

Parental attitudes toward youth gambling: The results from a national Canadian study

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Introduction

- Despite not being of legal age to gamble on regulated forms of gambling, adolescents remain at risk for developing gambling problems (Dickson, Derevensky & Gupta, 2004; Jacobs, 2004; National Research Council, 1999; Shaffer & Hall, 1996; Shaffer, Hall & Vander Bilt, 1999).
- Early research suggests adolescents perceive parents generally approve of their gambling, are not concerned about getting caught gambling, and report gambling with family members is typically a common occurrence (Gupta & Derevensky, 1997; Ladouceur & Mireault, 1988; Moore & Ohtsuka, 1997).
- This study sought to directly ascertain parental attitudes, perceptions and concerns related to youth gambling.

Method

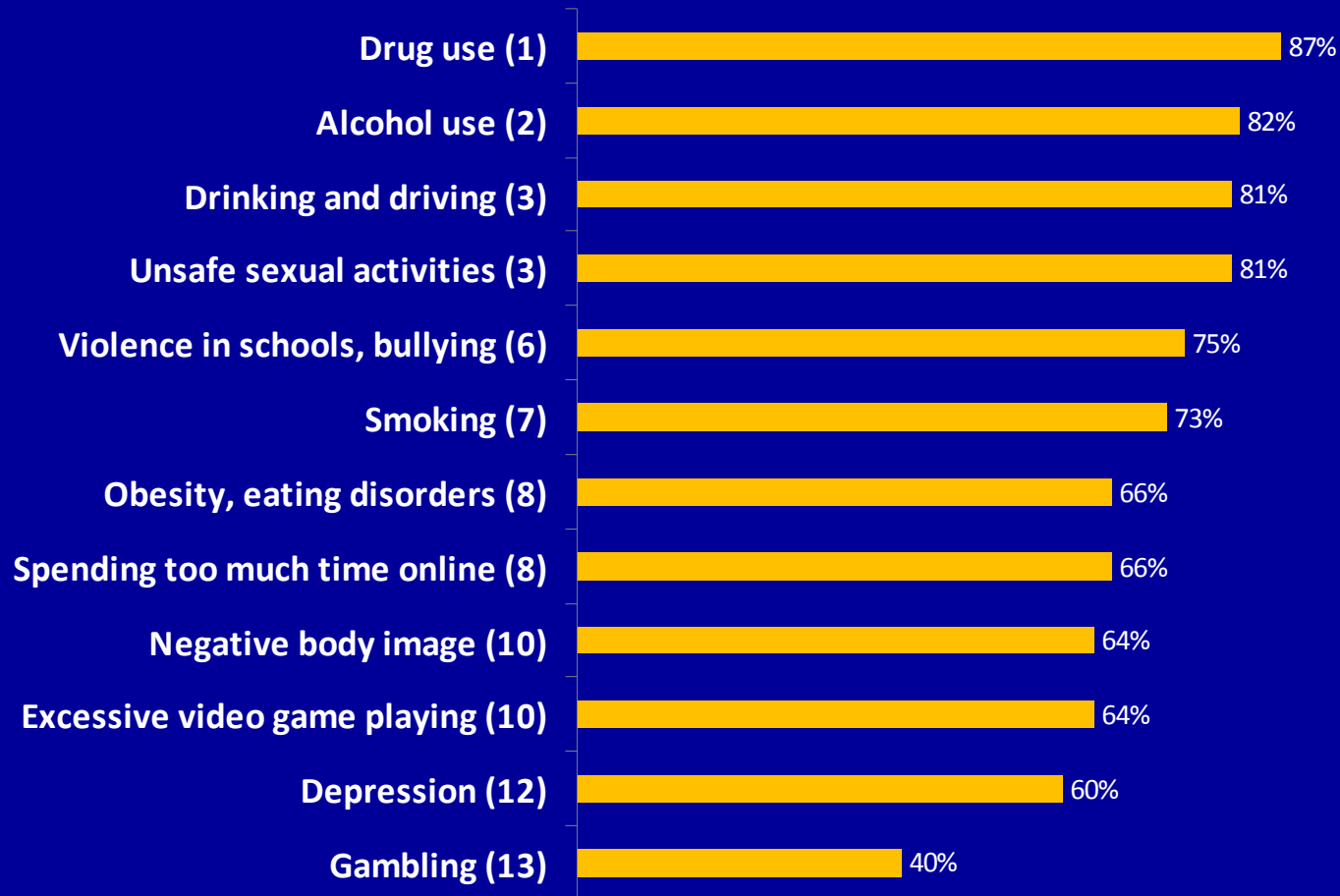
- Participants included parents of children 12-18 years of age recruited via an Internet based survey.
- Approximately 40,000 Canadian individuals were contacted via e-mail to complete the survey, with 2,710 individuals completing the survey.
- 846 males (31.2%) and 1,864 female (68.8%).
- The survey was available in both English and French.
- The mean age of respondents was 45 years, with most parents falling between the ages of 45-54.

Method

- Parents referred to their oldest child between the ages of 12-18 currently living at home.
- Four separate domains were examined: 1) attitudes that parents held towards gambling in comparison to other risky behaviours, 2) parental gambling behaviour, 3) involvement in gambling with their children, and 4) attitudes/awareness regarding youth education and prevention for gambling problems and other risky behaviours.
- Responses were weighted for parent gender, children's gender, age of the child, and province of residence.

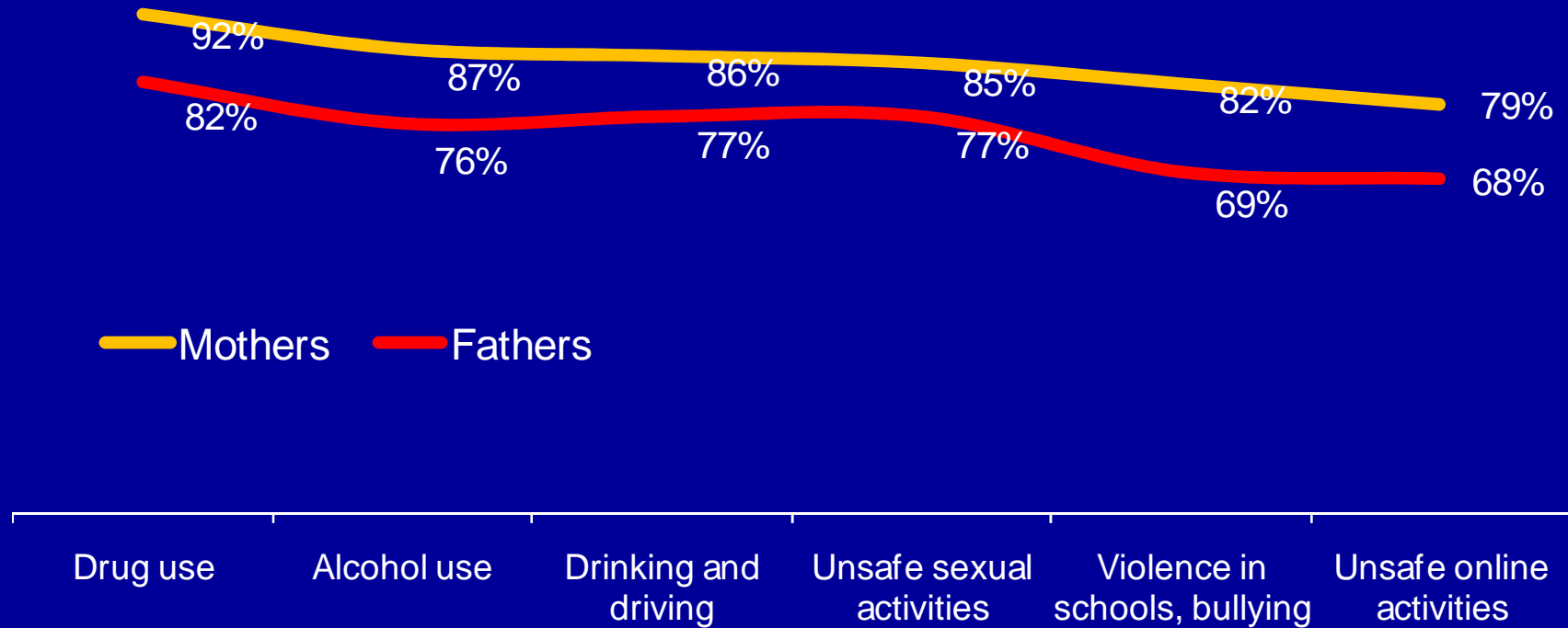
Results

Figure 1: Serious Youth Issues



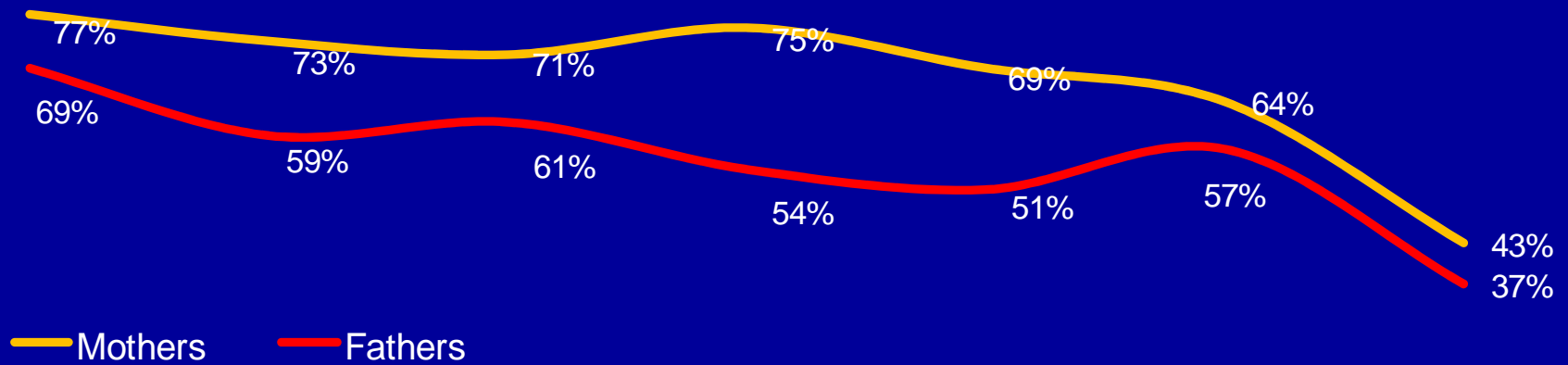
In your opinion, how **serious** of an issue are the following for teens today? Note, Figure represents responses as “serious” and “very serious.”

Figure 2: Comparison of Mothers & Fathers' Attitudes Toward "Serious" Youth Issues



Note: Figures represent "serious" and "very serious."

Figure 3: Comparison of Mothers & Fathers' Attitudes Toward "Serious" Youth Issues (continued)



Note: Figures represent "serious" and "very serious."

Figure 4: Issues Impacting Children

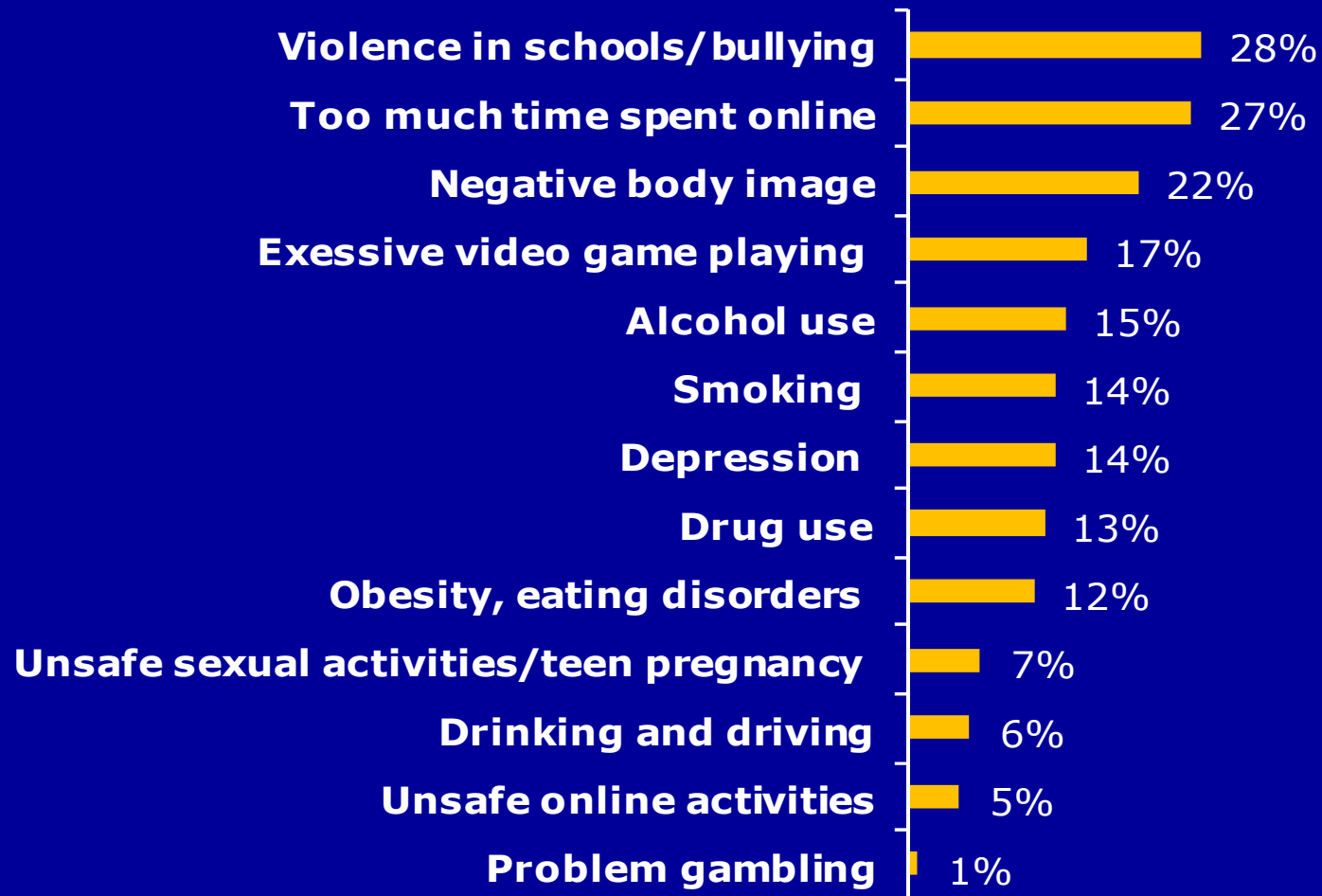


Figure 7: Gambling Activities Personally Participated in With Money (Past Year)

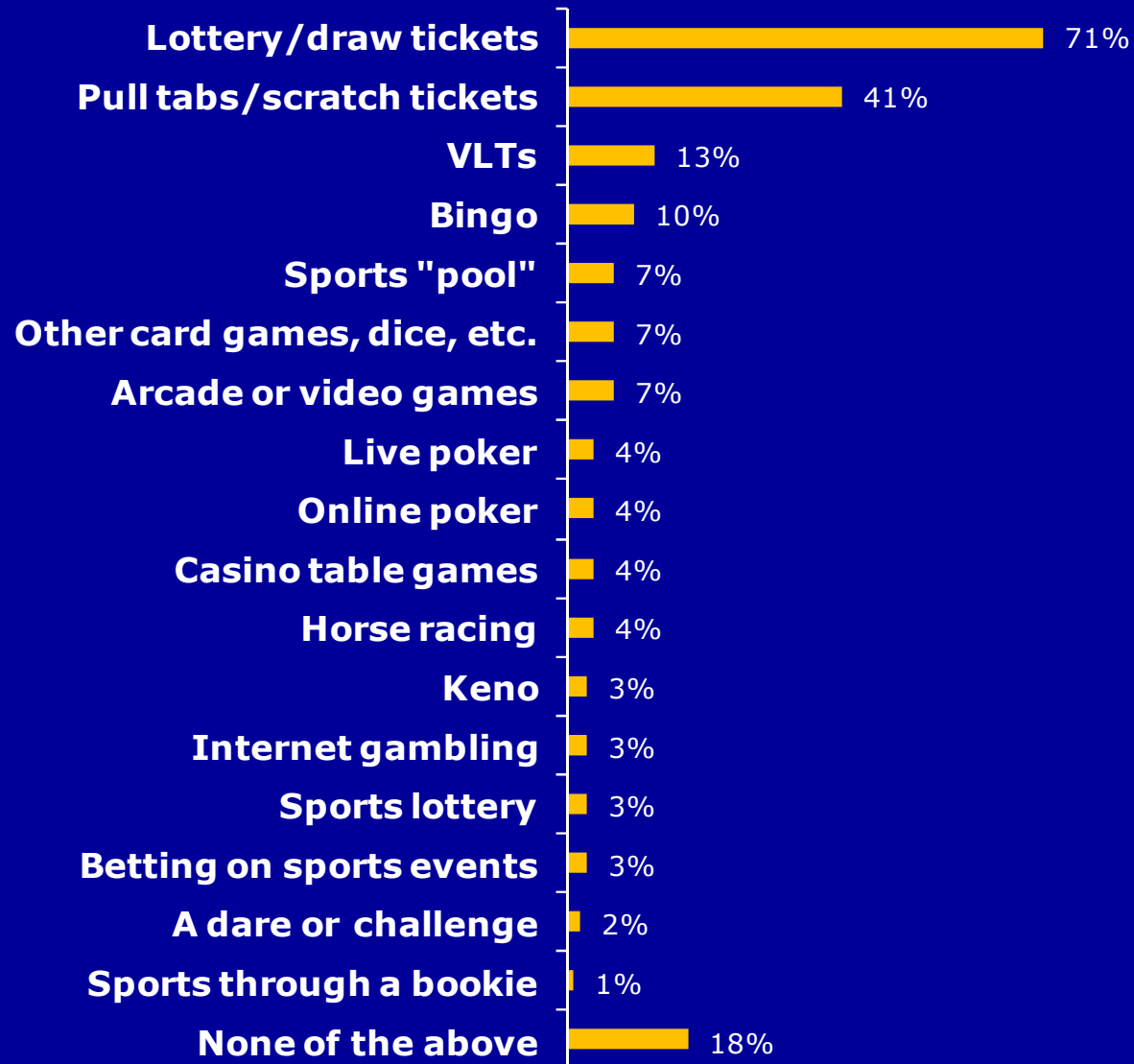
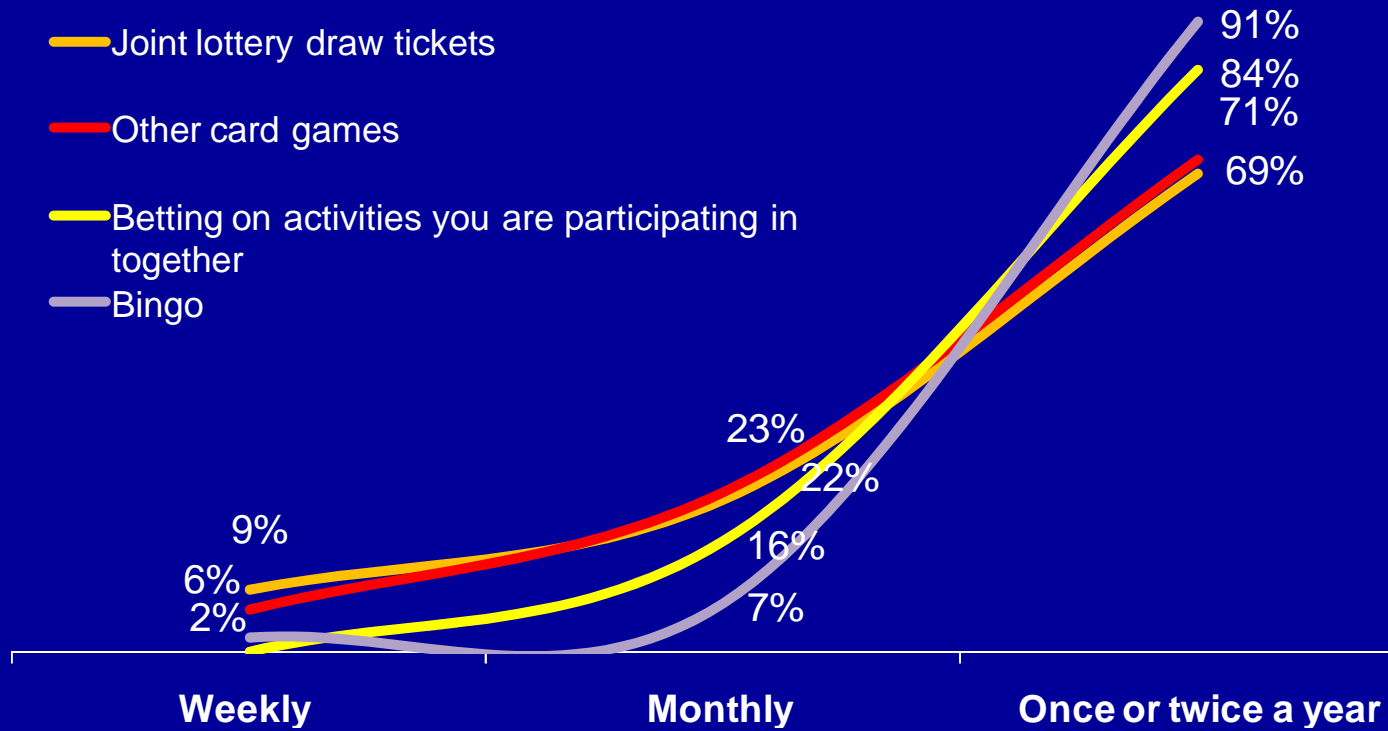
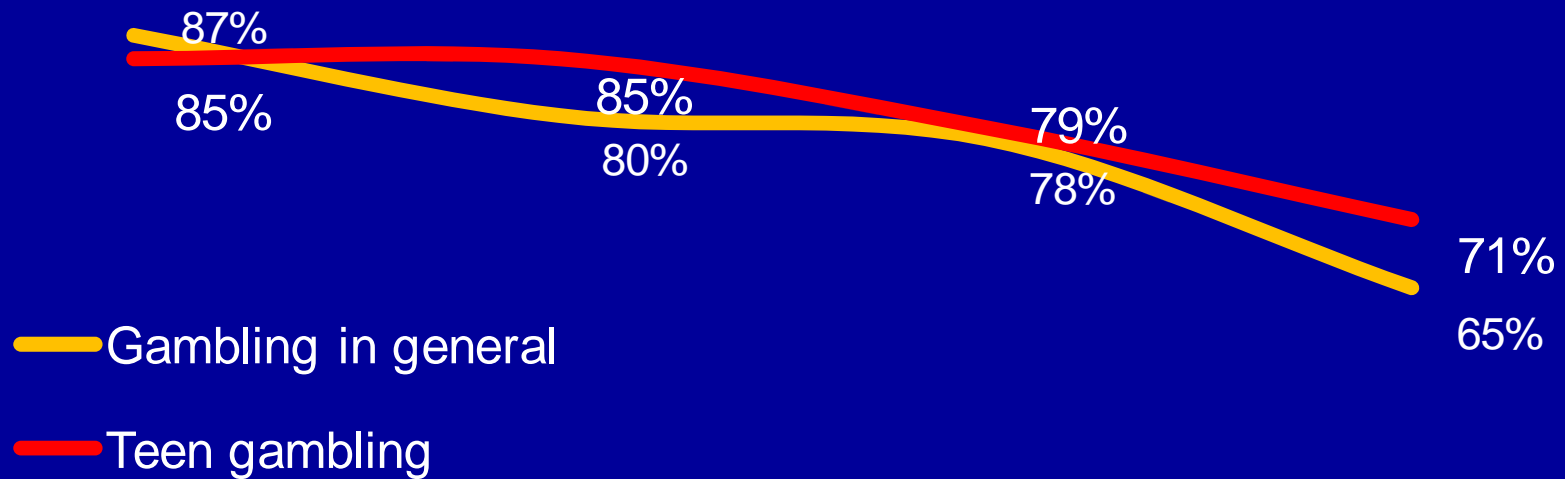


Figure 8: Frequency of Participation in Gambling Activities for Money With Child



Note: Figures represent cumulative percentages.

Figure 9: Parents' Attitudes Toward Gambling & Teen Gambling



Highly addictive

Negatively
impact work
performance

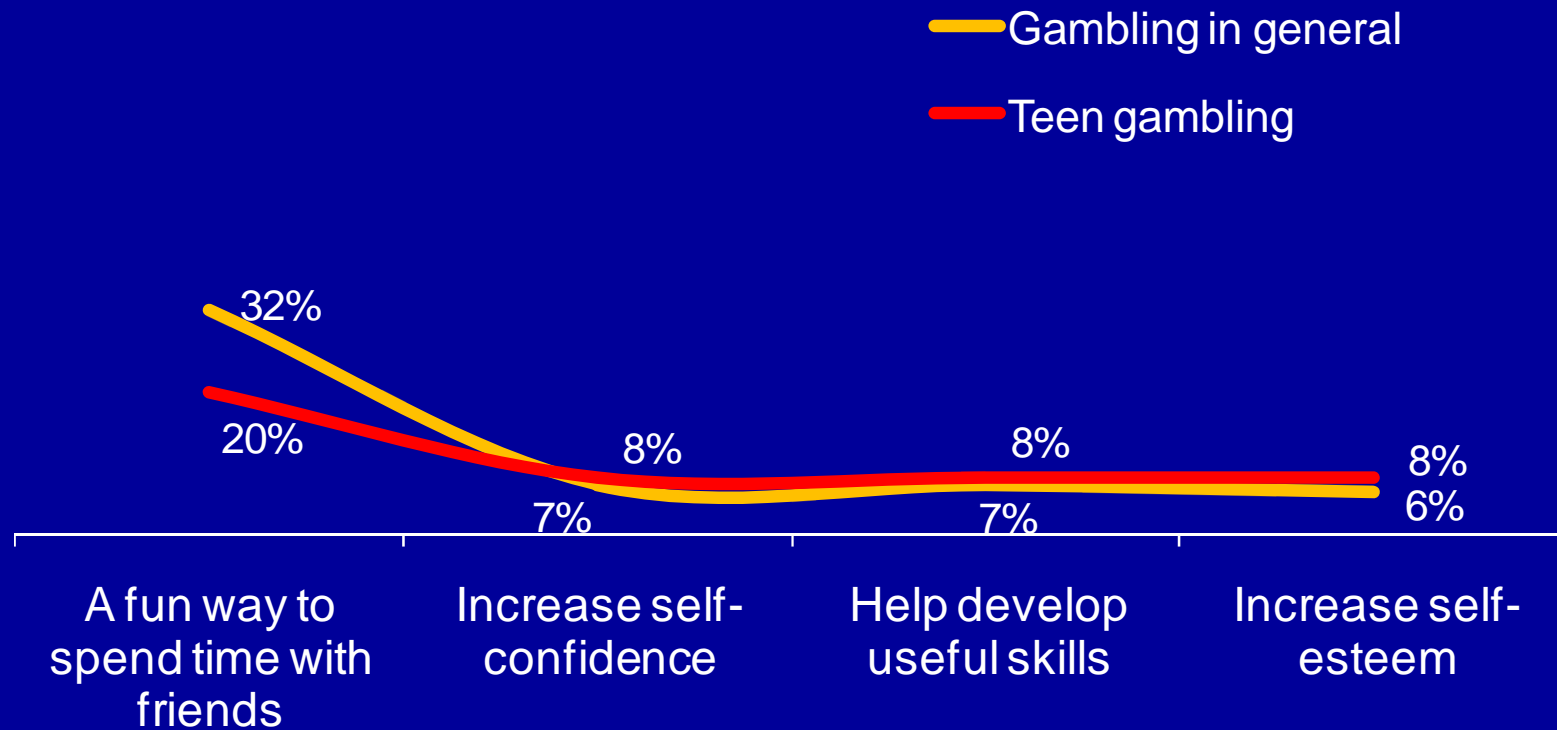
Negatively
impact
friendships

Lead to criminal
behaviour

Gambling can . . .

Note: Figures represent "agree" and "strongly agree."

**Figure 10: Parents' Attitudes Toward Gambling & Teen Gambling
(continued)**



Gambling can . . .

Note: Figures represent "agree" and "strongly agree."

Figure 11: Level of agreement that there are “Benefits” associated with gambling

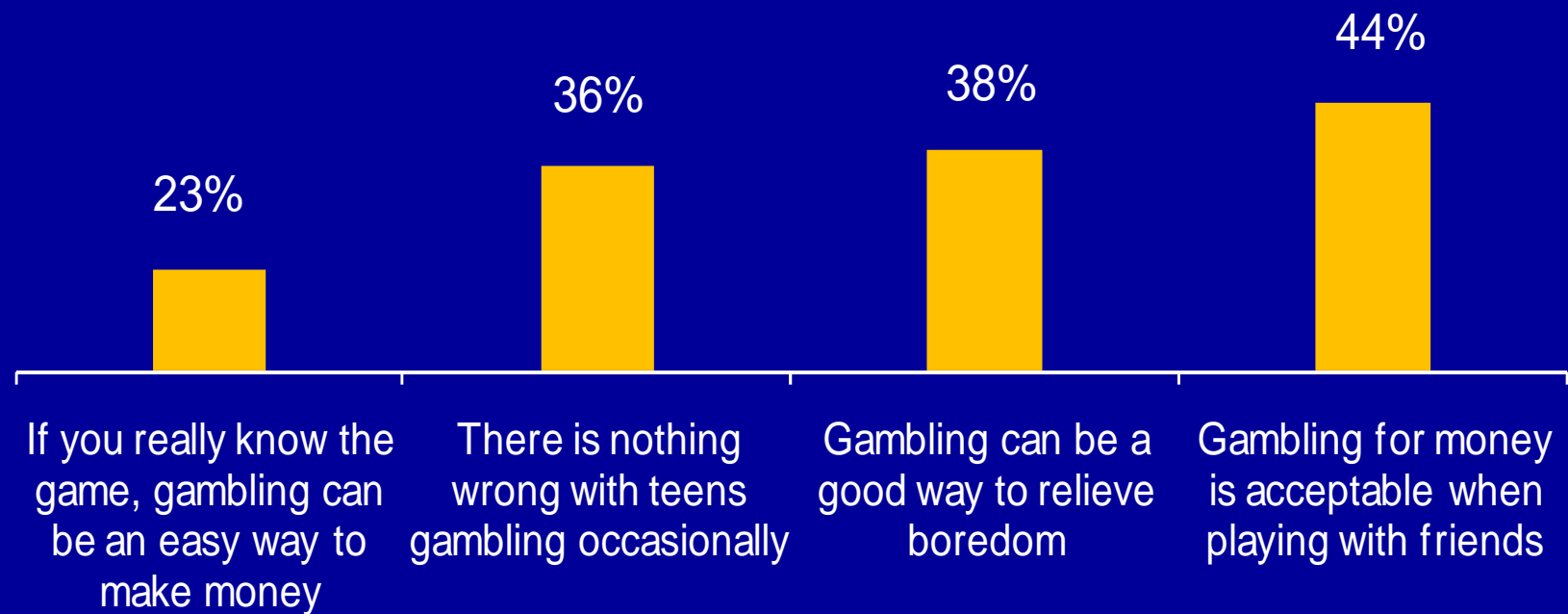
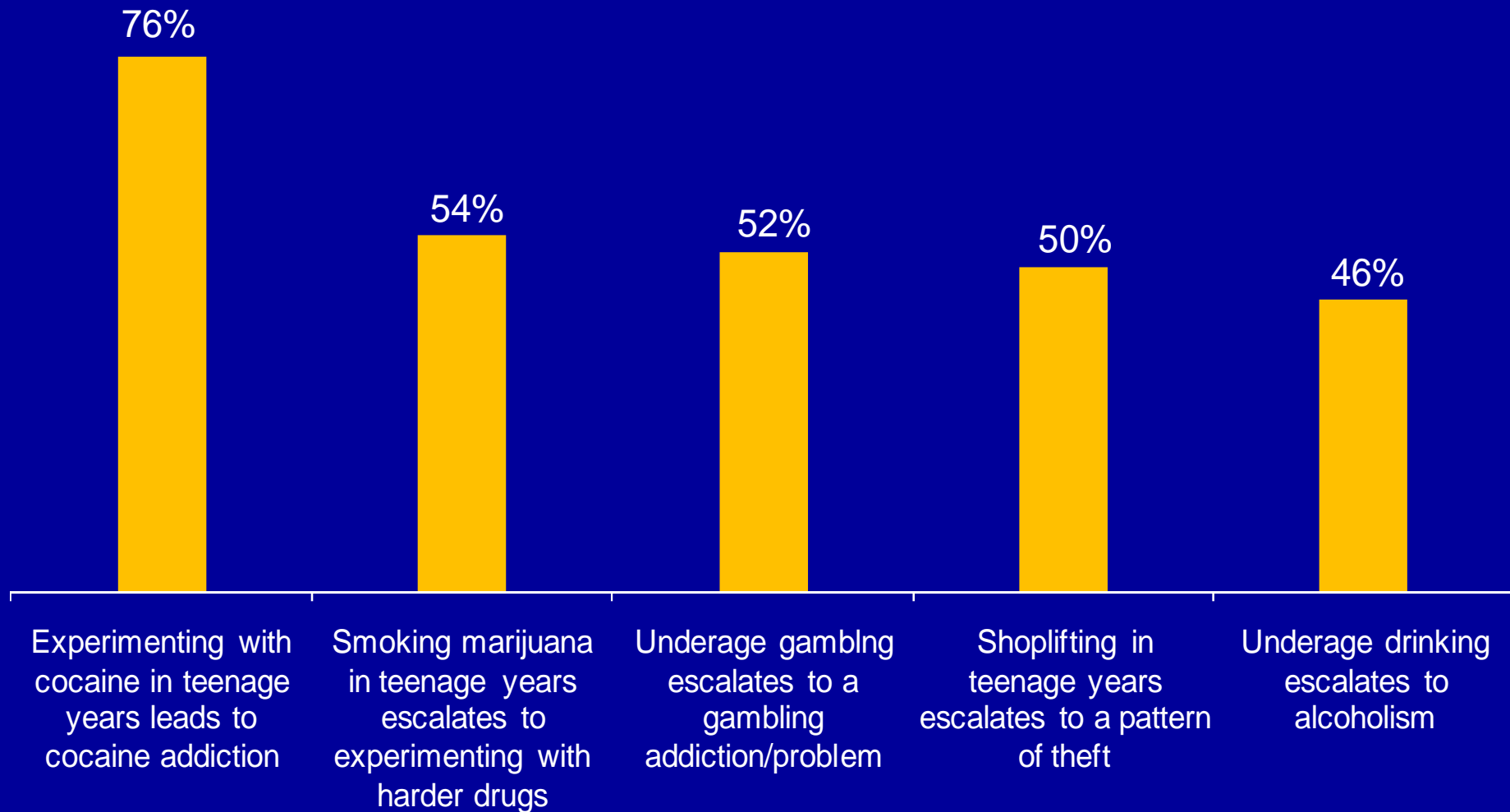


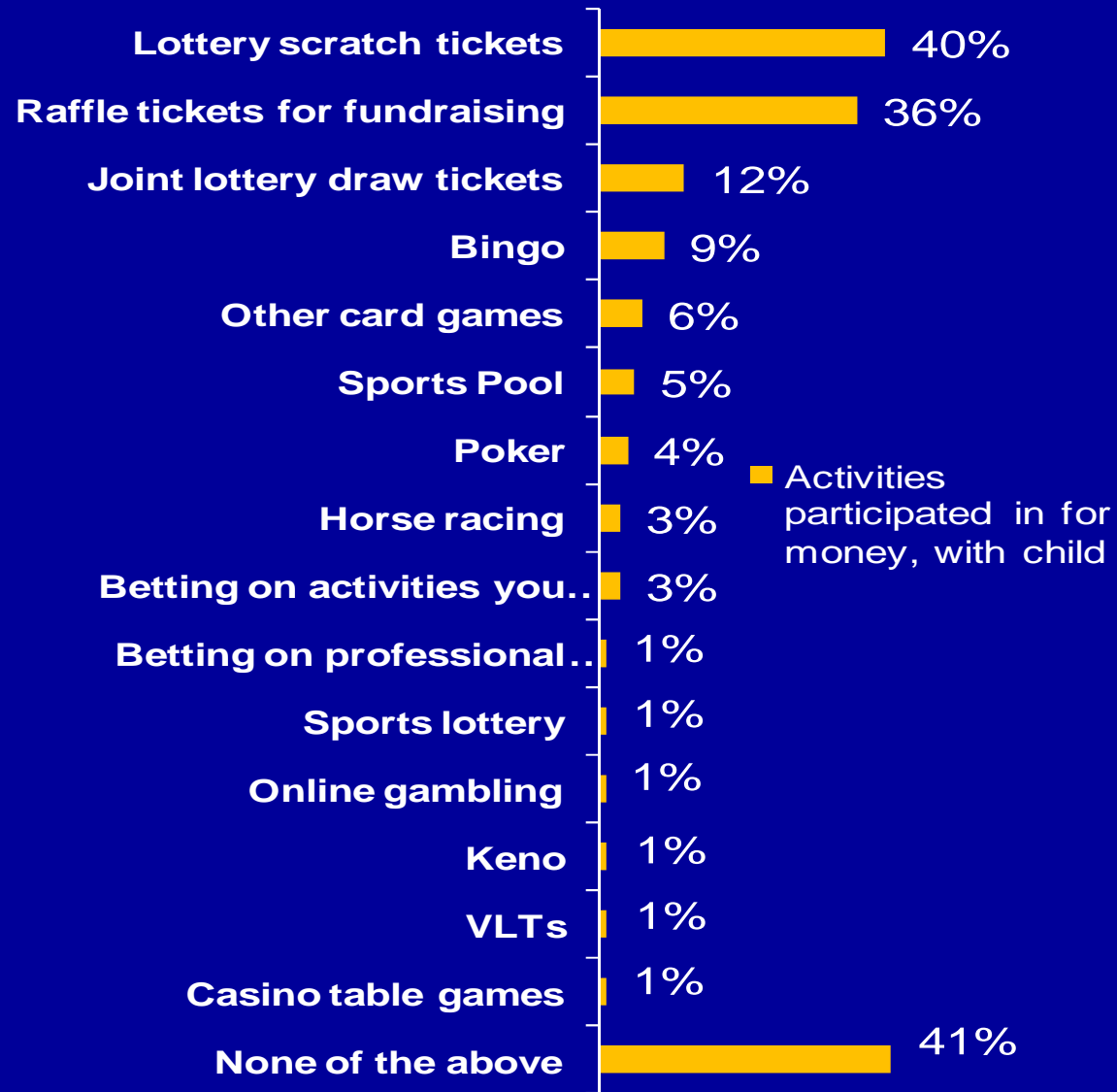
Figure 12: Parents Belief that Teen Experimentation Leads to Serious Problems



Note: Figures represent “likely” and “very likely.”

Parental Gambling with their Child

Figure 15: Gambling Activities Parents Participate in With Their Child for Money



with their child

Figure 16: Age of Child When Parent First Gave Lottery Ticket

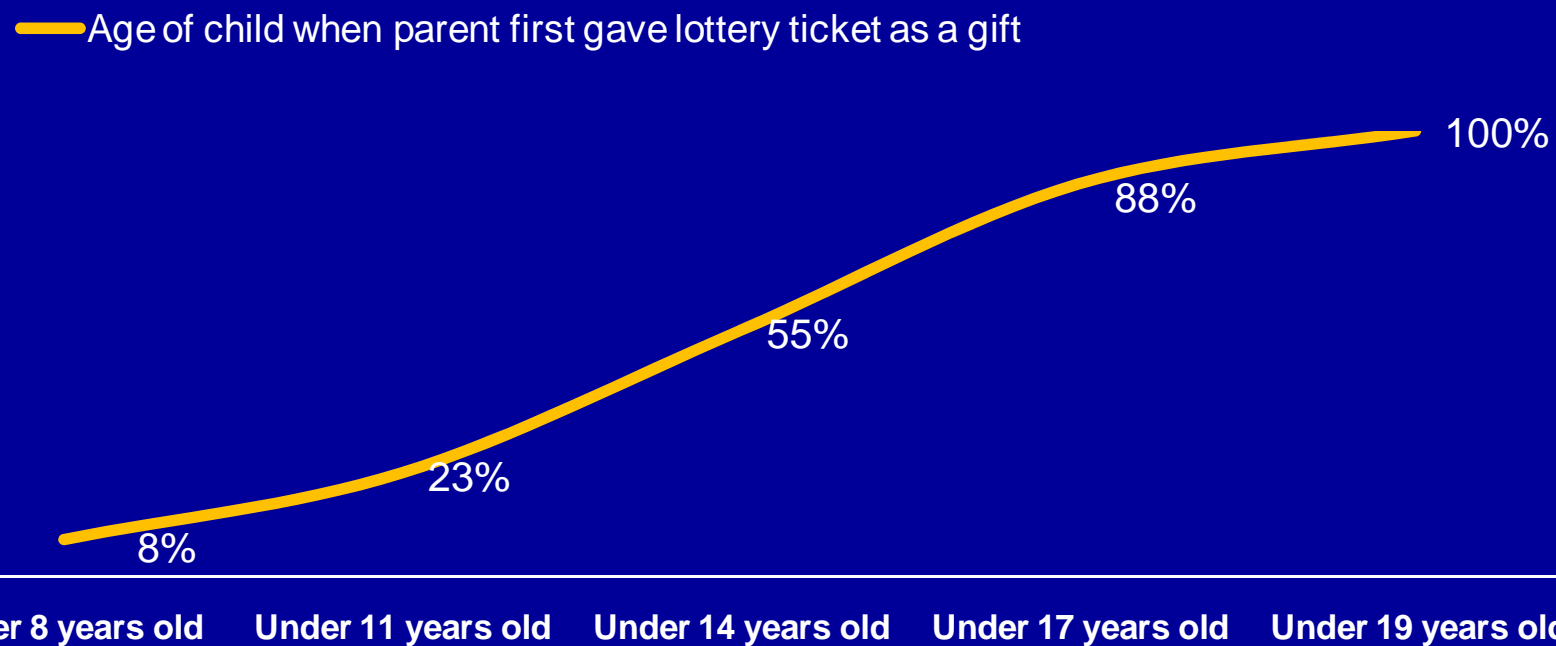
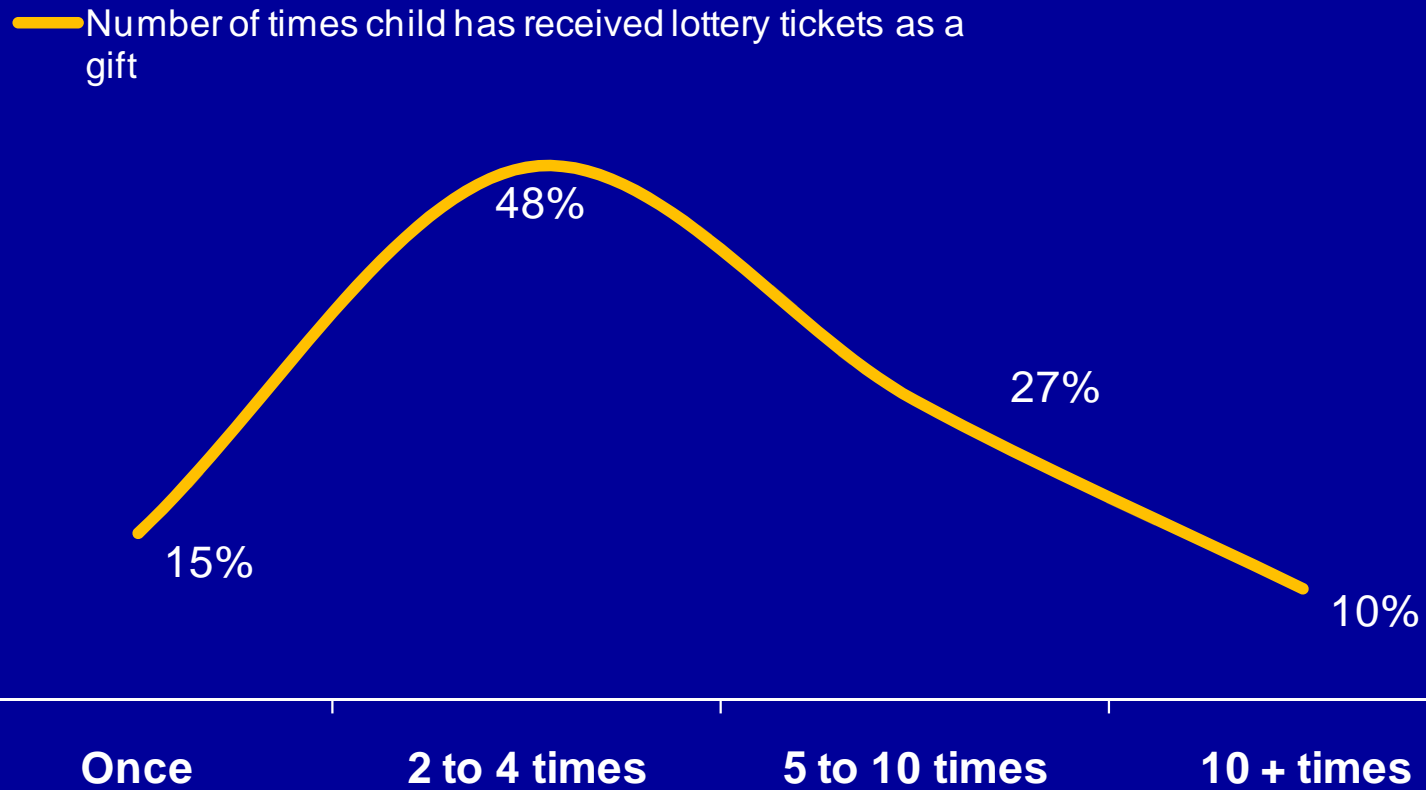


Figure 17: Frequency Child has Received Lottery Tickets as a Gift



Approximate number of times child received a lottery draw ticket, scratch ticket or sports ticket as a holiday, birthday, or other gift.

Figure 18: Gambling Activities Parents Believe Their Child has Participated in for Money

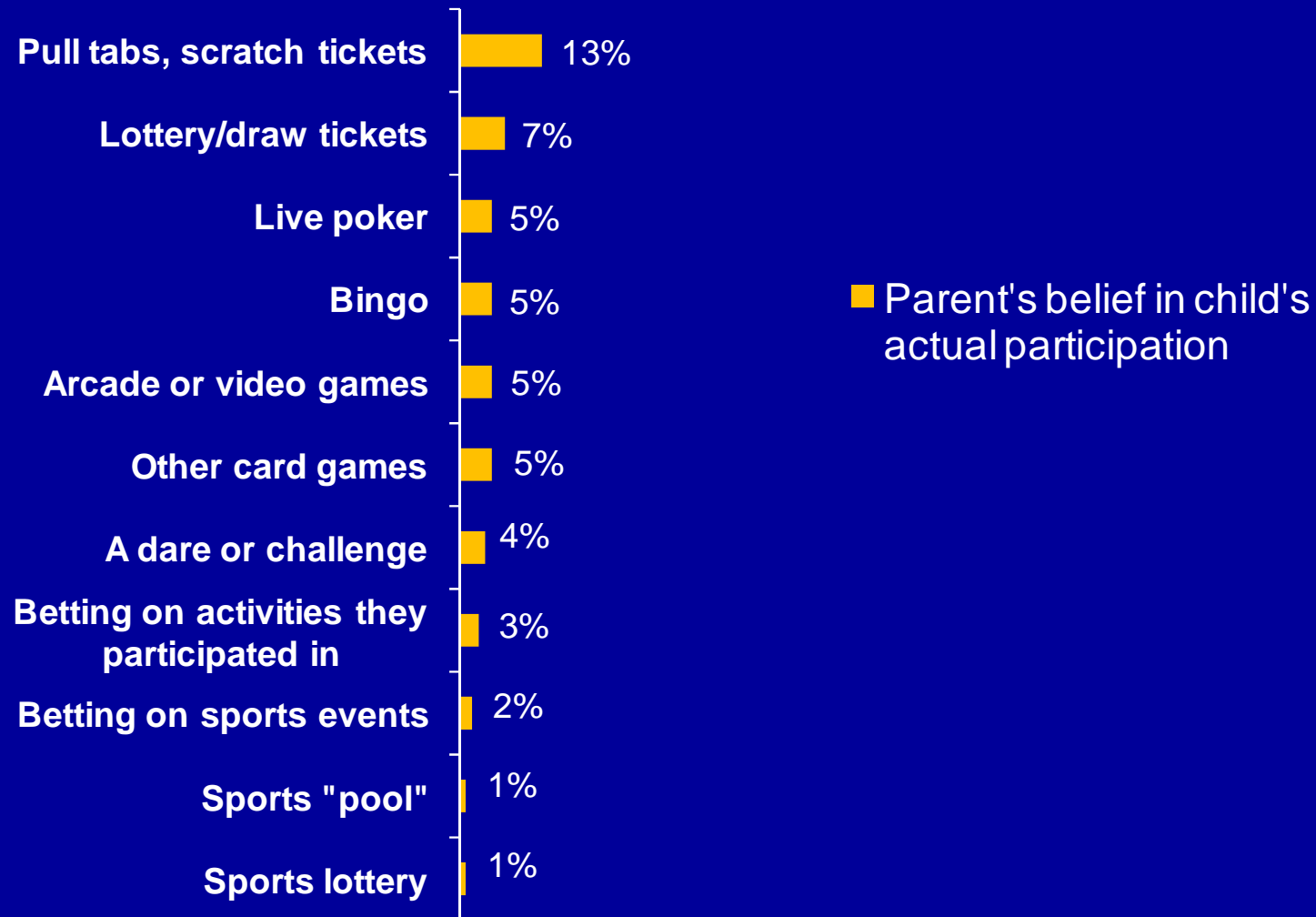
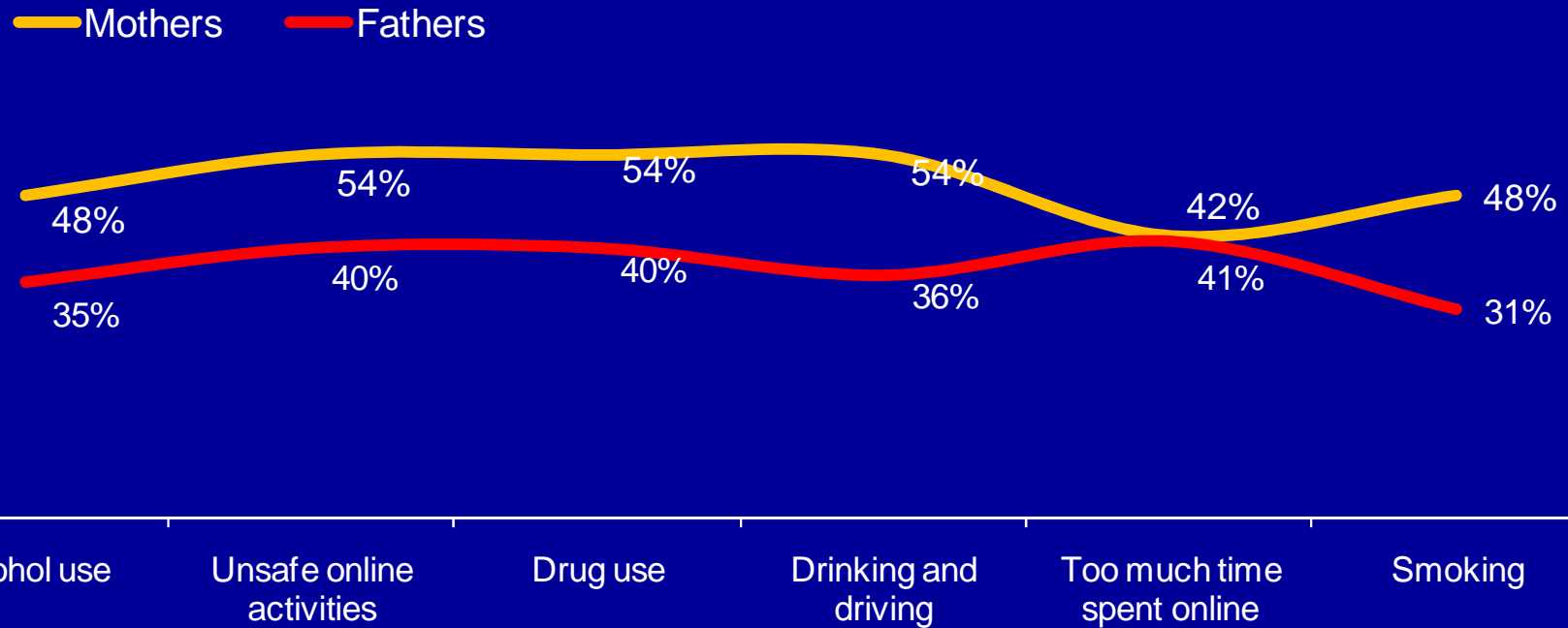


Figure 19: Level of Concern for Child's Involvement in Specific Gambling Activities for Money



Parent communication

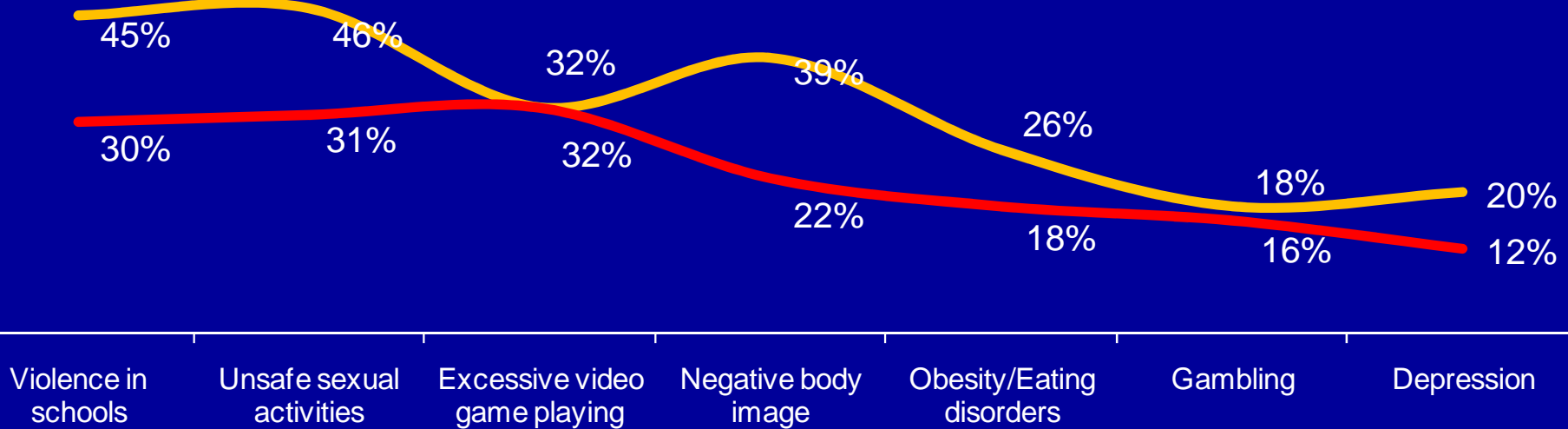
Figure 27: Frequency of Conversations Parents Have With Their Child About Youth Issues



Note: Figures represent responses: "often" and "regularly."

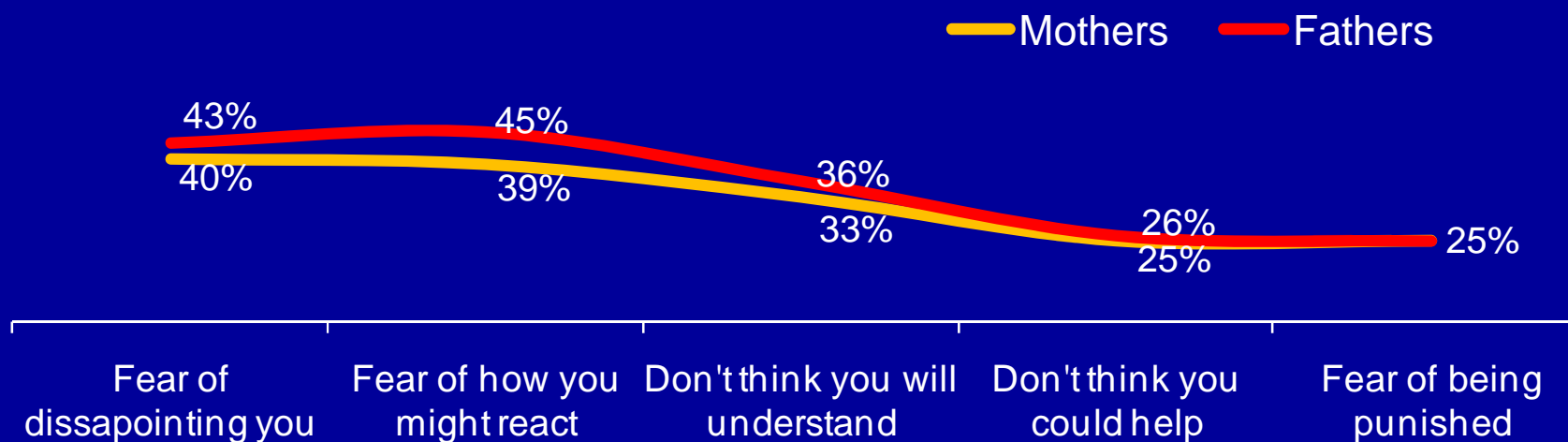
Figure 28: Frequency of Conversations Parents Have With Their Child About Youth Issues (continued)

— Mothers — Fathers



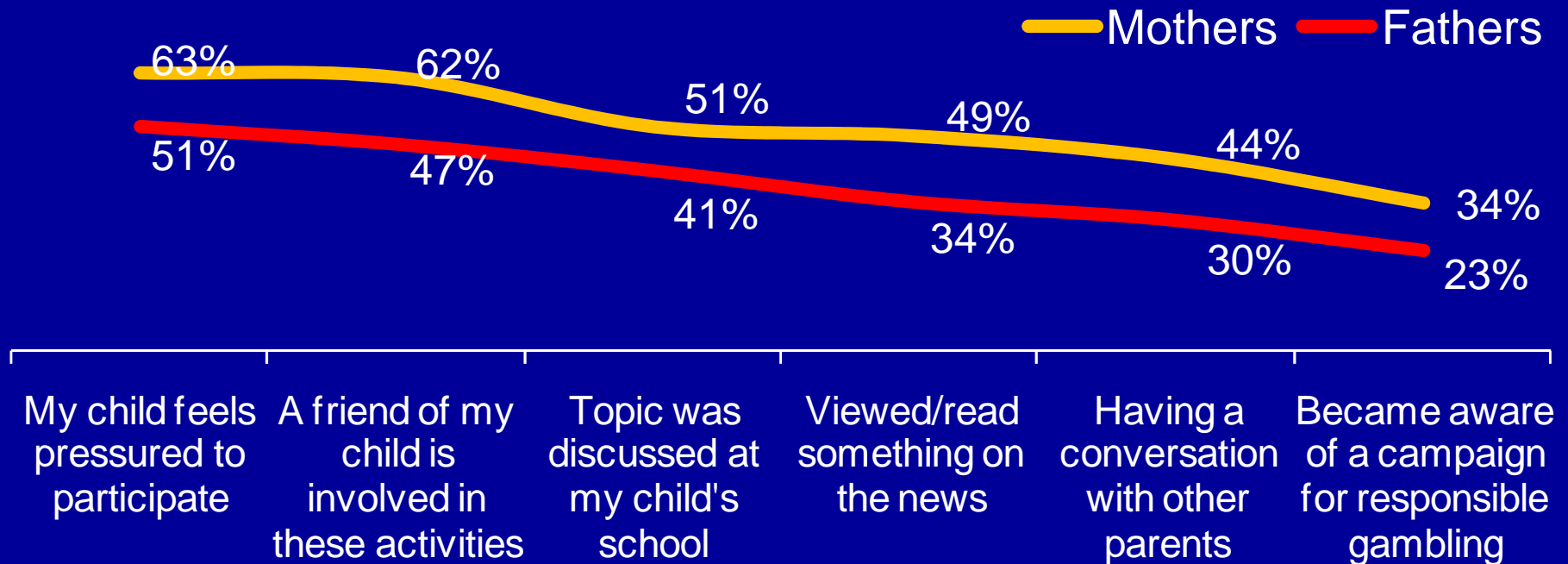
Note: Figures represent "often" and "regularly."

Figure 29: Barriers Parents Perceive Limit Discussing Youth Issues



Note: Figures represents "agree" and "strongly agree."

Figure 30: Situations That Would Prompt a Conversation About Gambling



Note: Figures represent "likely" and "very likely."

Summary

- Gambling was found to be the least commonly discussed issue of the 13 risky behaviours examined.
- Both mothers and fathers had conversations about gambling with their sons more often than with their daughters ($F(1, 2224) = 8.01, p < .01$).
- Mothers believed their children were more likely to listen to them about gambling than fathers ($F(1, 2224) = 5.64, p < .05$).
- Both mothers and fathers were more likely to think that discussing gambling was not a priority with their daughters compared to their sons ($F(1, 2224) = 19.92, p < .001$).

- The most commonly participated in gambling activities with their child included purchasing lottery scratch tickets (40%), raffle tickets for fund raising (36%), lottery draw tickets (12%) and bingo (9%).
- 21% of parents reported having purchased lottery tickets as a gift for their child, with 55% having purchased tickets when their child was less than 14 years old. Fathers reported purchasing lottery tickets for their children more often than mothers ($\chi^2(3, N = 544) = 14.76, p < .01$).

- 8.7% of parents replied that their child brought home information associated with gambling from school.
- 9.4% of parents reported that their child had participated in a prevention or education program about the potential risks associated with gambling at school.
- Parents rated gambling as having the poorest available information available compared with information on smoking, alcohol use, drug use, eating disorders and sexual practices.

Conclusions

- Current efforts, while minimal, to prevent the initiation of youth gambling are possibly being undermined by parents as the majority of parents reported having gambled with their children and do not view gambling as a serious youth issue.
- Given that parental behaviours and attitudes have a significant impact upon their children, the results highlight the importance of targeting parents as a method of helping to prevent youth gambling.

- The information available to parents about youth gambling may need to be reviewed for its quality and effectiveness. This perception may also be linked to the limited exposure to such programs.
- Parents remain an *important* partner in the education of their children and in helping prevent the early onset of gambling.

Acknowledgments

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