

Study of gambling and health in Victoria

Gambling participation and gender



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.

Gambling activities in 2014

The top three gambling activities were the same for males and females. They were:

- Lotto, Powerball and the Pools (males 46.31 per cent, females 47.47 per cent)
- raffles, sweeps and other competitions (males 35.40 per cent, females 47.54 per cent)
- race betting (males 21.11 per cent, females 20.17 per cent).

Changes in male participation

Since 2008 there has been a:

- 5.62 percentage point decrease in playing pokies or electronic gaming machines
- 5.18 percentage point decrease in buying scratch tickets
- 4.27 percentage point decrease in buying tickets in raffles, sweeps and other competitions
- 1.72 percentage point decrease in informal betting, like playing cards at home
- 2.12 percentage point increase in betting on sports or events.

Risk of gambling harm by gender in 2014

	Males	Females
Non-gamblers (%)	32.24	27.68
Non-problem gamblers (%)	54.76	60.27
Low-risk gamblers (%)	7.77	9.99
Moderate-risk gamblers (%)	4.21	1.45
Problem gamblers (%)	1.01	0.61

Changes in female participation

Since 2008 there has been a:

- 2.28 percentage point decrease in entering telephone or SMS competitions
- 3.87 percentage point decrease in playing pokies or electronic gaming machines
- 4.07 percentage point decrease in buying scratch tickets
- 8.15 percentage point increase in betting on races. This increase may be due to the 2014 survey prompting participants that race betting includes the Melbourne Cup, Spring Racing Carnival and Trackside virtual racing.

Changes in risk of gambling harm*

Since 2008 there has been a significant change in:

- non-problem gambling in males decreased by 7.58 percentage points but non-gambling in males increased by 5.46 percentage points.
- non-problem gambling in females decreased by 5.92 percentage points but low-risk gambling in females increased by 5.55 percentage points.

There were no significant changes in other risk groups.

Similar to 2008, the prevalence of problem gambling tended to be higher in males than in females

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* 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.