

Gambling and gambling regulation in Norway

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Slot machine gambling: liberalized policy in the 1990s

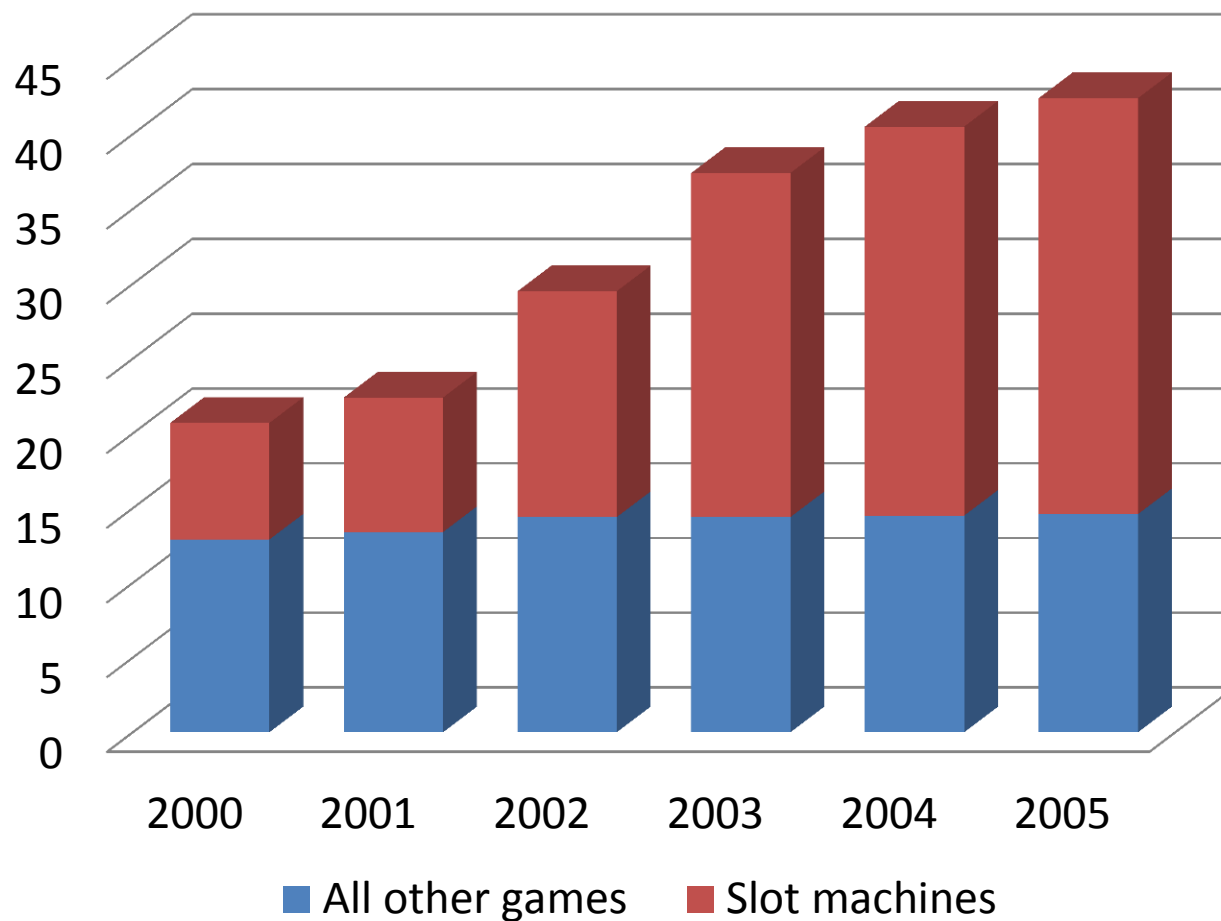


More actors allowed
No restrictions on
amount of winnings
Co-occurred with
technical advances
and change from
coin input to bank
note acceptors



Led to an increase in:
Number of slot machines and gross turnover

Further increase in slot machine gambling in Norway



Gross turnover in billion NOK per year

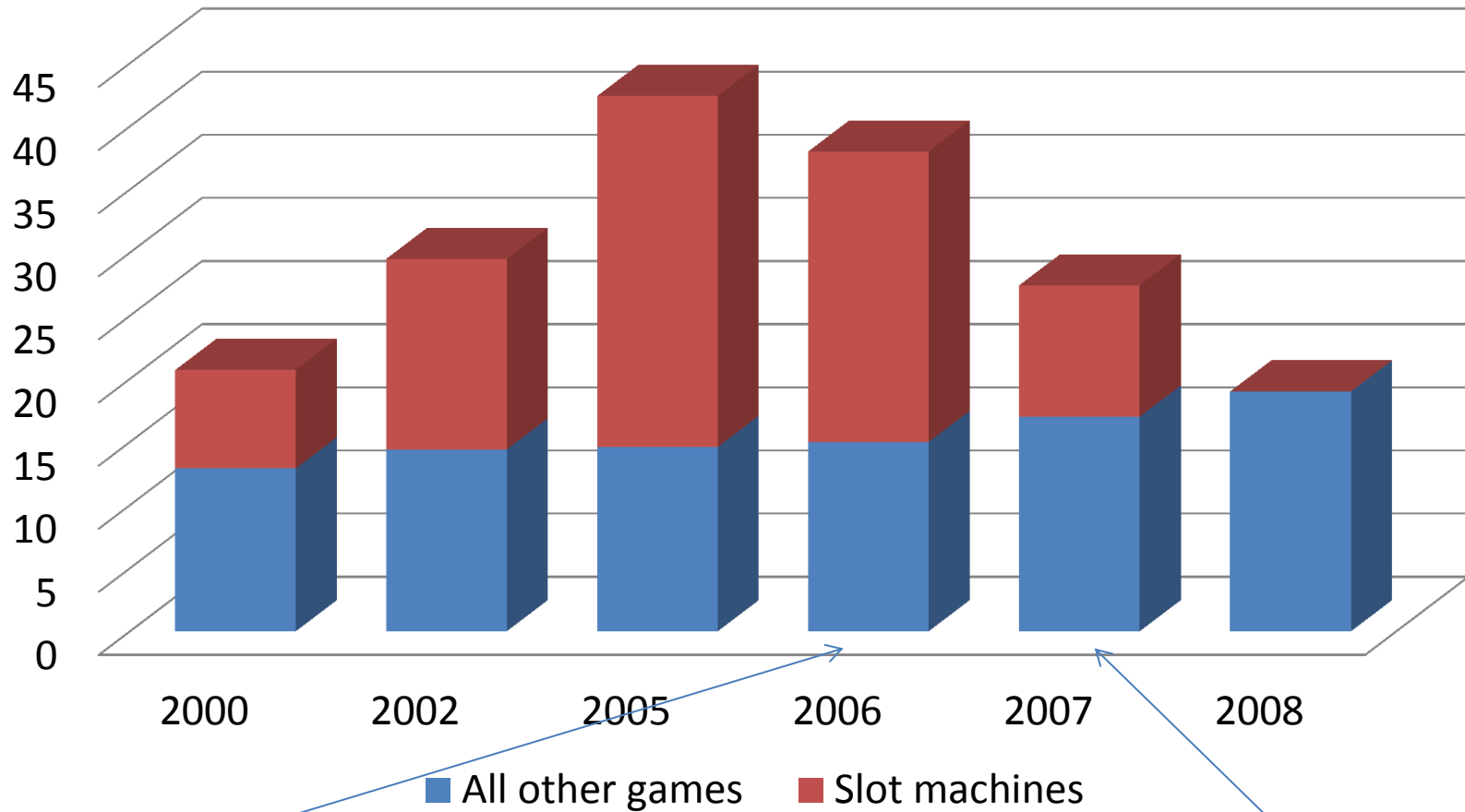
Slot machines important in problem gambling

- «Slot machines – the crack cocaine of gambling addiction»
- Most frequent in adult problem gamblers
 - Population survey (Lund & Nordlund, 2003)
- Most frequent in teenage problem gamblers
 - School survey (Rossow & Hansen, 2003)
- Most often reported as main problem in help line callers
 - Norwegian help line statistics, 2006/2007

Regulations of slot machine gambling

- 2006: Bank note acceptors prohibited July 1st
- 2007: Slot machines removed July 1st
Monopoly established
- 2009: New and fewer slot machines introduced

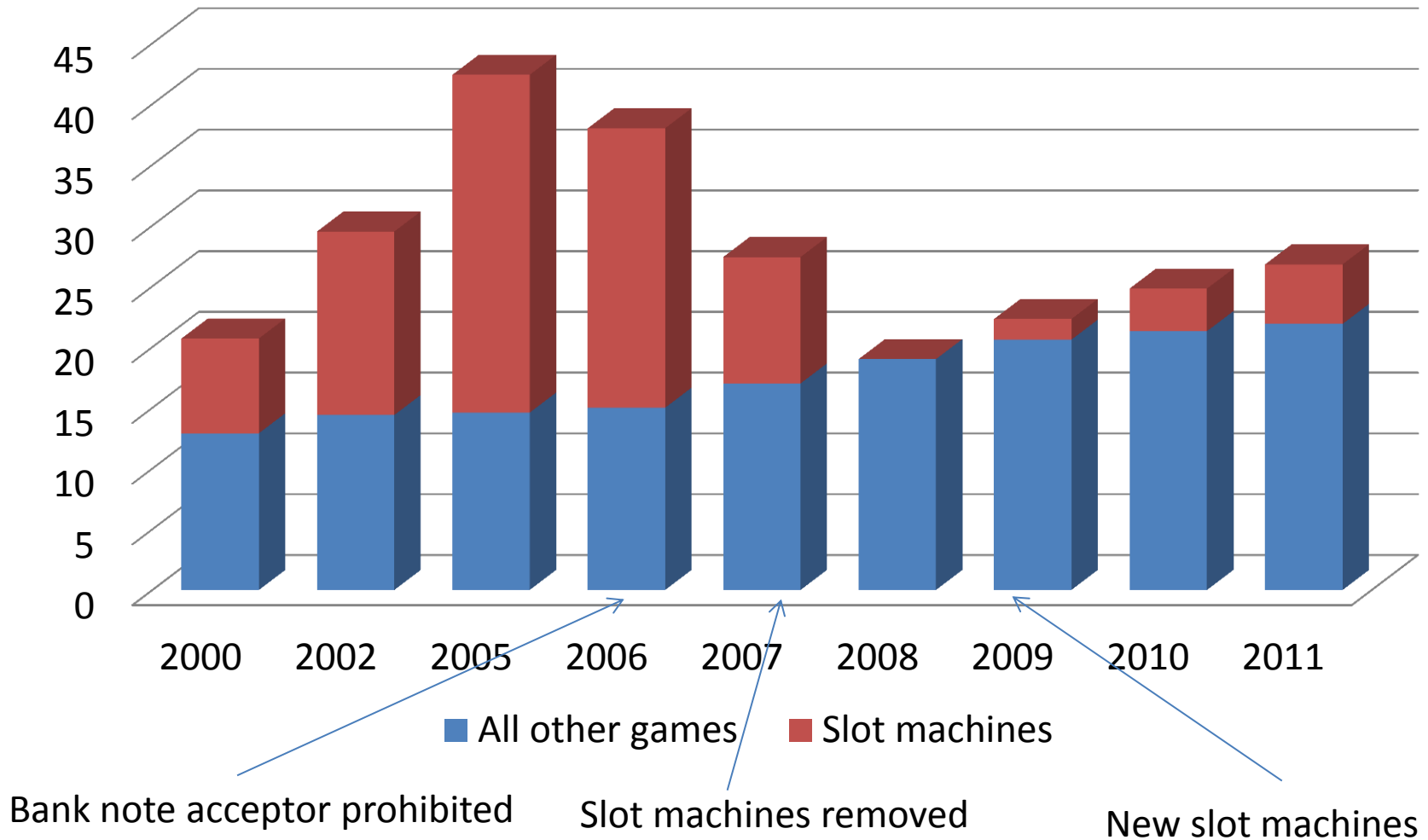
Changes in gross turnover



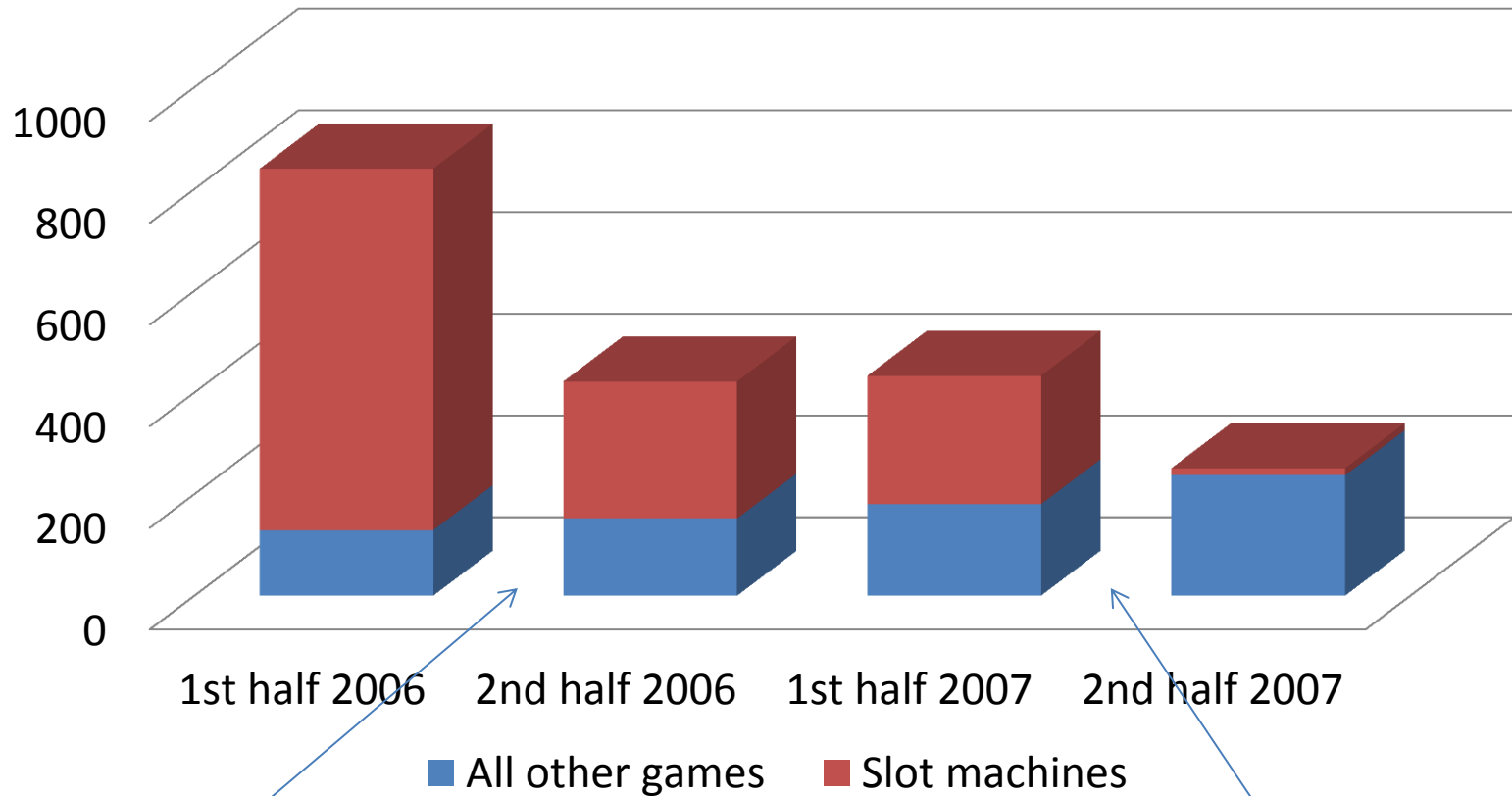
Bank note acceptor prohibited from July 1st

Slot machines removed from July 1st

Changes in gross turnover



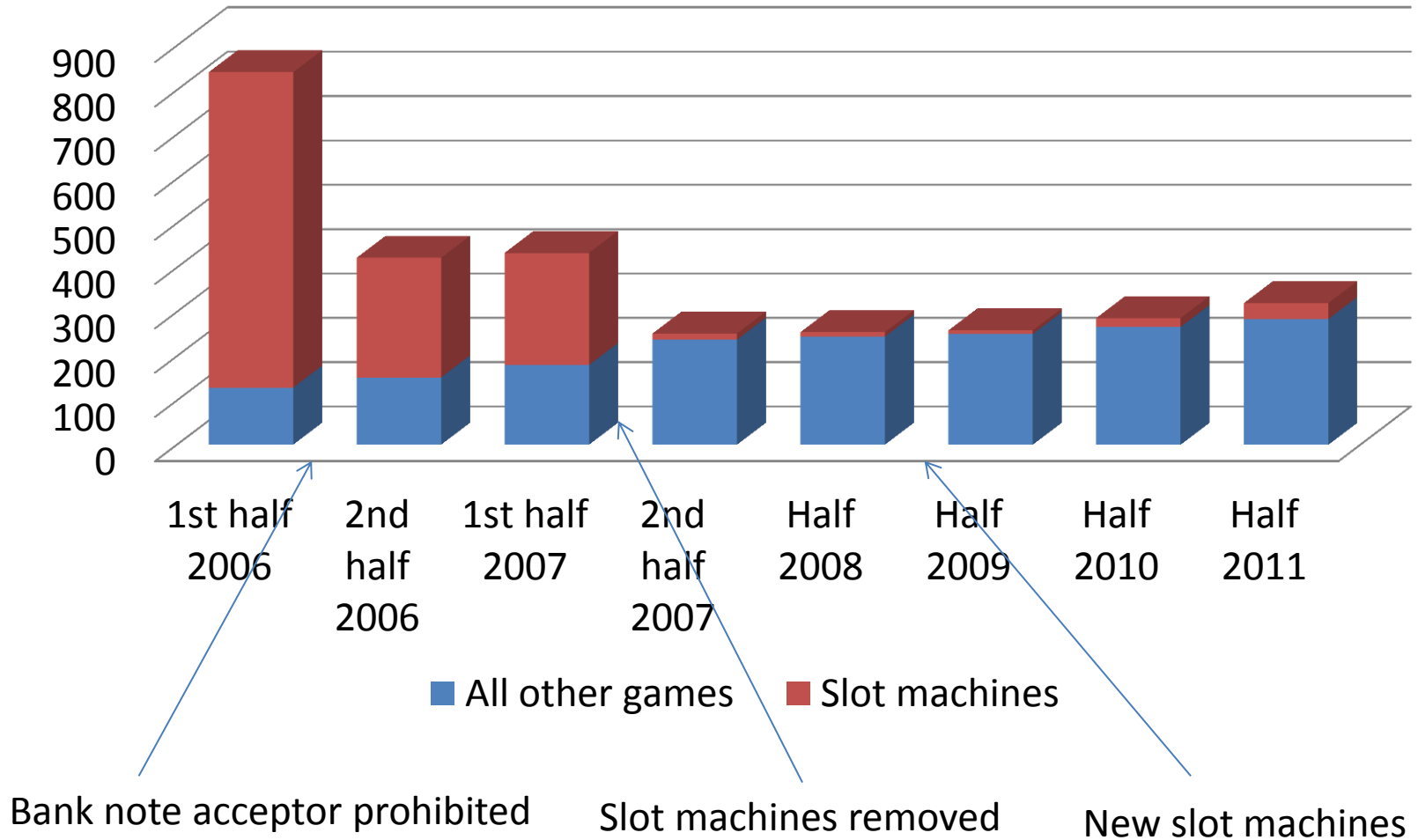
Changes in help line calls



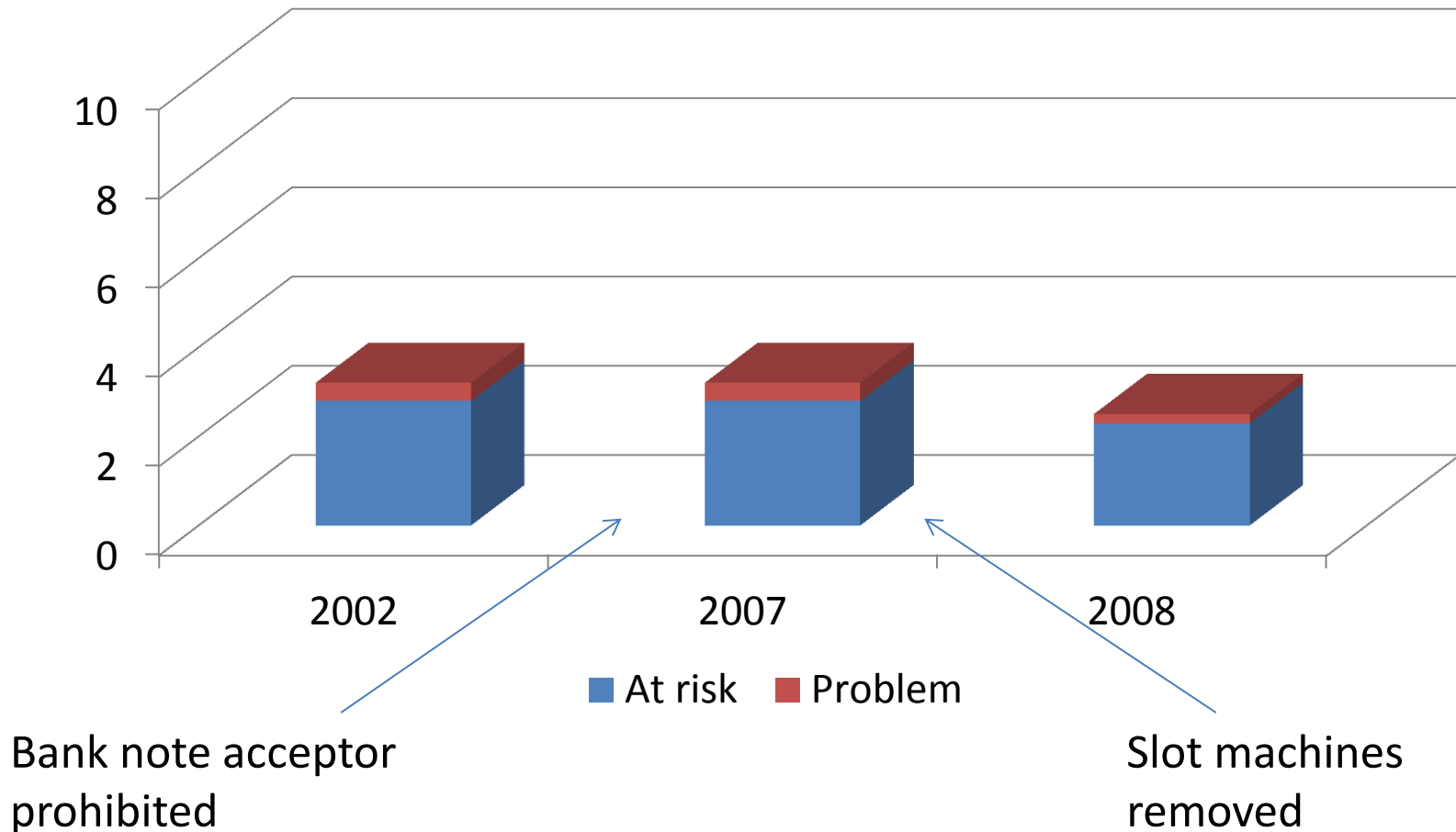
Bank note acceptor prohibited

Slot machines removed

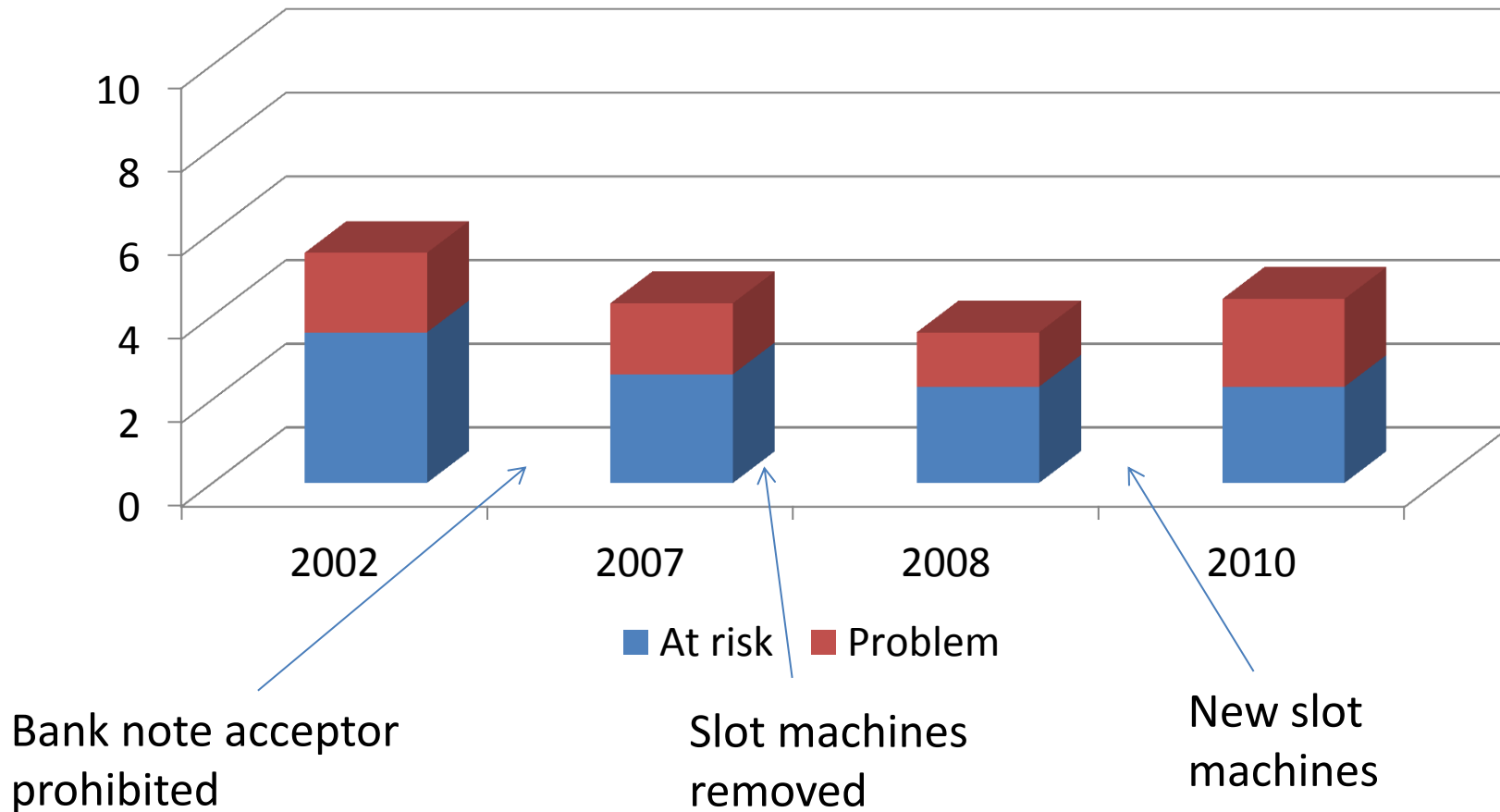
Changes in help line calls



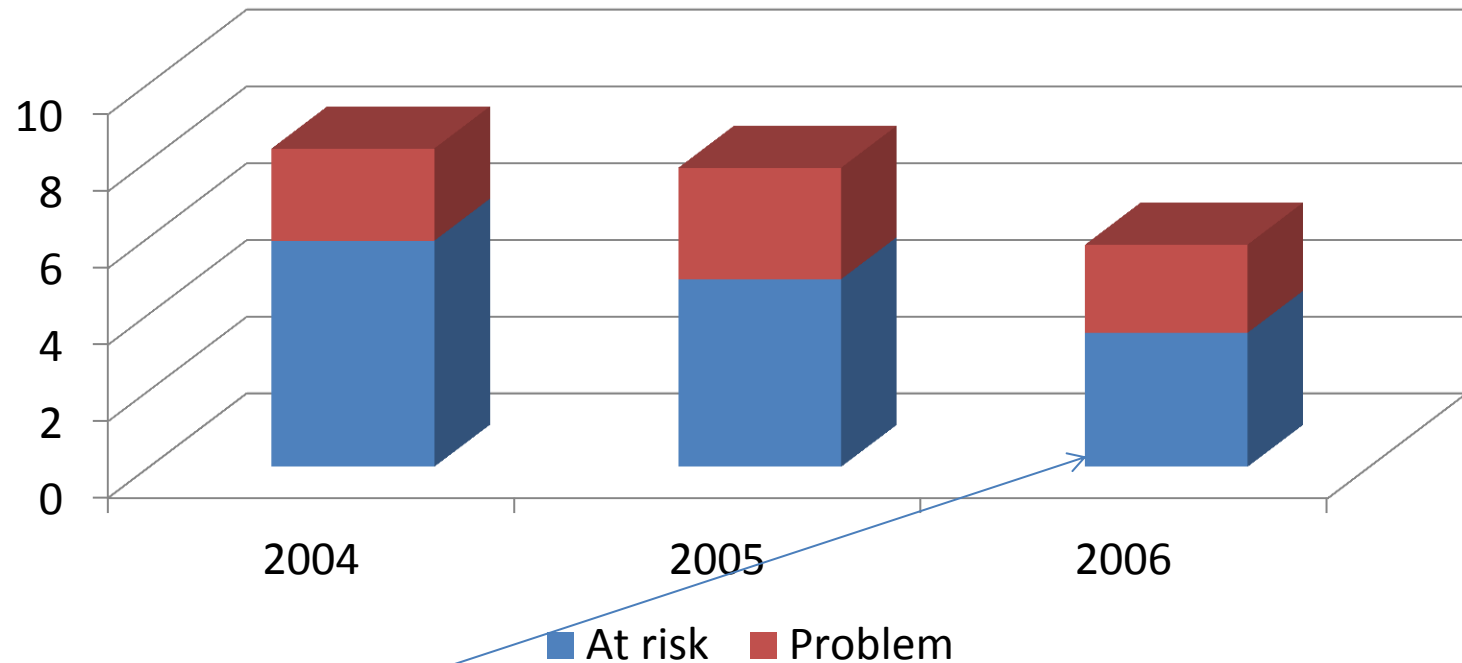
Changes in problem gambling prevalence – adult population NODS



Changes in problem gambling prevalence – adult population CPGI

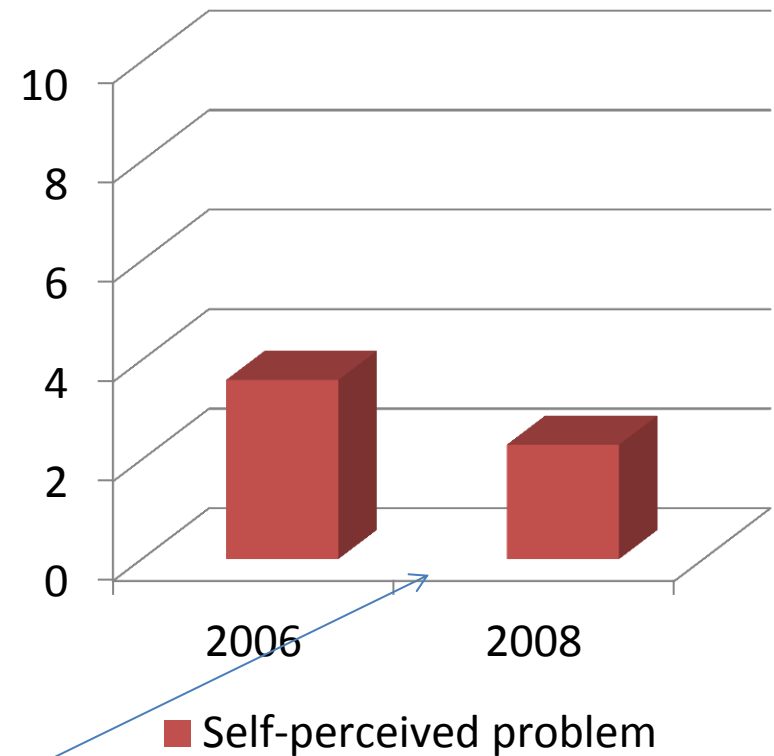
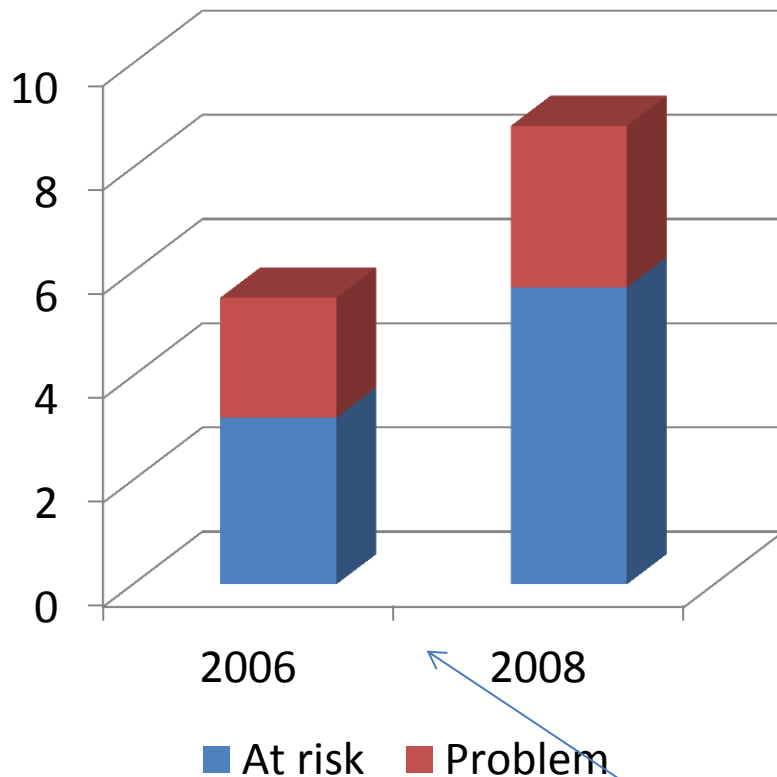


Changes in problem gambling prevalence – youth population SOGS-RA



Bank note acceptor
prohibited

Changes in problem gambling prevalence – youth population: SOGS-RA & self-perceived



Slot machines removed

Summary of findings

- Prohibition of note acceptors
 - Reduced gross turnover on slot machines and in total
 - Reduced help line calls from slot machine gamblers and in total
 - Reduced problem gambling among youth
 - No change in problem gambling among adults
- Removal of slot machines
 - Reduced gross turnover in total
 - Reduced help line calls from slot machine gamblers and in total
 - Mixed findings re problem gambling among youth
 - Reduced problem gambling among adults
- Introduction new slot machines
 - Increased gross turnover on slot machines and in total, not to pre-intervention level
 - Increased help line calls from slot machine gamblers and in total, not to pre-intervention level
 - Increased prevalence of gambling problems among adults, not to pre-intervention level

Changes attributable to interventions?

- Theoretical plausible explanations
 - Standard economic theory of availability and demand
 - Total consumption model predicting problem rates
- Methodological limitations and concerns imply cautiousness in inferring intervention effects
 - Increased unregistered gambling abroad?
 - Diminishing interest/need for help line after introduction?
 - Changes in other gambling (e.g. on internet) may have affected changes in problem gambling
 - Low prevalence figures for problem gambling sensitive to random variation
 - Large decrease in response rates in adult population surveys

Thank you!

