

# Race betting

## Topic summary from the NSW Gambling Survey 2024

This summary highlights key findings about race betting from the NSW Gambling Survey 2024, with some comparisons to the 2019 survey results.

### Race betting is changing

The survey found that race betting in NSW is changing. Nearly one in ten adults (9.9%) had bet on racing in the previous 12 months, a drop of 3% from 2019 (12.9%). Although fewer people bet on races, more people bet online. Online race betting increased from (4.7%) of adults in 2019 to 6.5% in 2024. In 2024, most race betting (65.2%) was done online.

### Who bets on racing and how often?

Some groups are more likely to bet on races. More men (14.3%) bet on racing than women (5.7%). Race betting was also more common among:

- People living in regional NSW (13.6%) compared to greater Sydney (7.9%).
- People who are working (11.5%) compared to people who are not (7.2%).
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (16.6%) compared to others (9.7%).
- People without tertiary education (12.5%) compared to people with tertiary education (7.5%).
- People who speak English at home (11.3%) compared to people who speak a language other than English at home (1.8%).

Among race bettors, betting regularly (at least monthly) was more common among:

- Men (51.3%) compared to women (21.4%).
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people (65.0%) compared to others (41.3%).
- Those without tertiary education (50.1%) compared to those with tertiary qualifications (31.1%).
- People living in regional NSW (46.0%) compared to Greater Sydney (39.1%).

### The impacts of race betting

Wagering products, including both sports and race betting, accounted for 16.5% of gambling harm in NSW<sup>1</sup>. The survey found:

- 14.7% of people who bet on racing experienced moderate or high-risk gambling<sup>2</sup>, compared to 4.0% of NSW adults.
- 24.4% of people who bet on racing at-least monthly were experiencing moderate-to high-risk gambling, compared to 7.1% of those who bet on racing less than monthly.

### 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Measured using the 10-item Gambling Harms Scale (GHS-10), calculated as Years of Lived with a Disability due to gambling harm.

<sup>2</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'.

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