



NEW ZEALAND 2012 NATIONAL GAMBLING STUDY: OVERVIEW AND GAMBLING PARTICIPATION - REPORT NUMBER 1

Summary

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Background

The last national gambling studies in New Zealand were conducted in 1991 and 1999. Since then, there has been substantial growth in gambling availability and expenditure. Report number 1 of the National Gambling Study (NGS) was a general overview and results of gambling participation.

Aim

A major purpose of the 2012 NGS was to assess changes since the previous national gambling and problem gambling surveys were conducted. The main aim of Report Number 1 was to provide information on detailed changes in gambling participation in New Zealand.

Method

A randomly selected national sample of 6,251 people aged 18 years and older living in private households was interviewed face-to-face from March to October 2012. The response rate was 64% and the sample was weighted to enable generalisation of the survey findings to the general adult population. The survey questionnaire included questions on: leisure activities and gambling participation, past gambling and recent gambling behaviour change, problem gambling, life events, attitudes towards gambling, mental health, substance use/misuse, health conditions, social connectedness, level of deprivation, and demographics.

Summary of key findings

Overall participation

- Eighty percent of the adult population participated in some form of gambling during the past year; 86% had participated at some time in the past (lifetime rate).
- The past year participation rate was lower than during the 1990s when 90% participated. The lifetime rate was also higher during the 1990s, around 95%.
- Approximately one in five adults (22%) gambled weekly or more often; a substantial decrease from the 1991 (48%) and 1999 (40%) surveys.
- For people who took part weekly or more often in continuous forms of gambling such as electronic gaming machines (EGMs), horse and dog race betting and casino table games; participation decreased from 18% in 1991 to 10% in 1999 and 6% in 2012.
- The percentage of adults who participated weekly or more often in non-continuous gambling activities including Lotto and raffles also reduced. In both 1991 and 1999, 30% of adults were in this category. This almost halved to 16% in 2012.

Participation in particular activities

- Lotto was most popular (62%). This was followed by raffles (47%), Instant Kiwi (33%), bets with friends and workmates (15%), non-casino EGMs (14%), and horse and dog race betting (12%). Ten percent or less of adults gambled on any other particular activity.
- Gambling on overseas internet sites was infrequent, less than one percent, as in previous New Zealand surveys.



- Other than Lotto (17%), Instant Kiwi and raffle tickets (both 3%) no other gambling activity was participated in weekly or more often by more than two percent of adults.

EGM session length and setting

- Most people who gambled less than weekly on EGMs had typical session lengths of an hour or less.
- Over half (55%) of frequent casino EGM participants reported typical sessions of three hours or more, compared to very small numbers of frequent pub (3%) and club (4%) EGM participants.
- Around two-thirds of frequent pub and club EGM participants (both 68%) reported typical session lengths of an hour or less, compared to six percent of frequent casino EGM participants.

Number of activities

- Two out of five adults (43%) participated in one or two gambling activities during the past year and approximately one in five (22%) participated in four or more activities.
- Participation in four or more activities (22%) has decreased from around 40% during the 1990s.

Gambling expenditure

- Average self-reported annual gambling expenditure was \$853.

Population group inequalities

- Māori (85%) and European/Other (82%) adults had the highest levels of past year gambling participation, followed by Pacific Islanders (75%) and Asians (61%). Relative differences between the groups have not changed over time.
- Māori and Pacific Islanders had higher average monthly gambling expenditure than Europeans/Other and Asians. This was also the case in 1999.
- Migrants (72%) participated less in gambling activities during the past year than New Zealand-born (83.5%) adults. Recent migrants (58%) had substantially lower participation than both New Zealand-born and longer-term (75%) migrants.
- Adults with no qualifications were more likely to be regular gamblers on continuous activities (e.g. EGMs, horse and dog race betting and casino table games) than other adults.
- Relatively more unemployed adults than employed adults were regular gamblers on continuous activities.
- Unemployed adults had the highest average expenditure followed by the employed and student, homemaker and retired groups.