



## National Gambling Board leads tracking gambling research in South Africa

South Africa, under the leadership of the NGB, is setting the standard for research in the field of tracking gambling prevalence and related matters on the African continent. Its on-going research programme is a ground breaking initiative for South Africa and on par with global best practice.

South Africa is one of a few countries (e.g. United Kingdom and Australia) regularly tracking gambling incidence and the rate of problem gambling nationally.

The strength of our research is its ability to track some trends indicative of the gambling behaviours of South Africans and design interventions when anomalies prevail.

Our recent public awareness and education campaign emphasised that communities, and in particular those who gamble, must not be careless when using hard earned money.

### Slight increase in problem gambling amongst South Africans

The average rate of problem gambling amongst South Africans over a 4-survey period (from Apr 11 to Nov 12) is 1.9%. This is below the global average. The latest data, however, indicates increasing levels of problem gambling over the last 2 survey periods (at 2.7% in Apr 12 and 2.9% in Nov 12).

A notable shift within the gambling population indicates a steady shift from the No Risk segment into the segments with low and moderate risk. It appears that a small percentage of regular gamblers experienced increased stress levels than before and therefore fall into the risk or problem gambling category. It can only be postulated that competing financial needs and the increasing cost of living is impacting negatively on disposable cash, creating a more stressed environment for gamblers.

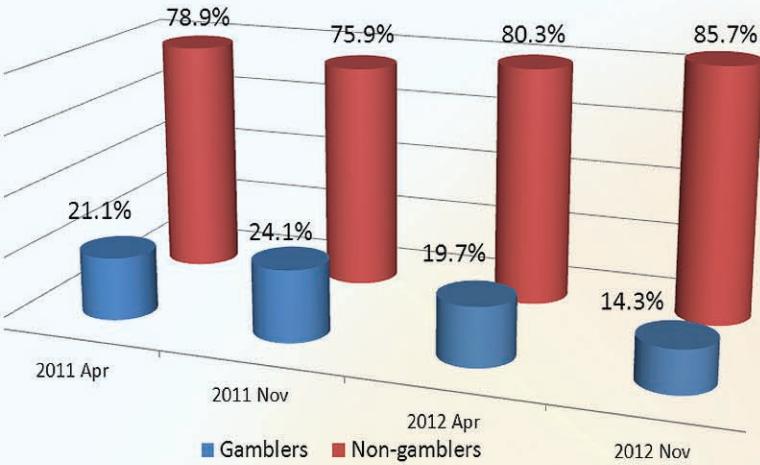
Globally the standardised rate of problem gambling ranges from 0.5% to 7.6%, with the average rate across surveying countries being 2.3%. This might differ depending on the measure of problem gambling used.

The NGB applies the Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI) as its standardised measure for tracking the rate of problem gambling in South Africa. The CPGI was developed by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse. This instrument measures the prevalence of gambling and problem gambling in the general population, and provides a more complete view of gambling compared to other instruments. The CPGI is used in many countries (most notably the UK and Australia) to measure problem gambling at a national level.



# GAMBLING INCIDENCE

## Gambling Incidence Down



The incidence of gambling decreased by 40.6% between November 2011 (24.1%) and November 2012 (14.3%). This downward trend in gambling incidence is statistically significant.

At 14.3%, the South African gambling population is much smaller than those in the United Kingdom (73% in 2010) and Australia (70% in 2009).

## FEWER South Africans are gambling

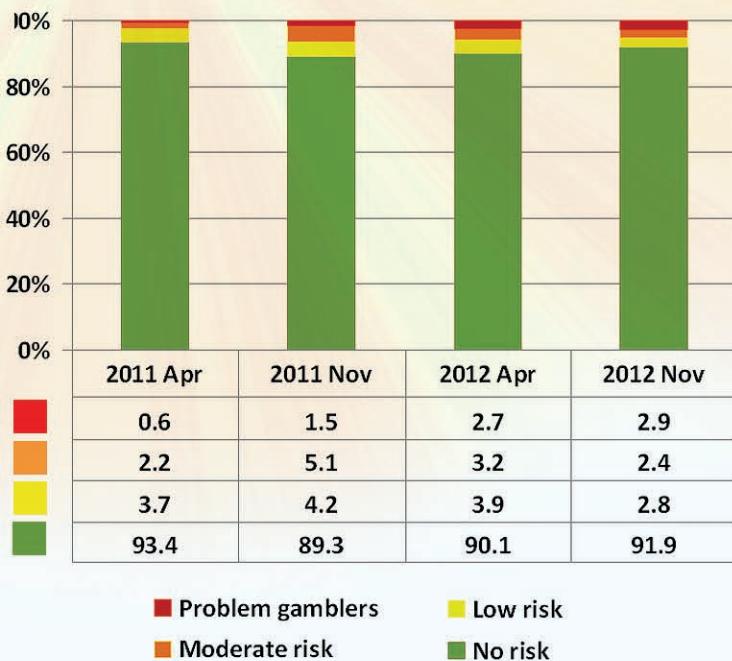
Incidence of gambling showed a continuous downward trend over the last 3 surveys.

The 6-monthly tracking surveys revealed that 14.3% of adults (18 years and older) gambled in November 2012.

The corresponding figure in November 2011 was 24.1%.



## Scope of problem gambling



# IN SHORT: Other Research Findings

## Gambling and job creation

The findings published in this Bulletin are extracts from the latest socio-economic survey commissioned by the NGB which aims at measuring the impact of gambling on the South African society. Amongst other findings, a large percentage of South Africans are of the opinion that a responsible gambling industry can contribute towards job creation and the fight against unemployment. Close to one in every two South Africans supports the idea that gambling creates jobs.

## National Lottery remains most preferred mode of gambling

Buying a National Lottery ticket remains the most popular format of regulated gambling in South Africa. Although participation in the National Lottery showed a decline from 88% to 77% over the last 3 surveys, it outstrips all other gambling formats by a healthy margin. Betting on horse racing and sport (12.5%) is the second most popular legal gambling format. It is followed by scratch cards (11.6%), gambling at licensed casinos (8.9%) and lucky draws (8.7%). The remaining legal modes of gambling such as bingo and LPMs are played by a very small percentage of gamblers.



Proportionally, gambling is more prevalent in the middle to higher income groups. People residing in metropolitan areas are more likely to gambling than those in non-metro areas.

Gambling is more likely to occur in the mid-range age groups (25-44 years of age), with the younger population and persons older than 55 years proportionally less likely to gamble.

## About the research

The NGB conducts on-going tracking research to monitor gambling behaviour in South Africa. Research findings are based on data from a nationally representative survey conducted in November 2012. The sample was 3,300 adults, 18 years and older.

This issue provides an update of gambling behaviour in South Africa, with specific insights into the incidence of gambling, prevalence of different forms of gambling, profile of gamblers and problem gambling.



**National Gambling Board**  
*South Africa*

a member of **the dti group**

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**WINNERS KNOW WHEN TO STOP**  
PROBLEM GAMBLING  
COUNSELLING PHONE NUMBER  
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