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# Hull Adult Health and Wellbeing Survey Summary: Gambling

December 2019

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## Background

Earlier this year, more than 4,000 Hull residents aged 16 years and older belonging to groups representative of the local population were surveyed about health and lifestyle behaviours. Between March and June, interviewers knocked on doors and asked residents if they would be willing to take part in the comprehensive survey. Participants were left to complete forms in their own time, with interviewers returning to collect them on an agreed date. The response rate was 76 per cent.

## Gambling and why it matters

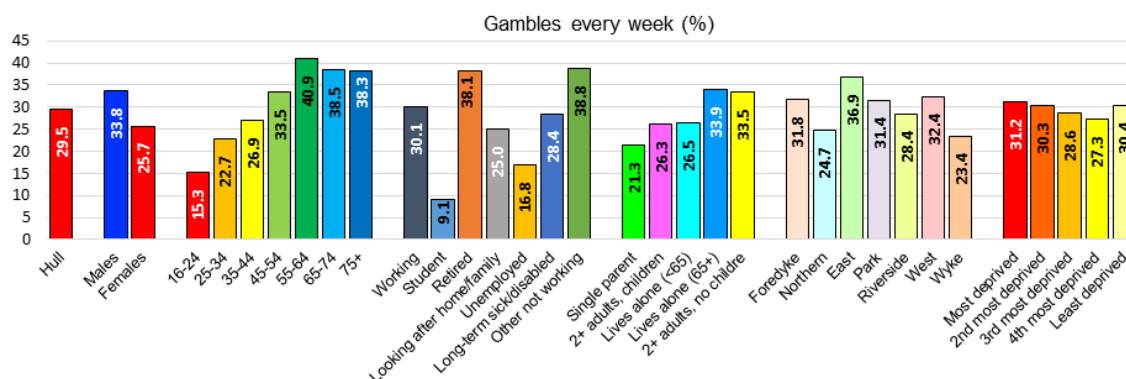
- The societal costs of problem gambling were estimated at between £210 million and £560 million in 2016.<sup>i</sup>
- The 2015 Health Survey for England estimated there were 373,000 problem gamblers, and 1.7 million at risk of problem gambling in England.
- *“Gambling related harm affects far more people than just the problem gambler. Some estimates suggest that for every problem gambler, between 6 and 10 additional people (such as friends, family, co-workers) are directly affected.”<sup>ii</sup>*

## Key Health and Wellbeing Survey findings

### Prevalence of gambling

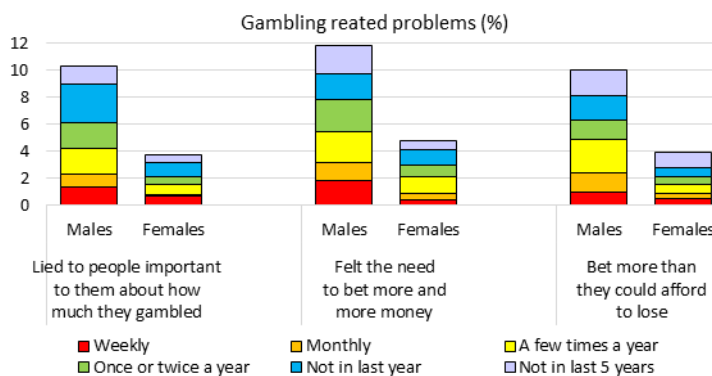
- Playing the lottery and scratch cards were the most common type of gambling, played by 49% and 36% respectively.
- Two thirds take part in some type of gambling (65%), equivalent to more than 136,000 people in Hull aged 16+ years, with 44% (almost 92,000 people) gambling every month.
- Almost three in ten gamble every week, one in three men (35,400) and one in four women (26,800), increasing with age, peaking at age 55-64 years (41%).
- At 38%, the retired and those not working but with no reason given, were the most likely to gamble each week, as were those with no dependent children at home.

- Weekly gambling prevalence varied by area committee area (from 23% in Wyke to 37% in East), but there was little variation by deprivation.

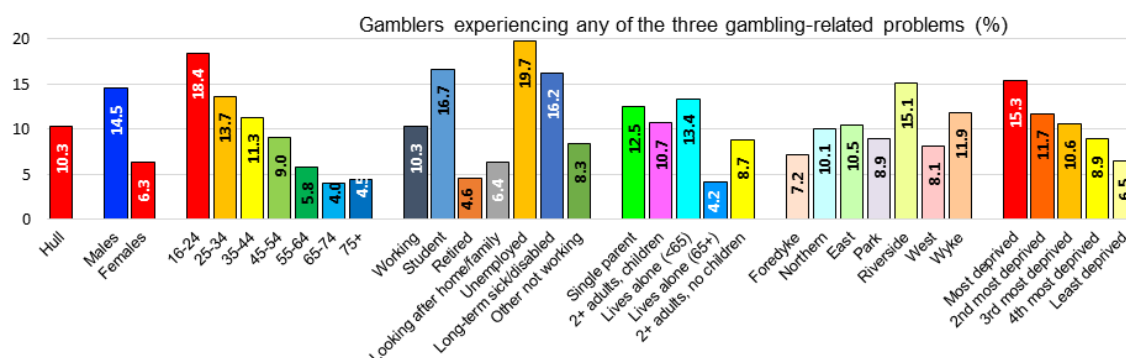


### Gambling related problems

One in ten gamblers experienced problems related to their gambling, with 2.5 times as many as women (15% versus 6%), that is 10,200 men and 4,100 women: 10% of men had lied to people important to them about how much they gambled (4% of women); 12% of men had felt the need to bet more and more money (5% of women); 10% of men had bet more than they could afford to lose (4% of women).

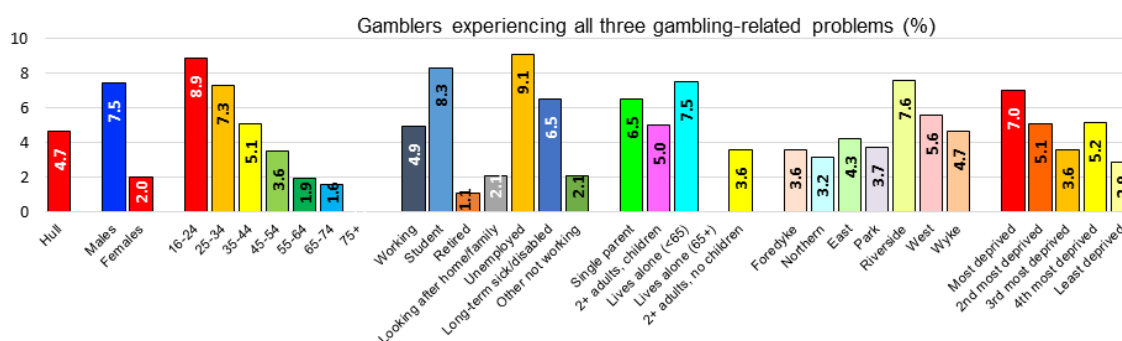


Younger gamblers were the most likely to have experienced any of these problems (18%), with percentages decreasing with increasing age. Gamblers who were unemployed (20%), students (17%) or not working due to long-term sickness or disability were the most likely to experience these problems, as were adults under 65 years living alone (13%), and adults living with dependent children, highest for single parents (13%). Gambling related problems were linked with deprivation: gamblers in the most deprived fifth of areas of Hull had 2.5 times the risk of experiencing these problems (15%) than gamblers in the least deprived fifth of areas (6%). There was a two-fold difference in gamblers experiencing these problems by area committee area, from 7% in Foredyke to 15% in Riverside.



5% of gamblers overall had experienced all three of these problems, percentages were highest among:

- men (7%);
- those aged 16-24 or 25-34 years (9 & 7% respectively);
- the unemployed (9%), students (8%) and those not working due to long-term sickness or disability (6%);
- adults under 65 years living alone (8%) and single parents (7%);
- residents of Riverside or West (8% and 6% respectively);
- those living in the most deprived fifth of areas of Hull (7%).



## The impact for Hull

With two thirds of adults gambling, and almost one third doing so each week, the potential for gambling-related harm is high. The actual level of gambling-related harm is unknown for Hull. However, it is estimated that more than 14,000 adults in Hull have experienced some problems related to gambling.

A problem gambling needs assessment, including mapping of the physical location of licenced premises, should be undertaken to assess the level of harm, and to develop strategies for harm reduction and prevention. Education on the dangers associated with gambling should be provided for young people, as although as a group they gamble less frequently than other ages, they are more likely to encounter problems.

## Further information

Further survey reports and a copy of the questionnaire are available on request. Please contact us at [PublicHealthIntelligence@hullcc.gov.uk](mailto:PublicHealthIntelligence@hullcc.gov.uk) for more information.

<sup>i</sup> Cards on the table: The cost to government associated with people who are problem gamblers in Britain, IPPR, December 2016. ( [https://www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/Cards-on-the-table\\_Dec16.pdf](https://www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/Cards-on-the-table_Dec16.pdf))

<sup>ii</sup> Nash, E., MacAndrews, N., Edwards, S., (2018). *Out of luck: An exploration of the causes and impacts of problem gambling*. Citizens Advice.( <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Global/CitizensAdvice/Consumer%20publications/Out%20of%20Luck.pdf>)