

RESEARCH BACKGROUND



Societal discourse often fails to acknowledge sexual experiences of non-heterosexual women, potentially impacting their attitudes and sexual behaviors



Knowledge of the sexual health behaviors of non-heterosexual women are inconsistent or lacking all together



Methodological flaws in existing research (narrow definitions of protection & considering a small range of sexual behaviors)

THE CURRENT STUDY

Purpose of study was primarily to explore the sexual behaviors of non-heterosexual women. We focused on two research questions:

1. What sexual behaviors and protection use methods are reported by lesbian, bisexual, and straight women with both male and female sexual partners?
2. What reasons do participants provide for not using protection methods consistently?

PARTICIPANTS

N = 324 females (Age 16-61 [M = 25.66; SD = 7.76])
36 = Lesbian 102 = Bisexual 186 = Heterosexual

No significant differences in sexual orientation groups by age, education level, relationship status, STI diagnosis, and total lifetime sexual partners

Bisexual participants (47%) were significantly more likely to indicate consensually non-monogamous relationship status compared to straight participants (28%)

RESULTS

1. SEXUAL ACTS x SEXUAL ORIENTATION

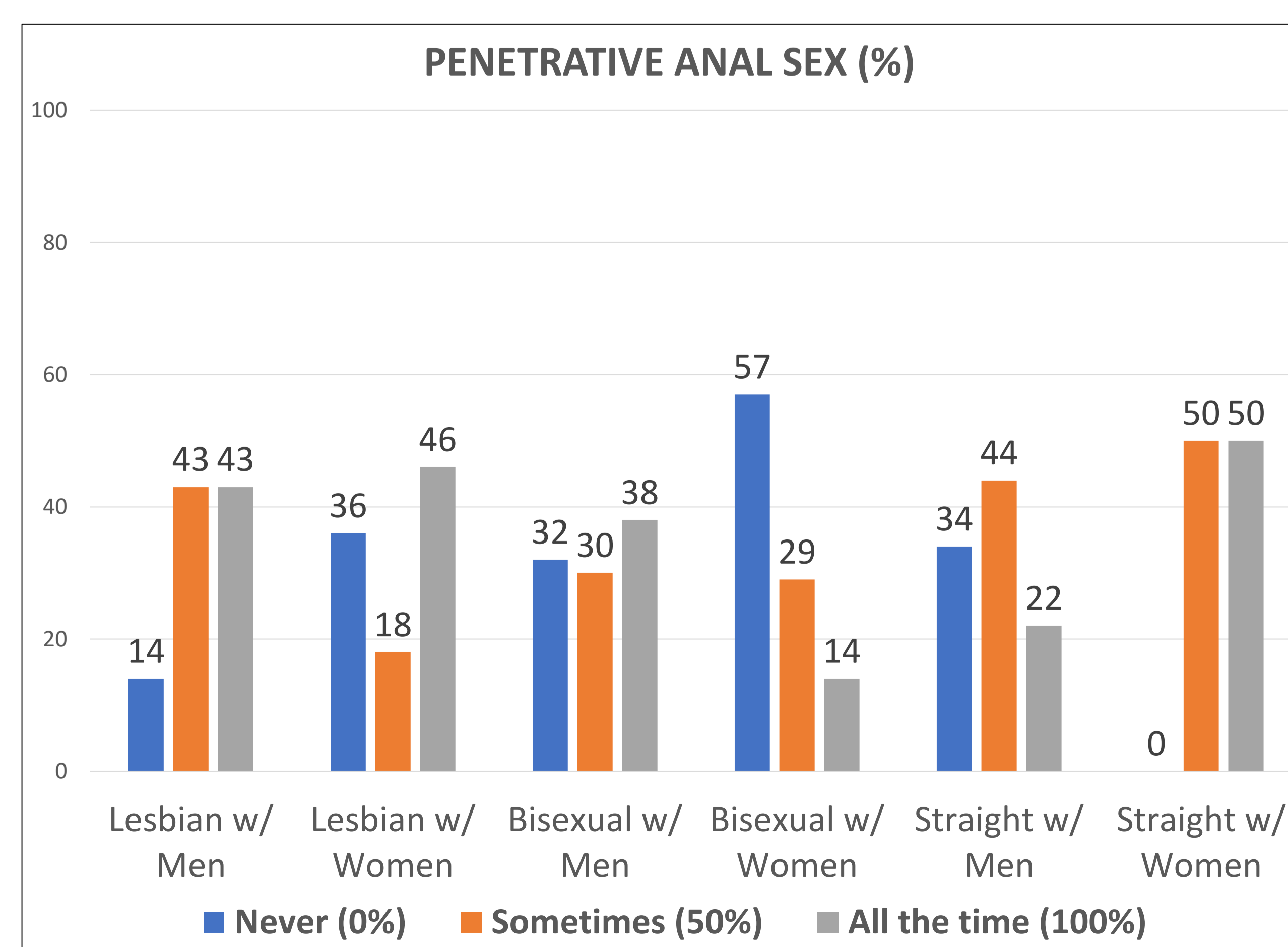
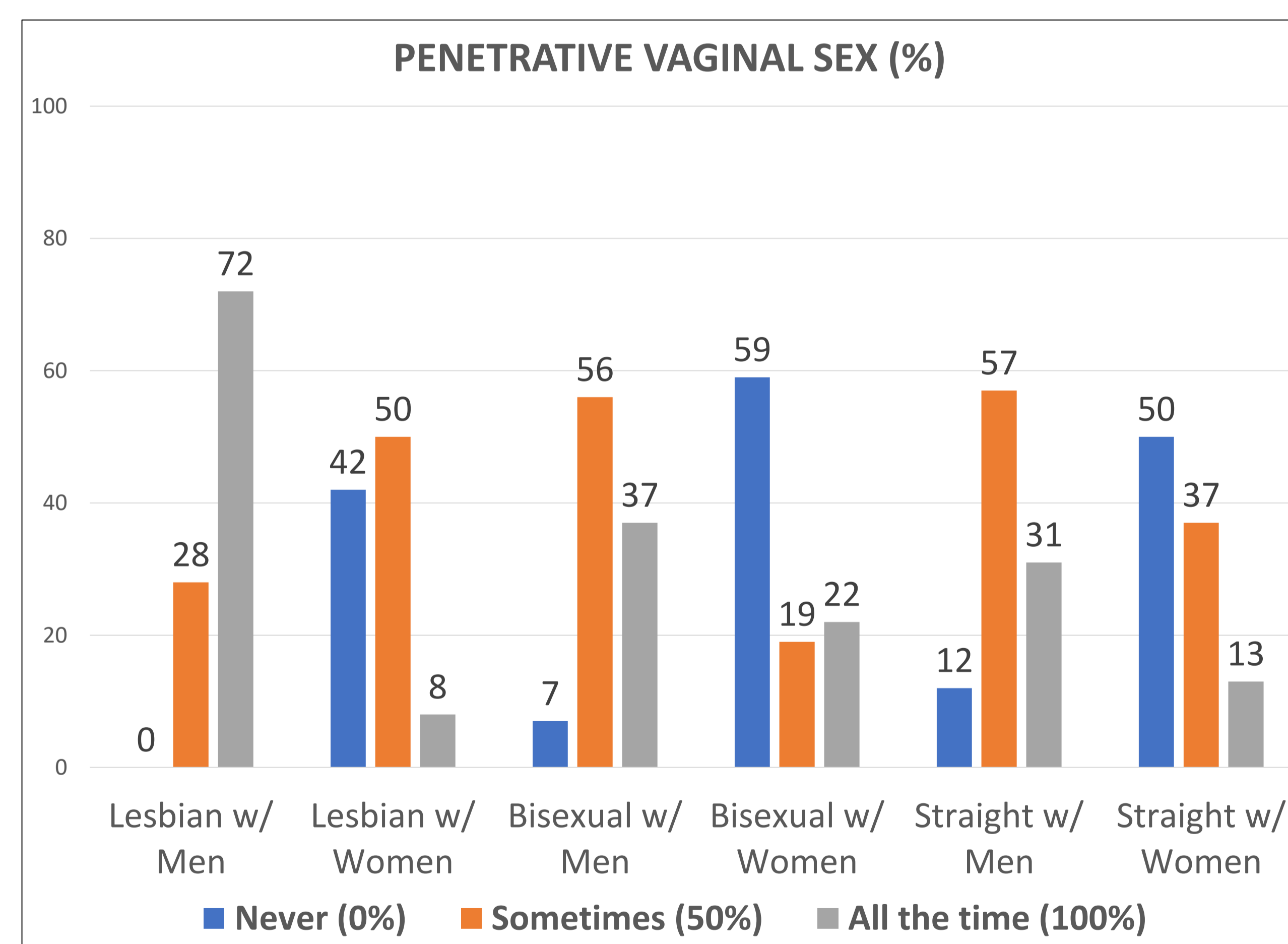
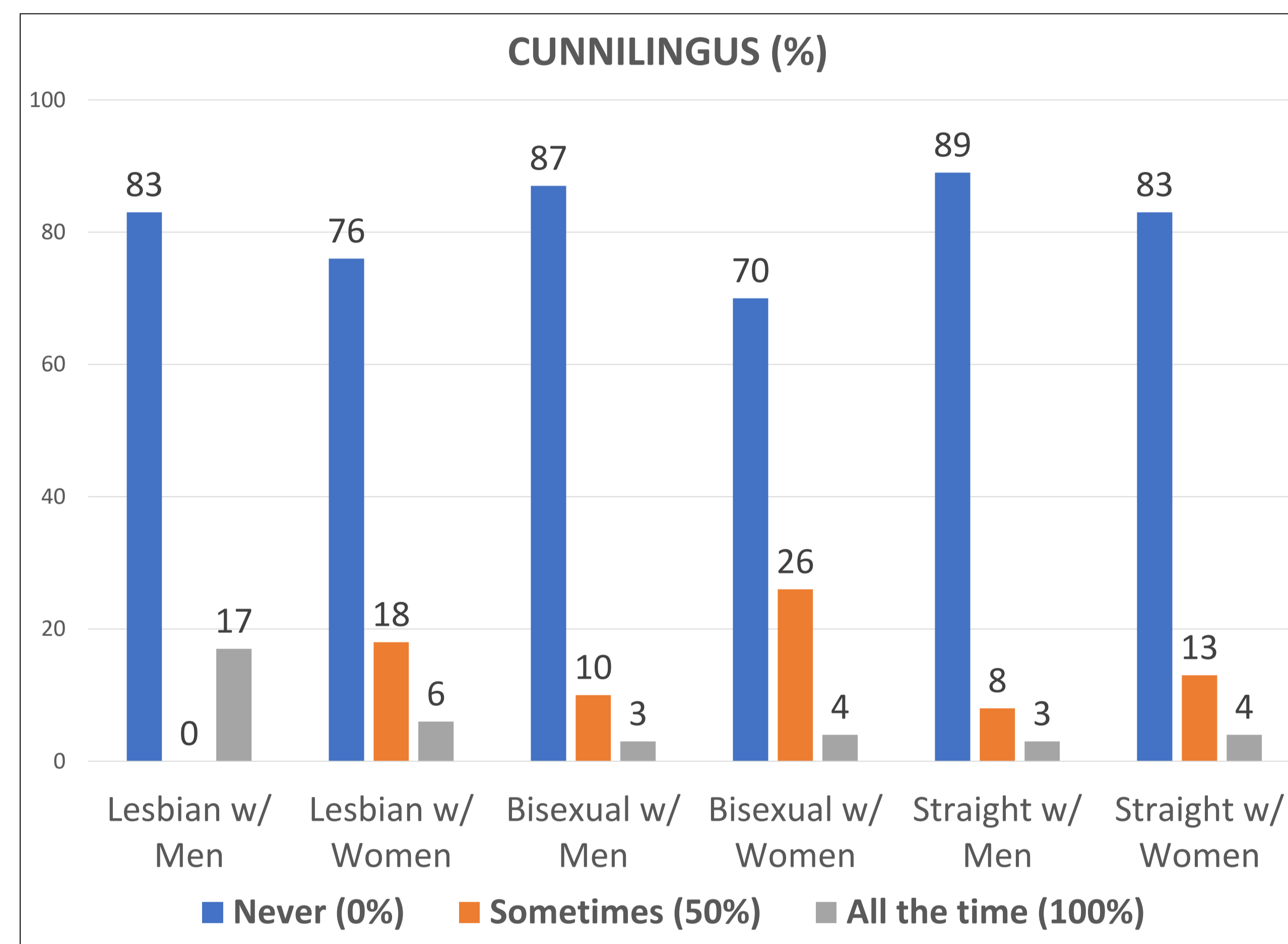
| | Sexual Acts w/ Women | | | Sexual Acts w/ Men | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------|--------------------|----------|----------|
| | Lesbian | Bisexual | Straight | Lesbian | Bisexual | Straight |
| Deep Tongue Kissing | 94% | 70% | 19% | 50% | 88% | 88% |
| Manual/Oral Breast Stimulation | 94% | 68% | 14% | 38% | 85% | 87% |
| Mutual Masturbation | 81% | 46% | 10% | 8% | 72% | 70% |
| Cunnilingus | 92% | 56% | 12% | 33% | 81% | 77% |
| Fellatio | NA | NA | NA | 50% | 85% | 76% |
| Genital to Genital w/o Penetration | 61% | 33% | 6% | 28% | 78% | 77% |
| Petting Female's External Genitalia | 94% | 60% | 12% | 44% | 88% | 86% |
| Petting Male's Genitals | NA | NA | NA | 50% | 87% | 84% |
| Penetrative Vaginal Fingering | 86% | 55% | 13% | 39% | 86% | 84% |
| Used Sex Toy on External Genitals | 72% | 39% | 5% | 8% | 57% | 43% |
| Penetrative Vaginal Sex w/ Sex Toy | 67% | 31% | 4% | 6% | 45% | 33% |
| Shared Sex Toy w/ Partner | 50% | 27% | 3% | 3% | 24% | 11% |
| Penetrative Anal Sex w/ Sex Toy | 31% | 14% | 1% | 8% | 33% | 16% |
| Rimming | 33% | 11% | 1% | 8% | 34% | 23% |
| Digital Penetrative Anal Sex | 39% | 20% | 3% | 11% | 43% | 30% |
| Penetrative Penis/Vaginal Sex | NA | NA | NA | 50% | 83% | 81% |
| Penetrative Penis/Anal Sex | NA | NA | NA | 20% | 50% | 33% |
| Pegging Male Partner | NA | NA | NA | 8% | 18% | 5% |

2. PROTECTION USE

MOST COMMON FORMS OF PROTECTION x SEXUAL ACT

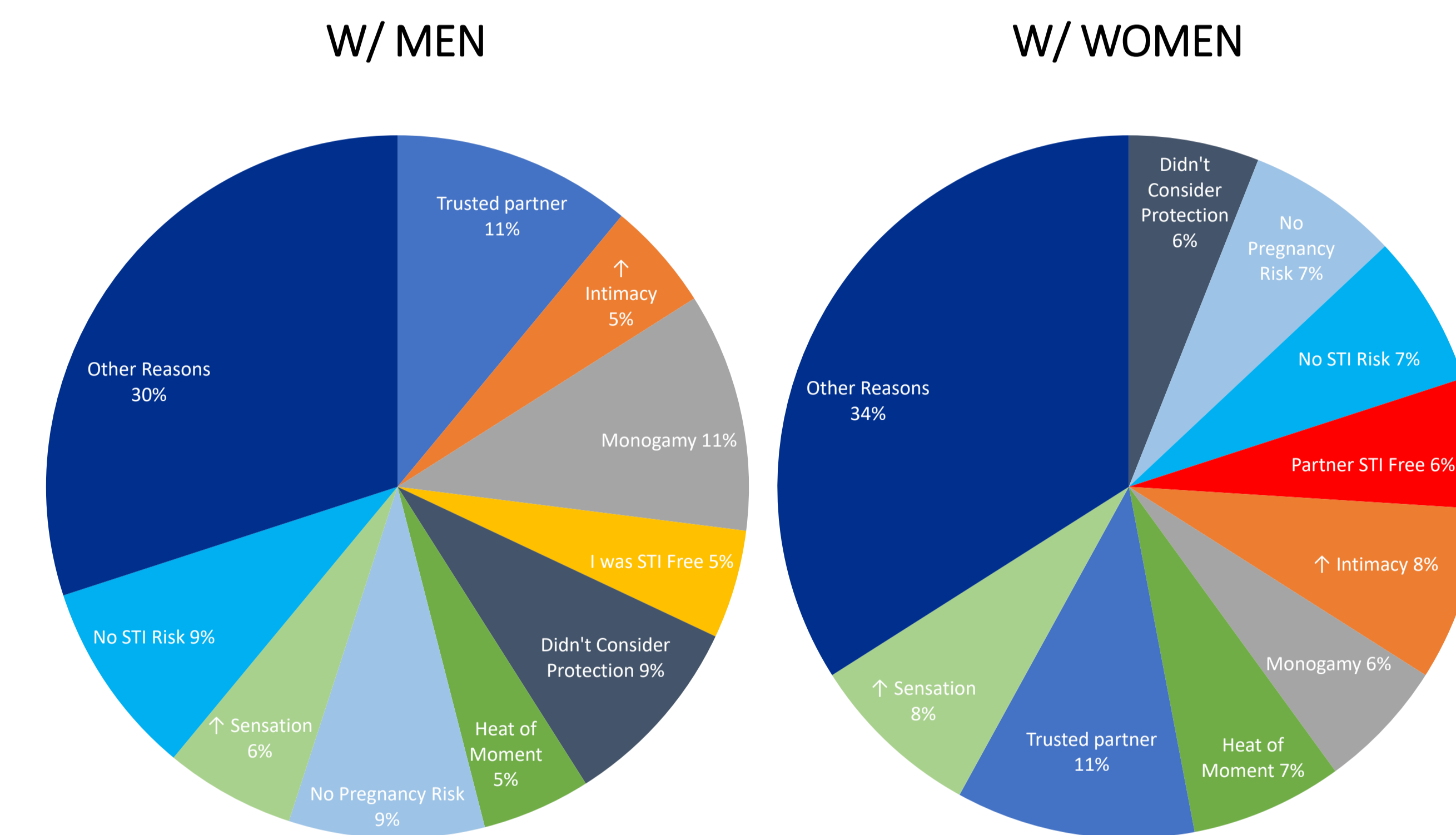
| CUNNILINGUS) | PENETRATIVE VAGINAL SEX | PENETRATIVE ANAL SEX |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| MALE SEXUAL PARTNER | | |
| Monogamy (13%) | Use condom (15%) | Use condom (21%) |
| Pee before/after sex (11%) | Birth control (11%) | Use lubricant (13%) |
| Birth control (10%) | Monogamy (11%) | Monogamy (10%) |
| Shower/wash hands (9%) | Pee before/after sex (10%) | Shower/wash hands (10%) |
| Ask partner about STI status (8%) | "Pulling out" (8%) | Birth control (9%) |
| FEMALE SEXUAL PARTNER | | |
| Ask partner about STI status (12%) | Use condom (14%) | Use condom (16%) |
| Brush teeth (10%) | Use lubricant (13%) | Use lubricant (16%) |
| Avoid cuts/scratches (9%) | Wash sex toys (12%) | Shower/wash hands (13%) |
| Shower/wash hands (9%) | Shower/wash hands (11%) | Wash sex toys (11%) |
| Use dental dam (8%) | Avoid cuts/scratches (9%) | Do not share sex toys (8%) |

% OF PROTECTION USE x SEXUAL ACT x SEXUAL ORIENTATION

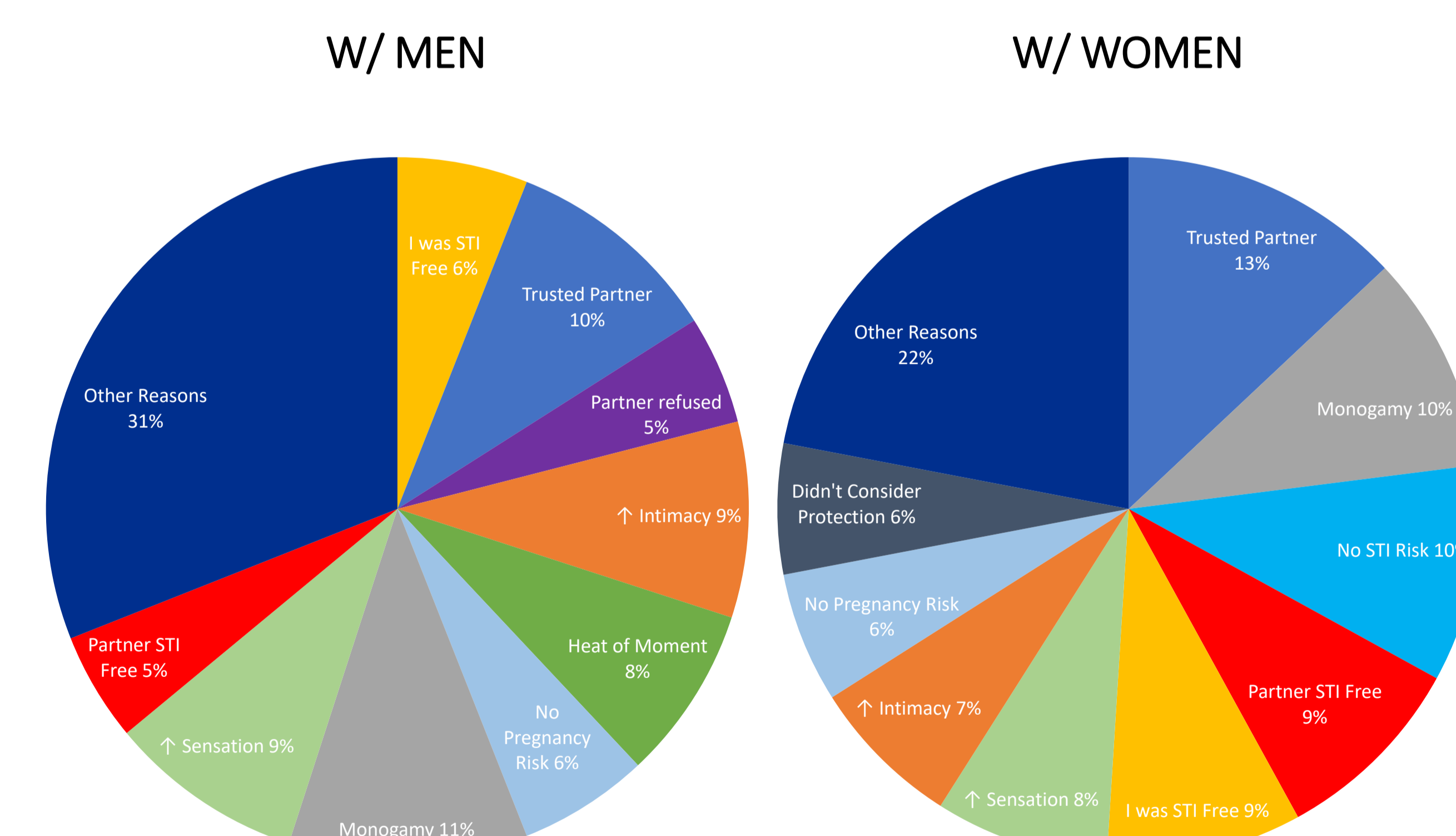


3. PERCEPTION OF RISK

MOST COMMON REASONS FOR ENGAGING IN CUNNILINGUS W/O PROTECTION



MOST COMMON REASONS FOR ENGAGING IN PENETRATIVE VAGINAL SEX W/O PROTECTION



PERCEPTION OF STI RISK W/O PROTECTION x SEXUAL ACT

| | MALE SEXUAL PARTNER | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------|
| | NOT AT ALL RISKY | A LITTLE RISKY | VERY RISKY |
| Oral Sex | 9% | 36% | 55% |
| Penetrative Vaginal Sex | 1% | 5% | 94% |
| Penetrative Anal Sex | 1% | 6% | 93% |
| | FEMALE SEXUAL PARTNER | | |
| | NOT AT ALL RISKY | A LITTLE RISKY | VERY RISKY |
| Oral Sex | 2% | 31% | 67% |
| Penetrative Vaginal Sex | 23% | 31% | 46% |
| Penetrative Anal Sex | 7% | 22% | 71% |