

DECLINING TRENDS IN MINORS' GAMBLING IN FINLAND

Susanna Raisamo

12th SNSUS Conference
Tampere, Finland



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE

BEFORE WE MOVE ON...

A few facts about Finnish gambling landscape

Legal gambling age 18 years

High visibility & accessibility

High gambling expenditure

Positive public attitudes

Gambling policy based on monopoly

ABOUT MINORS' GAMBLING

20 – 37 %

report having gambled in
the past 12 month

5 – 9 %

are weekly gamblers

1 %

Problem gambling
prevalence (SOGS ≥ 3)

7 % of underage

gamblers report having
experienced at least
one harm due to
gambling



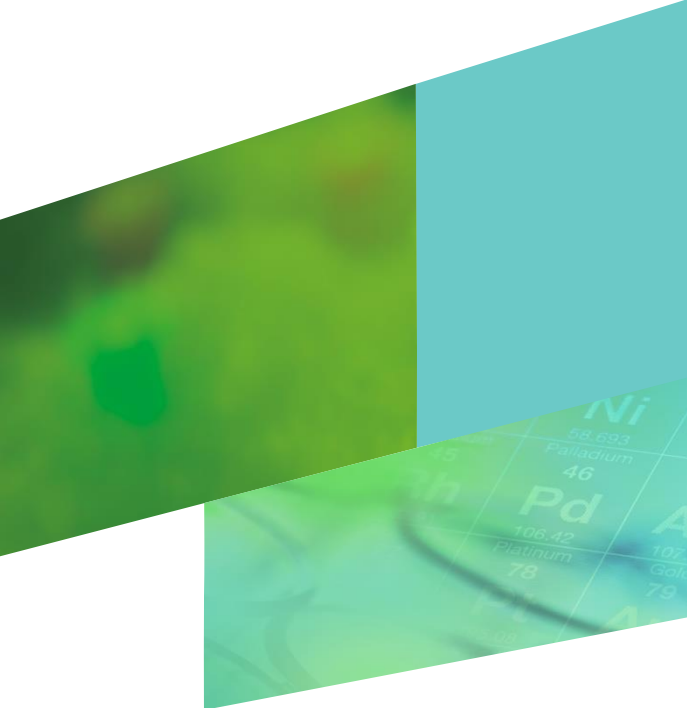
4 %

of minors report
having gambled
on the Internet

EGMs

the most popular form of
gambling

Figures based on data sources described on the next slide



DECLINING TRENDS IN MINORS' GAMBLING

Overview of trends based on four national data sources

DATA SOURCES

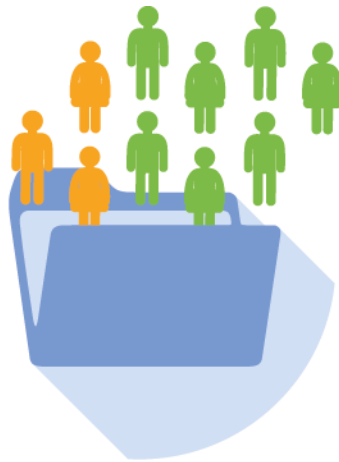
Adolescent gambling is regularly monitored across national surveys

Adolescent Health and Lifestyle Survey

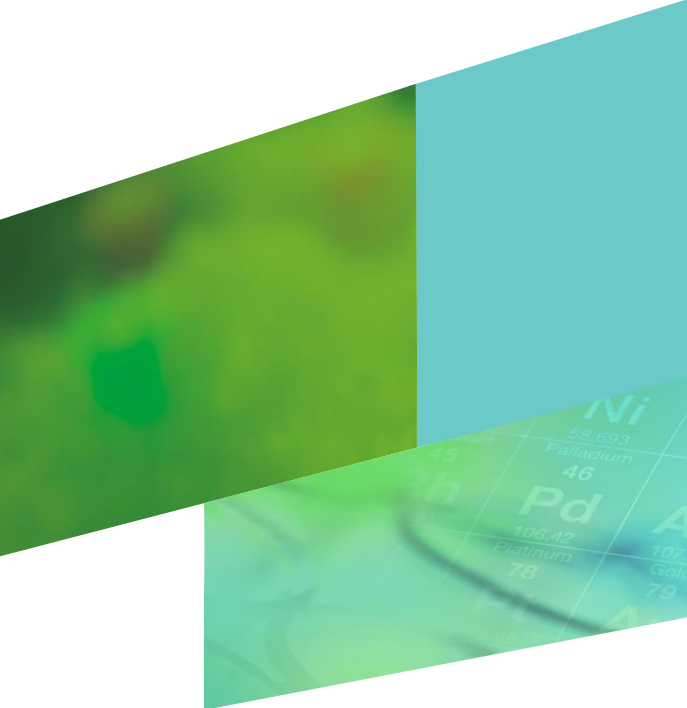
Finnish Gambling Survey

School Health Promotion Study

ESPAD*

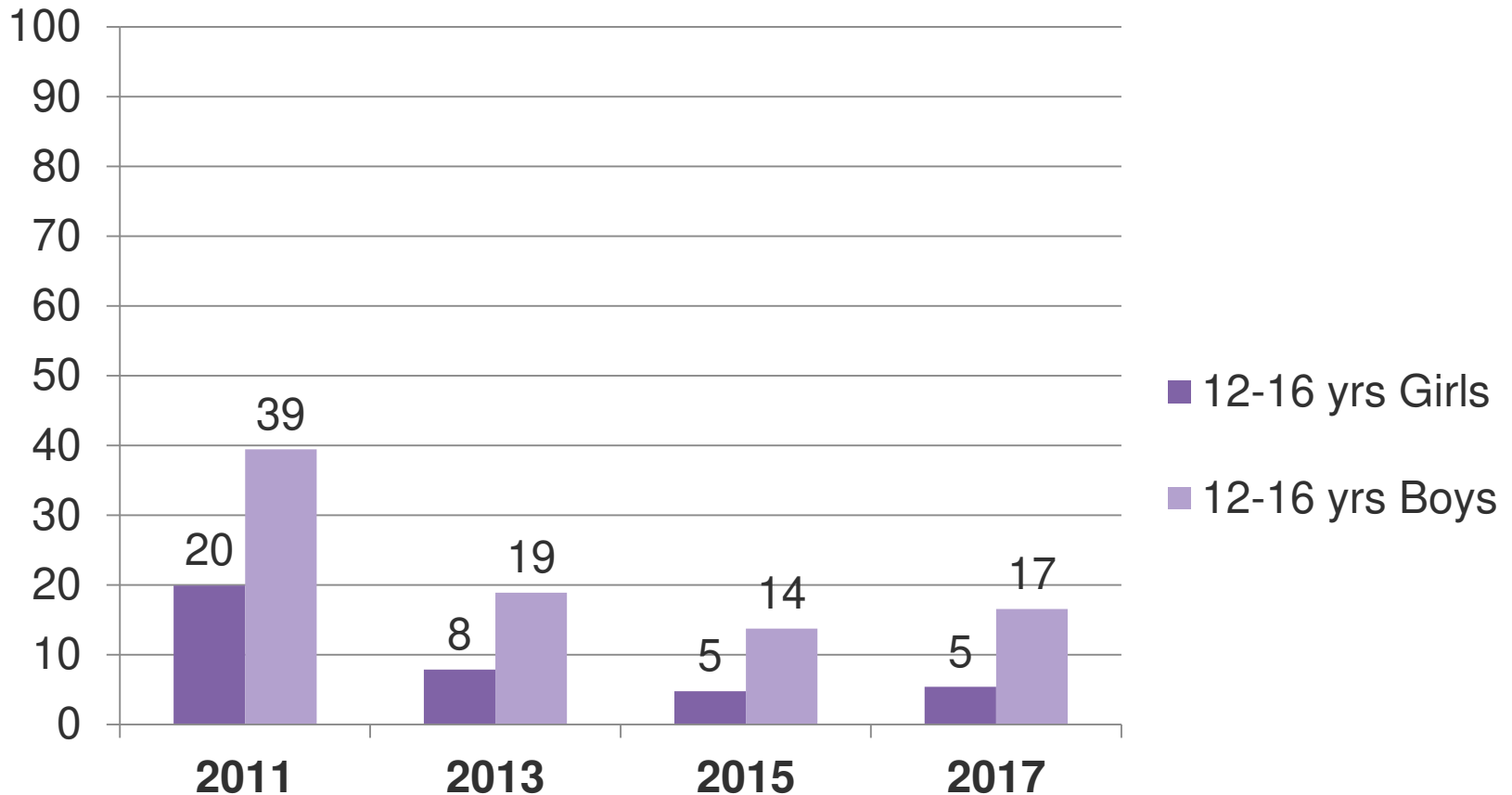


* European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Drugs



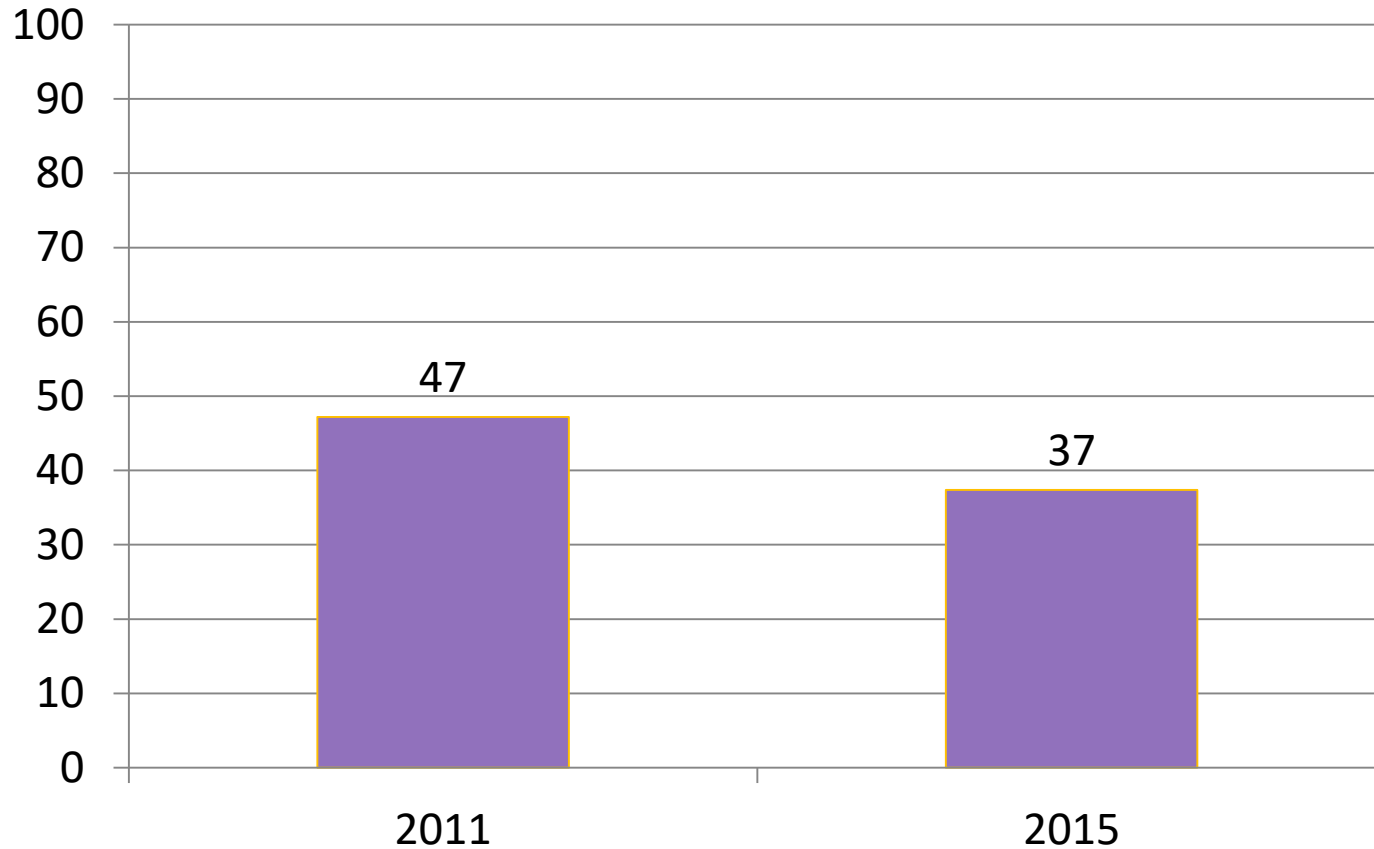
EXAMPLES OF THE FINDINGS

6-MONTH GAMBLING (%) 2011 – 2017 AMONG 12-16 YRS



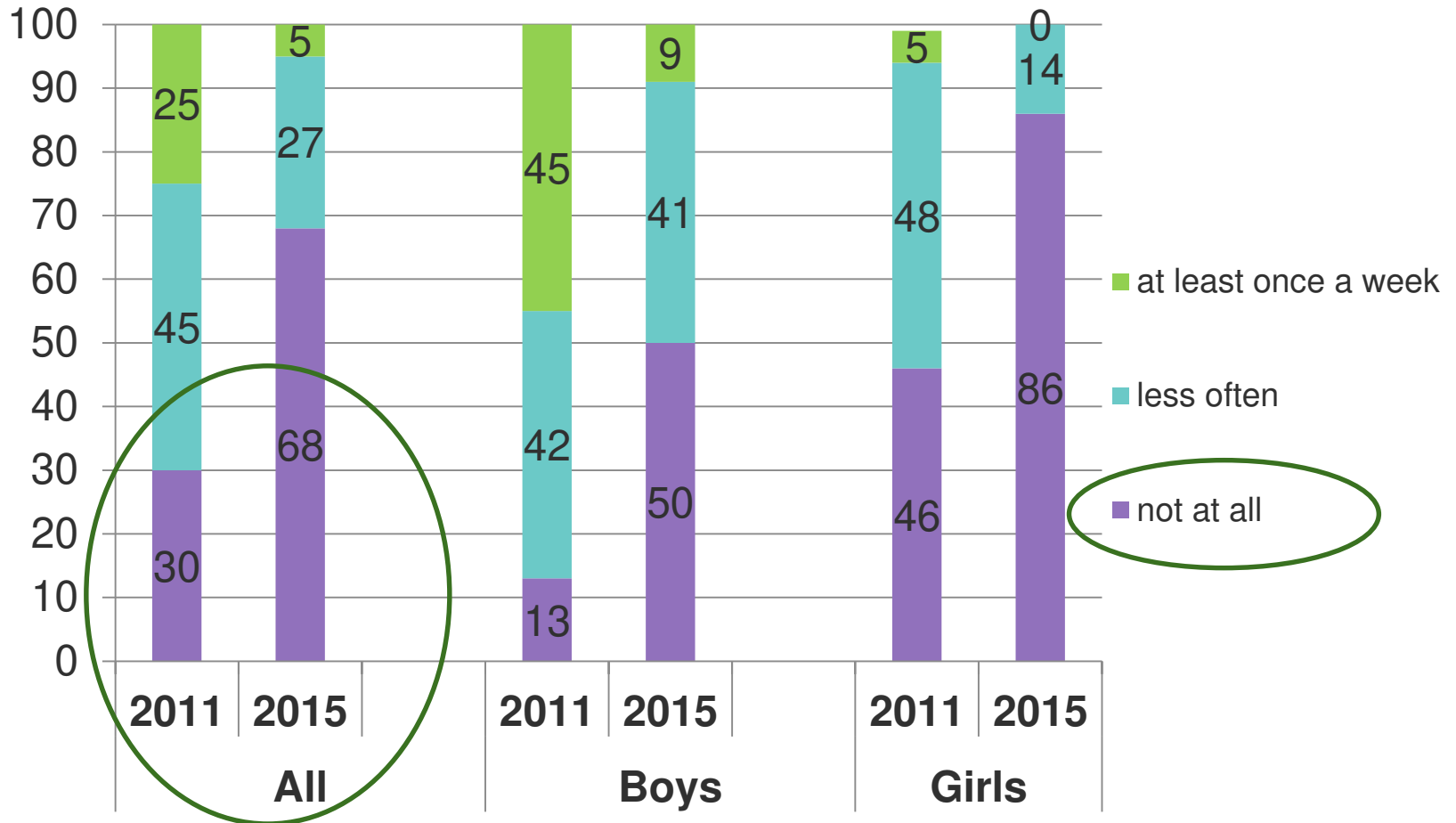
Data source: The Adolescent Health and Lifestyle Surveys, 2011 - 2017

12-MONTH GAMBLING (%) 2011 & 2015 AMONG 15-17 YRS



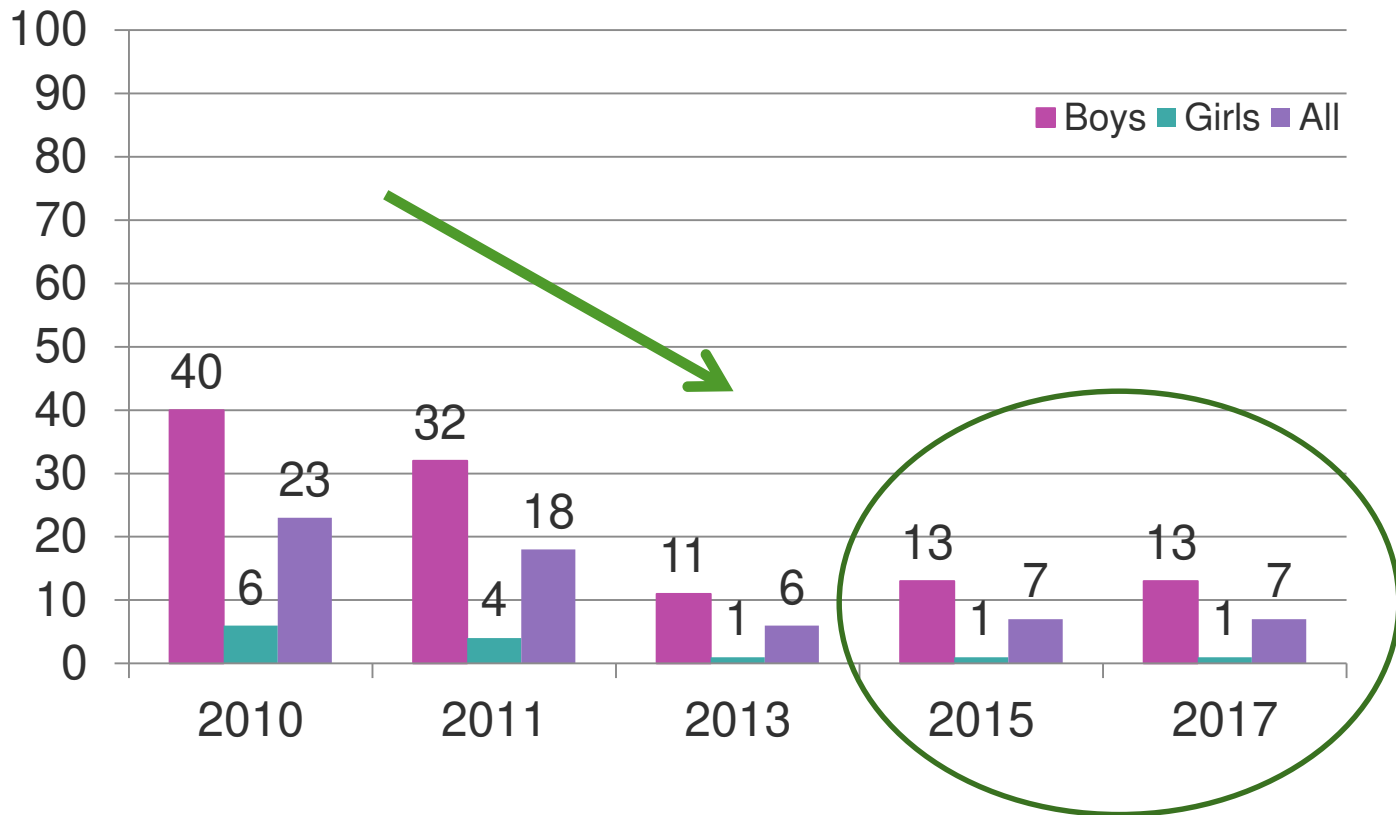
Data source: Finnish Gambling Surveys 2011 & 2015

EGM GAMBLING (%) 2011 & 2015 AMONG 16 YRS



Data source: ESPAD surveys from 2011 and 2015

GAMBLING WEEKLY (%) 2010 - 2017 AMONG 15-16 YRS



Data source: School Health Promotion Studies, 2010 - 2017

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

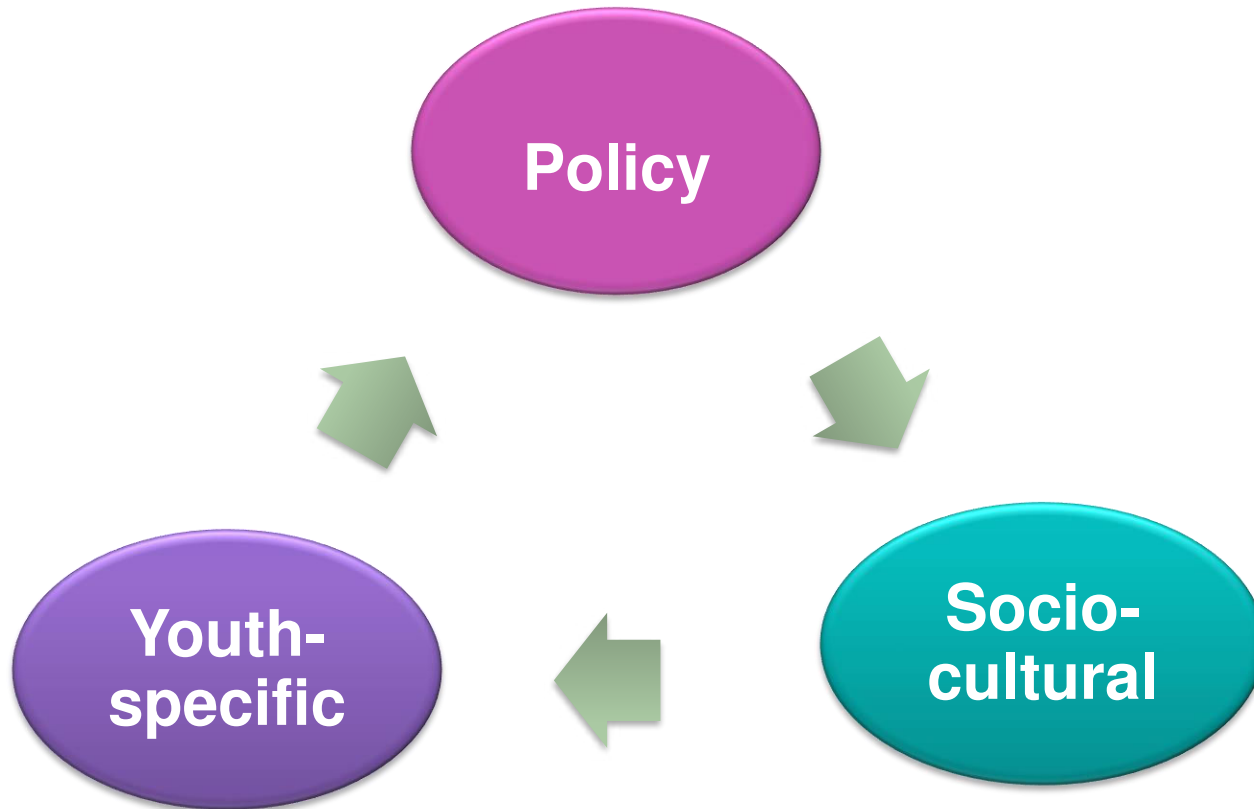
Findings from four national data sources reviewed here corroborate each other showing **a consistent and significant decline in minors' gambling over the recent years in Finland.**



BUT

Monitoring gambling trends is of little value without understanding potential contributing factors.

THREE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS





Policy

National gambling policy regulation

- Raising the legal gambling age from 15 to 18 years in 2010/2011 contributed to the overall downward trend in gambling; even if the general availability of gambling products was not reduced.



Youth-specific

Youth-specific explanations

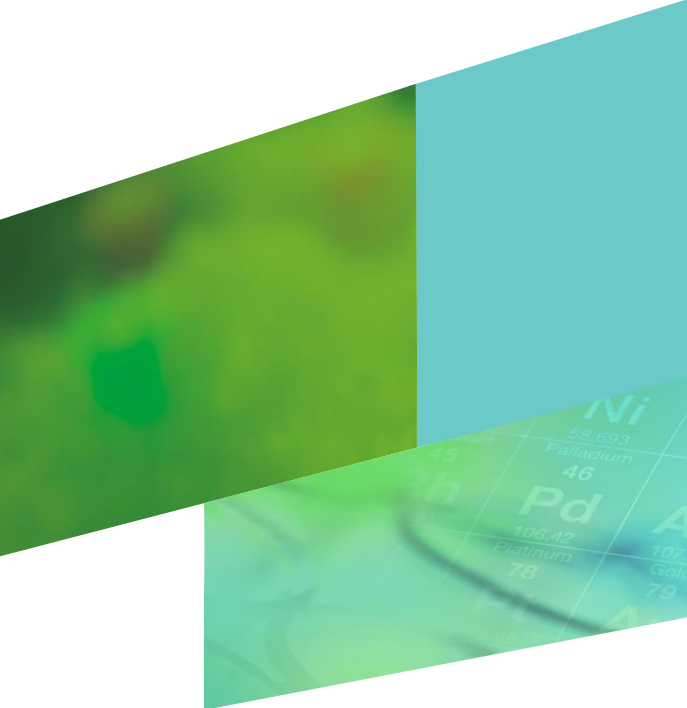
- Growing tendency to adopt other type of leisure activities than gambling?
- Reflect positive trends reported also in tobacco use and alcohol drinking
- Decline in gambling does not seem to be limited to Finland (similar findings are reported i.e. from Sweden and Great Britain)



Socio-cultural

Socio-cultural values and norms

- Population is becoming more aware of harm caused by gambling?
- Norm-breaking behaviours have also been decreasing in adolescents



THANK YOU!

susanna.raisamo@thl.fi

 @SusannaRaisamo