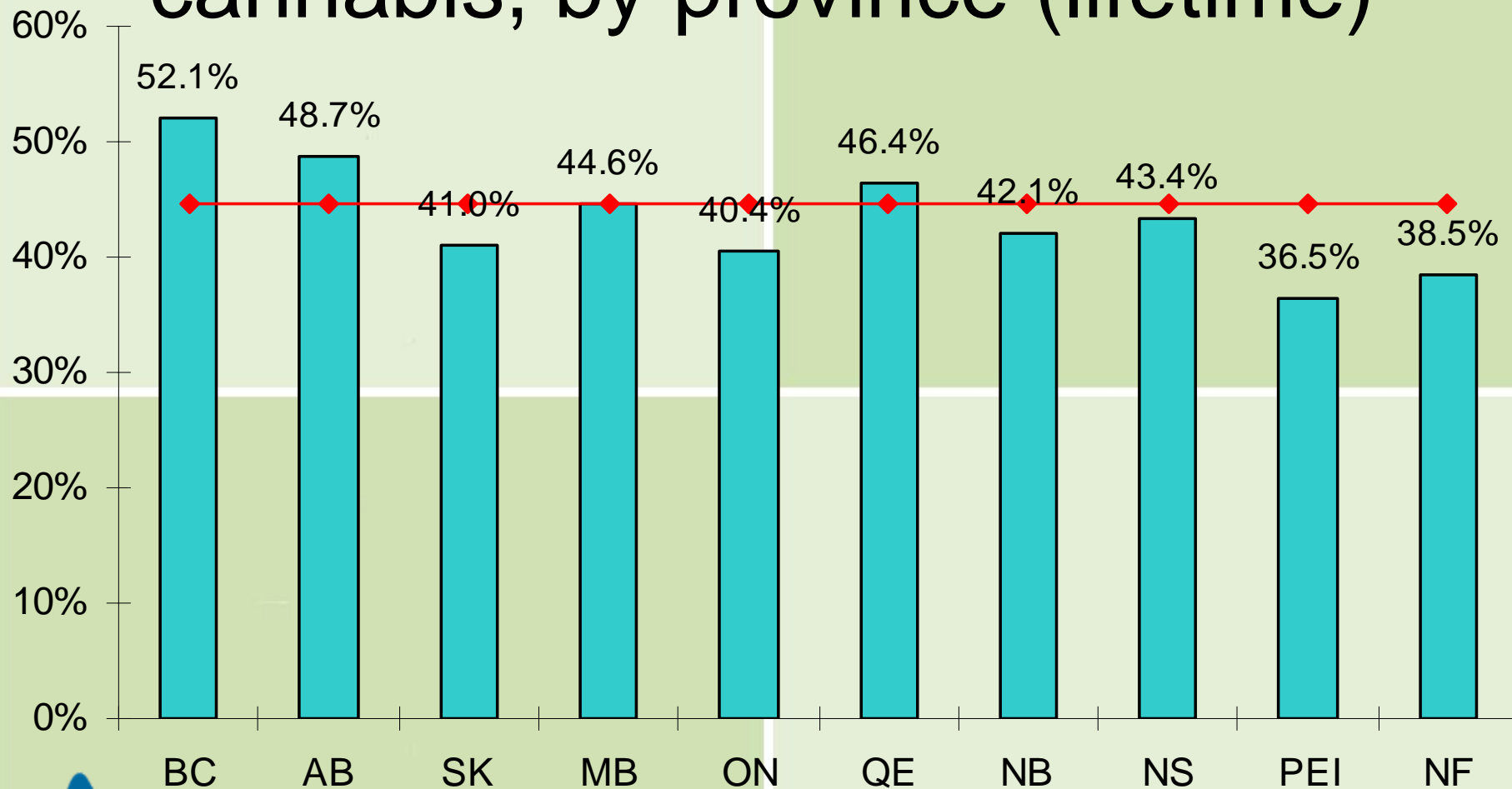
Canadian Addiction Survey...

- First national study in a decade dedicated to drug use
- Designed to measure patterns of prevalence and incidence of drug use, harm from use, context of use, risk and protective factors, opinions and attitudes
- 13,909 Canadians 15 and older
- Telephone interviews between Dec 2003 and April 2004

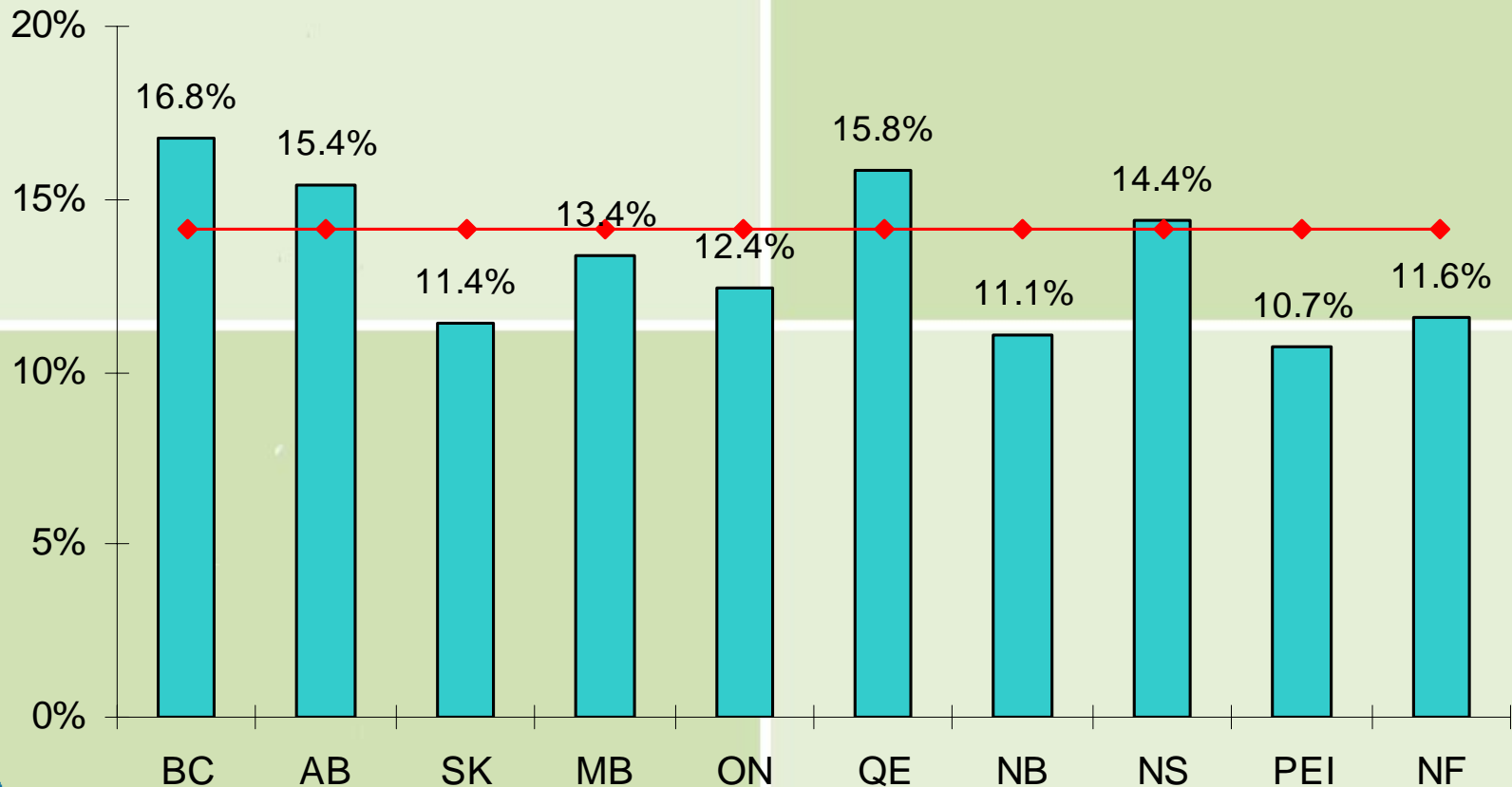
Overall...

- 44.5% of Canadians have tried cannabis at least once
- 14.4% of Canadians 15 and older have used cannabis in the previous year
- 13.9% have used it more than once in the past year
- 8.8% had used in the past 30 days
- Variation in past year users is wide, e.g., 21% did not use in previous 3 months, 20% used weekly and 18% used daily

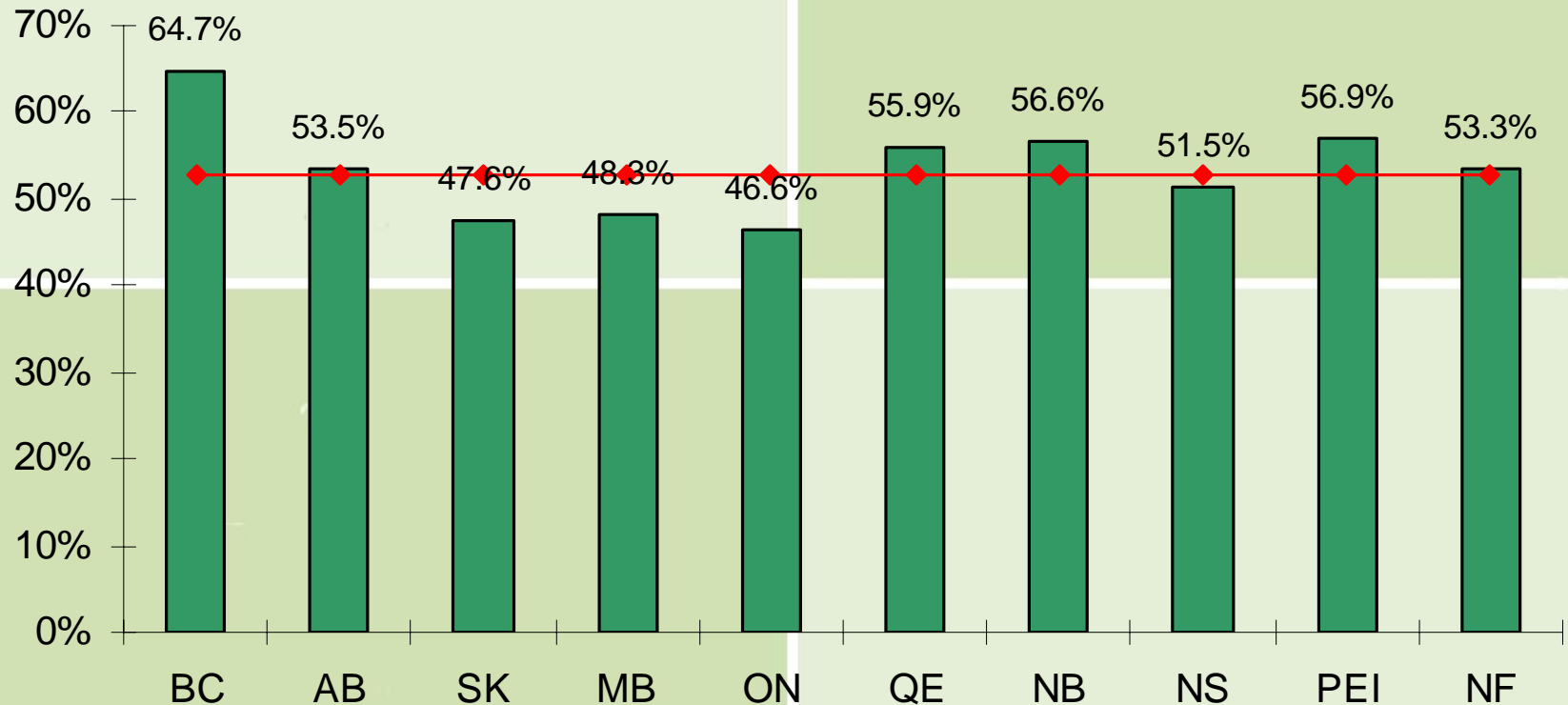
Percent of respondents who use cannabis, by province (lifetime)



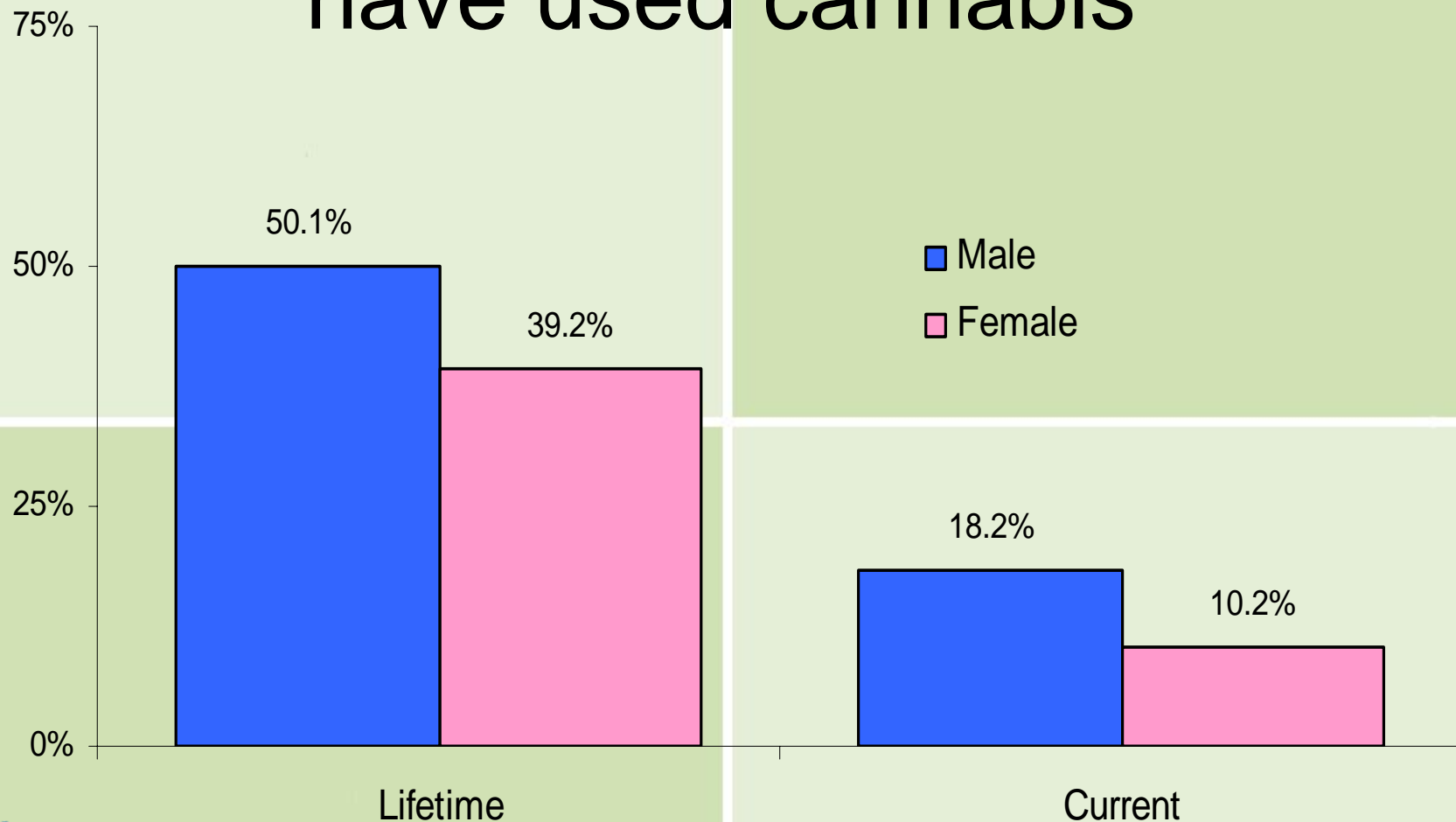
Percent of **current** cannabis users by province



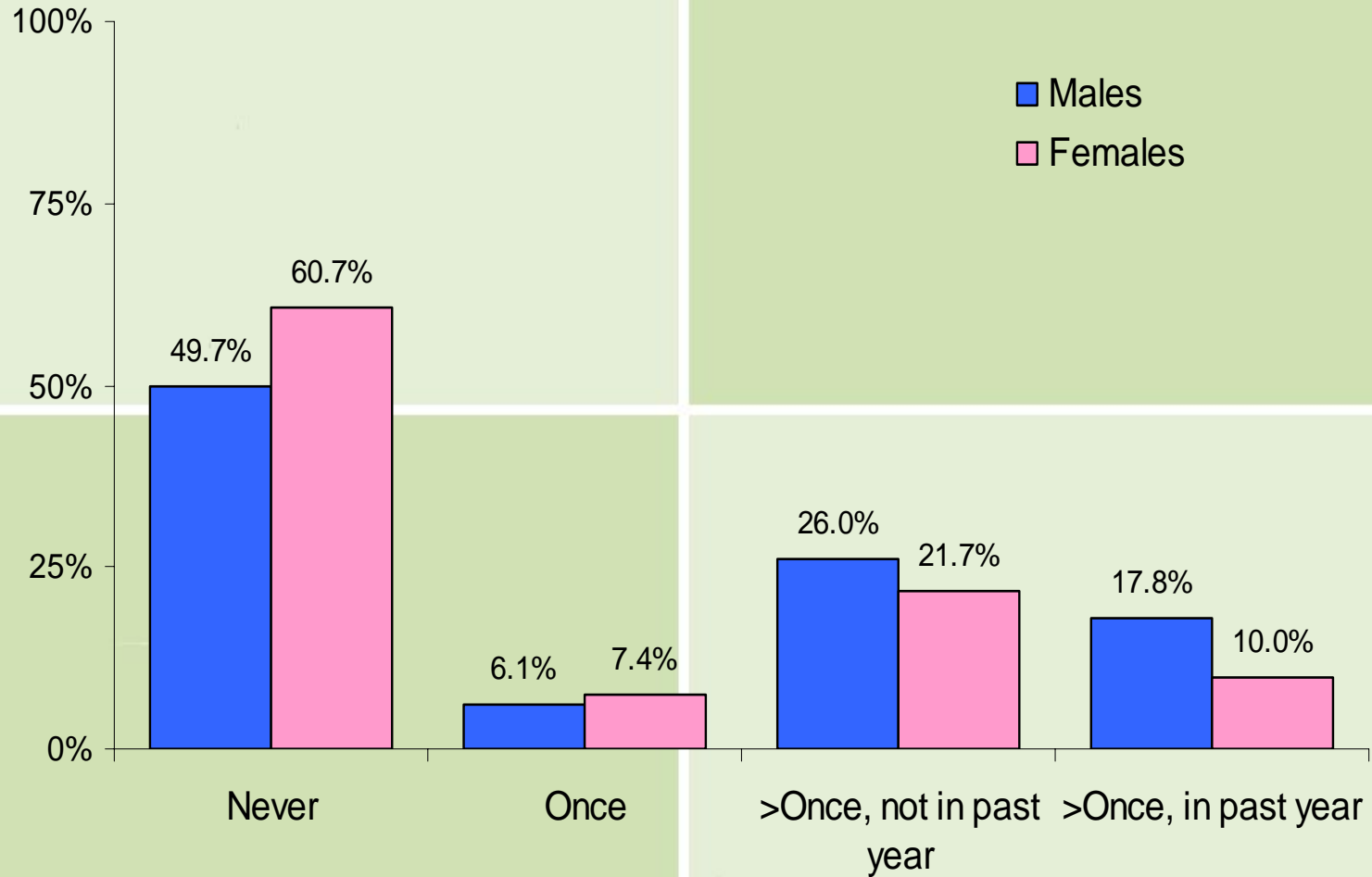
Perceived access across the country



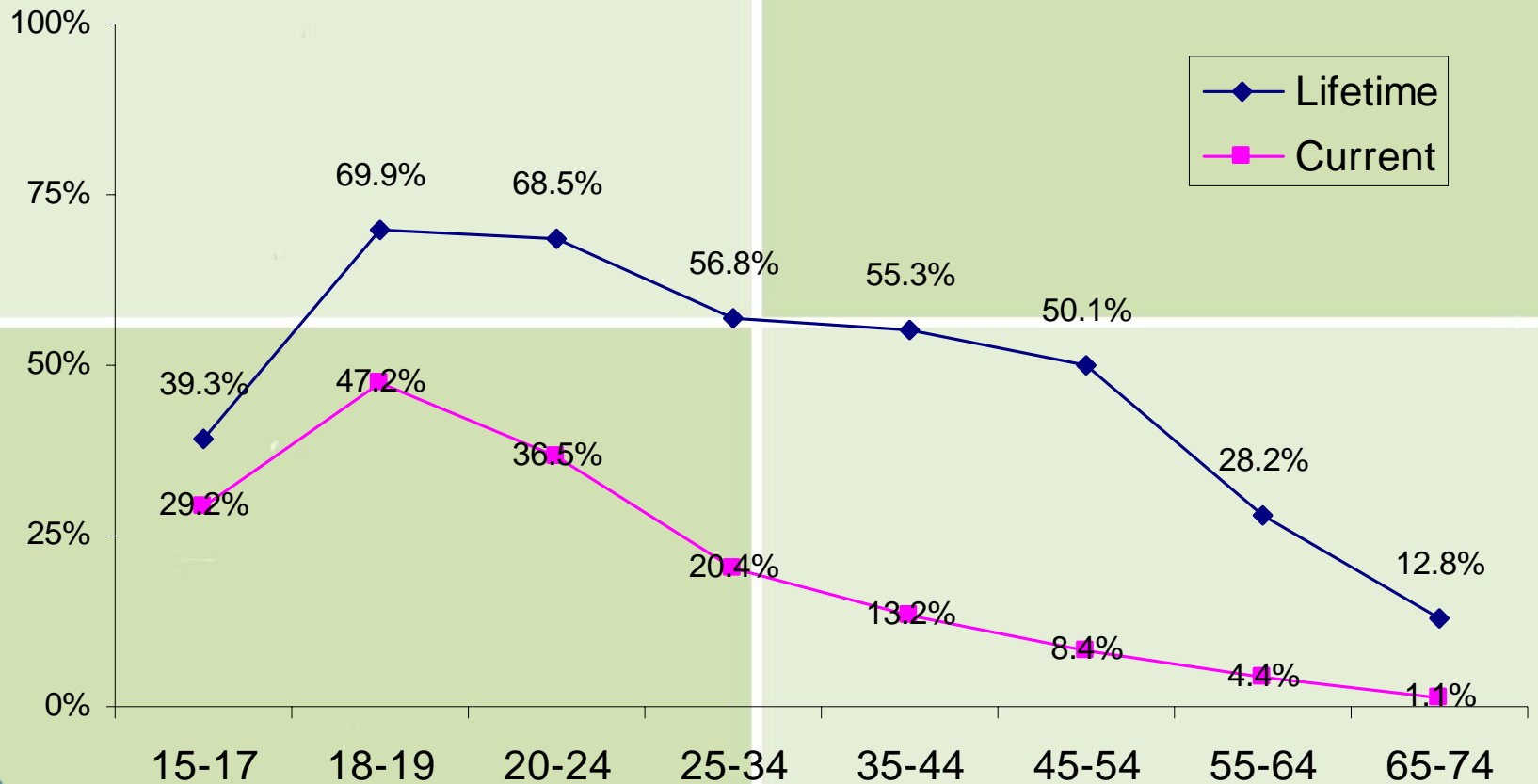
Percent of males and females who have used cannabis



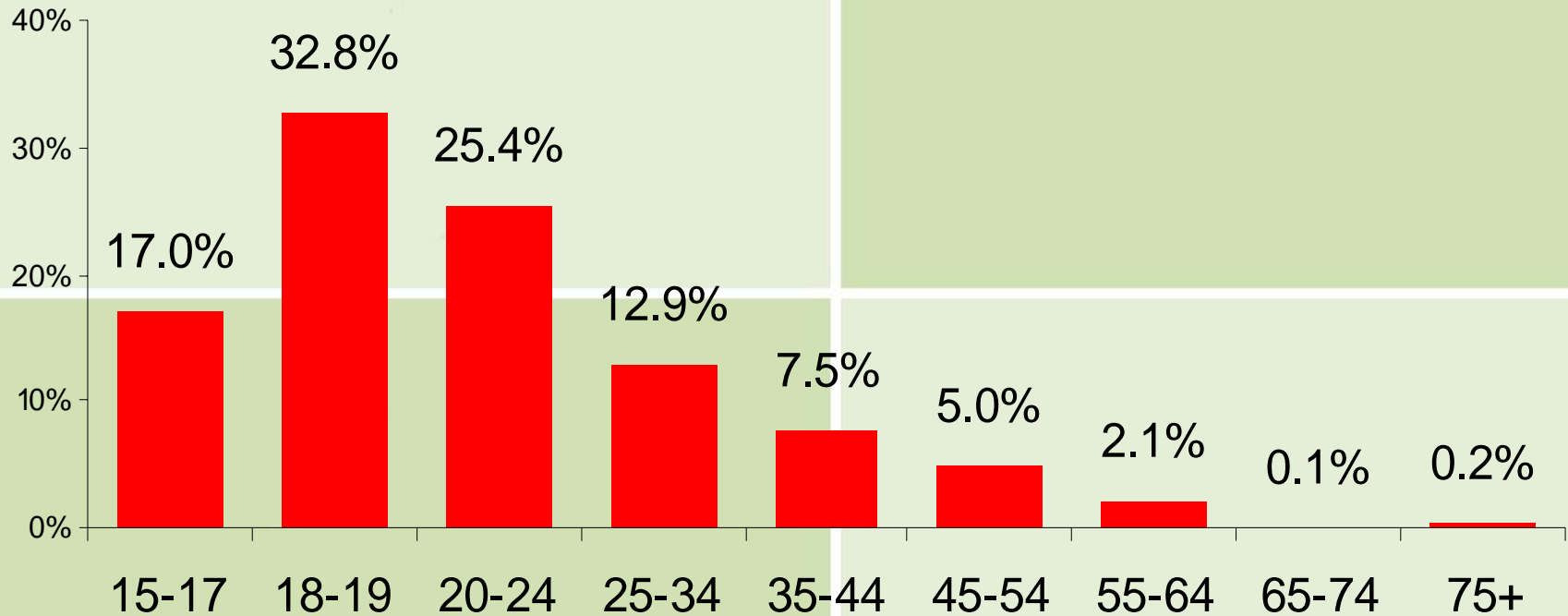
How often have people used cannabis?



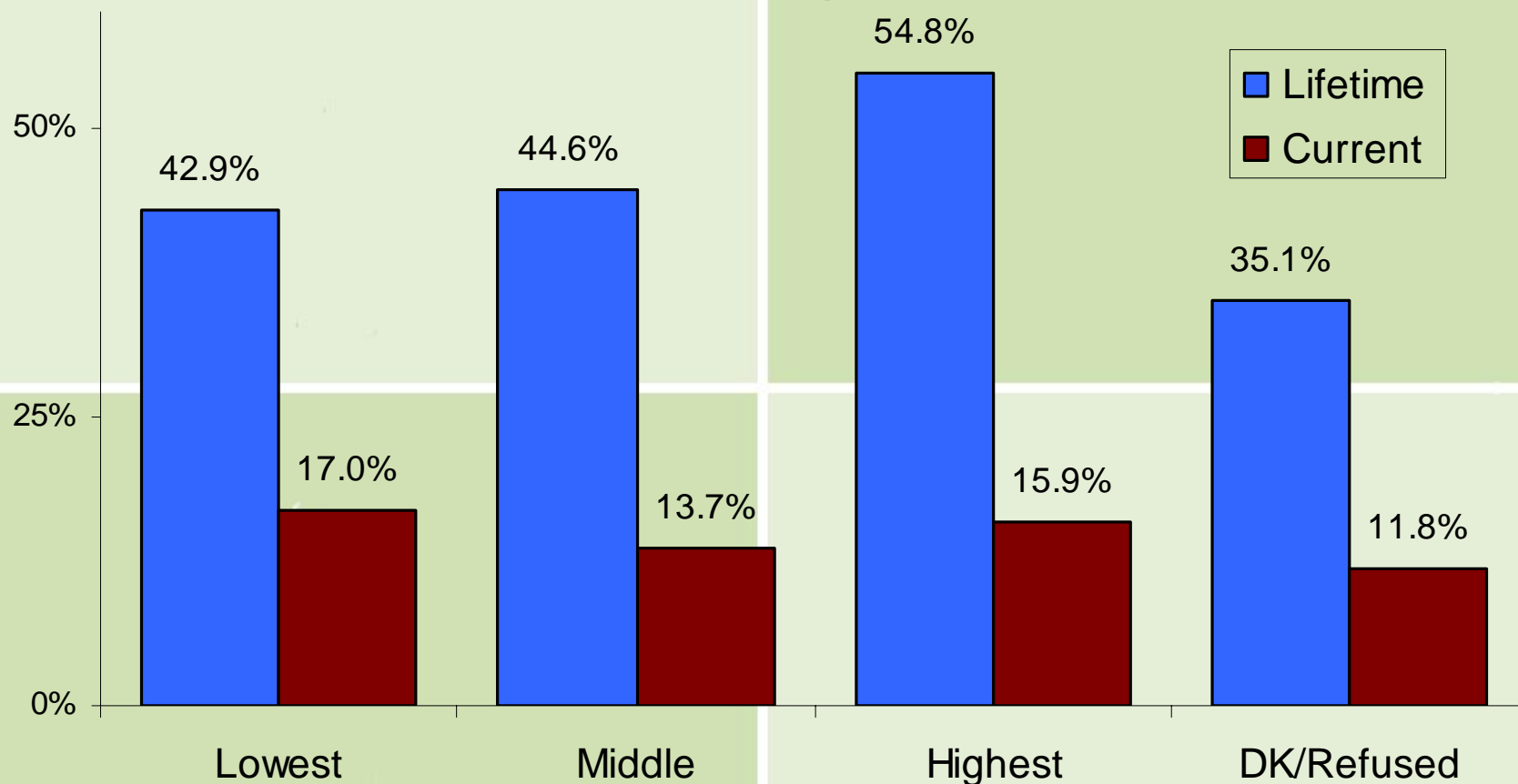
Percent of cannabis users by age group



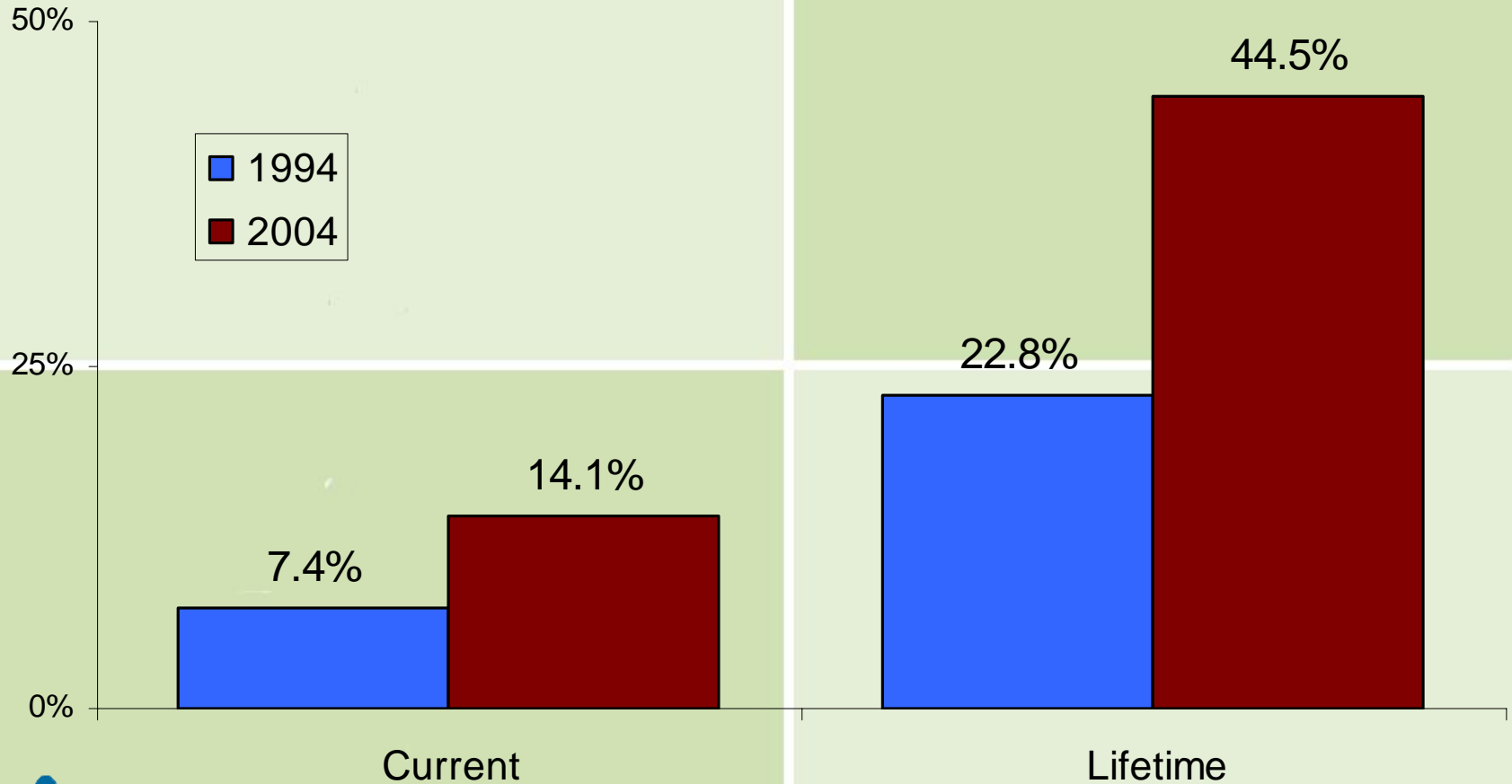
Past 30 day use, by age group



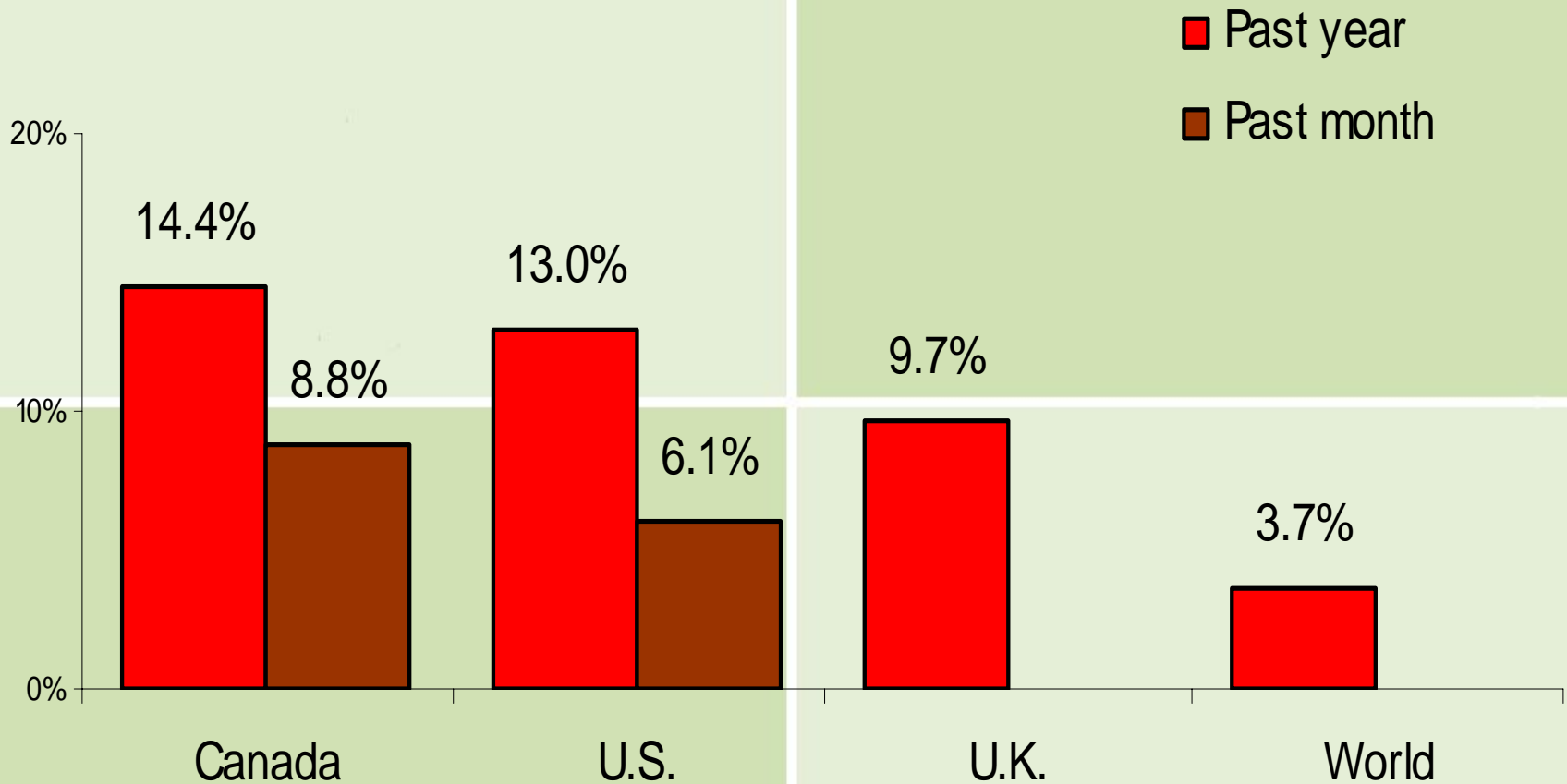
Percent of cannabis users by income group



Changes over time



Other countries



Cannabis dependence

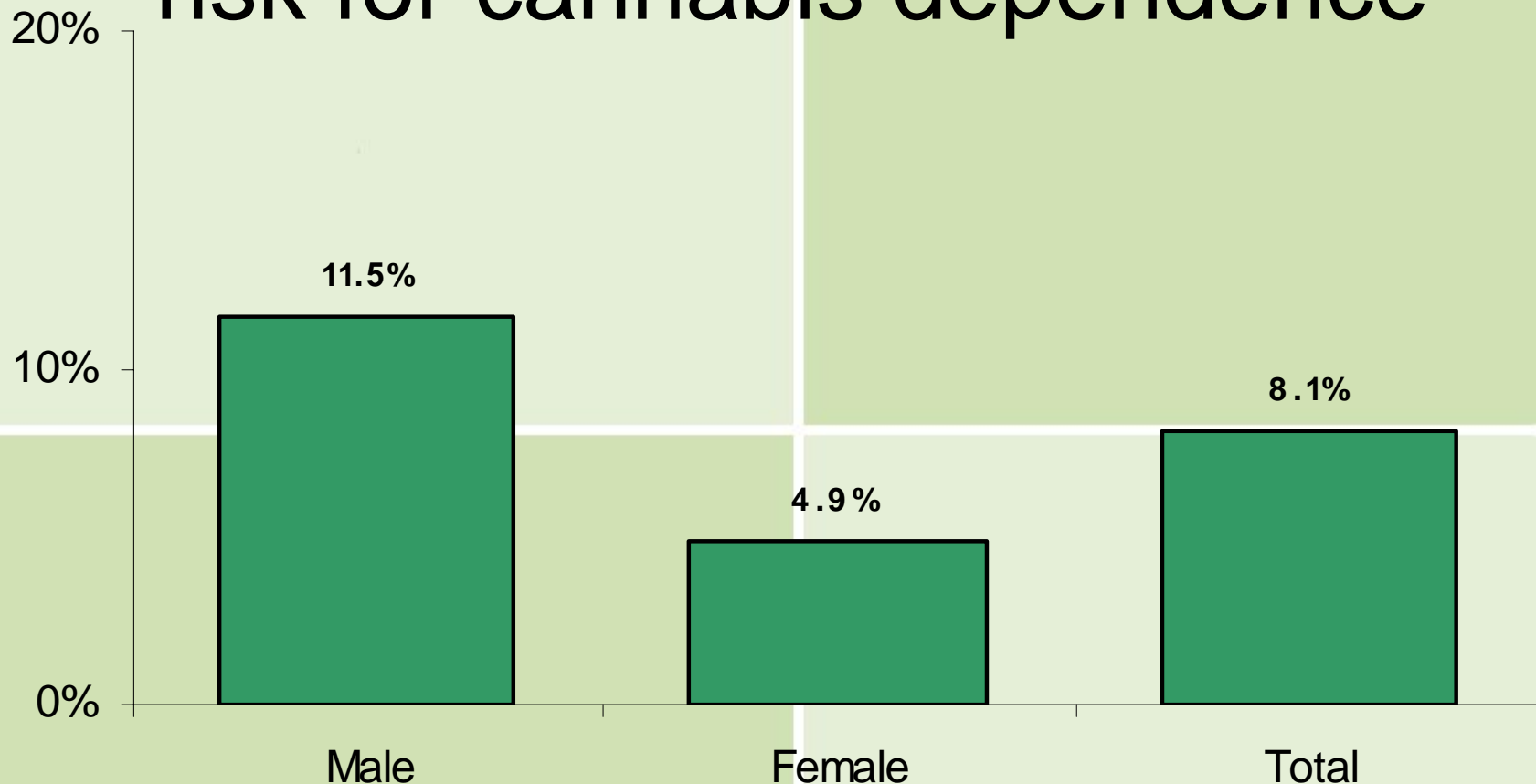
- WHO developed the ASSIST (Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test)
- Used here to identify cannabis-related problems

Past year cannabis-related symptoms of dependence*

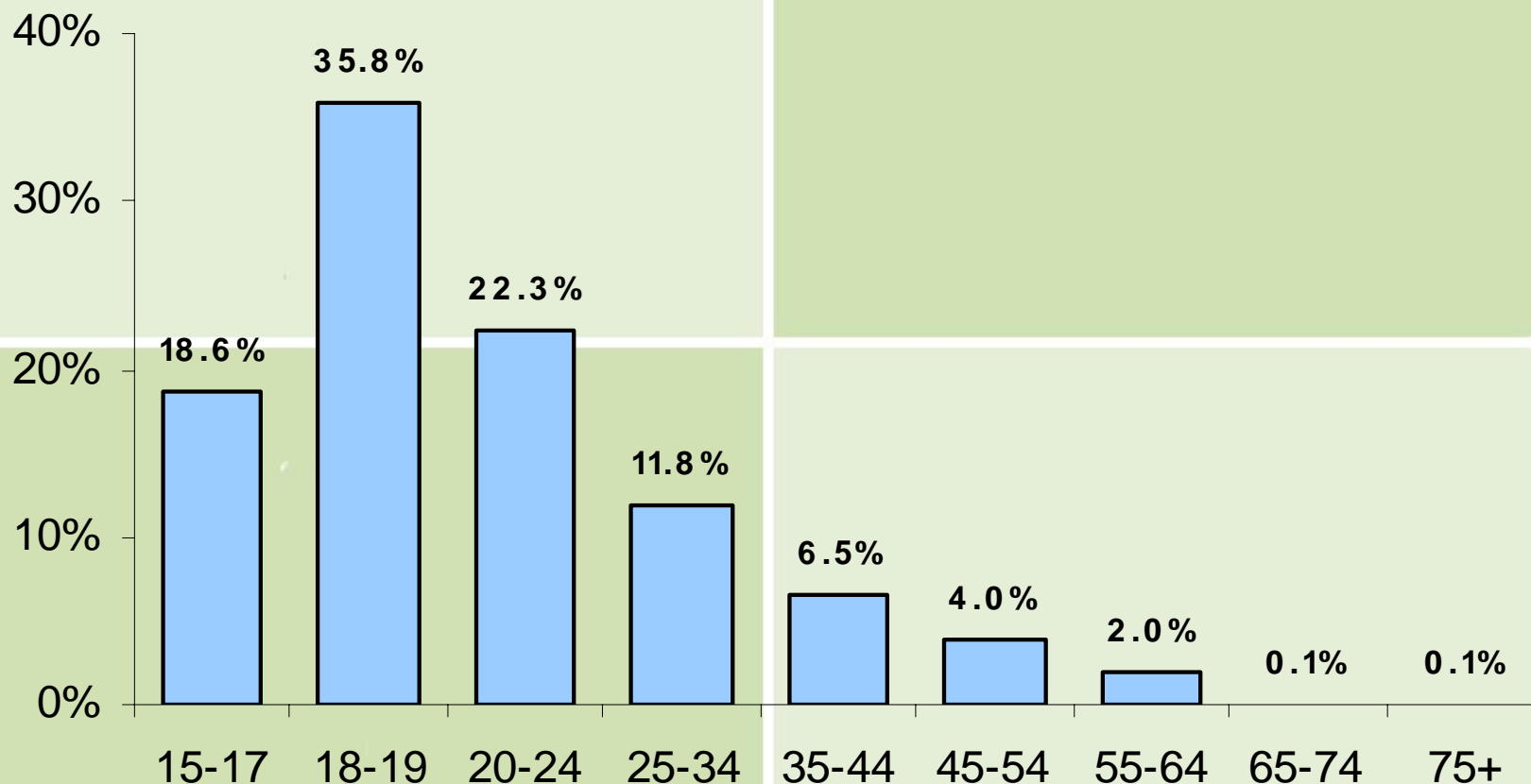
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| • Strong desire to use | 32.0% |
| • Health, social, legal problems | 4.9% |
| • Failed expectations | 6.9% |
| • Lifetime | |
| – Friends concern | 15.7% |
| – Failed control | 34.1% |

* Past year users only

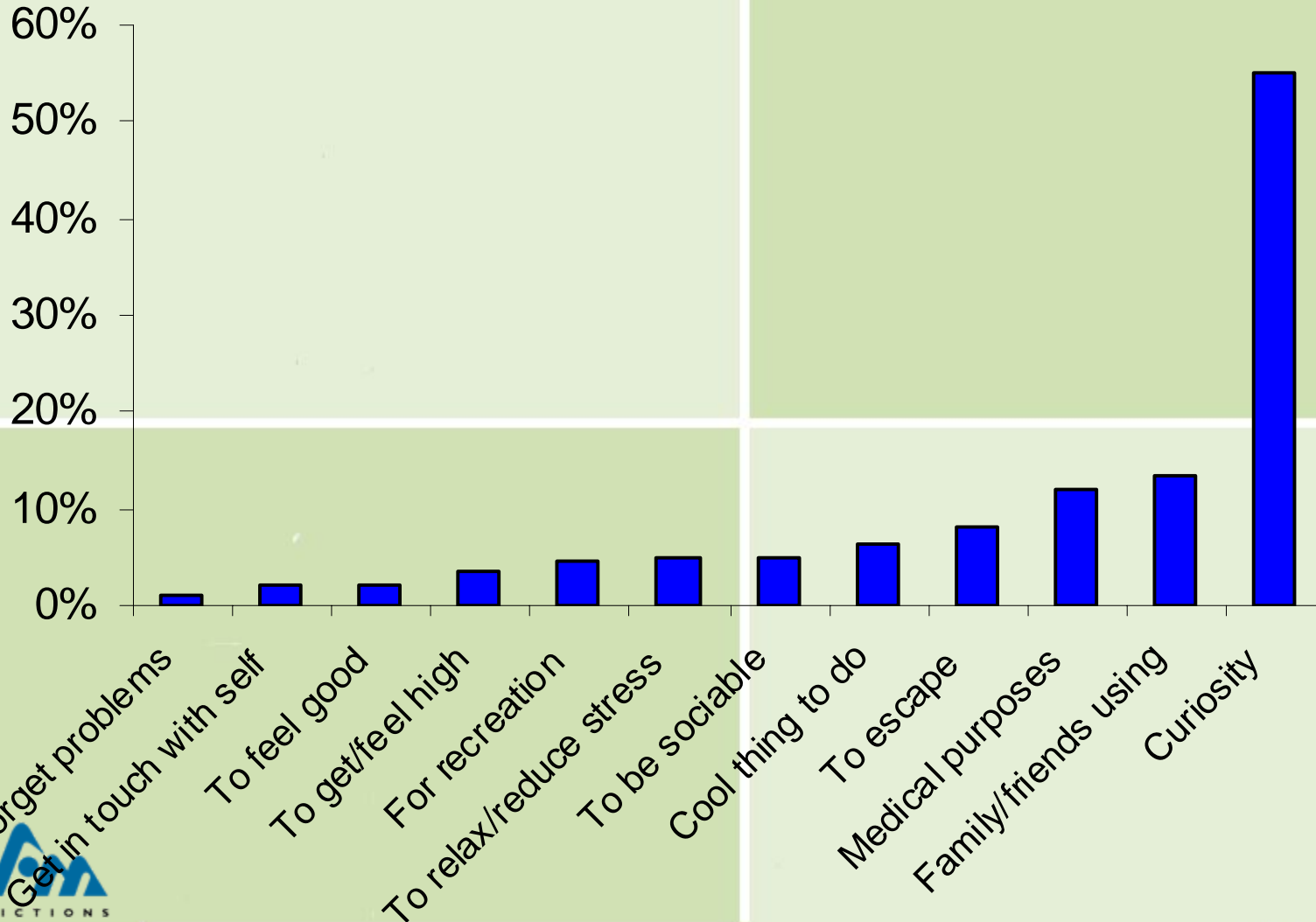
Percent of males and females at risk for cannabis dependence



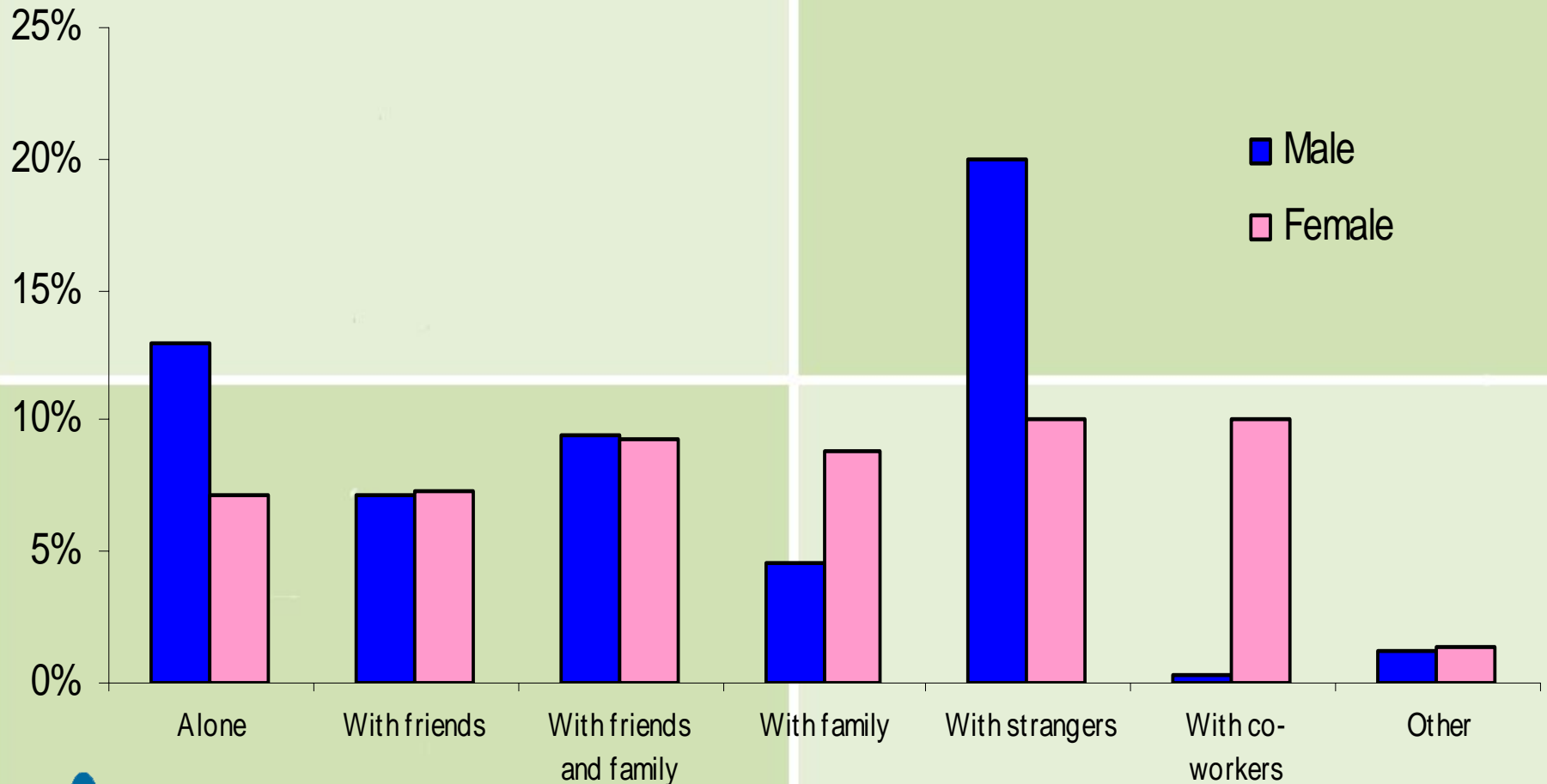
Percent of respondents in each age group with signs of moderate or high dependence



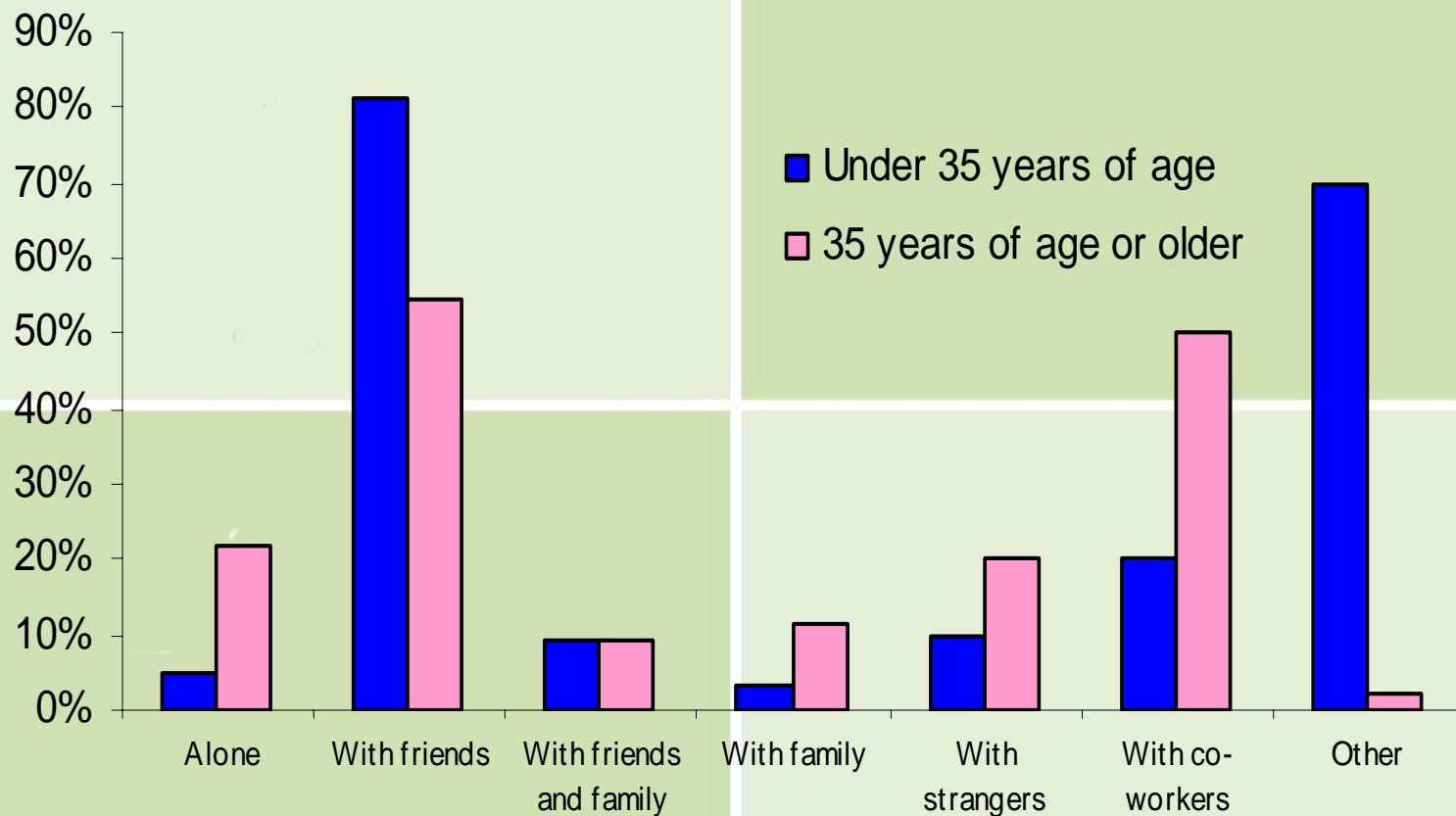
Why do people try cannabis?



Who do people smoke with? Gender differences



Who do people smoke with? age differences



Other findings

- Cannabis dependence is associated with
 - alcohol dependence (especially females)
 - self ratings of poor mental health
 - ratings of number of days in the previous month when mental health was not good
 - tobacco use
 - using other drugs (especially females)

Summary & Questions

- Lots of people using
- People begin using for fun/curiosity
- Males more likely to use than females
- Younger much higher prevalence rates
- Interprovincial differences?
- Decriminalize?
- Smoking and driving?