

Sports betting

Topic summary from the NSW Gambling Survey 2024

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

Sports betting is changing

The survey found that sports betting in NSW is changing. More adults had bet on sports in the previous 12 months (7.6%), compared to 2019 (6.1%). Most sports betting was done online (88.4%). From 2019 to 2024 the percentage of NSW adults betting on sport online increased (4.2% to 6.7%).

Who bets on sports?

Some people were more likely bet on sports. More men (12.8%) bet on sports than women (2.5%). The highest rate was among young men aged 18-24 (21.2%). Sports betting was also more common among:

- People who are employed (10.3%) compared to people who are not working (3.7%).
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people (13.1%) compared to others (7.4%).
- People without tertiary education (9.0%) compared to those with (6.9%).
- People who speak English at home (8.0%) compared to those who speak another language at home (5.2%).

Among sports bettors, regular sports betting (at-least monthly) was more prevalent among:

- Men (51.0%) compared to women (27.5%).
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people (61.6%) compared to others (46.1%).
- People without a tertiary education (51.9%) compared to those without (38.9%).

Frequent use and harm

Frequent sports betting was associated with greater risks and harms.

- 18.1% of sports bettors experienced moderate or high-risk gambling¹, compared to 4.0% of all NSW adults.
- 26.5% of at-least monthly sports bettors were experiencing moderate-to high-risk gambling, compared to 10.4% of those who bet on sport less than monthly.

Wagering products, including sports and race betting, accounted for 16.5% of gambling harm².

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>

¹ 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'.

² Measured using the 10-item Gambling Harms Scale (GHS-10), calculated as Years of Lived with a Disability due to gambling harm.