



Folkhälsomyndigheten  
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF SWEDEN

# **No change in prevalence of problem gambling in Sweden does not mean that nothing has changed**

The 13th European Conference on Gambling Studies and Policy Issues

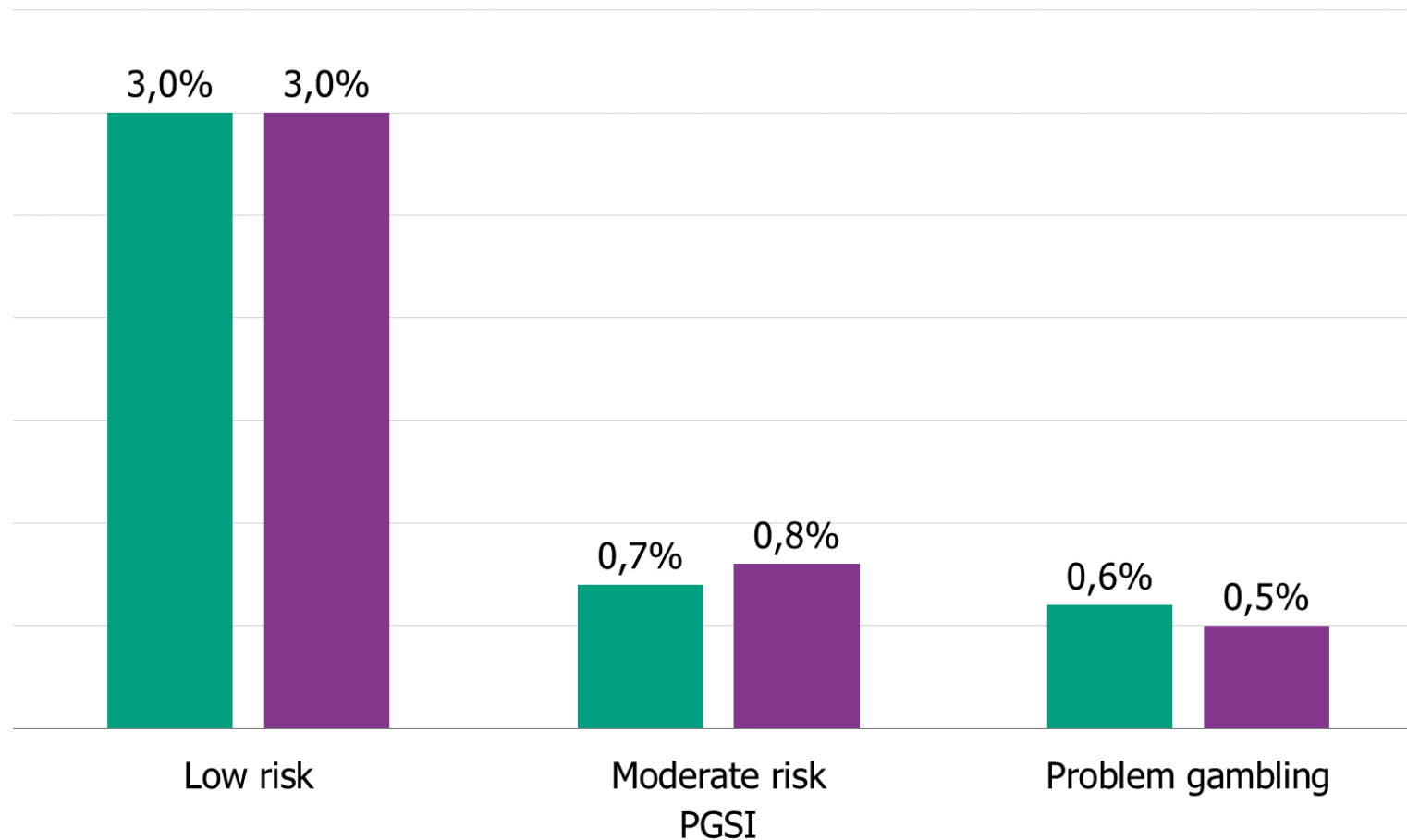
6 - 9 September 2022 in Oslo, Norway

Ulla Romild, Public Health Agency of Sweden



# No change in problem gambling 2018 to 2021 according to Swelogs prevalence studies

■ 2018 (n = 5 021; aged 16-84)    ■ 2021 (n = 7 343; aged 16-84)



# **SWELOGS – The Swedish Longitudinal Gambling Study**

- 2008/2009 – 2009/2010 – 2012 – 2014
  - Sample size 15,000; 8,000 respondents wave 1
- 2015 – 2018 – 2021
  - Sample size 21,000; 9,000 respondents wave 1
- 2021
  - Sample size 25,000; 7,000 respondents

<https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/>

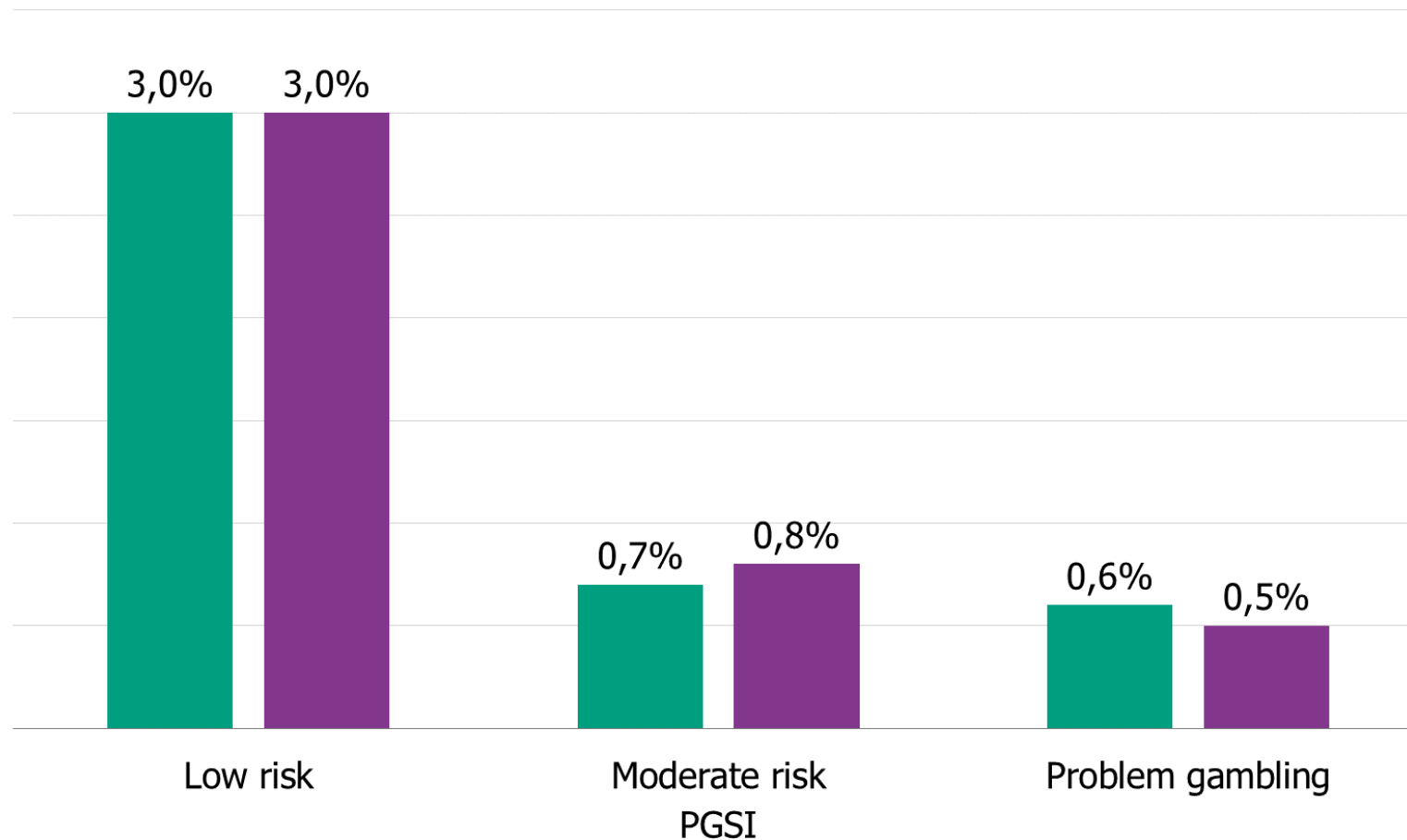
English version -> Swelogs

# Some background to my talk today

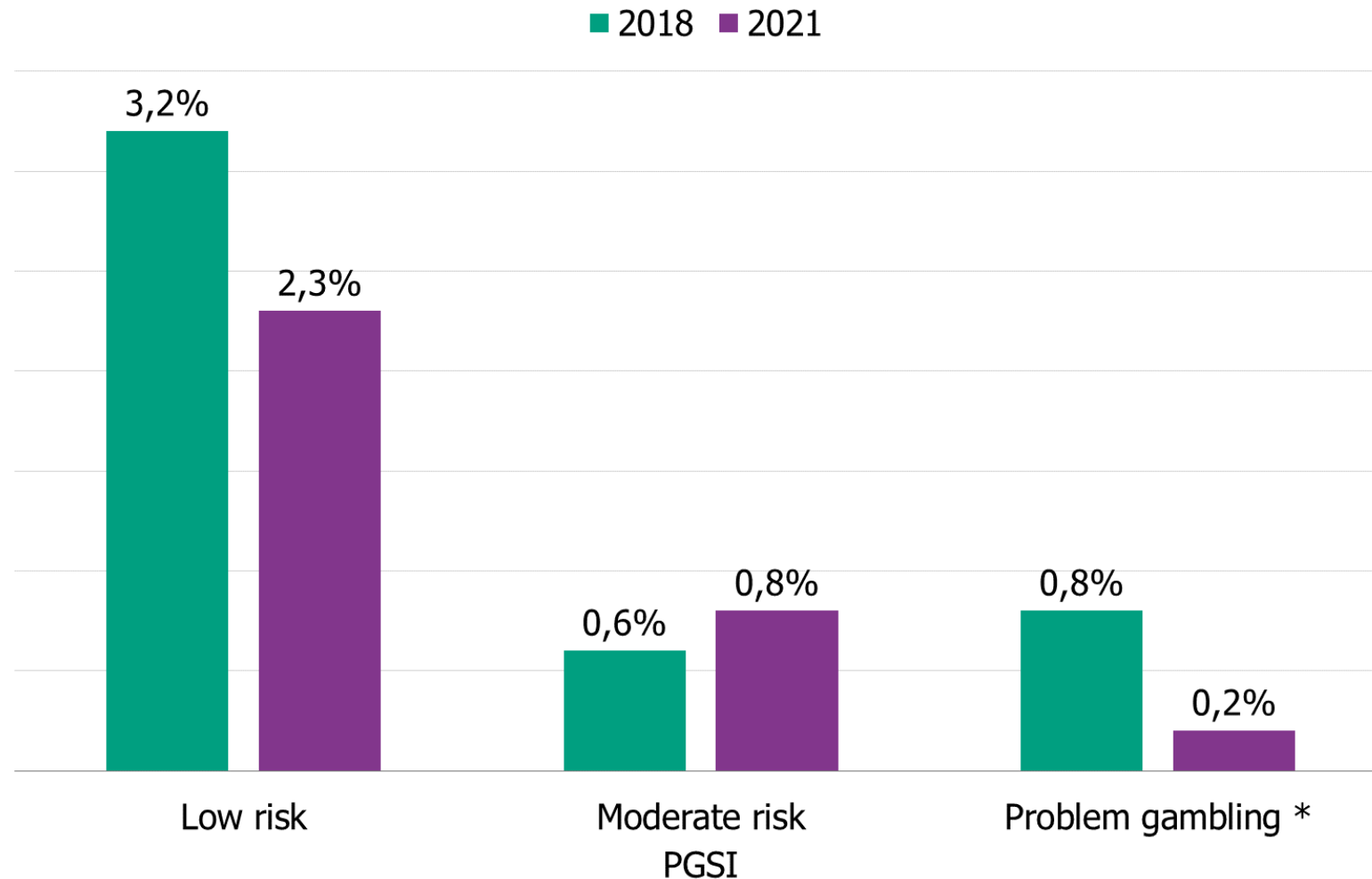
- New Swedish Gambling Legislation 2019
- Baseline: Swelogs 2018
- Follow-up:
  - Swelogs follow-up study 2021
  - Swelogs prevalence study 2021

# No change in problem gambling 2018 to 2021 according to Swelogs prevalence studies

■ 2018 (n = 5 021; aged 16-84)    ■ 2021 (n = 7 343; aged 16-84)



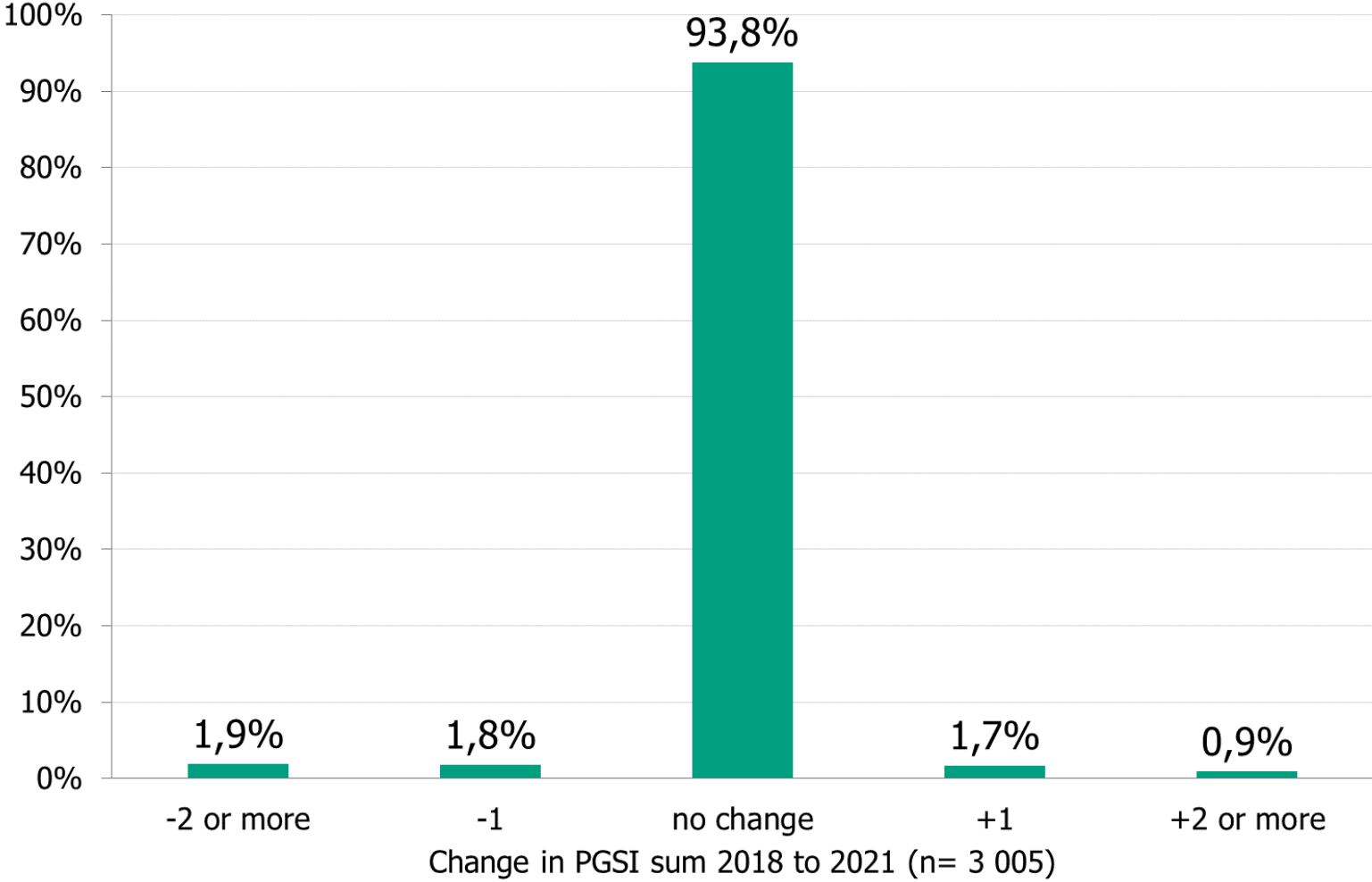
# Some changes among the 2 977 individuals that were followed up from 2018 to 2021



# Non-gamblers most stable over time

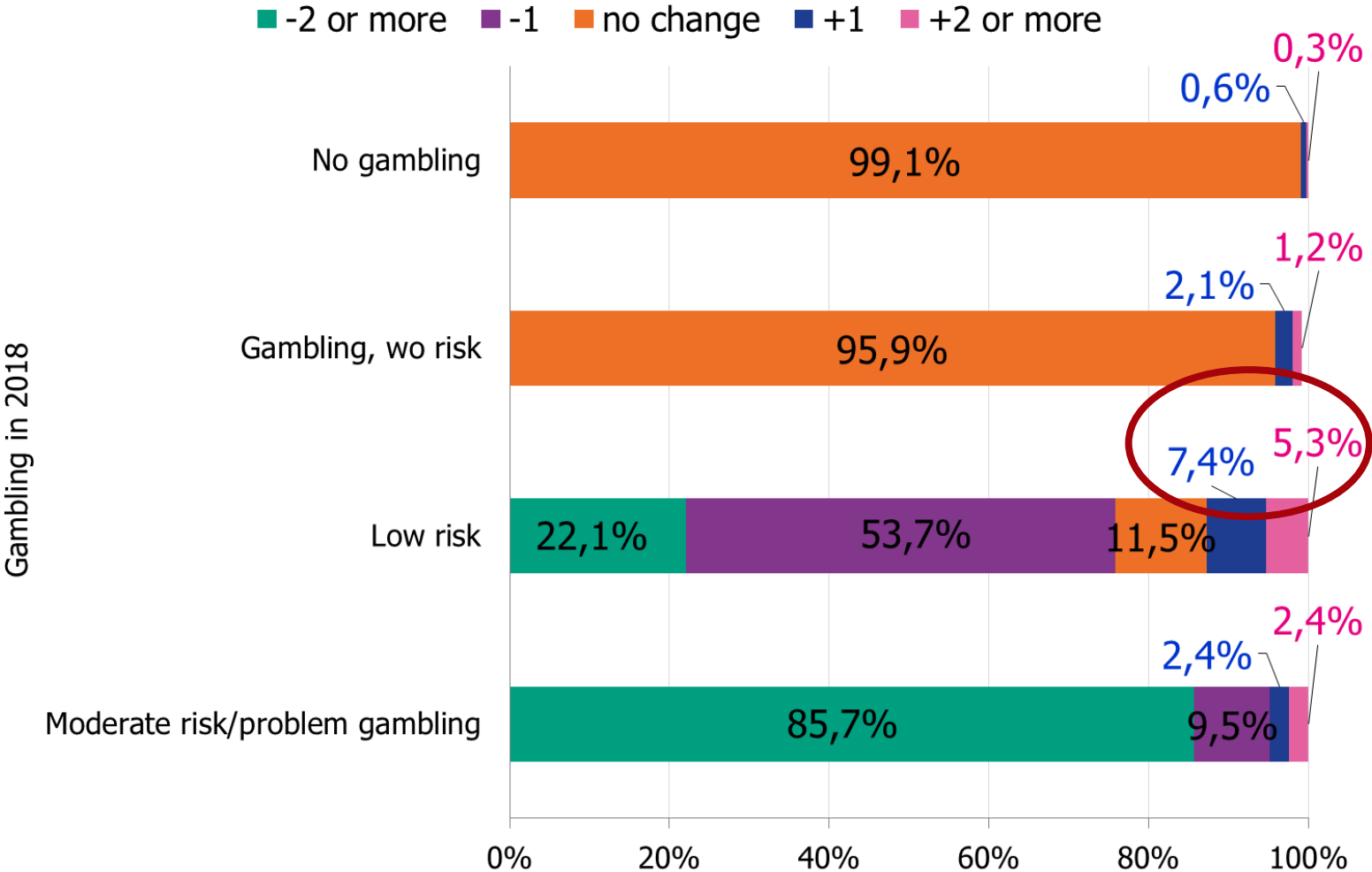
	Non-gambler 2021	No problem gambler 2021	Low risk gambler 2021	Moderate risk/problem gambler 2021
Non-gambler 2018 (n=1 194)	<b>83.5 %</b>	15.5 %	0.7 %	0.3 %
No problem gambler 2018 (n=1 676)	40.5 %	<b>56.4 %</b>	2.7 %	0.4 %
Low risk gambler 2018 (n=94)	19.1 %	54.3 %	<b>14.9 %</b>	11.7 %
Moderate risk/problem gambler 2018 (n=40)	60.0 %	17.5 %	5.0 %	<b>17.5 %</b>

# Changes up or down in PGSI Sum Score for six percent of the population

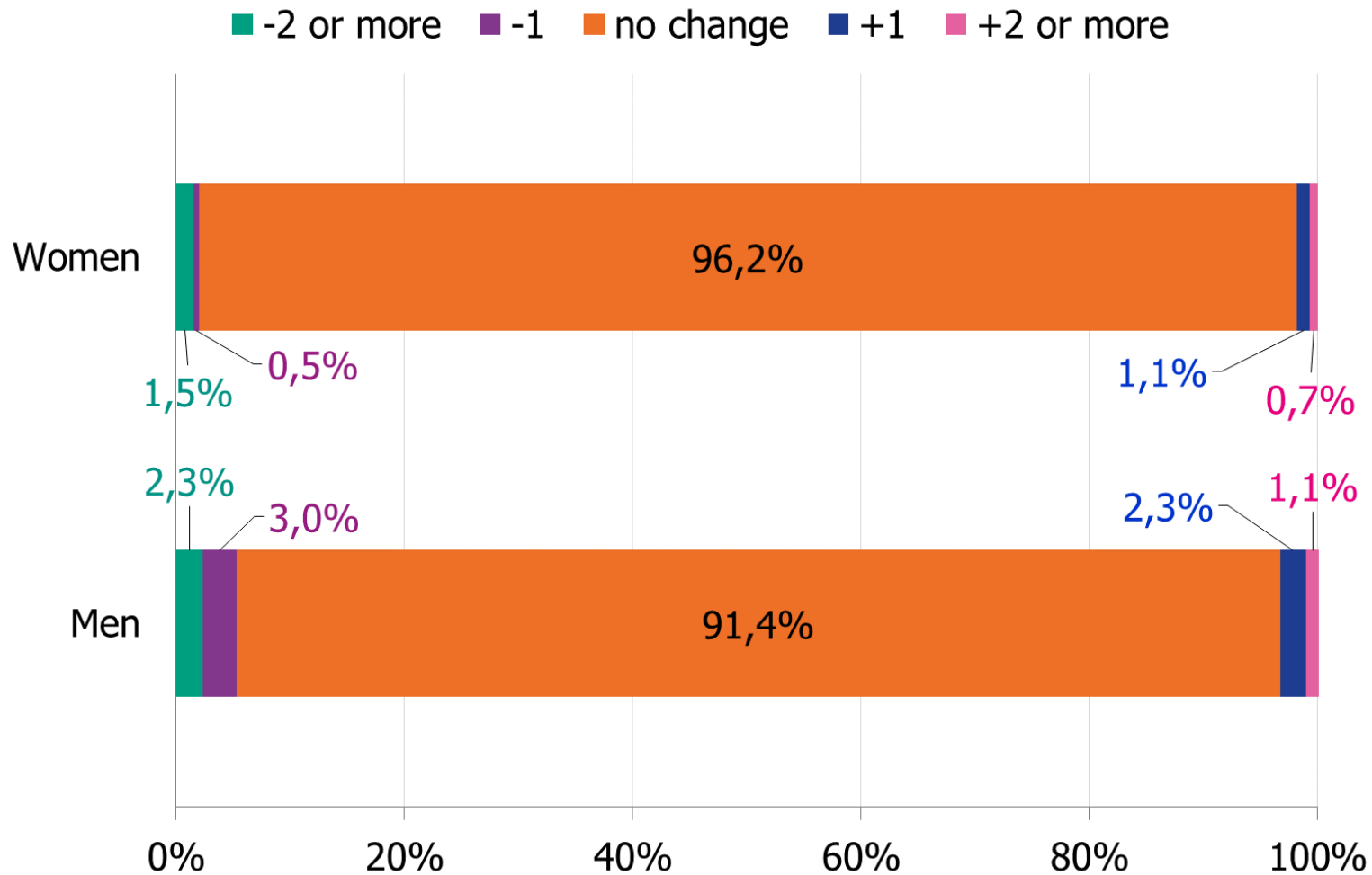




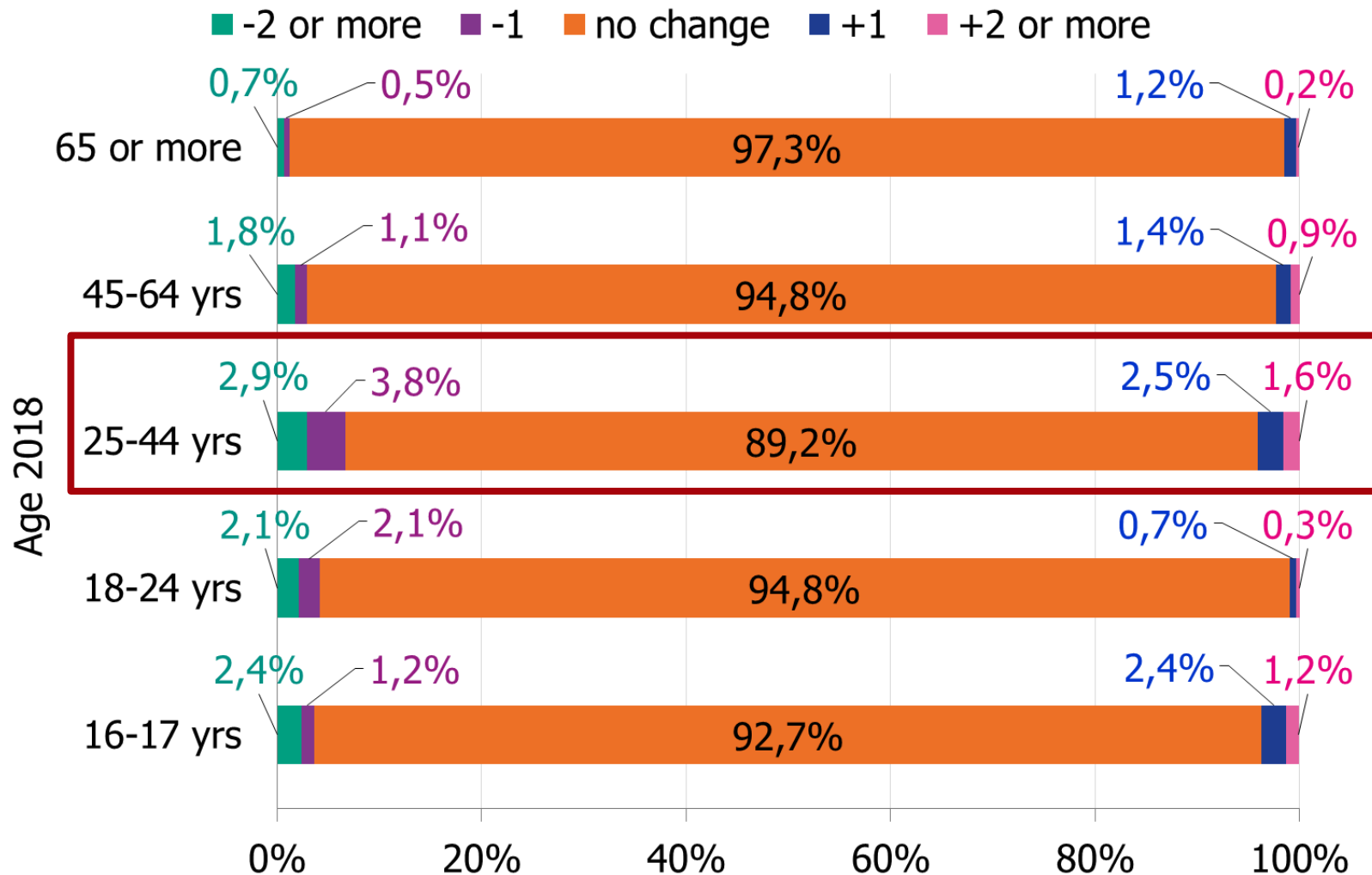
# Changes in relation to PG/gambling status 2018



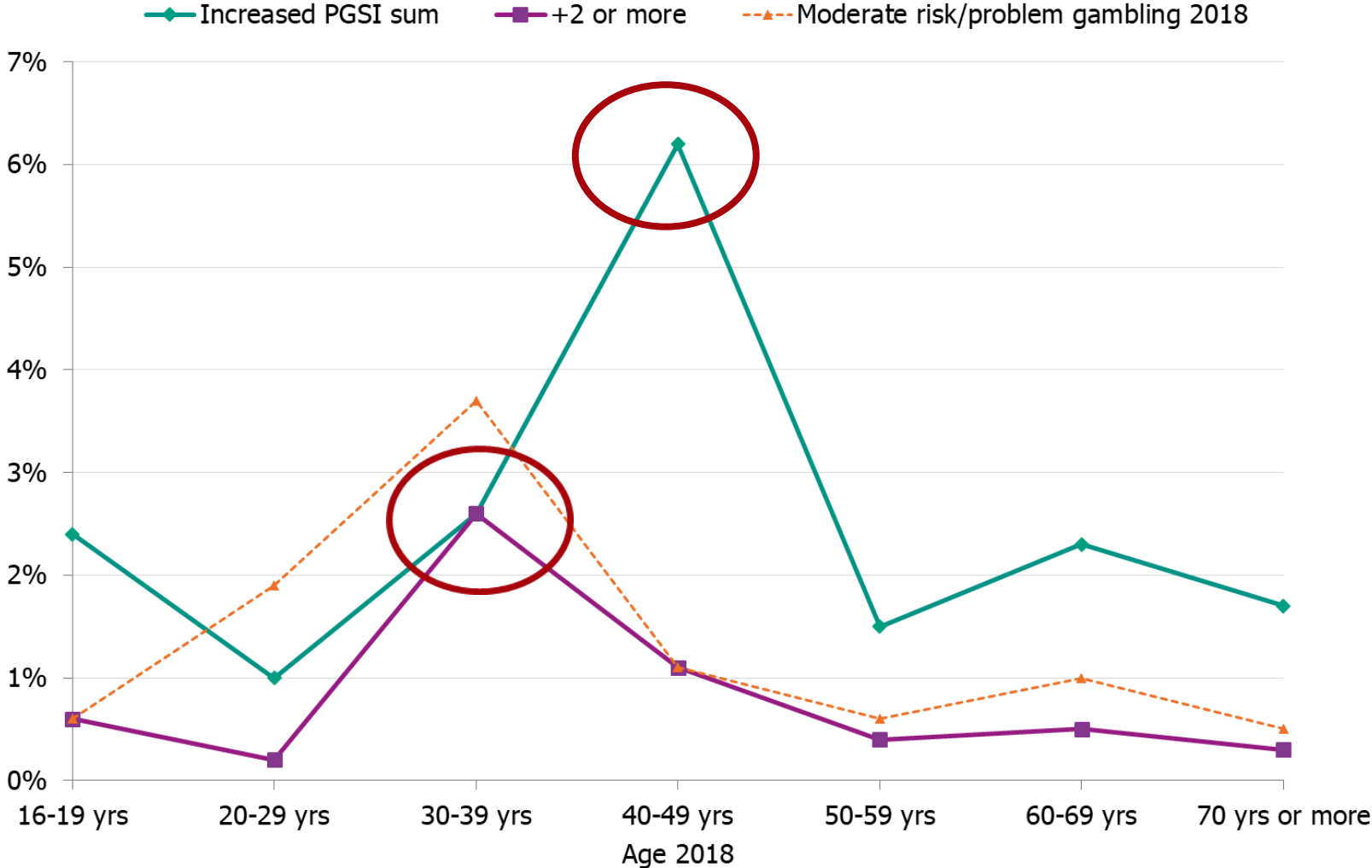
# More changes among men compared to women



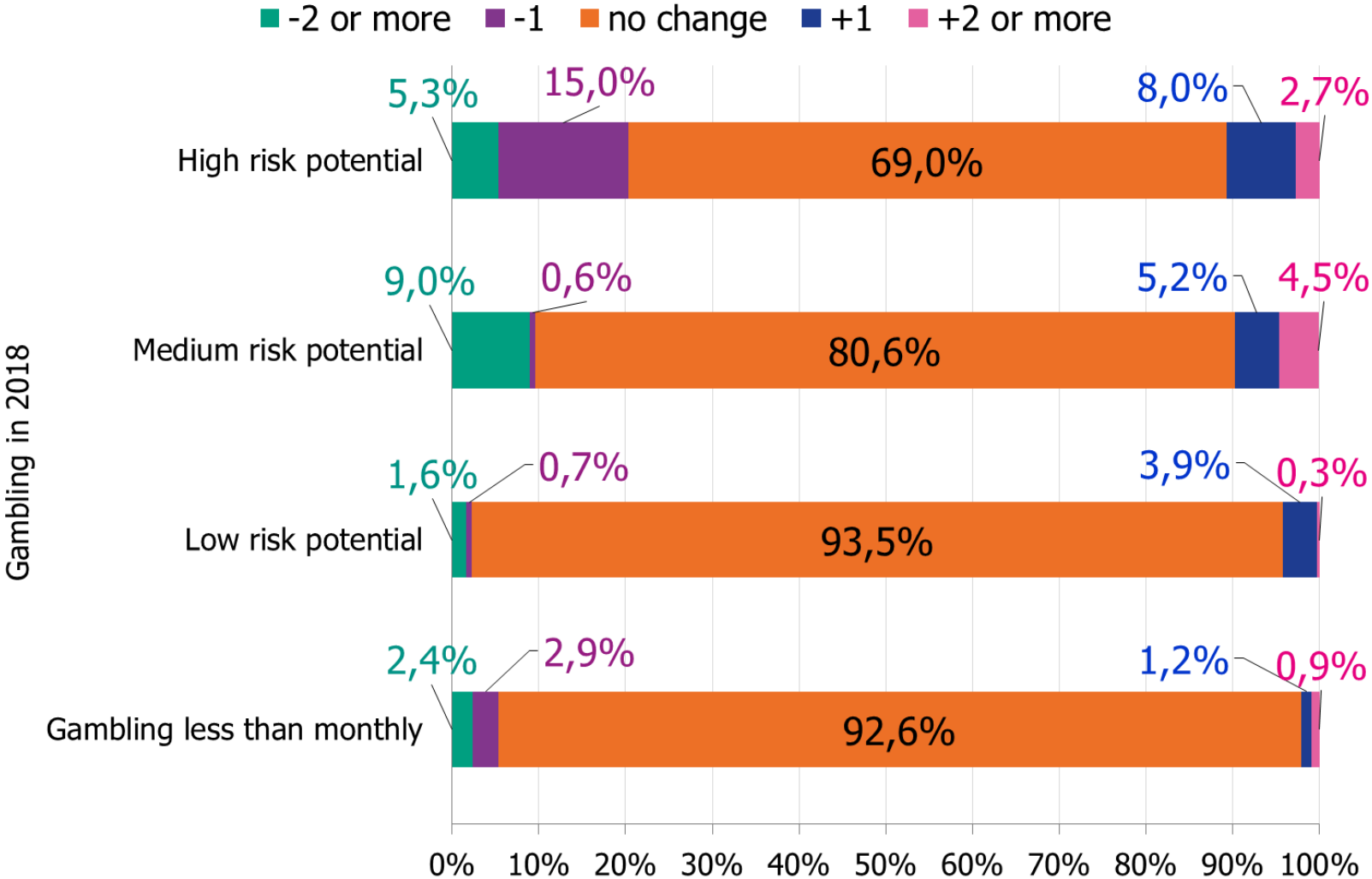
# Most change among 25-44 years olds



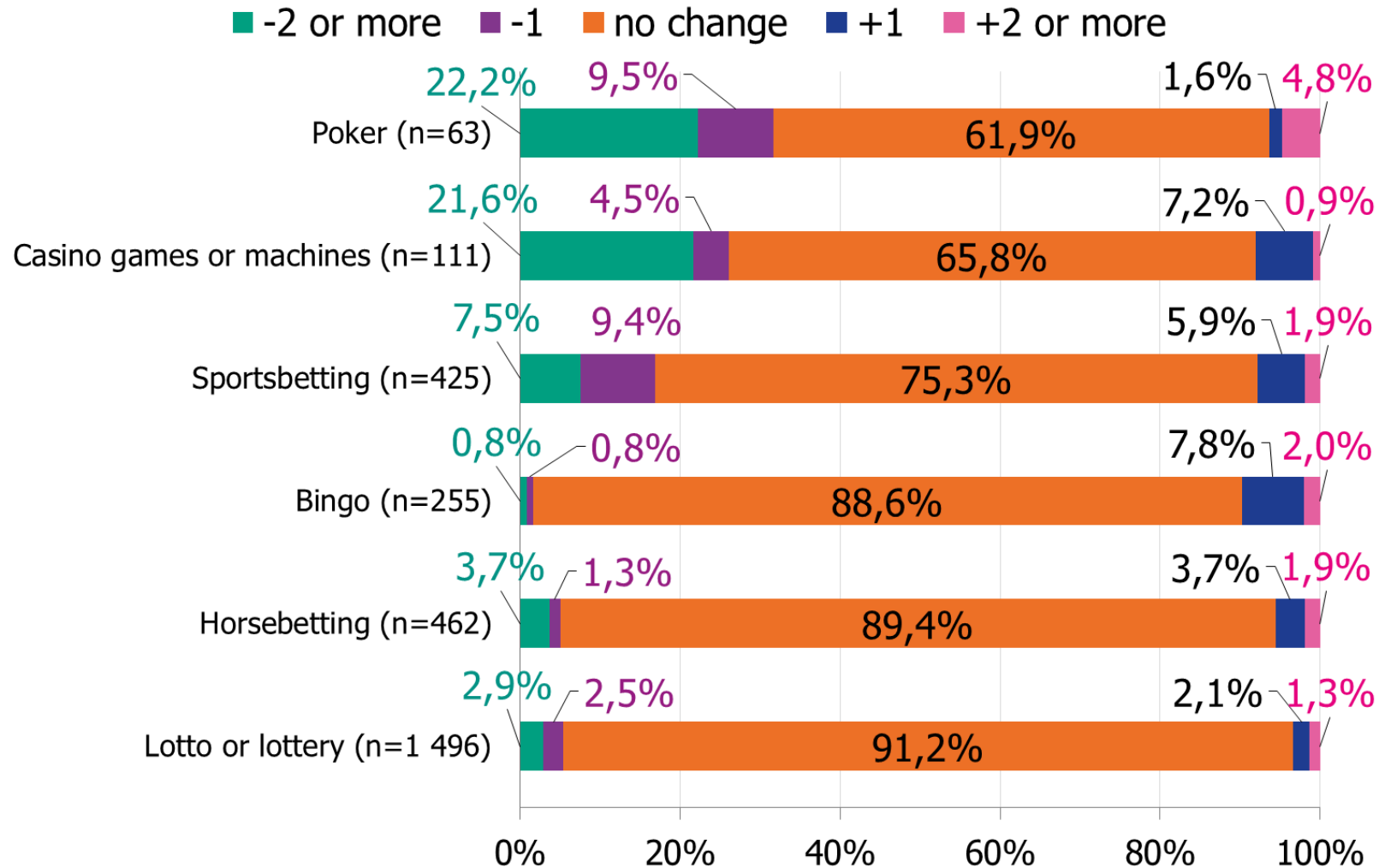
# Increase most common around 30-40 years of age



# Changes related to level of regular and risky gambling in 2018



# Changes in PGSI scores related to gambling 2018



# Dependent variable: PGSI 2+ or more from 2018 to 2021

Ref: No  
gambling 2018



- PGSI=0; OR=2
- PGSI>0; OR=7

Ref: Female



Male; OR=2

## Past year gambling 2018

OR<sub>adj</sub>

## Monthly gambling 2018

OR<sub>adj</sub>

Lotto/lottery

n.s.

Lotto/lottery

n.s.

Sportsbetting

3.7

Sportsbetting

4.8

Horses

4.0

Horses

5.8

Bingo

2.2

Bingo

n.s

Poker

3.5

Poker

n.s

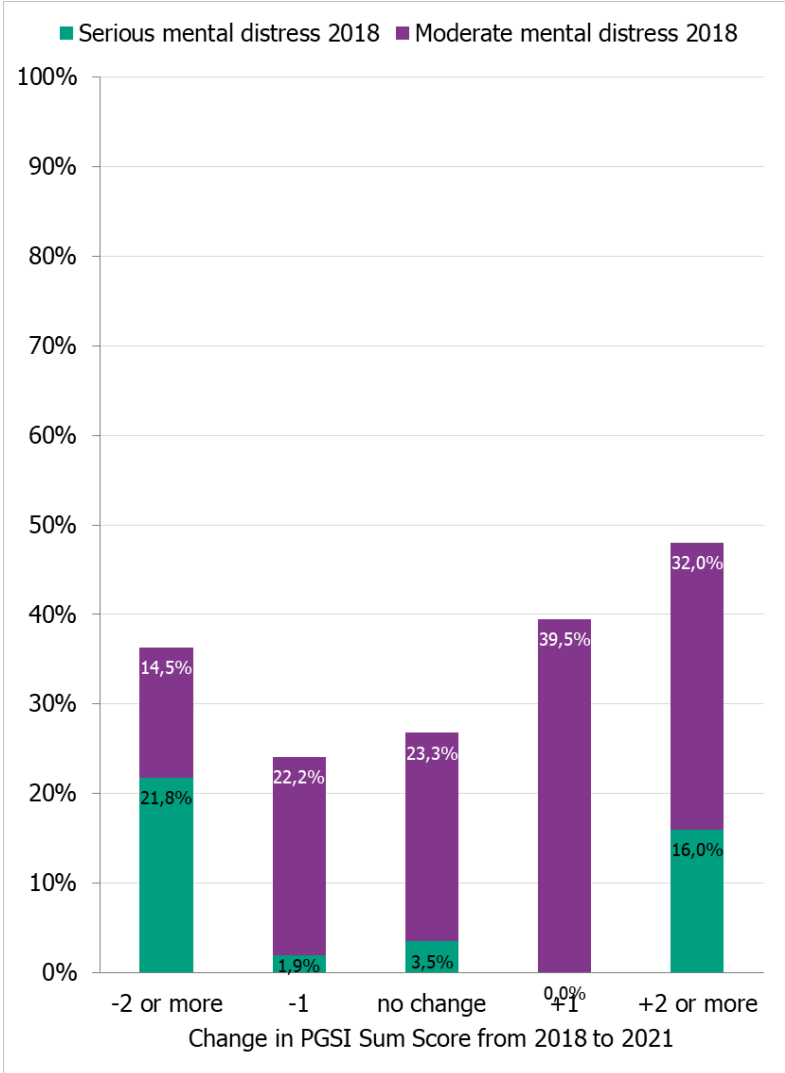
Casino games/ VLTs

n.s

Casino games/ VLTs

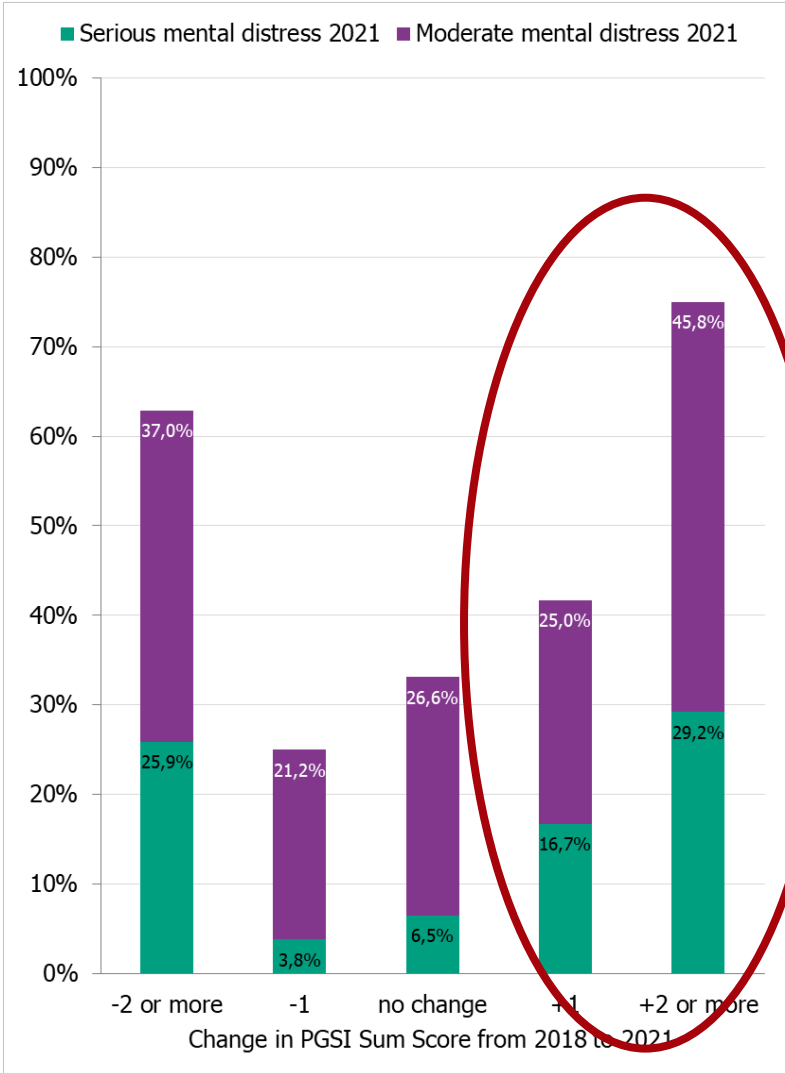
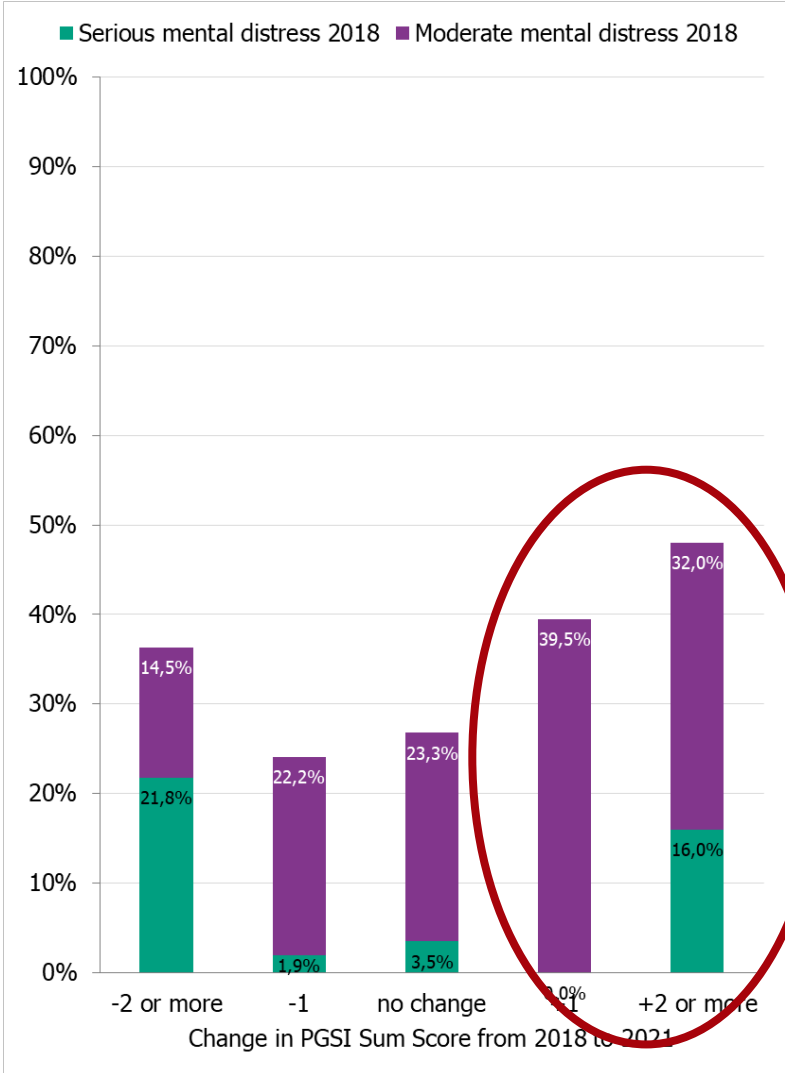
13.0

# Changes in degree of gambling problems related to increased mental distress

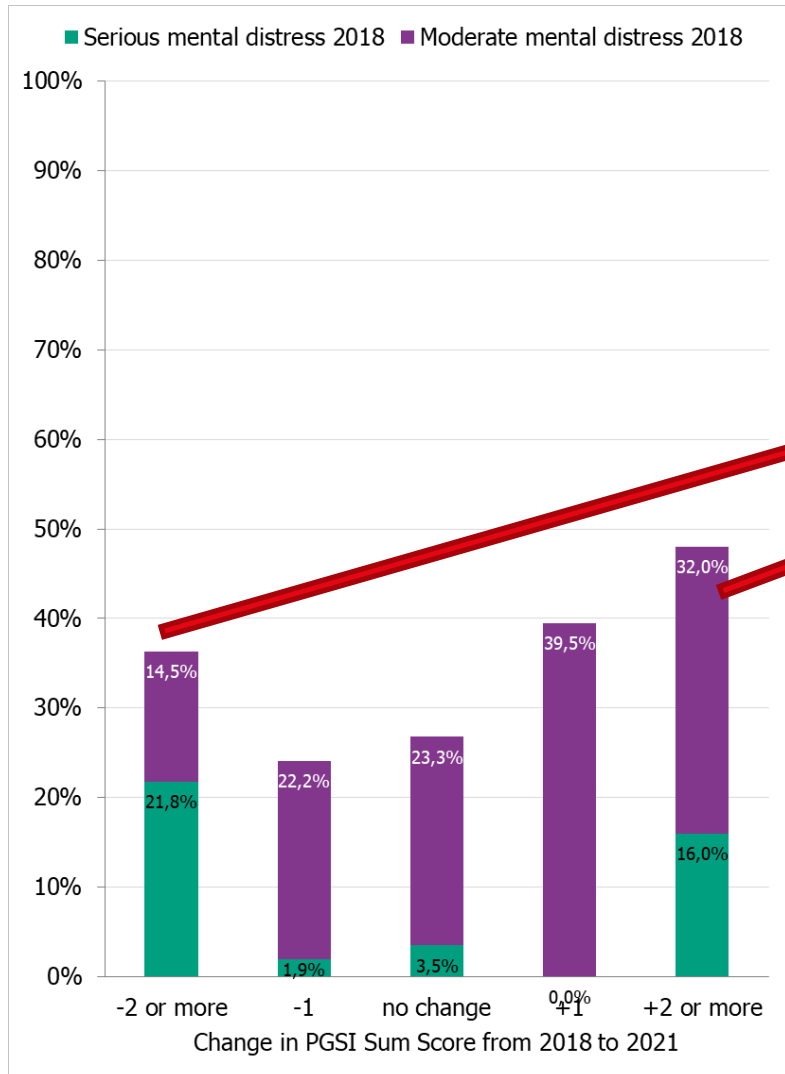




# Changes in degree of gambling problems related to increased mental distress



# Larger changes in degree of gambling problems related to larger changes in mental distress



# Conclusions

- No change in prevalence of problem gambling (in Sweden) does not mean that nothing has changed
- Low risk gamblers most likely to increase their level of problem gambling
- Problem gambling and mental distress are often related



Folkhälsomyndigheten  
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF SWEDEN

**Thank you!**

