

**Innovative HIV prevention  
outreach service for sex  
workers in massage parlors in  
Vancouver**

**Sarah Levine, RN BSN  
BCCDC Street Nurse Program**

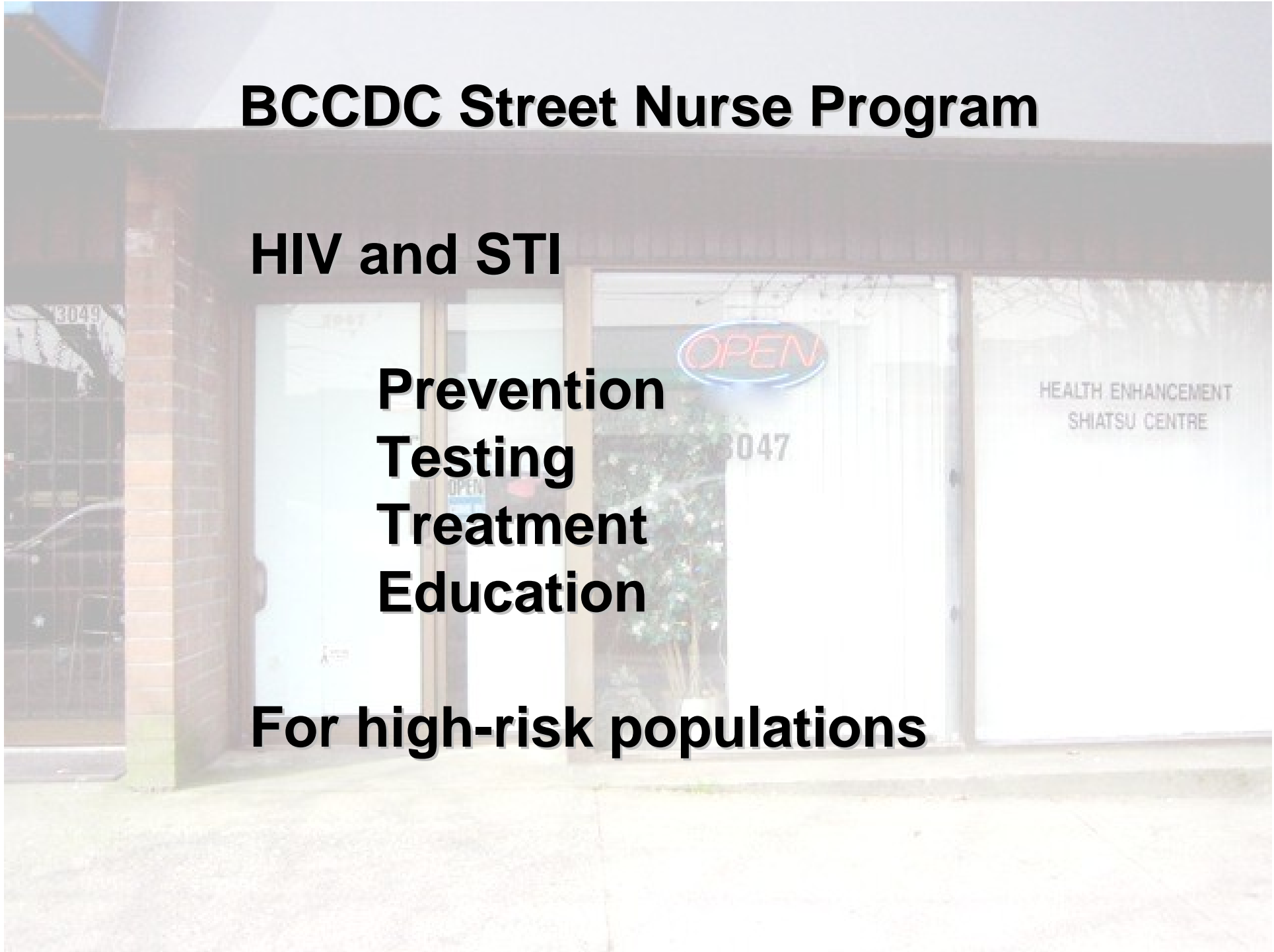
**Helena Lee, BSW  
Sex Workers Action Network**

# **BCCDC Street Nurse Program**

**HIV and STI**

**Prevention  
Testing  
Treatment  
Education**

**For high-risk populations**



# Partnership with SWAN

- Language
- Culture
- Some are ex-workers in parlours
- Access more women
- Different skill set
- More is better!



# Massage Parlours



# How did we find the parlours?

**Q-POINT**  
Acupressure Centre

The Right Place to Go,  
The Right Point to Hit!


**Grand Opening!**

Membership Special!  
Executive Facilities.

4994 Newton St. Burnaby

**(604) 437-1711**

*Atlantis*  
Relaxation



- Beautiful Asian Girls
- INCALLS/OUTCALLS

•Excellent Service  
•Jacuzzi Tub/Showers

604-430-3988

5234 Rumble (and Royal Oak)  
Burnaby • Hiring

**KIKU**  
SPRING  
SPECIAL!

full body  
massage

604-726-7686

3047 Main St. @ 14th



Amazing  
Massages  
with  
International  
beauties  
at...

**GOLDEN  
MOON**

604-709-8078  
12 pm - 12 am

610 West 8th Ave.  
Vancouver

1 block west of Cambie



*Butterfly*  
Party Massage

**GRAND OPENING!**

LEE  
SEN  
TIFFY  
LEL  
IVY  
PATTY  
COCO

(604) 299-1514

4536 L. Hastings St.

For 1 HOUR  
with this AD

**PROSPER CITY**



- Ayumi
- Judy
- Helen
- Coco
- Anna
- Sara
- Tina
- Jennifer
- Linda
- Lucy

All Inclusive

3488 Main St. @ 19th Ave

**604-879-5769**

2263 Kingsway @ Nanaimo

**604-438-8208**

# Massage Parlour visits

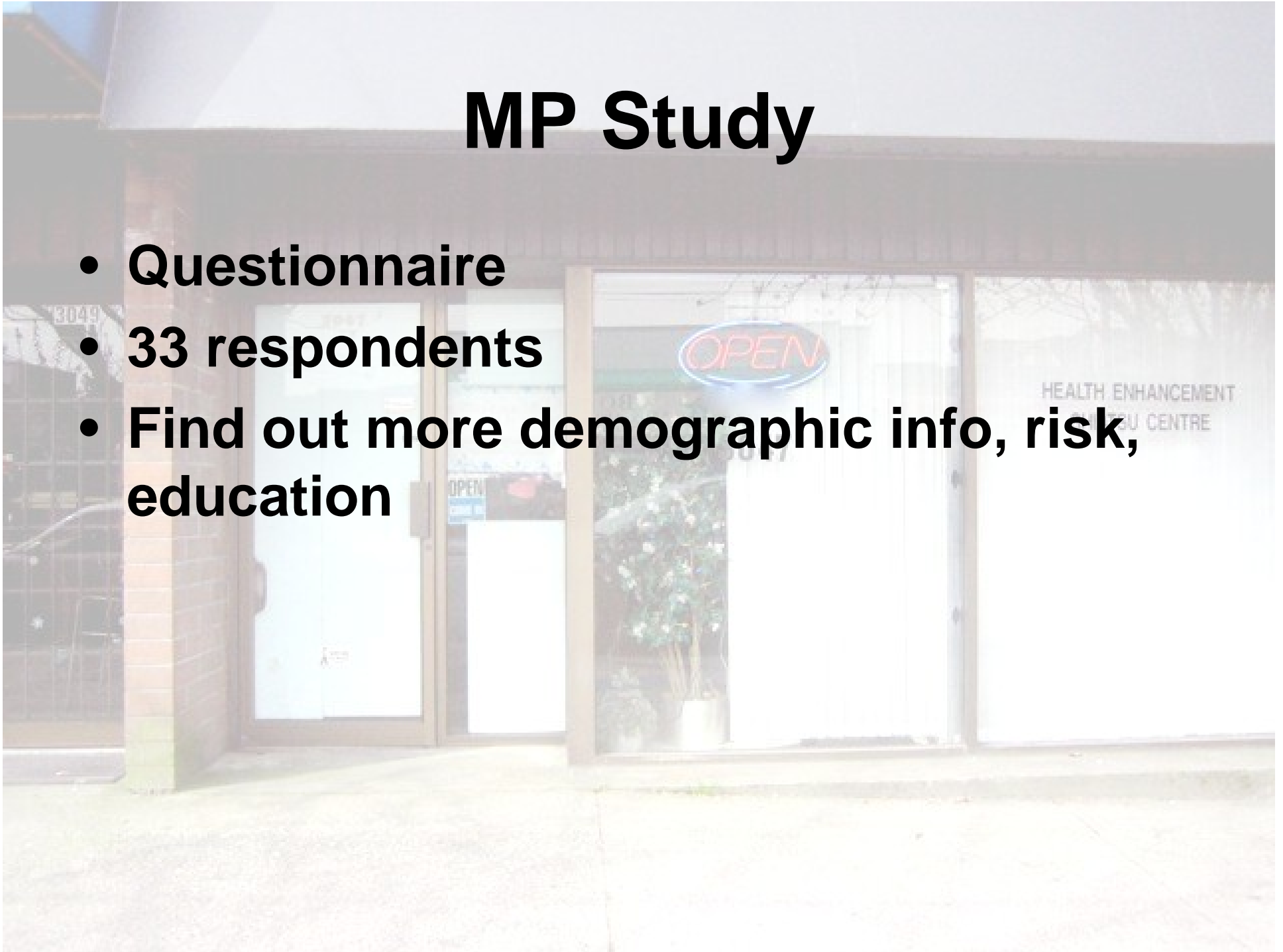
- **Condoms are distributed every visit**
- **526 visits (Jan 03 -Dec 06)**
- **189 STI screens**
- **165 HIV tests with counseling,**
- **172 visits including both.**

# Results

- **Three cases of Chlamydia,**
- **1 case of syphilis,**
- **25 cases of vaginitis,**
- **6 case of hepatitis B were diagnosed**
- **Follow-up on abnormal paps.**

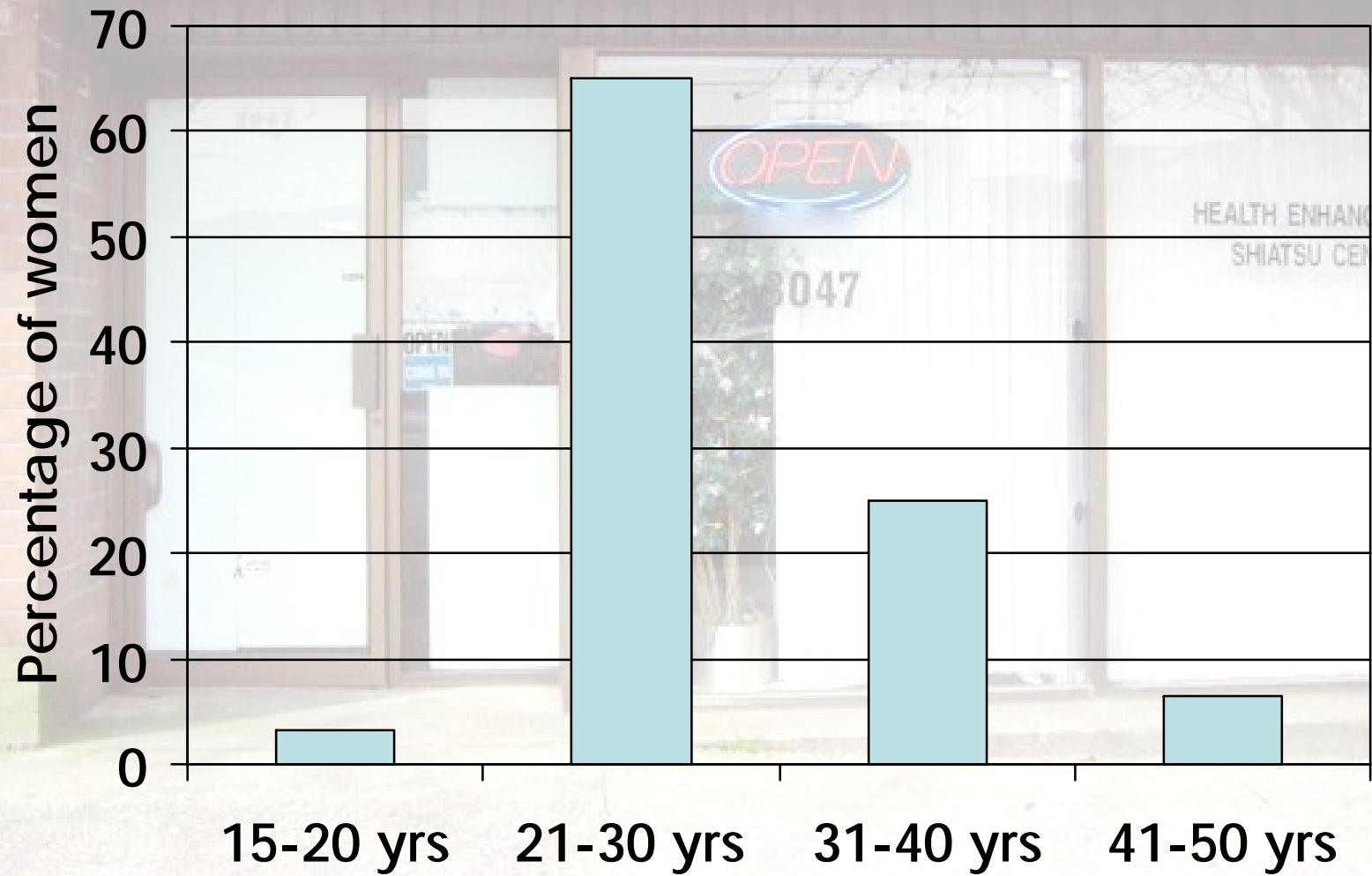
# MP Study

- Questionnaire
- 33 respondents
- Find out more demographic info, risk, education

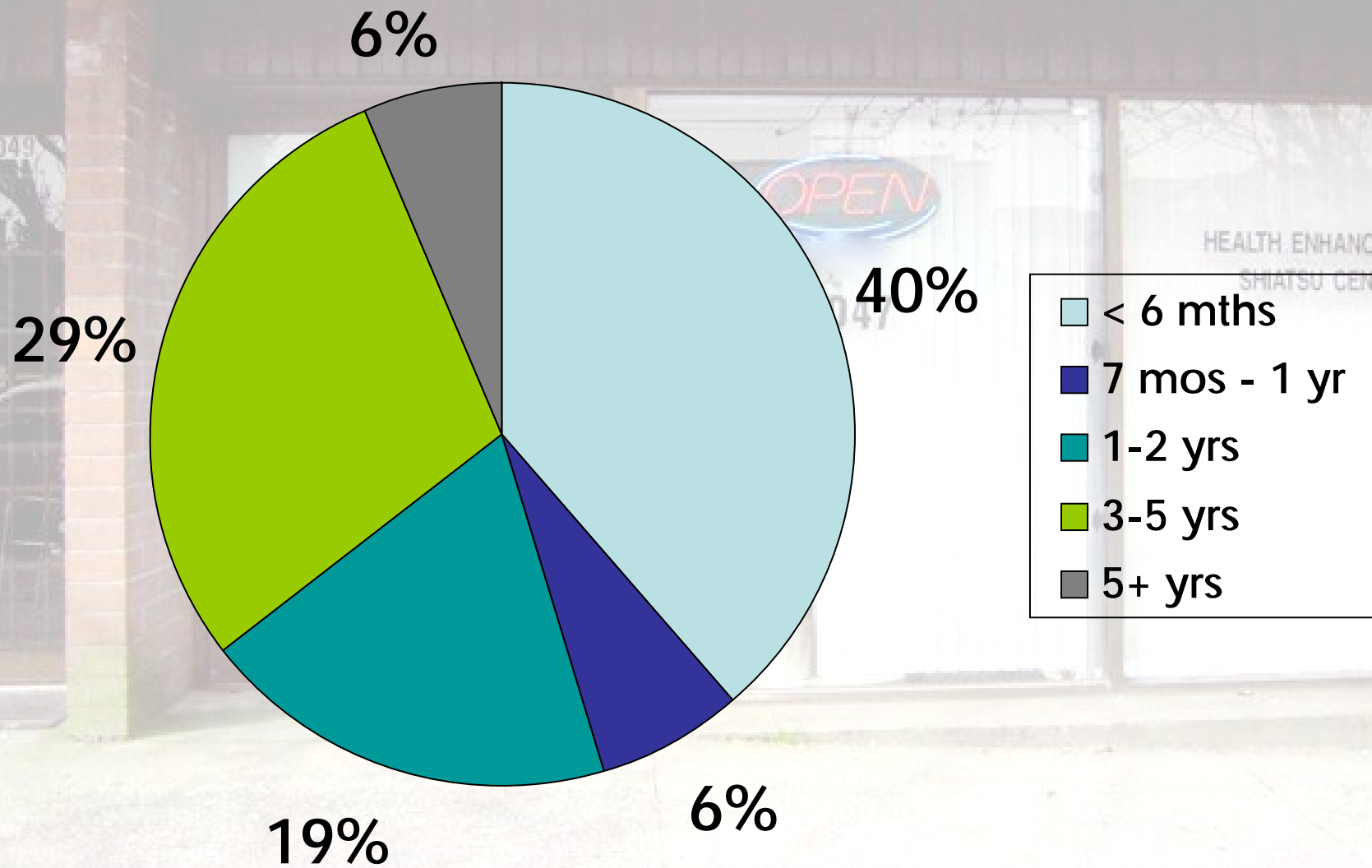




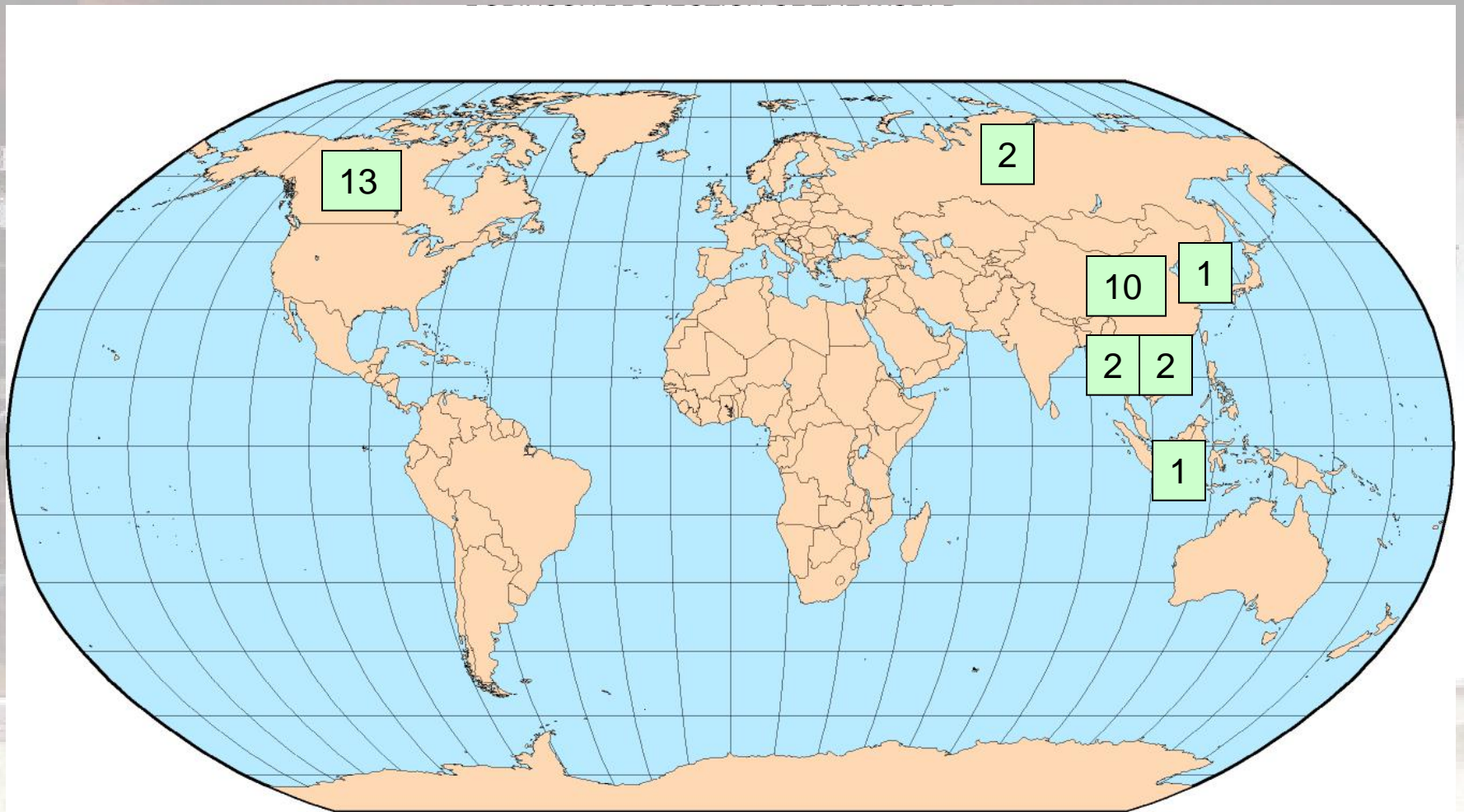
# Age



# Length of Time Work in MP



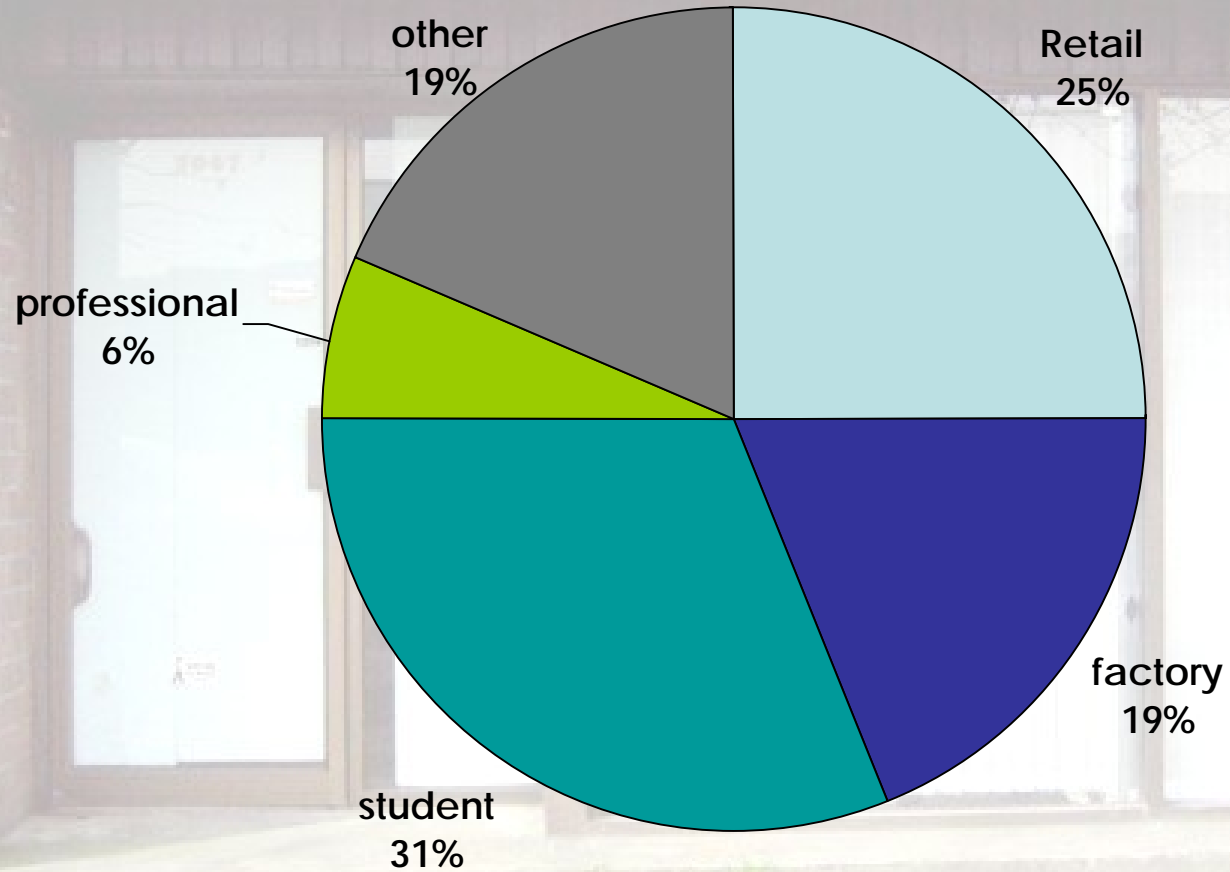
# Where Were the Women From?



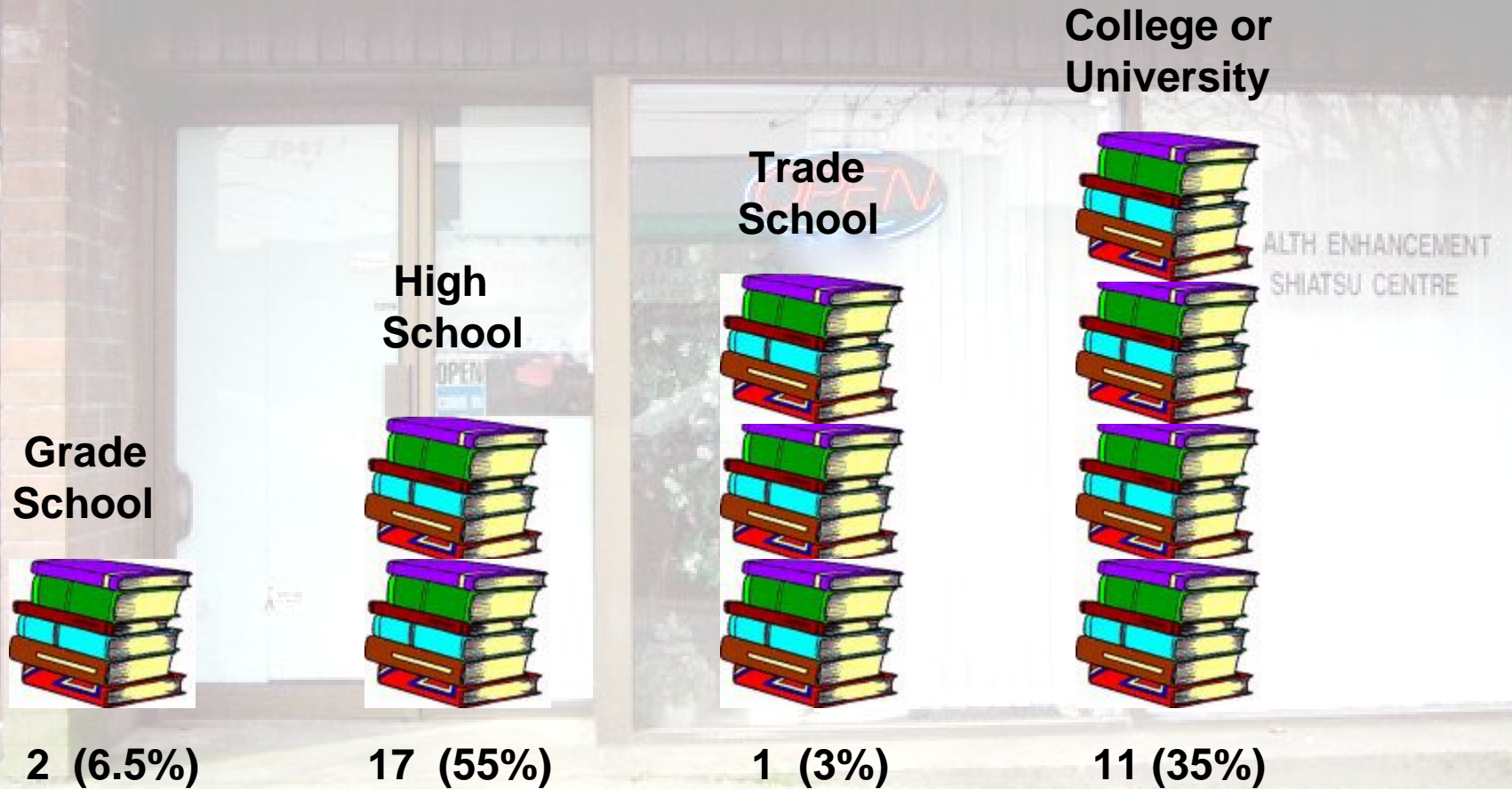
Arrived in Canada: average of 8 months ago

71% (22) could speak English

# Occupation Before Canada



# Highest Level of Education



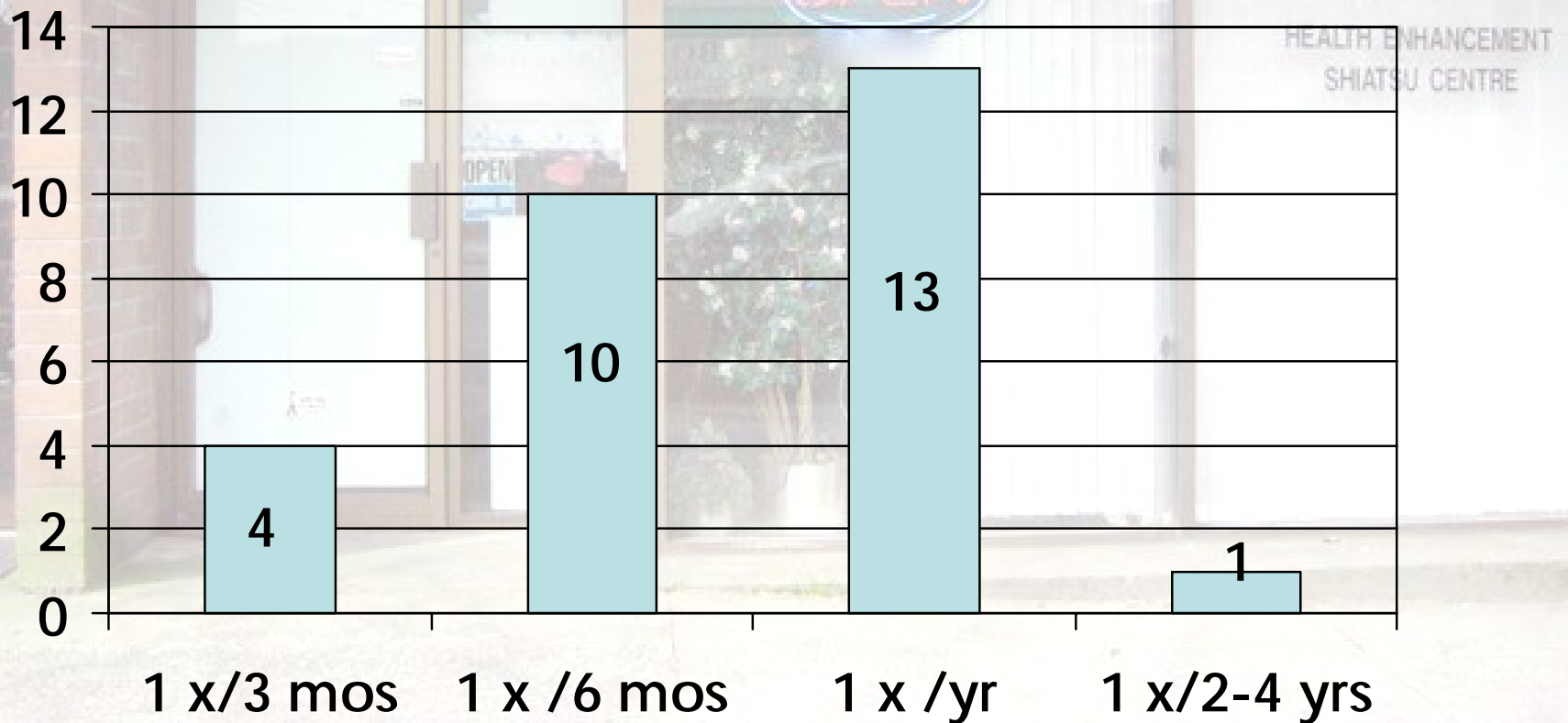
# Risks

- **Customers seen per week: 6-10 most frequent answer (8 did not want to say)**
- **39% of women stated they sometimes worked under the influence of alcohol or drugs**

# Ever Testing for STI/HIV

- 29 (93%) have been tested

## Frequency of testing



# Barriers to Testing

- **Difficulties with English (2)**
- **Time (3)**
- **Don't know where to get tested (4)**
- **Don't want to see male MD (5)**
- **Don't want to talk about sex (4)**
- **Afraid of results (2)**
- **No money or insurance (3)**
- **Afraid someone will find out about results (5)**



# Condom Use

- **93% state condoms are always used here**
- **2-3 women stated sometimes not used to get more customers or if pressured by employer**

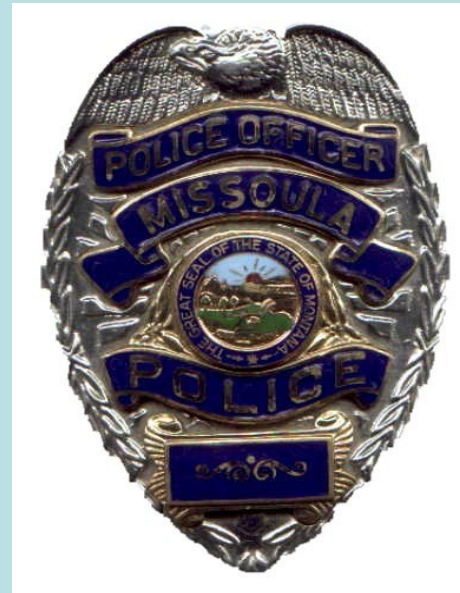


# Safety

- 55 women felt concerned about their safety in their workplace

**Felt threatened or unsafe due to  
POLICE:**

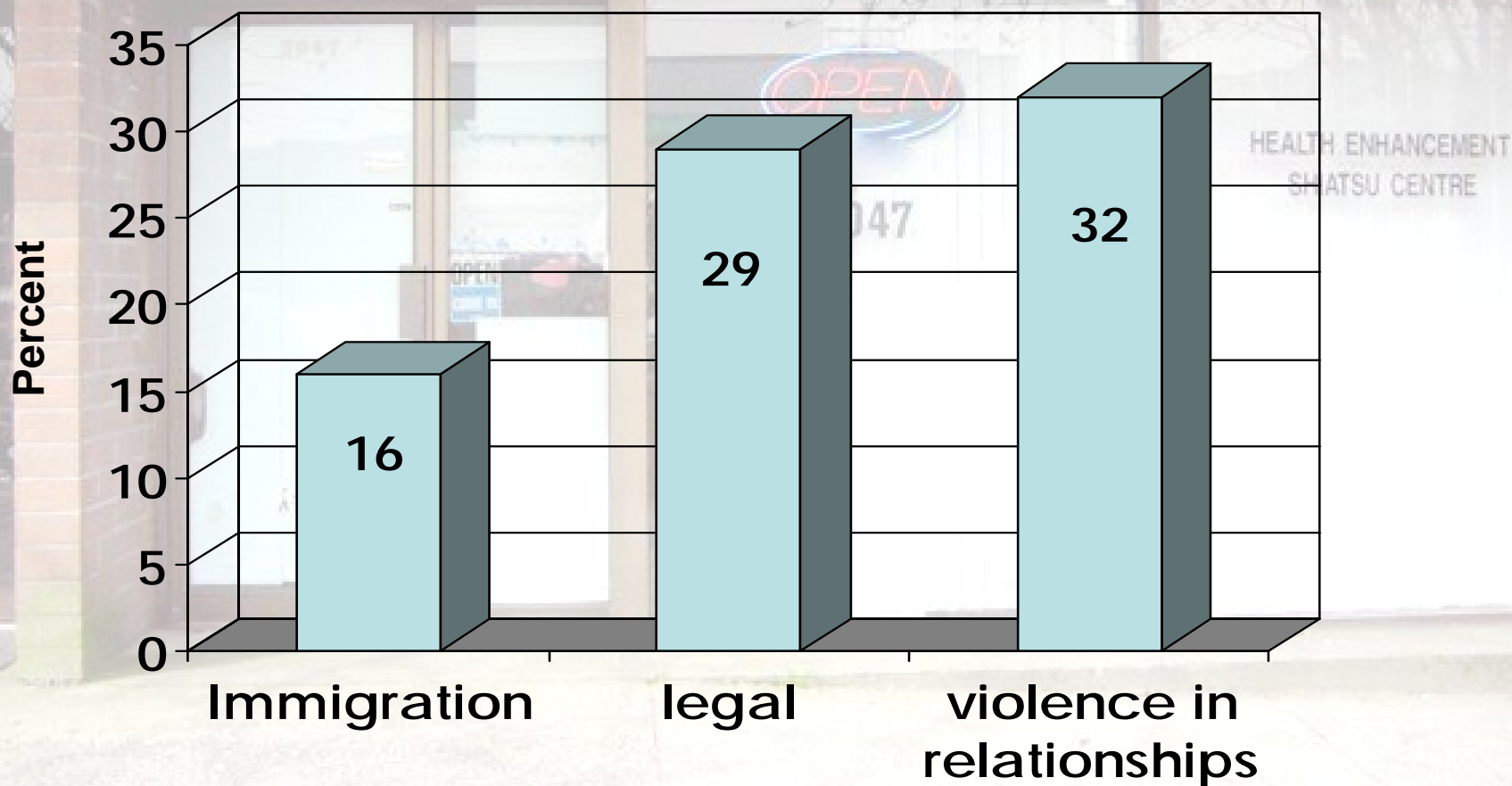
**22%**



# Massage Parlour Nurses

- **75% stated they saw MP nurse two or more times**
- **74% stated MP nurses is best way to get sexual health information**
- **93% stated there should be a health clinic for massage parlour workers in Vancouver**

# Massage Parlour Nurses Useful For Getting Info on:



# Summary

- **Partnership**
- **Low rates STIs**
- **MP workers who answered study are**
  - **well educated**
  - **English speaking ; half caucasian**
- **Large proportion use condoms**
- **Small proportion work under influence**
- **Half of them test regularly for STI**
- **Main concerns are safety and confidentiality**
- **Good access of MP nurse, especially for HIV testing and info**