



A focus on gambling in Italy: data and services

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Gambling before the Nineties

- ❑ Controlled as to time and place
- ❑ Culture of expectation and “heaven-sent” winnings
- ❑ Entertainment function
- ❑ Ritualistic
- ❑ Time-limited
- ❑ Slowness of play



The escalation of legal gambling in Italy

- ❑ **1992**: gambling became a state fiscal policy measure to reduce the public debt
- ❑ **1997**: addition of a second weekly Lotto game, introduction of Superenalotto, establishment of many new betting centres
- ❑ **1999**: official “investiture” of Bingo
- ❑ **2003**: green light to the slot machines
- ❑ **2005**: addition of a third weekly Lotto game, introduction of Big Match and online betting
- ❑ **2006**: setting up of new betting venues.



Gambling expenditures (in billions of Euros)

Year	Values
1993	9.47
...	...
2000	16.06
2001	16.15
2002	17.37
2003	18.51
2004	25.57
2005	28.40
2006	35.40
2007	39.20
2008	48.00

From 1993 to 2008 → **increase of 385%**



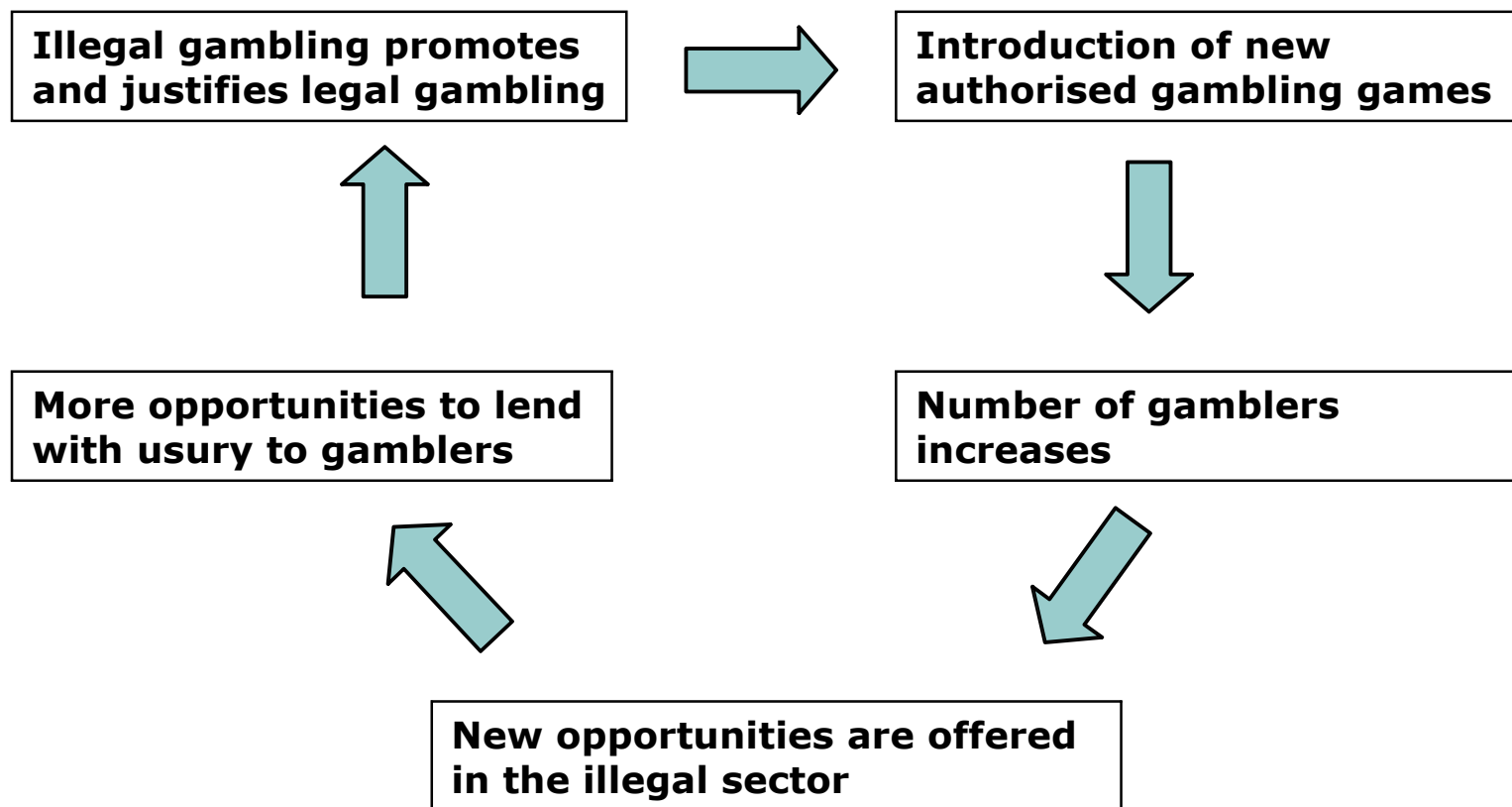
Expenditures by gambling categories (in millions of Euros)

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Lotto	6,938	11,689	7,315	6,588	6,177
Superenalotto	2,066	1,836	1,981	2,000	1,940
Lotteries	282	594	1,546	3,970	7,955
Sports betting	1,621	1,747	1,847	2,586	5,568
Race course b.	2,962	2,903	2,775	2,909	Included in the above
Bingo	1,257	1,542	1,553	1,755	1,726
Slot machines	367	4,474	11,470	15,436	18,827
Total	15,492	24,786	28,847	35,243	42,193

500 years of legal gambling...



Gambling and crime: a vicious circle



Gambling games



“Win for life” (and set for life!)



- ❑ By this new-born game you could win as much as 4,000 euros a month for 20 years.
- ❑ 23% of the revenues are given to the Abruzzo Region for the reconstruction after the April earthquake.
- ❑ There are 13 drawings a day



The Gambling data collection project

What: An extensive documentation and social research project about problem and pathological gambling

When: December 2007 – to date

Who: Study, Documentation and Research Centre of Gruppo Abele Association (with ALEA Association until 2008)

Where: Turin, Piedmont, Italy

Why: to collect and share useful information and data on problem gambling and on social services dealing with gambling

Funding: from former Ministry of Social Solidarity (2007)



The Gambling data collection project

The information and data collected are organized on a website.

The website is used primarily by:

- ❑ Researchers
- ❑ Students
- ❑ Social service workers
- ❑ Gamblers or their families/relatives
- ❑ Journalists
- ❑ Lawyers

<http://centrostudi.gruppoabele.org/gambling/en/>



Social Research on services, associations and organizations dealing with gambling

Time: February 2008 – February 2009

Methodology: survey, using self-report questionnaires with closed- and open-ended questions

Sample: the survey began by contacting

- ❑ all the public addiction services (556)
- ❑ 74 non profit organizations known as help resources for gamblers

Respondents: 410 out of 630 services.

287 of them received help requests for gambling problems, and 258 are public services on addiction.



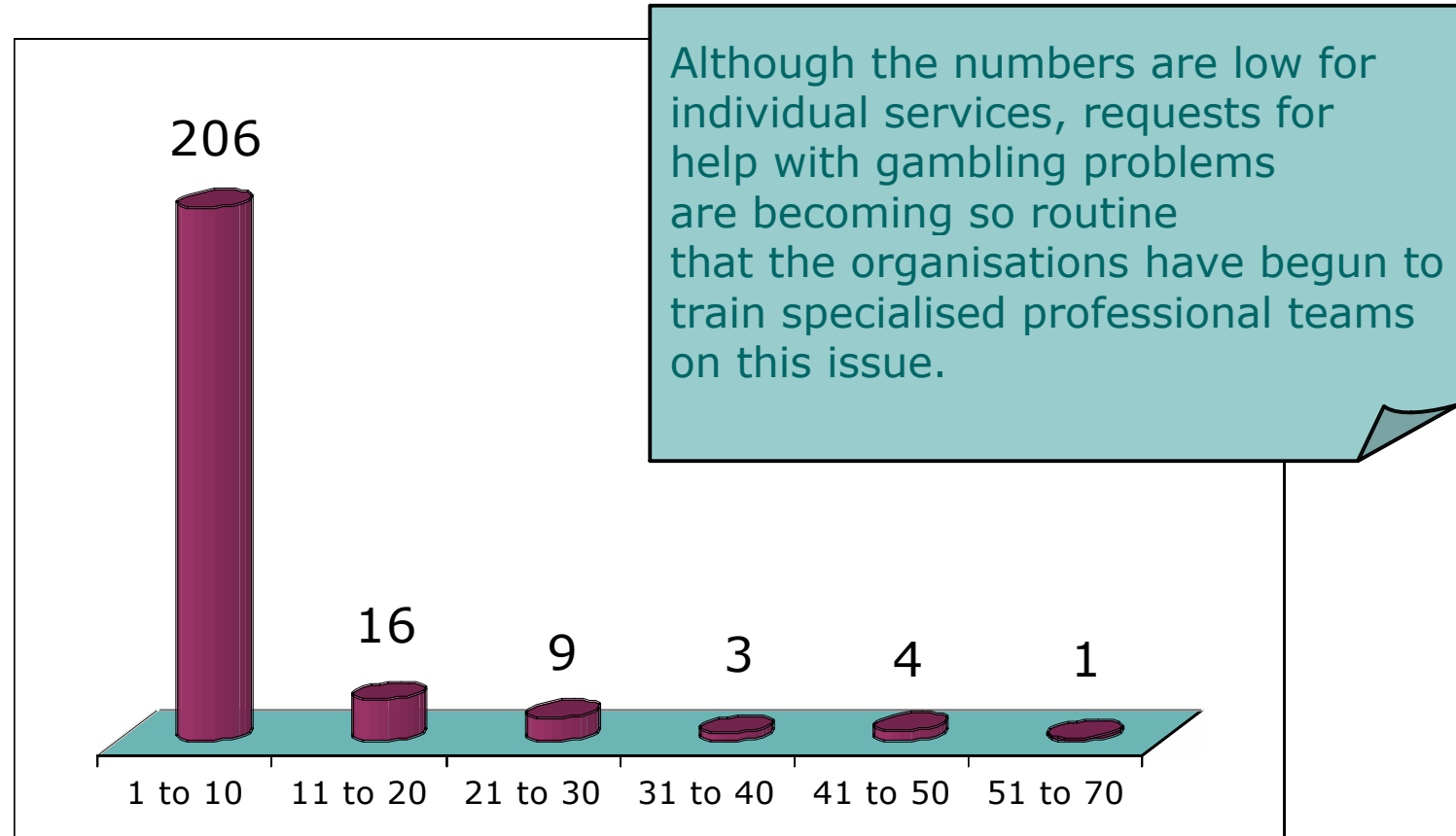
How many people asked for help in 2007?

Gambling as their main addiction problem	2543
Other addiction problems + gambling	1757
Total	<hr/> 4300

Requests received by public addiction services only:

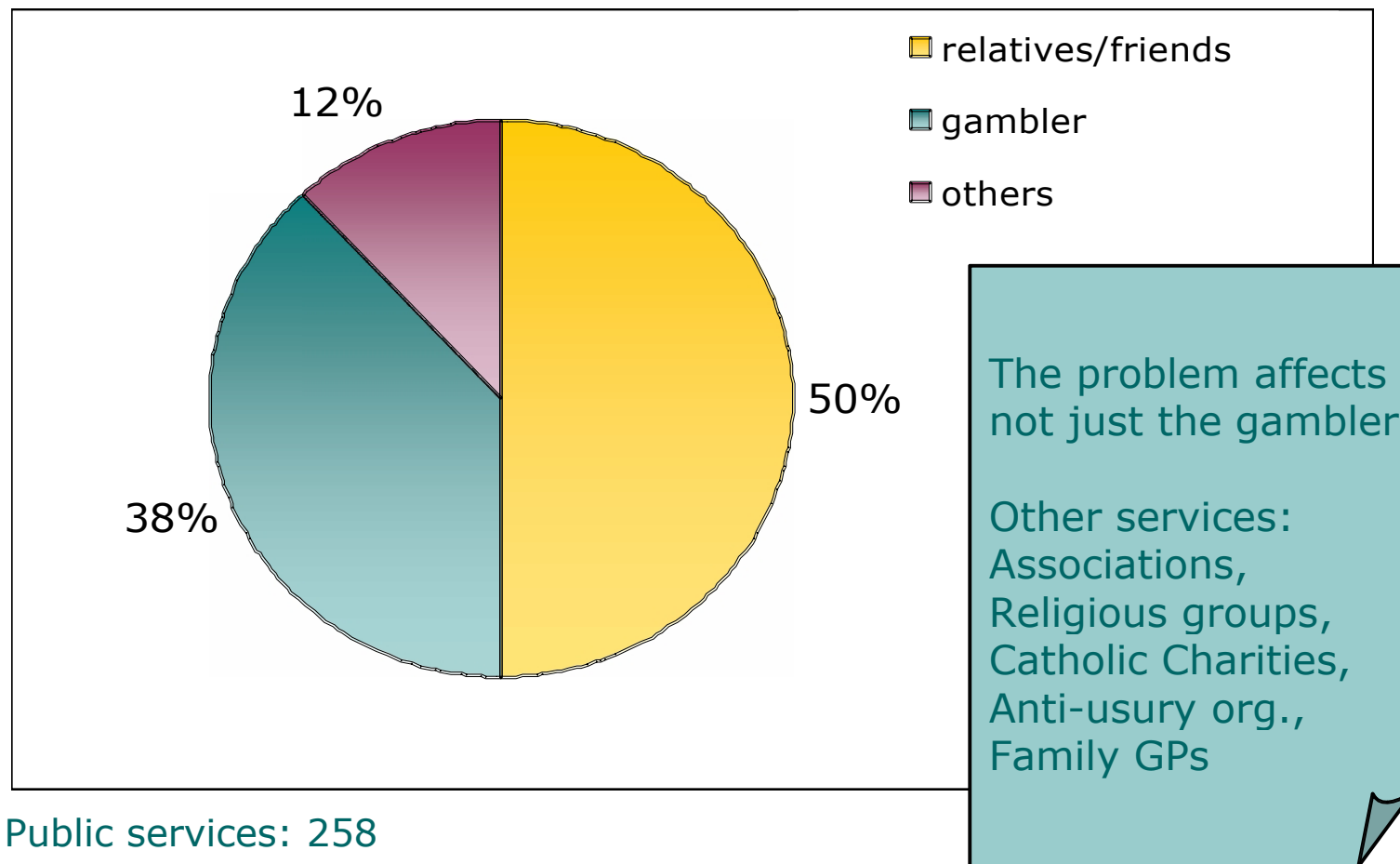
Gambling	1468
Other addiction + gambling	1522
Total	<hr/> 2990

How many help requests received by each public service during 2007?



Public services 258 ; Missing 19

Who called the public addiction services in 2007?



Thank you!

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