

# Young people and gambling

The NSW Youth Gambling Study 2020<sup>1</sup> explored gambling and simulated gambling by young people aged 12-17 years in NSW. The study found many young people gamble and they are gambling in a variety of ways.<sup>2</sup>

## Gambling participation in the past year (%)

Almost one third (29.8%) had gambled in the past year, and 43.4% reported having gambled at some point in their life.

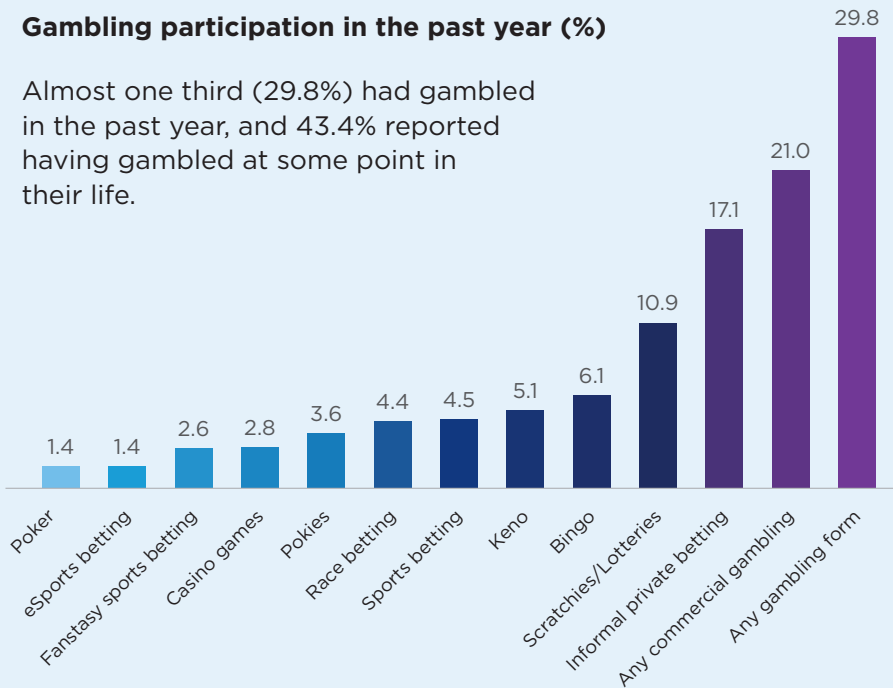
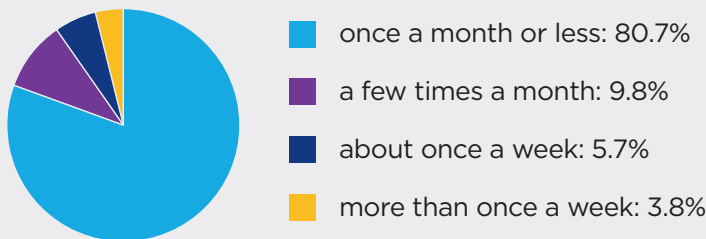


Figure 1: Weighted letterbox survey sample (n=551)

## How often do they gamble?

Most young people gamble infrequently. When asked how often they participated in their favourite form, the majority (80.7%) reported doing so once a month or less. However, a significant proportion gamble more often on their favourite form:



The most popular gambling activity was informal private betting.



Informal private betting



Scratchies/Lotteries



Bingo



Keno

Private betting usually took place in private homes (86.2%), although over one-quarter who bet privately did so at school or TAFE (27.7%).

<sup>1</sup> Hing, N., et al., 2020 *NSW Youth Gambling Study 2020*. Sydney: NSW Responsible Gambling Fund.

<sup>2</sup> Based on responses to a survey of young people (n=551) recruited via flyers delivered to household letterboxes and qualitative data from focus groups participants (n=104). To improve representativeness, survey results were weighted for age, gender and location based on ABS population projections for 2020.

## 11.6 years old



was the average age young people had first gambled.

Of the 164 young people who had gambled in the past year



**24.9%**  
gambled online

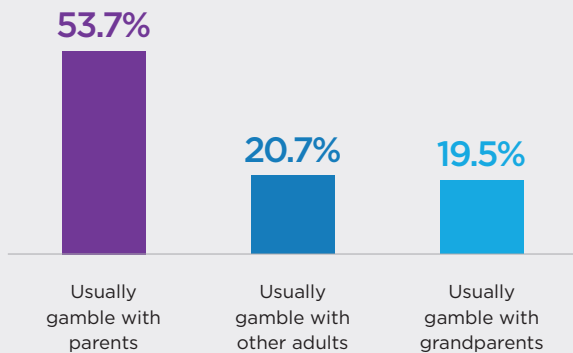


**Males (31.6%)**  
were more likely to gamble online than females (16.1%).

## How are young people able to gamble?



Parents are allowing young people to gamble. Young people who gamble (n=164) told us that they usually gambled with parents (53.7%), other adults (20.7%) and grandparents (19.5%).



Young people who gambled online in the past year often reported being assisted by adults. Just over half (50.3%) reported using their parent's gambling account with permission.

## Ways of accessing online gambling (n=41)



Using a parent's account with permission (21 of 41 young people)



By 'another way' such as paying someone else to gamble for them or having someone else set up an account for them (19 young people)



Set up an account themselves (15 young people)



Used another person's account with permission (13 young people)

## How much are they spending?



The amount young people report spending on gambling varies depending on the type of gambling. **On average, they reported spending \$20 in the past year.**

However, some young people spend much larger amounts of money. Whilst most focus group participants reported only spending

small amounts of money on gambling, some discussed spending large amounts. One shared their experience betting on Counterstrike:

'Oh, like, because you can bet, so I started with \$50. And then I got lucky after that, won \$3000 and I lost it in eight days'

Pocket money was the main way that young people paid for gambling (60.4%).