

# Tasmanian Gambling Prevalence Study 2005

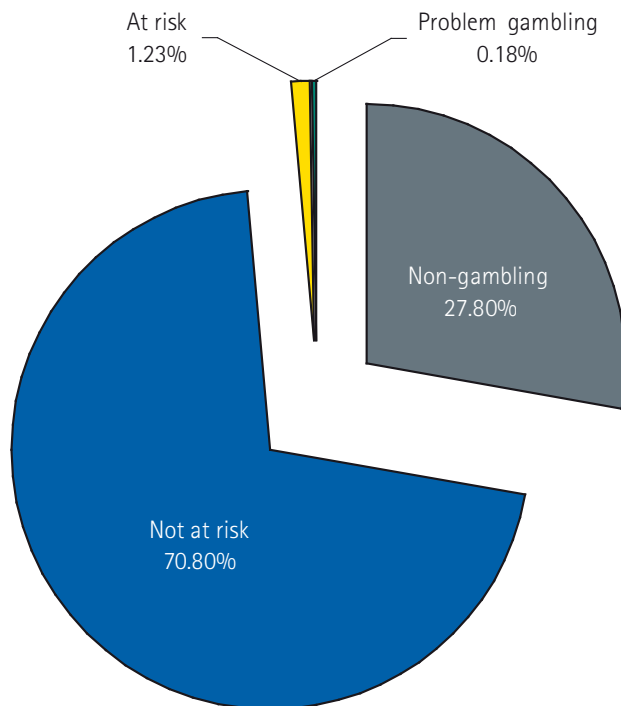
## Gambling Group Estimates

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.

One of the instruments used to measure the prevalence of such gamblers in the survey is the South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS). All survey respondents classified as regular or non-regular gamblers are administered the SOGS questions and assigned to a 'risk level group' depending on their overall score obtained in the survey (see Box 1).

The estimated percentages of Tasmanian adults in each group are shown below.

### Adult population gambling group estimates (SOGS): 2005 Tasmanian Gambling Prevalence Study.



The chart indicates that:

- The vast majority of adult Tasmanians fall into the 'not at risk' group;

- The non-gambling group accounts for over a quarter of the population;
- The combined non-gambling and 'not at risk' gambling groups account for over 98% of the population; and
- A small minority of the population (0.18%) are problem gamblers, and 1.23% are 'at risk' of experiencing such problems.

### The gambling groups

#### *Non-gamblers (not scored on the SOGS)*

- Non-gamblers are adults who did not participate in any gambling activities (except raffles) in the 12 months prior to the study.
- Non-gamblers represent the second largest section of the total adult population in Tasmania at nearly 28%, or almost 103,000 persons.

#### *'Not at Risk' Gamblers (SOGS score of 0-4)*

- More than seven in ten adults who gamble, or an estimated 262,000 persons, are classified as gamblers who are not at risk of experiencing problems due to their gambling.
- The 'not at risk' gamblers account for the vast majority of the adult Tasmanian population.

#### *'At Risk' Gamblers (SOGS score of 5-9)*

- The 'at risk' group accounts for 1.23% of adult Tasmanians, or approximately 4,500 persons.
- This group may or may not have experienced adverse consequences from gambling.
- 'At risk' gamblers are likely to be regular gamblers (ie participate in any gambling activity apart from lotteries or scratch tickets at least once per week).

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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.

# Tasmanian Gambling Prevalence Study 2005

## Gambling Group Estimates continued from previous page

### Problem Gamblers (SOGS score of 10 and over)

- This is the smallest gambling group with less than 700 adult Tasmanians, or 0.18% of the total population.
- Respondents in this group have experienced adverse consequences due to their gambling.
- Problem gamblers are likely to be regular gamblers.

- The proportion of problem gamblers in the adult Tasmanian population declined from 0.25% in 2000 to 0.18% in 2005. However, this change was not statistically significant.
- The proportion of 'at risk' gamblers doubled from 0.65% in 2000 to 1.23% in 2005; however, this change was not statistically significant.

## Comparing 2005 with 2000

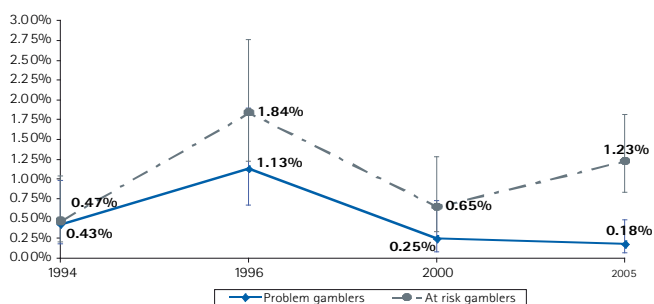
The results of the latest 2005 study are compared with the findings of the previous 2000 study in the table below.

## Gambling group prevalence rates, 2000 and 2005

Gambling Group	Population Estimates		Percentage Estimates		
	2000	2005	2000	2005	Change 2000–2005
Non-gamblers	92,400	102,800	26.49%	27.80%	+1.3% (not statistically significant)
'Not at risk' gamblers	253,400	261,900	72.61%	70.80%	-1.8% (not statistically significant)
'At risk' gamblers	2,100	4,500	0.65%	1.23%	+0.58% (not statistically significant)
Problem gamblers	1,000	700	0.25%	0.18%	-0.07% (not statistically significant)

The trend in problem and 'at risk' gambling is shown below.

### Prevalence of Problem and 'At Risk' Gamblers



Upper and lower confidence limits for each figure at the 95% confidence level are indicated by error bars (I) attached to each segment of the graph.

**Box 1.** To assign respondents to gambling groups, a screening tool called the South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS) is used. The SOGS is only administered to respondents classified as either regular or non-regular gamblers. The SOGS contains 19 questions which are scored and when aggregated, a total score is calculated for each survey participant of between 0 and 19 points. Depending on the score obtained, respondents are assigned into one of three gambling groups – 'not at risk' gamblers, 'at risk' gamblers or problem gamblers. Respondents classified as non-gamblers are not required to complete this component of the survey and thus do not record a score. Their score is assumed to be zero.

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