



Hong Kong Women's Attitude on Birth Control Under Economic Stress

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President, The Obstetrical and
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“An Attitudinal Survey: Hong Kong Women on Birth Control” The Survey Objectives

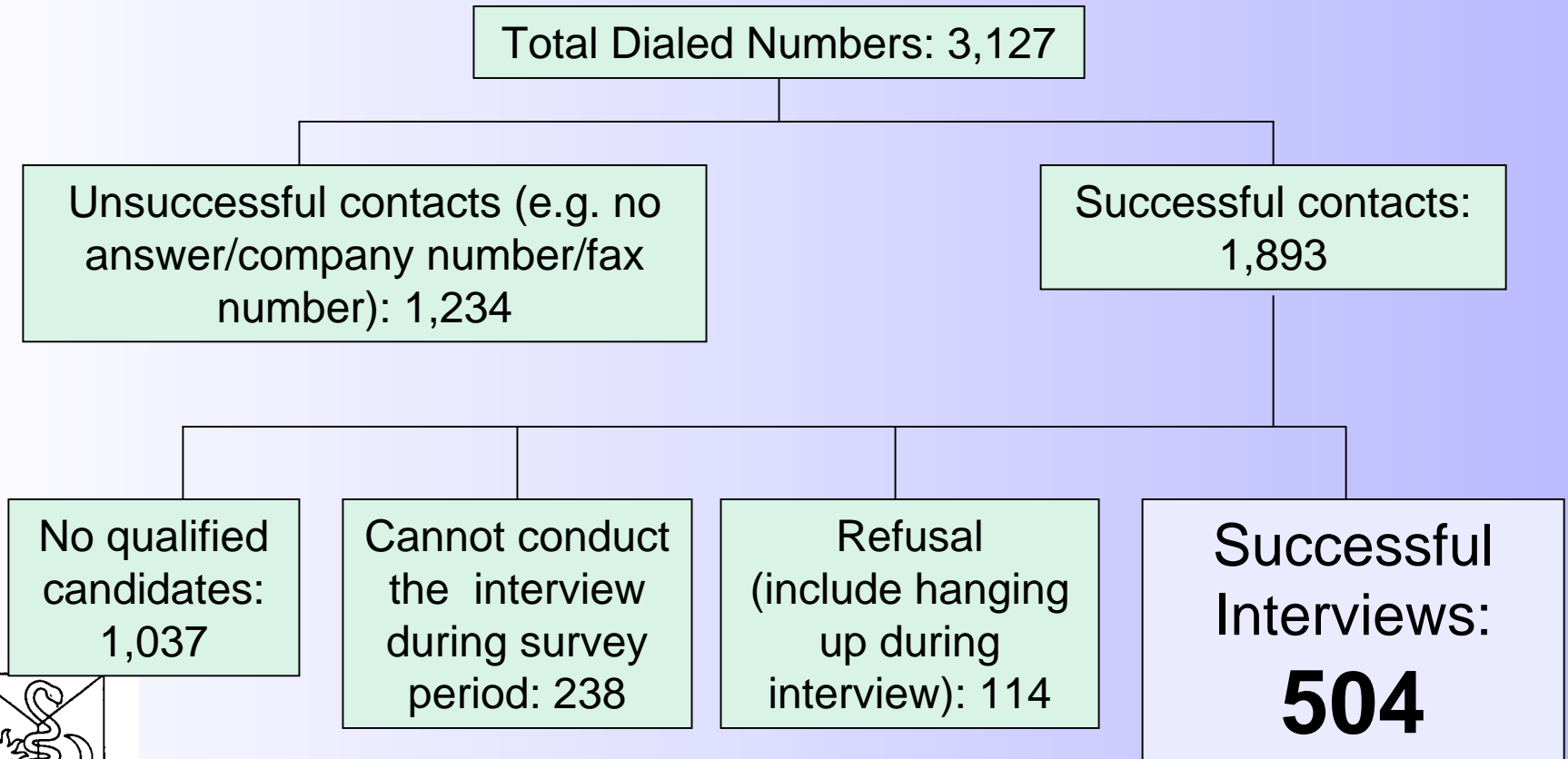
- The Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society (OGSHK) strives to promote women’s health in Hong Kong. To investigate Hong Kong women’s understanding on birth control and related issues, OGSHK has commissioned the HKU Public Opinion Programme to conduct “An Attitudinal Survey: Hong Kong Women on Birth Control”.



Survey Overview

Objectives	To understand Hong Kong women's attitude and knowledge on birth control under economic stress
Targets	Female aged 18-45 with experience using contraceptives over the past 6 months
Date	May 7-12, 2003
Organisation	Public Opinion Programme, The University of Hong Kong
Method	Telephone interview through random sampling
Successful responses	504 people
Success rate	71.1%

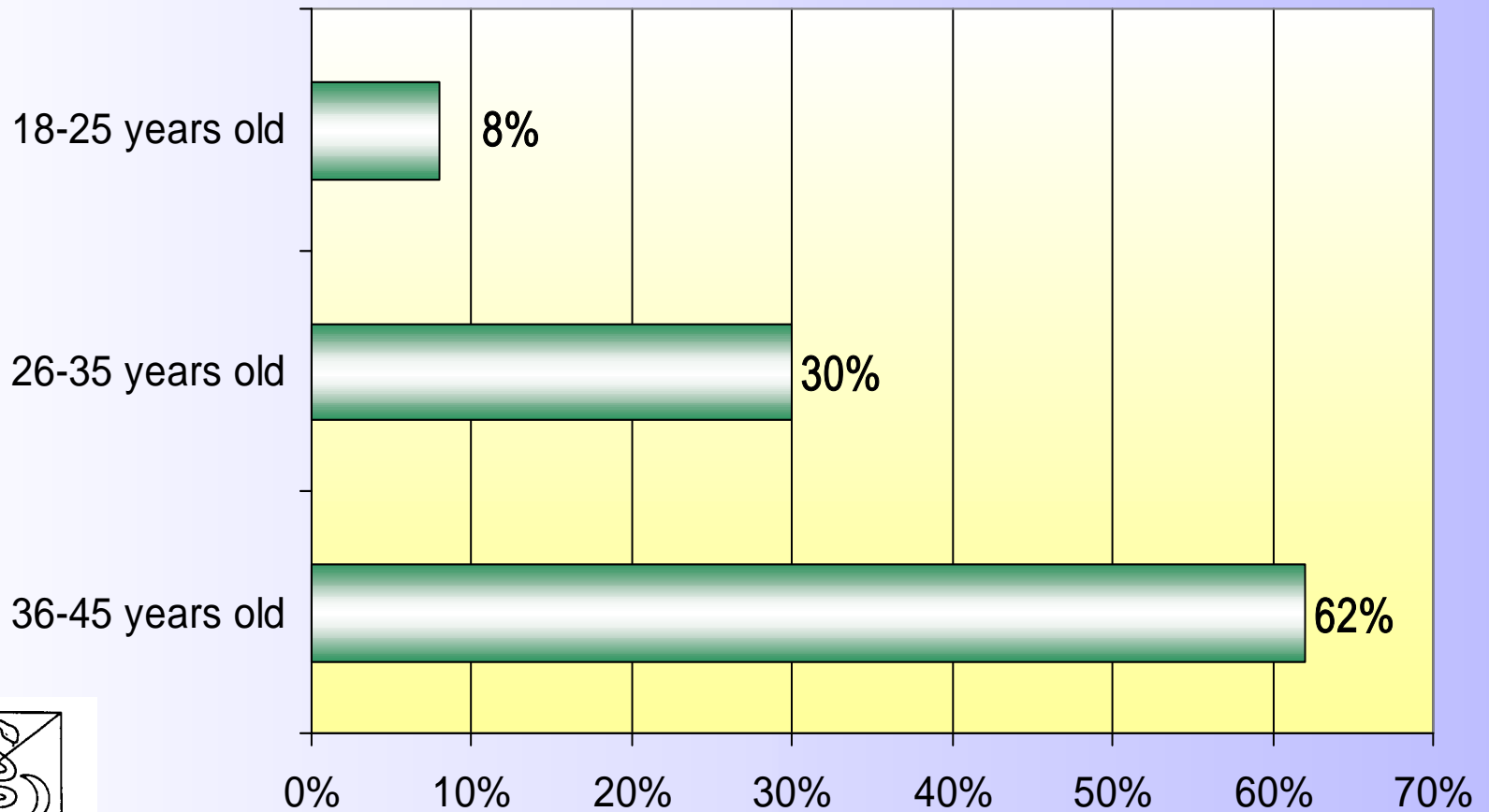
Call Details





Demographic Information

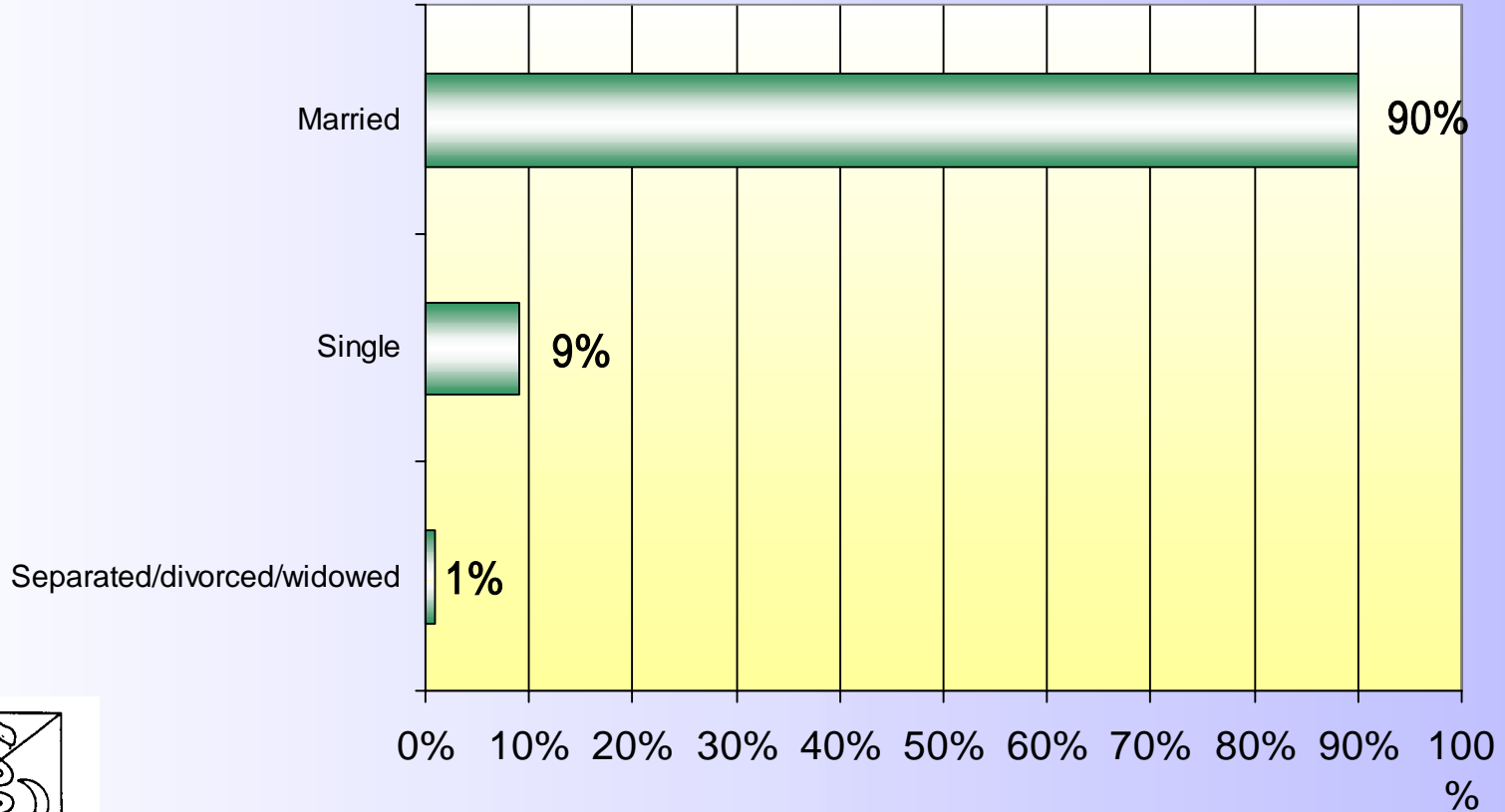
Age



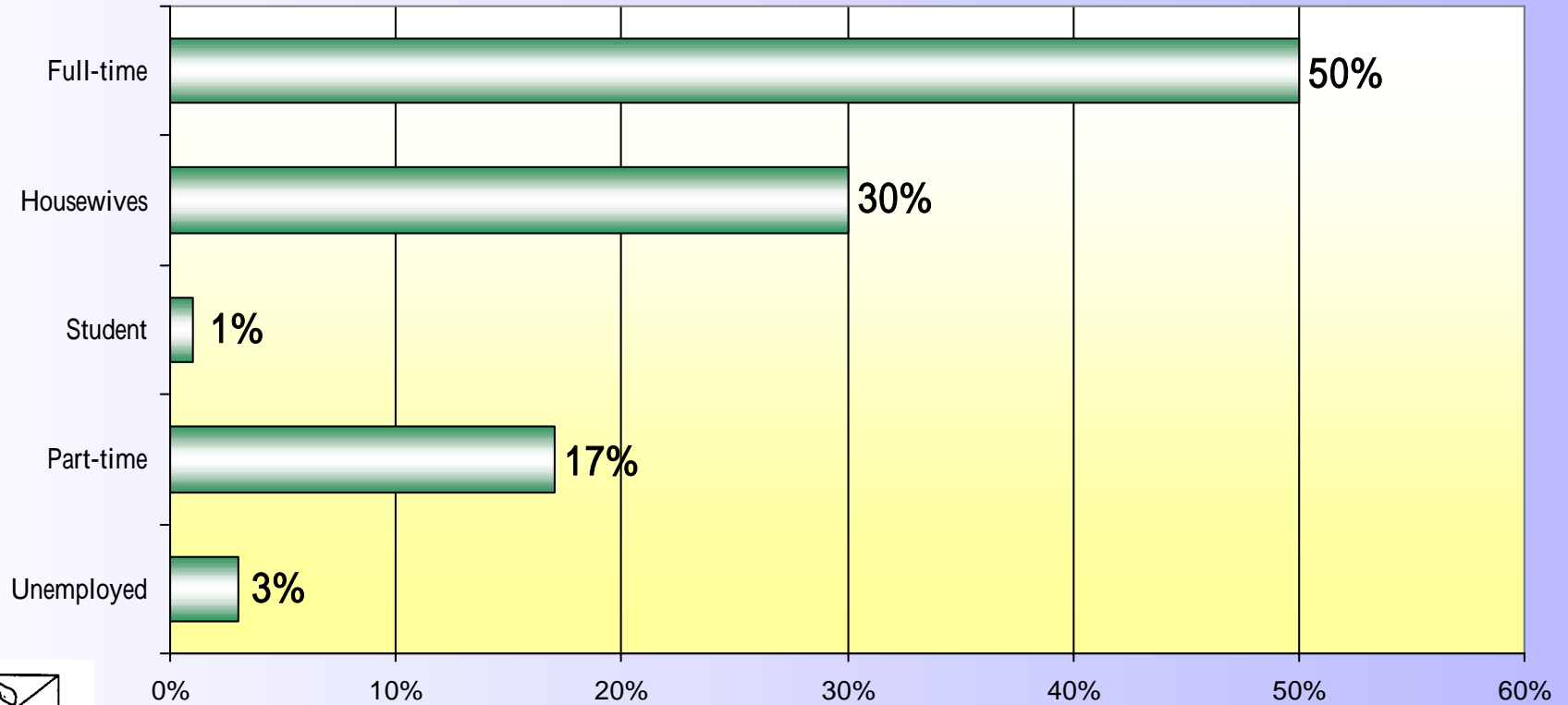
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Successful samples:
503

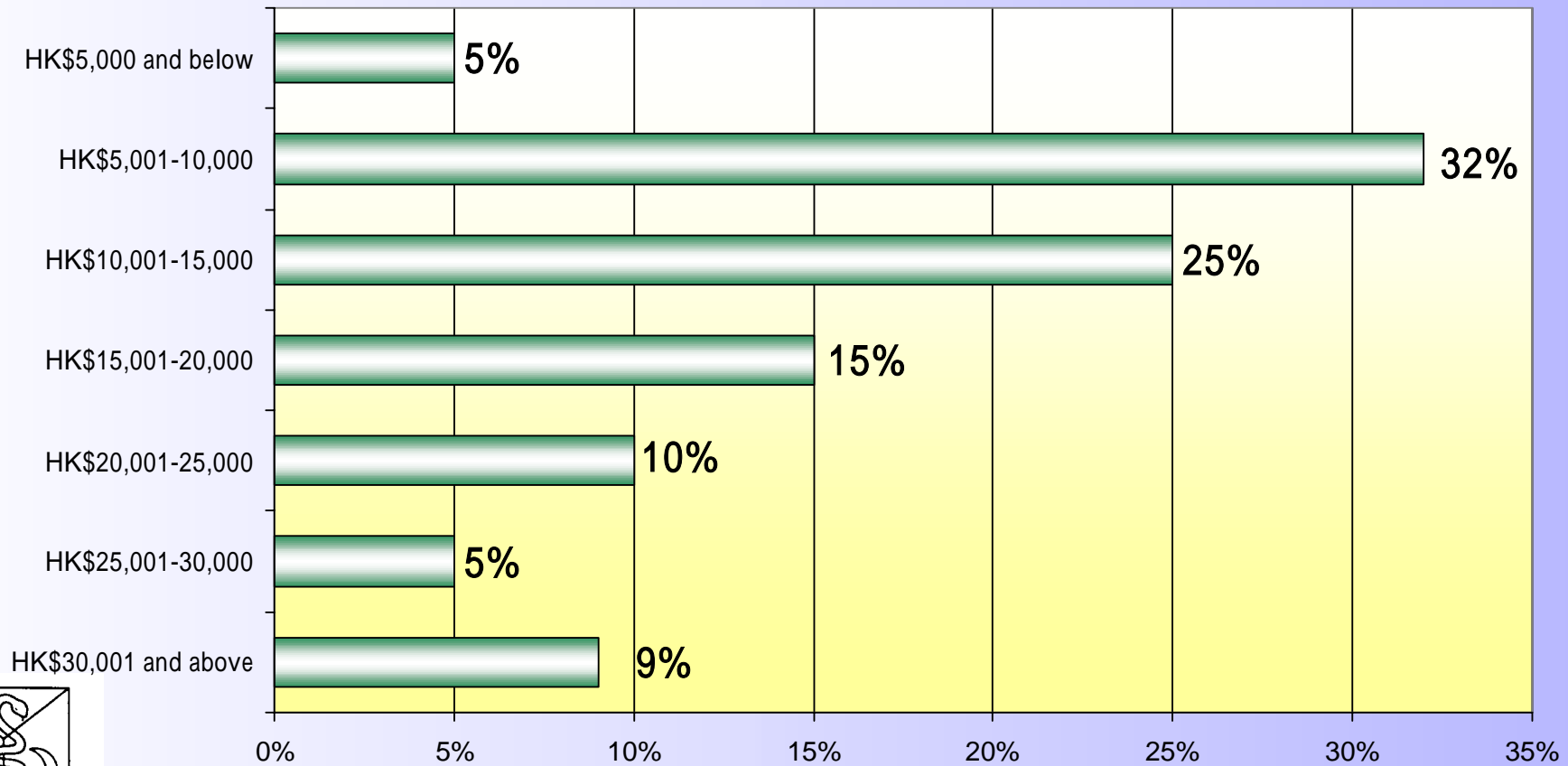
Marital Status



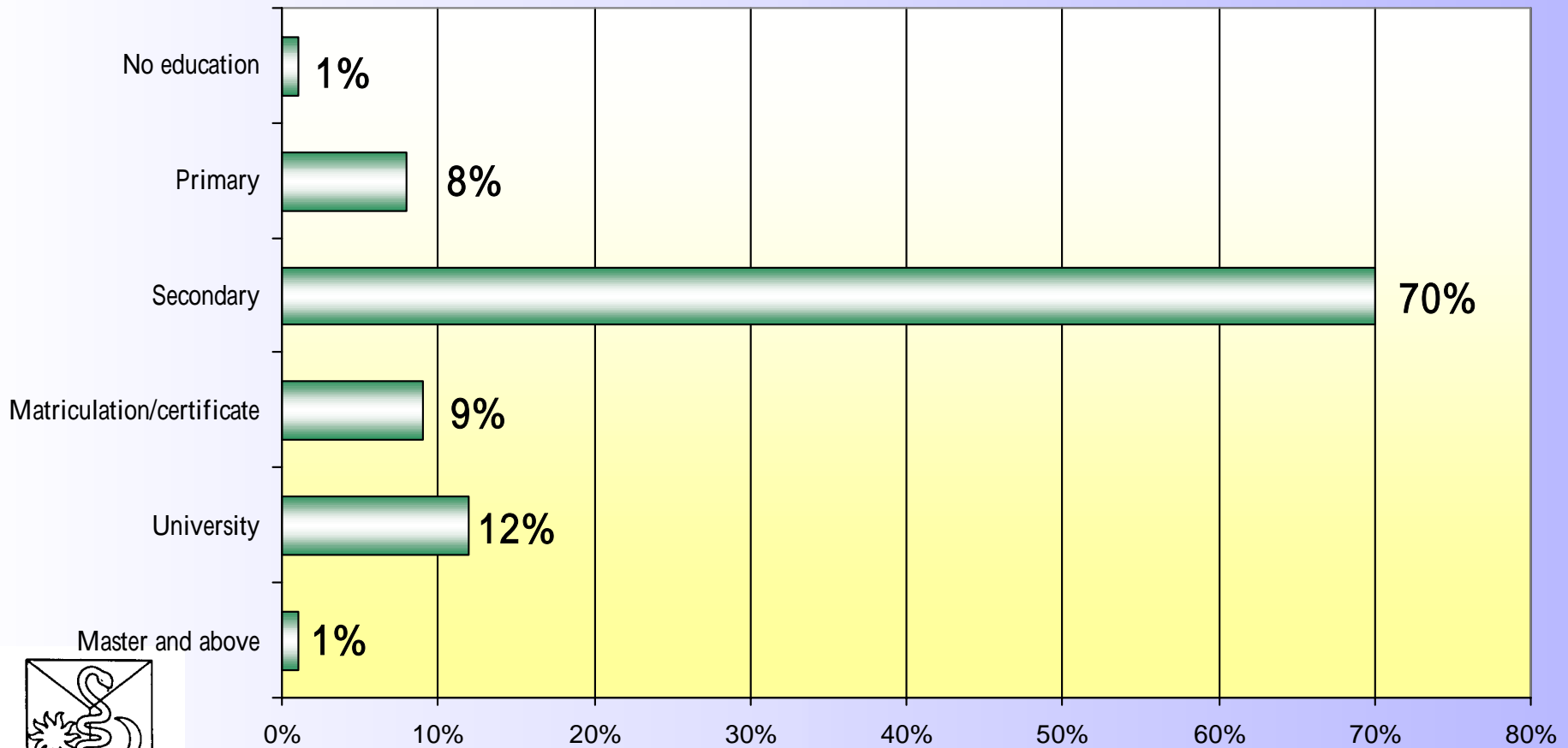
Occupation



Personal Income



Education Level

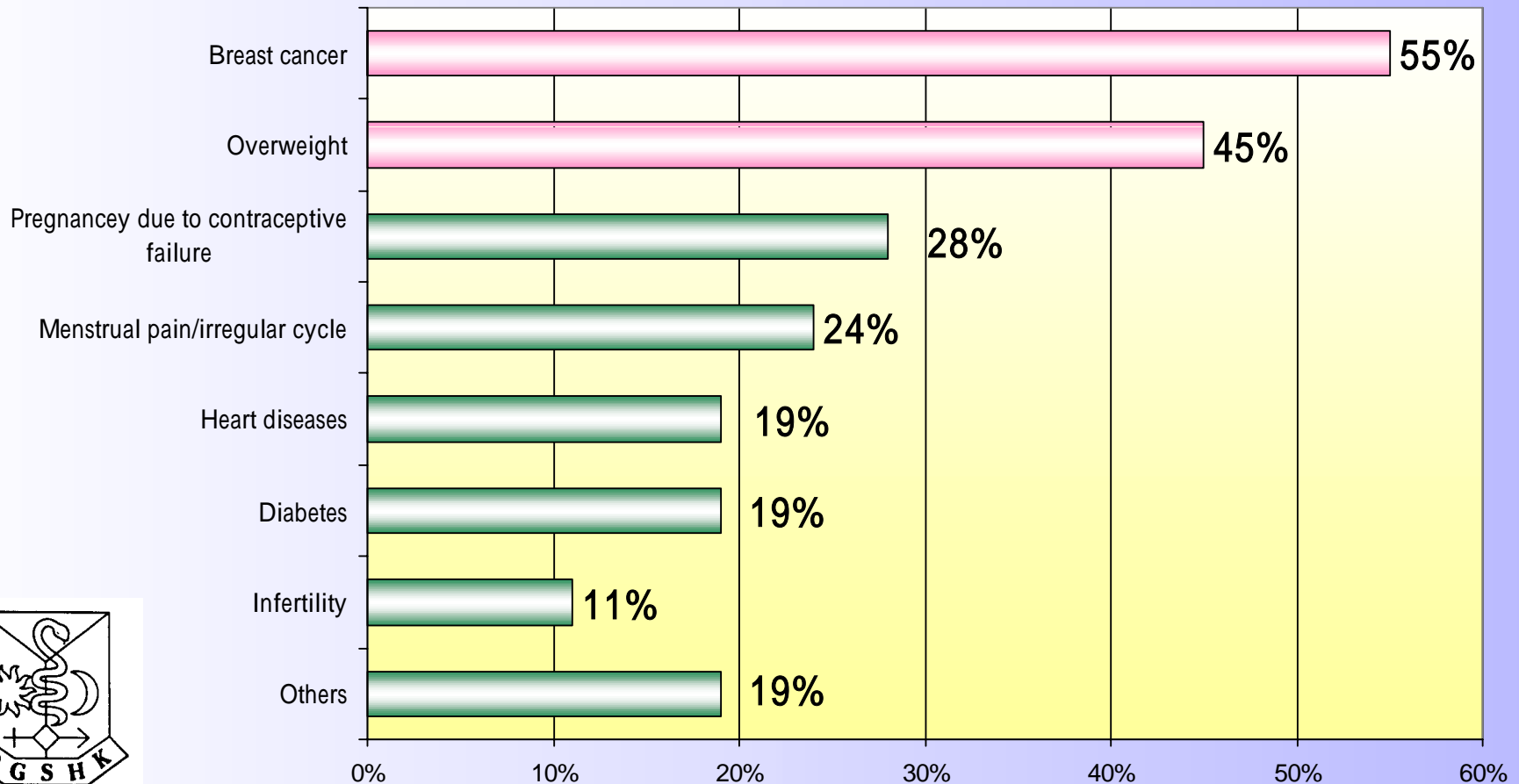


A photograph of a desk with a pen, a notepad, and a desk calendar, overlaid with a green banner containing the text 'Survey Results'.

Survey Results

Breast cancer and overweight are the health problems that Hong Kong women concern the most

Health problems and needs that you and women in your age group concern



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Successful samples: 504

Multiple answers: 1,108

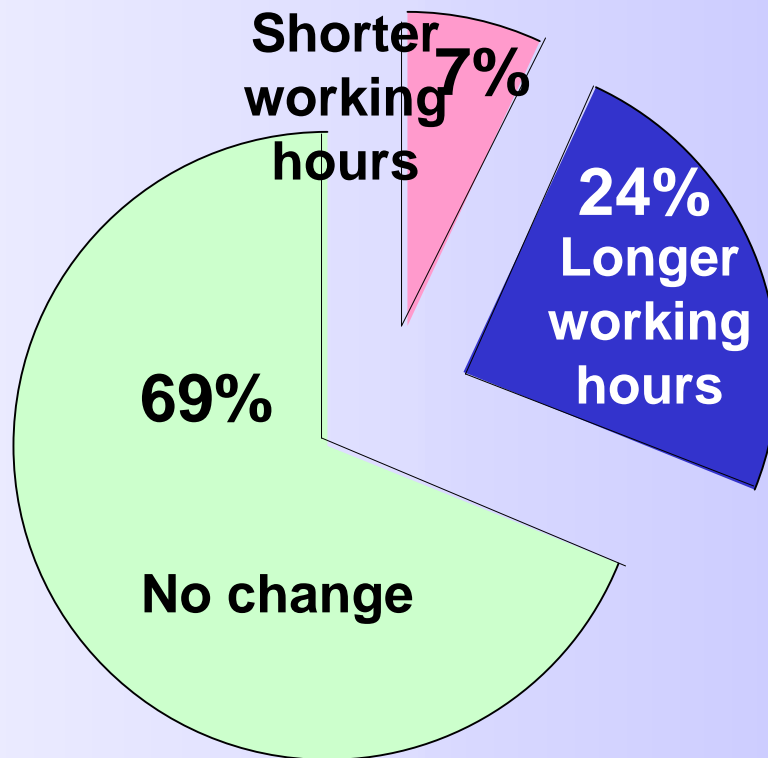


Hong Kong Women's Needs on Birth Control Under Economic Stress



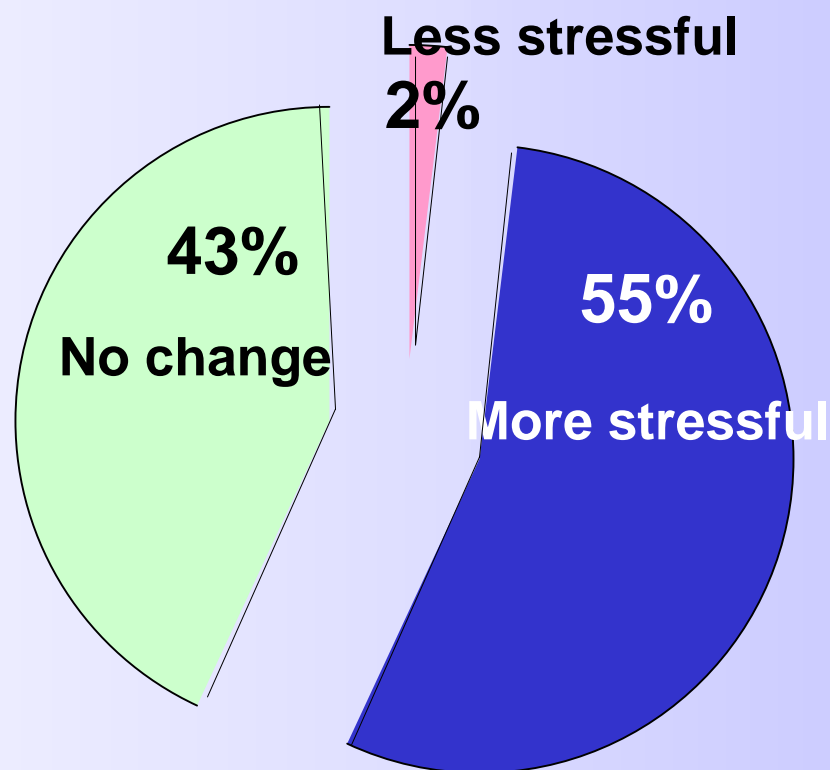
$\frac{1}{4}$ women are having longer working hours due to economic change

Under the current economic situation, any change in your working hours?



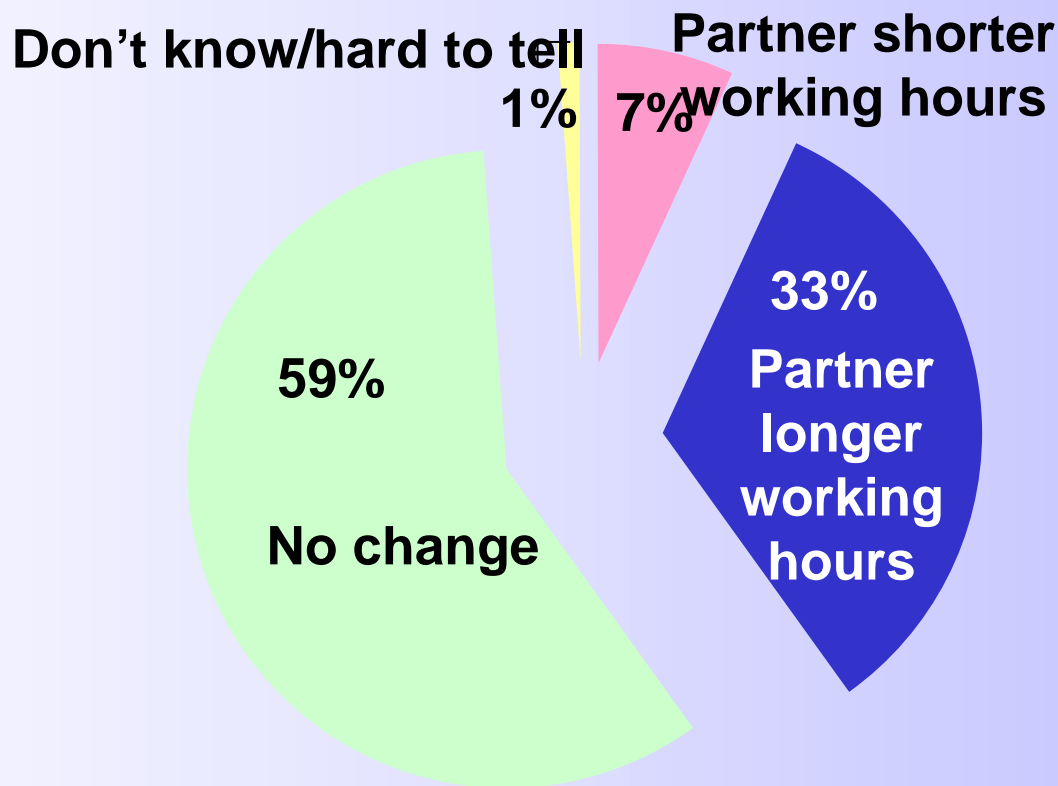
Job pressure causes over half of the women more stressful

Under the current economic situation, any change in your job pressure?



1/3 women's partners are having longer working hours

Any change in your partner's working hours?

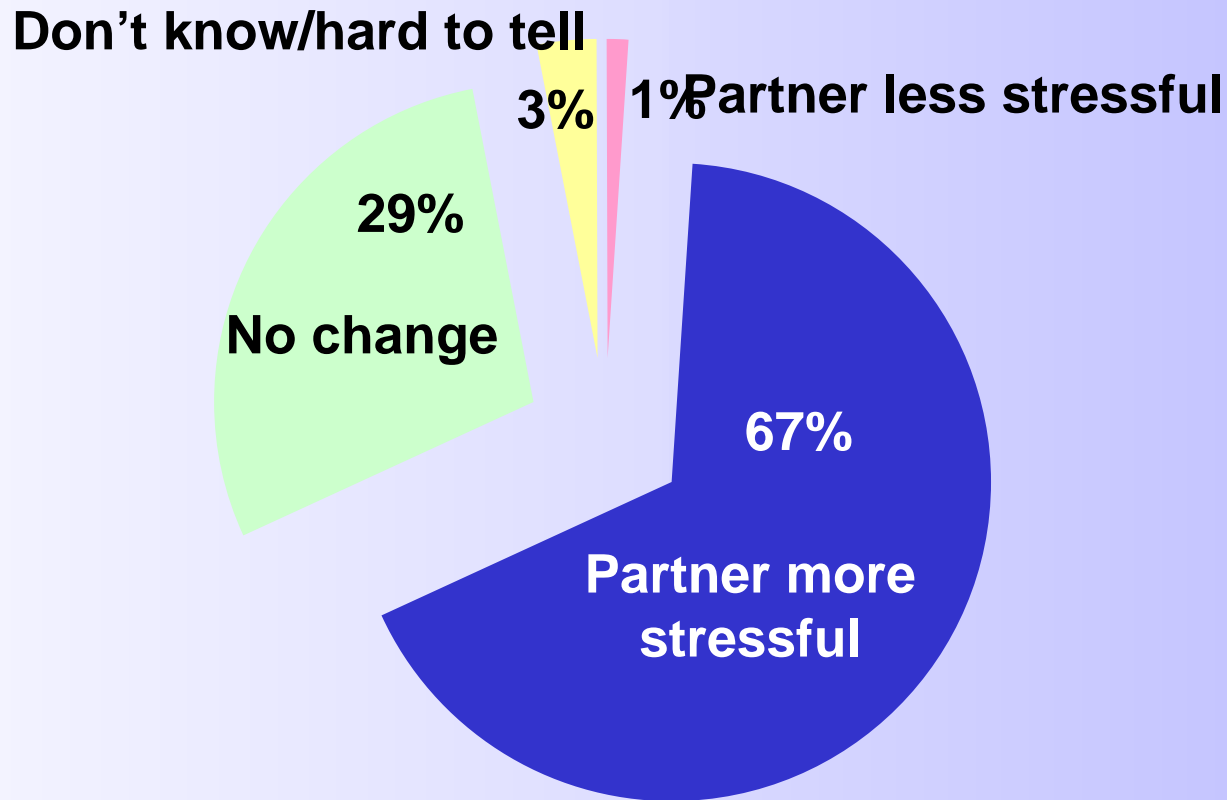


Successful samples: 494 (whose partner having job)



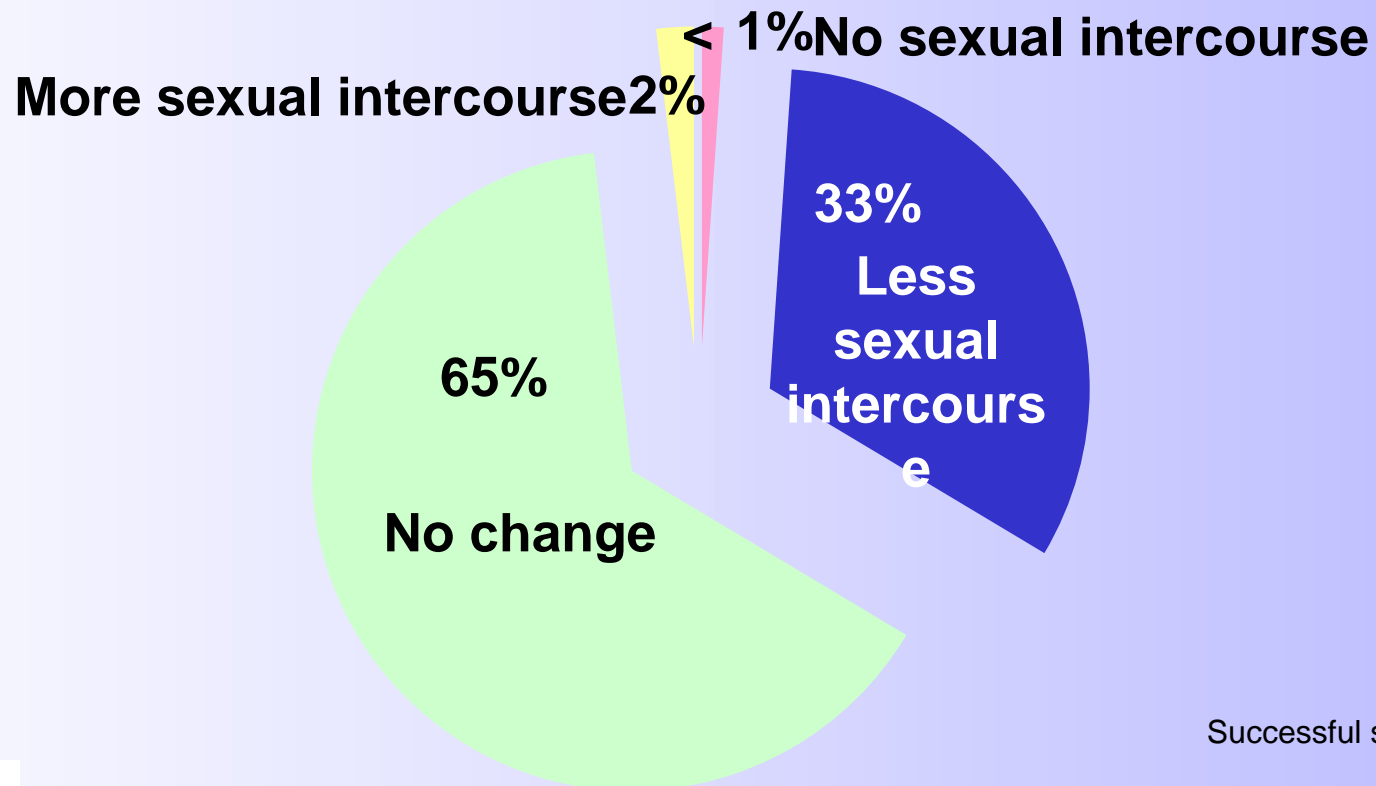
Job pressure causes **2/3** women's partners more stressful

Any change in your partner's job pressure?



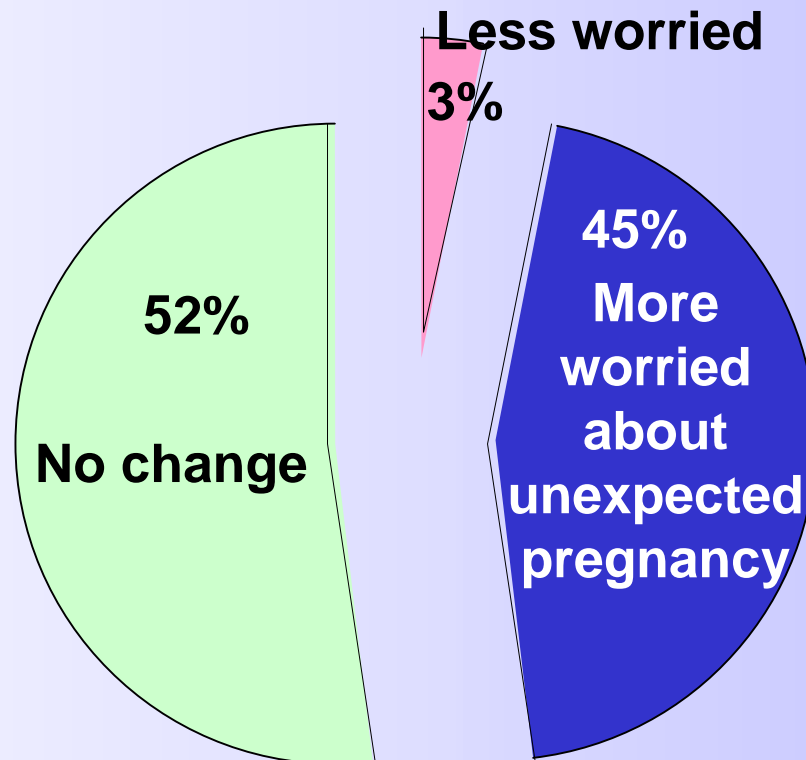
33% women are having less sexual intercourse due to economic downturn

Under the current economic situation, is there any change in the frequency of sexual intercourse?



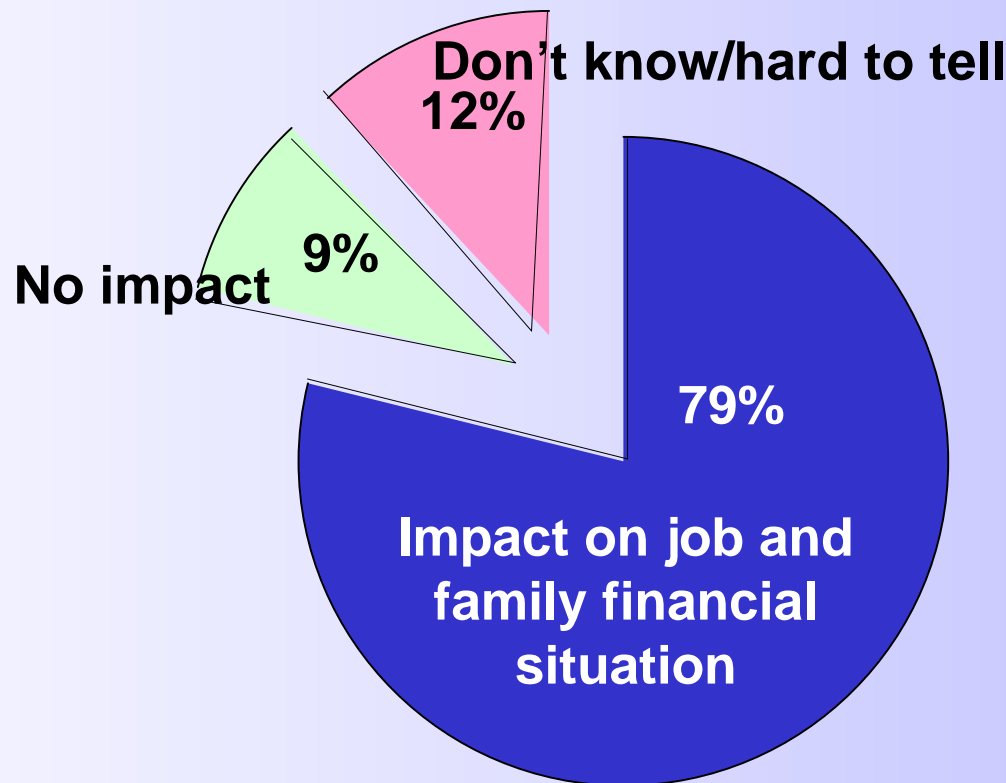
Nearly half of the women are more worried about unexpected pregnancy due to economic downturn

Under the current economic situation, will you be more worried about unexpected pregnancy?



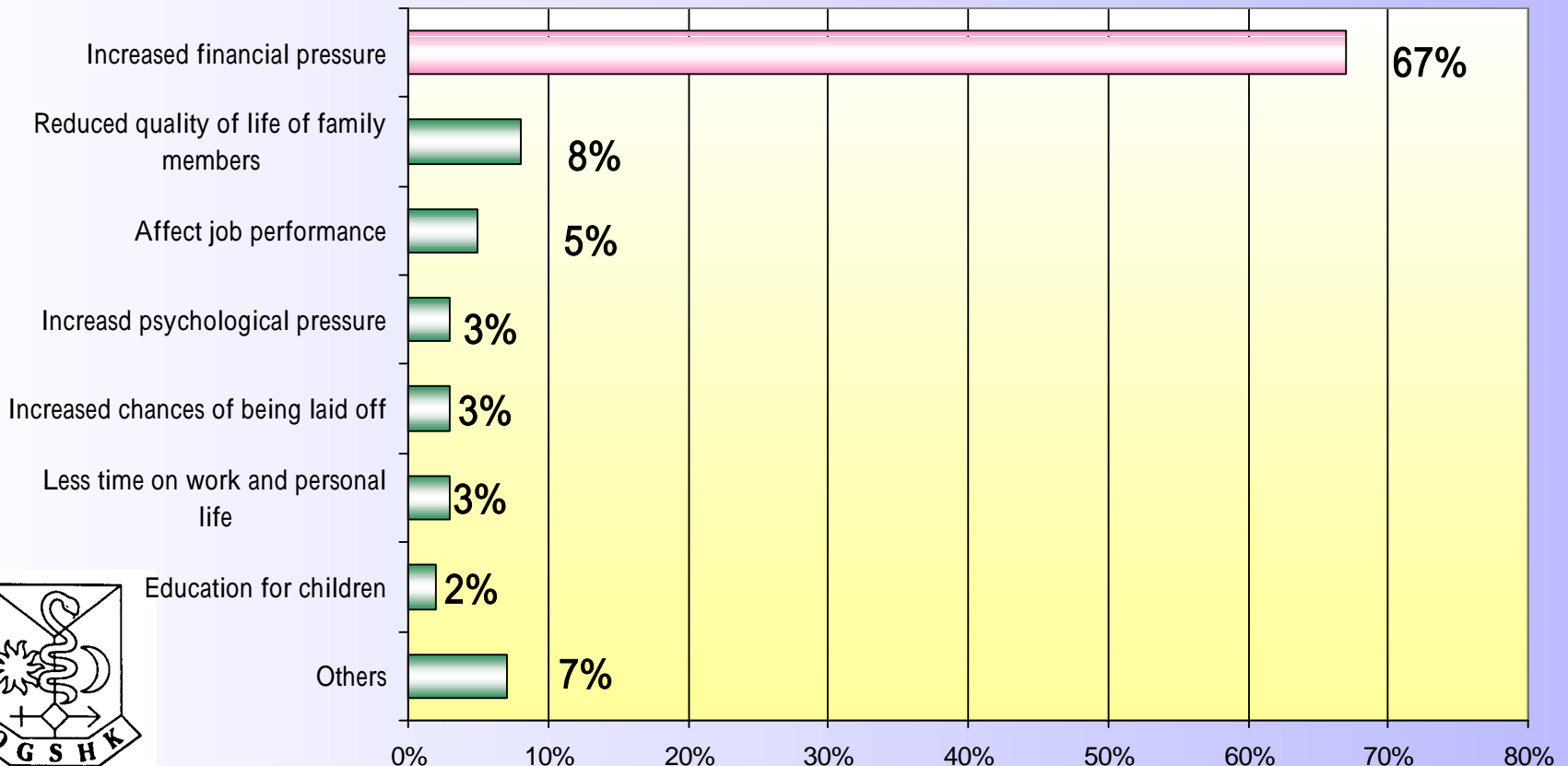
79% women think unexpected pregnancy will have impact on their job or family financial situation

If you get pregnant unexpectedly, will there be any impact on your job or family financial situation?



Increased financial pressure is the major impact of unexpected pregnancy will

If you get pregnant unexpectedly, what are the impacts on your job or family financial situation?



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Successful samples: 453 (who thinks unexpected pregnancy having impact on job or family economic situation)

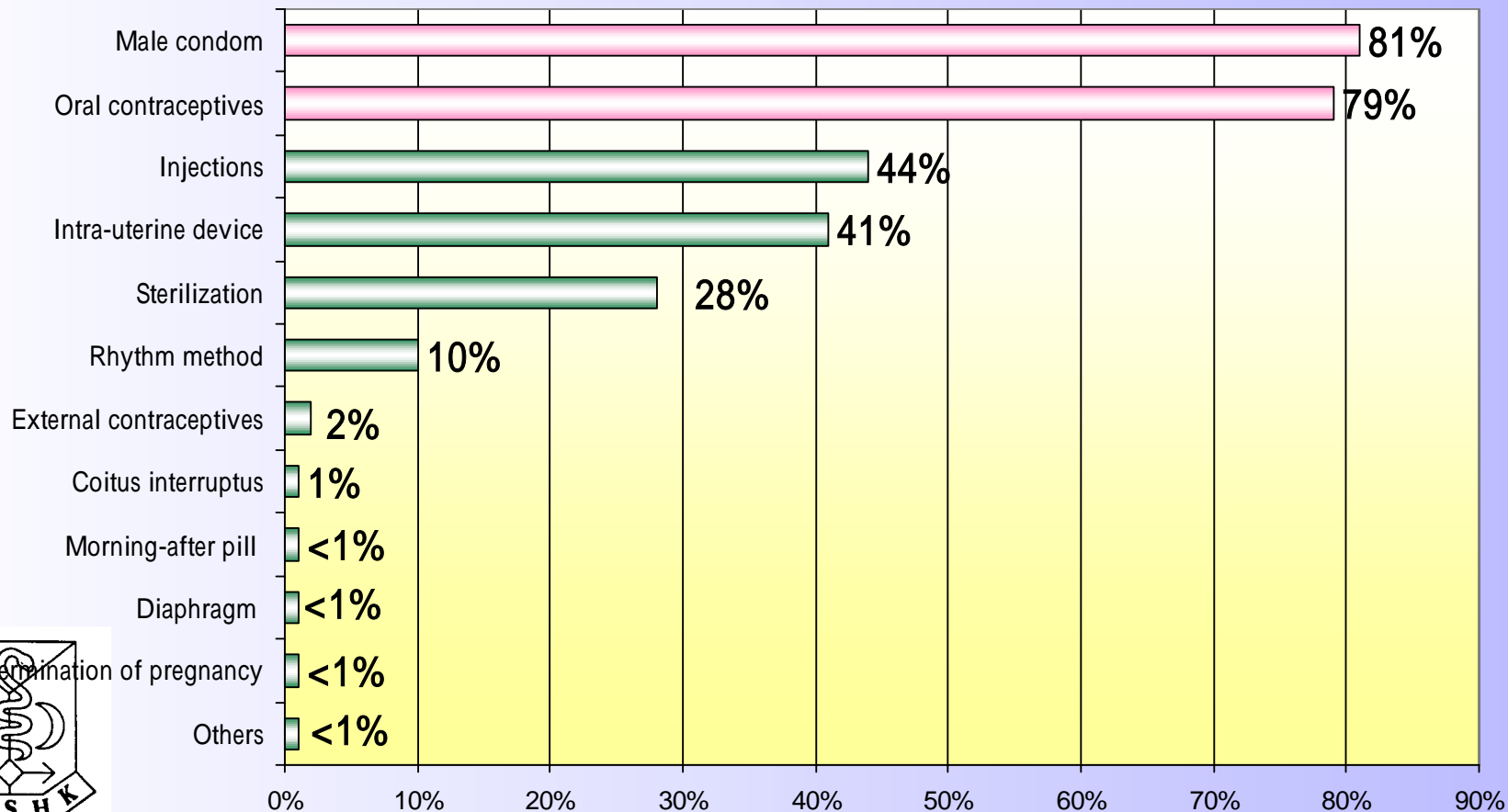
Multiple answers: 557

Hong Kong Women's Knowledge On Birth Control Methods



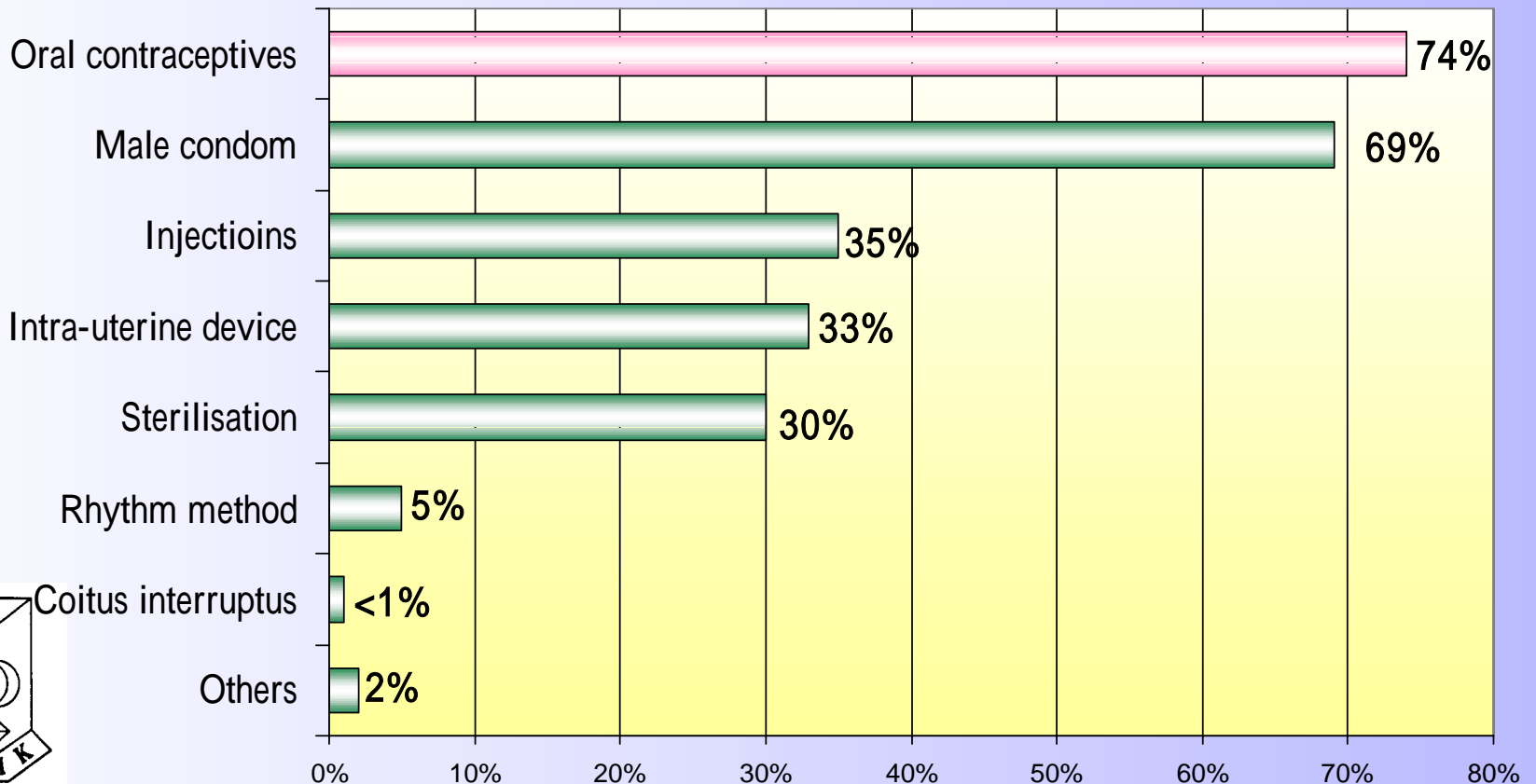
Male condom and oral contraceptives are the most commonly used contraceptive methods among Hong Kong women

What are the available methods for birth control?



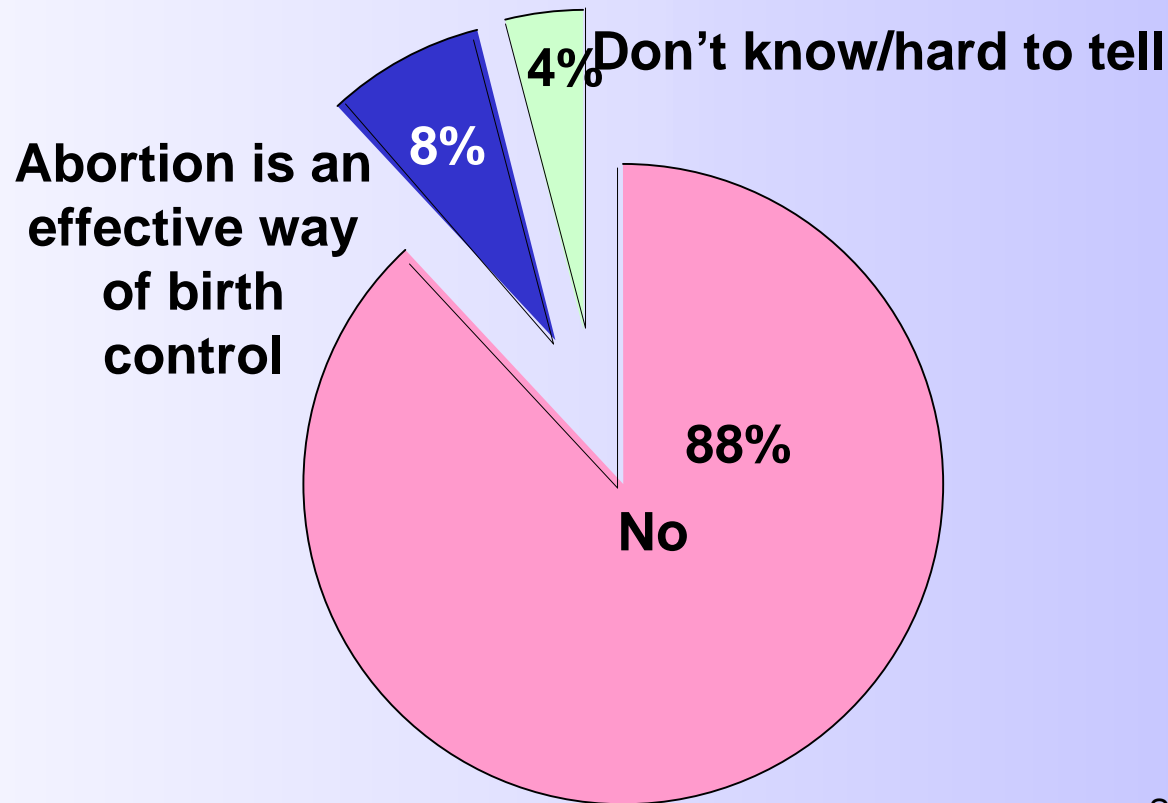
Hong Kong women think oral contraceptives is the most reliable contraceptive method

Please state 3 contraceptive methods that you think are the best



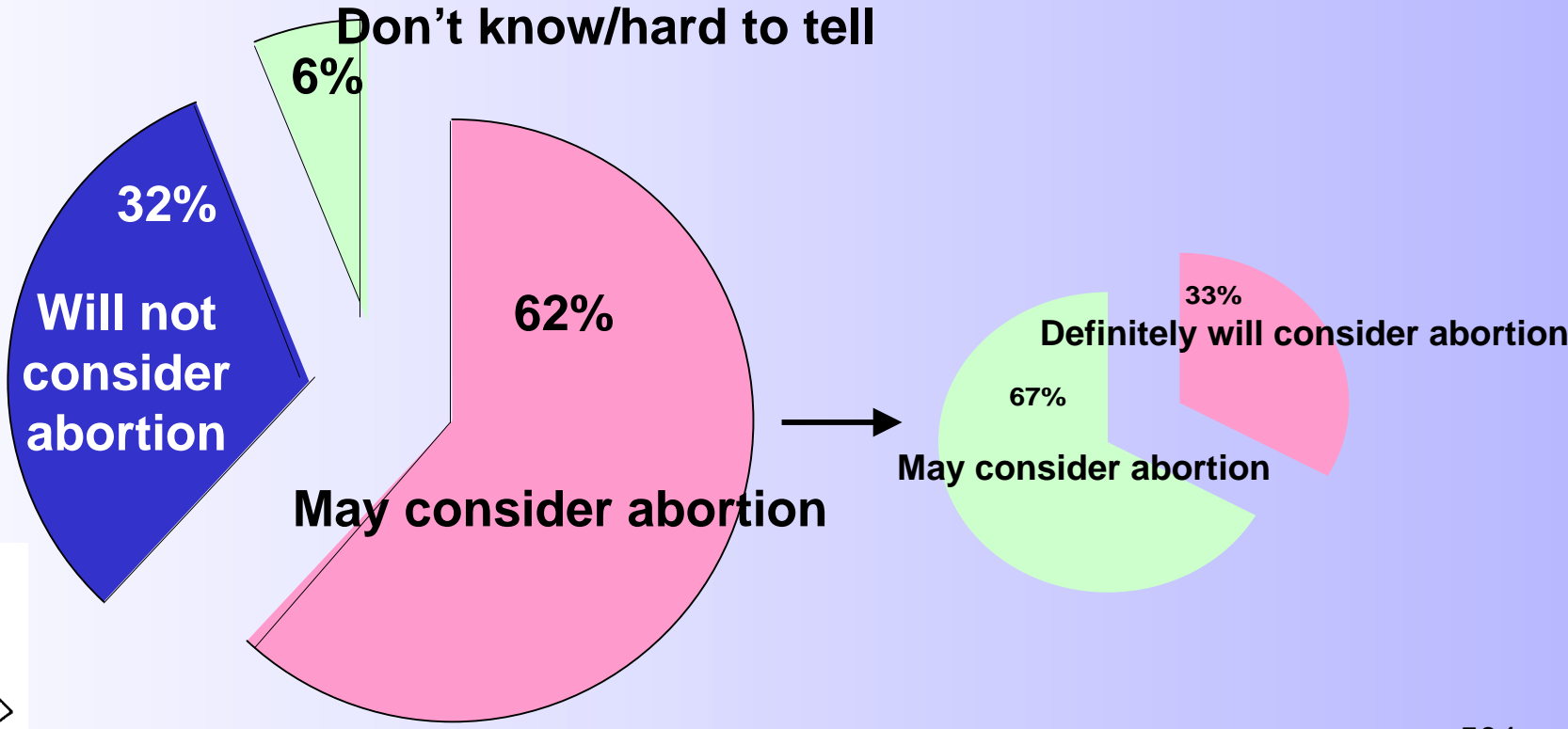
Nearly 10% women think abortion is an effective way of birth control

Do you think abortion is a an effective way of birth control?



Nearly 2/3 women may consider abortion for unexpected pregnancy

If you get pregnant unexpectedly, will you consider having abortion?



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Successful samples: 504

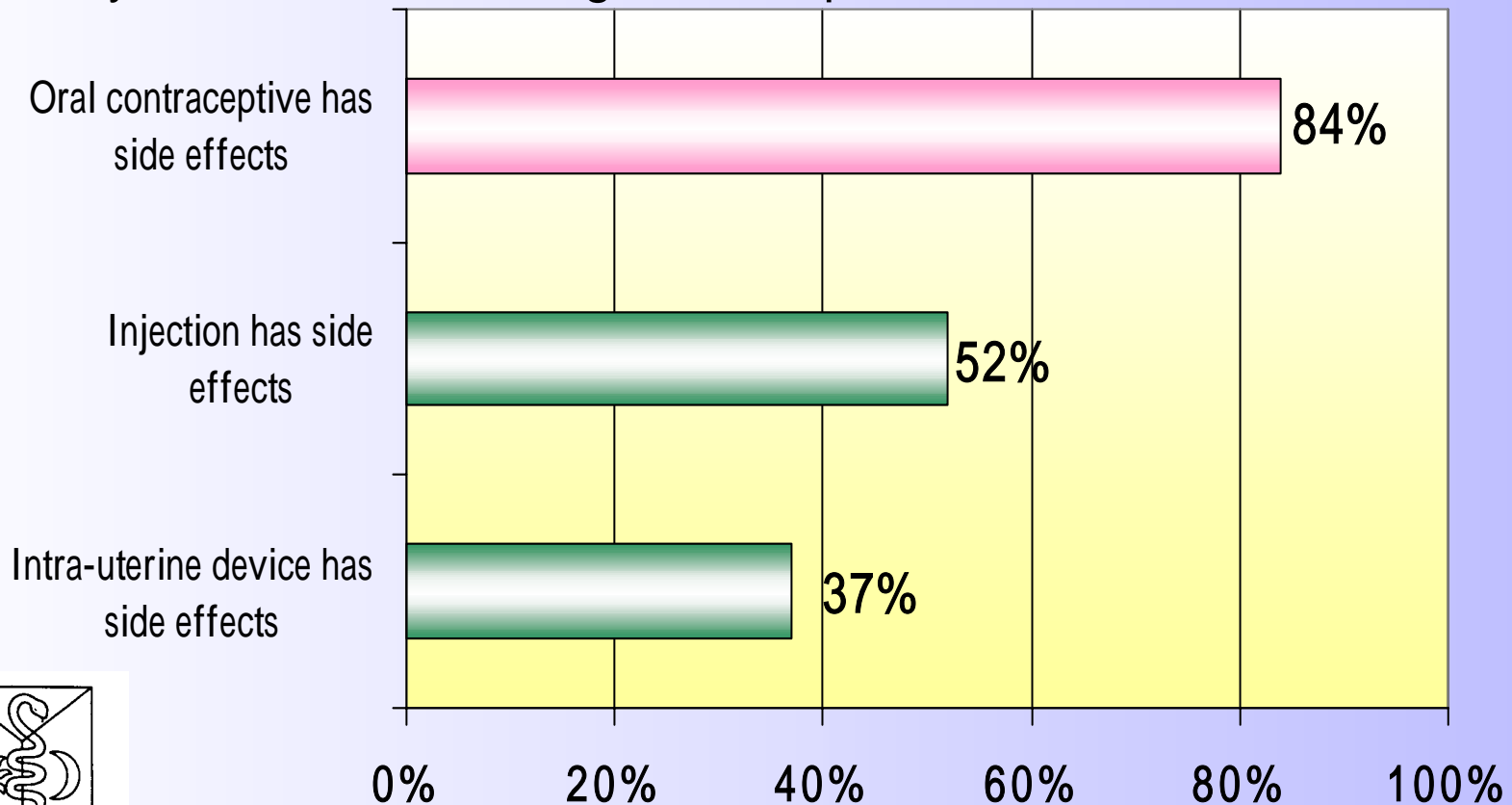


Hong Kong Women's Understanding On Birth Control Methods



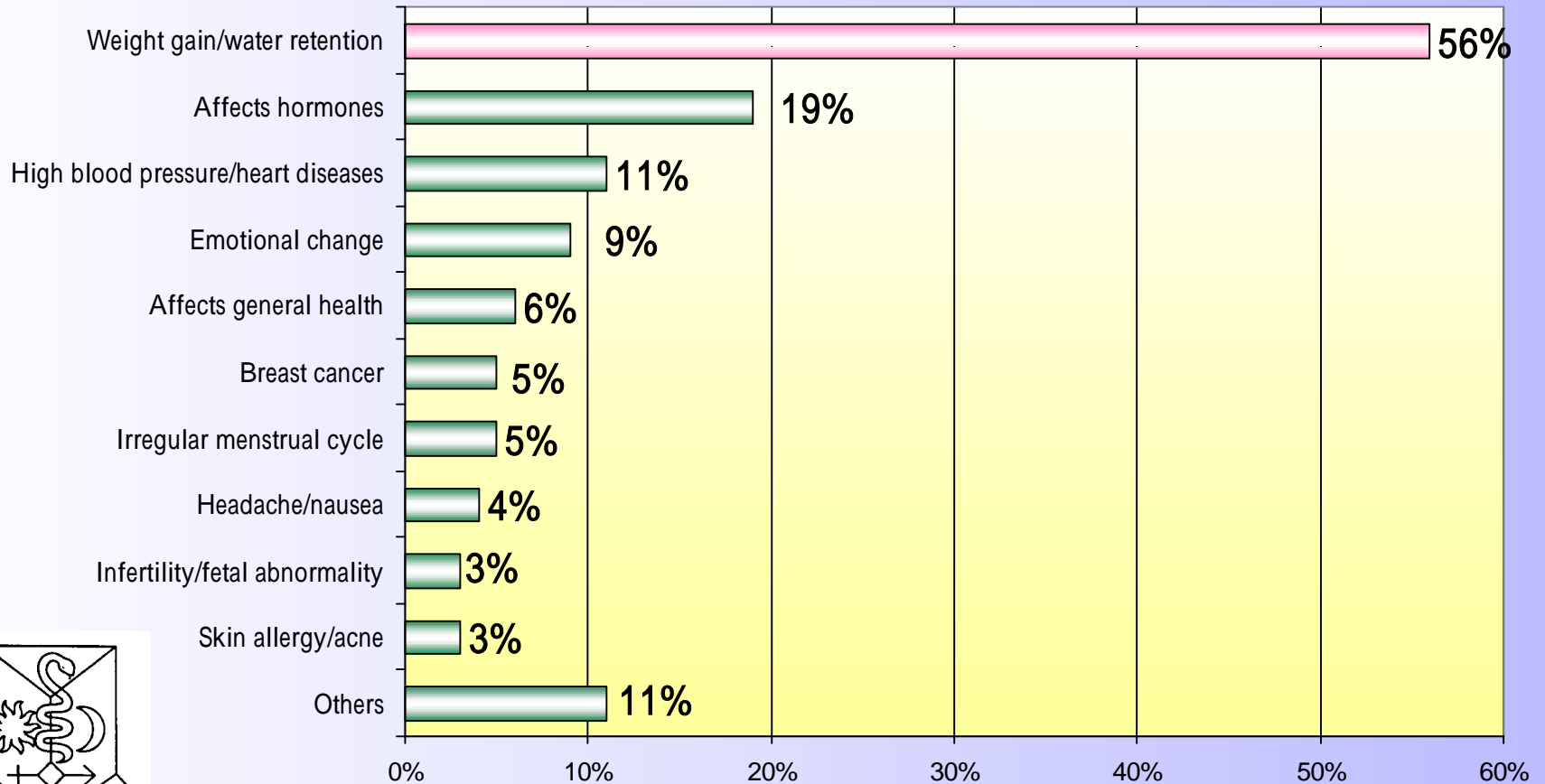
85% women think oral contraceptives have side effects

Do you think the following contraceptive methods have side effects?



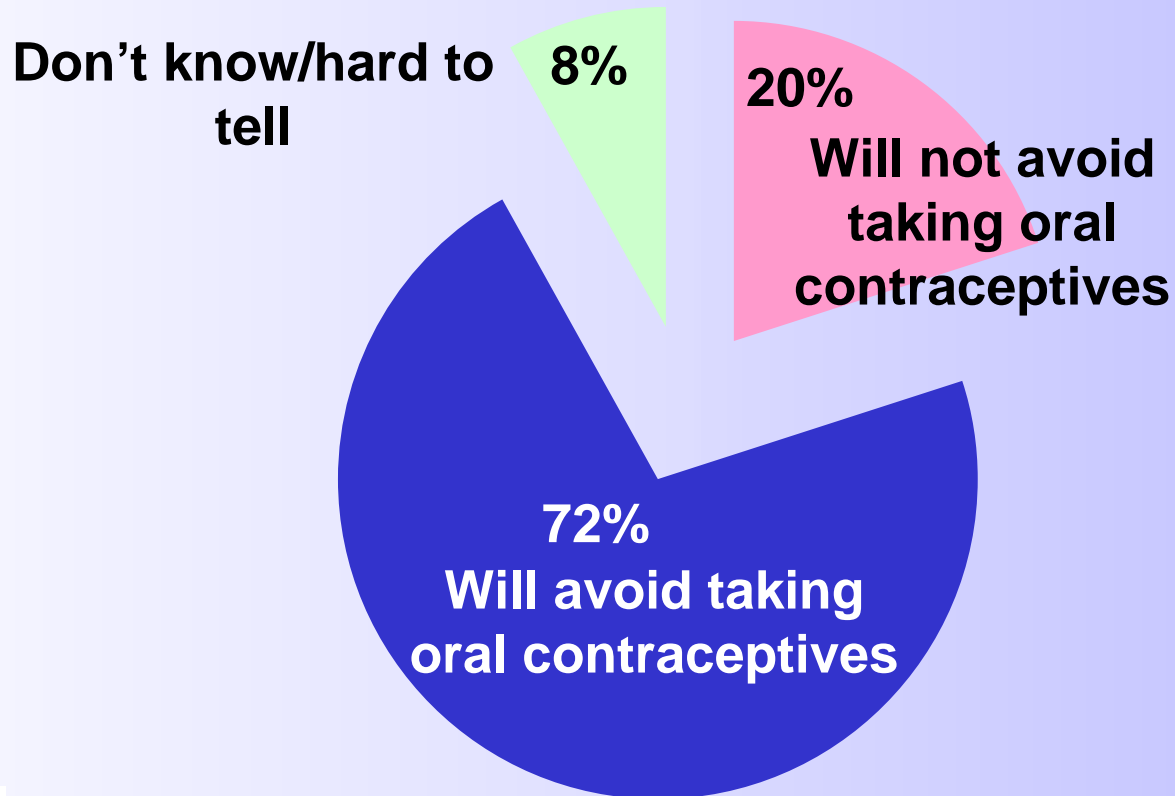
Over half of the women think oral contraceptives will cause weight gain

What are the side effects of oral contraceptives?



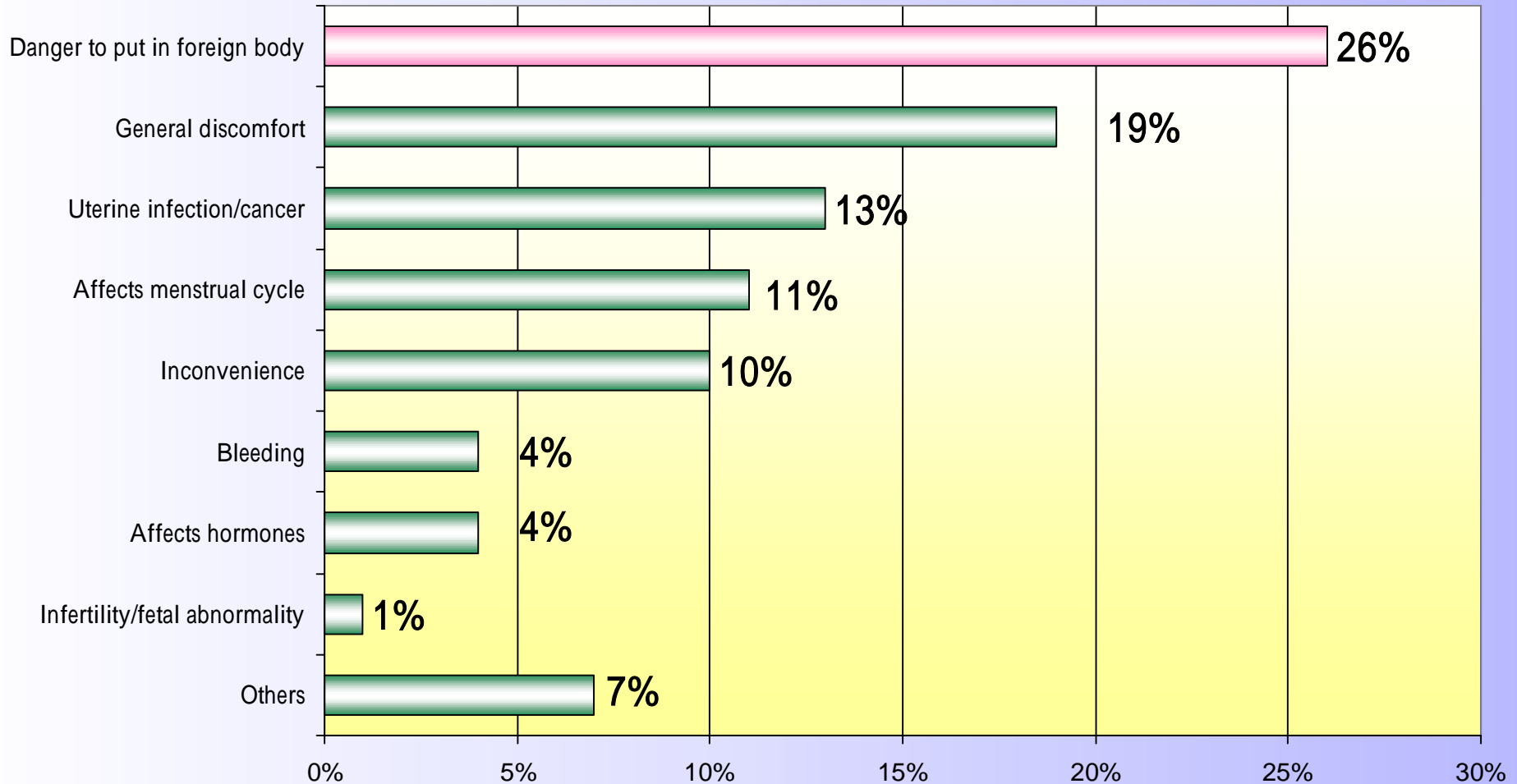
72% women will avoid taking oral contraceptives if they cause weight gain

If taking oral contraceptives will cause weight gain, will you take?



1/4 women think placing intra-uterine device inside body is dangerous

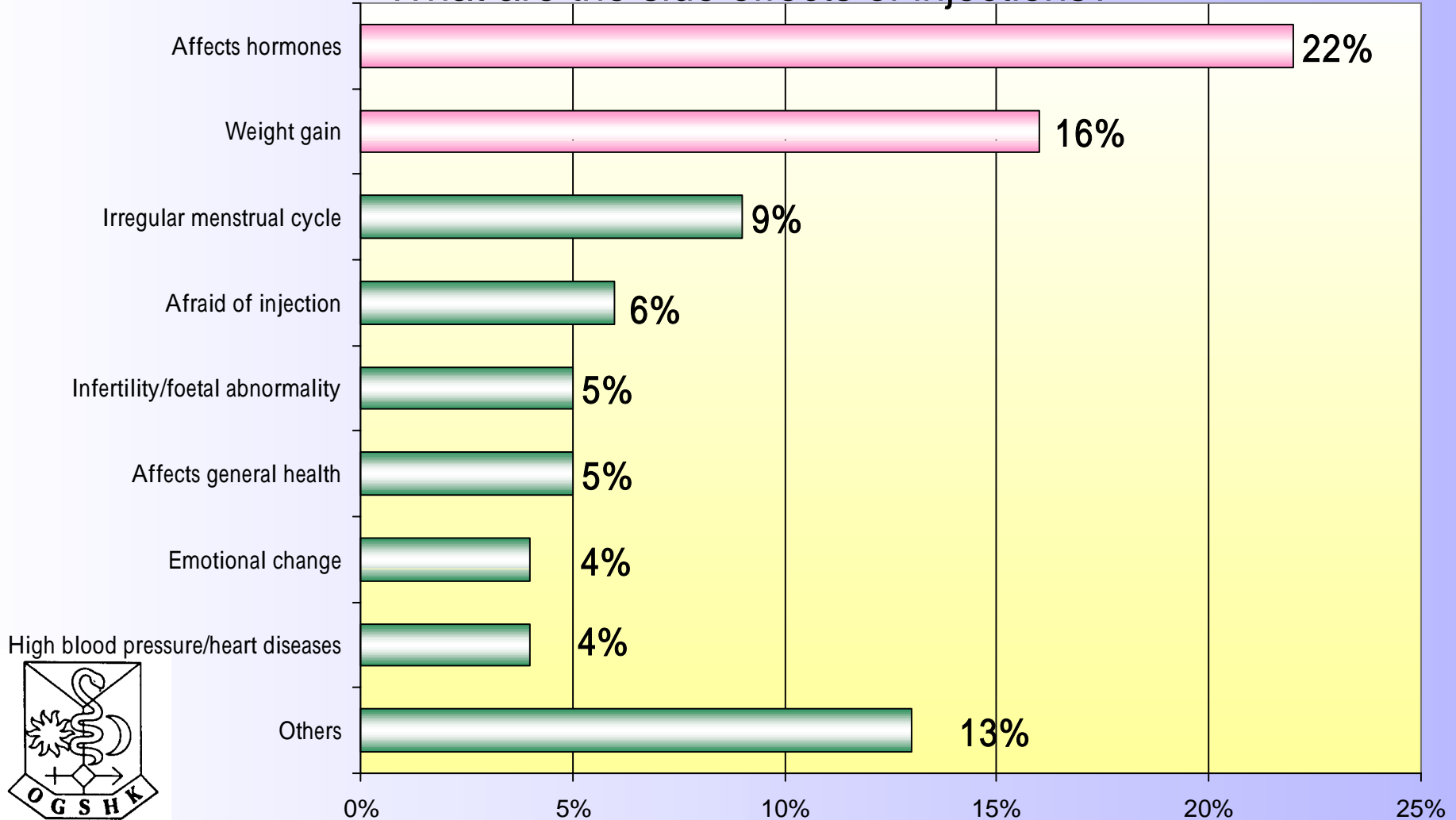
What are the side effects of intra-uterine device?



Successful samples: 184 (who thinks Intra-uterine device having side effects)

Women think the most common side effects of injections are effects on hormones and weight gain

What are the side effects of injections?



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Successful samples: 259 (who thinks injections having side effects)

Most women lacking knowledge on the failure rates of contraceptive methods

Failure rates of different contraceptive methods

Contraception method	Failure rate most commonly perceived by respondents	Failure rate when used correctly and consistently	Failure rate as commonly used
Oral contraceptives	1-10%	0.1%	6-8%
Injections	Don't know	0.3%	0.3%
Intra-uterine device	Don't know	0.6%	0.8%
Male condom	1-10%	3%	14%
Coitus interruptus	>20%	>20%	>20%
Rhythm method	>20%	1-9%	20%

Source of failure rates: WHO , Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use, 2nd Edition



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***11% thinks male condoms never fail!**

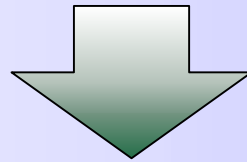
Conclusion



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Increased need for birth control during economic downturn – Misconception (abortion/having less sexual intercourse) affects women's quality of life

- 80% women think unexpected pregnancy will have impact on their job of family economic situation.
- Nearly half of the women are more worried about unexpected pregnancy under economic downturn.
- Nearly 2/3 women may consider abortion if get pregnant unexpectedly.
- 33% women are having less sexual intercourse due to economic downturn.



Sex provides women a more complete and satisfied life. Under economic downturn, women needs a safe and effective birth control method, instead of having less sex or abortion.



Women should carefully choose their birth control method

- 11% women thinks male condom never fail.
- But is male condom really reliable? The failure rate of male condom as commonly used is as high as 14%.
- According to a survey by the Family Planning Association of Hong Kong, 23% women who opt for abortion had condom failure.
- To learn more about each birth control method, women should consult their physician and choose a safe and effective method most suitable for them. This makes women in control and give them better quality of life.



The End



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