



FACT SHEET 2: PARTICIPATION

Victorian Population Gambling and Health Study (2018–2019)

Who gambles?

Sixty-nine per cent of Victorian adults gamble, with little difference between the participation rate of men (69.9 per cent) and women (68.2 per cent).

Participation increases with age. It is highest among Victorians aged 65–74 years, at 78 per cent, and lowest among those aged 18–24, of whom 52.4 per cent gamble.

Participation in gambling also increases with income: 49.1 per cent of Victorians who do not have an income participate in gambling, compared to 57.3 per cent of those who earn less than \$20,799 a year and 78.9 of people who earn more than \$156,000 a year.

With a participation rate of 73.4 per cent, Victorians who only speak English at home are significantly more likely to gamble than people who speak a language other than English at home, at 53.1 per cent.

And gambling is more common among regional Victorians than those who live in Melbourne, at 74.3 per cent and 67.4 per cent respectively.

Popular products

The most popular gambling products among Victorian adults are:

- lottery tickets (purchased by 44.4 per cent of the population)
- raffle tickets (37.4 per cent)
- wagering i.e. horse/harness/greyhound race betting (19.8 per cent)
- electronic gaming machines i.e. pokies (14.1 per cent).

The four most popular gambling activities are also the top four activities on which people spend the most money.

Popular products by gender

Women more frequently:

- buy raffle tickets and enter into sweeps and other competitions, at 40.3 per cent compared to 34.4 per cent of men
- buy instant scratch tickets, 13.1 per cent compared to 9.2 per cent
- enter prize-draws by phone, 3.4 per cent compared to 1.3 per cent.

Men more commonly:

- play casino table games, 9.1 per cent compared to 3.2 per cent of women
- participate in sports betting, 9.7 per cent compared to 2 per cent
- play pokies, 15.5 per cent compared to 12.7 per cent
- buy lottery tickets, 45.9 per cent compared to 43.1 per cent
- bet informally, for example on card games played at home, 5.3 per cent compared to 1.5 per cent.

Multiple betting activities

Almost 40 per cent of Victorians who gamble do at least one of the activities listed in the graph below; about 28 per cent participate in two activities; and nearly 15 per cent take part in four or more.

The tendency to gamble on four or more activities generally increases with personal income.

Significantly more men gamble on four or more activities than women, at 17.2 per cent compared to 12.5 per cent.

Men also participate in significantly more gambling activities on average (2.28 activities compared with 2.09 for women).

At 32 per cent, people in the age group 64–74 years who gamble are more likely to participate in at least two activities, compared with 28.3 per cent overall.

Of people aged 55–64 years who gamble, 20 per cent are more likely to participate in at least three activities compared with 16.9 per cent overall.

People in the following sub-groups participate in a significantly higher number of gambling activities, on average, than their counterparts:

- people who bet online (2.87 activities compared with 1.91)
- Indigenous Victorians (2.67 compared with 2.17)
- non-Melbourne Victorian residents (2.34 compared with 2.13)
- people who speak a language other than English at home (2.25 compared with 1.84).

GAMBLING ACTIVITIES IN WHICH VICTORIANS PARTICIPATE

