



## **NEW ZEALAND 2012 NATIONAL GAMBLING STUDY: ATTITUDES TOWARDS GAMBLING - REPORT NUMBER 3**

### **Summary**

Project conducted by:	Gambling and Addictions Research Centre, National Institute for Public Health and Mental Health Research, AUT University
Principal researchers:	Max Abbott, Maria Bellringer, Nick Garrett, Stuart Mundy-McPherson
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### **Background**

The last national gambling studies in New Zealand were conducted in 1991 and 1999. Since then, there has been substantial growth in gambling availability and expenditure. Report number 3 of the National Gambling Study (NGS) is focused on attitudes towards gambling.

### **Aim**

The main aims of Report number 3 were to: Provide information on people's attitudes towards gambling, and to compare findings with results from the Department of Internal affairs survey series (1985 - 2005).

### **Method**

A randomly selected national sample of 6,251 people aged 18 years and older living in private households was interviewed face-to-face from March to October 2012. The response rate was 64% and the sample was weighted to enable generalisation of the survey findings to the general adult population. The survey questionnaire included questions on: leisure activities and gambling participation, past gambling and recent gambling behaviour change, problem gambling, life events, attitudes towards gambling, mental health, substance use/misuse, health conditions, social connectedness, level of deprivation, and demographics.

### **Summary of key findings**

#### *Adult population, 2012 attitudes towards gambling - findings and change over time*

- Most (85%) New Zealand adults are in favour of gambling to raise funds for worthy causes. Most oppose gambling as a business enterprise (74%) or to raise government revenue (73%).
- From 1985 to 2005, there was a reduction in support for gambling for fundraising for worthy causes (94% to 84%) and as a means of raising government revenue (38% to 18%); there was little or no change in this regard from 2005 to 2012.
- Just under two-thirds of adults, in both 2005 and 2012, were happy or largely happy but with some doubts with the way gambling profits are distributed.
- In 2005 and 2012, 41% of adults said there were too many places to gamble and slightly more (45% in 2005; 53% in 2012) said there were about the right number. Only one percent, in 2005 and 2012, said there were not enough places.
  - Two-thirds of people who thought there are too many venues specifically mentioned non-casino electronic gaming machine (EGM) venues (pubs and clubs). Other places mentioned by 10% or more included all gambling venues, Totalisator Agency Boards (TABs) and Lotto/keno/Instant Kiwi outlets.
- A large majority of adults (84%) considered one or more gambling activities to be undesirable; this majority increased from 1985 to 1995 and has stayed at around the same level since. In 2012, somewhat over half of adults considered both non-casino EGMs (57%) and overseas internet gambling (54.5%) to be socially undesirable activities. Slightly less than half regarded casinos as undesirable (47%) and over a third perceived text games or competitions (39%) this



way. Around a fifth considered each of horse and dog race (20%) and sports betting (18%) to be undesirable.

- Most adults either strongly agreed (39%) or agreed (48%) that there is a growing problem with people's heavy gambling. Numbers strongly agreeing or agreeing increased substantially from 1985 to 2000 and have remained the same since.
- Large majorities, in both 2005 and 2012, considered that both providers of gambling activities (78% 2005, 85% 2012) and government (77% 2005 and 2012) should do more to help people who gamble to excess.

### *Subgroup differences in attitudes towards gambling*

#### Gambling participation

- Both people who did not gamble (32%) and problem gamblers (24%), relative to non-problem (10%), low-risk (11%) and moderate-risk gamblers (8%), more often opposed gambling to raise funds for worthy causes and for some other reasons.
- Problem gamblers (69%) more often than people in other gambling participation groups (39% - 45%) considered there to be too many gambling venues generally. Problem (85%) and moderate-risk (81%) gamblers both more often than those in other gambler groups (72%) mentioned non-casino EGM venues.
- Proportionately more problem gamblers strongly agreed that gambling providers (63%), but not government (33%), should do more to help excessive gamblers.

#### Demographic groups

- Pacific Islanders (32%) and Asians (31%) more often than Māori (11%) and European/Other (11.5%) disapproved of gambling to raise funds. Pacific Islanders (58%) and Asians (52%) also more often disapproved of profit sharing with gambling promoters.
- Migrants (24.5%), relative to New Zealand born adults (11%), more often disapproved of gambling to raise funds for worthy causes, as a sales promotion or to share profits with a promoter. Recent migrants (33%) differed from longer-term migrants (23%) in that more opposed gambling to raise funds for worthy causes.
- Pacific Islanders (21%), Asians (18%), migrants (16%), Other religions (17%), Other Christians (18%) and older adults (14%) had higher proportions of people who disapproved of the way gambling profits are distributed.
- More Pacific Islanders (61%) and Māori (51%) than Asians (41%) and European/Other (38%) said there are too many gambling venues. Somewhat more Other Christians (51.5%), people with lower incomes (39% - 44%) and people in older groups (38% - 45.5%) also believed there are too many gambling venues.
- Substantially more Pacific Islanders (64%) and Māori (53%) strongly agreed that there is a problem with heavy gambling than Asians (35%) and Europeans/Other (37%).
- Higher proportions of Pacific Islanders (55%, 55%) and Māori (46%, 46%) than Asians (37%, 40%) and European/Other (41%, 32%) strongly agreed that both providers of gambling activities and government should do more to help people gambling to excess.
- Females (51%) more often than males (41.5%) strongly agreed that government should do more about people gambling to excess.