



# Australian Social Trends


USING STATISTICS TO PAINT A PICTURE OF AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY



# Australian Social Trends on the [ABS website](#)

- 2008 seminar series slideshows for each state and territory
- Editions of AST from 1994
- Social indicators: national, state & territory time series data cubes
- Hyperlinked cumulative topic index

# Australian Social Trends - March 2009

**4102.0 - Australian Social Trends, March 2009**  [Quality Declaration](#)

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[More de facto relationships, women still do most housework, more energy use at home: ABS \(Media Release\)](#)

[Renewable energy use and population growth in the states and territories \(Media Release\)](#)



## Australian Social Trends

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**In this, the first of four issues for 2009, we feature articles about Australia's ageing population, including future population trends, retirement and superannuation.**



[Future trends in Australia's population](#)



[Couples in Australia](#)



[Mental health](#)



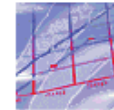
[Trends in household work](#)



[Retirement and retirement intentions](#)



[Household debt](#)



[Trends in superannuation coverage](#)



[Are households using renewable energy?](#)



SINCE 1994 AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS HAS PRESENTED ARTICLES & KEY STATISTICS ACROSS ALL AREAS OF SOCIAL CONCERN.

# Population Ageing

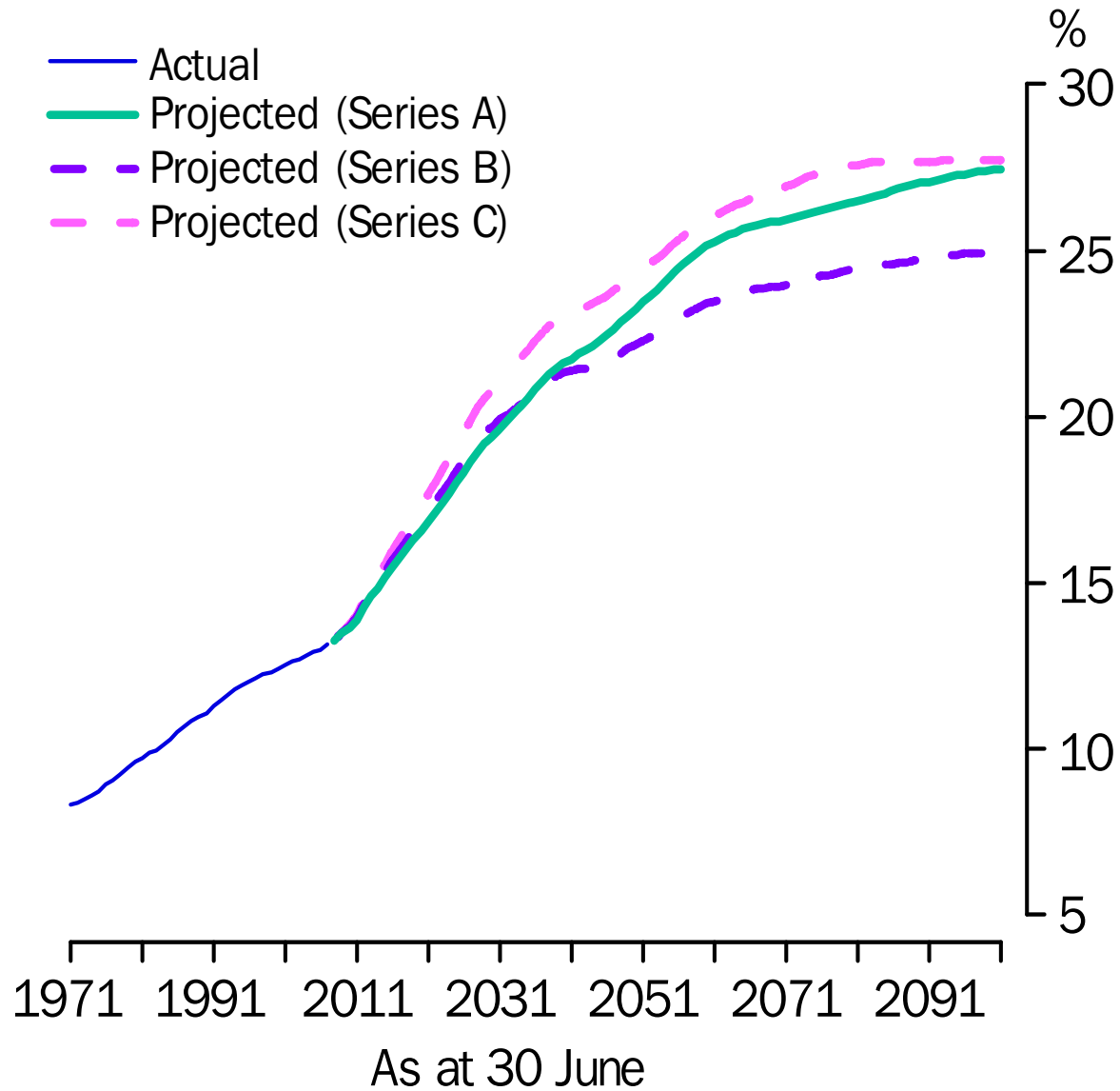
- Future population growth and ageing
- Retirement and retirement intentions
- Trends in superannuation coverage



- From around 21 million people in **2006**, Australia's population is projected to grow to:
- Between 30.9 million and 42.5 million in **2056**
- Between 33.7 million and 62.2 million in **2101**

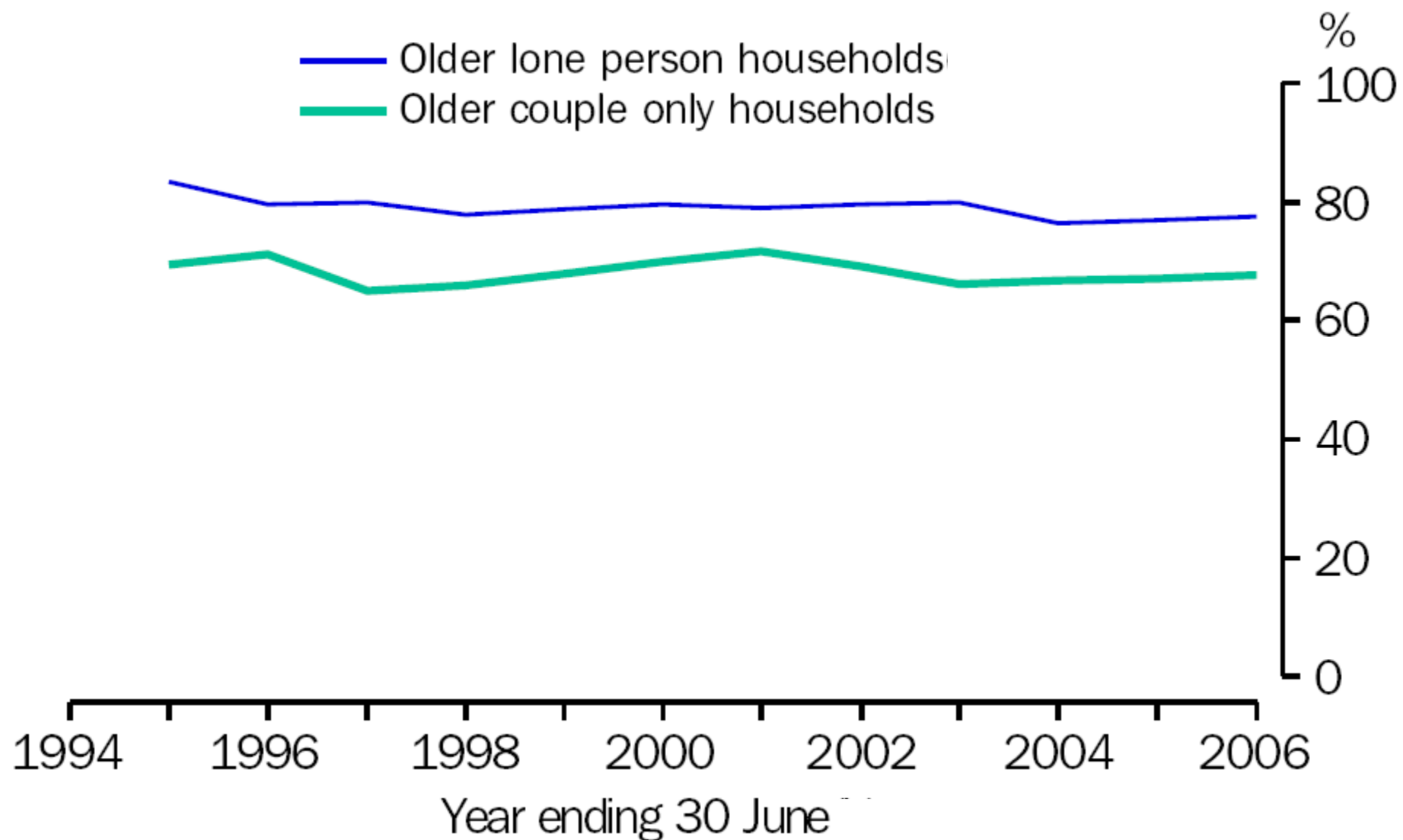
# Australian Social Trends - March 2009

## Proportion of population aged 65 years and over



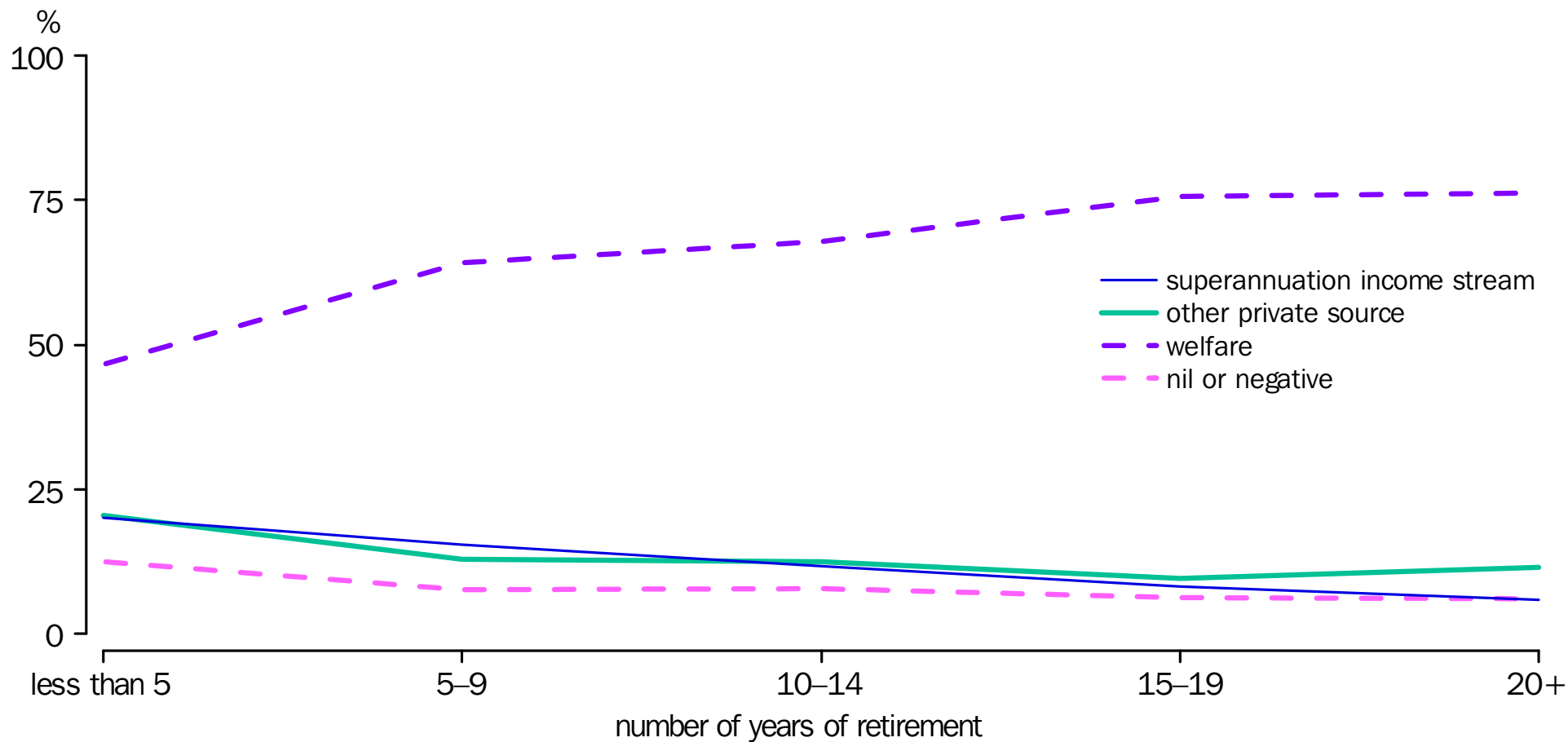
# Australian Social Trends - March 2009

## Older households with income support as their main income



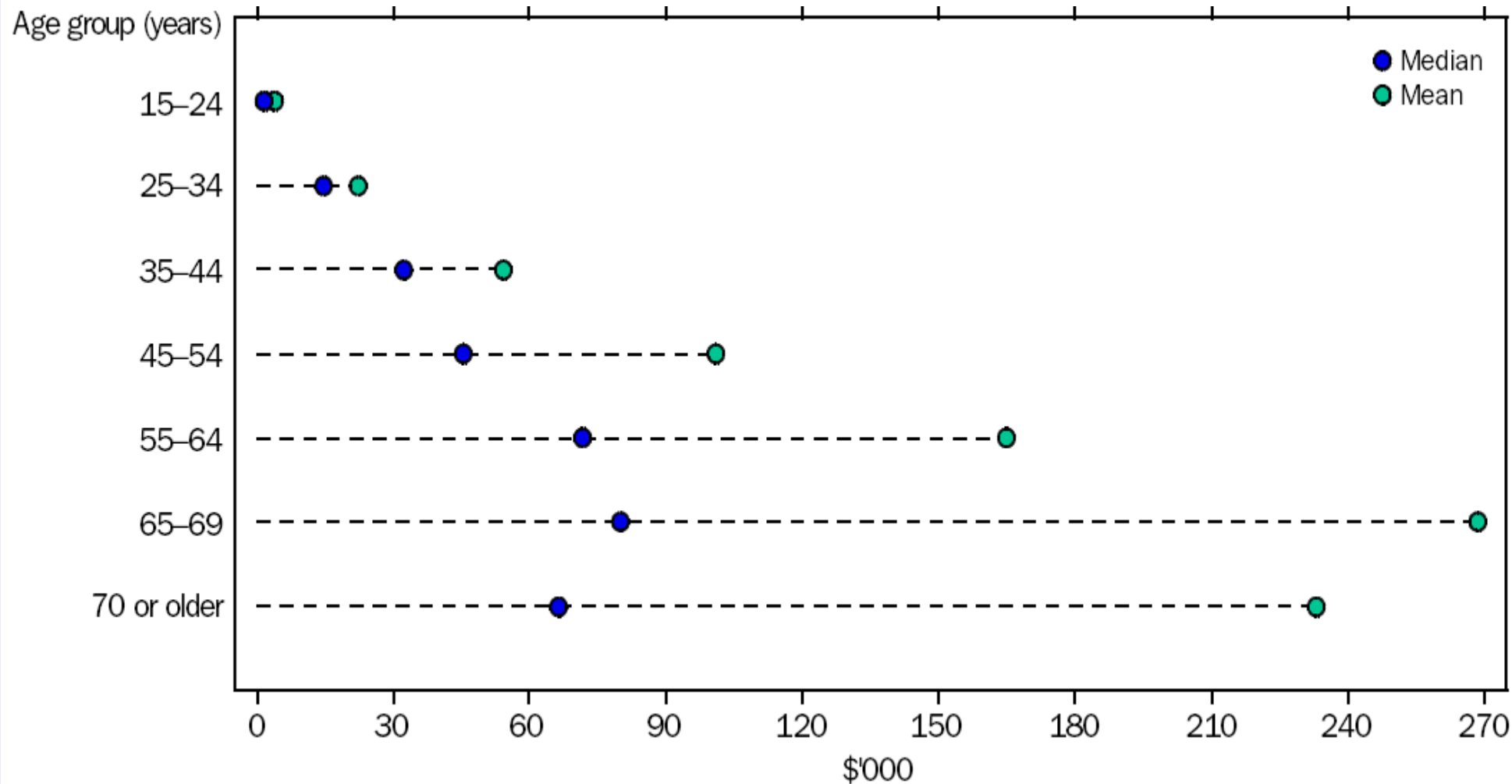
# Australian Social Trends - March 2009

## Retirees' main source of personal income — 2007

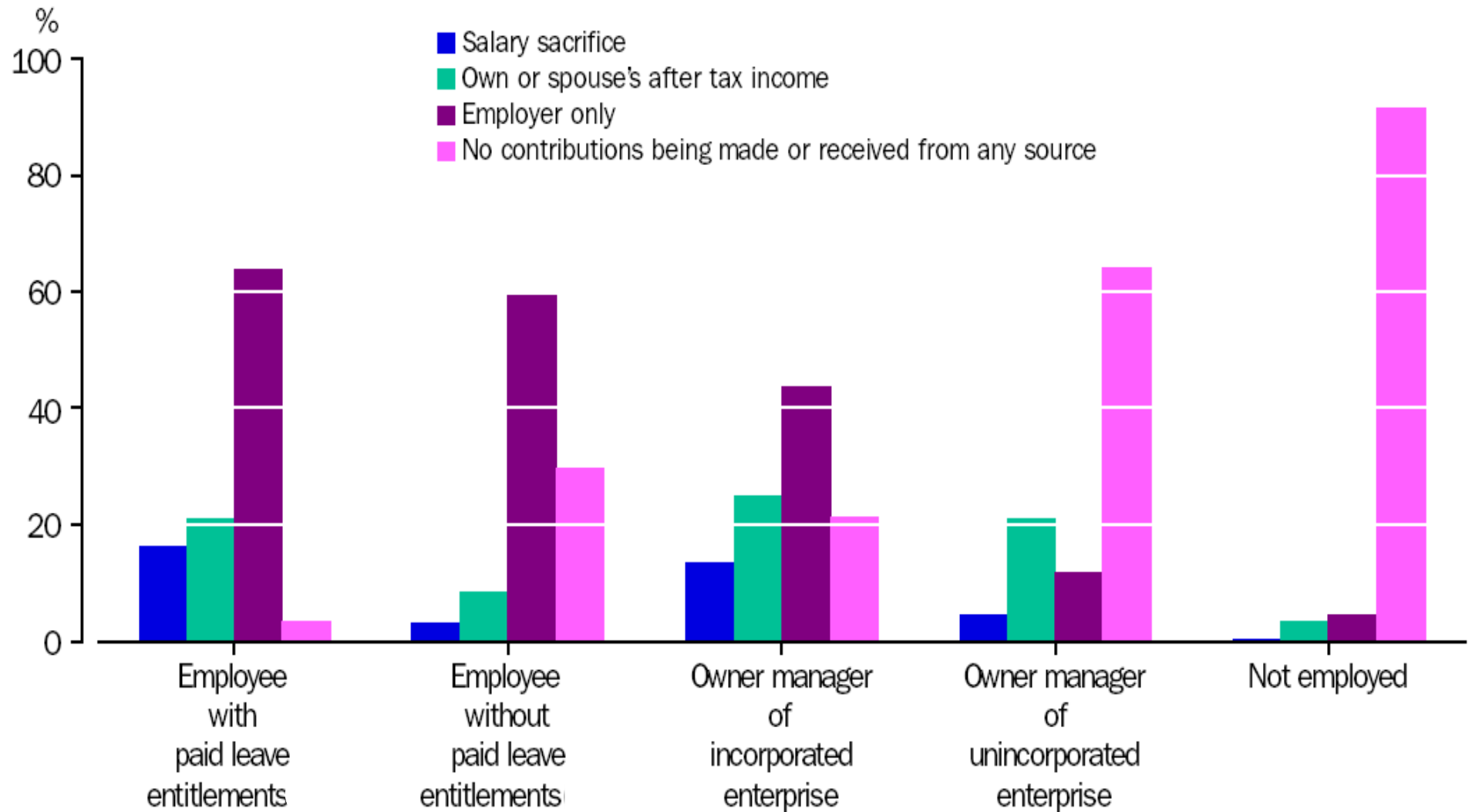




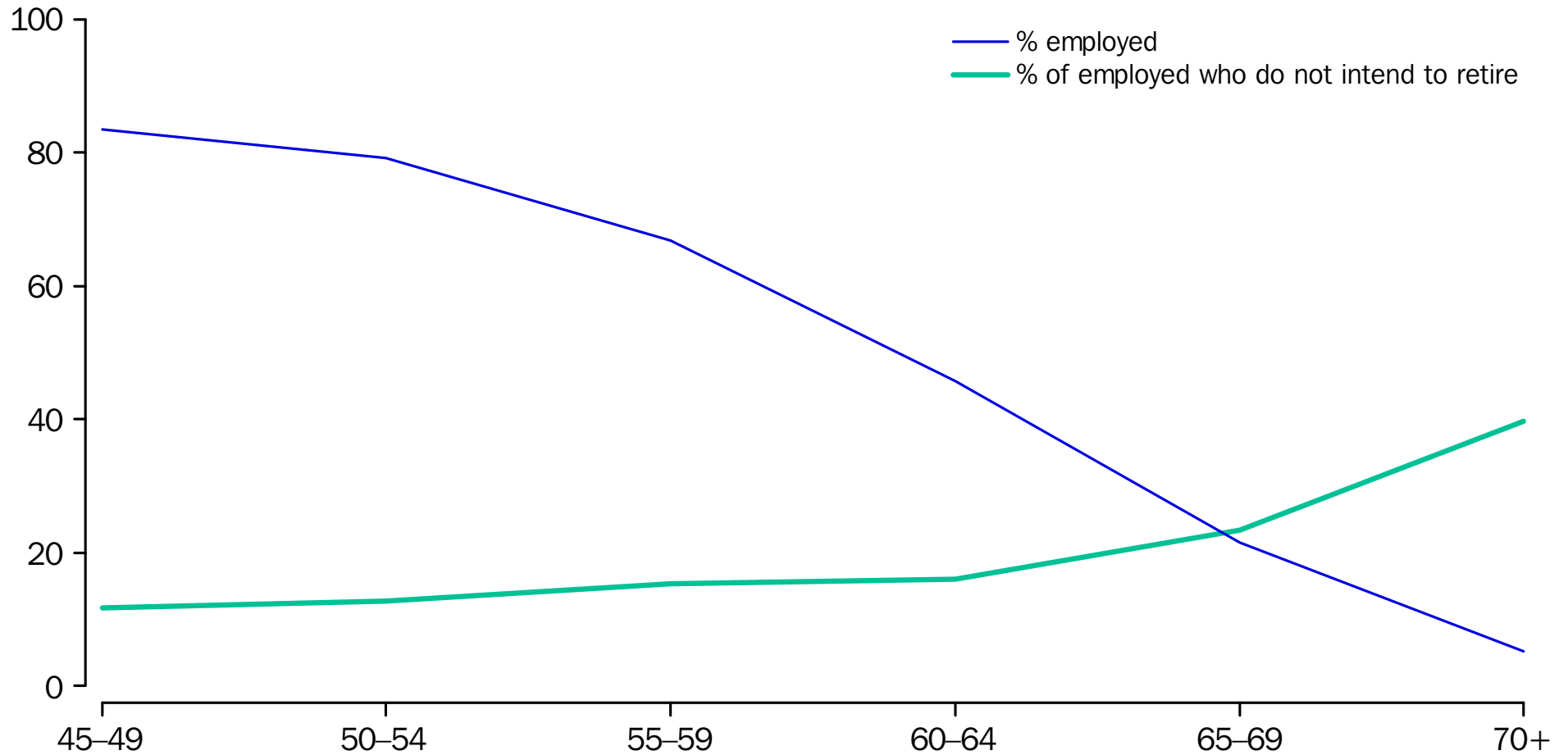
## Average superannuation balances — 2007



## Sources of superannuation contributions — 2007



## Employment rate vs retirement intentions



# Trends in household work



*Housekeeping Monthly* 13 May 1955



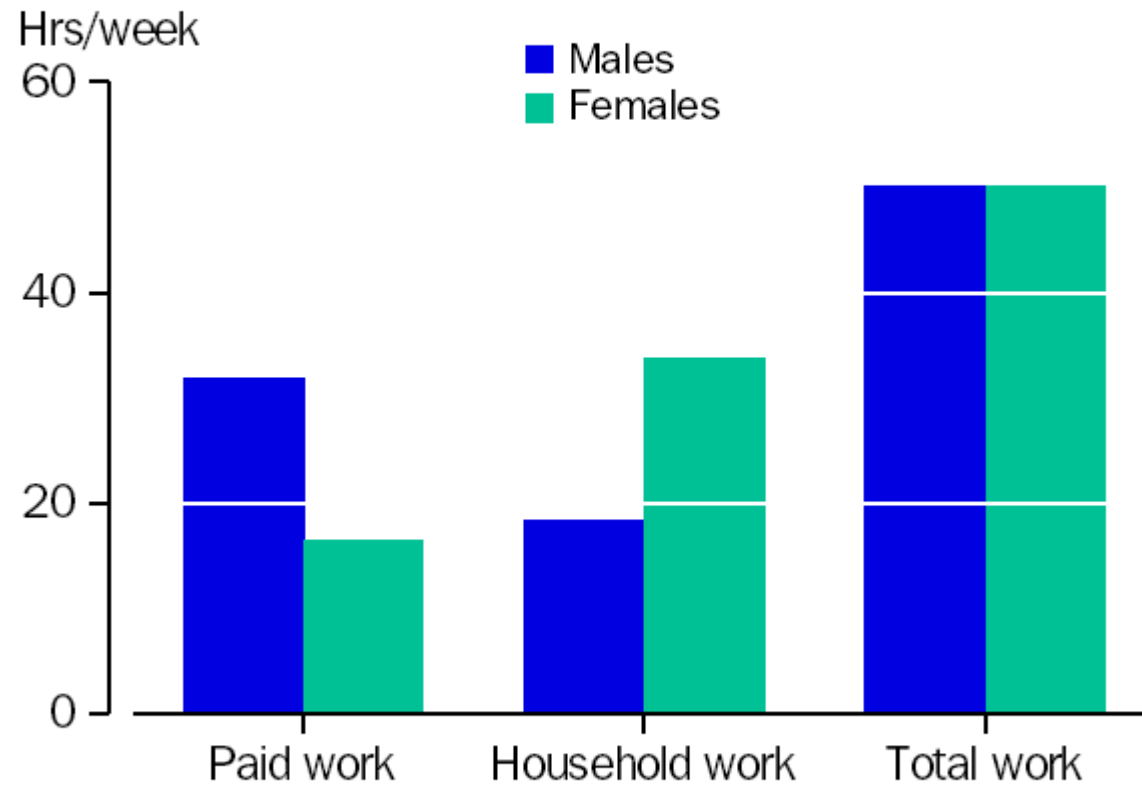
## *The good wife's guide*

- Have dinner ready. Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal ready, on time for his return. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned about his needs. Most men are hungry when they come home and the prospect of a good meal (especially his favorite dish) is part of the warm welcome needed.
- Prepare yourself. Take 15 minutes to rest so you'll be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your make-up, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh-looking. He has just been with a lot of work-weary people.
- Be a little gay and a little more interesting for him. His boring day may need a lift and one of your duties is to provide it.
- Clear away the clutter. Make one last trip through the main part of the house just before your husband arrives.

*Housekeeping Monthly* 13 May 1955

- Gather up schoolbooks, toys, paper etc and then run a dustcloth over the tables.
- Over the cooler months of the year you should prepare and light a fire for him to unwind by. Your husband will feel he has reached a haven of rest and order, and it will give you a lift too. After all, catering for his comfort will provide you with immense personal satisfaction.
- Prepare the children. Take a few minutes to wash the children's hands and faces (if they are small), comb their hair and, if necessary, change their clothes. They are little treasures and he would like to see them playing the part. Minimise all noise. At the time of his arrival, eliminate all noise of the washer, dryer or vacuum. Try to encourage the children to be quiet.
- Be happy to see him.
- Greet him with a warm smile and show sincerity in your desire to please him.
- Listen to him. You may have a dozen important things to tell him, but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him talk first - remember, his topics of conversation are more important than yours.
- Make the evening his. Never complain if he comes home late or goes out to dinner, or other places of entertainment without you. Instead, try to understand his world of strain and pressure and his very real need to be at home and relax.
- Your goal: Try to make sure your home is a place of peace, order and tranquillity where your husband can renew himself in body and spirit.
- Don't greet him with complaints and problems.
- Don't complain if he's late home for dinner or even if he stays out all night. Count this as minor compared to what he might have gone through that day.
- Make him comfortable. Have him lean back in a comfortable chair or have him lie down in the bedroom. Have a cool or warm drink ready for him.
- Arrange his pillow and offer to take off his shoes. Speak in a low, soothing and pleasant voice.
- Don't ask him questions about his actions or question his judgment or integrity. Remember, he is the master of the house and as such will always exercise his will with fairness and truthfulness. You have no right to question him.
- A good wife always knows her place.

## Time spent on paid work and household work by sex<sup>(a)</sup> — 2006



(a) Average hours per week by all persons for primary activities

Source: 2006 Time Use Survey

**Time spent on selected household tasks<sup>(a)</sup> by sex, 2006.**

***Food preparation and clean up***

Males: 3 hours and 25 minutes

Females: 8 hours

***Laundry and clothes care***

Males: 35 minutes

Females: 3 hours and 25 minutes

***Home maintenance***

Males: 1 hour and 40 minutes

Females: 20 minutes

***Child care***

Males: 2 hours and 35 minutes

Females: 6 hours and 55 minutes

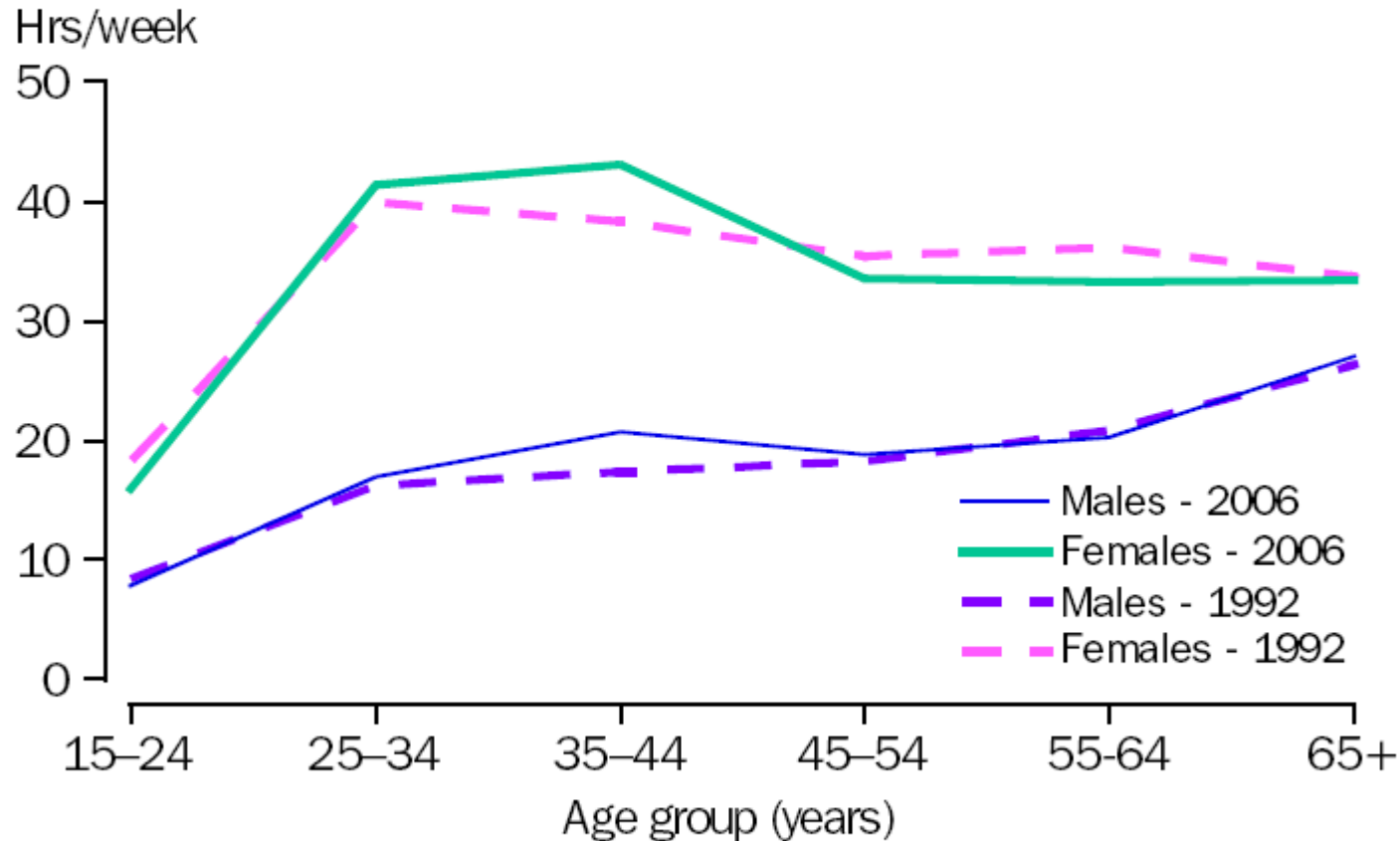
***Purchasing goods and services***

Males: 4 hours and 25 minutes

Females: 6 hours and 45 minutes

(a) Average hours and minutes per week by all persons for primary activities.

## Time spent on household work by sex and age group<sup>(a)</sup> — 1992 and 2006



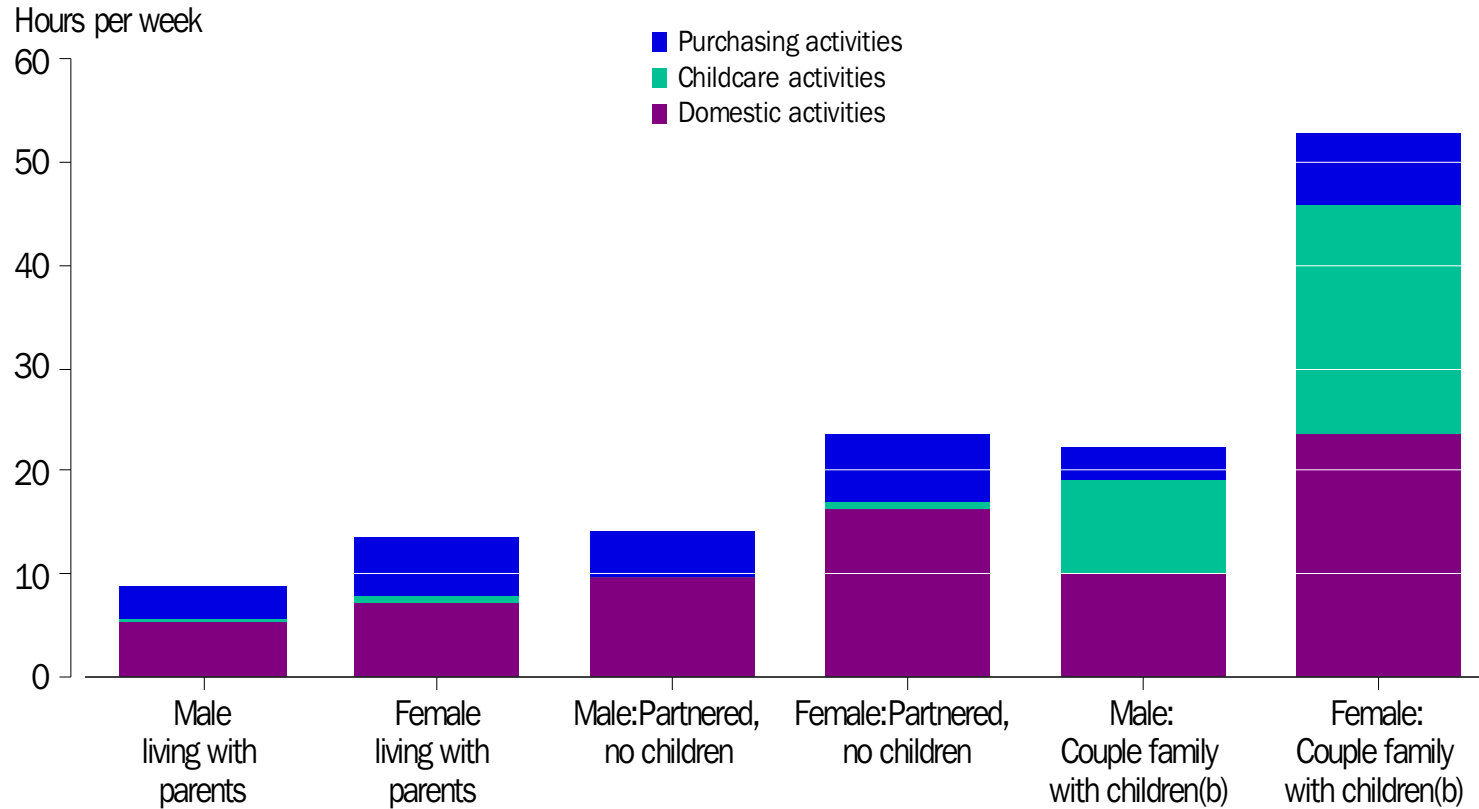
(a) Average hours per week by all persons for primary activities

Source: ABS Time Use Survey, 1992 and 2006



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## Time spent on household work by sex and selected living arrangements<sup>(a)</sup>, 2006.



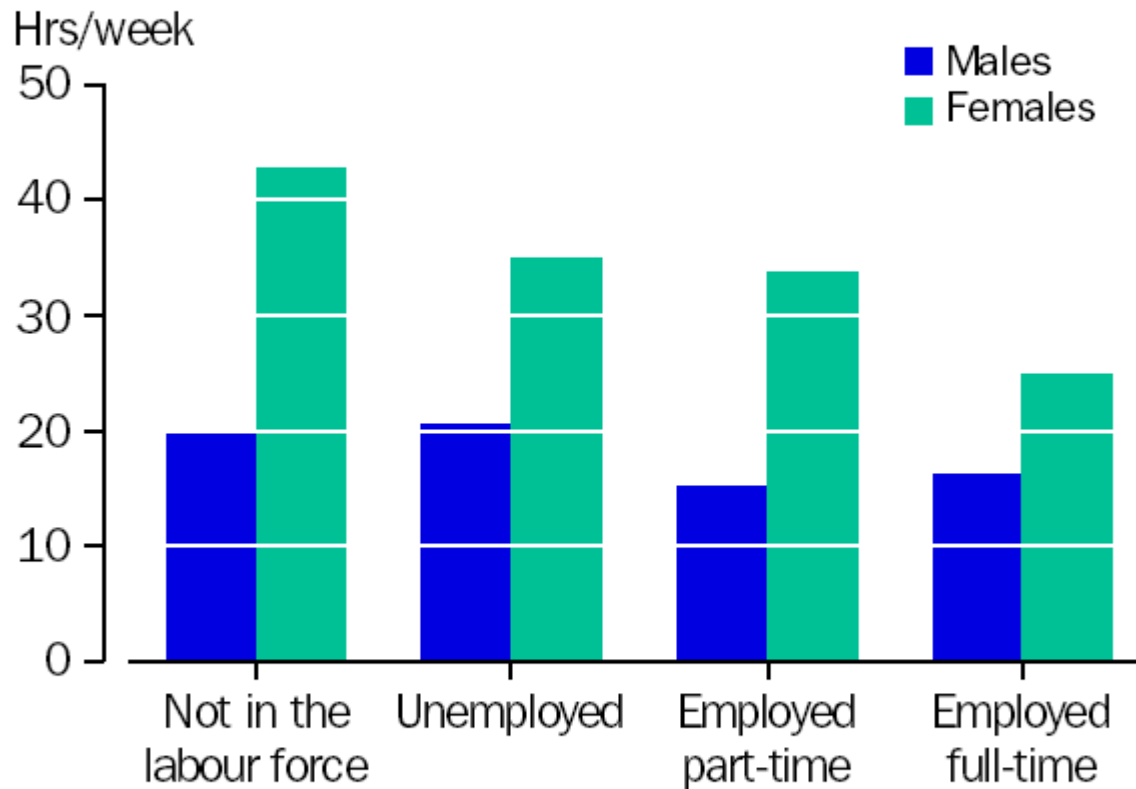
(a) persons aged 20-49 years

(b) children aged under 15 years

Source: 2006 Time Use Survey

# Australian Social Trends - March 2009

## Time spent on household work by sex and status in employment<sup>(a)(b)</sup> — 2006



(a) Average hours per week by all persons for primary activities

(b) Aged 15–64 years

Source: 2006 Time Use Survey

# Mental Health

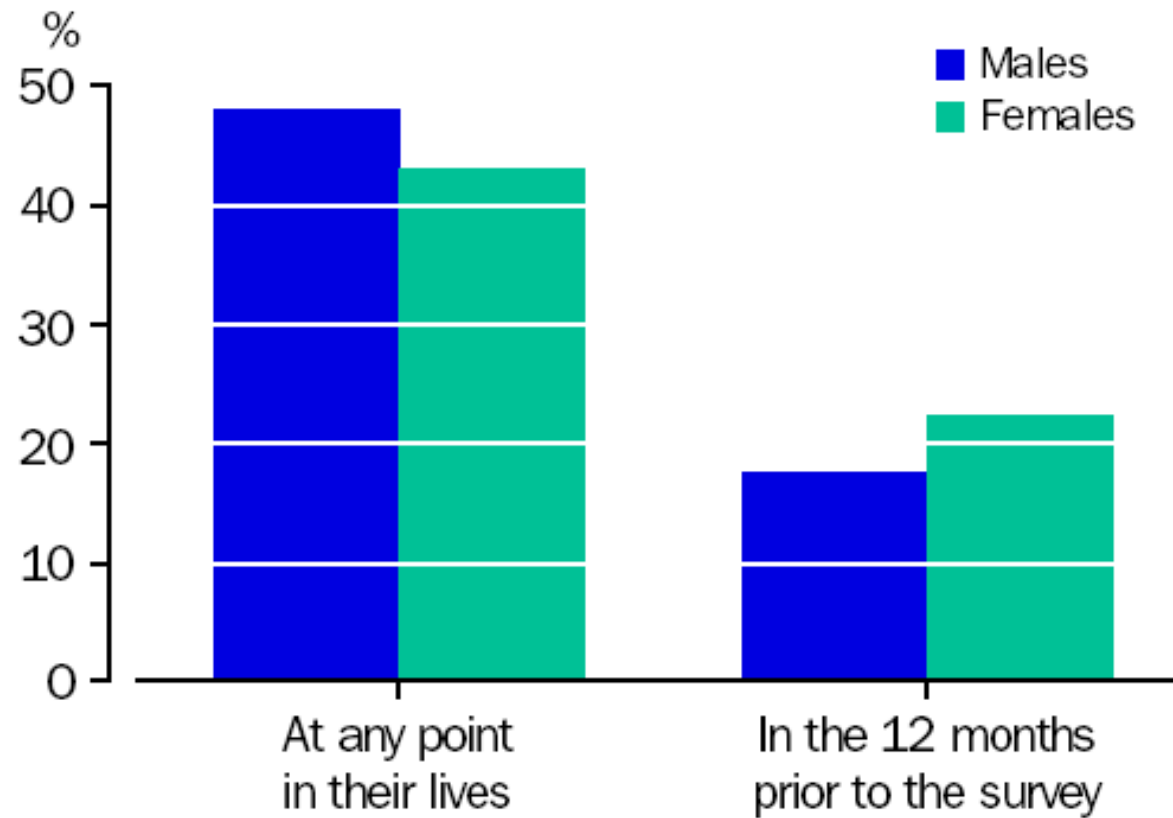
Mental Disorder -

'the existence of a clinically recognisable set of symptoms or behaviour associated in most cases with distress and with interference with personal functions'

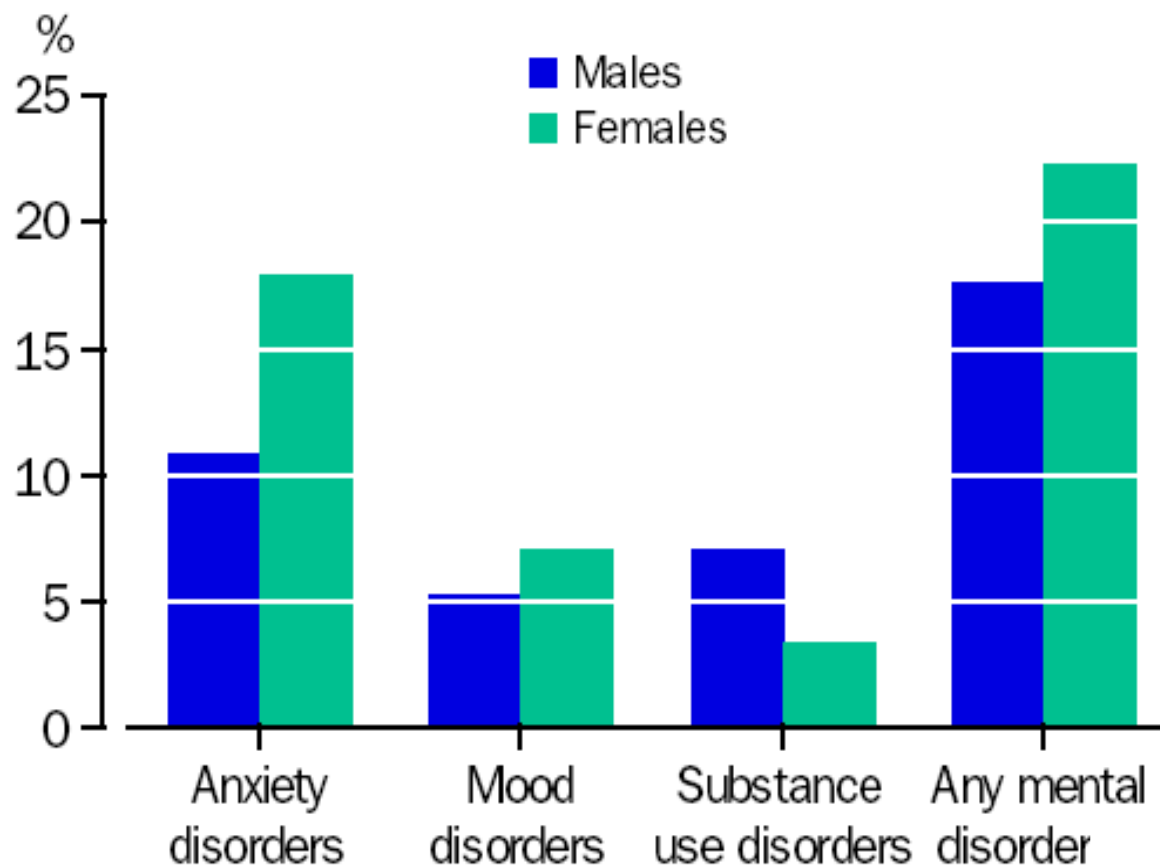
*(ICD-10 Classification of Mental and Behavioural Disorders).*



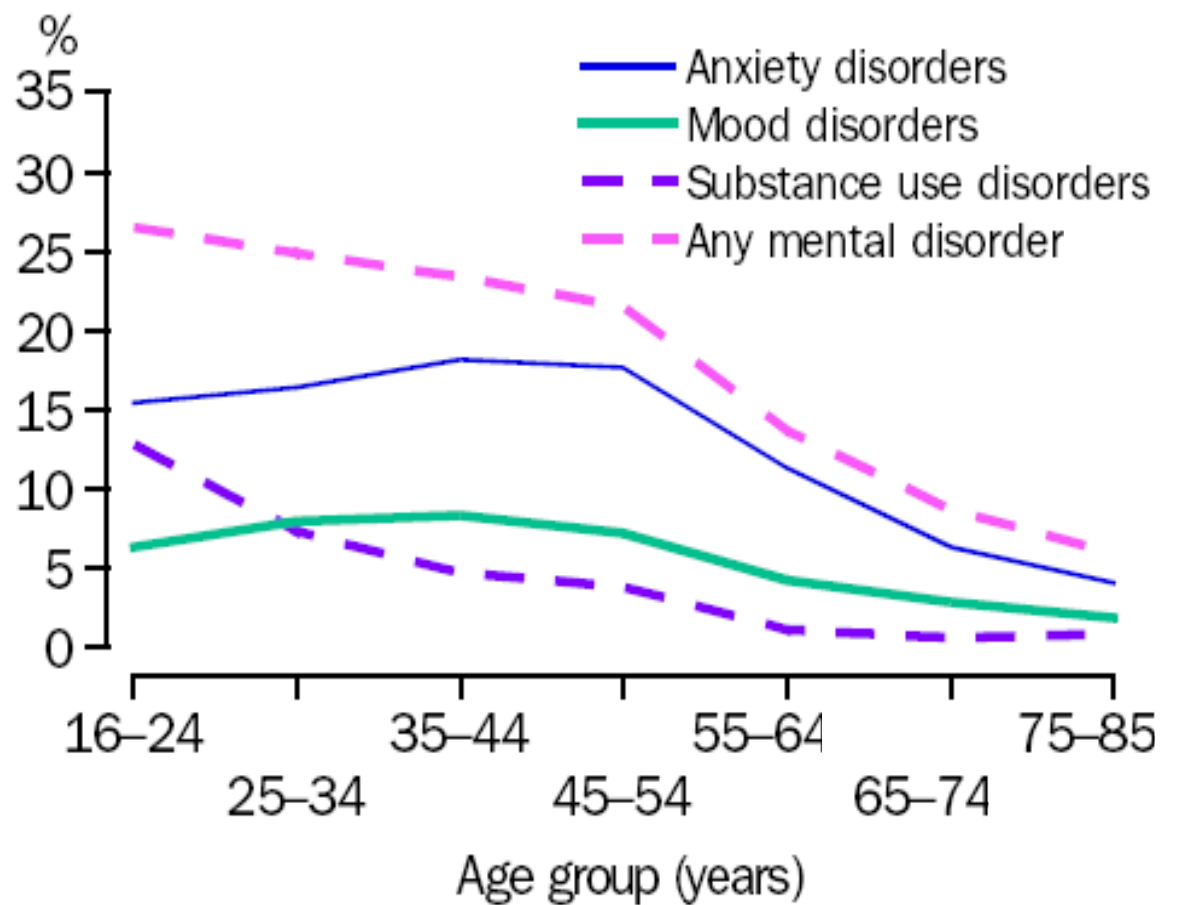
## People with a mental illness — 2007



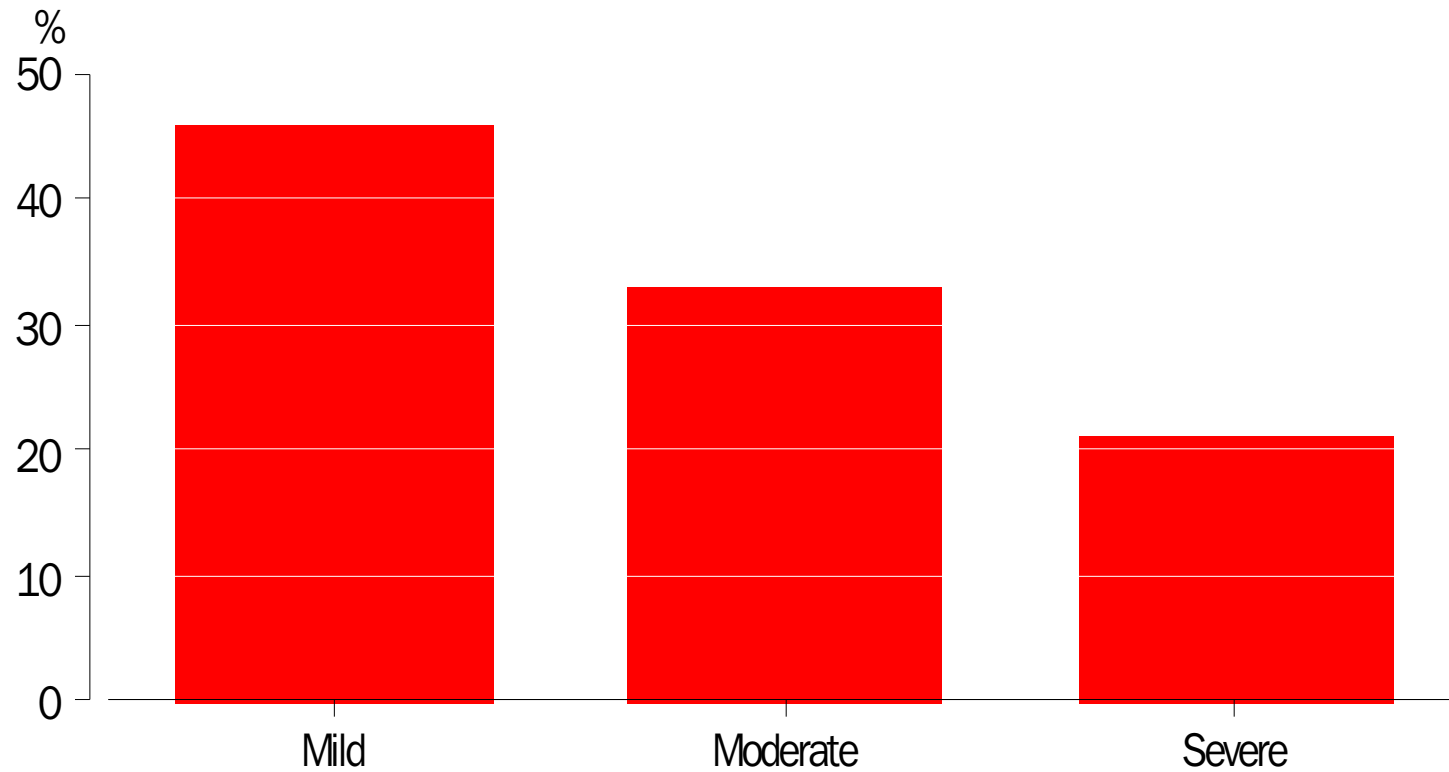
## Prevalence of mental illness (12 months) — 2007



## Prevalence of mental illness (12 months) — 2007

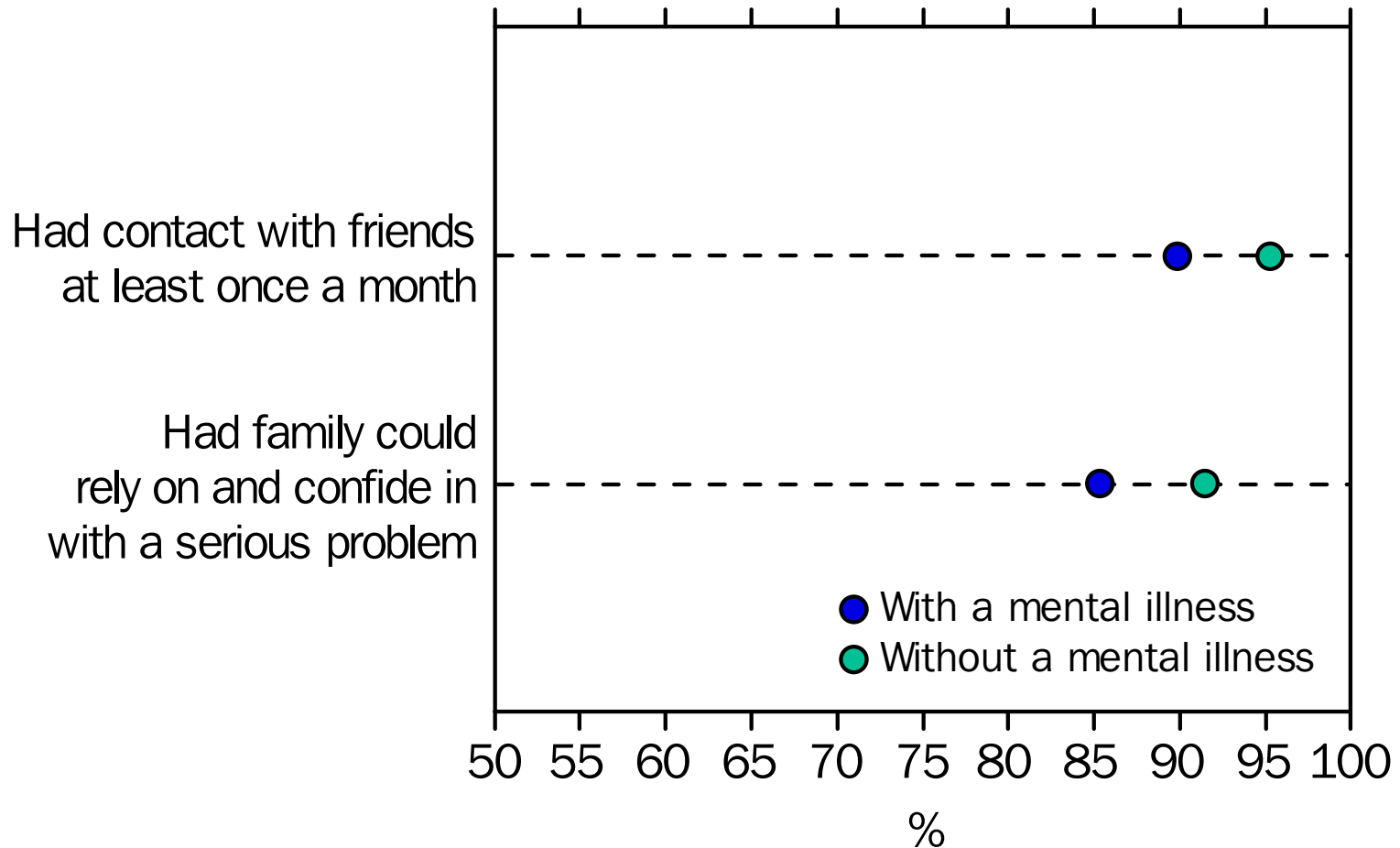


## Severity of mental disorders — 2007



## Social Isolation — 2007

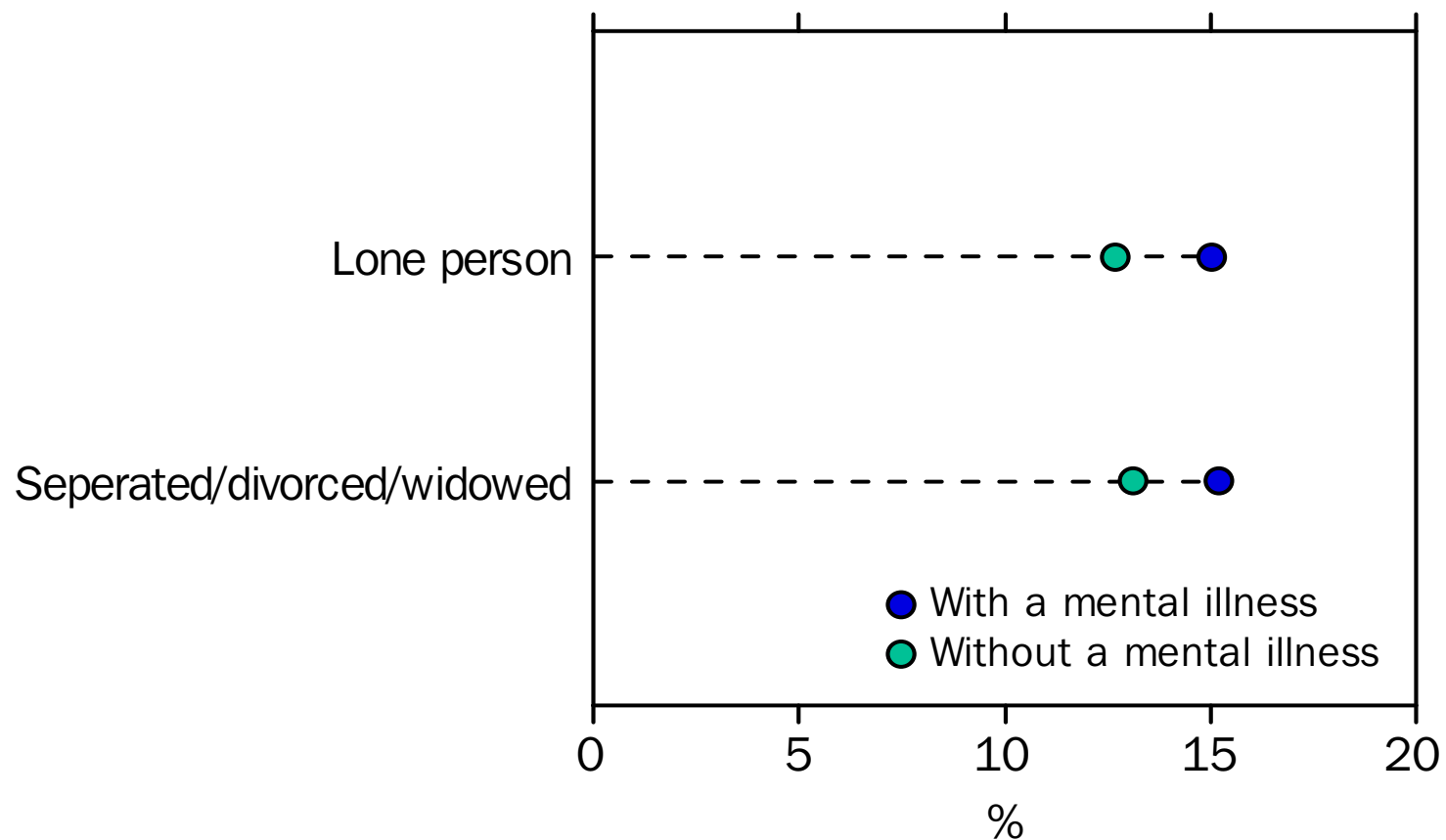
Contact with family and friends





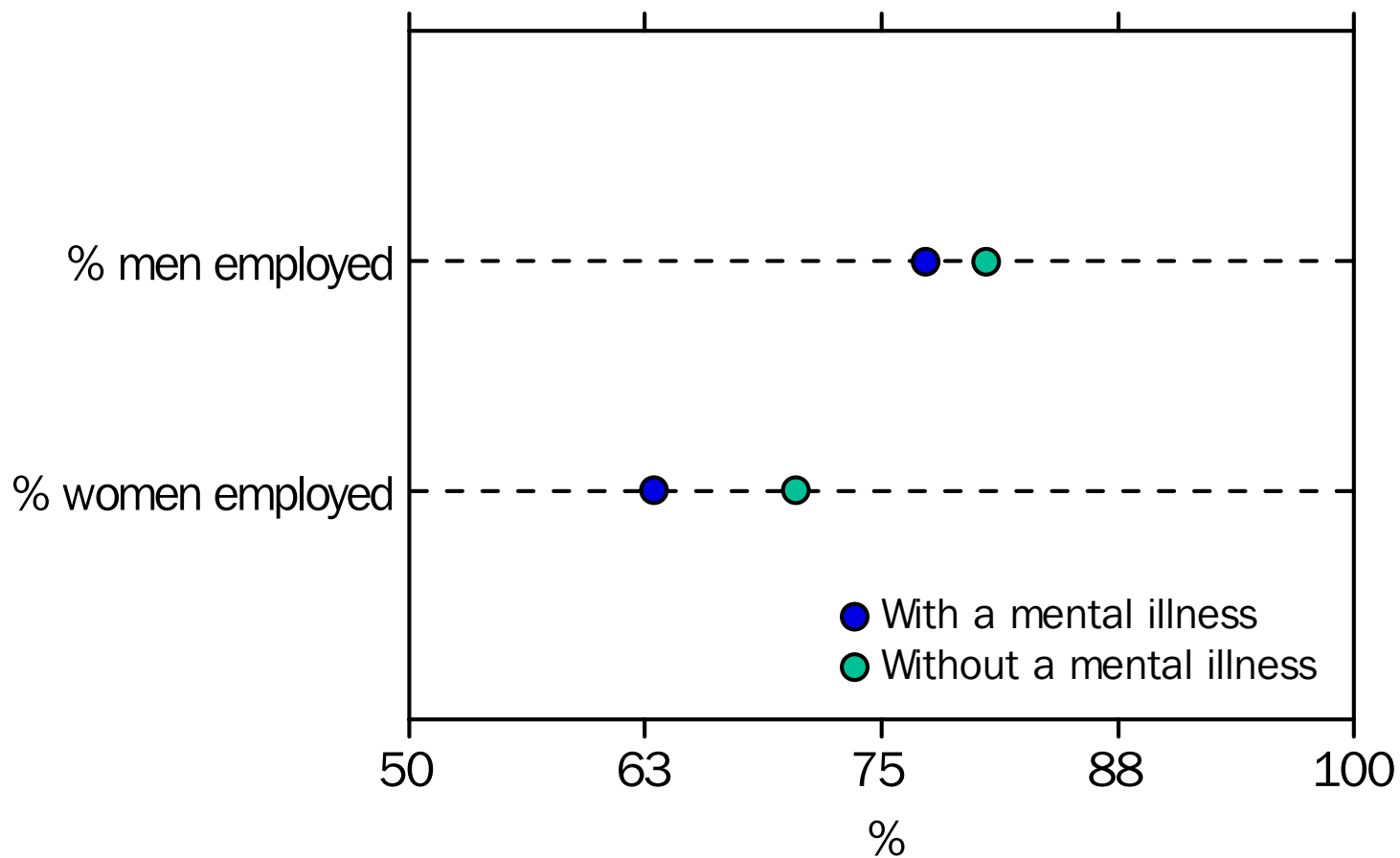
## Social Isolation — 2007

Living arrangements



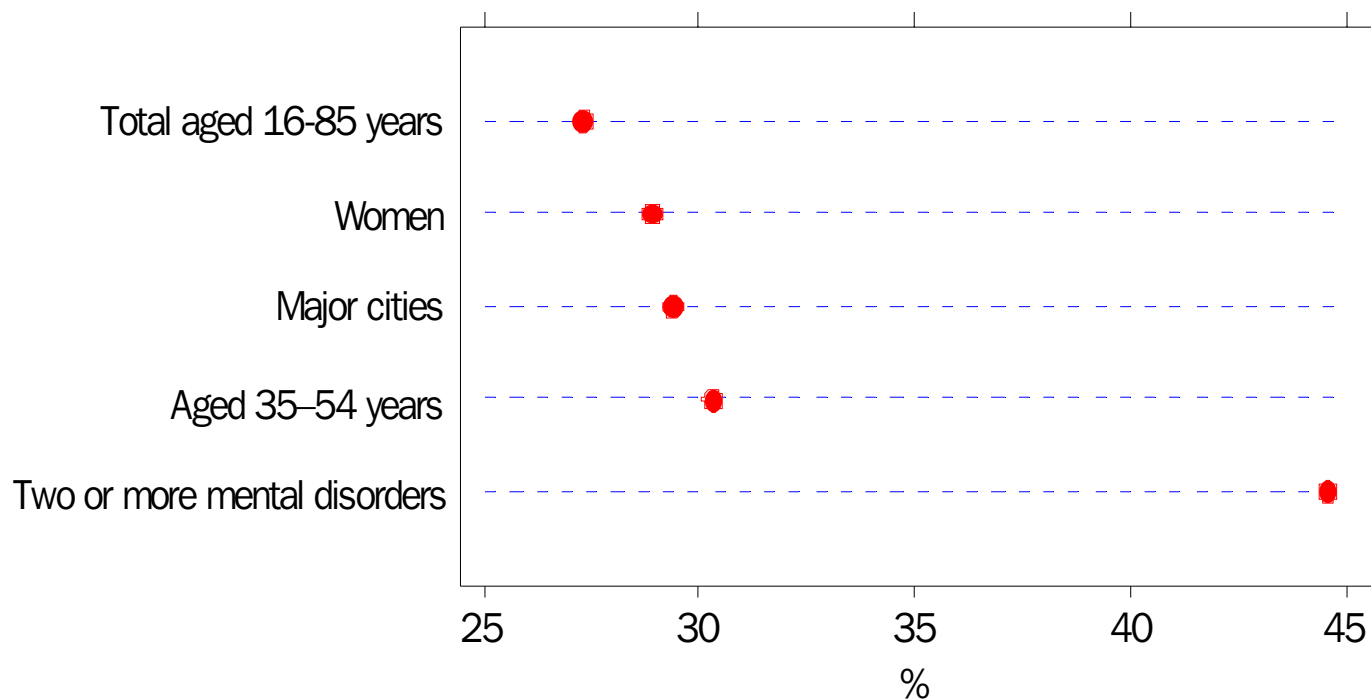
## Social Isolation — 2007

Employment to population



## Service use — 2007

People who had a perceived need that had not been fully met



# Education articles (from 2008 AST)

- Education across Australia

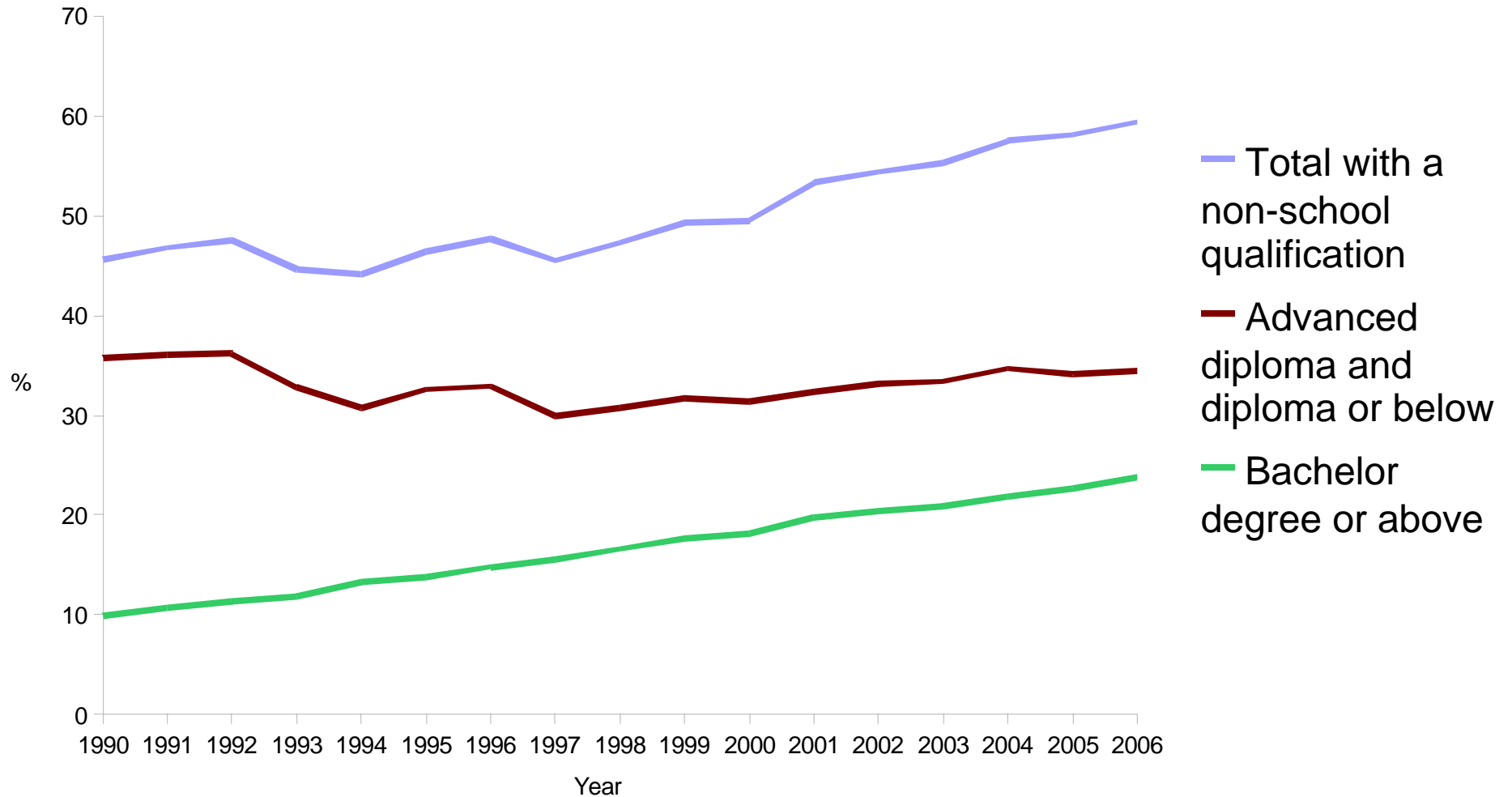
  - ...non-school qualifications

- Adult literacy

  - ...prose literacy

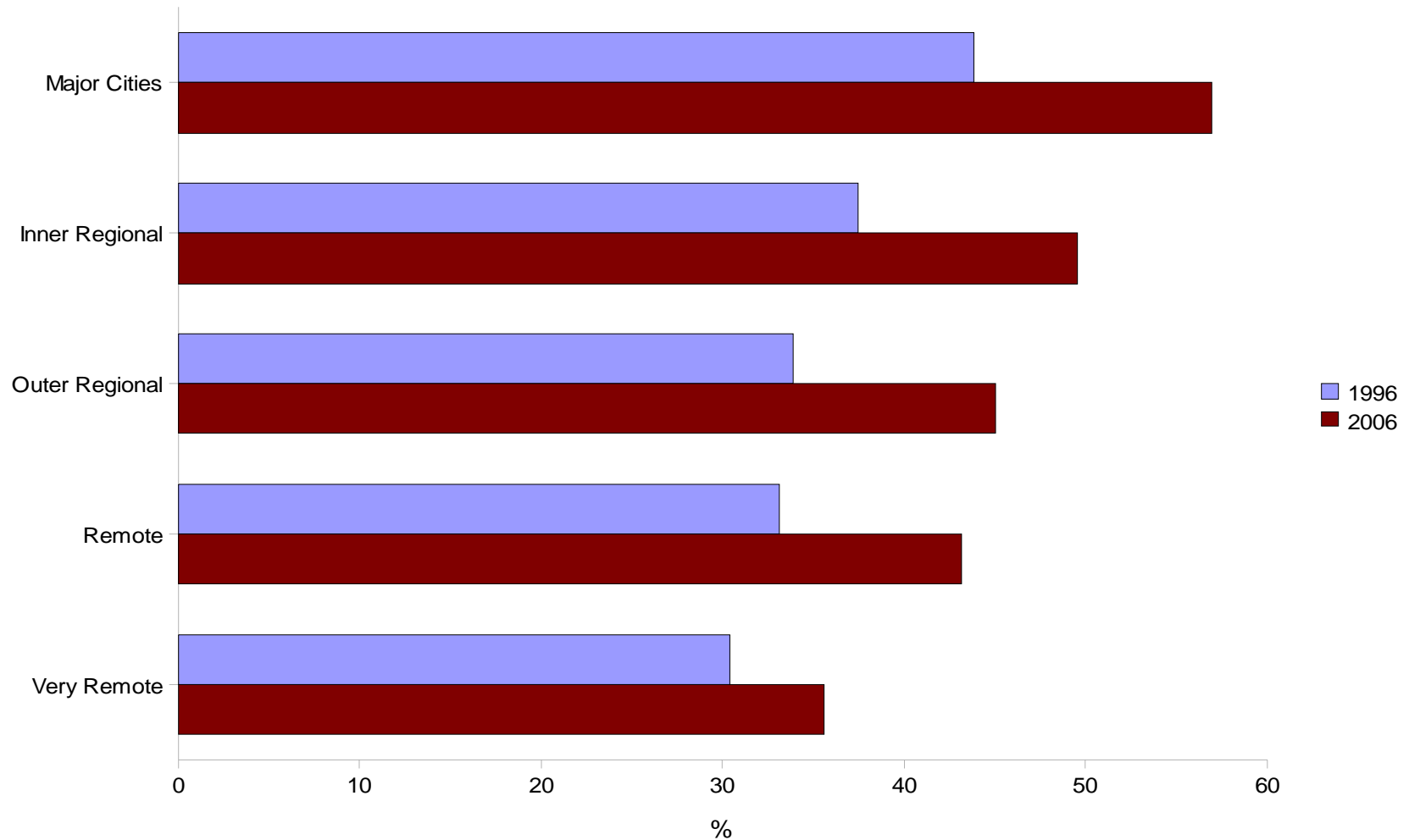


# Proportion of Australians with a non-school qualification (ages 25-64)



Source: ABS 1990-2006 Survey of Education and Work

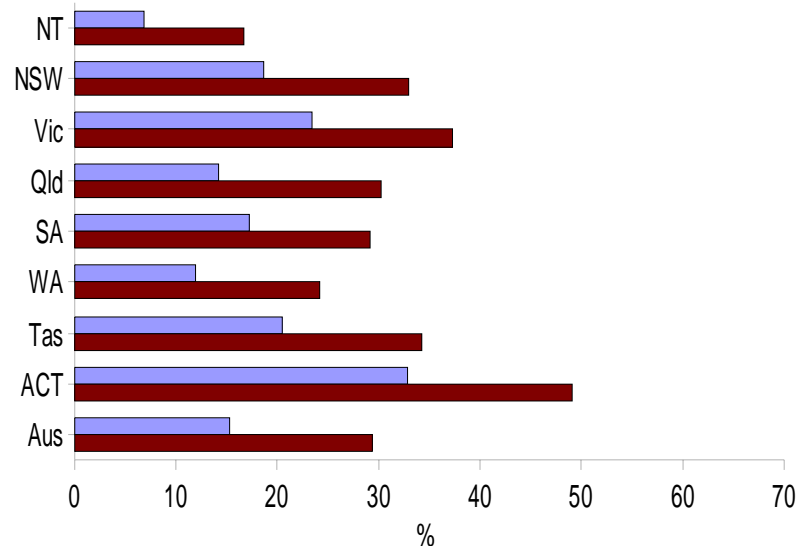
# Non-school qualification by Area (ages 25-64)



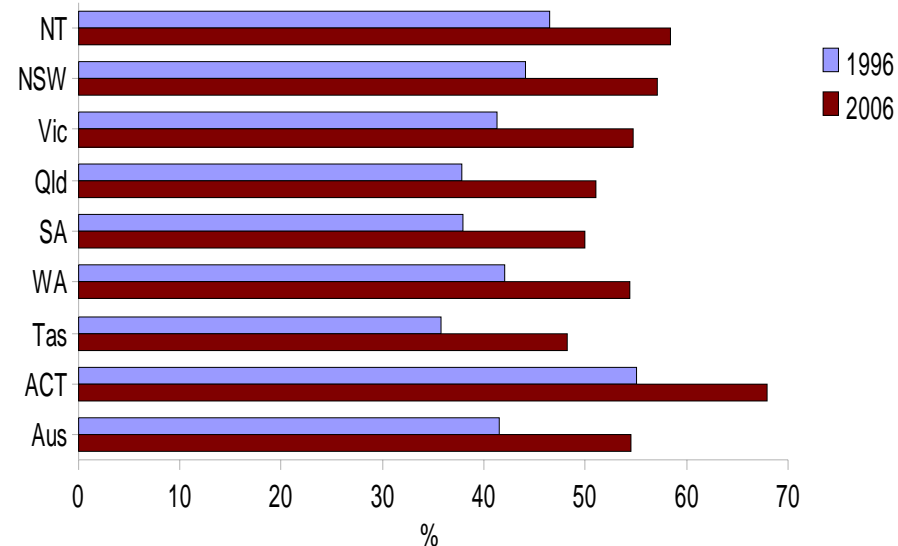
Source: ABS 1996 and 2006 Censuses of Population and Housing

## Persons aged 25–64 years with non-school qualifications

### Indigenous

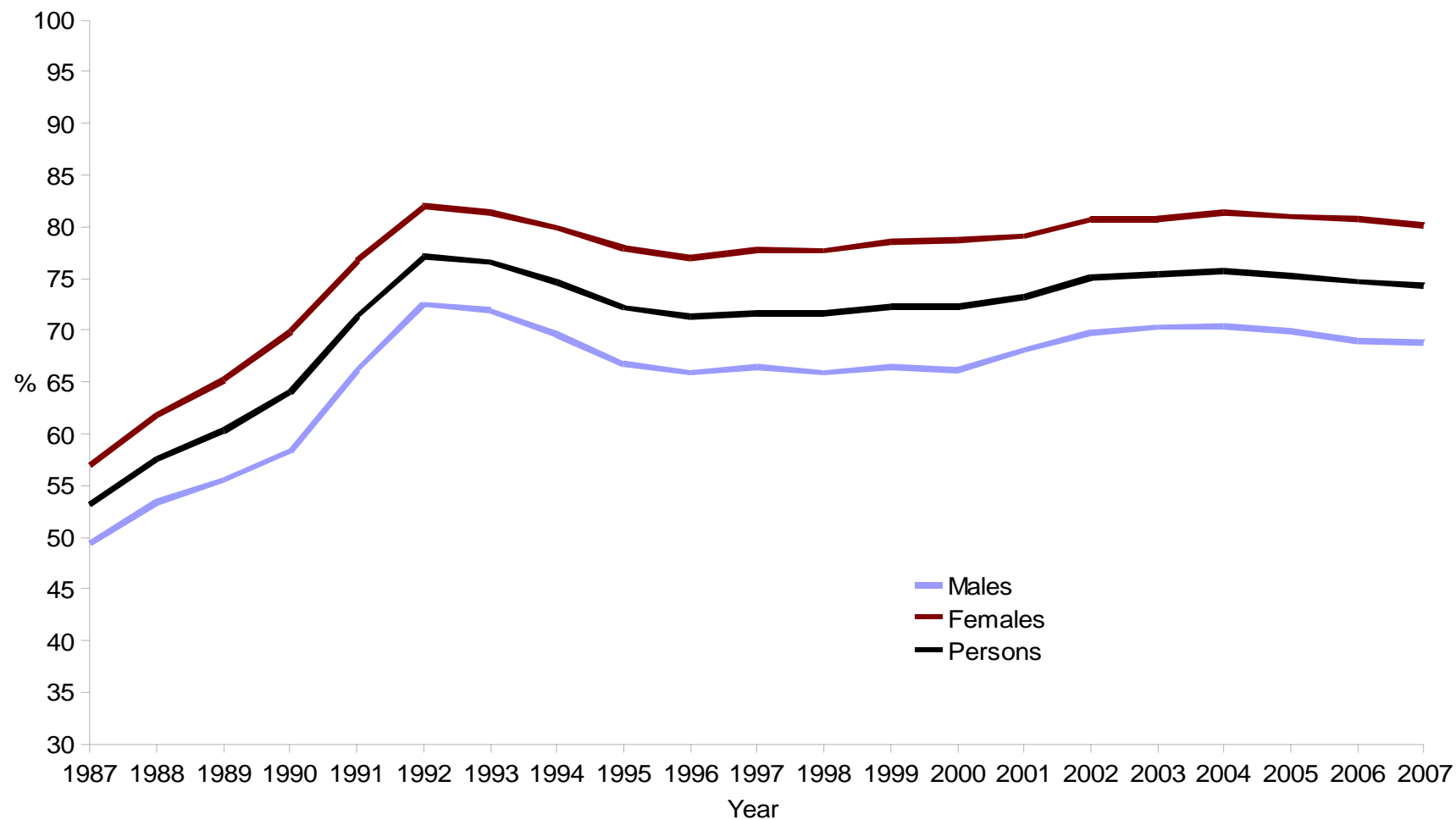


### Non-Indigenous



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## Year 7/8 to year 12 retention rates

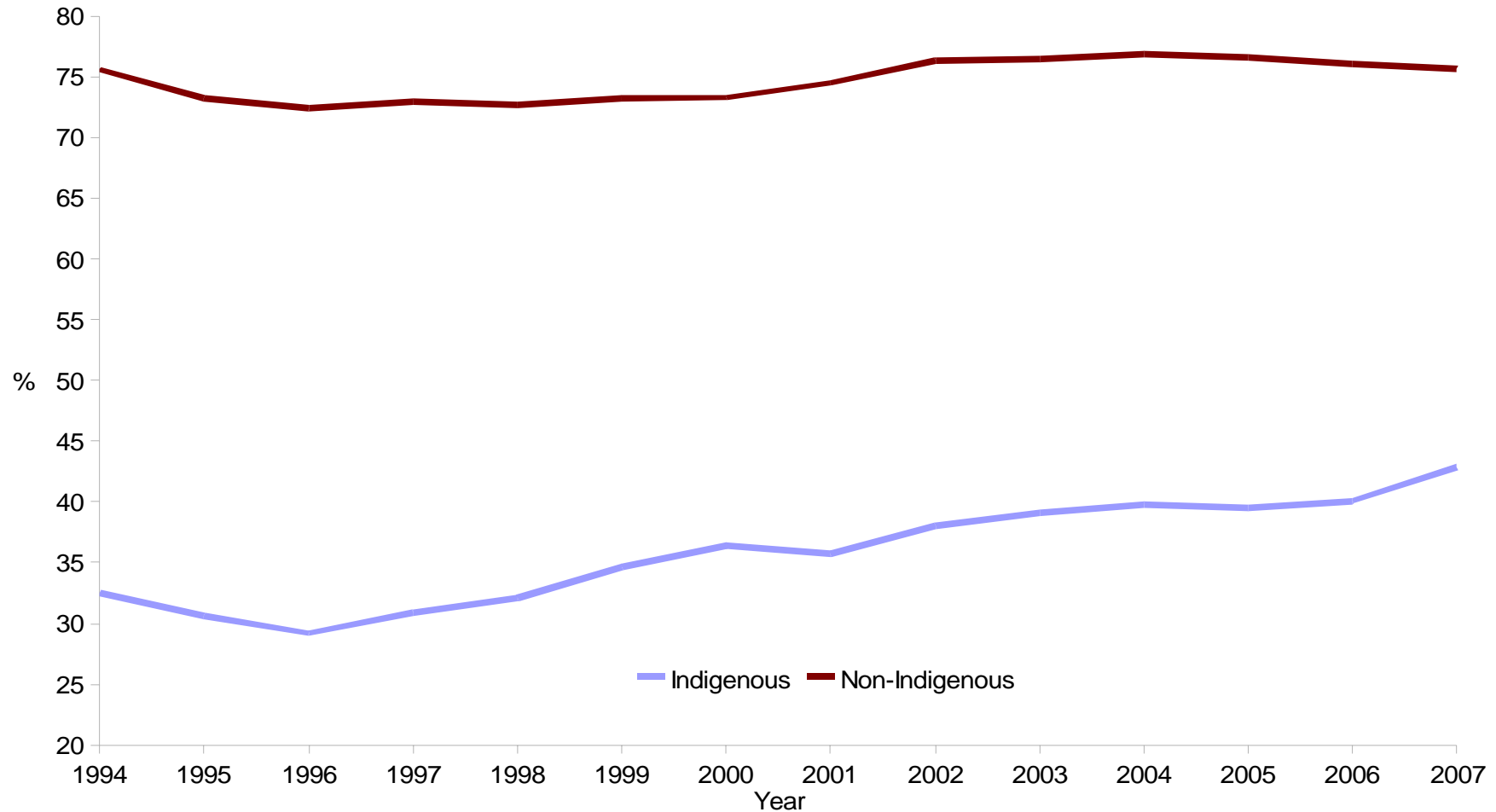


Source: National Schools Statistics Collection



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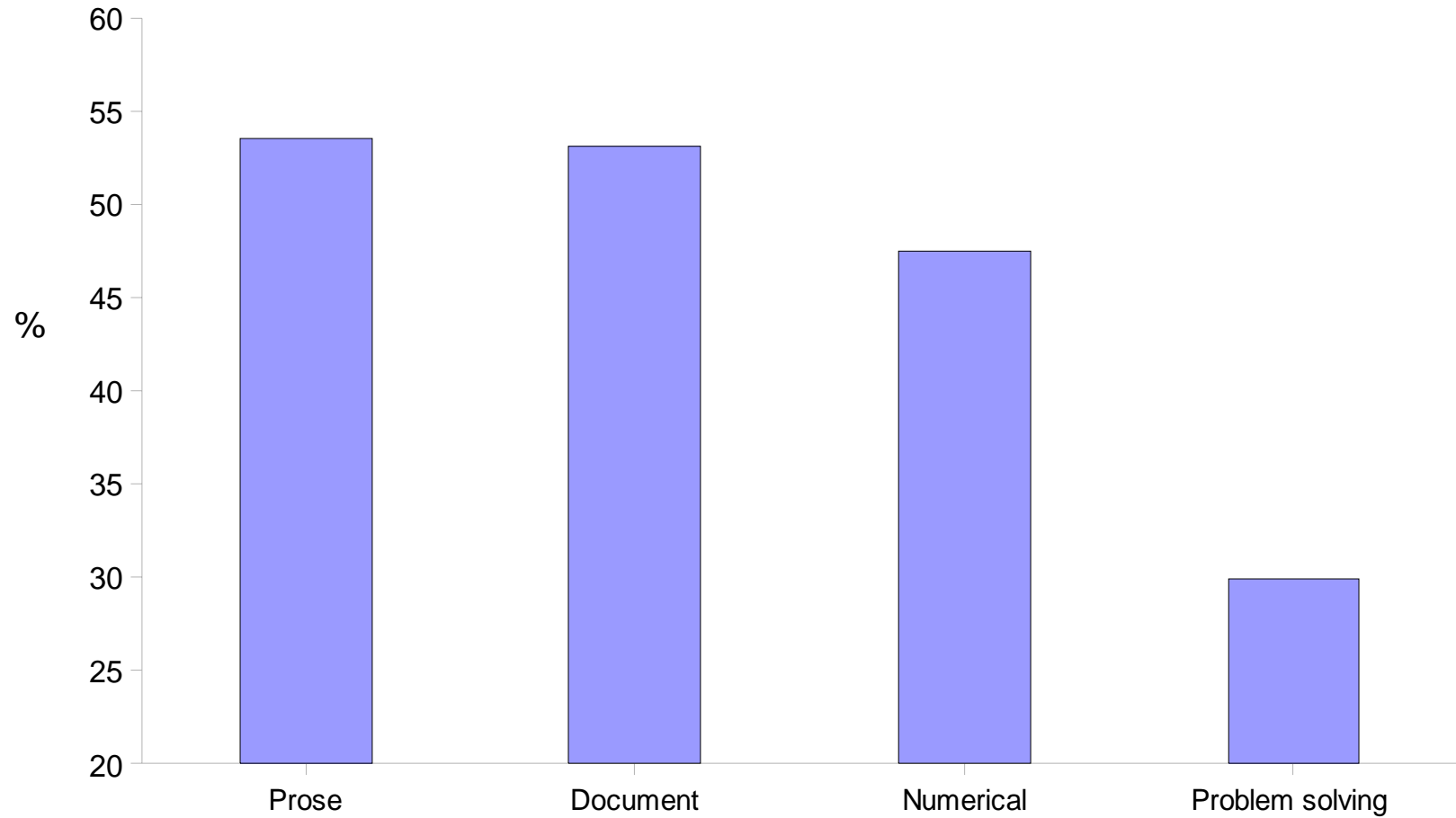
## Year 7/8 to year 12 retention rates



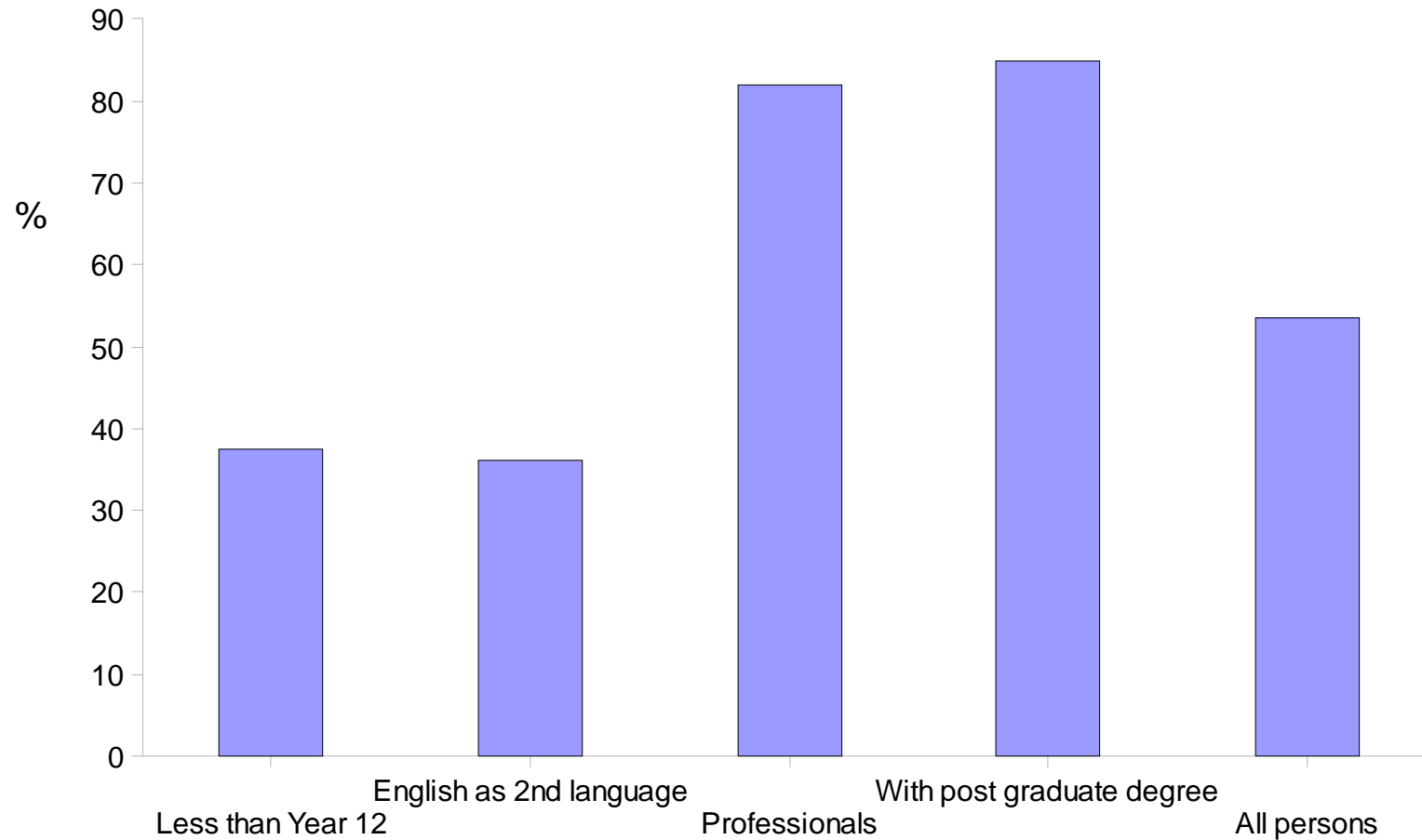
Source: National Schools Statistics Collection

# Adult literacy 2006

Adequate literacy level, 15-74 years



## Populations with low/high prose literacy 2006

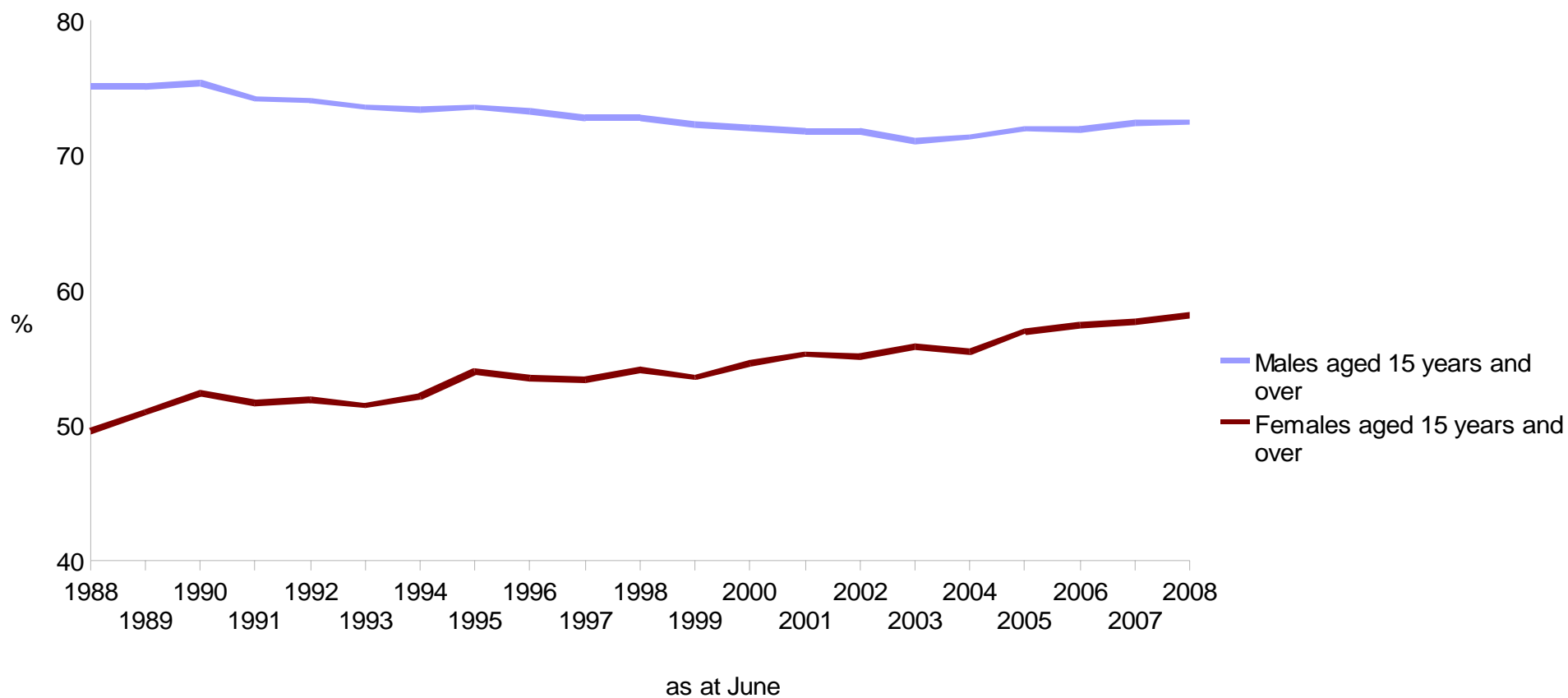


# Work articles (from 2008 AST)

- Labour force participation across Australia
  - ...sex and age
  - ...part-time and full-time employment
- Trade union members
  - ...sex and age
  - ...industry type

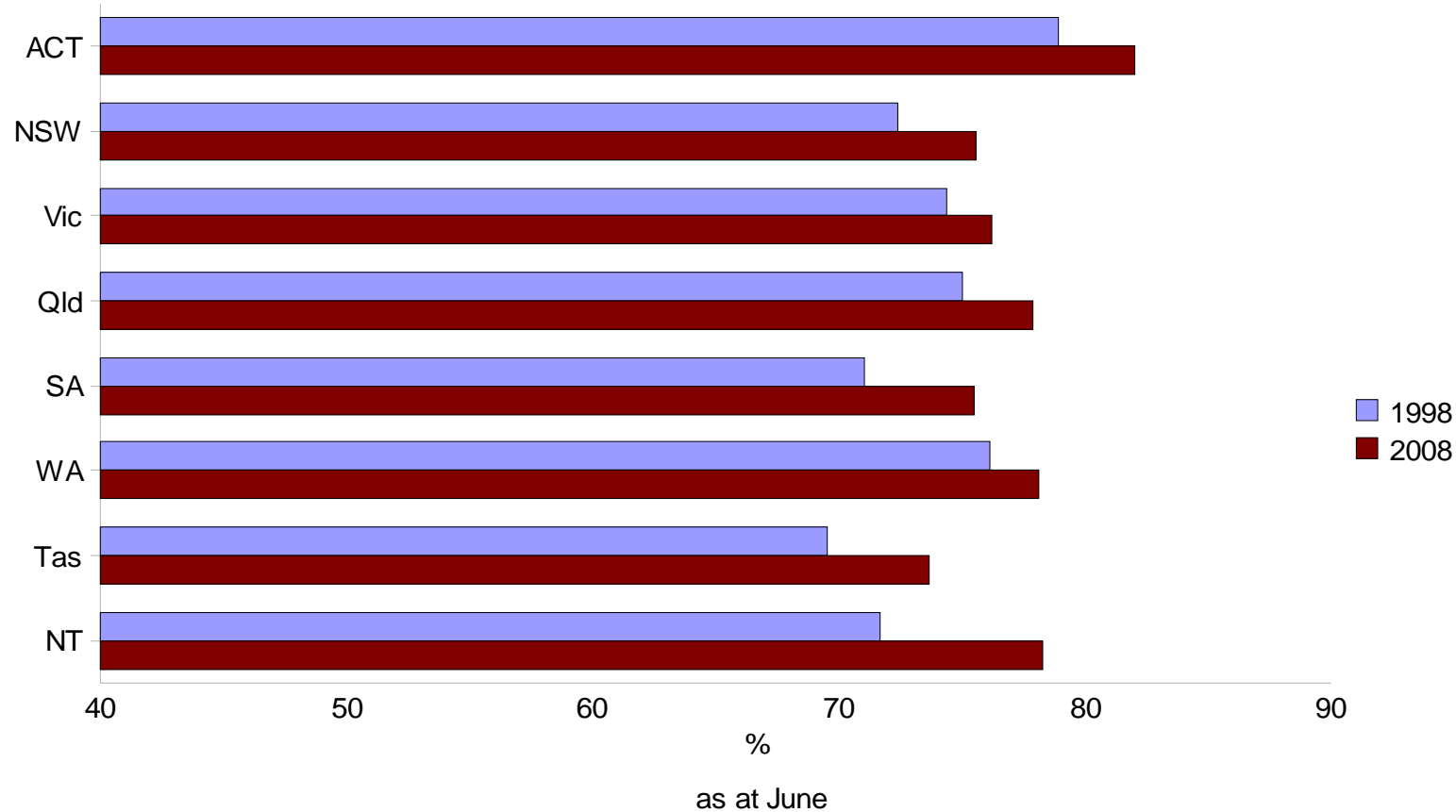


## Labour force participation rate by sex



Source: ABS Labour Force Survey

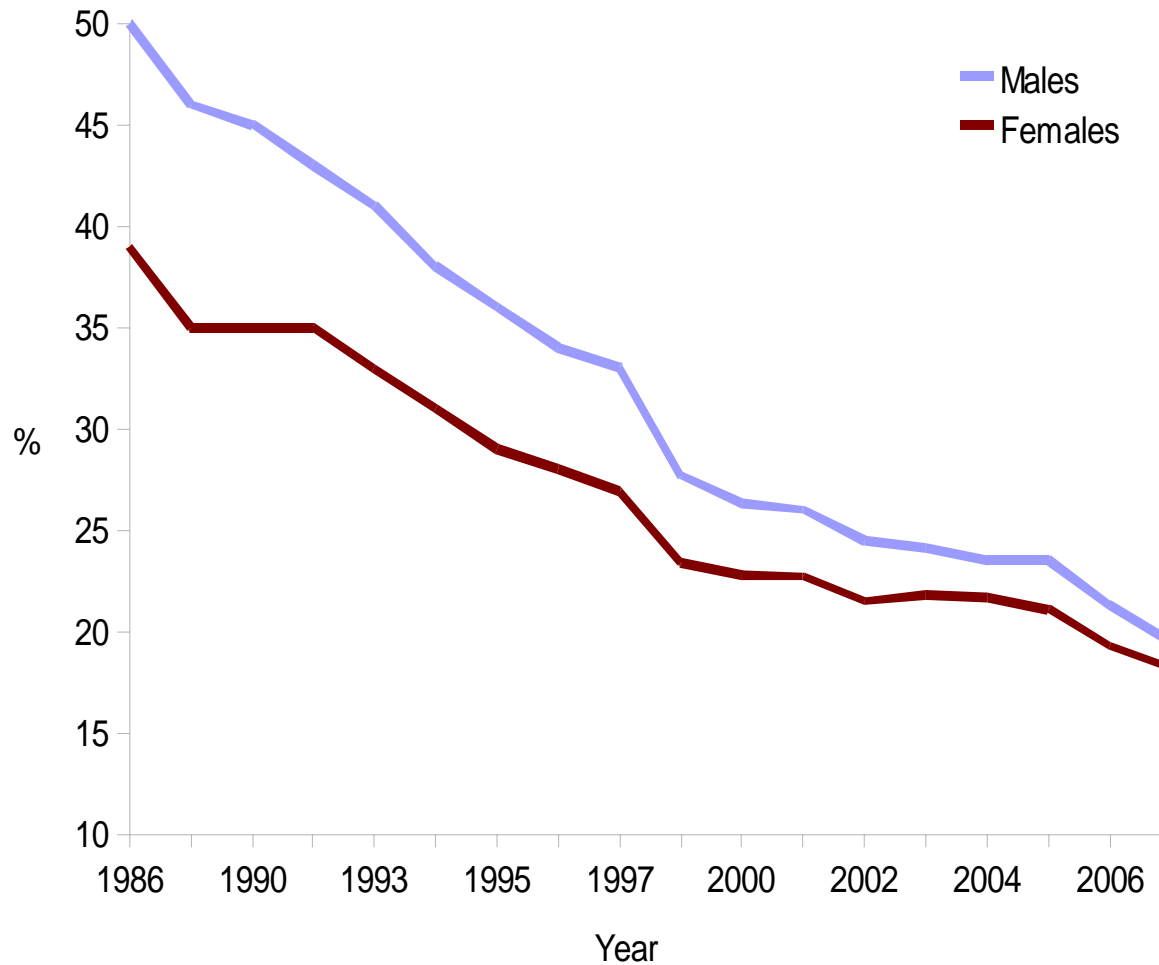
# Labour force participation rate: States and Territories, people aged 15-64 years



Source: ABS Labour Force Survey

## Trade union membership

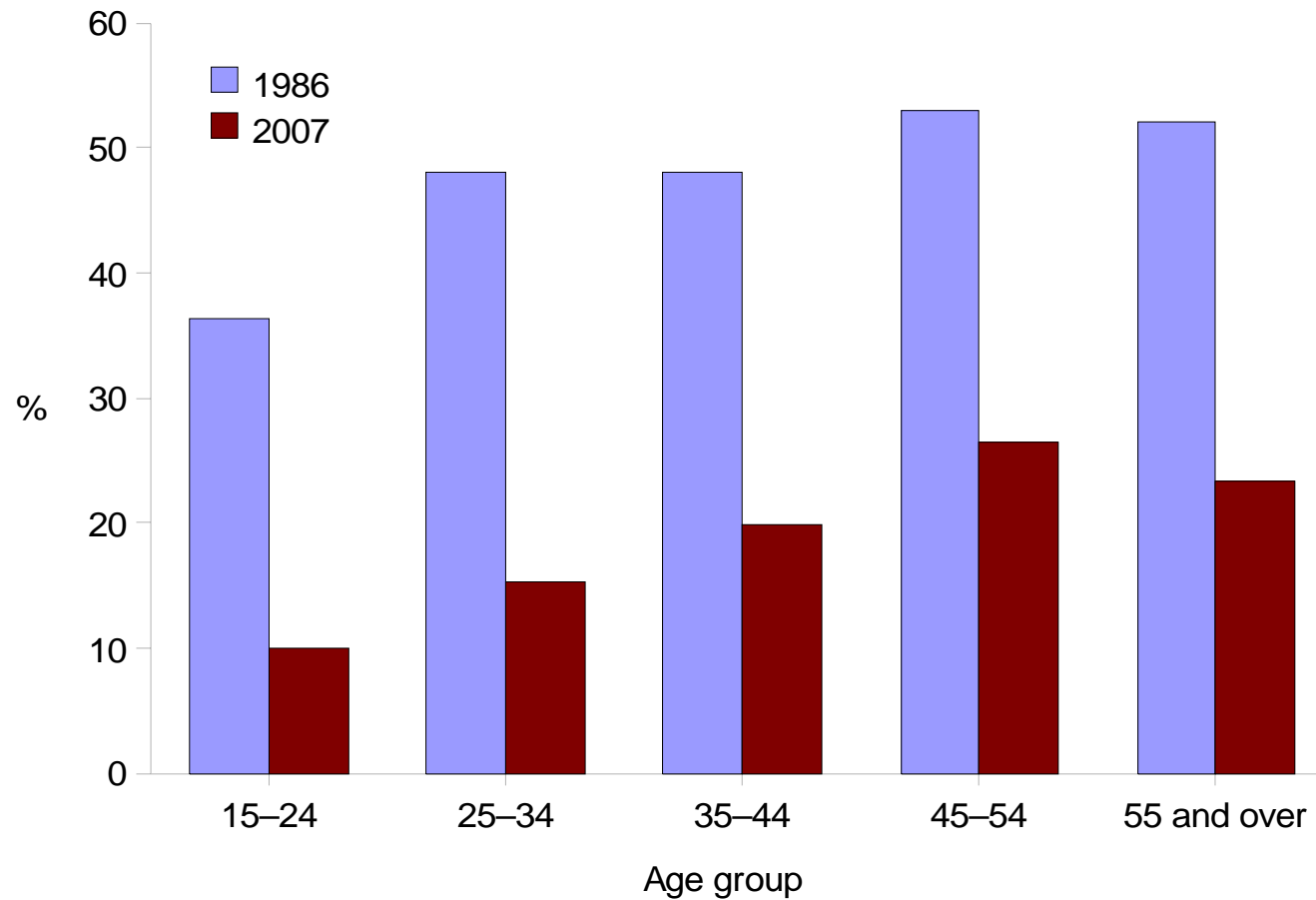
### Unionisation rates by sex



Source: *Trade Union Members, Australia, August 1986, Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia, August 2007*

## Trade union membership

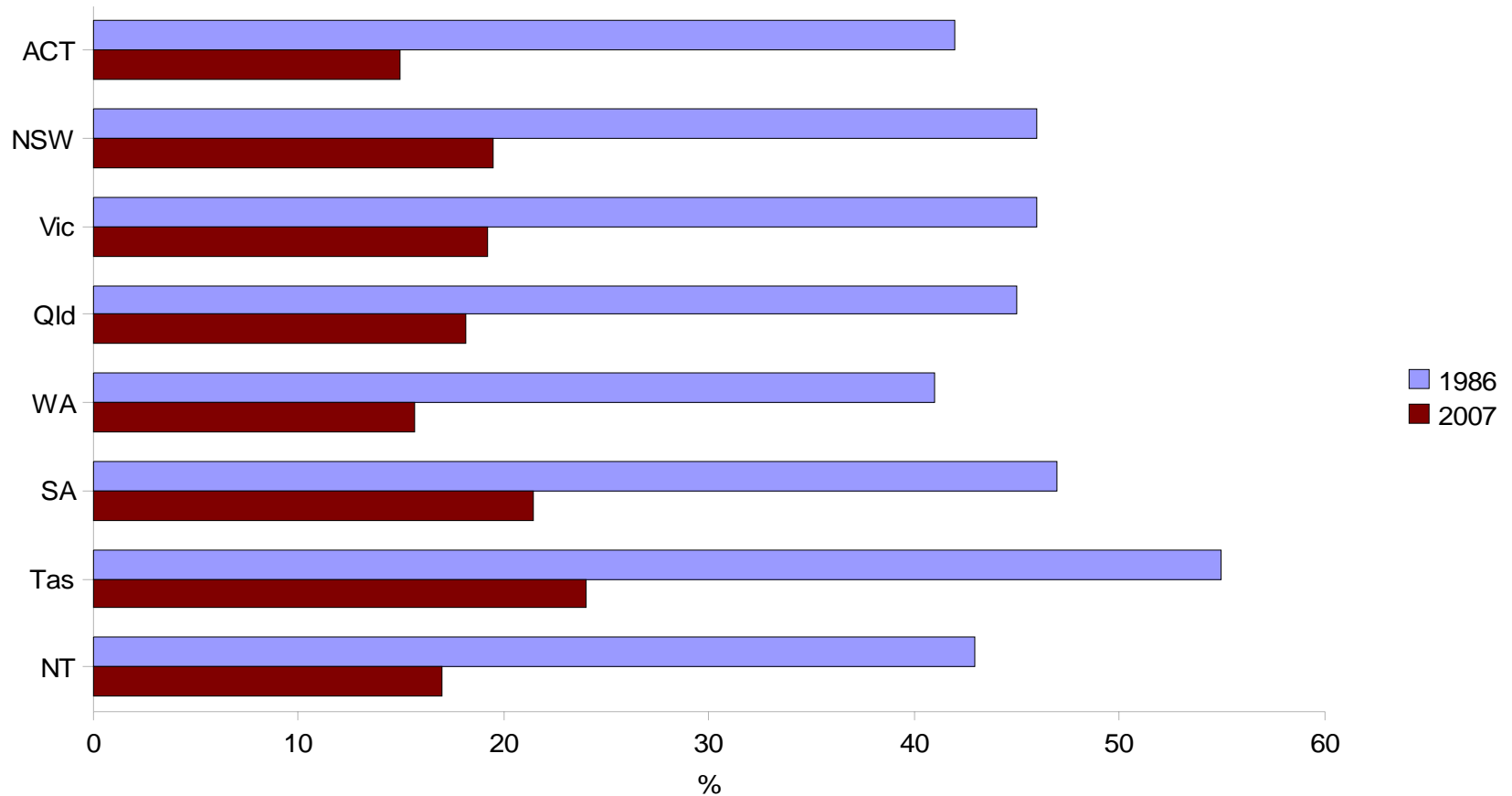
### Unionisation rates by age



Source: 1986 Survey of Trade Union Members and 2007 Survey of Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership

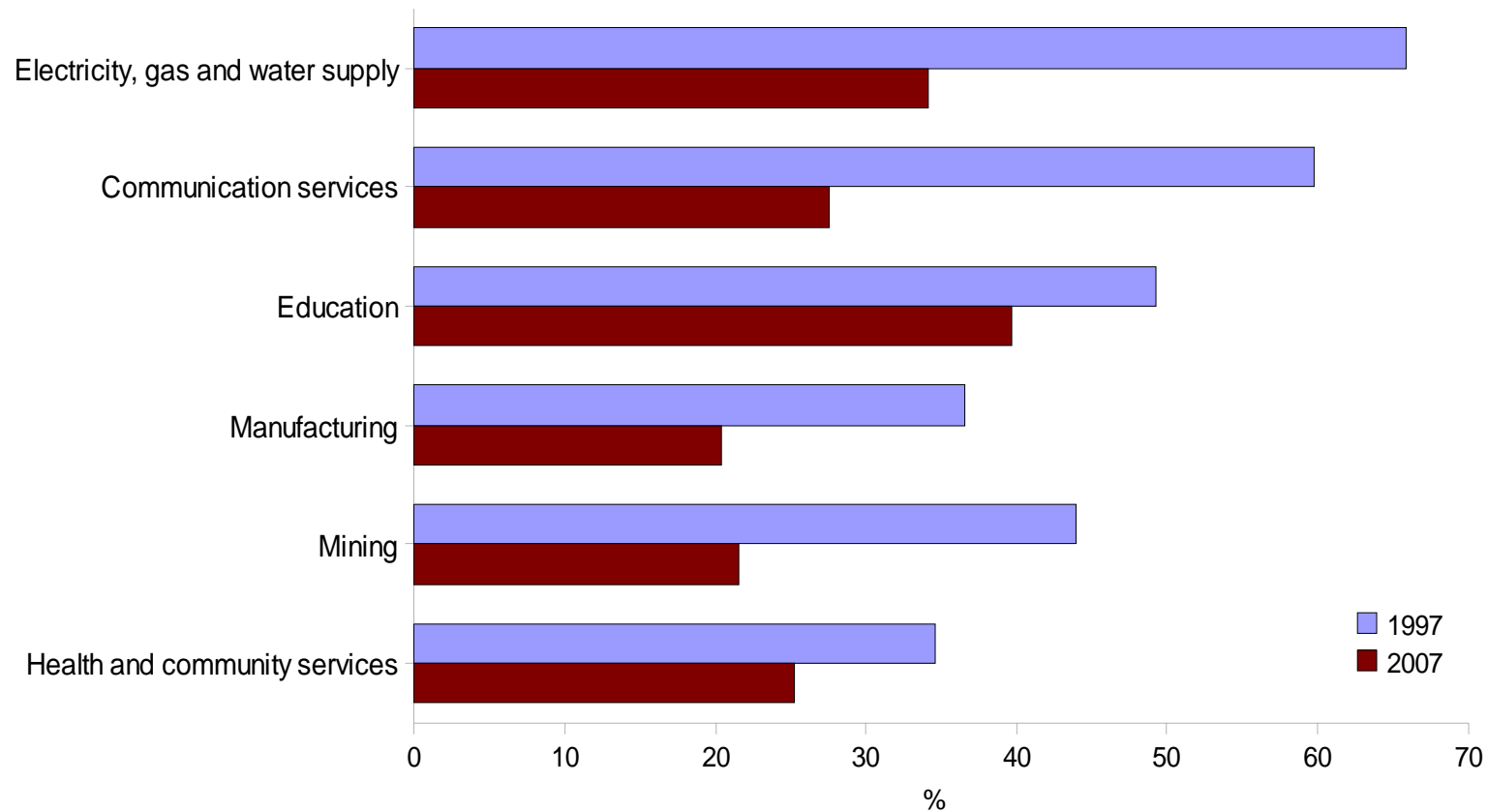


## Unionisation rates: states and territories



Source: *Trade Union Members, Australia, August 1986, Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia, August 2007*

## Unionisation rates by selected industry 1997 to 2007

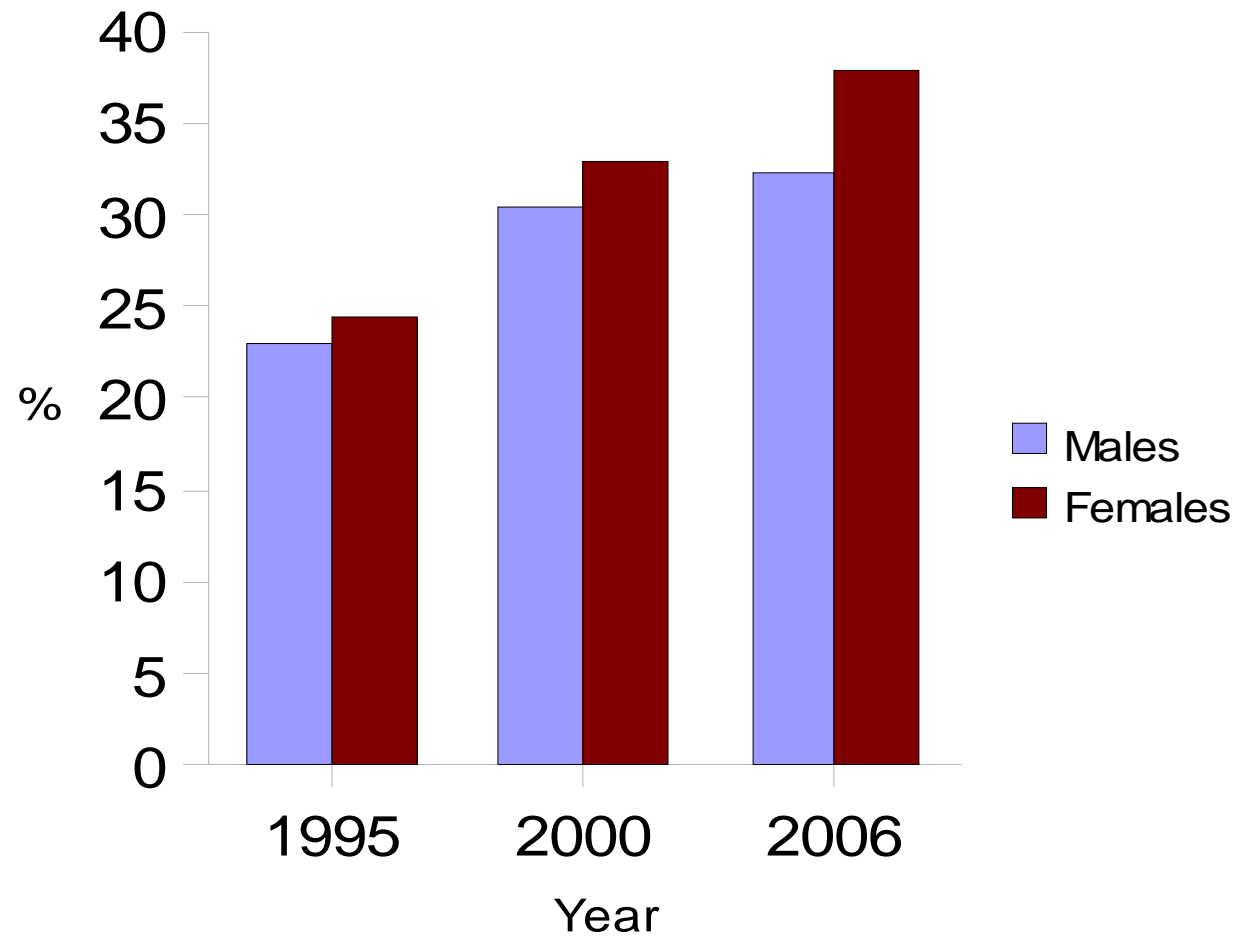


Source: 1997 Survey of Weekly Earnings of Employees and 2007 Survey of Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership

# Voluntary work (from 2008 AST)

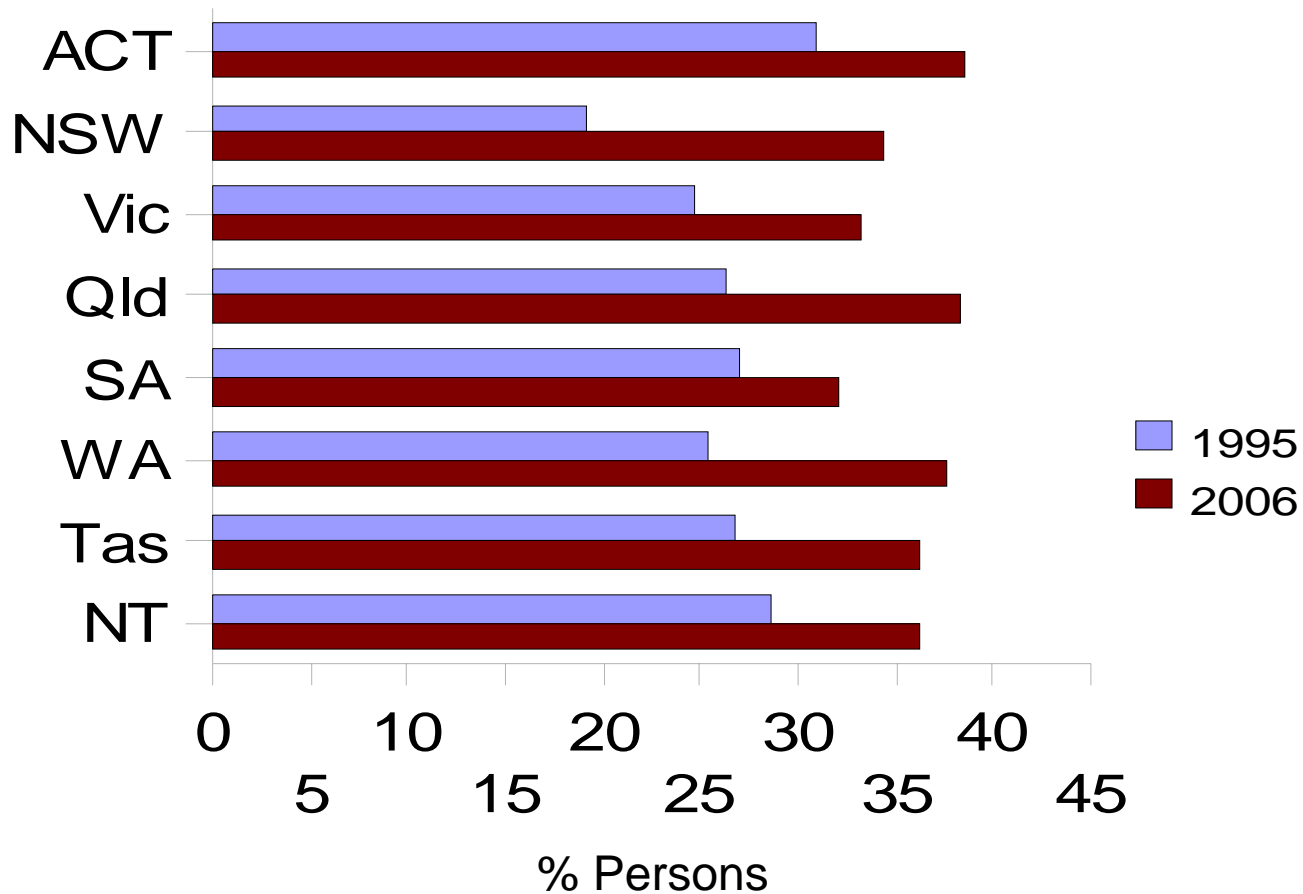


## Volunteering rates



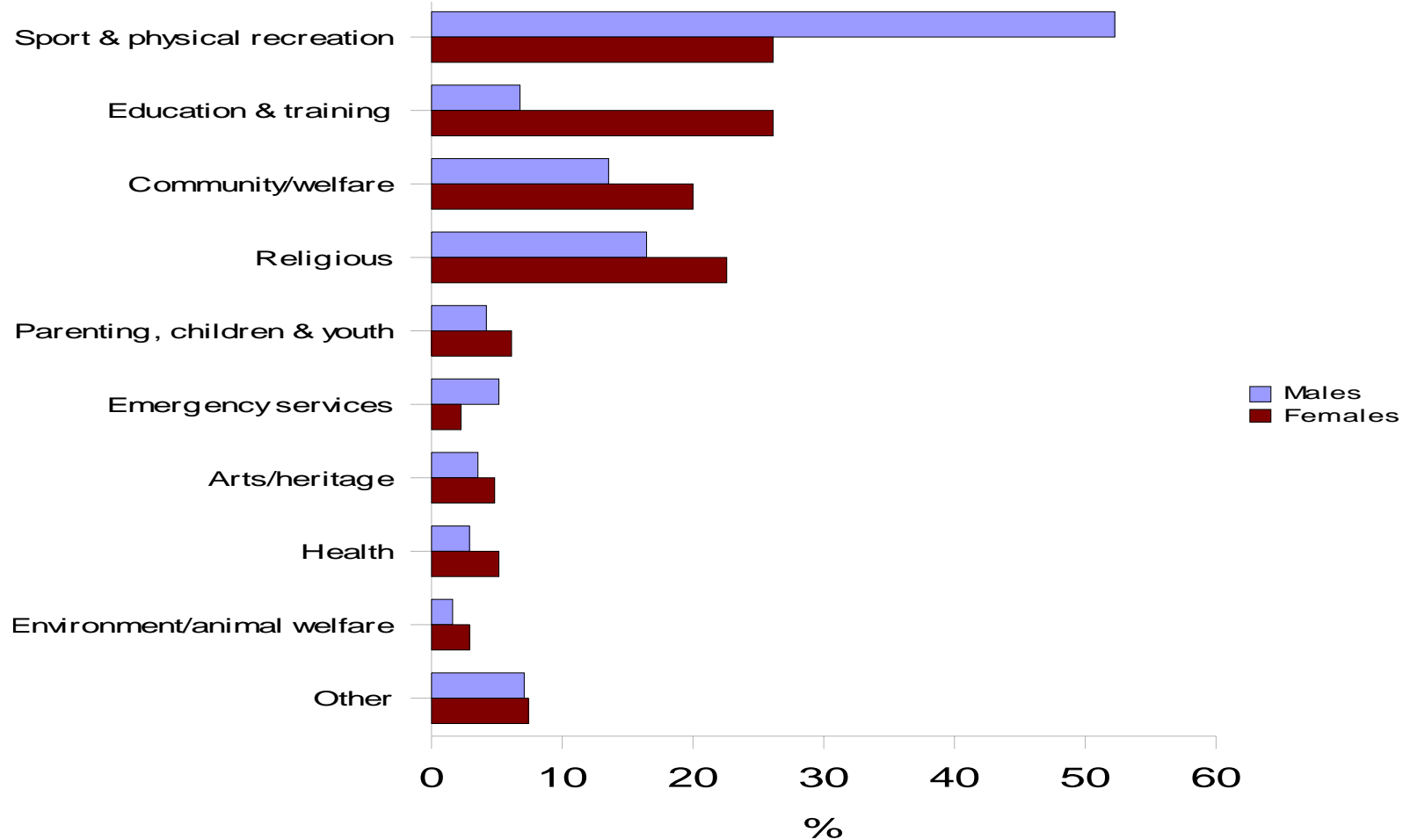
Source: ABS 2006 Voluntary Work Survey

## Volunteering rates: States and Territories



Source: ABS 2006 Voluntary Work Survey

# Regular volunteers by type of organisation 2006



Source: ABS 2006 Voluntary Work Survey

## Coming up...

### AST June 2009 (released 30 June)

Includes articles on:

- Trends in maths and science
- Internal migration
- Homelessness
- Housing transitions of young people
- Health literacy

## Further information

- [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)  
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