NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL GAMBLING STUDY: WAVE 2 (2013) - REPORT NUMBER 4

Summary

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Background
The current prevalence of people (percentage of total new plus existing cases) affected by at-risk and problem gambling has been established through cross-sectional population studies. For the first time in New Zealand, information on the number of new cases (incidence) of at-risk and problem gambling and transitions between the different risk and non-problematic states is available because this study is following the same people over time.

Aim
The main aims of Wave 2 (2013) of the National Gambling Study (NGS) were to investigate the new cases of problem gambling since 2012, transitions between gambling states from 2012 to 2013, and risk and protective factors for problem gambling.

Method
Of the 6,251 people interviewed for Wave 1 of the NGS in 2012, 3,745 people were re-contacted and re-interviewed in Wave 2 (2013), 12 months after their initial interview. Attempts were only made to re-contact 5,266 of the original 6,251 participants. Thus, a 71% response rate was achieved in Wave 2.

Summary of key findings
At-risk and problem gambling prevalence
The table below shows the number and percentage of people in each risk category in Wave 2. There was no major change from Wave 1. Māori and Pacific people continued to have higher prevalence of moderate-risk and/or problem gambling (Māori: 1.6% problem gamblers, 4.4% moderate-risk; Pacific people: 0.6% problem gamblers, 6.3% moderate-risk).

Transitions from 2012 to 2013
Transitions are shown in the table below. The yellow highlights show number and percentage of people who stayed in the same risk categories from Wave 1 to Wave 2. The green highlights show transition from one risk level to a lower risk level. The pink highlights show transition to a higher risk level.

Transitions between PGSI groups from Wave 1 to Wave 2

	Wave 2										
	Non-gambler		Non-problem gambler		Low-risk gambler		Moderate-risk gambler		Problem gambler		
Wave 1	**n**	**%**	**n**	**%**	**n**	**%**	**n**	**%**	**n**	**%**	***Total***
Non-gambler	485	64.7	247	33.0	16	2.1	1	0.1	<1	0.1	*748*
Non-problem gambler	327	11.9	2267	82.5	133	4.8	19	0.7	3	0.1	*2749*
Low-risk gambler	13	7.2	97	54.6	46	25.7	21	11.7	1	0.8	*178*
Moderate-risk gambler	4	6.9	16	30.7	14	25.3	15	27.5	5	9.6	*53*
Problem gambler	0	0.0	6	32.6	2	13.6	2	9.7	7	44.1	*17*
Total	*828*	*22.1*	*2633*	*70.3*	*210*	*5.6*	*57*	*1.5*	*18*	*0.5*	*3746*

Data weighted for 2013 Census data and attrition, totals do not always add up due to rounding

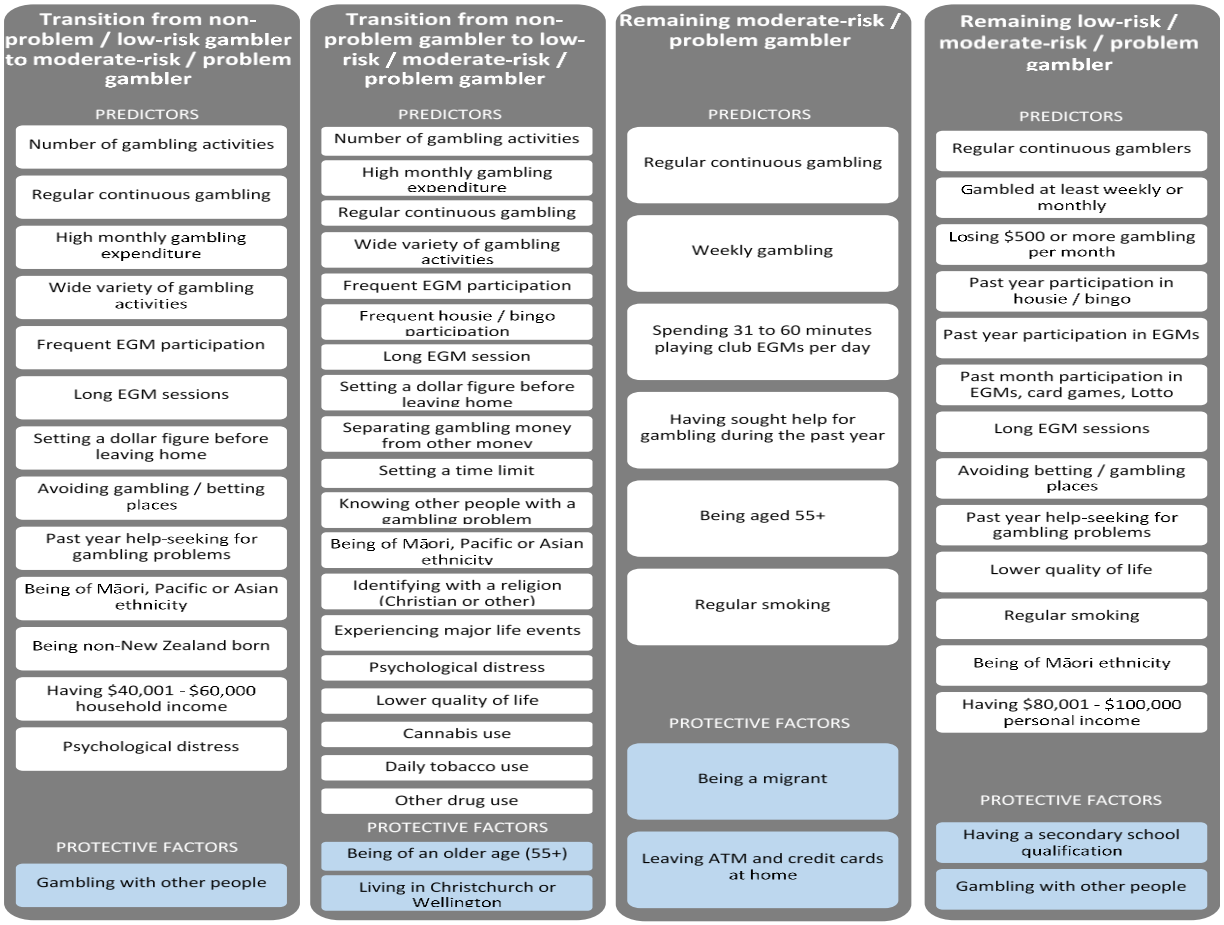
No change | Transition to a lower risk level | Transition to a higher risk level

Incidence and relapse

- The national incidence rate (new cases) for problem gambling is about 0.28% or about 8,046 people.
- Of those who developed problems between Wave 1 and Wave 2, 51.6% were new problem gamblers and 48.4% were people who, while not problem gamblers in the 12 months before Wave 1, had previously had problems (i.e. they had relapsed).
- Overall, in 2013, 25.7% of 'new' problem/moderate-risk gamblers combined had relapsed.

Risk and protective factors and associations with transition to moderate-risk/problem gambling

Risk and protective factors and associations with transitions to higher or lower problem gambling categories or for staying in a category are shown pictorially below.



Note that the sample size for remaining in the moderate-risk/problem gambler categories was very small so results should be considered cautiously

Initiation of gambling in Wave 2

Recent migrants, people of Other Religion and people in the low-mid psychological distress had a lower likelihood of starting gambling in Wave 2. Daily current tobacco use was associated with a higher likelihood of starting gambling.

Re-initiation of gambling in Wave 2

People who reported one or four deprivation characteristics had a higher likelihood for re-initiating gambling in Wave 2 (i.e. they did not gamble in the 12 months before Wave 1 but had gambled in the past, then gambled again in the 12 months before Wave 2).