

Study of gambling and health in Victoria

Gambling and minority groups in Victoria



What is the study?

The Victorian prevalence study 2014 is a telephone survey of 13,554 Victorian adults who were selected randomly from the general population. There were 12,551 surveys using landlines and 1003 using mobile telephones. The study aimed to explore gambling and problem gambling in the Victorian population.

Problem gambling risk among Aboriginal Victorians

Aboriginal Victorians make up about one per cent of the state's population.*

Gambling participation and problem gambling** prevalence within the Aboriginal population did not change significantly between 2014 and 2008.

In the past 12 months, a higher proportion of Victoria's Aboriginal population (76.34 per cent) gambled compared to the non-Aboriginal population (70.06 per cent). Also, higher proportion of the Aboriginal population (8.71 per cent) developed a gambling problem compared to the non-Aboriginal population (0.72 per cent)

Gambling participation and problem gambling among Aboriginal Victorians compared to non-Aboriginal Victorians

The sample of the Aboriginal population was small in both the 2008 (84 out of 15,000) and 2014 (100 out of 13,554) prevalence studies, which means these results should be **interpreted with caution**.

For example, the Aboriginal problem gambling estimate was 8.71 per cent in 2014, but the uncertainty inherent in surveying such a small sample means problem gambling prevalence could actually range from 1.90 per cent to 31.97 per cent in this population.

	2008		2014	
	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Gambling participation (%)	77.83	73.06	76.34	70.06
Problem gambling (%)	4.15	0.68	8.71	0.72

Victoria's Aboriginal communities are diverse and have different languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs. Therefore, more targeted research is required to understand the gambling behaviours of these communities.

Problem gambling risk among culturally and linguistically diverse communities

About 28 per cent of Victorians speak a language other than English at home.*

Gambling participation and problem gambling prevalence within culturally and linguistically diverse communities did not change significantly between 2014 and 2008.

In the past 12 months, a lower proportion of people who speak a language other than English at home gambled compared to the English-speaking population. However, a higher proportion developed a gambling problem compared to the English-speaking population.

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Gambling participation and problem gambling compared to English-speaking Victorians

	2008		2014	
	Language other than English	English-speaking	Language other than English	English-speaking
Gambling participation (%)	58.91	76.65	54.68	74.43
Problem gambling (%)	1.03	0.62	0.95	0.77

The patterns observed are **indicative only**. These communities are very diverse groups that speak different languages and have different cultural and historical backgrounds. More targeted research is required to understand the gambling behaviours of specific culturally and linguistically diverse groups.

* Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census

** The categories for risk of gambling harm used in this study are based on the Problem Gambling Severity Index. They are:

- Non-problem gambler – gambles with no negative consequences.
- Low-risk gambler – experiences a low level of problems with few or no identified negative consequences.
- Moderate-risk gambler – experiences a moderate level of problems leading to some negative consequences.
- Problem gambler – gambles with negative consequences and a possible loss of control.

For more information about what these categories mean, see [fact sheet 2: Categories for risk of gambling harm](#).