Government of South Australia
Gambling Harm Support SA

Gambling Harm in South Australia

In 2025, Gambling Harm Support SA conducted a prevalence survey that asked 3000 South Australian adults about their gambling over the last 12 months. The survey tells us about gambling participation, gambling activities, gambling risk and harms.

Gambling participation in SA

54% of South Australian adults reported gambling in the last 12 months. This continues a long-term downward trend from our last three prevalence studies:



2005	2012	2018	2025
70%	68%	65%	54%

Gambling participation by forms

Lotteries and scratch tickets still remains the most common form of gambling in SA. Followed by Electronic Gaming Machine's (EGMS, pokies), major lotteries, racing and sports betting.



41%
⬇ 7% from 2018



17%
⬇ 2% from 2018



8%
⬇ 4% from 2018



6%
⬇ 1% from 2018

Gambling harm

In the last 12 months, **12% of South Australian adults (around 183,000) reported harm** from their own or someone else's gambling.

Gambling harm affects enough South Australian adults to fill Adelaide Oval 3.4 times.



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Risky gambling

In total, **18.1% of adults who gambled in South Australia were experiencing some degree of risky gambling**, which is the highest figure to date. This figure is a mixture of low-risk, moderate-risk and high-risk* gambling.

11.7%
Low-Risk
Up 4.6% from 2018

4.9%
Moderate-Risk
Up 1.5% from 2018

1.5%
High-Risk*
Up 0.4% from 2018

Most Harm

Electronic gaming machines (EGMs, pokies) accounted for approximately 42.6% of harm among South Australian gamblers. This makes them the single largest contributor to harm in SA.



While EGMs are sitting top, casino games follow closely behind at 27.8% and wagering at 12.1%

Risk Profile

Compared to the rest of South Australia, **young males aged 18-34 are the most likely to engage in risky gambling** on products such as EGMs, sports betting and casino games.



Gambling harm is not shared equally. Males experienced more than twice as much harm compared to women

Key Findings

- Gambling participation continues to decline.
- More South Australians are experiencing gambling-related harm.
- This reflects an intensification of gambling harm across the SA community.
- Men aged 18-39 are disproportionately affected by gambling harm.
- Young men account for 40.6% of total gambling harm in SA.

*Note: the term 'high-risk' has been used instead of 'problem gambling', as categorised using the Problem Gambling Severity Index following feedback from people with lived experience of gambling harm

To read the full report, visit: gamblingharmsupport.sa.gov.au/about/gambling-surveys