



Folkhälsomyndigheten  
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF SWEDEN

# **Gender, parenting and gambling. Results from a Swedish population survey**

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# Agenda

- Earlier research on youth gambling and parents
- Results from focus groups about parents, youth and gambling
- Our quantitative study
  - Methods
  - Findings
- Conclusions



# To be young

Foto: Ulrika Kestere



Foto: Anne Dillner

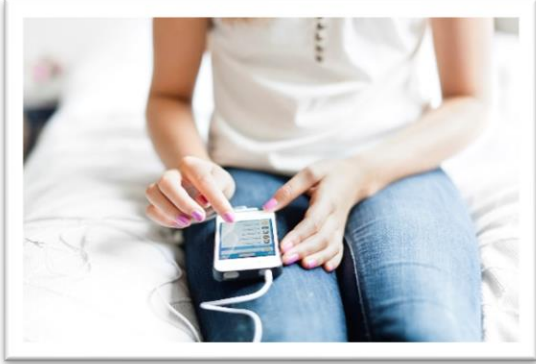


Foto: Johan Alp



Foto: Emma Eriksson



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# Research on parents and problem gambling among youth (see last slide for references)

- Parents often introduce their children to gambling
- Parents gambling and attitude to gambling affect children
- Gambling problem among parents increases the risk of gambling problem among their children
- Parents don't talk about gambling with their children and youth
- Good parenting and coping skills are protective factors but not if the youth involvement in gambling is high

# Focus groups with parents and children 2020



# Focus group children aged 16-17 years (2020)

- The majority had gambled for money
- The parents know about their gambling and have often introduced them
- Parents do not talk gambling, but the children believe that the parents are negative about gambling



*Mostly within the family. It could be that we play cards and the winner gets 50 bucks.*

*They are the ones who introduced us to Bingo-lotto. They say "Come let's play"*

*It's not something they've said directly, but you know they think it's negative.*

# Focus group - parents (2020)

- They were aware and approved age limits for gambling.
- The parents reported that their children were aware of their gambling or were involved in the gambling. The parents did not perceive this as problematic.
- The parents believed that their children gambled less than other children.
- A good relationship with their children, but they did not talk about gambling.



*We never made a big deal out of it. We look at Bingo-Lotto together, the children have received lottery tickets as gifts or that we bought a lottery ticket to the children and asked them to scratch.*

# Focus group - parents (2020)

## Situated gambling and risk



- OK to gamble with family and relatives on lottery, poker and horses
- Less OK to gamble poker with friends. However, it depended on which friends.
- Not OK to gamble poker or casino online.

*Harmless. It's not that dangerous to gamble with your grandmother.*

*Depends on how much they intend to bet.*

*Depends on which friends it is. If it's her childhood friends, I wouldn't be worried. But if they are new friends, I wouldn't approve.*



# Methods in the study about gambling, youth and parents (USUF 2021)

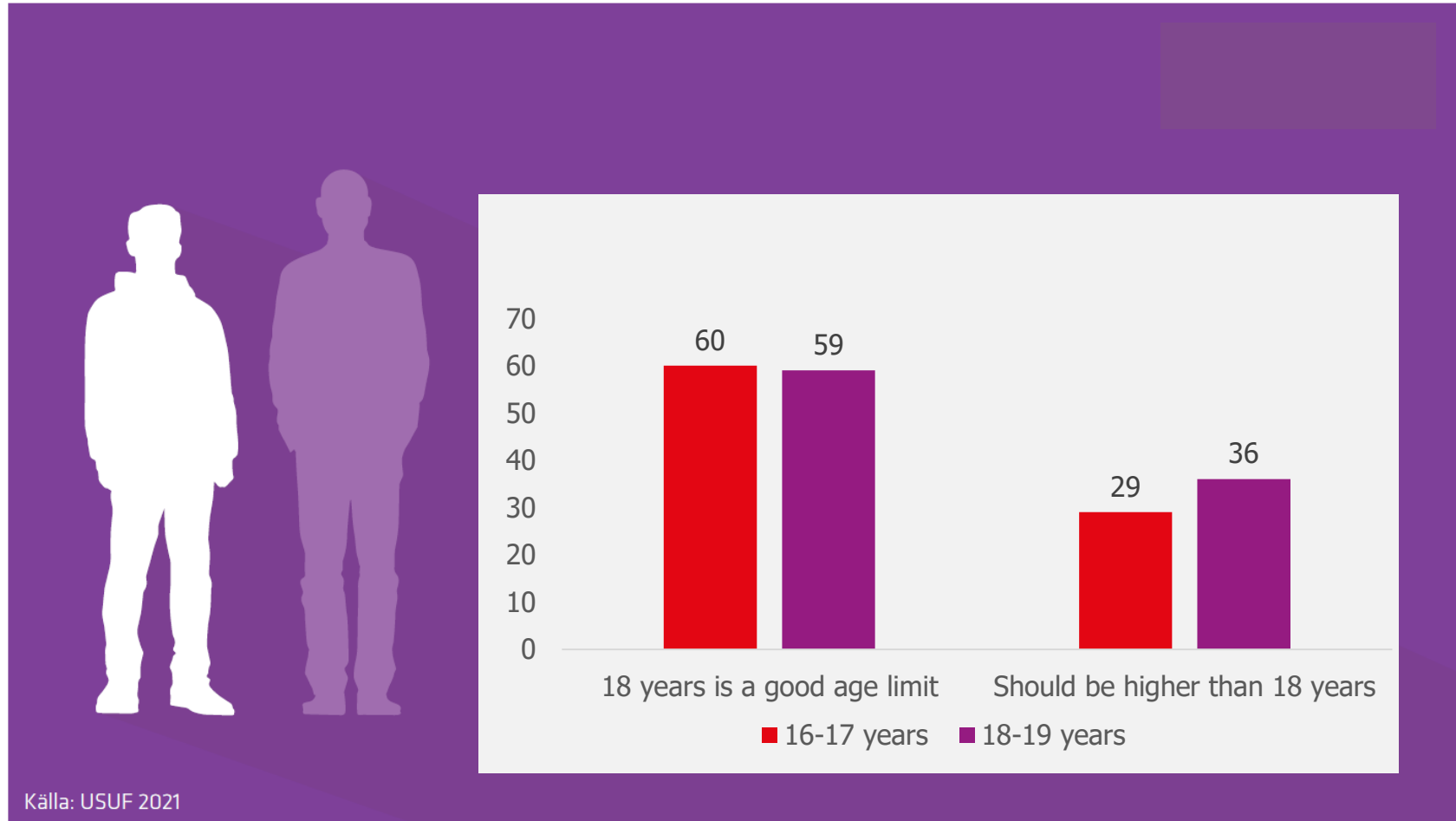
- 10 000 youth, age 16-19 (simple random sampling) and 10 000 parents to youth in the same age
- Half of the sample was matched with youth and parent
- Response rate youth, 32 percent, n= 3 213, 54 percent girls
- Response rate adults, 29 percent, n= 3 023, 54 percent women
- Response rate matched sample, n= 850 pairs (n= 1700)
- Weighted results
- Young people: 2 % reported having parents that had a gambling problem (10% someone close to them)
- Age 16-17: 3 % PGSI 3+, 1% PGSI 8+
- Age 16-17: 34% had gambled in the last year

# Parents view themselves as restrictive towards gambling

- Parent report negative attitudes towards gambling. Mothers have a slightly more negative attitude compared to fathers (92% compared to 88%).
- Both mothers and fathers are more permissive towards lotteries than other types of gambling.



# Young people themselves approve age limits (%)



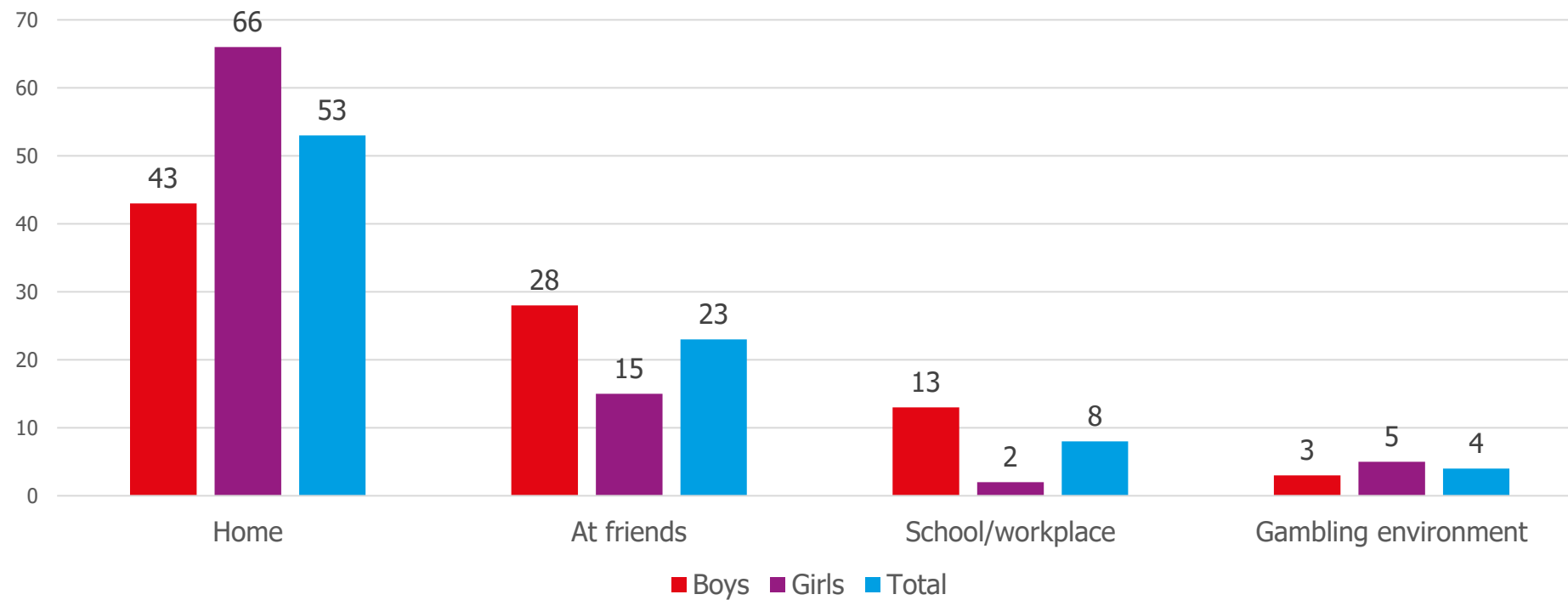
# Parents involve their children in their gambling

- Around one third of the parents buys lottery tickets to their children
- 50% of youth under the age of 18 years have been involved in the parents gambling activity
- Type of gambling is gendered
- Participating in gambling with adults/parents is associated to gambling as well as to problem gambling among young people.

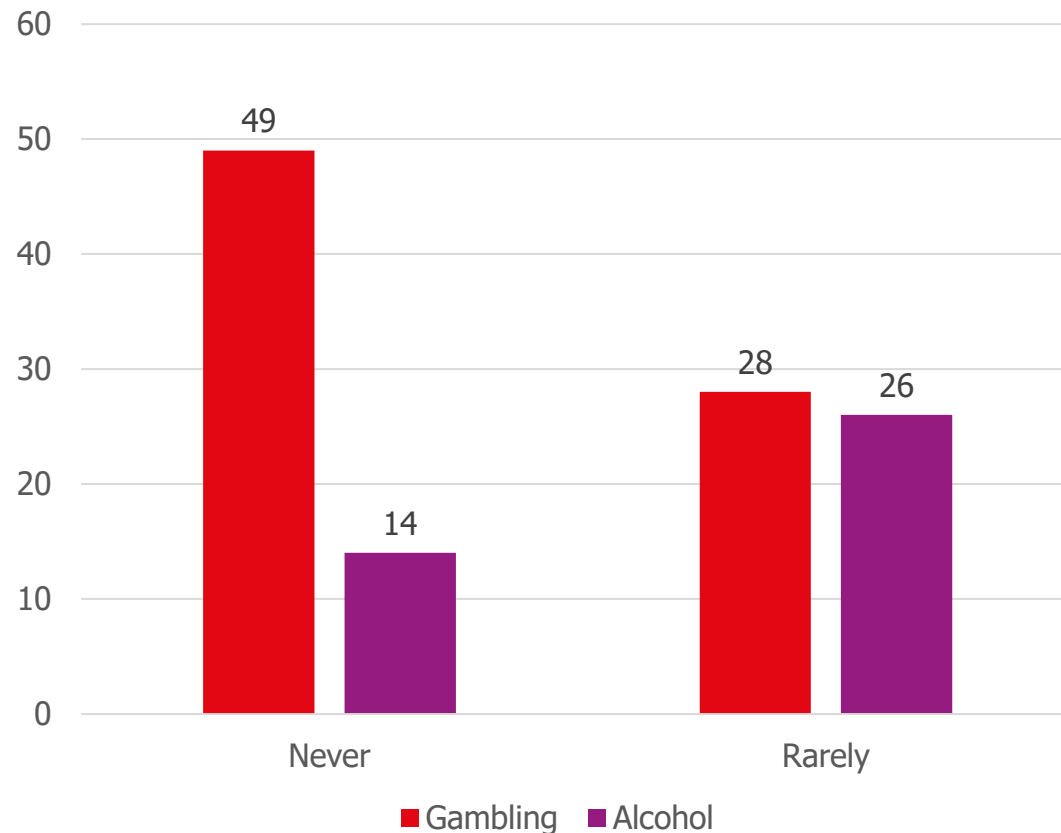


# Young people gamble at home

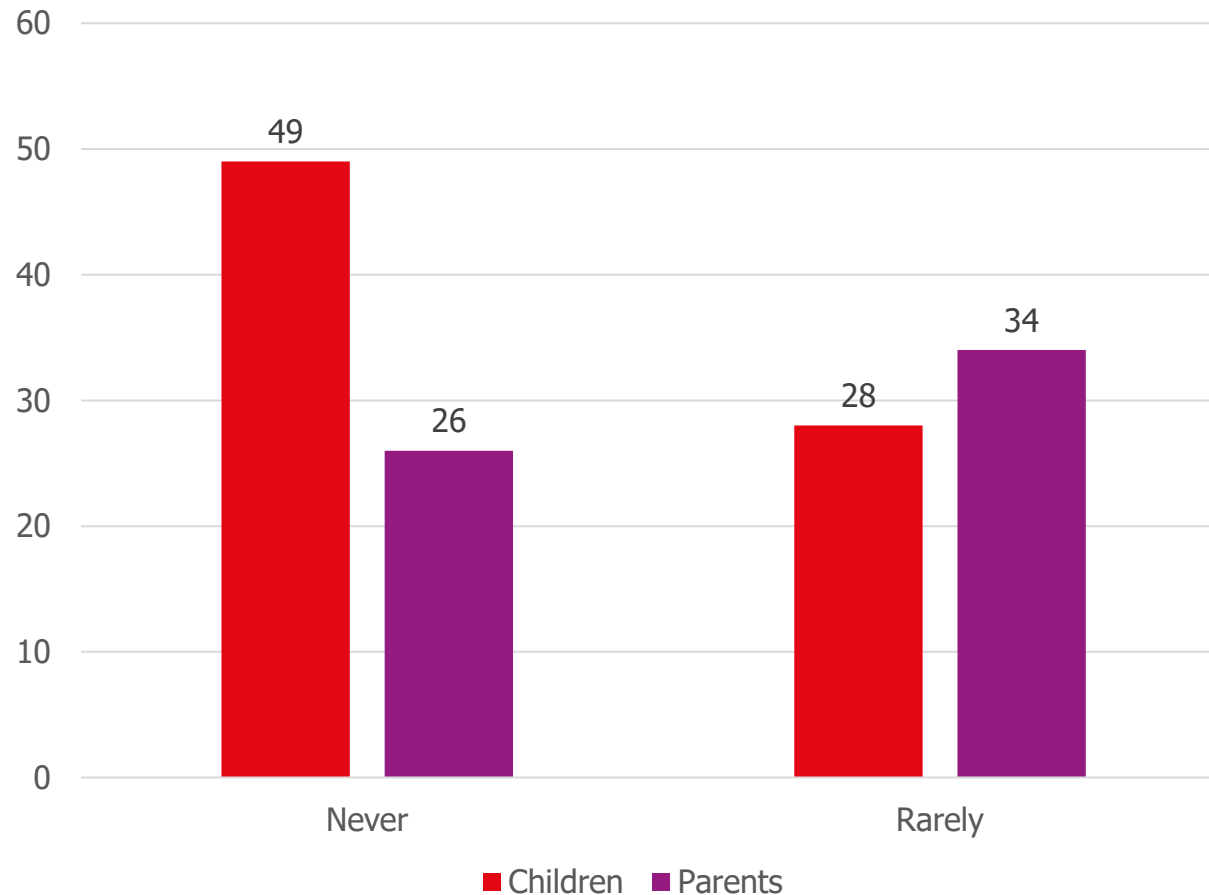
Gambling places for 16–17 year olds who has gambled during last 12 months



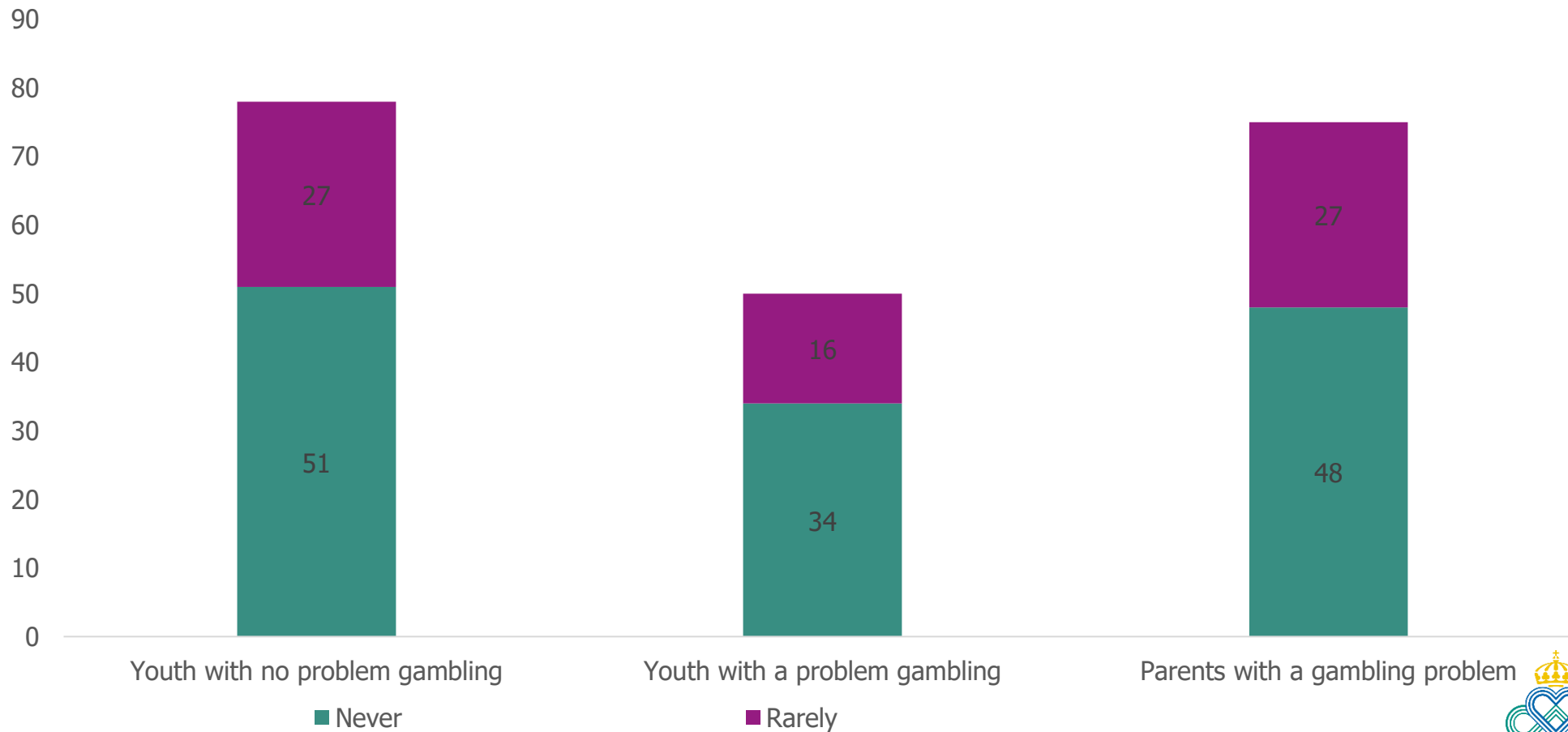
# Three quarters of the parents seldom or rarely talk about gambling with their children according to the youth



# Parents perceive that they talk about gambling to a higher degree than the children report

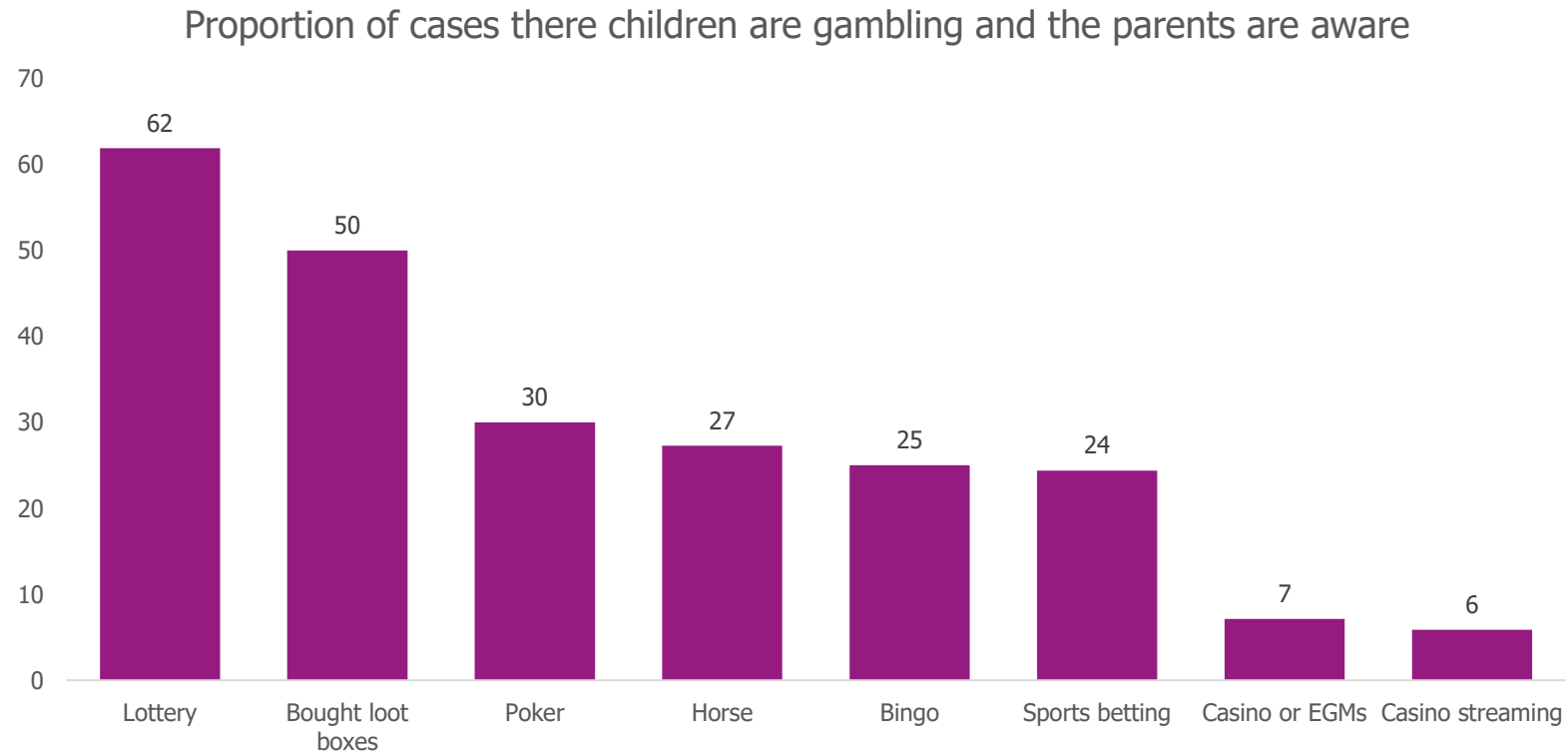


# Youth who have a problem gambling or have parents with a gambling problem percieve that their parents don't talk to them about gambling

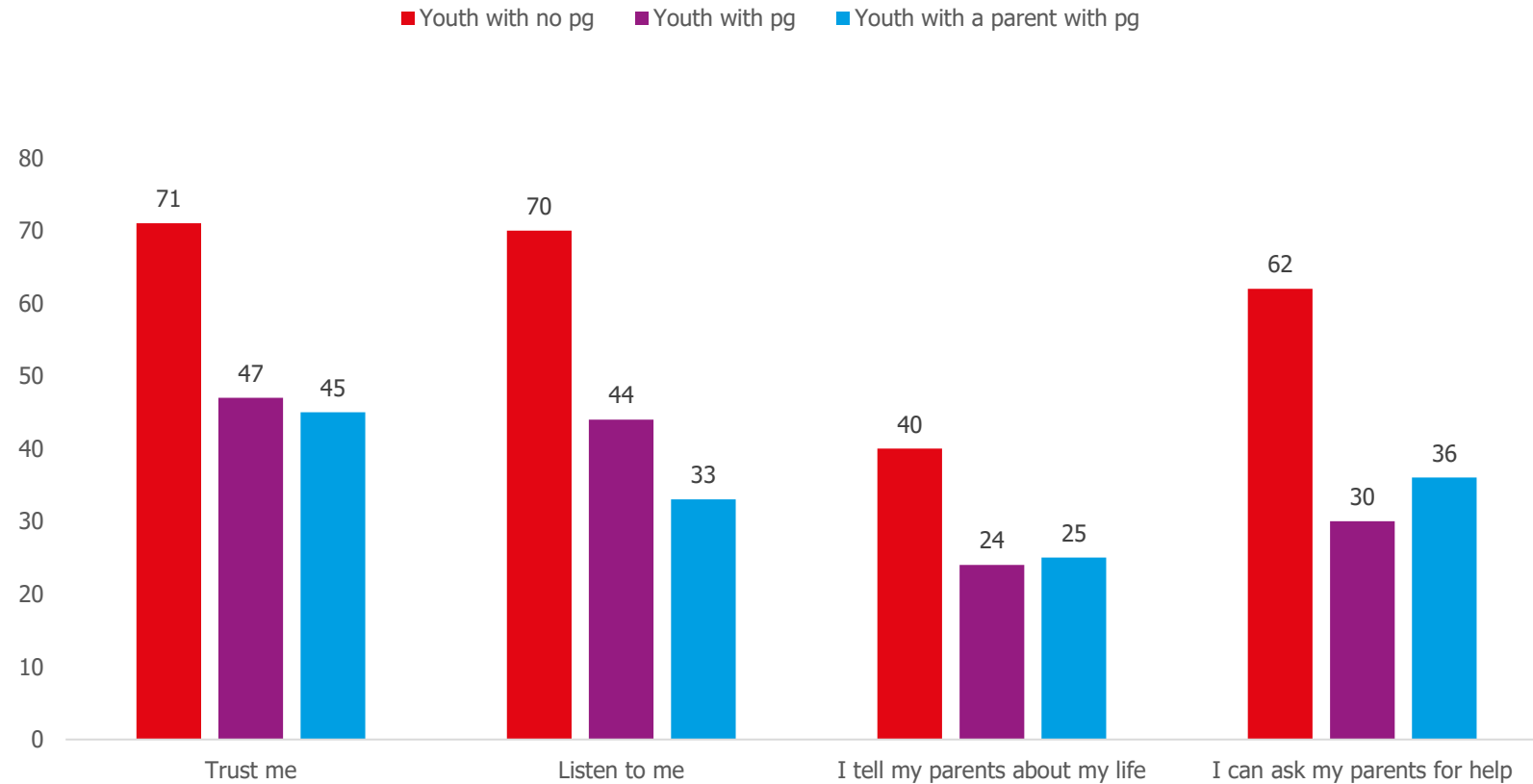




# Parents are unaware of their childrens gambling

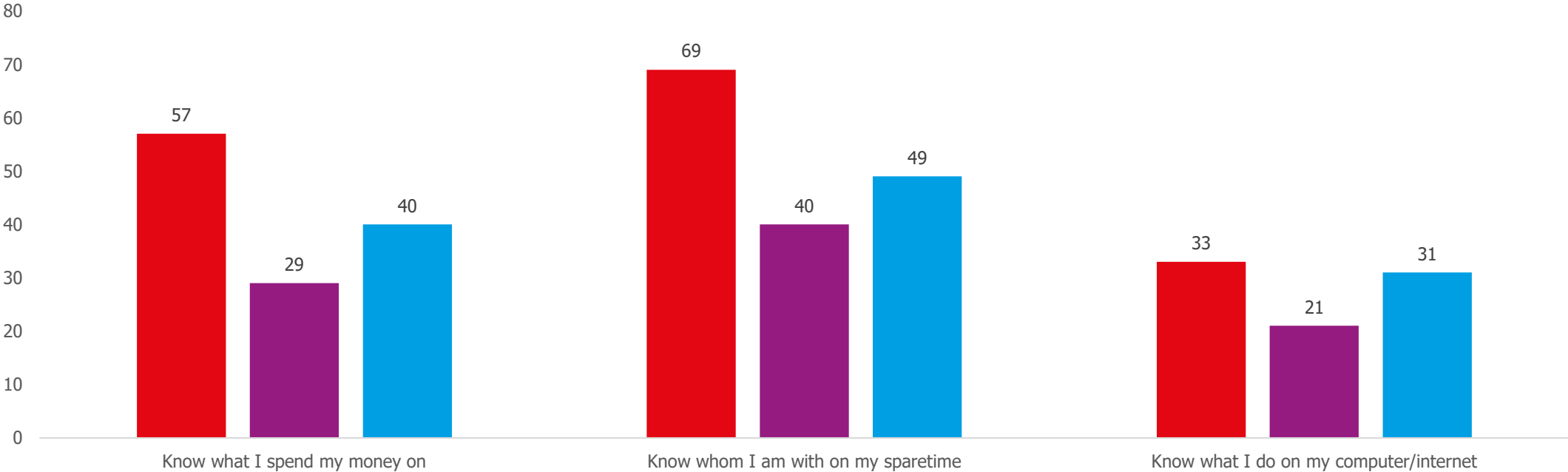


# Gambling problems are associated with less support from parents

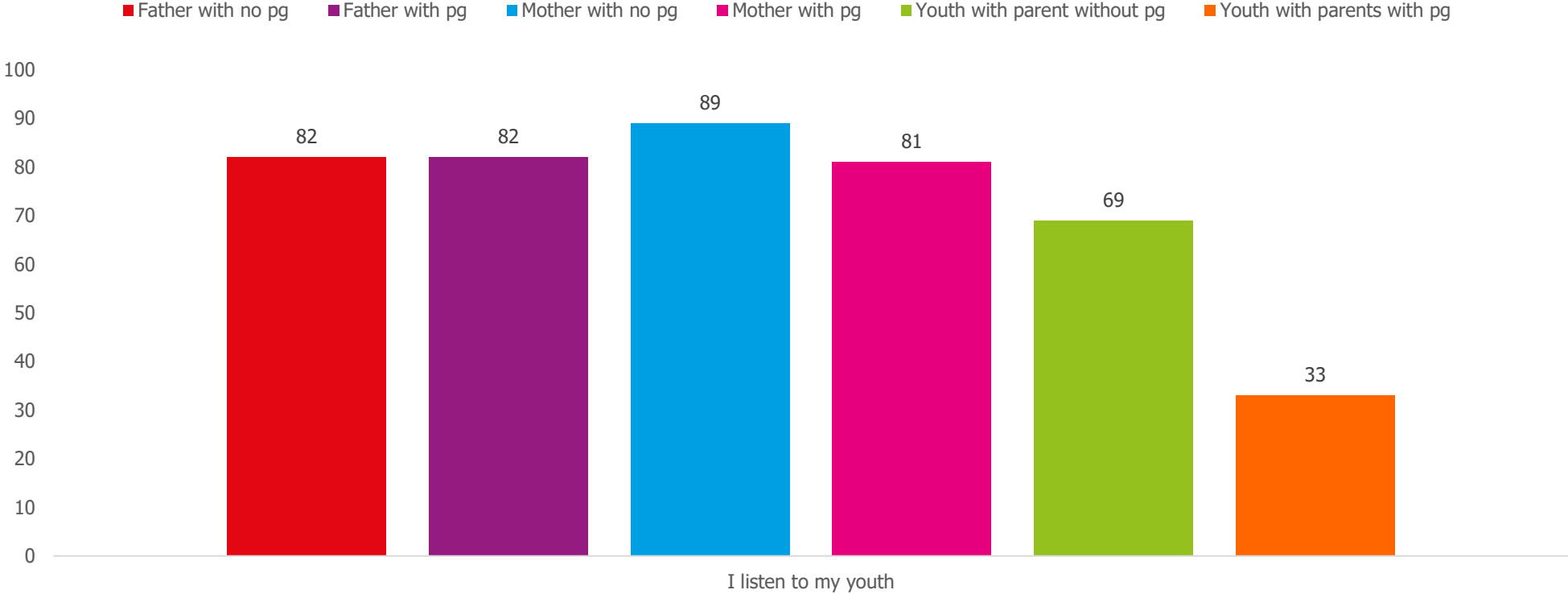


# Parents to young people with gambling problems know to a less degree what the children are doing

■ Youth with no pg   ■ Youth with pg   ■ Youth with parent with pg



# Parents with problem gambling think they have good relationships with their children



# School is an important arena for early detection and prevention

	Stress	School	Parents	Friends	Economy	Leisure	Physical Health	Mental health	Future	Life in general
Youth with PGSI 3+	Light Red	Red	Red	Light Red	Red	Light Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red
Youth reporting having parents with gambling problems	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Light Red	Red

# Conclusion

- Our results are in line with earlier research
- Significant other adults need more knowledge about gambling and to talk with youth about gambling.
- Interventions should be targeting both adult gambling as well as compliance towards age-limits. In addition, early detection of youth who are gambling and as significant other to adult gamblers.
- School seem to be an important arena for youth with parents who have gambling problems.
- Gender aspects of parenting and gambling should be considered.



# References

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# **Thank you for your attention!**

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