

Study of gambling and health in Victoria

Highest spend gambling activities



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.

Highest spend activities

People who had gambled in the past 12 months were asked to identify the activity on which they had spent the most money during that time. This was termed the highest spend gambling activity.

Highest spend activities for non-problem gamblers*

The highest spend gambling activities for non-problem gamblers in 2014 were:

- Lotto, Powerball and the Pools (49.60 per cent)
- buying tickets in raffles, sweeps and competitions (24.85 per cent)
- race betting (9.42 per cent)
- gaming machines (6.45 per cent).

The percentage of non-problem gamblers identifying gaming machines as their highest spend activity decreased significantly from 9.49 per cent in 2008 to 6.45 per cent in 2014.

Other changes were not significant.

Highest spend activities for low-risk gamblers

The highest spend gambling activities for low-risk gamblers in 2014 were:

- Lotto, Powerball and the Pools (41.30 per cent)
- gaming machines (17.67 per cent)
- race betting (14.30 per cent).

The percentage of low-risk gamblers reporting gaming machines as their highest spend activity decreased significantly from 26.75 per cent in 2008 to 17.67 per cent in 2014.

There was an increase in the percentage of low-risk gamblers reporting raffles, sweeps and competitions as their highest spend activity (from 3.97 per cent to 9.22 per cent).

Highest spend activities for moderate-risk gamblers

The highest spend gambling activities for moderate-risk gamblers in 2014 were:

- gaming machines (38.67 per cent)
- Lotto, Powerball and the Pools (30.36 per cent)
- race betting (12.11 per cent).

There were no statistically significant differences in highest spend activities for moderate-risk gamblers between 2008 and 2014.

Highest spend activities for problem gamblers

The highest spend gambling activities for problem gamblers in 2014 were:

- gaming machines (50.64 per cent)
- race betting (31.01 per cent)
- Lotto, Powerball and the Pools (9.18 per cent).

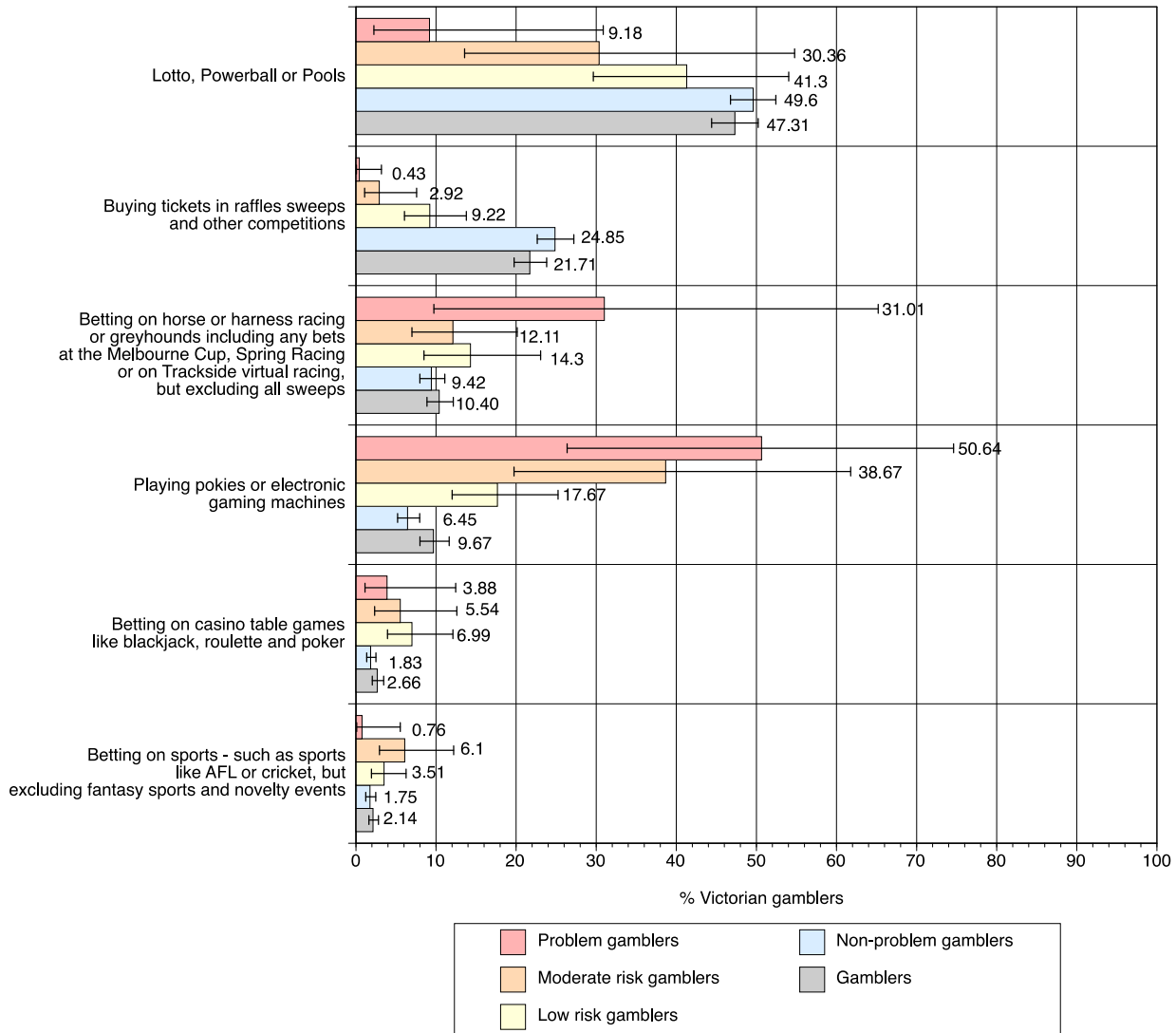
There were no statistically significant differences in highest spend activities for problem gamblers between 2008 and 2014.

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Top highest spend gambling activities in Victoria

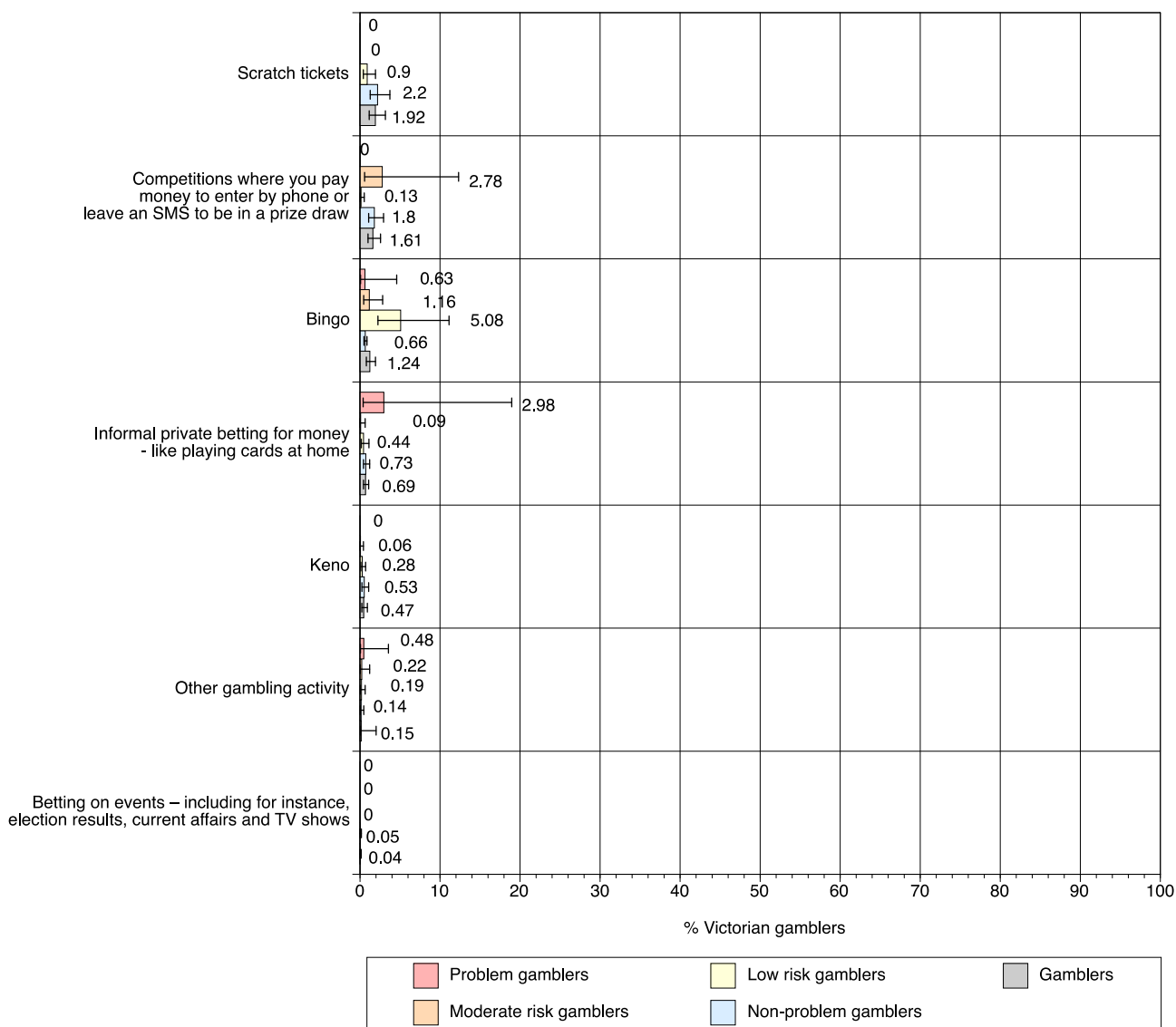


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Other highest spend gambling activities in Victoria



* 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](#).