

Study of gambling and health in Victoria

Race betting



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.

Past-year participation in race betting

About one fifth (20.63 per cent) of Victorian adults reported betting on races in the previous 12 months. This included any bets at the Melbourne Cup and Spring Racing Carnival, and on TAB Trackside virtual racing, but excluded sweeps.

This represents a significant increase in participation from 2008, when it was 16.40 per cent.*

Results also showed 21.11 per cent of all Victorian males bet on horse, harness and greyhound racing in the past 12 months, as did 20.17 per cent of females.

Gender of race betting gamblers

Around 49.8 per cent of horse, harness and greyhound racing gamblers were male and 50.2 per cent were female.

Age of race betting gamblers

Age group	Proportion of race bettors (%)
18 to 24	11.02
25 to 34	14.83
35 to 44	20.17
45 to 54	18.60
55 to 64	19.16
65 and older	16.21

Comparisons with 2008

A comparison of changes in betting from 2008 to 2014 shows participation significantly increased for females, yet not for males.

There was also a significant increase in participation in people aged 45 to 54 years, 55 to 64 years and 65 years and older.

The increasing participation of females in wagering in Victoria may be, in part, a result of the inclusion of the Spring Racing Carnival in the definition of horse, harness and greyhound racing in 2014 (a small change since 2008). However, it may also be explained, in part, by the increasing feminisation of wagering in Victoria

* Although mobiles were not included in the survey sampling in 2008