



PACIFIC ISLANDS FAMILIES STUDY 2014: MOTHER AND YOUTH GAMBLING

KEY RESEARCH INSIGHTS

Pacific Islands Families Study focuses upon Pacific children (and their parents) born in 2000

The Pacific Islands Families (PIF) Study, is following a group of Pacific children (and their parents) who were born in the year 2000 and recruited from a large hospital in South Auckland. Nine-hundred and twenty-three (923) mothers and 931 youth aged 14 years were interviewed in 2014.

This project looked at the extent of gambling and possible risk and protective factors for Pacific mothers and youth

In 2014, the Ministry of Health funded the Gambling and Addictions Research Centre at Auckland University of Technology to:

- Assess the extent of gambling and problem gambling amongst Pacific mothers and 14 year old Pacific youth;
- Assess possible risk factors and protective factors for gambling amongst mothers;
- Investigate associations between youth gambling behaviours and social, familial, environmental and individual factors.

The study found that for Pacific Mothers....

More Pacific mothers gambled in 2014 than in 2006

In 2014, 52% of Pacific mothers gambled on at least one activity in the prior 12 months. This was an increase from 36% in 2006. However, the frequency of gambling reduced and was more likely to be 'less than monthly' or 'monthly', than 'weekly' or 'daily/almost daily'.

One in 28 (3.6%) mothers reported levels of gambling behaviour indicative of moderate and problem levels of risk/harm

Half of the mothers had not gambled in the prior year (48%). A further 41% gambled in the prior year without any level of harm (non-problem gambler), 7.3% experienced a low level of harm (low-risk gambler), 2.9% experienced a moderate level of harm (moderate-risk gambler), and 0.7% were classified as problem gamblers.¹ Taken together, the moderate-risk and problem gamblers accounted for one in 28 (3.6%) of the mothers.

Over time most mothers stayed at the same risk level

From 2009 to 2014, non-gamblers and non-problem gamblers were most likely to remain in those groups (64% and 57% respectively). A majority (72%) of low-risk gamblers in 2009 became non-problem gamblers or stopped gambling in 2014, and 17% gambled at a higher

¹ These levels of gambling risk and associated harm are defined using the widely accepted Problem Gambling Severity Index (Ferris & Wynne, 2001).



risk level. In 2014, one moderate-risk gambler and one problem gambler each remained in those groups from 2009, with the remainder transitioning to lower risk levels.

One in six (16%) mothers with problem gambling sought professional help

Sixteen percent of mothers who were problem gamblers reported seeking help from a problem gambling treatment service.

There are multiple risk factors for gambling and/or risky gambling amongst mothers

A risk factor for gambling participation and expenditure, and for risky gambling behaviour (low-risk, moderate-risk and problem gambling) amongst mothers in 2014 was being a gambler five years earlier, in 2009.

Other risk factors for gambling participation were alcohol consumption, being a victim or perpetrator of verbal aggression, and increased deprivation levels.

Low alignment with New Zealand culture while retaining high Pacific culture was also a risk factor for risky gambling behaviour.

Most mothers gambled alone

Sixty-three percent of mothers who gambled in the prior year, gambled alone. Another 19% gambled with a partner or spouse, 10% gambled with other family members, and 8% gambled with someone else.

Lotto was the most common gambling activity for mothers

Forty-three percent of mothers gambled on Lotto. In contrast, only 10% gambled on Instant Kiwi and other scratch tickets, and less than 10% gambled on housie or bingo (8%) and casino electronic gaming machines (EGMs) (6%).

Mothers spent in the region of \$20 to \$30 per month on gambling. Where casino EGM gambling was involved, the amount was much higher at \$50

General monthly gambling expenditure by mothers was \$20 to \$30. However, where casino EGM gambling was involved the amount was higher at \$50. In contrast, expenditure on Instant Kiwi/scratch ticket gambling was \$5.

One in 14 (7%) of mothers experienced problems due to someone else's gambling

One in 14 (7%) of mothers experienced problems due to someone else's gambling. This was usually a spouse/partner, sibling or friend. More than two-thirds (70%) of the affected mothers sometimes worried about the other person's gambling and two-fifths (41%) were paying for it financially.



The study found that for Pacific Youth aged 14 years....

More than half of Pacific youth reported that they had gambled at least once in their lifetime

In 2014, 54% of 14 year old Pacific youth reported they had gambled on at least one activity in their lifetime. However, of these, 58% had not gambled in the past year.

One in 27 youth (3.7%) could be categorised as problem gamblers

Of the youth who had ever gambled, 3.7% could be categorised as problem gamblers and two-thirds of those were worried about the time or money they spent gambling.

Most youth gambled with family and friends, and bets with them were the most common gambling activity

Sixty-three percent of youth who had ever gambled, gambled with family members. Another 42% gambled with friends, 12% gambled alone, and 9% gambled with someone else.

Thirty-seven percent of youth placed bets with friends or family, followed by 20% betting on card games. The next most popular activities were betting on sports matches (16%), marbles (13%), housie/bingo (13%) and board games (12%). One in fourteen (7%) youth reported having ever received a scratch ticket as a gift.

Youth expenditure on gambling was generally low

Most youth (57%) generally did not spend any money on gambling. Approximately one-third of youth (34%) spent less than \$10 per week, while 4.5% spent \$20 or more per week on gambling.

There are multiple risk factors for gambling behaviour amongst youth

Risk factors for gambling participation and expenditure amongst youth were being bullied at school, playing computer/video games, watching television/video/DVDs, gang involvement, and having a mother who gambled.

The research also found that Cook Islands Māori youth were less likely to gamble on continuous activities (sports matches, housie/bingo, keno, Instant Kiwi, games on a mobile phone/tablet and internet gambling) than Samoan youth.