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Social Research that works for society

Gambling among sports people

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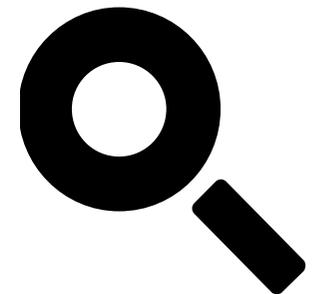
Gambling in Britain



1.

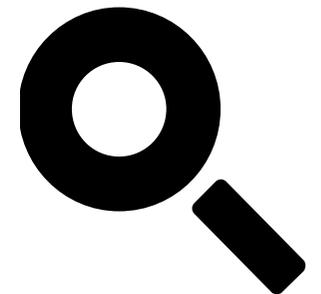
Breadth and depth of opportunity

- One of the most accessible gambling markets in the world
- Major changes over the past few years
- Historical and cultural appetite for gambling
- Technological innovation expanding the range, types and opportunities for gambling



Concerns about impact

- Estimated that up to 400,000 people experience problems
- A further 800,000 at-risk of problems
- Growing numbers of people seeking treatment for problems
- Range of problems experienced devastating for individuals and for families
- Particular types of people more at-risk of harm from gambling; those with less structured working arrangements; men who are younger



Study design



2.

Aims of the study

- To examine how many professional sports people gamble and experience problems
- To explore how this compares with the general population (men aged 44 and under)
- To understand what types of information services are being offered and how helpful sports people think these are
- To provide a benchmark to see if professional sports associations and/or clubs need to do more

Study so far

- Web survey of cricketers and footballers
- 176 cricketers interviewed (44% response rate)
- 170 footballers interviewed (6% response rate)
- Rugby players to launch their study in the New Year

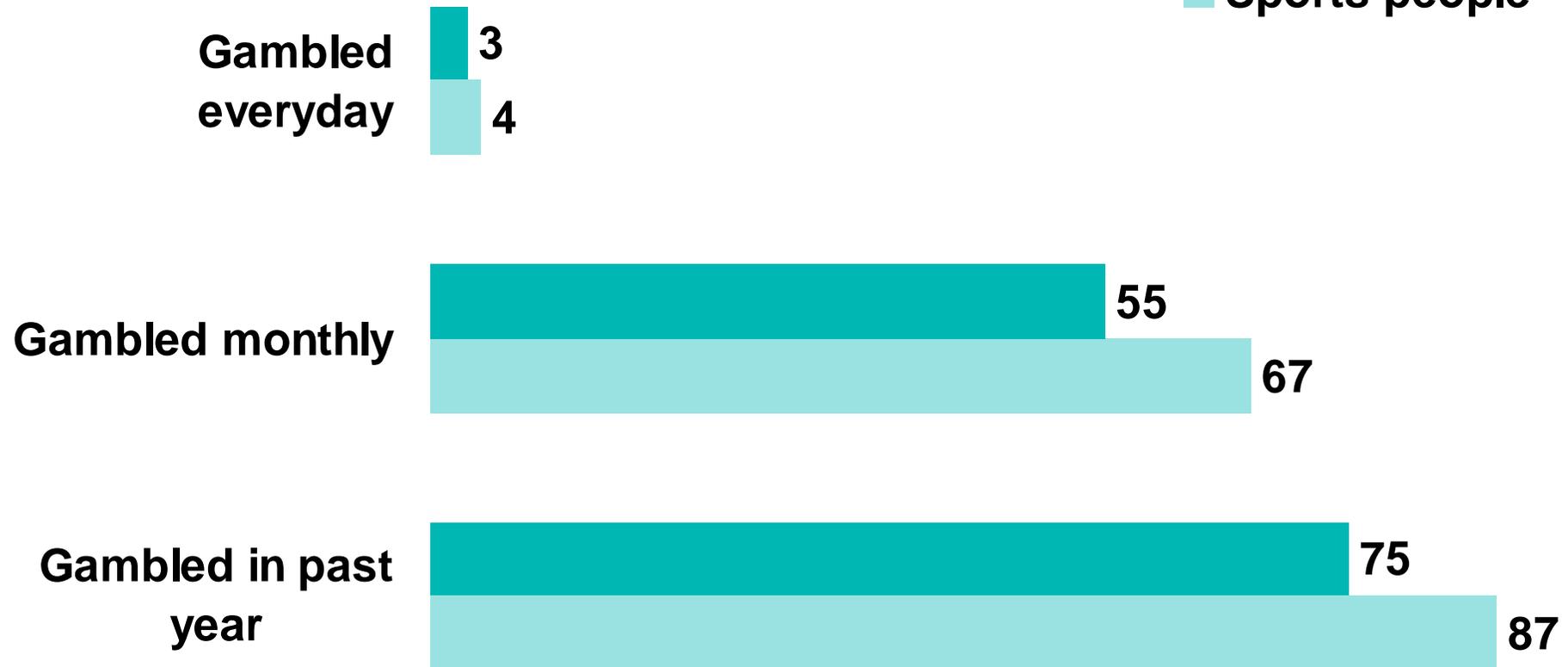
Key findings



3.

Gambling prevalence

■ General population
■ Sports people



Activities

Sports people:

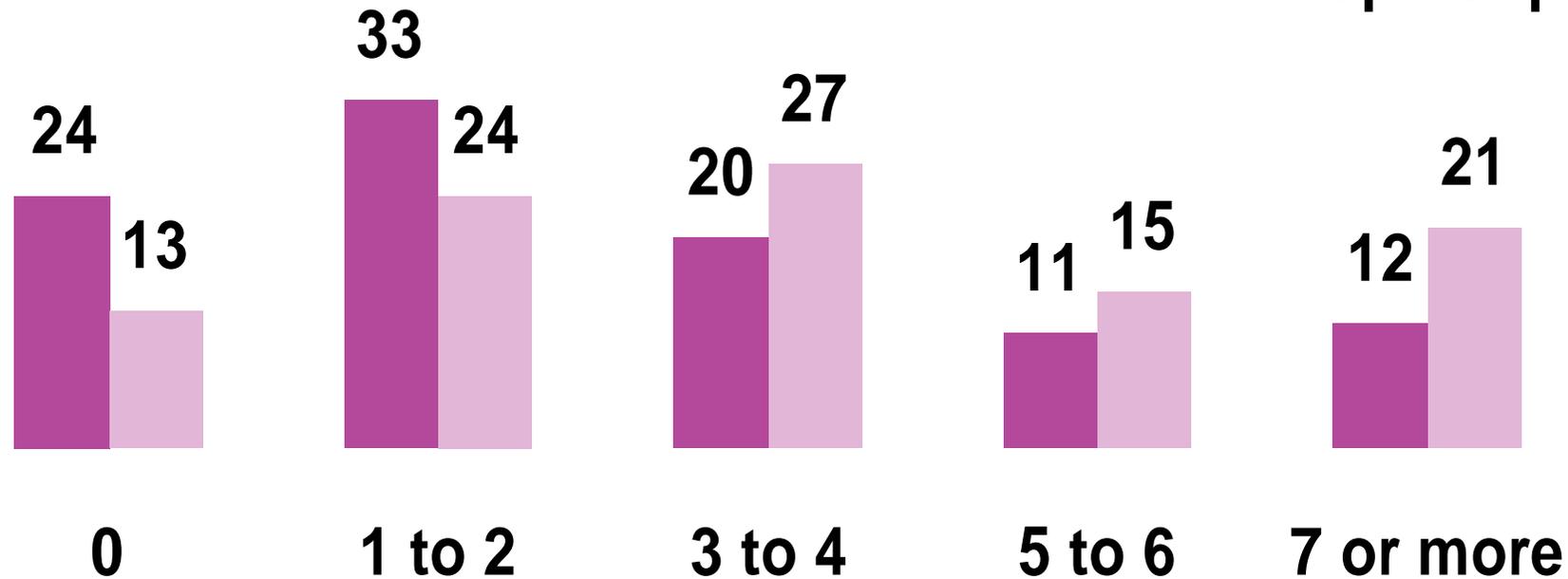
- (1) Online betting/ National Lottery (50%)
- (2) Table games in a casino (43%)
- (3) Betting on horses/dogs (36%)
- (4) Scratchcards (36%)
- (5) Machines in bookmakers (32%)

General population:

- (1) National Lottery (58%)
- (2) Scratchcards (32%)
- (3) Private betting/slot machines (24%)
- (4) Other lotteries (22%)
- (5) Betting on horse/dog races (21%)

Number of activities

■ General population
■ Sports people



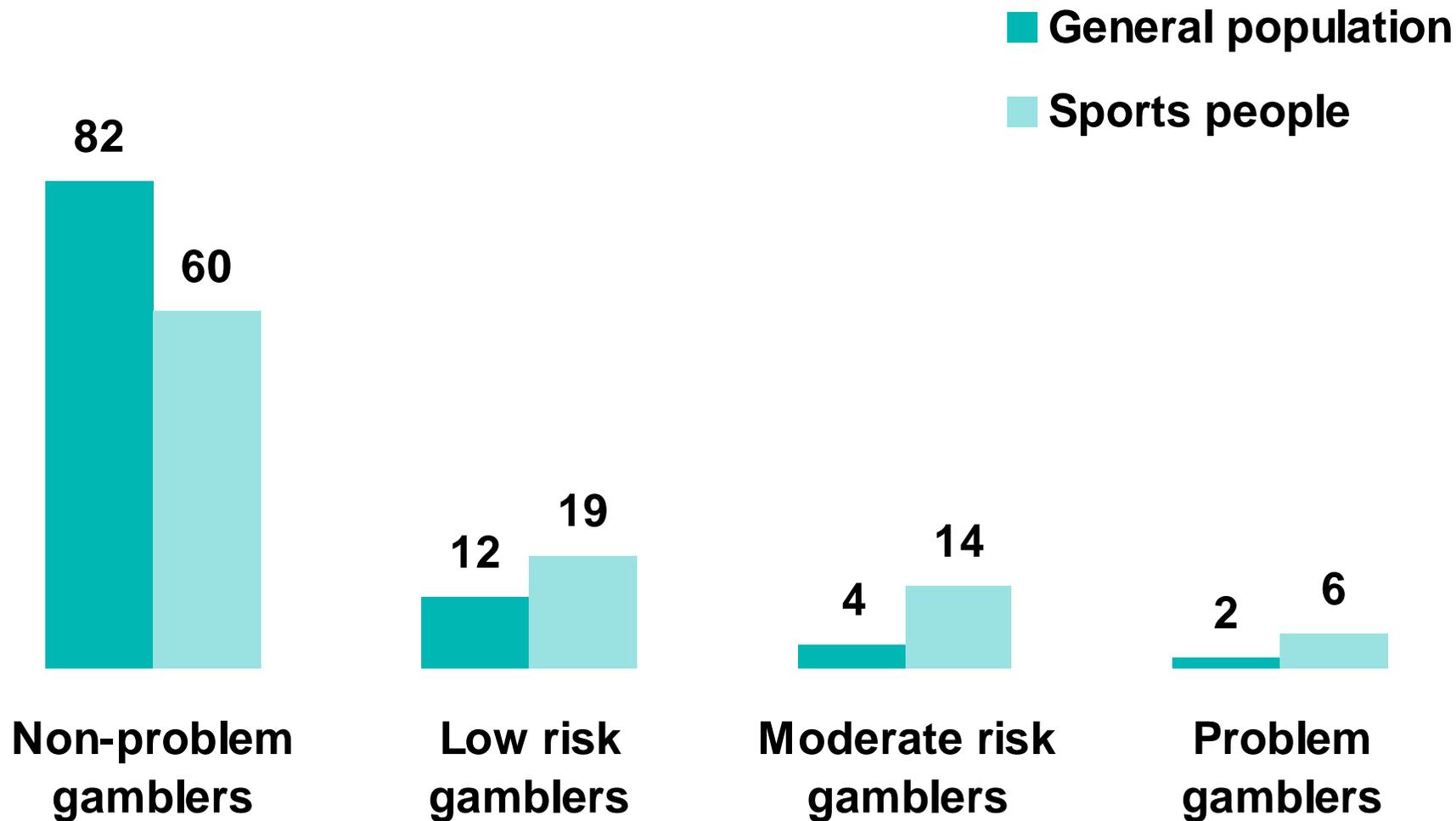
**Gambling to a degree that
compromises, disrupts or damages
family, personal or recreational pursuits**

Source: Lesieur & Rosenthal, 1991

Types of problems

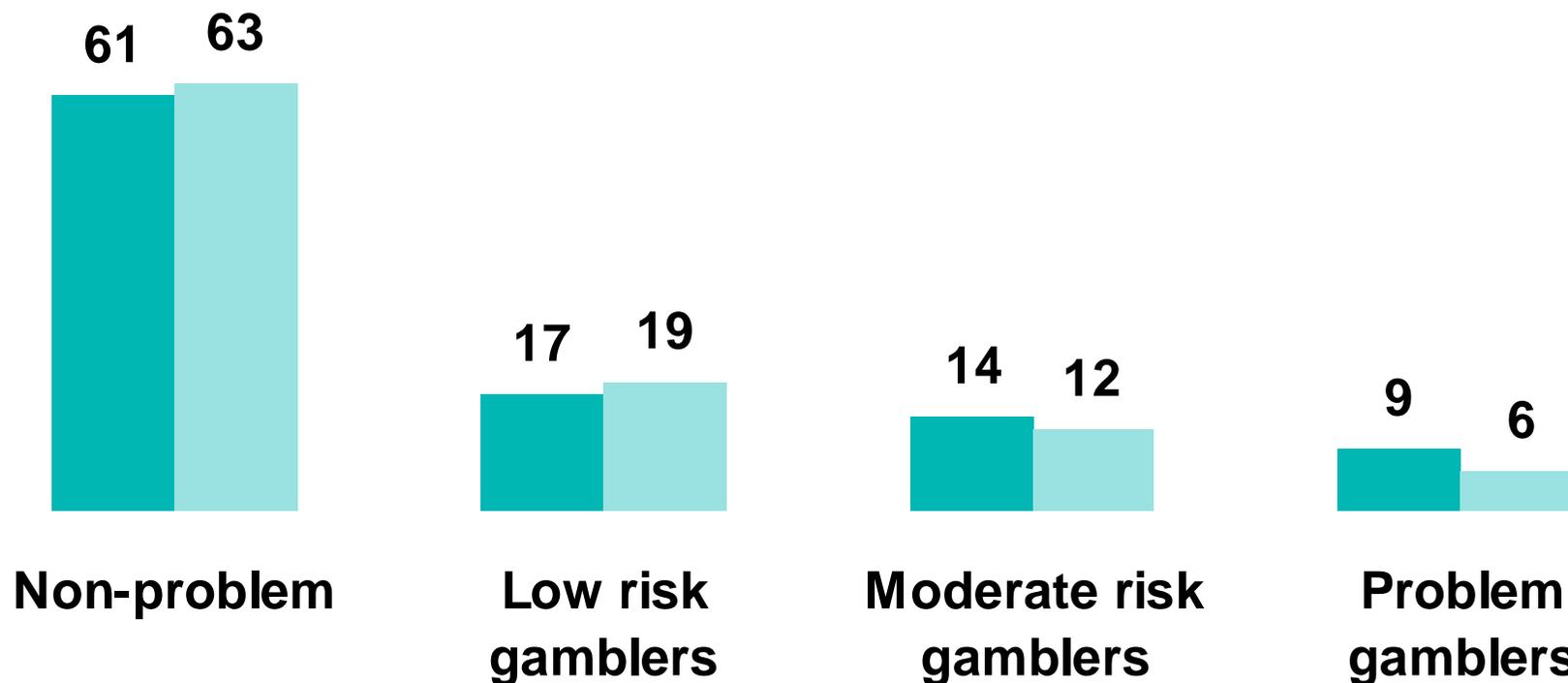
- Chasing losses (4.6% most of the time they gambled)
- Needing to gamble with larger amounts of money (4.3%)
- Feeling guilty about gambling (4.2%)
- Betting more than could afford to lose (2.7%)
- People criticizing your gambling (2.4%)
- Felt like had a problem with gambling (2.4%)
- Gambling caused stress, anxiety or health problems (1.5%)
- Borrowed or sold things to get money to gamble (0.9%)
- Gambling caused financial problems (0.6%)

Problem gambling



Problem gambling & income

■ Lower income
■ higher income



How many footballers and cricketers with problems?

c. 192

Estimate at least 192
with gambling
problems;

A further 440 at-risk of gambling
problems and pattern of not
seeking help

Seeking help

- 2.8% said they had sought help for problems with gambling
- Most frequent sources of help:
 - Family and friends
 - Player association
 - Manager/boss & gambling counselling service
- Speaking with family and friends is not unusual but engaging with employer/pastoral care of employer is

Prevention

25%

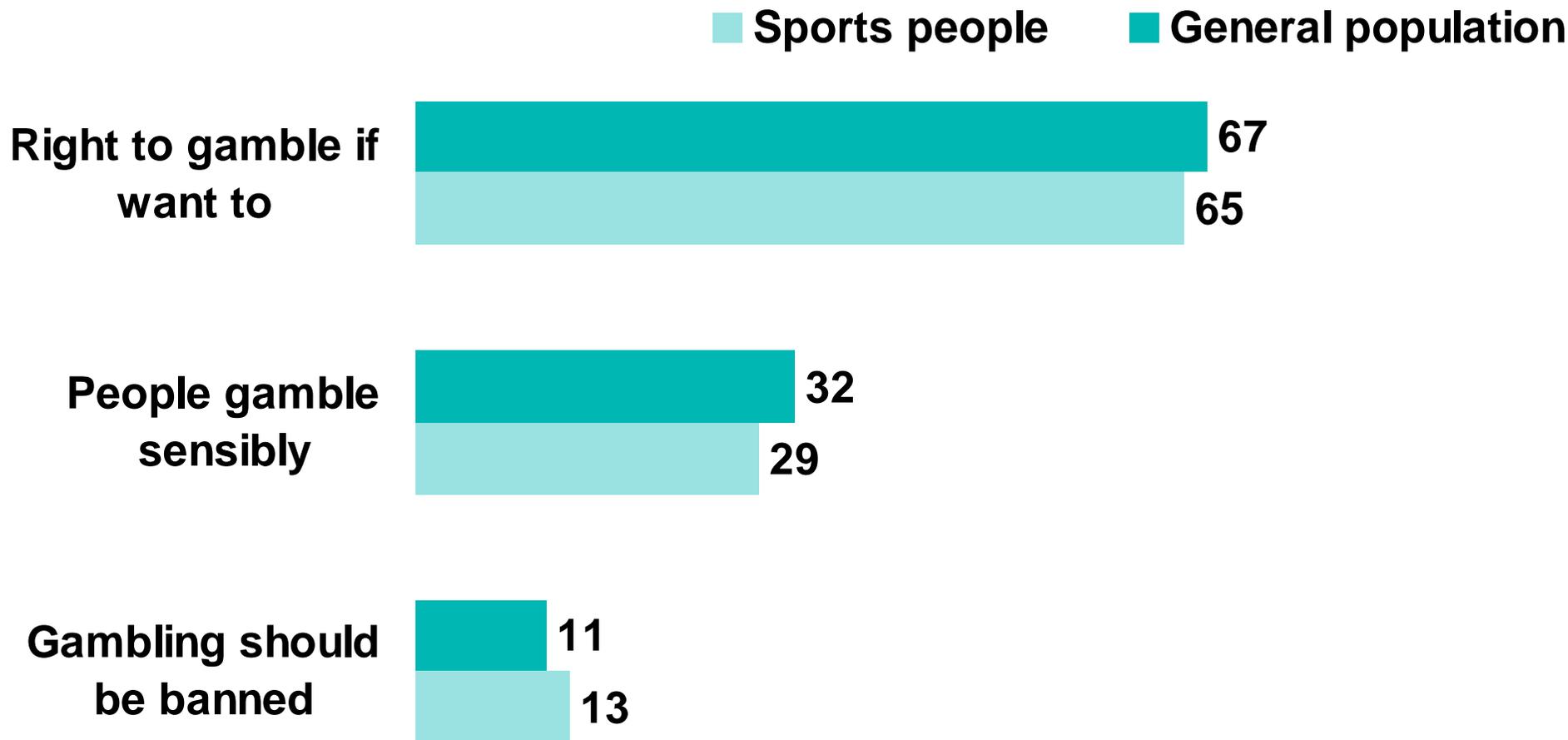
Attended seminar or talk about problem gambling;

Nearly all (89%) thought this was helpful; 90% said it helped them understand problem gambling

A culture of gambling?



Differing attitudes?



**What does this
mean?**

4.

What does this mean?

Sports people more likely to gamble.

Sports people more likely to experience problems.

Evidence that they are finding some support from clubs useful.

But more to be done.....

What do we need to know?

- Do sports people experience the same range of problems as men among the general population?
- Are there specific features of their jobs and lifestyle that put them at greater risk?
- A culture of betting? A 'competitive' spirit?
- Might sports people need different types of treatment? How effective are typical treatment approaches for this group?
- What can be done to help prevent problems among sports people in the first place?

Thank you

If you want further information or would like to contact the author,

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