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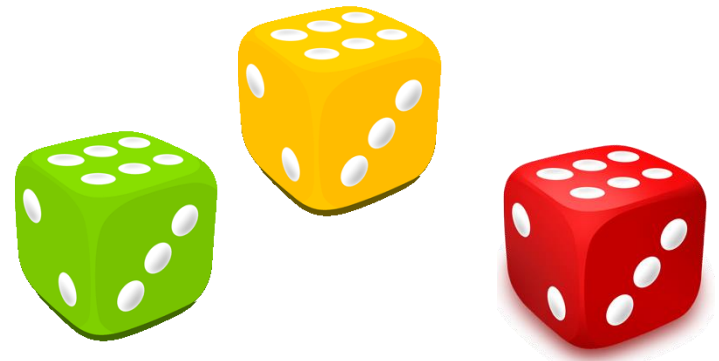
Sports betting of adolescents in Croatia: from favorable environment to psychosocial consequences

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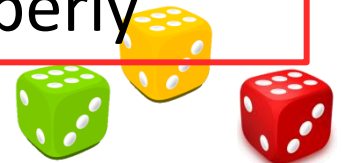
*The 15th International Conference on Gambling & Risk Taking
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA; May 27 - 31, 2013*

Social context

- Expansion of places registered for gambling, especially sports betting
- Croatian Law on Games of Chance (2009.)
 - Sports betting is illegal for minors (<18)
 - Minimum 200 meters from schools



Everyday experience and clinical practice imply that
legislation is not being implemented properly



Frequency of REGULAR gambling >= 1x per week

	Whole sample (N=1.952)	Sample <=17 years (N=1.457)	Boys in sample (N=915)	Boys <=17 years (N=663)
Sports betting	19,0% =	18,2%	37,4% =	36,6%
Slot machines	6,2% =	5,8%	11,8% =	11,0%
Virtual races betting	6,1% =	6,2%	11,7% =	11,8%



Aims of this research

1. to explore how often high-schools students bet on sports results
2. to explore how often adolescents who participate in sports betting play other games of chance
3. to explore how many high-school students report that their parents and friends play games of chance
4. to explore the acceptability of gambling by family members
5. to explore their severity of psychosocial consequences



Sample

N = 1.952

Participated in sports
betting at least once in
their lifetime

N = 807

41,3%

1x per week
or more
often

REGULAR

N=369

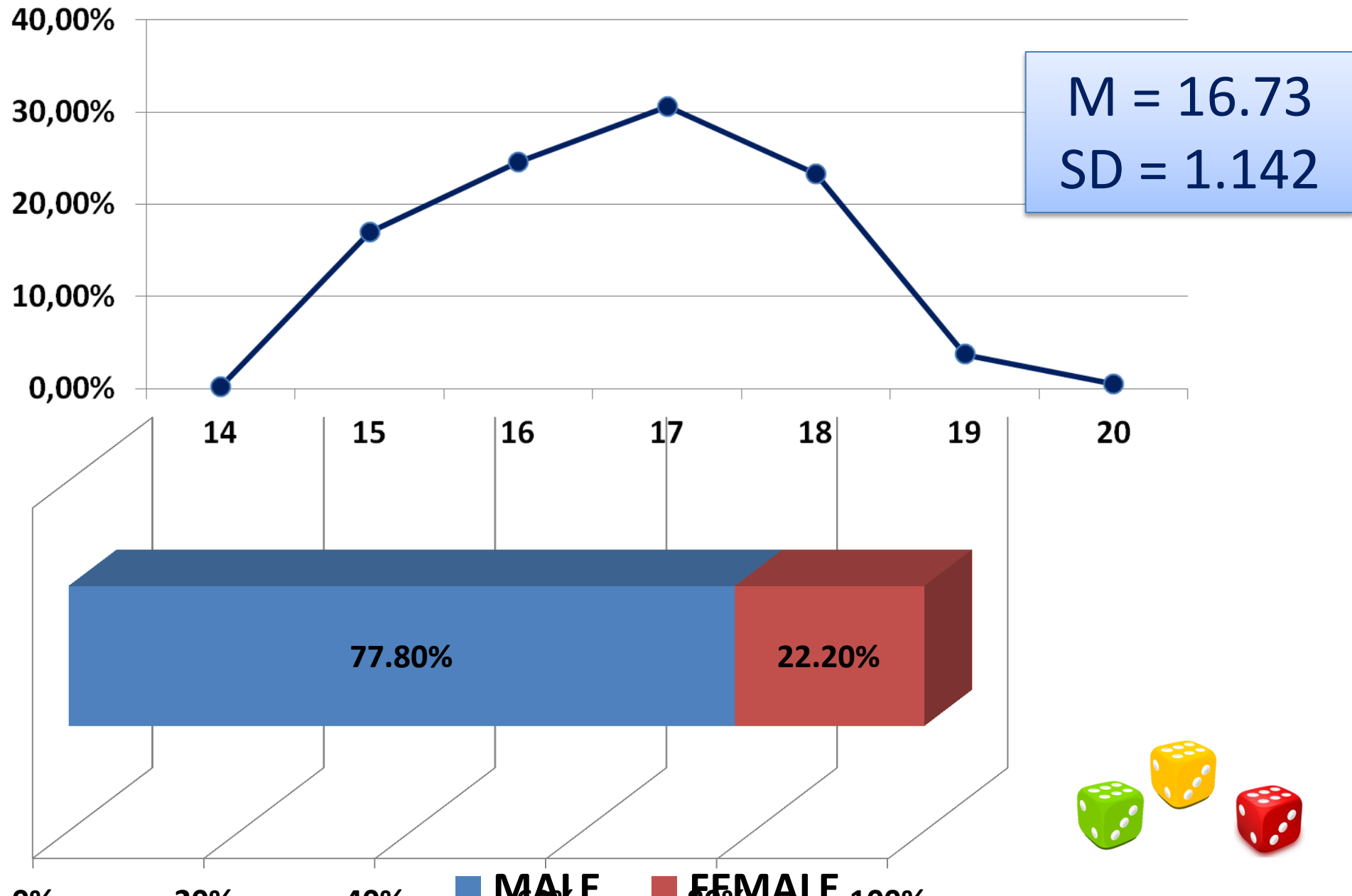
45,7%

OCCASIONAL

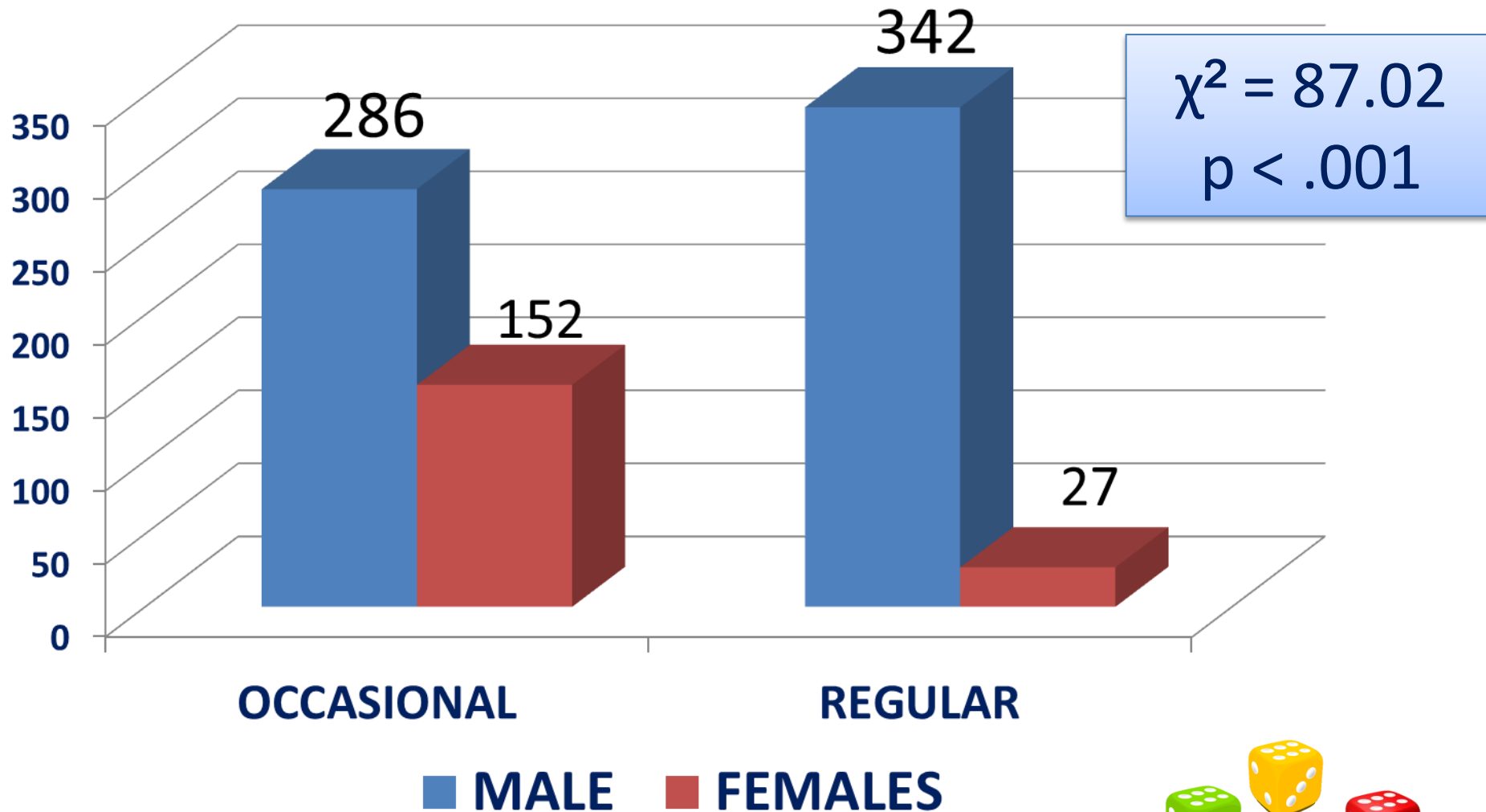
N=438

54,3%

Sample - age & gender

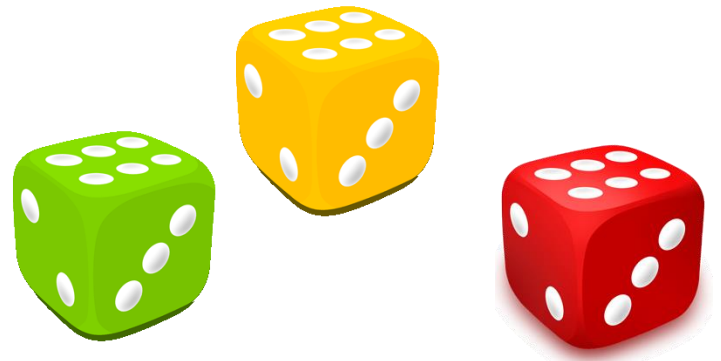


Sample - frequency & gender



Instrument	Construct
Gambling Activity Scale (Ricijaš, Dodig, Huić, Kranželić, 2011)	Intensity of Gambling on 15 Games of Chance (yes or no; if yes - how often?)
Canadian Adolescent Gambling Inventory - CAGI (Tremblay, Wiebe, Stinchfield & Wynne, 2010)	Gambling Problem Severity Subscale (GPSS) Score
Specific questions about gambling activities of close friends and family members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ According to your findings, how often at least one of your friends play games of chance? ➤ Do your family members play these games of chance at least once a month? ➤ Do your parents know that you gamble/bet? ➤ Do you sometimes play one of these games with your parents?

RESULTS



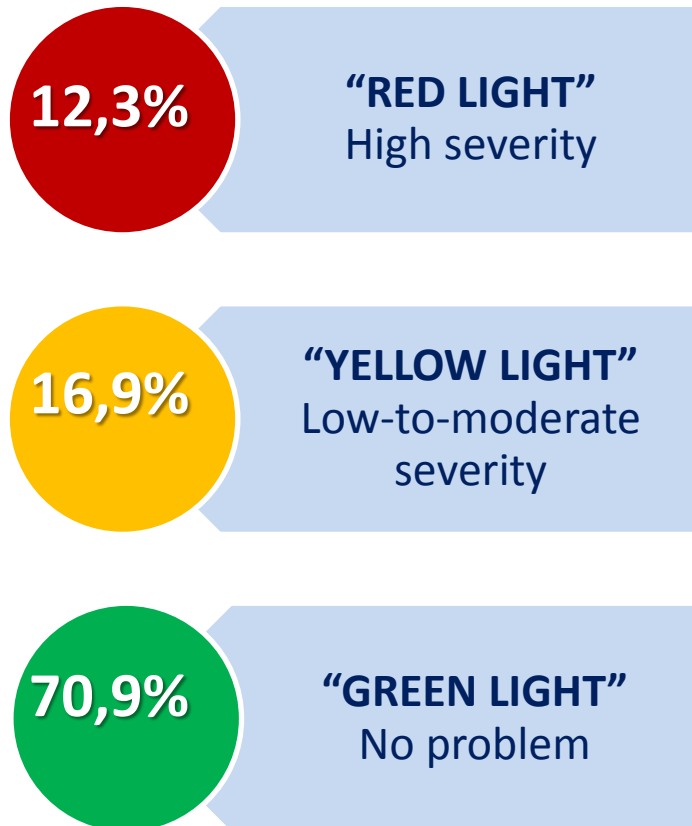
Intensity of sports betting & other games of chance, Mann-Whitney Test

Other games of chance	Sports betting	Mean Rank	M-W U
Slot machines	Occasional	345.85	55341.00**
	Regular	473.02	
Lottery	Occasional	403.92	80778.00
	Regular	404.09	
Scratch cards	Occasional	395.22	76967.00
	Regular	414.42	
Electronic roulette	Occasional	355.45	59547.50**
	Regular	461.62	
Virtual races betting	Occasional	333.01	49716.00**
	Regular	488.27	
On-line gambling	Occasional	356.96	60206.00**
	Regular	459.84	

Canadian Adolescent Gambling Inventory (CAGI) Gambling Problem Severity Subscale (GPSS)

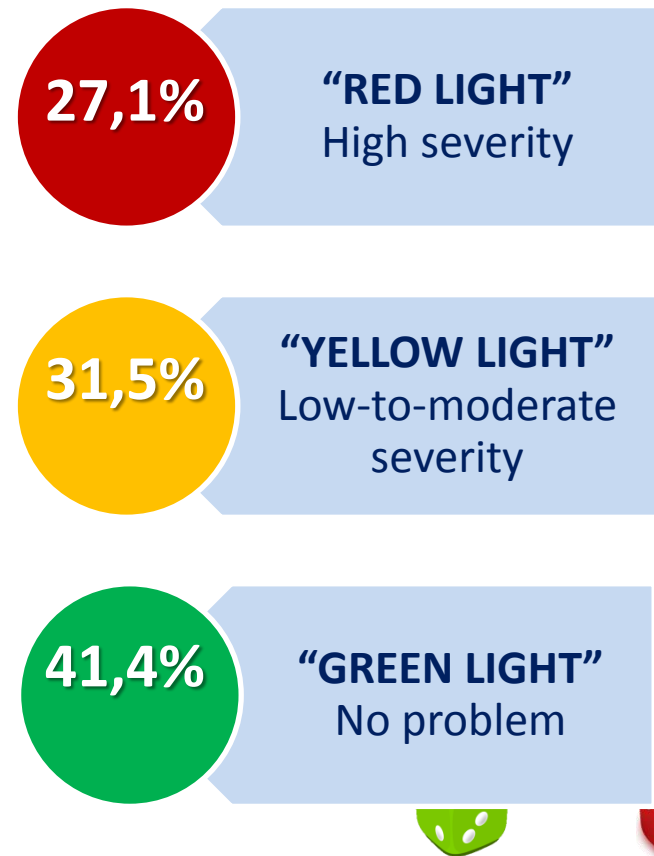
NATIONAL PREVALENCE

N=1.952

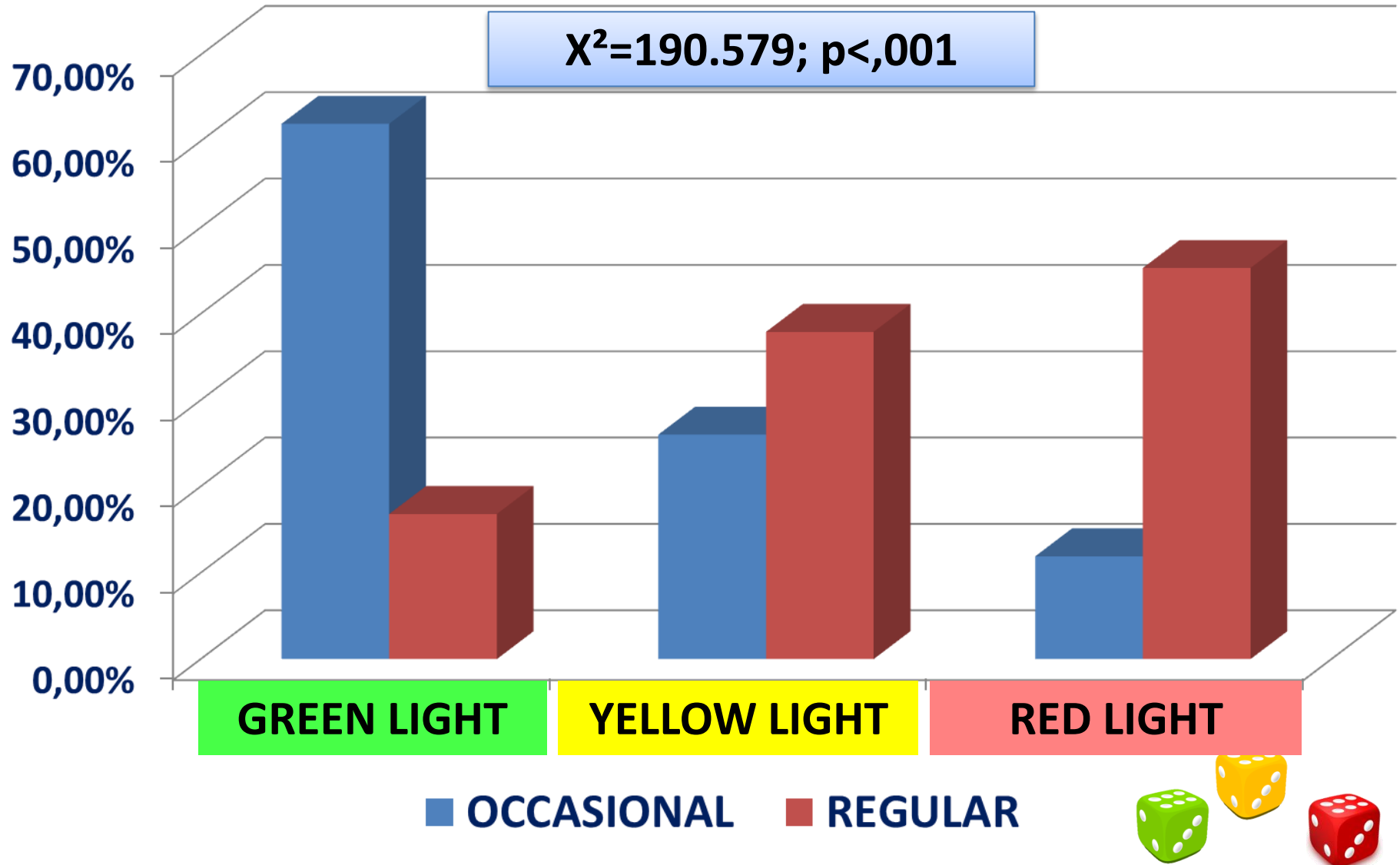


SPORTS BETTING

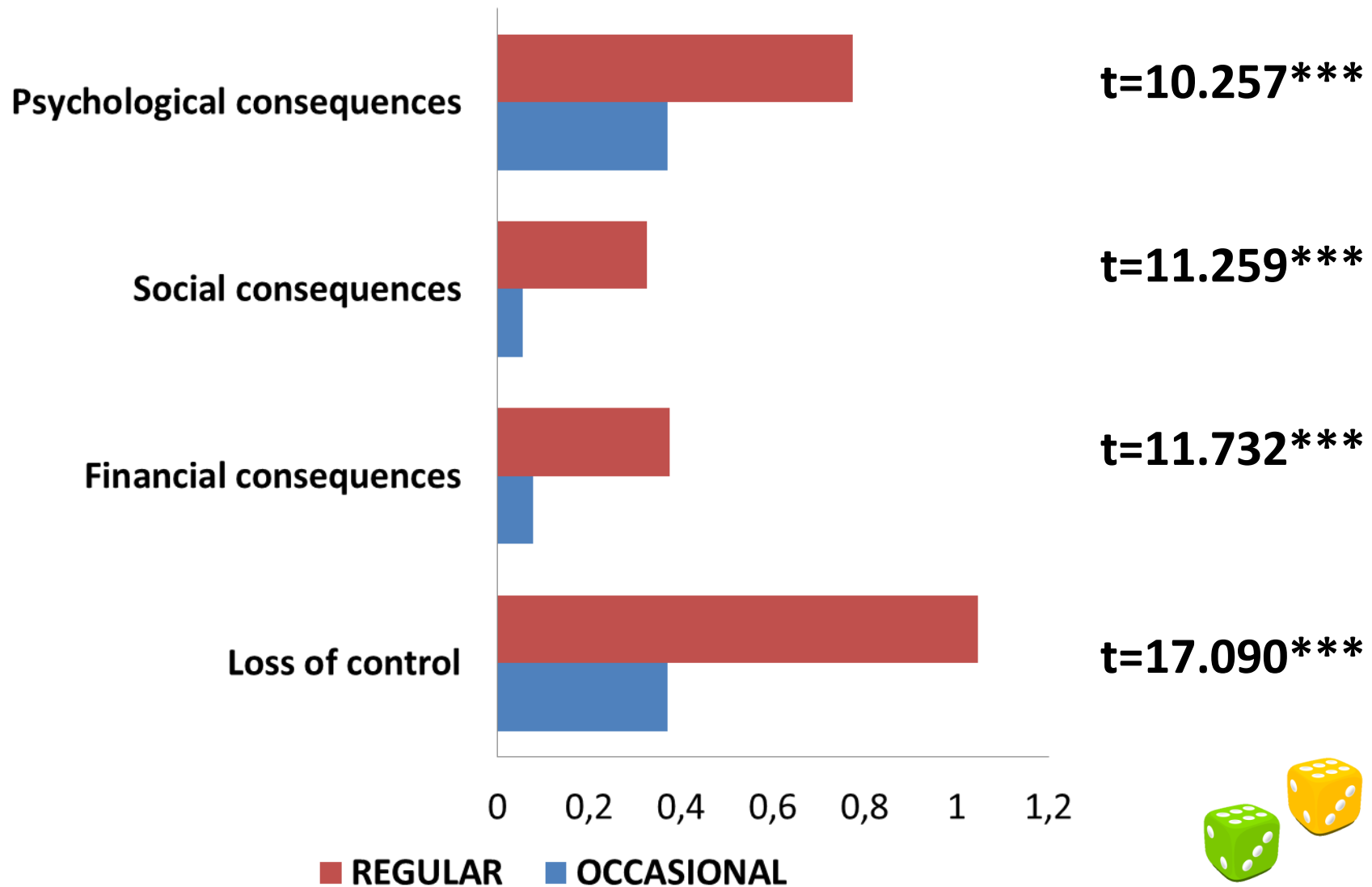
N=807



GPSS & intensity of sports betting



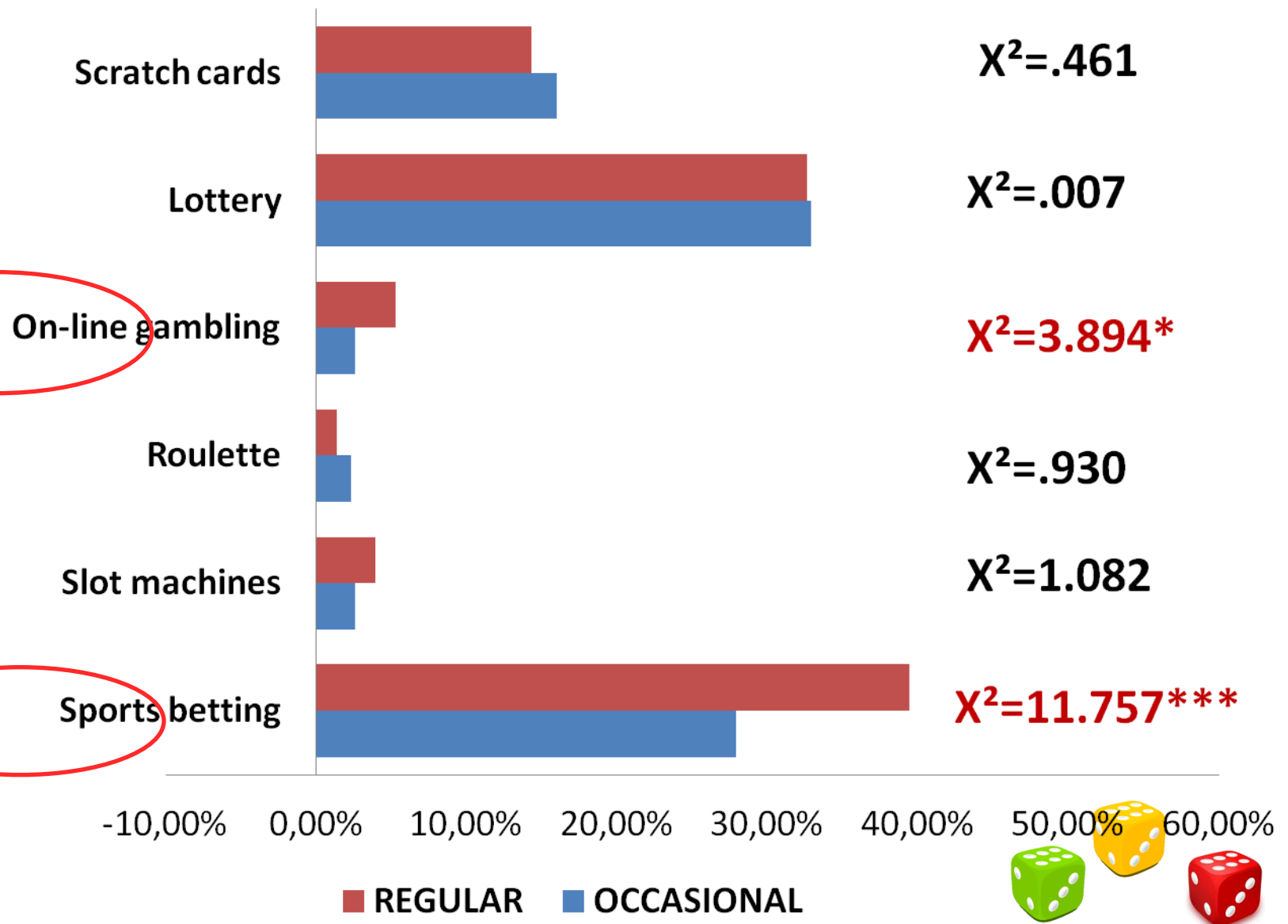
Psychosocial consequences (CAGI)



Parents' and peers' gambling activities



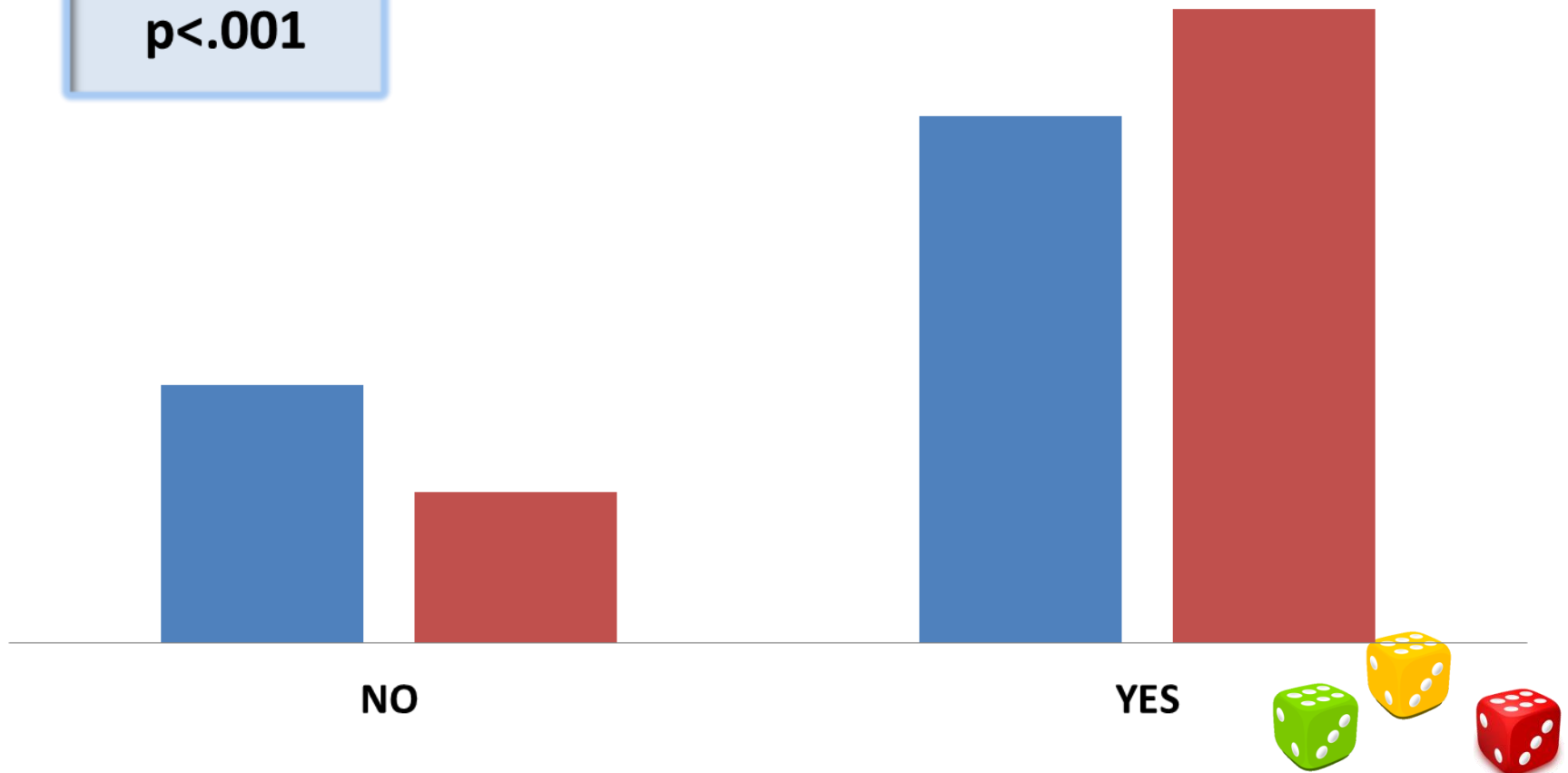
Fathers' gambling activities



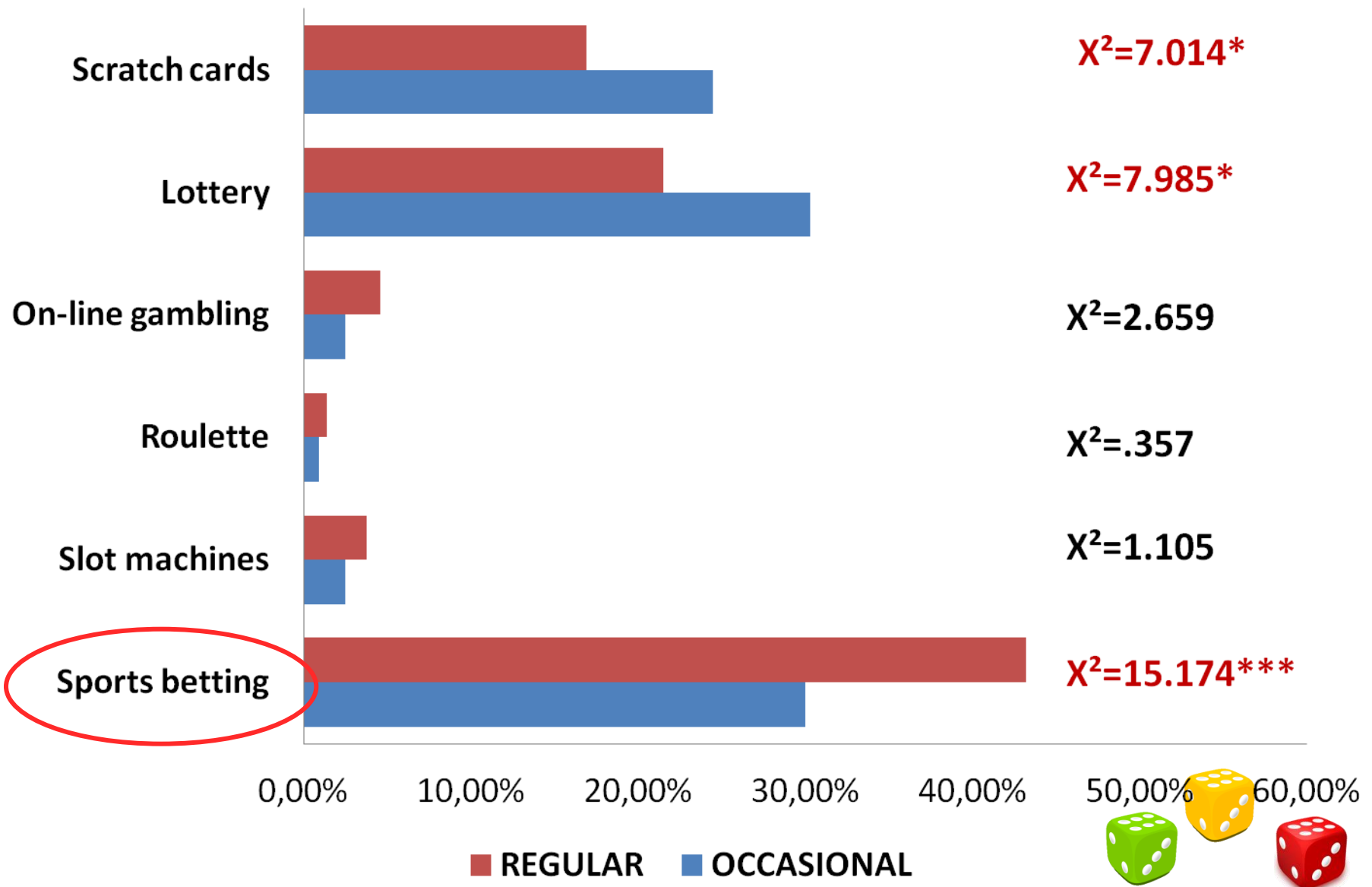
Do your parents know that you gamble?

■ OCCASIONAL ■ REGULAR

$\chi^2=15.948$
 $p<.001$

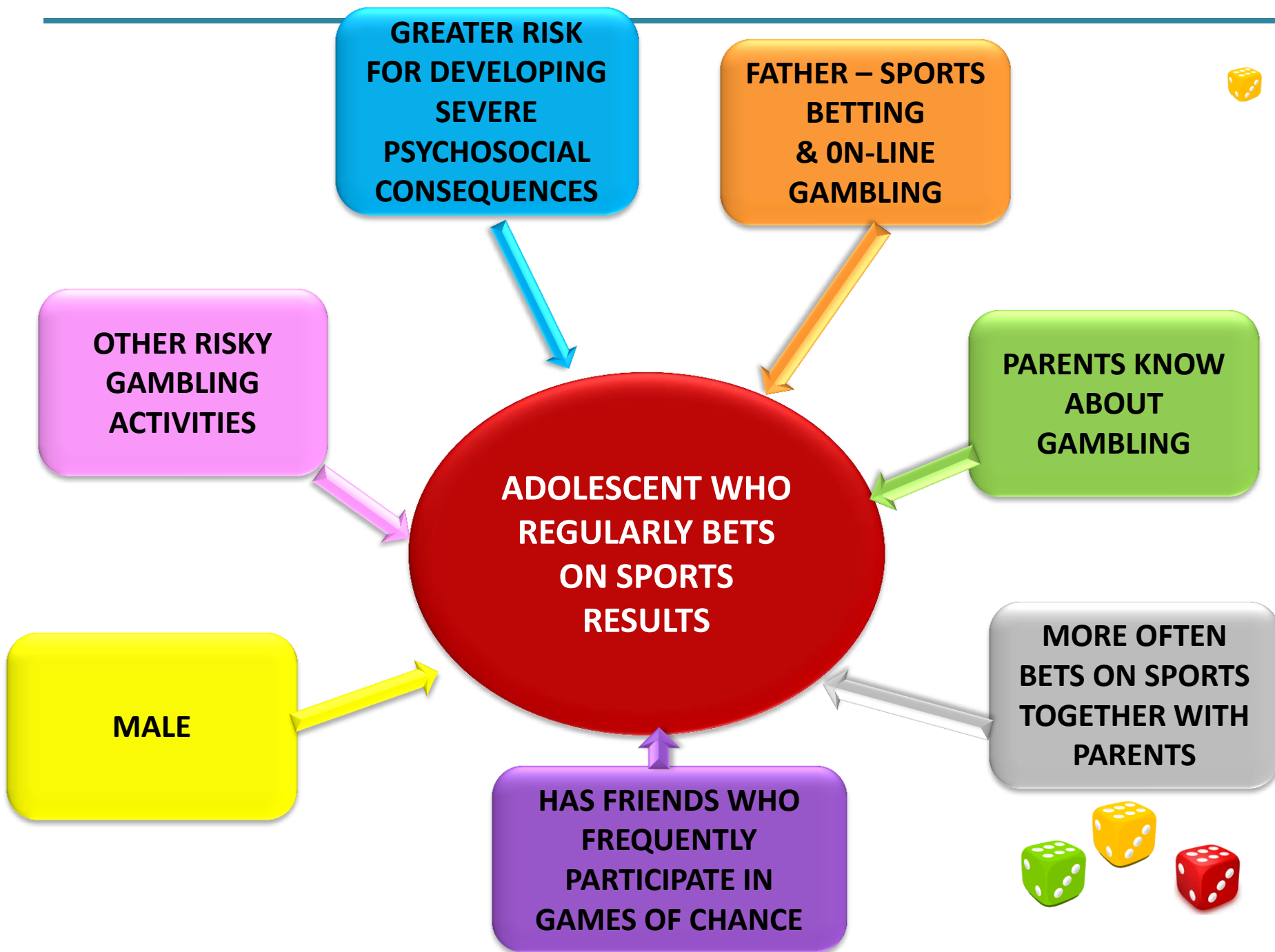


Do you sometimes gamble with your parents?



Intensity of sports betting & peers' gambling frequency, Mann-Whitney Test

Peers' gambling frequency	Sports betting	Mean Rank	M-W U
Sports betting	Occasional	342.47	54050.00***
	Regular	473.63	
Slot machines	Occasional	368.94	65659.50***
	Regular	440.09	
Roulette	Occasional	359.13	61468.50***
	Regular	450.51	
On-line gambling	Occasional	374.79	67970.50***
	Regular	433.79	



Research in practice

What we know?

- Gambling is available and accessible in Croatia
- Social acceptability of gambling
- Sports betting is the most popular gambling activity
- It is correlated with other risky gambling activities
- Possible influence of family factors
- Important role of peers

What we did?

- **Prevention program “Who really wins?”**
 - Pilot - 2 high-schools in Zagreb (N=120)
 - *Evidence based* on research results and principles of successful gambling prevention practice
 - Evaluation in progress
 - Dissemination planned for school year 2013./14.

Thank you for your attention!



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