

## **Analysis of survey data on young people and gambling 2019/20**

### **National Survey 2020**

The Gambling Commission's annual national survey of young people aged 11-16 years is conducted using Ipsos MORI's Young People Omnibus, and is usually a representative online survey of pupils attending academies and maintained schools in England, Scotland and Wales (excluding fee-paying and other establishments covering 11-16 year olds). However the 2020 study was severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the closure of schools in Great Britain on the 20 March 2020. Therefore the national results are based on a sample of 1,645 pupils aged 11-16 in England and Scotland, completed before schools were shut on the 20 March. The Gambling Commission advise that due to the early end to fieldwork, the results do not include Wales and therefore are not representative of Great Britain as in previous years. Given the smaller sample size, it is not appropriate to scale the figures to the wider population of pupils aged 11-16 in state funded secondary schools. The national survey asked for young people's experience of gambling within the last 7 days of them taking the survey. The 2020 results revealed:

- 9% of young people in England and Scotland had spent their own money on gambling activity. (In 2019, under the representative and larger sample, 11% of young people had spent their money gambling)
- The most common gambling activities that young people have spent their money on were placing a private bet for money (5%) and playing cards for money with friends (3%).
- 2% had used a scratch card and 2% had played the national Lottery.
- 51% of the young people that had gambled, had done so while with their parent/guardian

### **Background to the Leeds Survey and Sample size.**

The My Health, My School survey is a pupil perception survey that asks children and young people a range of questions under eight key themes: All About Me, Healthy Eating, Physical Activity and Sport, PE in School, Drugs Alcohol & Tobacco, Sexual Health, Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) and My School/College. Each are tailored age-appropriately with year group log-ins. The survey is available to years 3, 4 (who are only surveyed on the subject of PE in school, not the full survey), 5, 6, 7, 9 & 11, Post 16 and there are SEND surveys for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

From October 2018 the Leeds My Health, My School survey included two new questions specifically about gambling behaviour, and added gambling as an option to three existing question responses. The Leeds survey asks for young people's experience within the last 12 months of taking the survey, and is a full year's view, in contrast to the 7 day response in the national survey.

During 2018/19, the My Health, My School Survey had 21,954 responses from 190 schools in Leeds, equating to nearly half of the available population of children and young people in Leeds in years 5, 6, 7, 9 and 11. Of this sample size, the gambling related questions were answered by 6,940 secondary school pupils across Leeds, in years 7, 9 & 11 (aged 11 to 15) and by 632 post 16 students in years 12 and 13.

Normally the survey is undertaken in schools, between October and July each academic year, however as a direct result of the Coronavirus pandemic, and subsequent school closures, the survey concluded in March 2020 and the number of survey responses for 2019-20 was significantly reduced. A total of 5,307 responses (down 76% on last year) were received from 37 Primary schools, 9

Secondary schools; 1 SILC and 9 Post-16 departments as well as Leeds City College. This in turn affected the sample size for the gambling related questions, which were only answered by 1,536 secondary pupils (down by 78%) and 816 post 16 students (up 29%). The 2019/20 survey concluded in March 2020 and results from October 2019 to March 2020 are analysed in full below, split into Secondary age analysis and Post 16 analysis. Please note this context and sample size difference when making comparisons to last year's data.

## **Leeds Survey Summary Results 2019/20**

### Gambling behaviour

- During 2019/20, 26% of secondary pupils had taken part in some gambling activity over a 12 month period. In comparison to other addiction subjects, 11% of secondary pupils had smoked a cigarette, 52% had tried alcohol and 7% had tried illegal drugs.
- Of the secondary aged pupils that had gambled; 59% did so with their parent/carer's knowledge. 22% had gambled without their parent/carer's knowledge
- 33% of post 16 pupils surveyed had taken part in gambling activity in the last 12 months. In comparison to other addiction subjects, 43% had smoked a cigarette, 24% had tried illegal drugs 68% had tried alcohol.
- Of the post 16 students that had gambled in the last 12 months, 59% did so with their parent/carer being aware; 26% did so without their parent/carer being aware.
- Although the sample size differ on 2018/19, the gambling rates amongst secondary and post 16 students have remained similar. The 2018/19 secondary rate was 24% and Post 16 rate was 32%.

### Popular Forms of Gambling

- Bingo was the most popular form of gambling amongst secondary aged pupils during 2019/20, with 21% taking part in this activity. Skin betting was the second most popular with 19% taking part and betting on sport events the third most popular with almost 18% taking part.
- The top 2 activities have switched places from the 2018/19 survey which reported that the most common form of gambling amongst secondary aged pupils was via gaming or skin betting, with 21% of pupils taking part in this activity on a regular basis. Bingo was the second most popular form of gambling with almost 20% of pupils taking part. Betting on sporting events was the third most popular form of gambling amongst pupils, with 19% taking part.
- Lottery scratch cards were the most popular form of gambling amongst the post 16 age group in 2019/20, with 29% taking part in this activity. Skin betting was the second most popular with 21% taking part and placing private bets amongst friends was the third most popular activity with 20% taking part.
- In 2018/19 for the post 16 age group, the most common form of gambling was national lottery scratch cards. Almost 24% of post 16 year groups gambled through purchasing scratch cards. Placing a private bet with friends was the second most popular form of gambling amongst this age group with 18% taking part and betting on sporting events was the third most popular form of gambling with 17% taking part.

### Causes of worry in young people

- When asked about things that cause worry in the last 12 months from a list of 25 categories, gambling was one of the least areas of concern, only being selected in 0.3% of responses for both secondary and post 16 students. In the 2018/19 survey, 0.4% of secondary aged pupils and 0.1% of post 16 students had said that gambling had caused them worry.

### Accessing Support Material

- 53% of secondary aged pupils felt they needed better information on learning material in school on gambling. In terms on knowing where to access support, 35% did not know where to access gambling support. In 2018/19, 52% of secondary aged pupils felt they needed better information and learning material in school on gambling and 33% did not know where to access support.
- 33% of post 16 pupils felt they needed better information on learning material in school on gambling and 24% did not know where to access gambling support. In 2018/19, 39% of post 16 pupils felt they needed better information on learning material in school on gambling and 25% did not know where to access support.

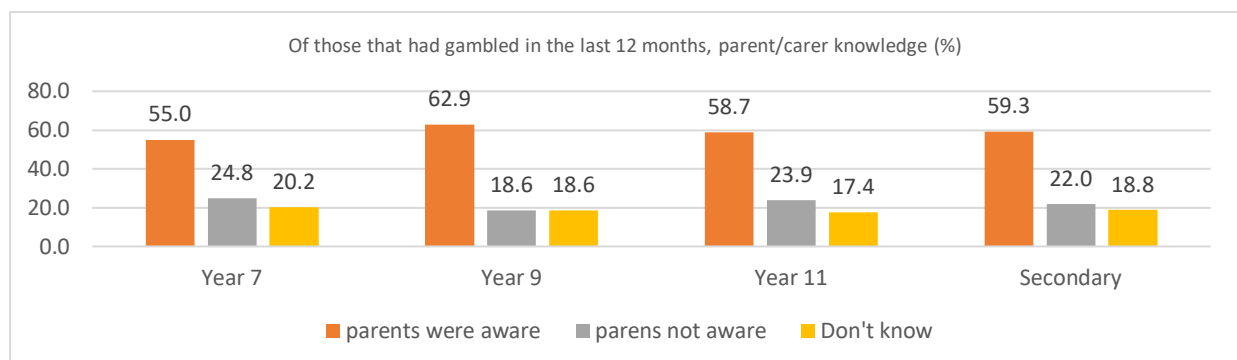
## Leeds 2019/20 Survey full analysis

The Leeds My health, My School survey includes questions specifically about gambling behaviour, whether gambling is a cause for worry and if they know where to access support. The Leeds survey asks for young people's experiences within the last 12 months of taking the survey, and is a full year's view. The gambling related questions were answered by 1,535 secondary school pupils across Leeds, in years 7, 9 & 11 (aged 11 to 15) and by 816 post 16 students in years 12 and 13. The survey concluded in March 2020 and results are analysed in full below, split into Secondary age analysis and Post 16 analysis.

## Secondary Age Student Analysis

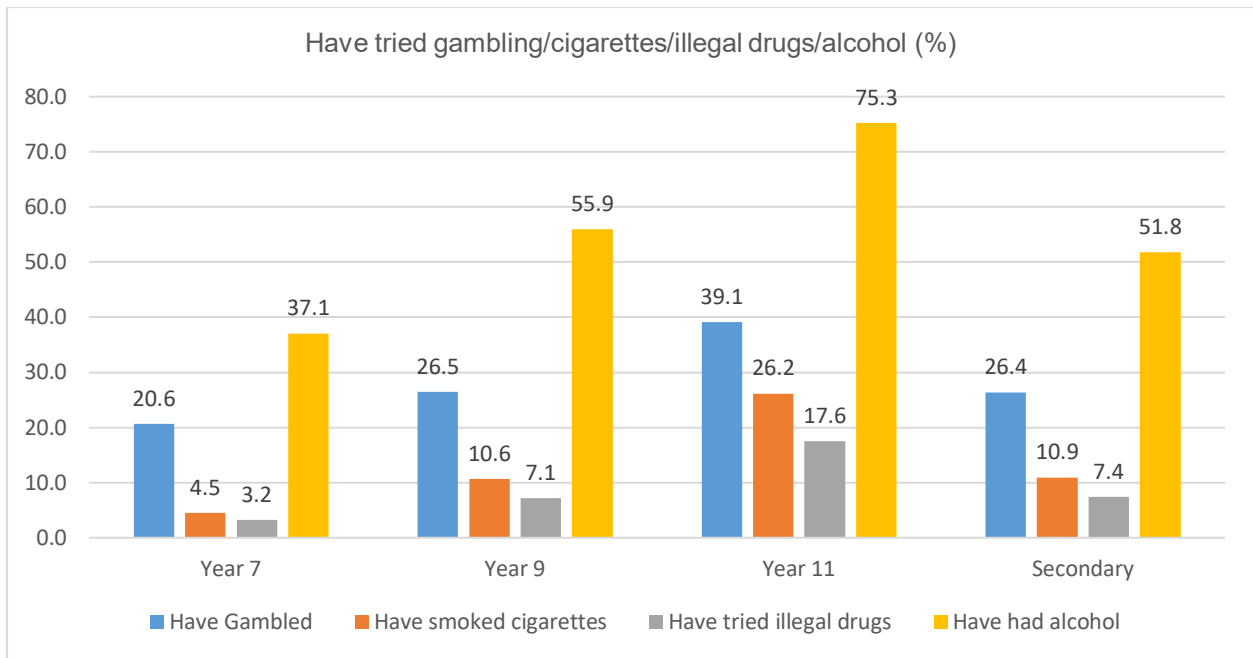


During 2019/20, of the 1,536 secondary age pupils that were surveyed; 1,131 had not gambled in the last 12 months and 405 had gambled. As displayed on the graph above, this represents 74% of secondary pupils surveyed that had not gambled and 26% that had gambled. When broken down by year group, 21% of year 7s had gambled in the last 12 months, this is higher at 27% for Year 9s and 39% for Year 11s. Although the sample size differ on 2018/19, the gambling rates amongst secondary pupils have remained broadly similar across year 7 and year 9, however the year 11 group does appear to have increased from 29.7% in 2018/19 to 39.1% in 2019/20. The 2018/19 overall secondary rate was 24%.

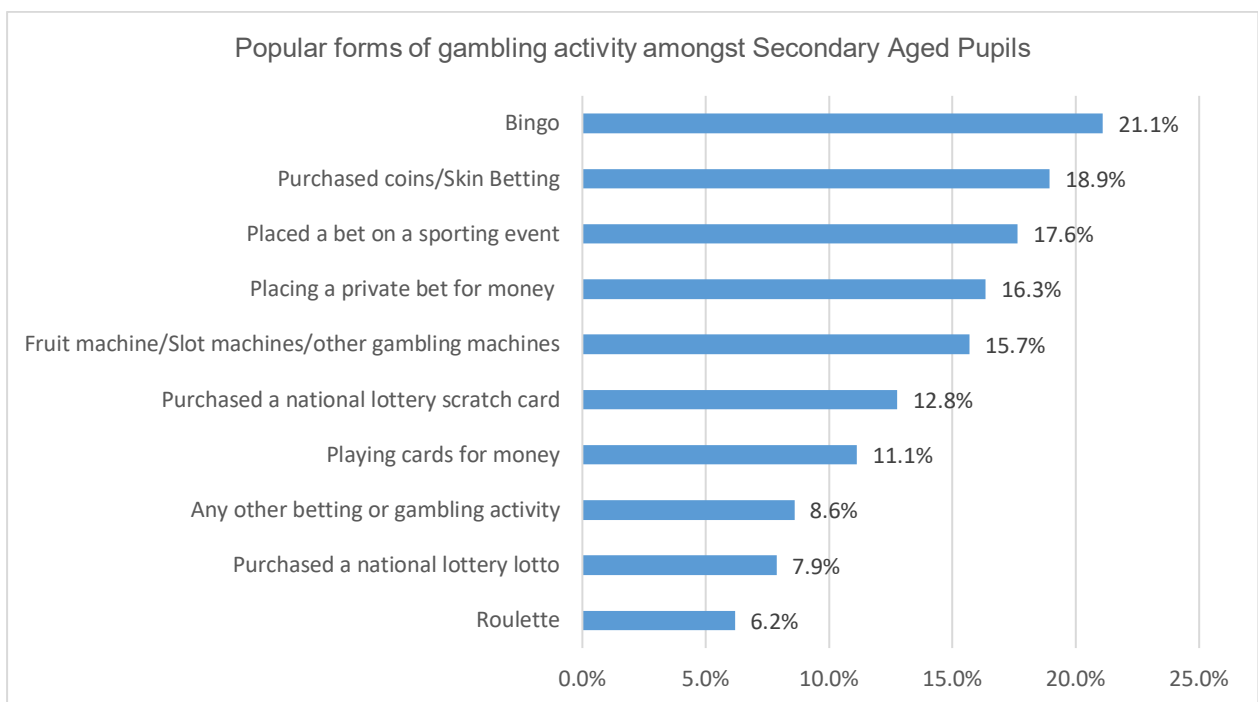


Of the 405 secondary pupils that had gambled in the last 12 months, 59% did so with their parent/carer being aware; 22% did so without their parent/carer being aware and 19% did not know if their parent/carer was aware.

Breaking down each year group, 55% of Year 7s reported their parent/carers did know they had gambled compared to 63% of Year 9s and 59% of Year 11s. 25% of Year 7s had gambled without the knowledge of their parent/carer; compared to 19% of Year 9s and 24% of Year 11s.

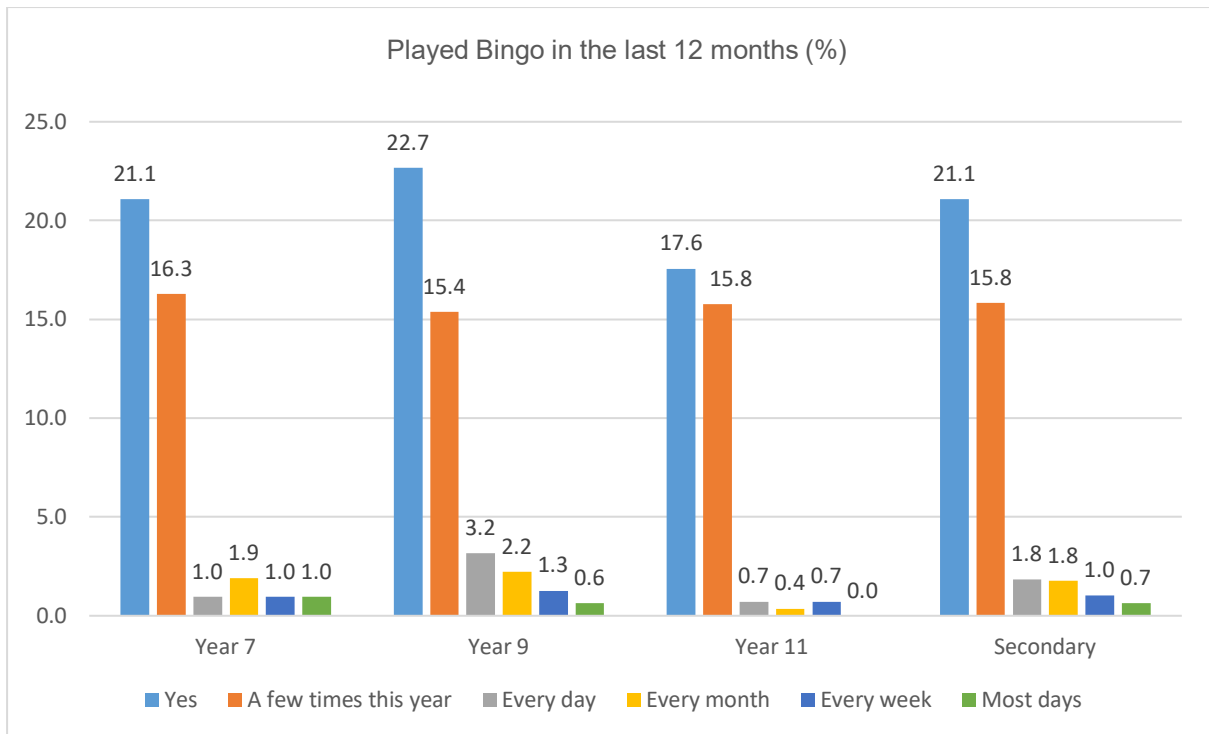


As seen earlier, 26% of secondary pupils had gambled. In comparison to other addiction subjects, 11% of secondary pupils had smoked a cigarette, 52% had tried alcohol and 7% had tried illegal drugs.

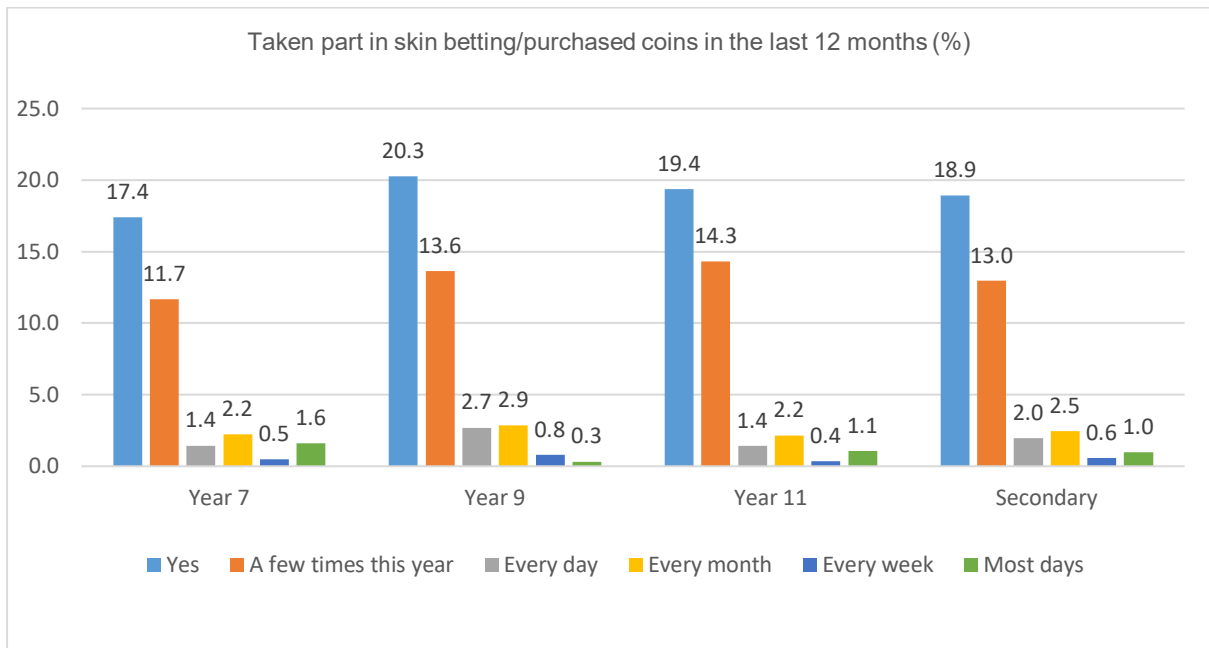


The chart above ranks the most popular forms of gambling activity that pupils took part in over the last 12 months. Bingo was the most popular form of gambling amongst secondary aged pupils during 2019/20, with 21% taking part in this activity. Skin betting was the second most popular with 19% taking part and betting on sport events the third most popular with almost 18% taking part.

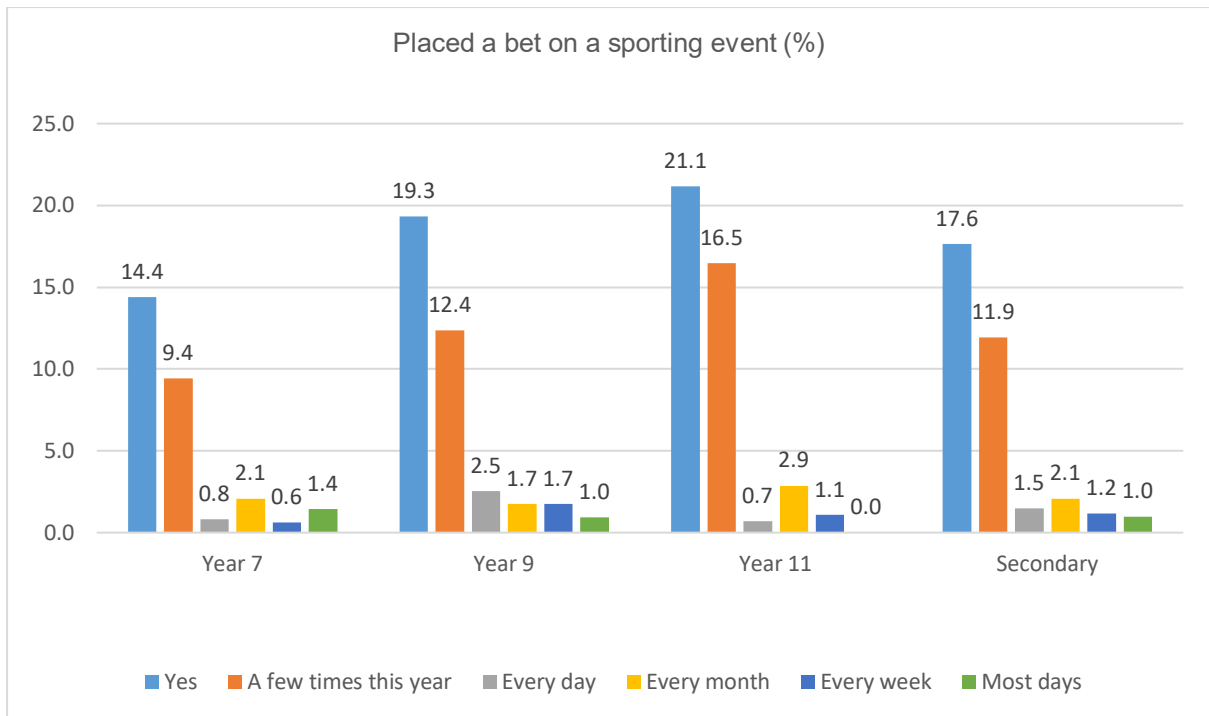
The following charts break down the activities by year groups and how frequently they take part.



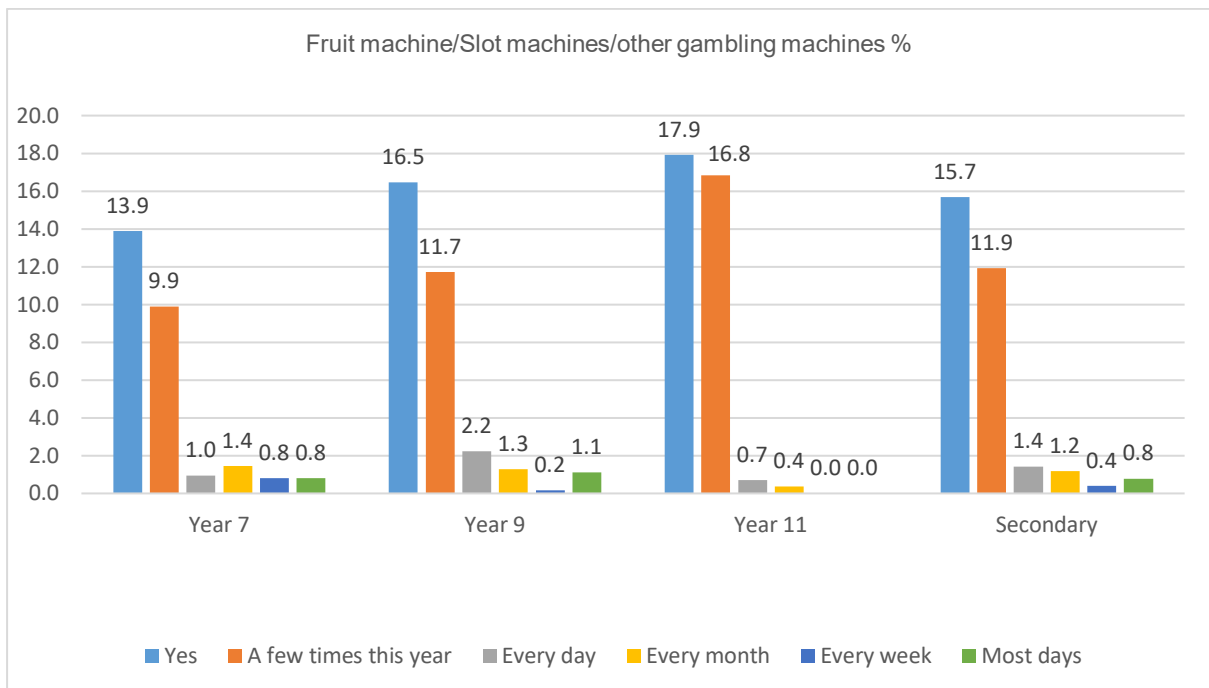
Bingo was the most popular activity amongst secondary aged pupils. 21.1% of secondary pupils took part in Bingo throughout the last 12 months. Bingo appears to be popular amongst all year groups, but 3.2% of Year 9s play bingo on a daily basis, which is almost double the overall secondary pupil results of 1.8%.



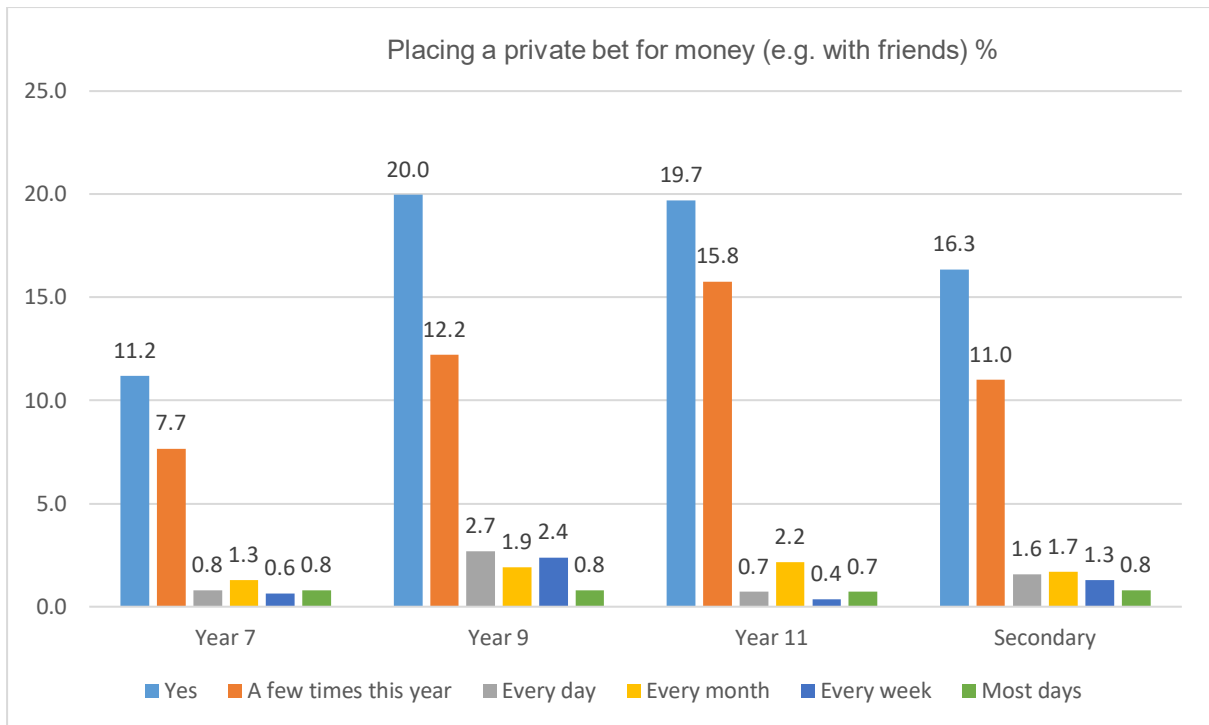
The second most common form of gambling amongst secondary aged pupils was via gaming or skin betting, with 19% of pupils taking part in this activity on a regular basis and over 2% playing every day. This form of gambling is most popular with the Year 9 age group with over 20% taking part regularly, slightly above the Year 11s at 19% and Year 7s at 17%. The Year 9s also appear to play this form of gambling on a daily basis with 2.7% taking part in skin betting every day in the last 12 months. In comparison, 1.4% of Year 11s and Year 7s play daily.



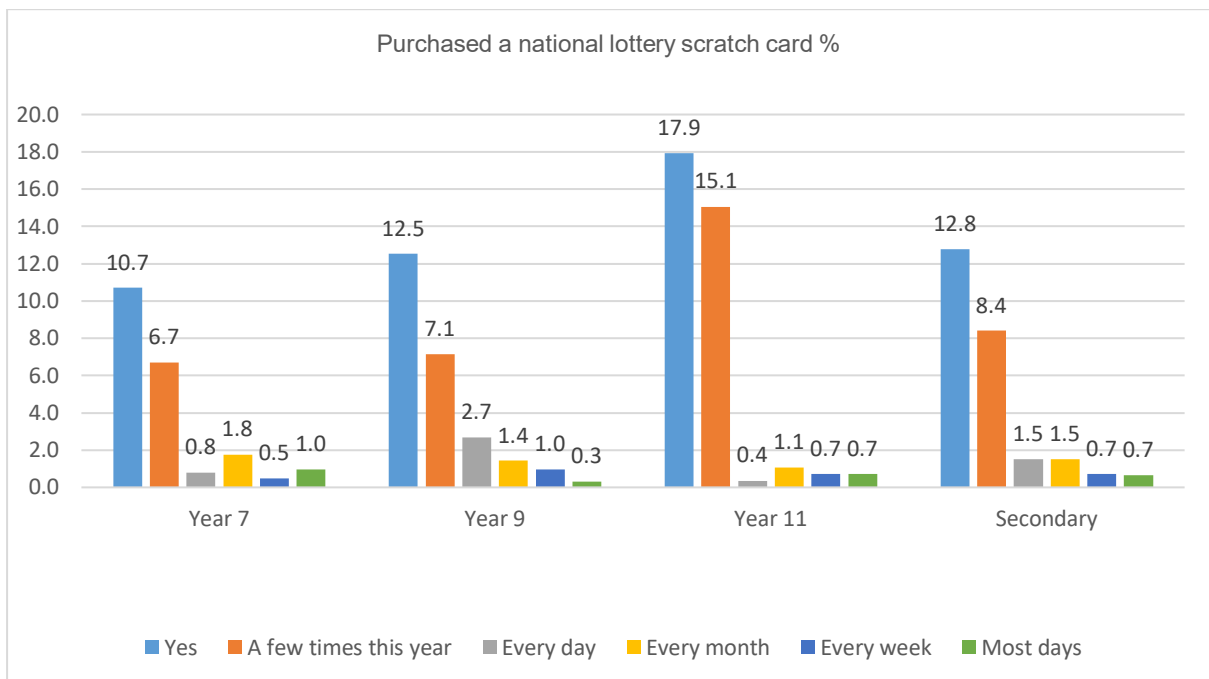
Betting on sporting events was the third most popular form of gambling amongst secondary aged pupils, with 17.6% taking part. When looking at each Year group, 14% of Year 7s had placed a bet on a sporting event, this compares to 19% of Year 9s and 21% of Year 11s.



Almost 16% of secondary pupils had used a gambling machine such as a fruit machine/slot machine; 12% of which had used them a few times throughout the year and 1.4% had used one every day.



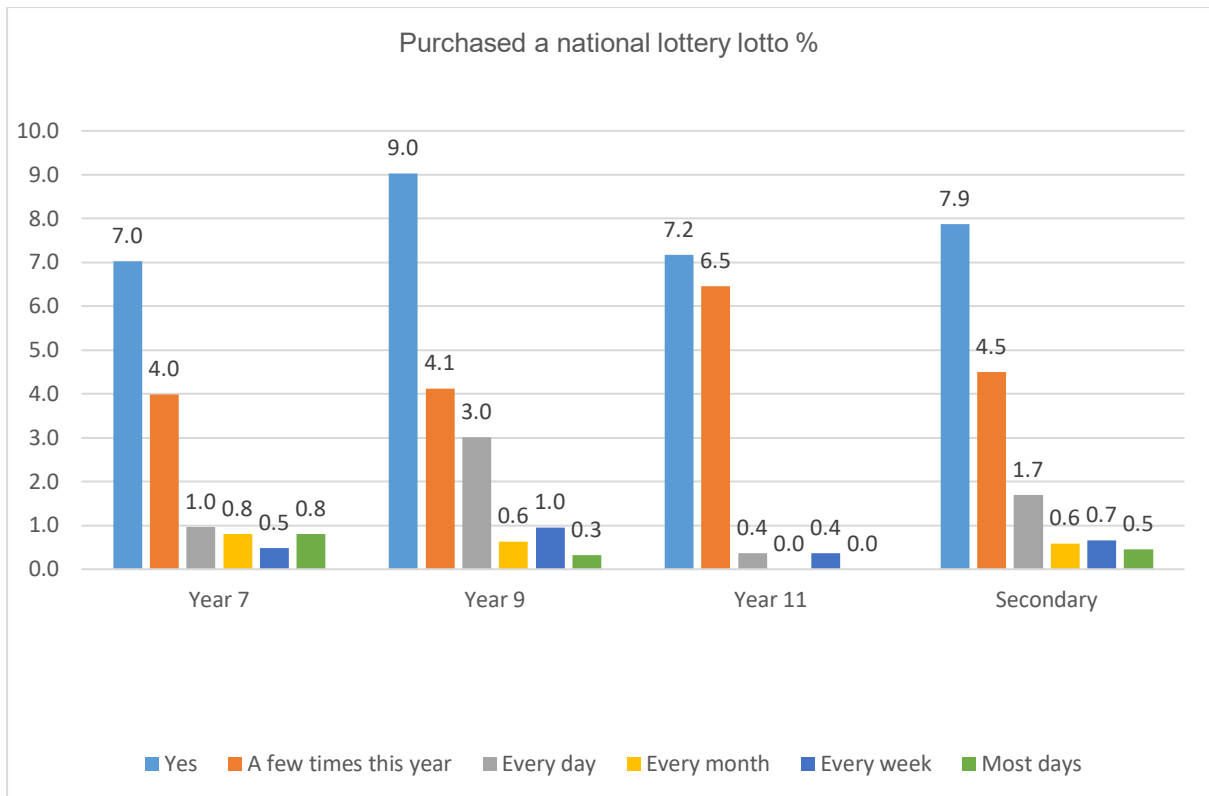
Just over 16% of secondary year pupils had placed a private bet for money in the last 12 months. With 11% doing so a few times in the year, and almost 2% doing so every day.



At the time of this survey, the legal age to purchase a national lottery scratch card was 16+. From 22 April 2021 the age limit to play National Lottery games such as scratch cards and lotto tickets online and from retail stores was increased to 18 years old.

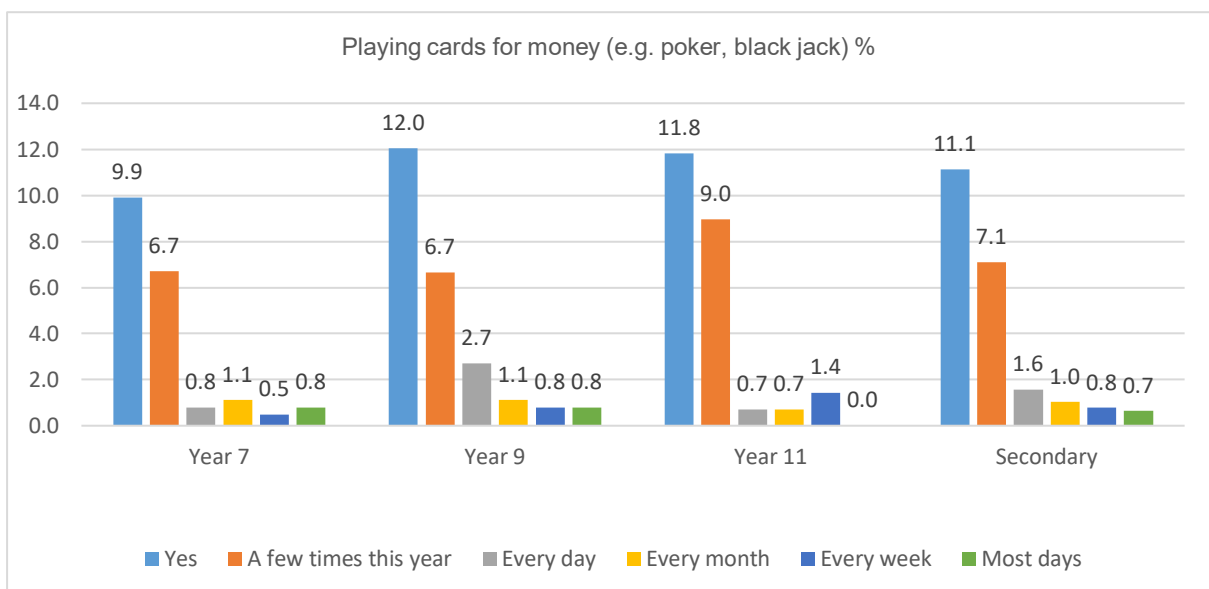
Almost 13% of secondary aged pupils (aged 11-15) had purchased a scratch card, with 8.4% purchasing a card a few times throughout the year and 1.5% doing so every day. This activity is more common in the Year 11 age group with 18% having bought a scratch card.



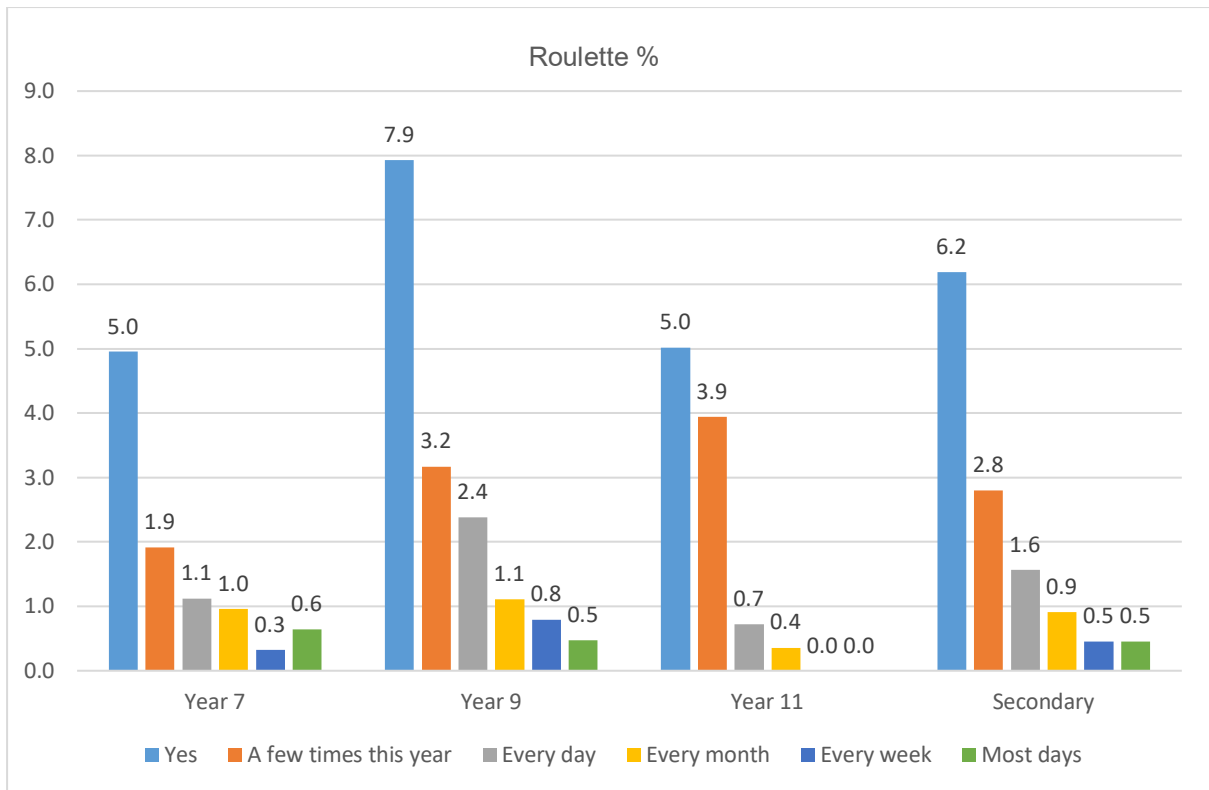


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As with scratch cards, the legal age to purchase a national lottery ticket was 16 at the time of this survey. 8% of secondary aged pupils (aged 11-15) had purchased a lottery ticket, with 4.5% purchasing a ticket a few times throughout the year and almost 2% doing so every day.



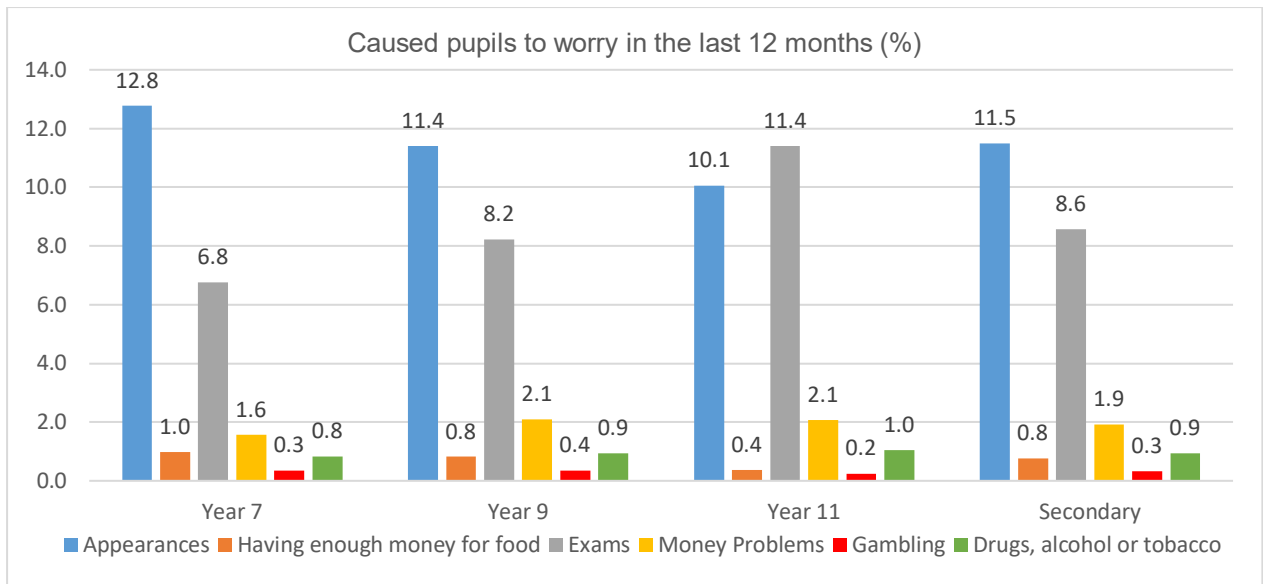
11% of secondary aged pupils had played cards for money through games such as poker or black jack. 7.1% would play a few times a year and 1.6% would play daily.



Roulette appears to be the least popular form of gambling amongst the options suggested to secondary age pupils. 6.2% had played roulette in the last 12 months and 1.6% had played every day. The Year group breakdown shows that almost 8% of Year 9s had played roulette, this compares to 6% of Year 11s and Year 7s.

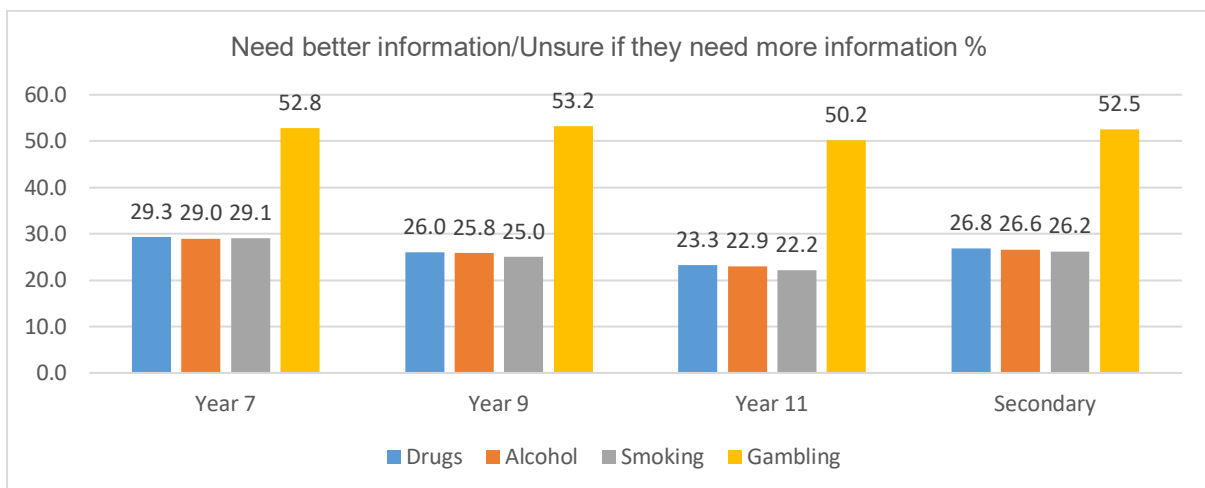


When asked if pupils took part in any other form of gambling in that are different to those listed above, 8.6% revealed that they do. Amongst the different year groups, almost 12% of the Year 11s said they took part in other gambling activities.

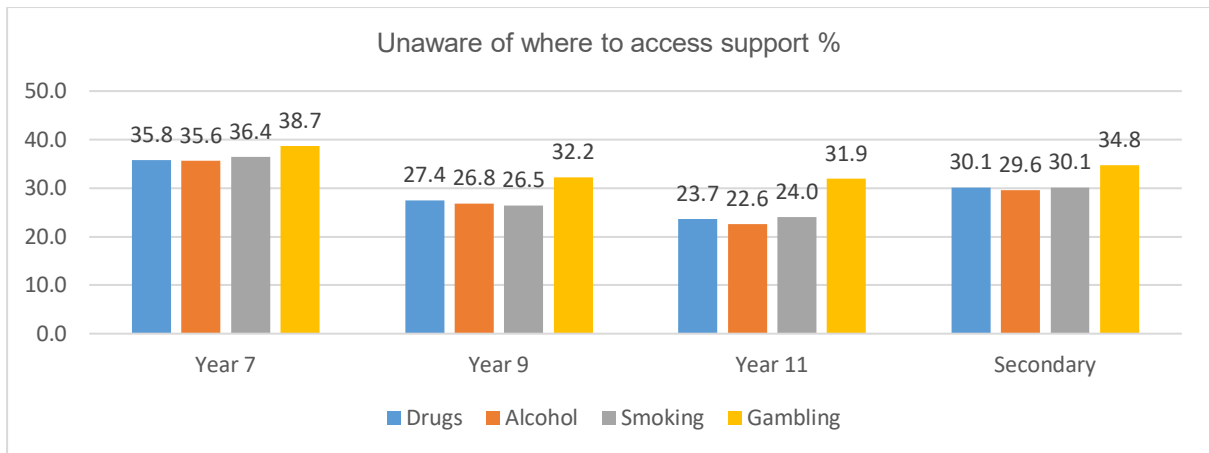


When asked about things that cause worry in the last 12 months, this was an open question where pupils could select more than one answer out of 25 possible options, therefore the proportions are out of 6,252 responses from secondary pupils. Not all 25 categories are displayed in the graph above, just a selection of issues relating to financial inclusion, addiction and young people.

The results from secondary aged pupils revealed gambling to be one of the least areas of concern, with gambling only being selected in 0.3% of responses (20 pupils). 0.9% (58 pupils) cited drugs, alcohol and tobacco. 1.9% (120 pupils) cited money problems and 0.8% (47) of the responses were worried about not having enough to eat because their families didn't have enough money for food. Appearances (11.5%) and exams (8.6%) were amongst the most common causes for worry for the secondary aged survey group.



Over 52% of pupils felt they needed better information or were unsure if they needed better information on learning material in school on gambling and 48% believed they have had enough useful information on this subject. In comparison, 26% wanted better information on smoking, 27% on alcohol and 27% on drugs.

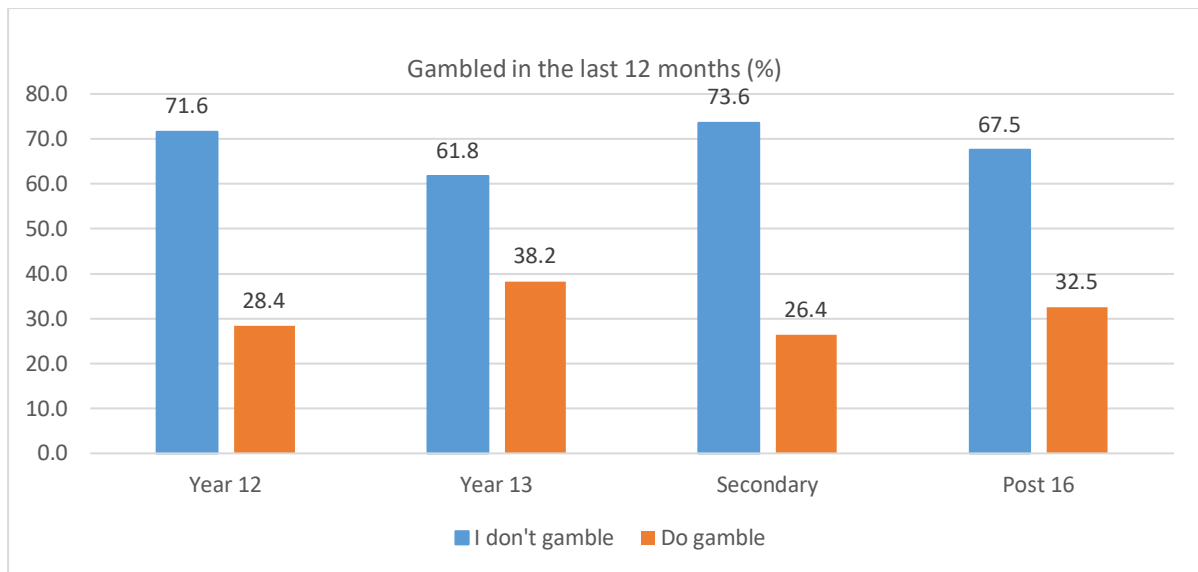


In terms of knowing where to access support for addiction-related issues, 65% of pupils did know where to access gambling support but 35% did not know. In comparison, 30% did not know where to access support for drugs, 30% didn't know about access to support on alcohol, and 30% didn't know where to access support on smoking.

The secondary pupil responses have shown a slight decline in students knowing where to access support and information since the previous survey. However, more work on this agenda is being carried out in Leeds through a Communications and Training plan which is being developed through engagement with young people. This work aims to help understand and discuss views of children and young people on gambling and gaming, what activities they perceive as harmless or harmful, gambling advertising and regulation, and methods of promoting help and support services.

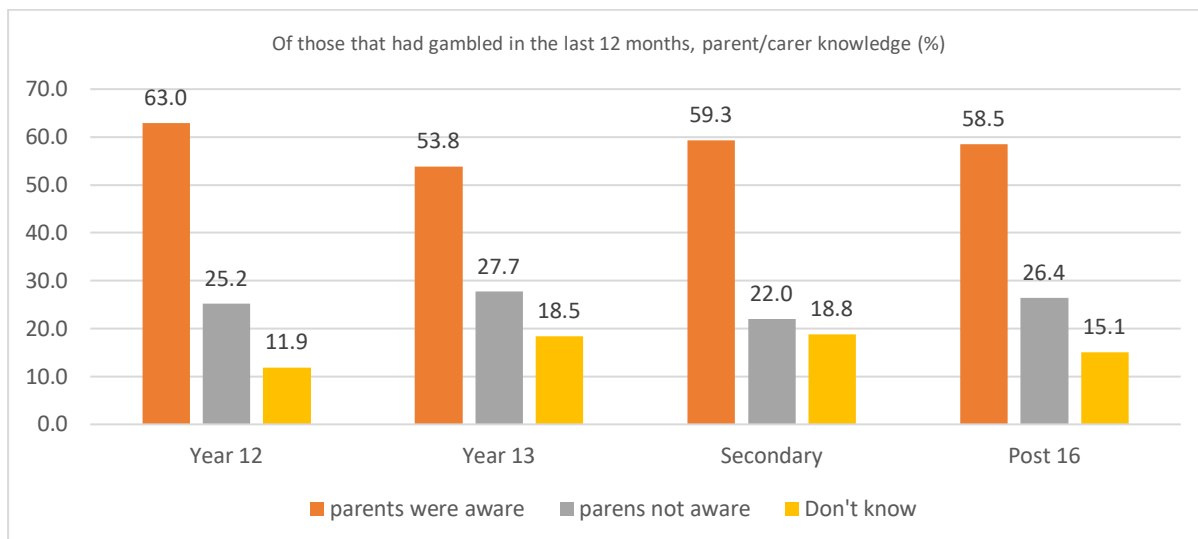
In addition to this local work, on a national level, health education became statutory in September 2020 with teaching to be implemented by summer 2021. This included a requirement on teaching about gambling under the subject of internet safety and harms. It is anticipated that with these changes, the survey results on pupils knowing about support and access should improve in the future.

## Post 16 Analysis 2019/20

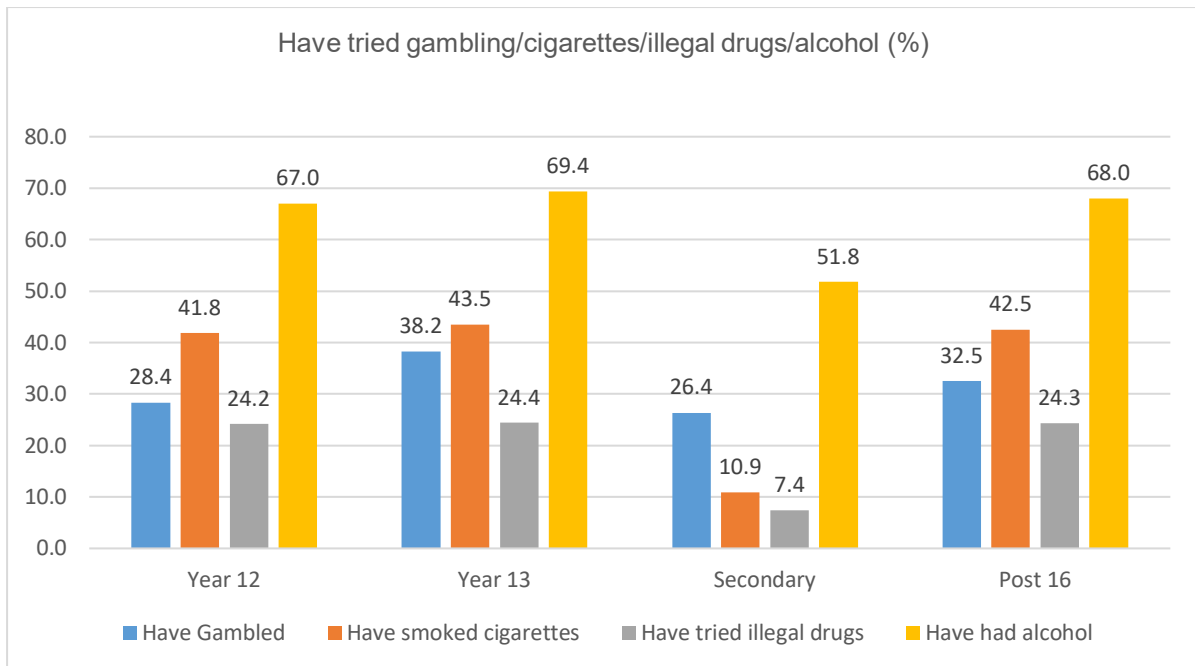


During 2019/20, of the 816 post 16 age pupils that were surveyed; 551 had not gambled in the last 12 months and 265 had gambled. As displayed on the graph above, this represents 68% of post 16 pupils surveyed that had never gambled and 33% that had gambled. When broken down by year group, 28% of Year 12s and 38% of Year 13s had gambled in the last 12 months. Gambling is more prevalent at 33% in the post 16 year groups than at 26% in the secondary year groups.

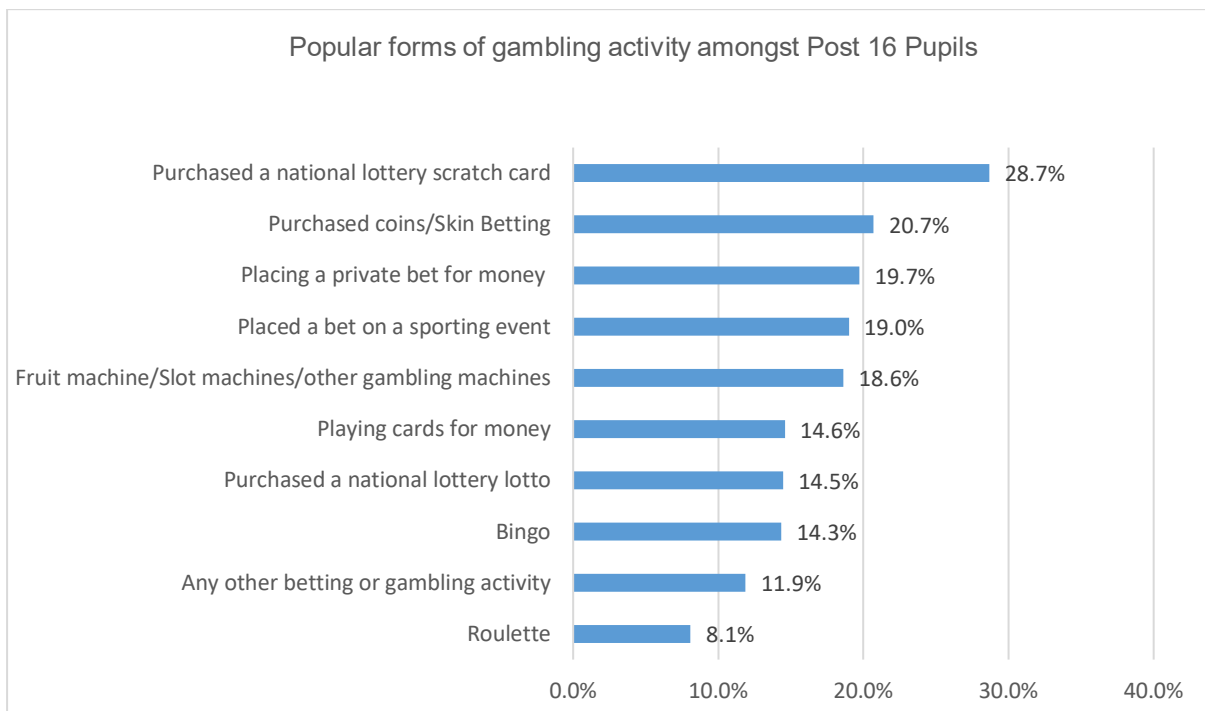
Although the sample size differ on 2018/19, the gambling rates amongst secondary and post 16 students have remained similar. The 2018/19 secondary rate was 24% and Post 16 rate was 32%.



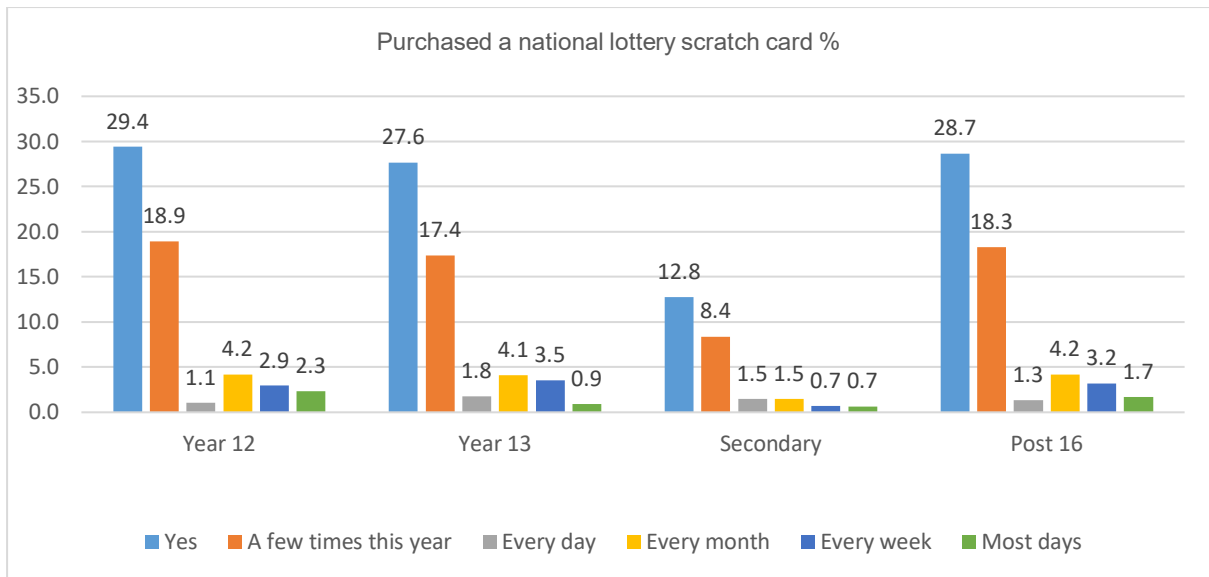
Of the 265 post 16 students that had gambled in the last 12 months, 59% did so with their parent/carer being aware; 26% did so without their parent/carer being aware and 15% did not know if their parent/carer was aware.



As stated earlier, 33% of post 16 pupils had gambled. In comparison to other addiction subjects, 43% of post 16 pupils had smoked a cigarette, 24% had tried illegal drugs 68% had tried alcohol.

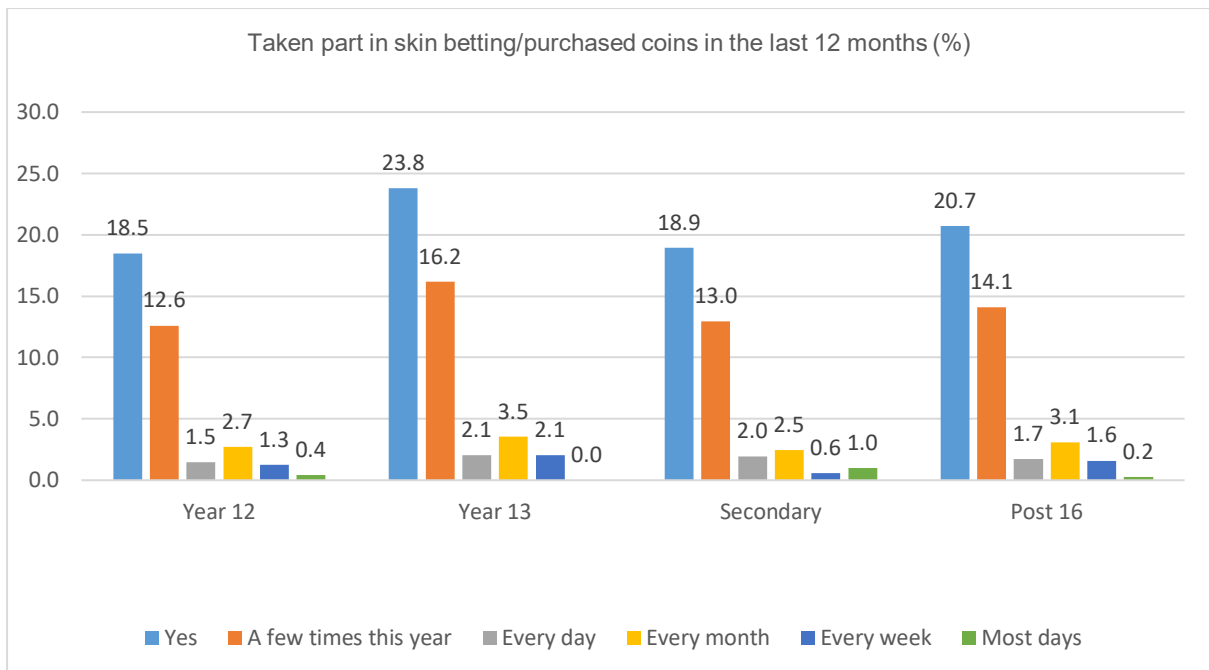


The chart above ranks the most popular forms of gambling activity that pupils took part in over 12 months. Lottery scratch cards were the most popular form of gambling amongst the post 16 age group during 2019/20, with 29% taking part in this activity. Skin betting was the second most popular with 21% taking part and placing private bets amongst friends was the third most popular activity with 20% taking part.

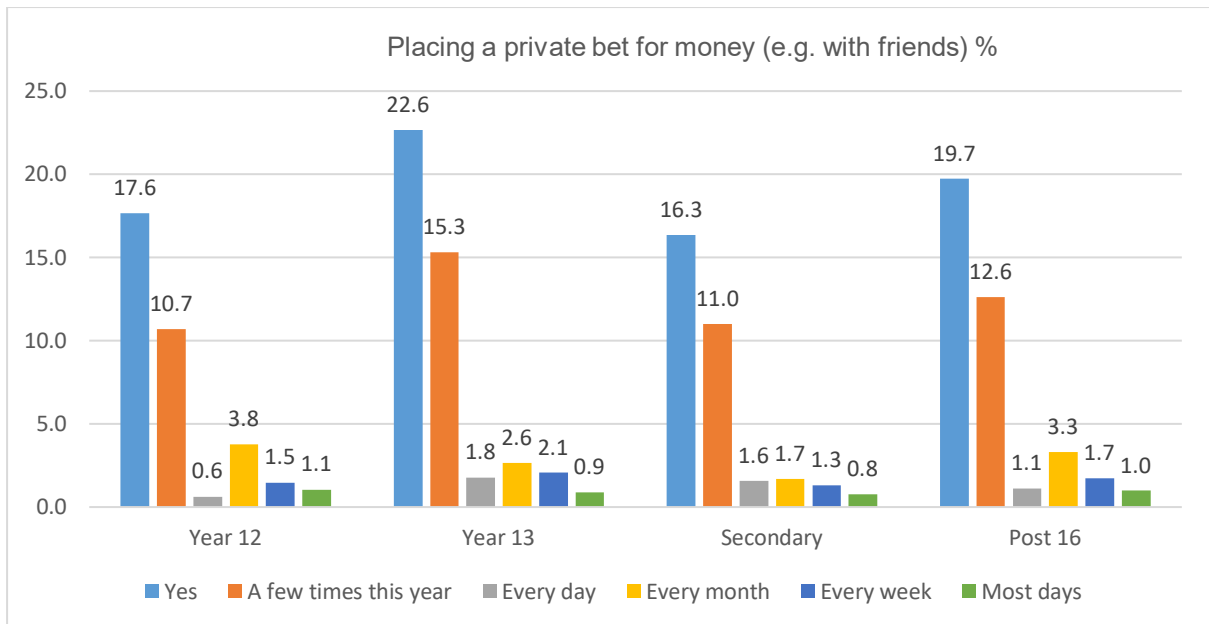


At the time of this survey, the legal age to purchase a national lottery scratch card was 16+. From 22 April 2021 the age limit to play National Lottery games such as scratch cards and lotto tickets online and from retail stores was increased to 18 years old.

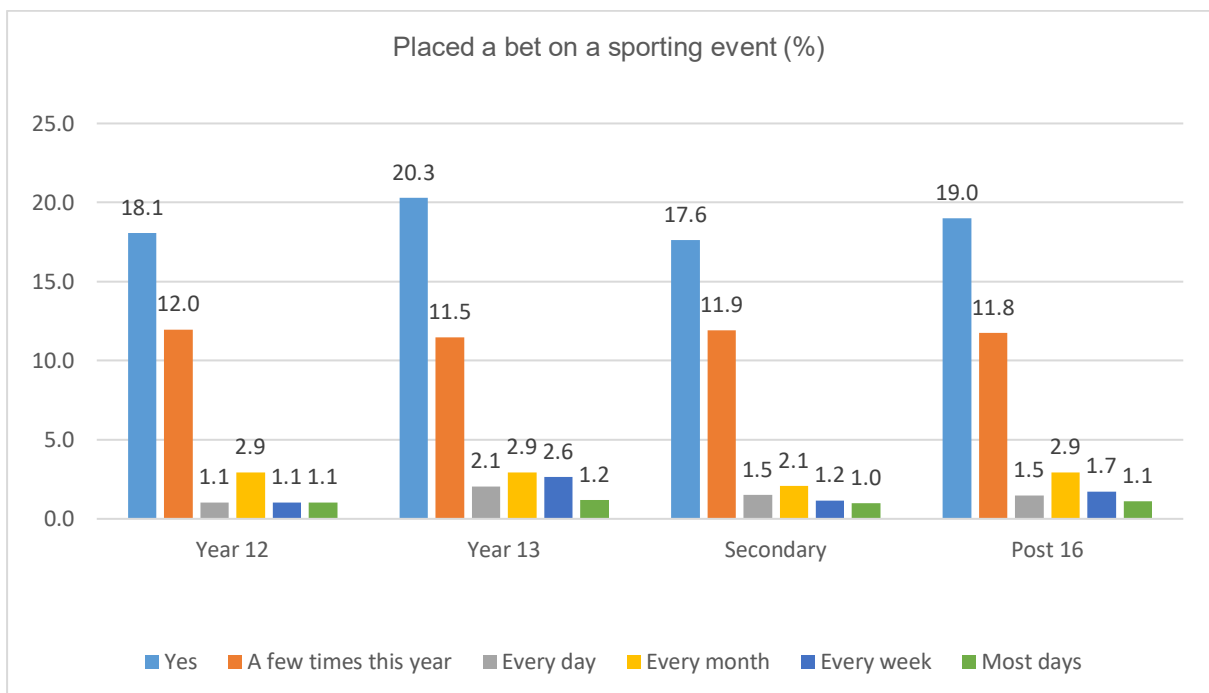
The most common form of gambling for the post 16 year groups is national lottery scratch cards. Almost 29% of this group have gambled through purchasing scratch cards. This could be attributed to this year group currently being legally able to purchase scratch cards and lottery tickets.



Almost 21% of post 16 students took part in this activity in the last 12 months, compared to 19% in the secondary year groups. 2.1% of Year 13s took part in this activity on a daily basis, compared to 1.5% of Year 12s.

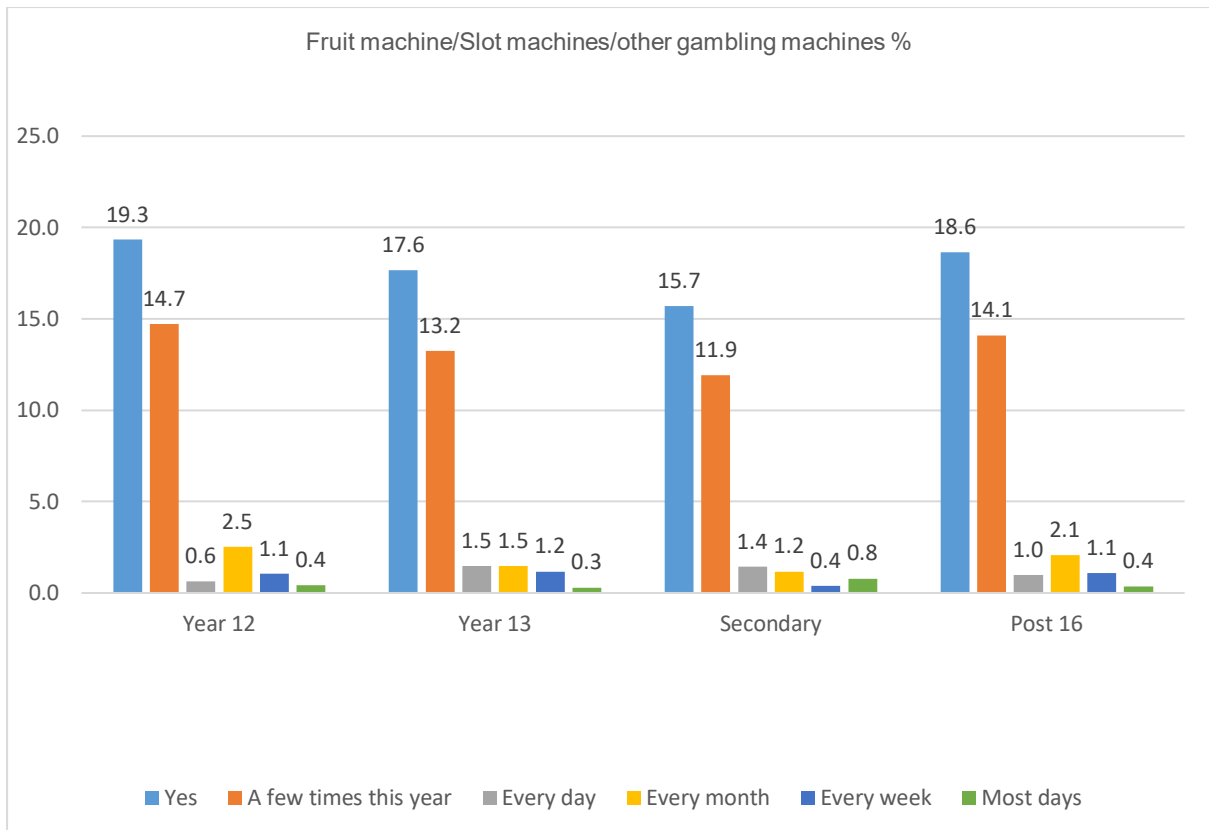


Almost 20% of post 16 students had placed a private bet for money in the last 12 months. With 13% doing so a few times in the year, and 1.1% doing so every day. This form of gambling appears to be higher in Year 13, with 23% placing private bets throughout the year, compared to 18% in Year 12.

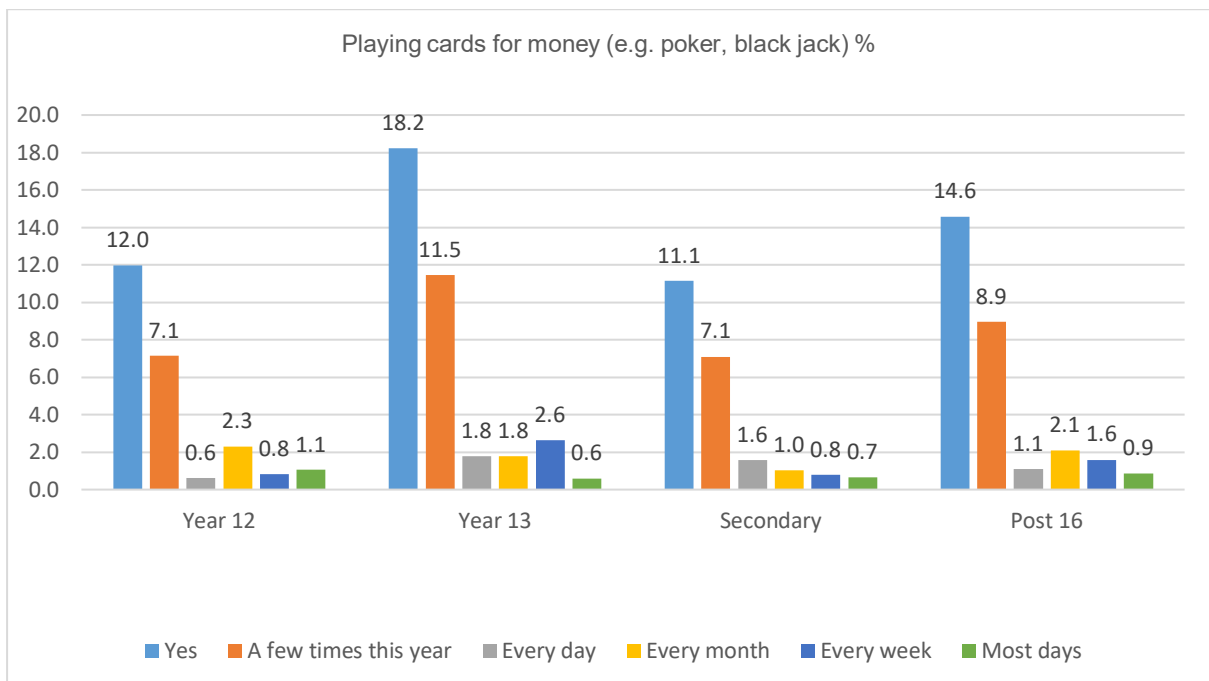


Betting on sporting events was the fourth most popular form of gambling amongst post 16 aged pupils, with 19% taking part. 2.1% of Year 13s took part in this activity on a daily basis, compared to 1.1% of Year 12s.

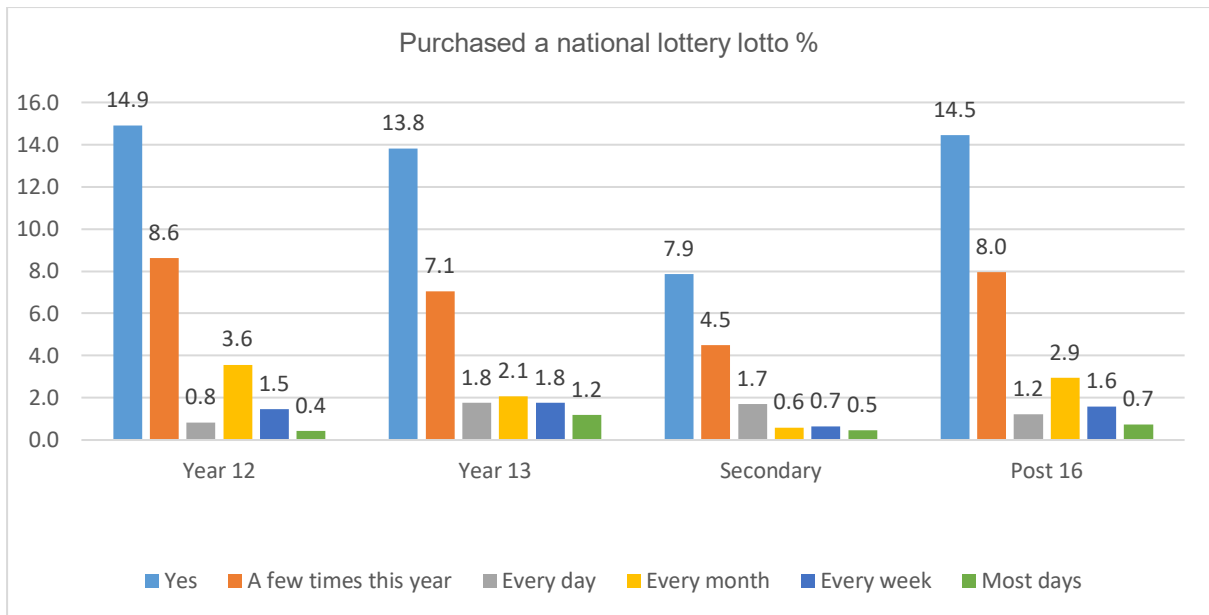




Almost 19% of post 16 students had used a gambling machine such as a fruit machine/slot machine; 14% of which had used them a few times throughout the year and 1% had used one every day.

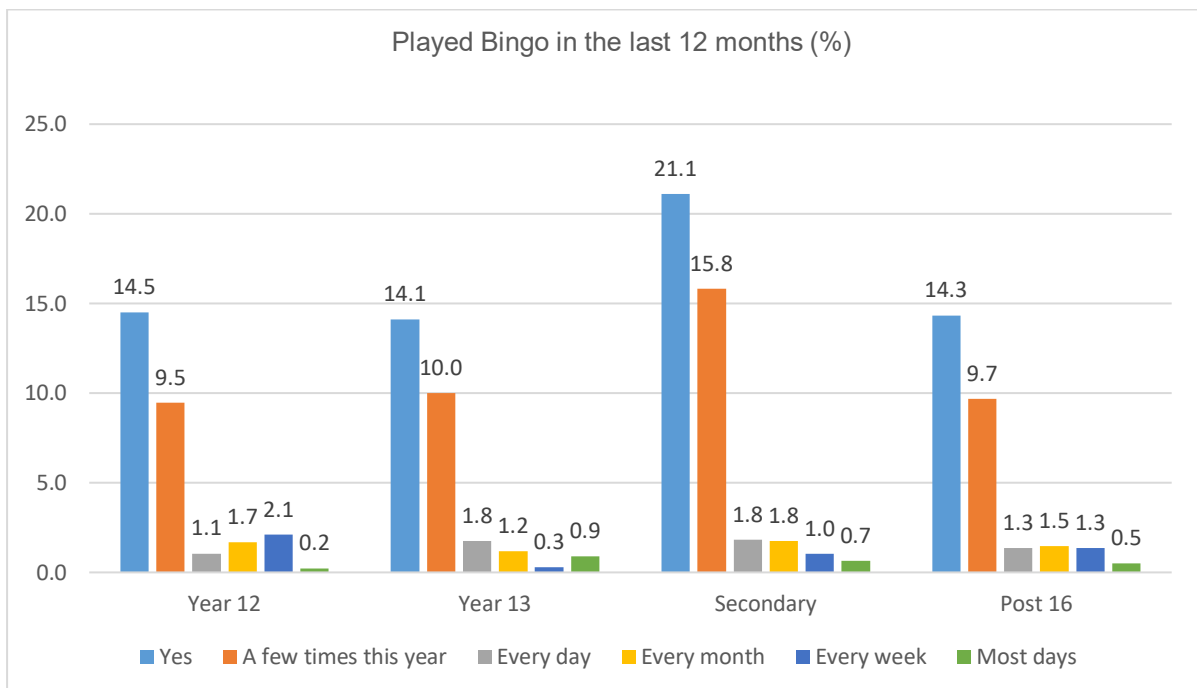


Almost 15% of post 16 students had played cards for money through games such as poker or black jack. This form of gambling was highest amongst the Year 13s with 18% having taken part. In comparison, 12% of Year 12s had gambled when playing cards.

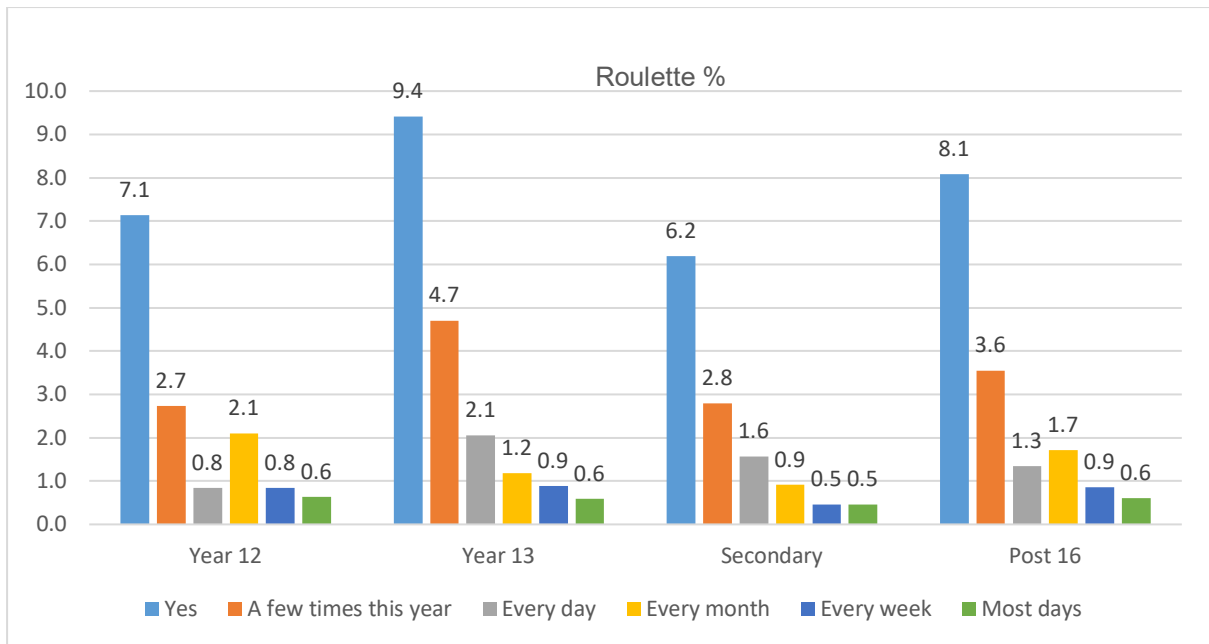


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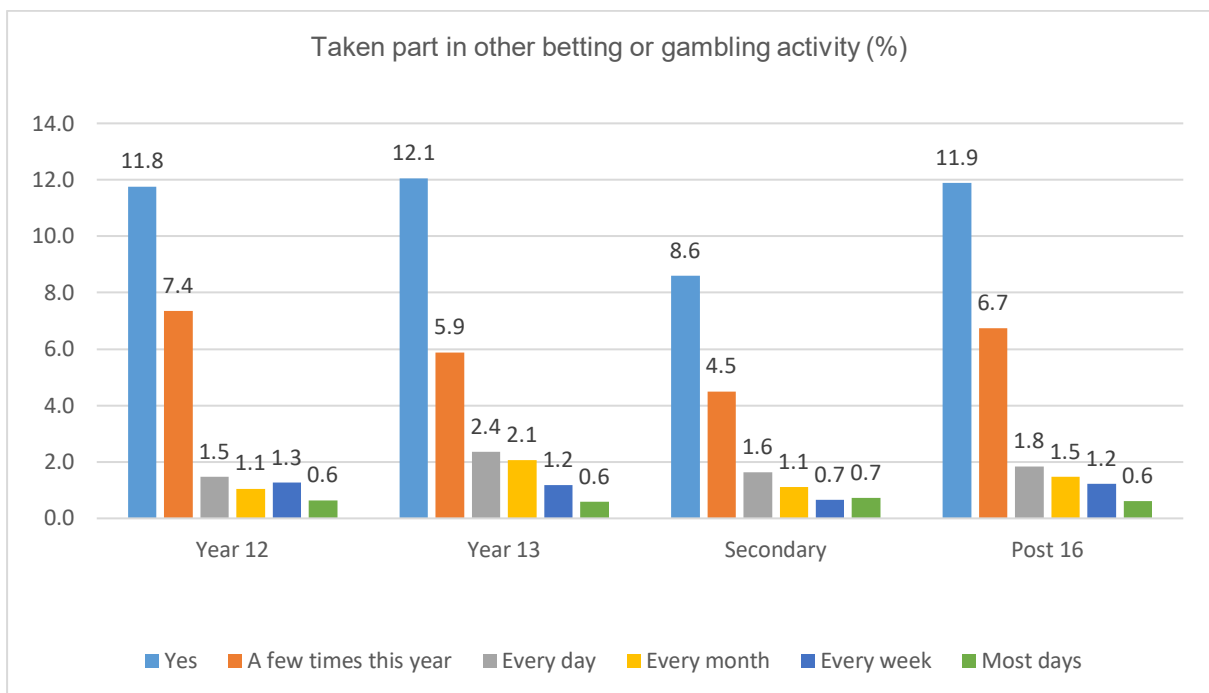
Almost 15% of post 16 students had purchased a lottery ticket in the last 12 months, with 8% purchasing a ticket a few times throughout the year.



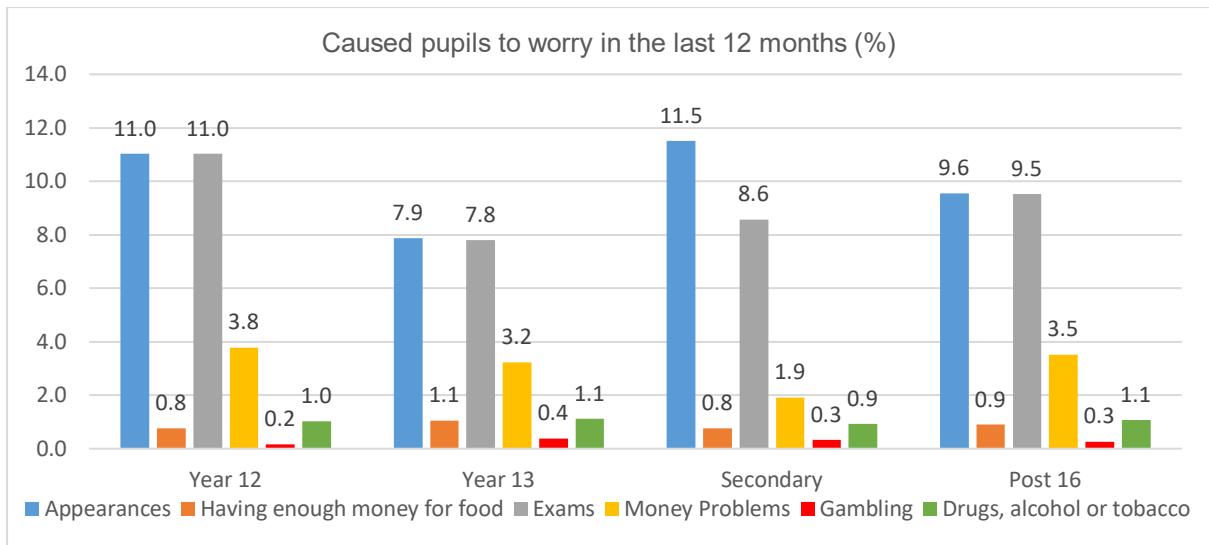
Bingo was not as popular amongst the post 16 age group as it was for the secondary age group. 14% of the post 16 year groups took part in Bingo, compared to 21% of secondary pupils.



Roulette also appears to be the least popular form of gambling amongst the options suggested to post 16 age pupils. Just 8% had played roulette in the last 12 months, although 9.4% had played from the Year 13 Year group.

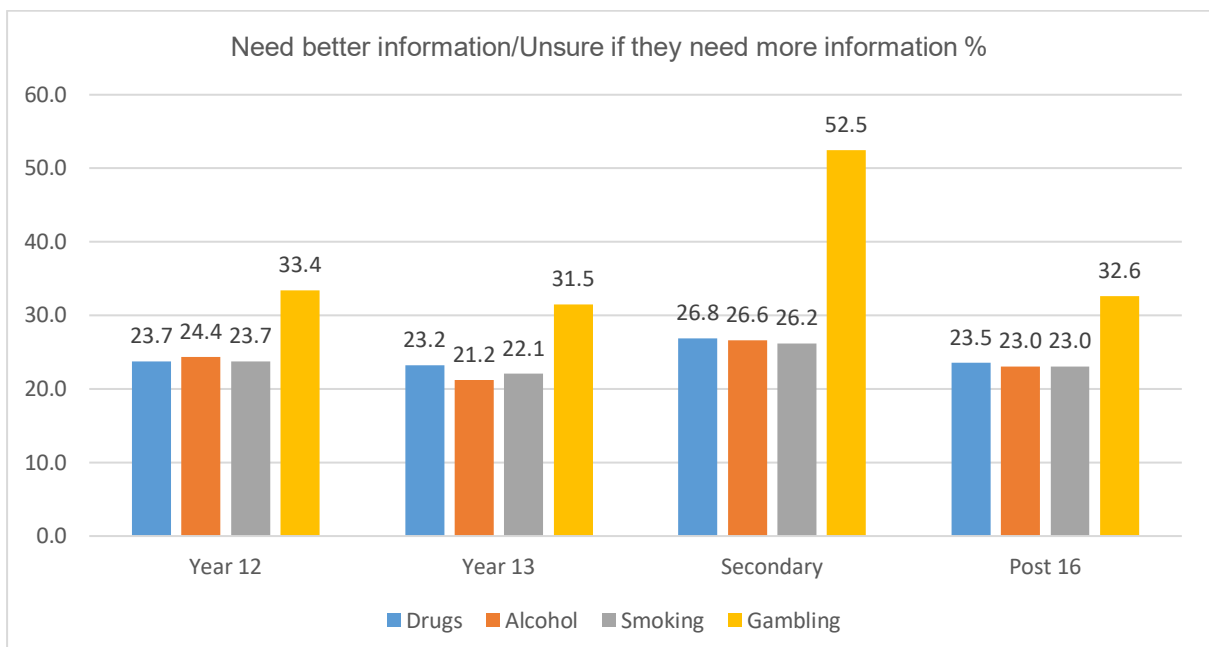


When asked if pupils took part in any other form of gambling, that are different to those listed above, 12% of post 16 students revealed that they do.

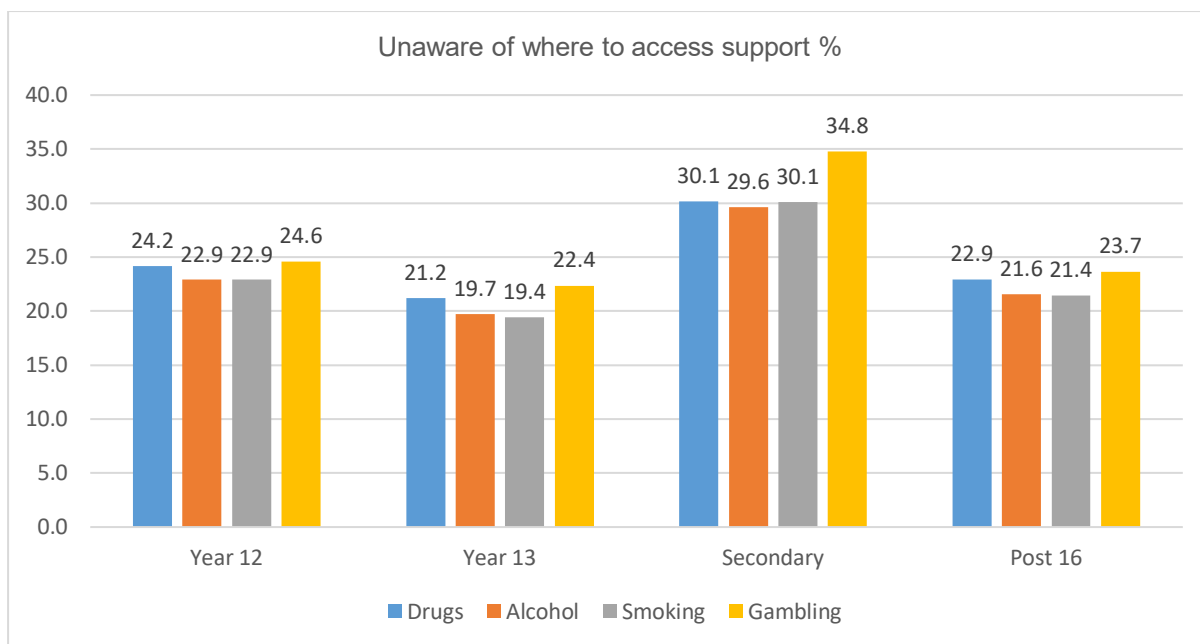


When asked about things that cause worry in the last 12 months, this was an open question where pupils could select more than one answer out of 25 possible options, therefore the proportions are out of 3,464 responses from post 16 pupils. Not all 25 categories are displayed in the graph above, just a selection of issues relating to financial inclusion, addiction and young people.

The results from post 16 pupils revealed gambling to be one of the least areas of concern, with gambling only being selected in 0.3% of responses (29 pupils). 1.1% (37 pupils) cited drugs, alcohol and tobacco. 3.5% (122 pupils) cited money problems and 0.9% (31) of the responses were worried about not having enough to eat because their families didn't have enough money for food. Appearances (9.6%) and exams (9.5%) were amongst the most common causes for worry for the post 16 survey group.



Almost 33% of pupils felt they needed better information or were unsure if they needed better information on learning material in school on gambling and 67% believed they have had enough useful information on this subject. In comparison, 23% wanted better information on smoking and alcohol, and almost 24% wanted better learning/support information on drugs.



In terms of knowing where to access support for addiction-related issues, 76% of pupils did know where to access gambling support but 24% did not know. In comparison, 23% did not know where to access support for drugs, 22% for alcohol, and 21% on smoking.

The post 16 results have shown an increase in students knowing where to access support and feeling they have enough information on the issue than in the previous year. Since the previous survey, there has been targeted engagement work and awareness sessions being carried out in the city by GamCare and YGAM with post 16 providers such as Leeds City College, which could be a factor in the improvement of results on this survey question.