

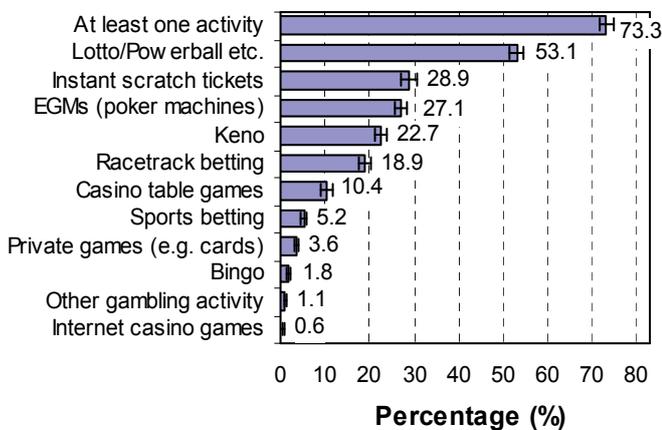
Gambling Participation in the Northern Territory

In October 2005 the *School for Social and Policy Research* conducted a telephone survey to obtain estimates of gambling participation and problem gambling within the adult population of the Northern Territory. In total 1,861 interviews were completed, weighted to a Northern Territory adult population ERP of 136,000. This factsheet presents summary results of this survey as they relate to gambling participation.

What activities did people play?

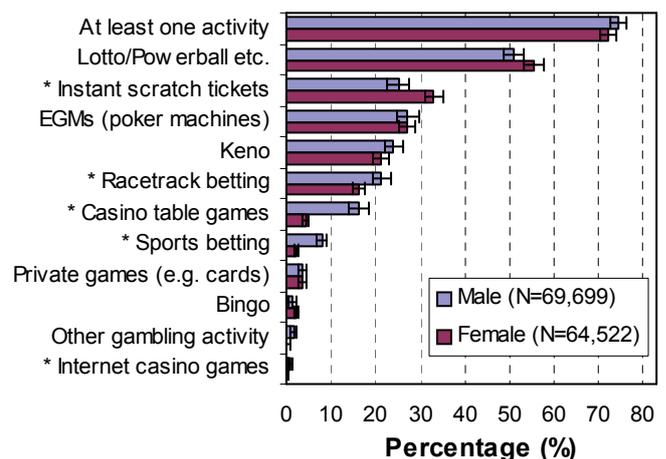
Overall, 73% of the adult population had participated in some form of gambling during the 12 months preceding the survey (Figure 1). Forms of lotteries (i.e. Tattsлото and Powerball) were the most popular form of gambling at 53%, followed by instant scratch lotteries and electronic gaming machines (EGMs) at 29% and 27% respectively. There was little difference in gambling participation between regions in the Northern Territory, though respondents living outside of the main population centres participated slightly less than their urban counterparts.

Figure 1. Participation in gambling activity for previous 12 months



scratch lottery and bingo players were more likely to be women. Monthly keno, racetrack, casino table game and sportsbetting gamblers were more likely to be male. While there was little difference between men and women in the number of activities played over a year, males were more likely to play five or more different activities (Figure 3).

Figure 2. Participation in gambling activity by gender for previous 12 months

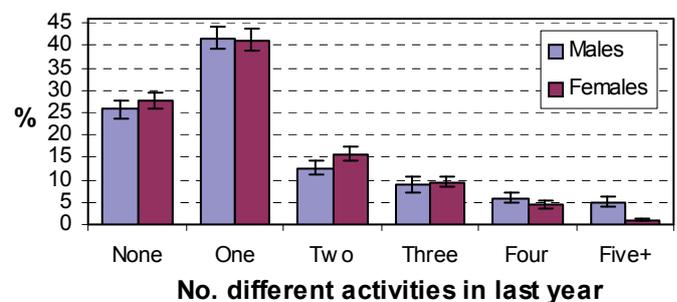


* Indicates a statistically significant difference between genders

Did men and women gamble on different activities?

There was little difference in the overall pattern gambling participation by gender (Figure 2). However, males were more likely to participate in racetrack betting, casino table games, sports betting, and casino type games on the internet. Females were more likely to purchase instant lottery tickets. A similar pattern, although more pronounced, was observed when monthly, rather than annual, participation was explored. Monthly instant

Figure 3. Number of activities participated in by gender



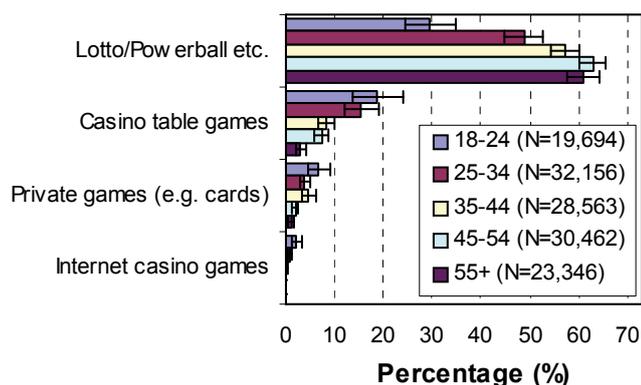


Did younger and older people gamble on different activities?

Participation in four gambling activities varied significantly on the basis of age (Figure 4). Participation in lotteries increased with age up to the age of 45 years. The opposite trend was present for casino table games, private games and internet based casino games, where participation decreased with age.

There were also significant age-related differences in the number of gambling activities that people played over a 12 month period. Older people were more likely to participate in only one activity (excluding lotto) compared with younger people. Eighteen to twenty-four year olds were more likely to participate than other age groups in three activities over a 12 month period, while 25-34 year olds were more than twice as likely than other age groups to participate in five or more activities.

Figure 4. Age distribution by selected activity



What were the characteristics of regular gamblers?

Regular gamblers were defined as people who gambled at least once per week at any gambling activity excluding lotto and instant scratch lotteries. As expected, regular gamblers participated in most activities at significantly higher levels than the non-regular gamblers (Figure 5). In particular, EGMS and keno were played by over 70% of regular gamblers compared to 30% of non-regular gamblers. Regular participation in gambling was associated with a number of demographic and social characteristics (Figure 6). Men were more likely to be regular gamblers than women, as were older people and people living in group (or share) houses. Regular gambling was also associated with education and em-

ployment. People with higher education were less likely to gamble regularly. Retirees were more likely to be regular gamblers compared with part-time workers, while students and full-time workers were more likely to gamble regularly than part-time workers.

Figure 5. Annual participation in gambling activity by regular and non-regular gamblers

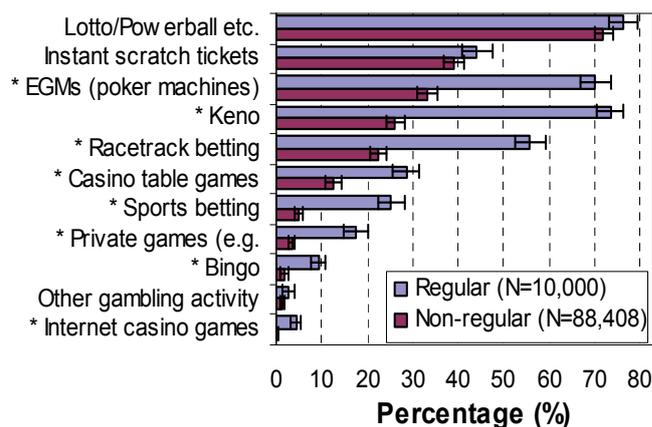
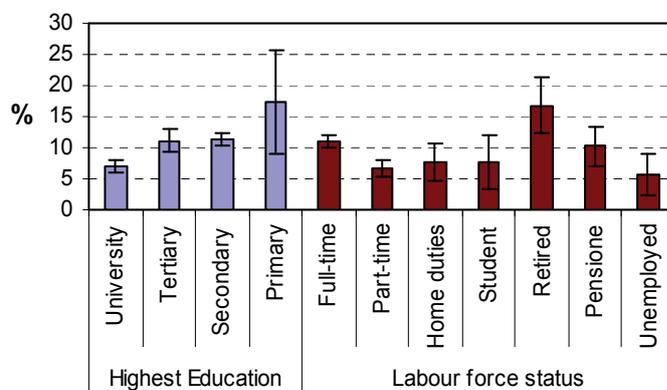


Figure 6. Socioeconomic factors showing a significant association with regular gamblers



Methodological Notes

Error bars on figures display the standard error of the estimate. They indicate that there is a 67% chance that the real estimate falls within the lower and upper bound of the error bar. For further details on methodology and statistical data from this survey see Young et. al. (2006) available for download at:

<http://www.cdu.edu.au/sspr/reports.html>

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