

# Gambling and harm in non-English speakers

## Topic summary from the NSW Gambling Survey 2024

This summary highlights key findings about gambling participation and harm among people who speak a language other than English at home from the NSW Gambling Survey 2024.

### How do people from multicultural backgrounds participate in gambling?

A lower proportion of people who spoke a language other than English at home reported gambling in the past 12 months (37.3%) compared to people who spoke English only (56.3%). People who spoke a language other than English at home were also less likely to participate in higher-risk gambling activities, including:

- Poker machines (5.6% compared to 15.8%)
- Race betting (1.8% compared to 11.3%)
- Sports betting (5.2% compared to 8.0%)

However, participation in casino table games was similar (4.4% compared to 4.3%).

### What risk do people from multicultural backgrounds who gamble face?

People who spoke a language other than English at home were more likely to experience moderate- or high-risk gambling (14.0%) compared to people who spoke English only (6.5%). This was particularly evident looking at gambling frequency. People who spoke a language other than English at home were less likely to gamble on a weekly basis (3.0%) compared to people who spoke English only (5.6%). However, among weekly gamblers, people who spoke a language other than English at home were much more likely to experience moderate- to high-risk gambling (61.1%) than people who spoke English only (27.9%)<sup>1</sup>.

### Experience of harm

Although people who speak a language other than English at home make up only 14.6% of the population, they experience 16.4% of gambling harm. They were also more likely to report harm from another person's gambling. However, when it comes to harm from gambling that took place longer than 12 months ago (legacy harm), the rate was slightly lower (6.6% compared to 7.2% of people who spoke English only).<sup>2</sup>

### 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.