Tasmanian Gambling Prevalence Study 2005

Gambling Group Estimates

The major purpose of the Tasmanian Gambling Prevalence Study is to determine the prevalence of people experiencing gambling-related problems or at risk of experiencing such problems.

The survey utilised two alternative sets of measures of problem gambling: The South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS) and the Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI). A discussion of the two instruments is given in Fact Sheet 8. The two measures give different results. This set of Fact Sheets is based on the CPGI. As the 2005 Study was the first time the CPGI has been used in Tasmania the findings cannot be compared with previous studies.

Adult population gambling group estimates (CPGI): 2005 Tasmanian Gambling Prevalence Survey.



The chart indicates that apart from the vast majority of adult Tasmanians who are non-gamblers or non-regular gamblers and therefore weren't scored on the CPGI:

• The majority of regular gamblers, or over 3% of the population, belong to the recreational gambling group;

NOTE: All data reported in this Fact Sheet should be interpreted in conjunction with more detailed data and discussion in the Tasmanian Gambling Prevalence Study 2005 Report. • Over 1% of the population are in the low risk group, and a further 1% are in the moderate risk group; and

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• A small minority of the population (less than 1%) are experiencing problems due to gambling.

The gambling groups

Non-Gamblers and Non-Regular Gamblers (not scored on the CPGI)

- Non-gamblers are adults who did not participate in any gambling activities (except raffles) in the 12 months prior to the survey, while non-regular gamblers are those who participate in any gambling activity apart from lotteries or scratch tickets less than once a week (or annual equivalent of 52 times a year).
- On a combined basis, this group accounts for the majority (approximately 94%) of the total adult population in Tasmania, or nearly 347,000 persons.

Recreational Gamblers (CPGI score of 0)

- Just over half of regular gamblers (those who participate in any gambling activity apart from lotteries or scratch tickets at least once a week, or the annual equivalent of 52 times), or an estimated 11,800 persons, are classified as recreational gamblers.
- The recreational gambling group accounts for just over 3% of the adult Tasmanian population.
- This group does not appear to exhibit any behaviour that indicates gambling problems, and do not appear to be at risk of experiencing problems due to their gambling.

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Tasmanian Gambling Prevalence Survey 2005

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Low Risk Gamblers (CPGI score of 1-2)

- The low risk group accounts for just over 1% of adult Tasmanians, or more than 4,700 persons.
- The low risk gambling group is the second largest group among regular gamblers (some 21%).
- This group is not likely to have experienced adverse consequences from gambling, but may be at risk of experiencing problems.

Moderate Risk Gamblers (CPGI score of 3-7)

- The moderate risk group accounts for approximately 1% of adult Tasmanians, or nearly 3,800 persons.
- More than 16% of regular gamblers belong to this group.

• Moderate risk gamblers may be at risk if they are heavily involved in gambling and if they have responded positively to three or four of the correlates of problem gambling.

Problem Gamblers (CPGI score of 8-27)

- This is the smallest gambling group with some 2,700 adult Tasmanians, or approximately 0.7% of the total population.
- Problem gamblers comprise nearly 12% of regular gamblers.
- Respondents in this group have experienced adverse consequences due to their gambling.
- Problem gamblers are likely to be heavily involved in gambling.

Box 1. To assign respondents to gambling groups, a screening tool called the Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI) is used. In the current survey, the CPGI was only administered to respondents classified as regular gamblers. The CPGI contains 9 questions which are scored and when aggregated, a total score is calculated for each survey participant of between 0 and 27 points. Depending on the score obtained, respondents are assigned into one of four gambling groups – recreational gamblers, low risk gamblers, moderate risk gamblers or problem gamblers. Respondents classified as non-gamblers or non-regular gamblers are not required to complete this component of the survey and thus do not record a score.

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DEPARTMENT of HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES

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