



Gambling in New Zealand : some facts

February 2008

Gambling in NZ

- \$2.020 billion wagered by New Zealanders in 2007.¹
- \$950 million was lost on pokies outside casinos (this is the same amount spent on the entire New Zealand police force), and \$3.912m lost at casinos.¹
- Gambling industry turnover : 1998 (\$6.1b) - 2007 (\$14.013b).¹
- 15% of the adult population are problem gamblers who account for 33% of expenditure on gambling, ² overseas studies indicate that this figure may be as high as 43%.
- 1585 gambling venues plus 6 casinos (Feb 2008).¹
- There are 197 tables and 2824 pokies in New Zealand casinos.¹
- There are 23006 pokie machines (February 2008) in New Zealand – one machine for every 175 people in the population.¹
- \$2.77 million is lost every day on pokies (not including casinos).¹

Ethnicity of those seeking help services³

	2006	2000
Maori	32.2%	21%
Pacific	7.4%	5.3%
European	47.3%	64.3%
Asian	6%	3.1%

Primary gambling mode for those help seeking³

Non-casino pokies	73.7%
Casino pokies	9.2%
Track & sport	6.6%
Casino tables	6.4%
Lotto/scratchies/keno	1.5%

Annual turnover in gambling \$14.013billion
Annual Vote Health \$12 billion

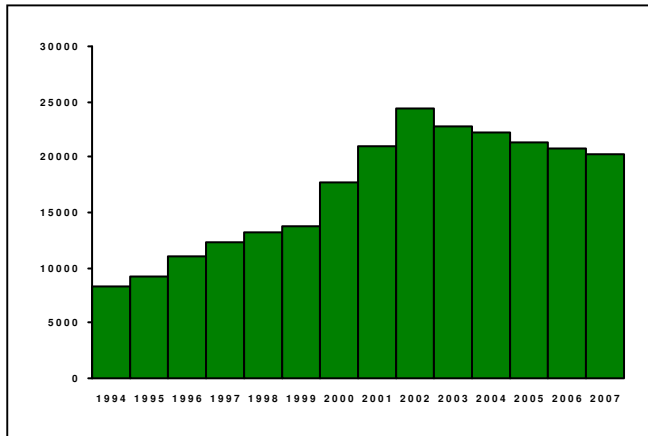
Recent statistics¹

- 95% of New Zealanders over 18 have gambled.
- 86% participated in six month period.
- 40% of these report gambling one or more times a week.
- 10% of adult population are regular continuous gamblers and are those most at risk.
- 35% of New Zealanders play Lotto weekly.
- Average household (967,617 in 2006 census) expenditure on gambling was \$2094 per year or \$40.20 per month.
- Venues licensed before 2001 can have up to 18 machines, those after 2001 up to 9.
- A recent study found that 9% of adults had gambled to a harmful level in last 12 months.⁴
- People who gamble on Lotto spend on average \$18 a month, Instant Kiwi \$6, Keno and Telebingo \$10; horse racing \$36.
- Between 2004-5 there were 593 self exclusions from casinos. Only 188 exclusions were made by the casinos.
- 95% of women presenting for help cite pokies as their principal mode of gambling.³
- About one in five regular pokie players has a gambling problem.

Gaming machines, including casino pokie machines, are the most harmful form of gambling.



Number of non-casino pokie machines in New Zealand 1994-2007¹



Where does the money go from non casino pokie machines?

- Gaming machine duty is charged on the profits from gaming machines (20%).⁵
- 37.5% of the losses should go out in grants to the community but this does not necessarily benefit the community from where the money was obtained.
- Venues/pubs can claim a maximum of 16% of losses for administration costs.
- This leaves 45.5%.

Geography of venues⁵

- A 2005 Ministry of Health study shows that pokie machines are concentrated in the most vulnerable communities.
- 47% venues are in Decile 8,9 & 10 areas. 56% Maori and 72% Pacific peoples in the above deciles.

- In Decile 9 there is 1 machine for every 75 people and in Decile 1 there is 1 machine per 465 people.

Counselling and Helpline 2006³

- 2651 new callers to the Gambling Problem Helpline in 2006. The number of those receiving personal counselling has risen from 923 in 1997 to 4744 in 2006.
- In 2006 over 74.9% who received treatment and 73.5% of Gambling Helpline new clients said non-casino pokies were their primary mode of gambling. Another 10.6% cited casino pokies as their primary mode.
- Maori clients (32.2%) were over represented at treatment services in 2006.
- The number of Asian clients for Gambling Helpline was 7.6% and treatment services 7.1%. The Asian Gambling Hotline have had a 12.2% increase since 2005.
- 58.8% of clients received between 1.25-9.75 hours of treatment.
- Asian (35.4%) & Pacific (33.6%) of face to face clients cited casino machines as their primary mode of problem gambling. Most (85.4%) Asians cited casino based gambling as their primary mode.
- In 2006 women accounted for 46.8% of clients.
- 67.1% of clients rated their gambling as either mostly or completely out of control.

1. Statistics New Zealand. *Gaming in New Zealand Key Statistics 2001* & Department of Internal Affairs. *Gambling expenditure Statistics 2007*. http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Resource-material-Information-We-Provide-Gaming-Statistics?OpenDocument

2. R Brown & J Raeburn (2001) *Gambling, harm and health. Two perspectives on ways to minimise harm and maximise health with regard to gambling in New Zealand*. Auckland: Problem Gambling Committee of New Zealand & Gambling Studies Institute of New Zealand.

3. Ministry of Health (2007) *Problem Gambling Intervention Services in New Zealand Statistics. 2006 service user statistics*. Wellington: MOE.

4. National Research Bureau (2007) *2006/7 gaming and betting activities survey*. Wellington: HSC.

5. Inland Revenue. Department (2006) *Duties and levies gaming machine duty*. URL: <http://www.ird.govt.nz/duties-levies/gaming-machines/othertaxes-gamingmachineduty-gamingmachineduty.html>

6. Ministry of Health. (2006) *Problem gambling geography of New Zealand 2005*. Wellington: MOH. [http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/5022/\\$File/ProbGamGeographydocument.pdf](http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/5022/$File/ProbGamGeographydocument.pdf)

Problem Gambling Foundation Hotline
0800 664 262

Produced by the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand,
P.O. Box 8021, Symonds Street, Auckland.
Phone 368 1520

www.pfgnz.org.nz / www.problem-gambling.info