

# Gambling harm among Aboriginal people

## Topic summary from the NSW Gambling Survey 2024

This summary highlights key findings about gambling participation and harm among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from the NSW Gambling Survey 2024.

### How do Aboriginal people participate in gambling?

A higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reported gambling in the past 12 months (60.9%) compared to non-Indigenous people (53.3%). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were also more likely to participate in higher-risk gambling activities, including:

- Poker machines (45.5% compared to 35.4%)
- Race betting (65.0% compared to 42.3%)
- Sports betting (61.6% compared to 46.1%)

### What level of risk do Aboriginal people who gamble face?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were more likely to experience moderate- to high-risk gambling (10.4%) compared to non-Indigenous people (3.8%). They were also more likely to gamble on a weekly basis (13.0% compared to 5.0%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who gambled at least weekly were more likely to experience moderate- to high-risk gambling (44.2%) compared to non-Indigenous people who gambled at least weekly (29.6%).<sup>1</sup>

### How does gambling harm affect Aboriginal people?

Although Aboriginal people make up 3.4% of the NSW population, they accounted for 8.2% of reported gambling harm and 8.6% of harm caused by someone else's gambling. Aboriginal people were also more likely to report ongoing harm from gambling that occurred more than 12 months ago (11.2%) compared to non-Indigenous people (6.9%).<sup>2</sup>

### What do Aboriginal people think about gambling?

Most Aboriginal people agreed that gambling does more harm than good for the community, 71.3% compared to 80.1% of non-Indigenous people.

### Research referenced

Browne M, Russell AMT, Dellosa G, Rockloff M and Hing N (2024) NSW Gambling Survey 2024, Central Queensland University. Commissioned by the NSW Responsible Gambling Fund.

Report available at: <https://www.gambleaware.nsw.gov.au/resources-and-education/check-out-our-research/published-research/nsw-gambling-survey-2024>

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<sup>1</sup> Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI). This study uses the term 'high-risk gambling' instead of 'problem gambling', and 'minimal-risk gambling' instead of 'non-problem gambling'.

<sup>2</sup> Measured using the 10-item Gambling Harms Scale (GHS-10) and the Gambling Harms Scale for Affected Others (GHS-10-AO), calculated as Years of Lived with a Disability due to gambling harm.