

Tasmanian Gambling Prevalence Study 2005

Adverse consequences of problem gambling and help seeking knowledge and behaviour

All regular and problem gamblers, as well as those who had been affected by someone else's gambling, were asked a range of questions related to the potential harm caused by their own or someone else's gambling. These respondents were also asked about their help seeking behaviour in relation to their or someone else's gambling problems.

Adverse consequences of gambling

Notable findings about harm caused by gambling are shown in Table 1 and include:

- Some 29% of problem gamblers reported experiencing substantial gambling-related debt in the 12 months prior to the survey.

- Approximately 40% of problem gamblers appeared in court due to their own or someone else's gambling in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Table 1. Adverse consequences of gambling in various gambling groups

	Recreational Gamblers (181) %	Low Risk Gamblers (69) %	Moderate Risk Gamblers (54) %	Problem Gamblers (24) %
Experienced substantial debt: in last 12 months	-	-	2.7	29.3
not in last 12 months	4.0	4.8	6.7	3.2
Appeared in court: in last 12 months	-	-	2.8	40.2
not in last 12 months	-	-	-	1.9
Relationship breakdown: in last 12 months	-	-	3.7	12.0
not in last 12 months	3.5	2.8	6.2	1.8
Adverse effects on work or study: in last 12 months	0.3	2.0	3.2	46.1
not in last 12 months	1.6	1.8	-	1.3
Adverse effects on family interests	5.1	10.7	9.0	26.9

Percentages show proportions within the gambling group. Data for problem gamblers should be treated with caution due to the small sample size.

- Some 12% of problem gamblers reported experiencing a gambling-related relationship breakdown in the 12 months prior to the survey.
- A little more than 46% of problem gamblers reported that gambling had adversely affected their work or study in the 12 months prior to the survey.
- Approximately 27% of problem gamblers, 9% of moderate risk gamblers and 11% of low risk gamblers reported that gambling had adversely affected their family life.

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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.

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Help seeking knowledge and behaviour

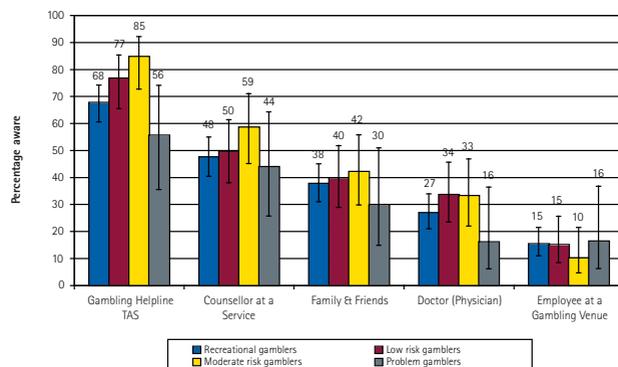
Overall, 3.7% of adult Tasmanians sought help for problems related to their own or someone else's gambling in the 12 months prior to the survey. Among problem gamblers, 16.2% had sought help, while 5.7% of moderate risk gamblers did so.

Most support services enjoy a high level of awareness among the Tasmanian population, namely:

- Approximately 53% of adult Tasmanians are aware of gambling counsellors at various services such as Anglicare, Relationships Australia or Group Support at GABA.
- Approximately 68% are aware of Gambling Helpline Tasmania.
- Some 42% are aware of family or friends as a potential source of help.
- Approximately 30% are aware of a doctor or physician as a potential source of help.
- Some 9% are aware that they can ask an employee at a gambling venue for help.

Figure 1 below shows the levels of prompted awareness of selected gambling support services among various gambling groups.

Figure 1. Prompted awareness of selected gambling support services in various gambling groups.



Data for problem gamblers should be treated with caution due to the small sample size. Raffles are not included. Participation rates relate to the 12-month period prior to the survey. Upper and lower confidence limits for each figure at the 95% confidence level are indicated by the error bars (I) attached to each segment of the graph.

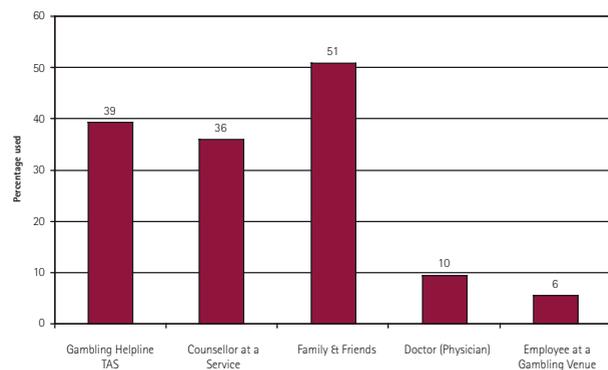
As Figure 1 shows, the awareness level of gambling support services among problem and moderate risk gamblers were similar to those among recreational and low risk gamblers.

- More than half of problem gamblers (some 56%) were aware of Gambling Helpline Tasmania, compared with approximately 85% of moderate risk gamblers (the difference was significant at the 90% confidence level but not at the 95% level) and some 77% of low risk gamblers (the difference was not statistically significant).
- Different gambling groups displayed similar levels of awareness of gambling counsellors at various services such as Anglicare, Relationships Australia, or Group Support at GABA.
- Problem gamblers displayed somewhat lower levels of awareness of doctors and family and friends as potential sources of help than low risk or moderate risk gamblers; however, these differences were not statistically significant.
- Awareness that employees at gambling venues could be asked for help with gambling-related problems was relatively low, and was at a similar level among all gambling groups.

Figure 2 below illustrates the frequency of recourse to selected gambling support services for help with gambling related problems. Out of those who sought help for gambling related problems (whether their own or someone else's):

- Family or friends were the most common source of help, used by approximately 51% of those who sought help.
- Some 39% of those who sought help turned to Gambling Helpline Tasmania.
- Approximately 36% of those who sought help turned to a gambling counsellor at a service such as Anglicare, Relationships Australia, or Group Support at GABA.

Figure 2. Recourse to selected gambling support services for help.



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