

## Participation in Gambling and Betting Activities

### Background

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Gambling is a popular recreational activity that the majority of New Zealanders participate in at least occasionally. Certain types of gambling are more associated with problem gambling than others. The activities defined as continuous forms of gambling – including gaming machines (pokies), casino games and betting on races or sports events – are more likely to cause people to spend more than they intended, while non-continuous gambling activities such as lotteries and raffles are easier to set and keep to a spending limit for. The majority of problem gamblers take part in a number of different gambling activities, even if their main problem is only due to one type.

Results from the Health Sponsorship Council's (HSC's) *2006/07 Gaming and Betting Activities Survey (GBAS)* measure the participation of New Zealanders in gaming and betting activities.

### Research Details

#### Methodology

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All respondents (n=1,973) were shown a list of gambling activities and asked which, if any, they had done in the last

12 months, and whether they did that activity weekly, less than weekly but at least monthly, or less than monthly. Responses were analysed to show the number of activities each respondent participated in. Four mutually exclusive groups were then formed based on the type and frequency of gambling participated in.

### Detailed Findings

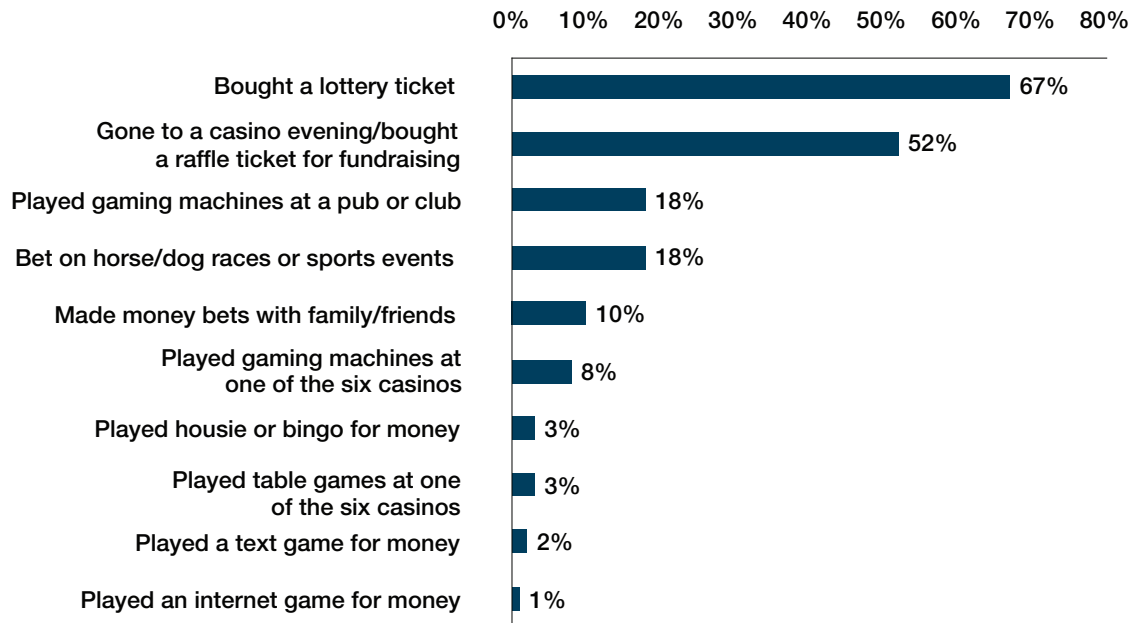
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#### *Gambling Activities*

- Around four in five (83%) had taken part in at least one gambling activity. Two-thirds (67%) had bought a lottery ticket (such as Lotto, Keno, Instant Kiwi or other scratch ticket). Just over one-half (52%) had bought a raffle ticket or gone to a gaming or casino evening for fundraising.
- Nearly one in five (18%) had bet on a sports event or horse or dog race and the same proportion had played gaming machines (or pokies) at a pub or club. Pokies were also played at casinos, but by a smaller proportion of people (8%). One in 10 (10%) respondents had made money bets with family or friends.

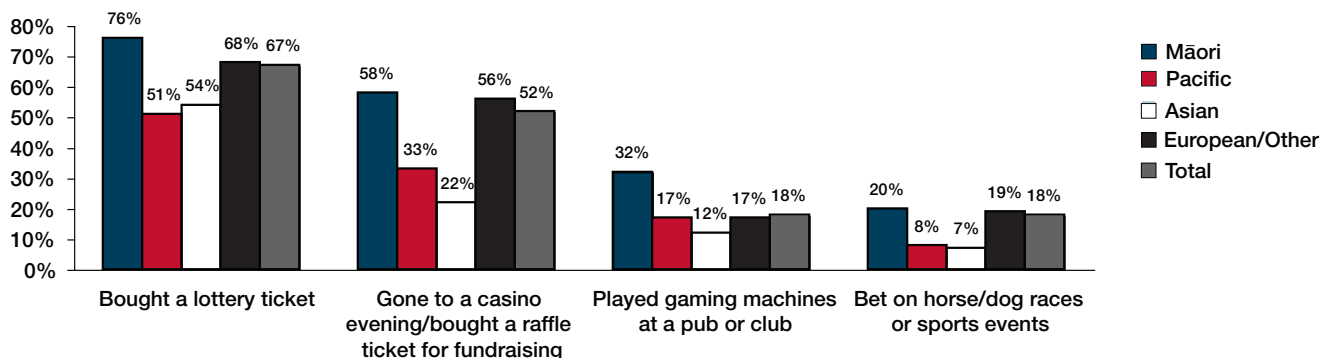
## Participation in Gambling and Betting Activities (continued)

Figure 1: Gaming and betting activities done in the last 12 months



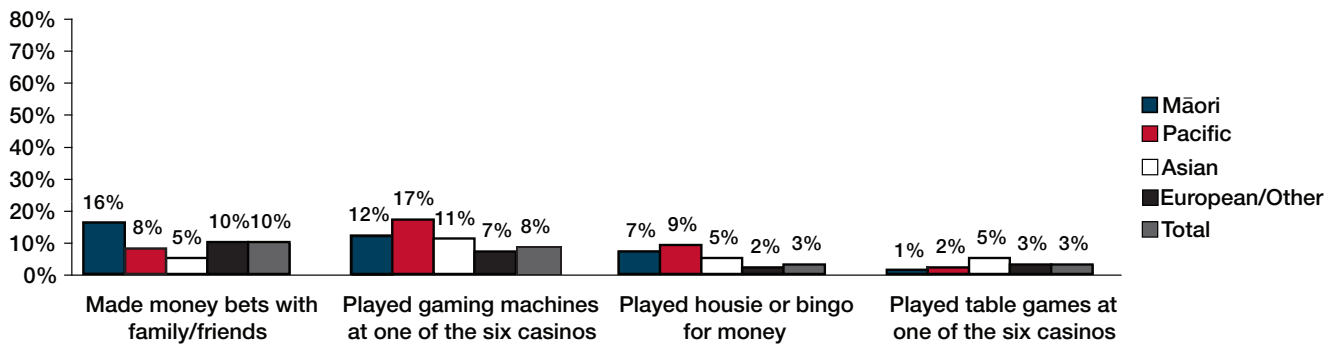
- Māori and people of European/Other ethnicities were more likely than Pacific or Asian peoples to have participated in the most popular forms of gambling - lottery tickets, fundraising, and betting on races or sports. Māori were the most likely to have taken part in all of these activities and were also most likely to have played gaming machines at a pub or club and to have made money bets with family or friends.
- Pacific peoples were the most likely to have played a gaming machine at a casino, or to have played housie or bingo for money. Asian peoples were the most likely to have played a table game at a casino (although participation in this activity was not high – 5% of Asian peoples, compared with 3% overall).

Figure 2a: Participation in gambling activities, by ethnic group, over the last 12 months



## Participation in Gambling and Betting Activities (continued)

Figure 2b: Participation in gambling activities, by ethnic group, over the last 12 months



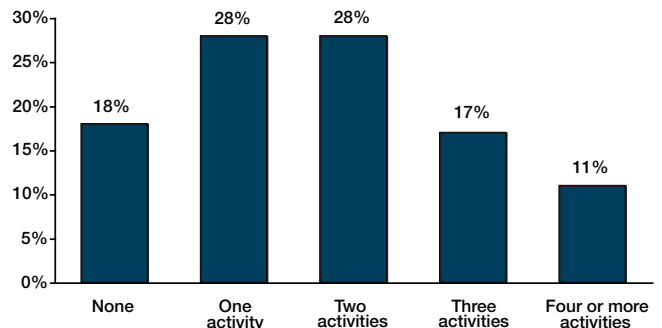
### Number of Types of Gambling Activities Taken Part In

- Nearly one in five (18%) respondents said that they had not taken part in any gambling activity. Just over one-quarter (28%) had taken part in one activity and the same proportion had taken part in two. Seventeen percent of respondents had taken part in three activities and 11% had taken part in four or more.
- The average number of activities that people had participated in during the last 12 months was 2.1. Compared with other ethnic groups, Māori had participated in the highest number of activities, with an average of 2.5. One in five (20%) Māori had taken part in four or more activities. Asian peoples were the most likely (34%) to be non-gamblers and participated

in the lowest average number of activities (1.8).

- Males were more likely than females to have taken part in four or more activities in the last 12 months. Young people were least likely, compared with people in other age groups, to have taken part in four or more activities, and most likely (39%) to be non-gamblers.

Figure 3: Number of activities taken part in during last 12 months



## Participation in Gambling and Betting Activities (continued)

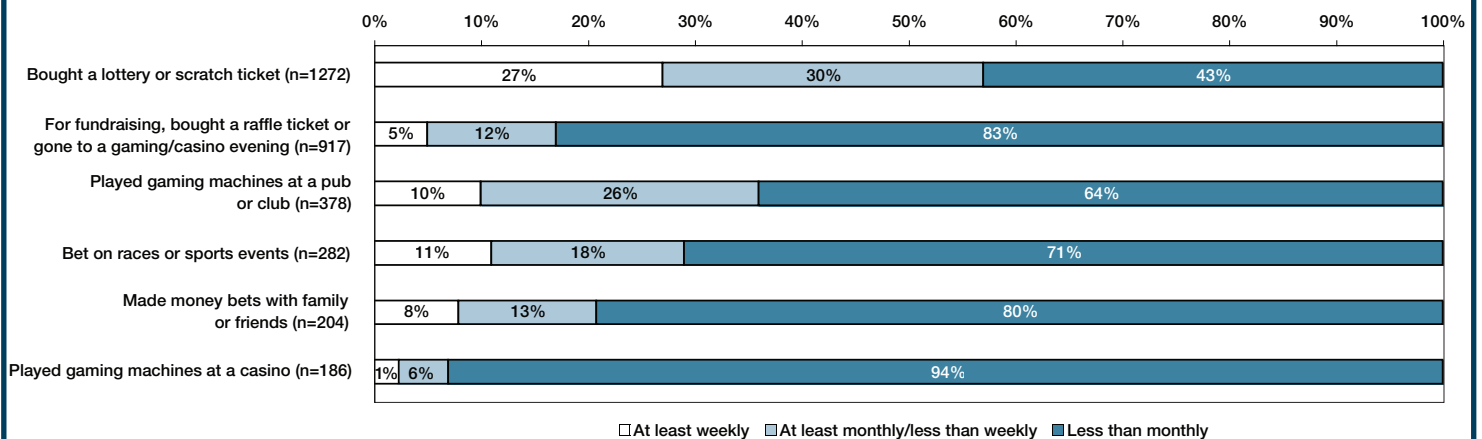
### Frequency of Participation in Gambling Activities

- For all gambling activities, most people who participated did so 'less often than monthly'. The purchase of lottery tickets was most likely to be done at least once a week – over one-quarter (27%) of those who bought tickets did so at least weekly. Around one in 10 of those who bet on races or sports, and of those who played gaming machines at

pubs or clubs, did so at least once a week. While the number of people who played housie or bingo was not high, 17% of those who did play participated at least once a week.

- Buying lottery tickets and playing gaming machines at a pub or club were more likely than the other activities to be undertaken 'at least once a month, but less than once a week'.

Figure 4: Frequency of participation in gaming and betting activities



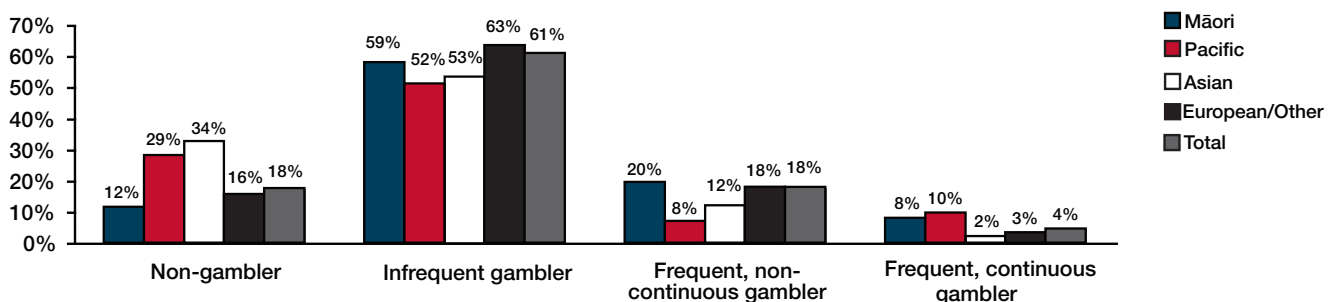
## Participation in Gambling and Betting Activities (continued)

### Types of Gambling Behaviour

Responses were combined to form four separate groups based on gambling behaviour.

- ‘Non-gamblers’ had not participated in any gambling activity in the last 12 months.
- ‘Infrequent gamblers’ had participated in any of the activities less than once a week.
- ‘Frequent, non-continuous gamblers’ participated at least weekly in non-continuous forms of gambling.
- ‘Frequent, continuous gamblers’ participated at least weekly in continuous forms of gambling.
- ‘Continuous’ forms of gambling include playing electronic gaming (pokie) machines, betting on horse or dog races or sports events, table games at casinos, housie and bingo, and internet and text games.
- Three in five (61%) respondents were classified as infrequent gamblers. Nearly one in five were non-gamblers, and the same proportion (18%) were frequent, non-continuous gamblers. The remainder (4%) were frequent, continuous gamblers.
- Asian and Pacific peoples were more likely to be non-gamblers, although Pacific peoples were also the most likely to be frequent continuous gamblers – 10%, compared with 4% overall.

Figure 5: Participation in continuous and non-continuous forms of gambling



## Participation in Gambling and Betting Activities (continued)

### About the Survey

- The findings provide a benchmark for developing and evaluating public health initiatives. The survey contributes to New Zealand's public health approach to addressing gambling harm.
- The GBAS is a nationwide face-to-face survey of 1,774 adult New Zealand residents aged 18 years and over. The survey also included a sample of 199 young people aged 15 to 17 years, resulting in 1,973 people taking part in the survey.
- The sample, with a response rate of 66.3%, included 876 people of European/Other ethnicities, 495 Māori, 267 Pacific peoples and 335 Asian people.
- The data have been adjusted (weighted) to ensure they are representative of the New Zealand population.
- A full description of the 2006/07 GBAS survey methodology and full report can be found online at [www.hsc.org.nz/researchpublications.html](http://www.hsc.org.nz/researchpublications.html)

The HSC is a crown entity that uses health promotion initiatives to promote health and encourage healthy lifestyles, with a long-term focus on reducing the social, financial and health costs of a number of health behaviours.

#### Citation

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