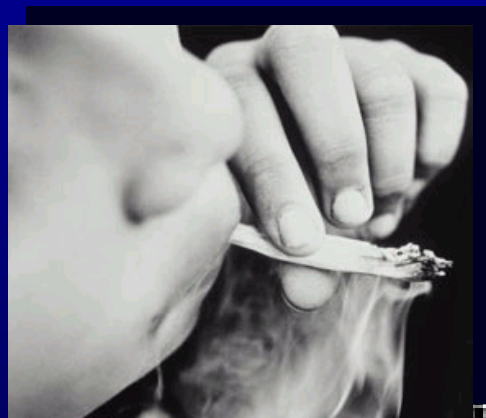


STD/HIV AND RELATED RISK BEHAVIORS IN VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN MOSCOW



L. Dubovskaya, S. Avertchenko, E. Khromova
for the LIBRA Study Team

Russian Association for STI Prevention “SANAM”
WHO Collaborating Center

Collaborators:

- **Russian Association for STI Prevention «SANAM», Moscow:**
 - Emma A. Safarova, MD
 - Leila G. Dugasheva, MD
- **CDC, Atlanta, USA:**
 - A. Shakarishvili, MD
 - Caroline A. Ryan, MD, MPH
 - Sevgi O. Aral, PhD
 - Janet S. St. Lawrence, PhD
 - Joel S. Lewis
 - Kathleen A. Parker, MA, MPH
 - Jim R. Braxton
- **USAID:**
 - Nikita Afanasiev, MD
 - Kerry Pelzman, MPH
 - George Oswald

Rational for LIBRA study in Moscow:

- Steepest increase of HIV in the world
- >90% of HIV cases are contracted via IVDU
- More visible ↑ of sexual transmission of HIV
- Major epidemics of syphilis and other STDs since early 1990's
- Lack of information on modifiable risk factors among core groups and general population in Moscow
- Unknown dynamic of HIV spread from vulnerable groups to general population:
 - High volumes of CSW in Moscow
 - Other core groups at high risk: disadvantaged adolescents and detainees

Objectives / Methods

- **Objectives:**

- Measure the prevalence of STDs: syphilis, gonorrhoeae, chlamydia, trichomonas; herpes, HIV and drug use (DU)
- Assess sexual, health seeking and other behavior associated with STDs/HIV
- Identify points of intervention for those most at risk

- **Study groups in Moscow:**

- detained adolescents
- homeless population and pre-jail detainees

Socio-demographic characteristics of the study population

- **Education:**
 - 68.8% of the adolescents - 8-10 years
 - 94% of the homeless - 8-15 years
- **Income:**
 - 50.1% of the adolescents earned 0-7\$ in the last month
 - 13.0% of the homeless had 0 income in the last month
- **Do not have Moscow residency permit:**
 - 93.5% of adolescents and 91.3% of homeless
- **Health seeking behavior:**
 - >40% of adolescents and homeless did not receive any health care in the last 2 years

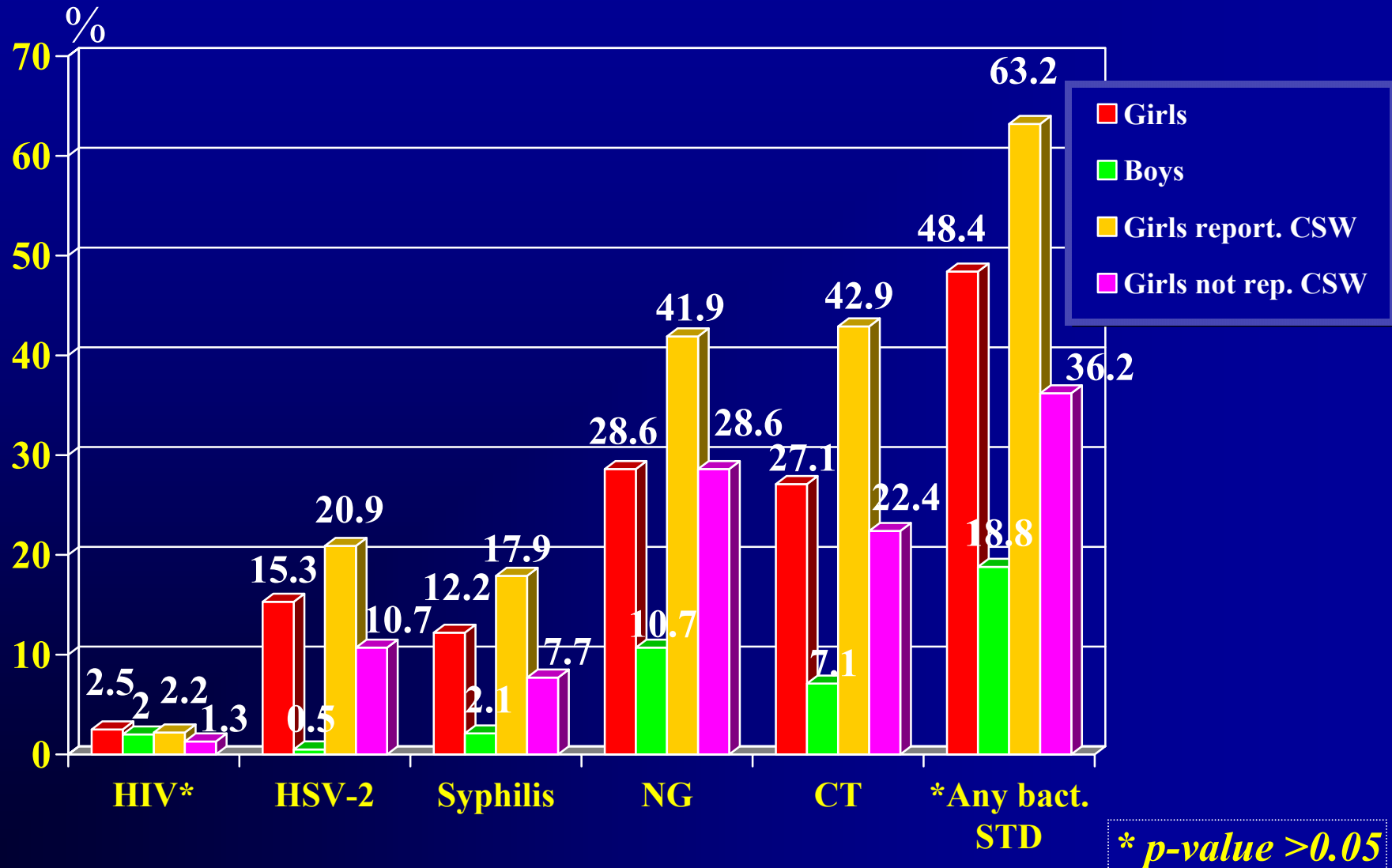
Sexual behavior among adolescents

	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Boys</i>
• Sex initiation at age ≤ 13 yrs	19.1%	22.0%
• First sexual experience:		
– voluntary	61.5%	95.8%
– rape	34.6%	2.5%
– incest	2.9%	1.7%
• Exchanged sex for:		
– money:	44.7%	2.0%
• Non- or occasional condom users:	57.5%	
• > 20 opposite sex partners :		
– last 12 months:	26.2%	4.2%
– last 3 months:	22.2%	0.9%

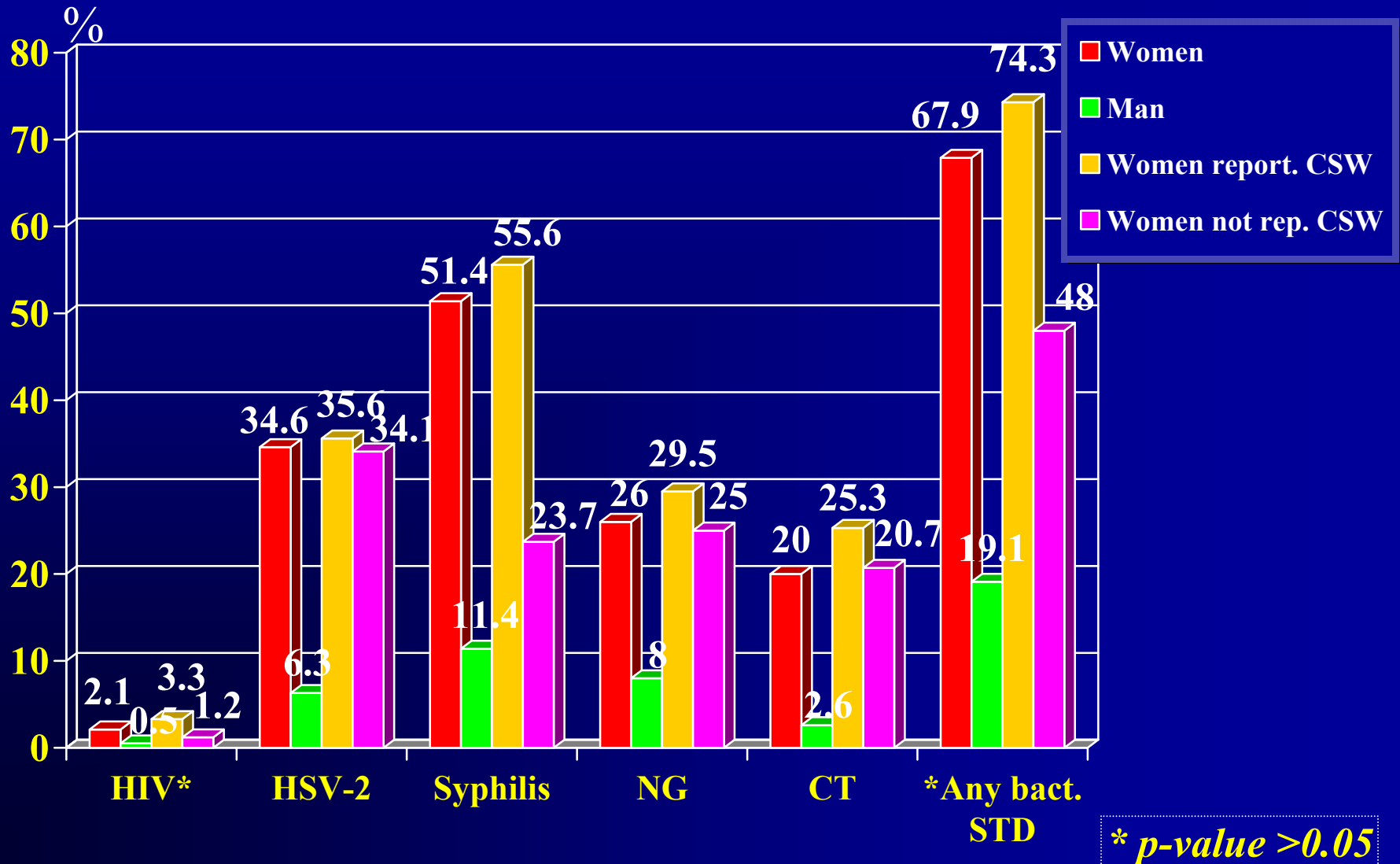
Sexual behavior among homeless

	<i>Women</i>	<i>Man</i>
• Reported sexual activity ever	99.8%	99.7%
• First sex initiation	mean age 16.4 years	
• First sexual experience:		
– voluntary	75.6%	99.5%
– rape	23.0%	0.5%
– incest	1.0%	0.0%
• Exchanged sex for:		
– money ($p < 0,001$):	51.8%	1.5%
– other commodities ($p < 0,001$)	8.2%	0.5%
– narcotics/other substances ($p < 0,05$):	3.6%	0.5%
• No condom use	39.1%	63.1%
• > 10 opposite sex partners :		
– last 12 months:	29.0%	5.6%
– last 3 months:	25.5%	0.8%

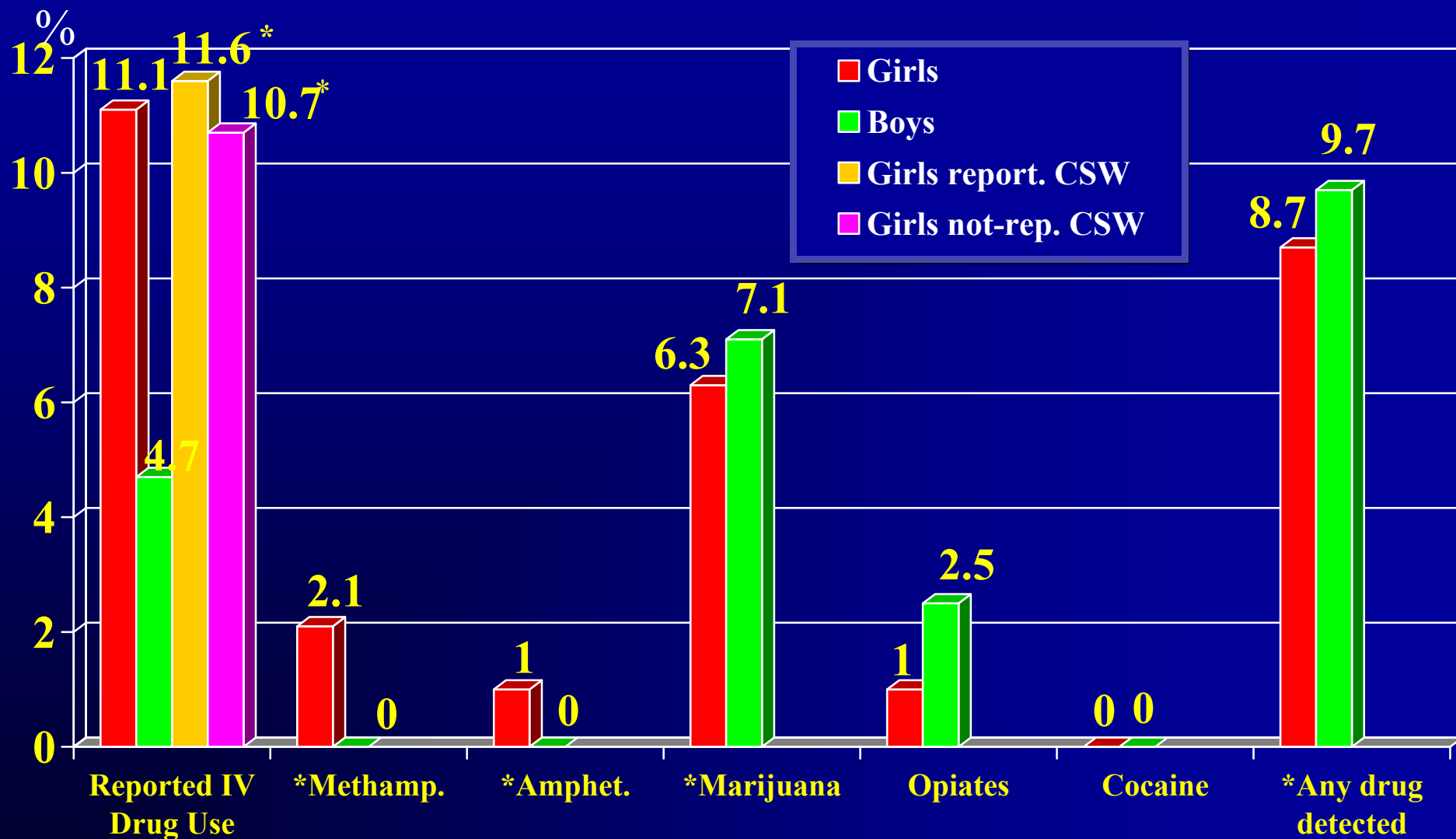
Prevalence of HIV and STDs among adolescents by gender and reported CSW



Prevalence of HIV and STDs among homeless by gender and reported CSW

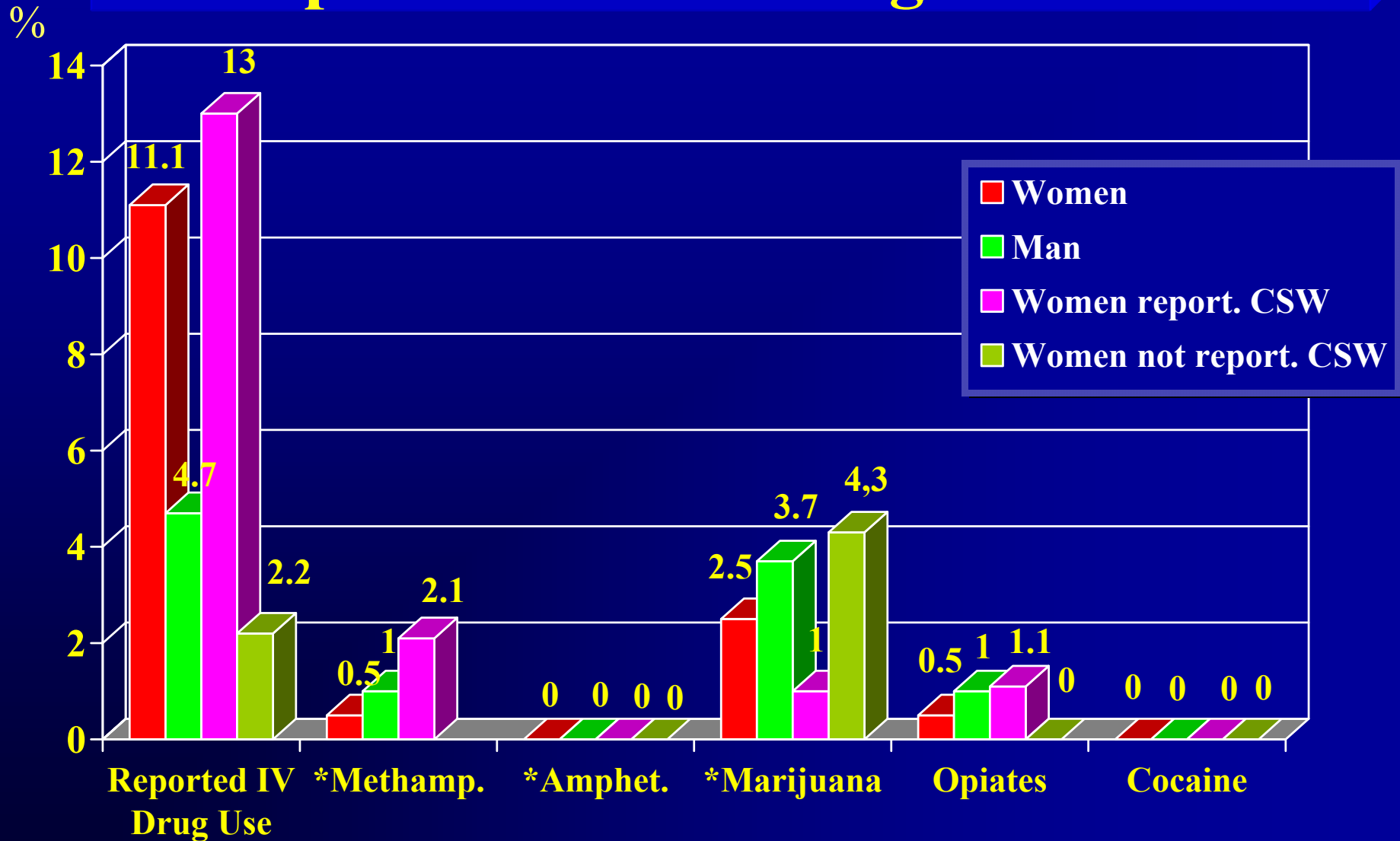


Prevalence of drug use among adolescents by gender and reported CSW



* p -value > 0.05

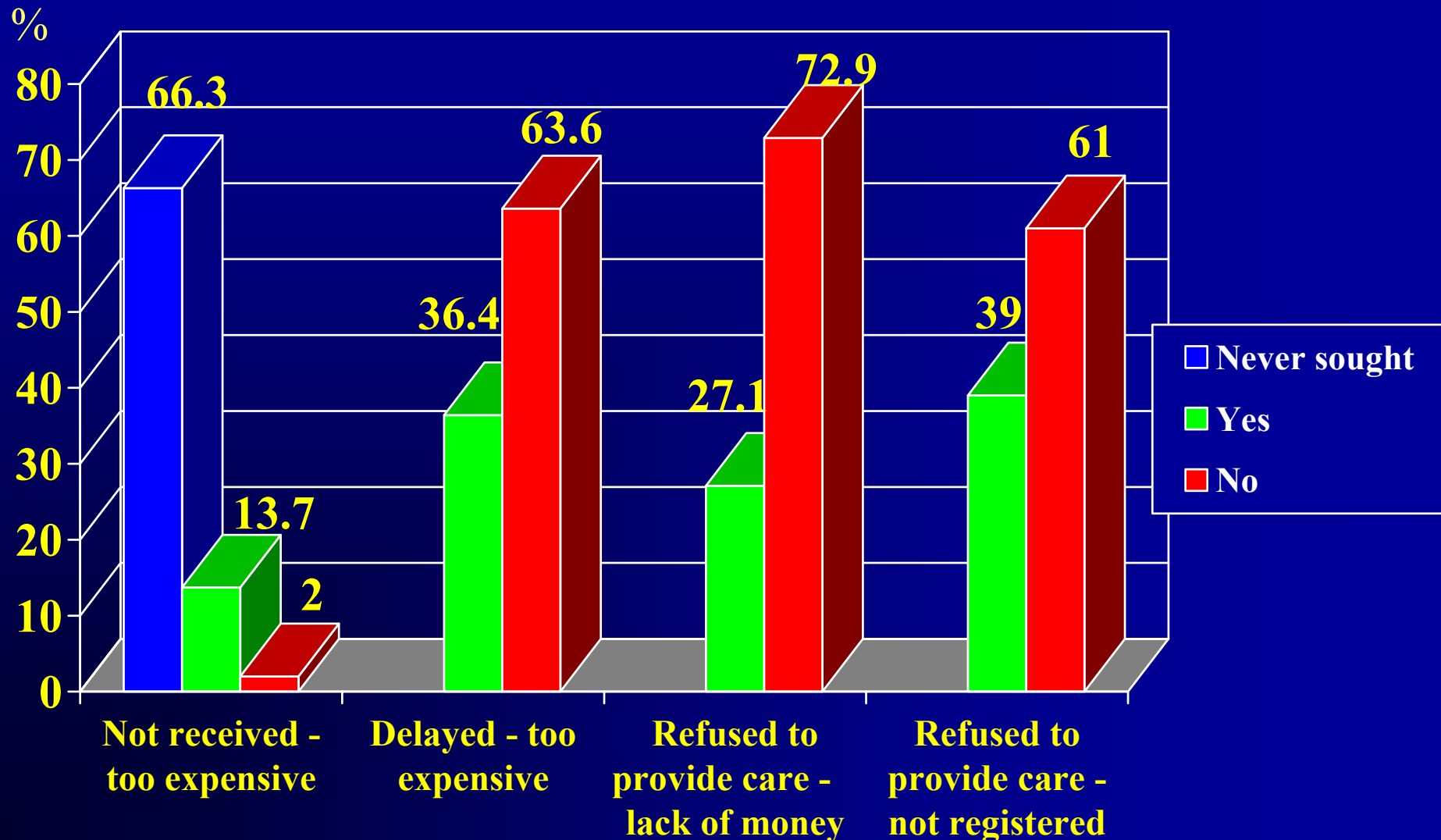
Prevalence of drug use by gender and reported CSW among homeless



* p -value > 0.05

Reasons for not receiving health care of the study population in Moscow

- 44.4% did not receive any type of HC



Summary

Detainee population in Moscow represent disadvantaged adolescents and adult population:

- **Vast majority have no residency permit:**
 - often detained/arrested
 - do not have access to health care
- **Low economic status**

Population at high risk of acquisition and transmission of STDs and HIV:

- **Early onset of sexual activity among adolescents**
- **High rates of:**
 - rape as the first sexual experience
 - unsafe sexual behavior
 - viral and bacterial STDs
 - IVDU
- **Higher rates of HIV than in general population**

Recommendations

- **Improve STD clinical, laboratory and prevention services for juvenile detainees in correctional settings**
- **Make linkages with programs that can assist released detainees**
- **Design and implement for these groups in Moscow:**
 - STD, HIV and DU prevention strategies beyond correctional settings
 - advocacy campaigns
 - model STD/HIV clinical, diagnostic and counseling services