

Views about Raising Money for Communities from Gambling

Background

While gambling is a popular recreational activity and some communities benefit from funds raised from gambling, for many people and their families gambling has harmful consequences and the effects on the community are far reaching. A proportion of the profits from lottery products and gaming machines/pokies goes to the funding of a wide range of community groups and events. Results from the Health Sponsorship Council's (HSC's) 2006/07 *Gaming and Betting Activities Survey* (GBAS) measure the views of New Zealanders on advantages and disadvantages of raising money for communities from gambling.

Research Details

Methodology

All respondents (n=1,973) were asked whether they could think of any advantages and any disadvantages for the community from raising money from gambling. They were then asked whether they thought raising money through gambling does more good than harm, or more harm than good, in the community.

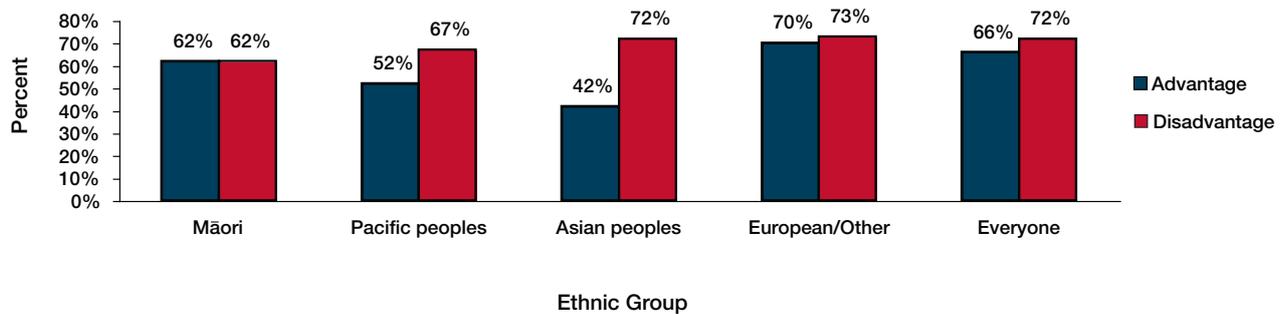
Detailed Findings

Advantages versus Disadvantages of Raising Money from Gambling

- Two-thirds (66%) of respondents could think of advantages for the community from raising money from gambling, while just under three-quarters (72%) could think of disadvantages.
- Pacific peoples were more likely to think of disadvantages (67%) than advantages (52%) and Asian peoples were the most likely to think of disadvantages (72%) rather than advantages (42%) for the community. Māori were just as likely (62%) to think of advantages and disadvantages, while European/Other people were slightly more likely to think of disadvantages (73%) than advantages (70%).
- People who took part in gambling activities were more likely than non-gamblers to think of advantages for the community. Non-gamblers were slightly more likely to think of disadvantages.

Views about Raising Money for Communities from Gambling (continued)

Figure 1: Stated advantages and disadvantages of raising money for the community from gambling



Effects of Raising Money from Gambling

- The most commonly mentioned advantages of raising money through gambling were funding community projects (32%), funds for sports teams (24%) and funds for non-profit or charity groups (23%).
- Pacific peoples were more likely than others to mention funding for building facilities and for helping disadvantaged people. Females (16%) and Māori (18%) were more

likely than males or people of other ethnicities to mention funds for education.

- The most commonly mentioned disadvantages were financial problems (34%), gambling addiction (28%) and family or relationship problems (20%).
- Pacific peoples were the most likely to think of financial (48%) or relationship (30%) problems.

Table 1: Top mentioned advantages for the community of raising money from gambling

	Male	Female	Everyone
Funds/benefits for community projects	33%	31%	32%
Helps sports teams/funds equipment	27%	21%	24%
Funds for non-profit groups/charities/clubs	22%	24%	23%

Table 2: Top mentioned disadvantages for the community of raising money from gambling

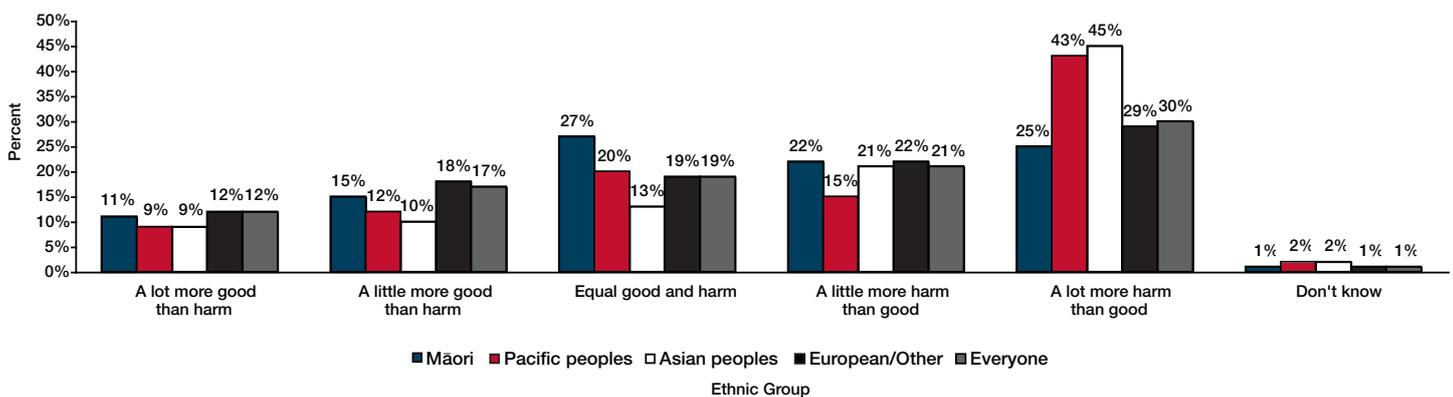
	Male	Female	Everyone
Financial problems	36%	33%	34%
Development of gambling addiction	23%	32%	28%
Family/relationship problems	21%	19%	20%

Views about Raising Money for Communities from Gambling (continued)

Views on Overall Effect on Communities of Raising Money from Gambling

- One-half (51%) of respondents felt that raising money through gambling does more harm than good. Of these, 21% said that it does ‘a lot more harm than good’. Over one-quarter (28%) of respondents felt that it does more good than harm, including 12% who said it does ‘a lot more good than harm’. Nearly one-fifth (19%) felt that it did equal good and harm.
- Māori (27%) were more likely to say that raising money through gambling did equal good and harm. Pacific and Asian peoples were the most likely to say that it did a lot more harm than good. Respondents living in more deprived areas, and those who did not gamble, were also more likely to say it did a lot more harm than good.

Figure 2: Does Raising Money from Gambling do more Harm or Good in the Community?



Views about Raising Money for Communities from Gambling (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

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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