

Study on Hong Kong People's Participation in Gambling Activities (2005)

Key Statistics

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Study on Hong Kong People's Participation in Gambling Activities (2005) Key Statistics

1. The Survey

a) Telephone Survey

Survey Period: March to April 2005

Survey Coverage: Persons aged 15-64 in all domestic households in Hong Kong (excluding domestic helpers)

Sample Size: 2 093

Response Rate: 74.7% or 32.4% (including non-contacts)

Margin of Error of Key Statistics: +/-2.1% at 95% confidence level

b) Youth Survey

Survey Period: April to May 2005

Survey Coverage: 48 classes from 14 secondary schools, 23 classes from Vocational Training Council (VTC)

Sample Size: 2095

Survey Method: Self-administered questionnaires

2. Findings of Telephone Survey

2.1 Participation in gambling activities

Gambling Activities	<i>% of respondents</i>					
	Within Last Week	Within Last Year (but not within last week)	Ever (but not within last year)	Never	Forgotten	Total (N)
Mark Six	32.1	36.4	9.1	22.1	0.3	100.0 (2092)
Illegal Mark Six	0.2	0.5	0.0	99.2	0.1	100.0 (2093)
Horse racing with HKJC	11.6	13.6	10.0	64.5	0.2	100.0 (2093)
Horse racing with local bookmakers	0.1	0.2	0.8	98.8	0.0	100.0 (2093)
Horse racing with offshore bookmakers	0.0	0.1	0.0	99.9	0.0	100.0 (2093)
Horse racing (Macau)	0.1	0.1	0.9	98.9	0.0	100.0 (2092)
Football betting with HKJC	6.5	9.8	1.5	82.1	0.1	100.0 (2093)
Football betting with local bookmakers	0.3	0.7	0.5	98.5	0.1	100.0 (2093)
Football betting with offshore bookmakers	0.2	0.2	0.2	99.4	0.0	100.0 (2093)
Other sporting events (except football games) with local bookmakers	0.1	0.1	0.2	99.5	0.0	100.0 (2093)
Other sporting events (except football games) with offshore bookmakers	0.0	0.1	0.3	99.6	0.0	100.0 (2093)
Mahjong house	0.2	0.7	1.0	98.1	0.0	100.0 (2093)
Casino ship	0.2	3.6	9.1	86.9	0.2	100.0 (2093)
Casino (Macau)	0.4	15.4	29.5	54.7	0.0	100.0 (2093)
Online casino	0.1	0.1	0.3	99.5	0.0	100.0 (2093)
Social gambling	9.9	37.4	13.5	38.8	0.3	100.0 (2092)

2.2 Participation in legal and illegal gambling within last year

	<i>% of respondents</i>	
	2005	2001
<i>Participation in legal gambling</i>	80.4	77.8
<i>Participation in illegal gambling</i>	2.1	4.2
<i>Overall</i>	81.1	78.0

(Year 2005: N=2093 / Year 2001: N=2004)

2.3 Amount spent on gambling activities (per month)

<i>Amount</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>											
	<i>Mark Six lottery</i>		<i>Horse racing (HKJC)</i>		<i>Football betting (HKJC)</i>		<i>Casino Ship</i>		<i>Casino (Macau)</i>		<i>Social gambling</i>	
	2005	2001	2005	2001	2005	2001	2005	2001	2005	2001	2005	2001
\$50 or below	56.0	55.8	31.0	27.1	35.7	-	20.7	25.4	21.4	27.2	31.5	29.8
\$51 to \$100	24.6	25.2	16.3	13.7	18.5	-	17.5	23.8	17.3	23.9	19.5	20.9
\$101 to \$200	10.4	12.0	13.3	12.0	11.1	-	10.0	7.9	10.3	8.7	14.3	14.2
\$201 to \$500	6.2	5.1	17.9	21.1	15.9	-	6.5	20.6	19.3	15.8	20.3	24.3
\$501 to \$1,000	1.4	1.6	10.2	10.4	12.1	-	11.2	7.9	12.2	12.5	9.5	6.1
More than \$1,000	1.3	0.3	11.2	15.7	6.6	-	34.0	14.3	19.4	12.0	4.8	4.7
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>1352</i>	<i>1069</i>	<i>488</i>	<i>517</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>301</i>	<i>184</i>	<i>896</i>	<i>655</i>

2.4 Amount spent on legal and illegal gambling (per month)

<i>Amount</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>	
	<i>Legal gambling</i>	<i>Illegal gambling</i>
\$50 or below	28.1	28.4
\$51 to \$100	13.2	11.0
\$101 to \$200	14.0	4.4
\$201 to \$500	15.7	14.6
\$501 to \$1,000	10.5	16.0
More than \$1,000	18.5	25.6
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>1609</i>	<i>41</i>

2.5 Gambling risk

	<i>% of respondents</i>	
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
Had avoided / reduced participation in gambling / gambling-related activities to prevent children from participating in gambling	52.9	47.1
<i>Sample Size (n): 1188</i>		
Had educated children about the risk and negative impact of gambling	61.1	38.9
<i>Sample Size (n): 1328</i>		

2.6 Age of first gambling experience for gamblers

<i>Age</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
less than 10	5.2
10-14	16.4
15-19	39.9
20-24	21.3
25-29	9.5
30-34	3.6
35-39	1.9
40-44	1.1
45-49	0.6
over 50	0.6
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>1679</i>

2.7 Who invited/persuaded to participate in first gambling

<i>Who invited/persuaded to participate</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
Friends or schoolmates	43.2
I invited others	16.9
Parents or grandparents	12.0
Colleagues	7.0
Other relatives	6.9
Siblings	6.0
Mass media	1.6
Hong Kong Jockey Club	0.8
Husband / Boyfriend	0.2
During travel	0.2
Casinos' advertisements	0.2
Others	4.9
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>1720</i>

2.8 Reasons for participating in first gambling

<i>Reason</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
Just for fun	25.6
Curiosity	15.7
Entertaining other people	9.6
Hoping to win	8.4
Killing time	7.4
Trying my luck	5.3
Excitement seeking	1.2
No specific reasons	0.5
Wanted to learn	0.3
For charity	0.2
Birthday	0.2
Sharing the bet with others	0.1
For interest	0.1
Travel	0.1
Others	28.2
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>1865</i>

2.9 Income spent on betting

<i>Portion of income</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
0%	7.2
< 5%	64.6
5%	11.3
10%	11.6
25%	2.8
50%	1.5
75%	0.2
100%	0.4
> 100%	0.4
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>1543</i>

2.10 Awareness of the preventive and remedial measures to address gambling related problems

	<i>% of respondents</i>	
	Yes	No
Whether aware of the preventive / remedial measures	40.6	59.4
<i>Sample size (N) : 2093</i>		

Type of measures

TV commercials and docu-drama	88.1
Posters and banners	41.2
Website	10.9
Counseling and treatment services for problem and pathological gamblers	10.7
Competition and activities	9.2
Newspapers / magazines	1.9
Family / friends / schools	0.6
Radios	0.4
Leaflets	0.2
Voluntary organizations / mutual-aid clubs	0.2
Others	18.6
<i>Sample size (n)</i>	850

2.11 Pathological gambling

2.2% of respondents indicated that they had experienced five or more of the problems covered by the DSM-IV and can be classified as “probable pathological gamblers”.

3.1% of respondents indicated that they had experienced three or four of the problems covered by the DSM-IV and can be classified as “probable problem gamblers”.

<i>Problem / Pathological gamblers</i>	<i>% of those who exhibited symptoms (n=397)</i>	<i>% of all gamblers in the past year (n=1698)</i>	<i>% of all respondents (N =2093)</i>
Probable pathological gamblers	11.4	2.7	2.2
Probable problem gamblers	16.1	3.8	3.1

Most of the identified ‘probable pathological gamblers’ said they experienced the DSM-IV problems when betting on *horse racing, football betting, casino (Macau) and social gambling*.

1.1% of respondents could be classified as pathological gamblers by Dr Leung’s screen.

3.2% of respondents could be classified as problem gamblers by Dr Leung’s screen.

3. Findings of Youth Survey

3.1 Participation in gambling activities in the past year

Types of gambling activities	% of respondents			
	Aged 12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19
Mark Six	5.7	12.1	15.4	36.9
Illegal Mark Six	1.0	0.2	0.6	1.4
Horse racing (HKJC)	3.1	4.6	4.5	9.5
Horse racing (illegal)	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.9
Football betting (HKJC)	5.3	5.3	7.4	15.3
Football betting (illegal)	0.3	0.2	0.4	1.8
Other sporting events (except Football betting) (illegal)	2.1	3.3	3.3	4.9
Floating casino	0.7	0.5	0.4	1.4
Online casino	1.0	2.3	2.1	2.7
Social gambling	15.1	24.4	26.1	32.1
Roulette	1.4	0.5	1.3	1.8
Pai Kau	0.3	0.5	1.2	0.9
Playing slots	1.4	2.2	3.1	5.4
Cussec	5.7	6.8	7.0	6.8
Tossing coin	3.1	3.1	4.9	2.7
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	583	647	486	223

3.2 Amount spent on gambling activities in the past year

Activities	Monthly expense (\$)
Mark Six	\$40 (n=117)
Horse racing (HKJC)	\$70.7 (n=22)
Football betting (HKJC)	\$125.2 (n=40)
Social gambling	\$89.5 (n=171)

3.3 Age of first gambling experience

<i>Age</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
4	1.1
5	1.0
6	3.7
7	4.6
8	4.9
9	5.6
10	13.0
11	9.6
12	12.6
13	9.8
14	6.1
15	6.7
16	7.2
17	3.3
18	8.7
19	1.4
20	0.3
21	0.3
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>329</i>

3.4 Who invited/persuaded to participate in first gambling

<i>Who invited/persuaded to participate</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
Friends or schoolmates	20.5
Other relatives	18.6
Self	13.5
Parents or grandparents	12.1
Siblings	8.7
HKJC's promotions	0.4
Do not remember	16.7
Others	9.6
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>661</i>

3.5 Reasons for participating in first gambling

<i>Reason</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
Killing time	45.3
Curiosity	28.2
Trying my luck	28.1
Hoping to win	21.0
Just for fun	18.3
Entertaining other people	13.0
Excitement seeking	12.7
Do not remember	11.3
Others	5.4
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>659</i>

3.6 Reasons for continuing to gamble

<i>Reason</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
Killing time	53.2
Escaping from sadness / boredom	35.0
Hoping to win money	31.3
Testing my luck	24.5
Happiness	20.7
Excitement	17.3
Entertaining other people	16.9
Hoping to enhance gambling skills	14.2
Others	6.2
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>565</i>

3.7 Age of first football betting experience

<i>Age</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
10	1.8
12	4.9
13	17.7
14	10.7
15	5.4
16	18.9
17	14.1
18	19.2
19	4.4
20	3.0
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>68</i>

3.8 Channels to place the bet of first football betting

<i>Channel</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
Family members and relatives	31.8
At HKJC outlets	29.0
Schoolmates / friends	27.4
Mobile phone's SMS	5.5
Placing bets through local / offshore bookmakers	3.2
Family members' / relatives' betting account for telephone or online betting	1.6
Schoolmates' / friends' betting account for telephone or online betting	1.3
Others	0.2
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>113</i>

3.9 Who invited/persuaded to participate in first football betting

<i>Who invited/persuaded to participate</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
Self	29.3
Friends / schoolmates	26.1
Parents or grandparents	8.8
Siblings	8.7
Other relatives	4.7
Casinos' advertisements	3.6
Jockey Club's promotions	1.8
Mass media	1.5
Colleagues	1.2
Others	4.5
Do not remember	9.9
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>115</i>

3.10 Reasons for participating in first football betting

<i>Reason</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
Hoping to win	35.6
Trying my luck	31.0
Curiosity	22.5
Just for fun	17.8
Excitement seeking	12.4
Entertaining other people	6.2
Killing time	5.8
Others	5.1
Do not remember	11.1
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>114</i>

3.11 Reasons for continuing to gamble on football games

<i>Reason</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
Hoping to win money	38.8
Happiness	22.3
Testing my luck	18.8
Excitement	15.4
Killing time	13.1
Escaping from sadness / boredom	8.2
Entertaining other people	5.9
Hoping to enhance gambling skills	2.9
Others	3.4
Never bet on football again	14.1
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>114</i>

3.12 Channels to place the bet

<i>Channel</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>					
	<i>Type of gambling activities</i>					
	Mark Six		Horsing Racing (through HKJC)		Football betting (through HKJC)	
	Aged 12-19	12-17	Aged 12-19	12-17	Aged 12-19	12-17
By family members and relatives	64.2	78.5	51.2	58.6	42.9	49.6
At HKJC outlets	33.8	14.1	19.6	9.7	29.3	13.8
From Race Course	-	-	12.8	13.2	-	-
By schoolmates / friends	20.7	23.9	10.9	11.3	42.4	45.4
By using family members' betting account for telephone or online betting	4.1	4.4	4.3	4.3	2.8	3.0
By using schoolmates' / friends' betting account for telephone or online betting	1.0	0.8	2.4	1.7	4.5	5.0
By using mobile phone's SMS messaging service	1.3	1.3	4.4	4.8	5.5	7.0
Others	1.6	0.7	6.0	2.9	1.9	0.2
<i>Sample size (n)</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>95</i>

3.13 Respondents' attitude towards gambling

		<i>% of respondents</i>			
		Aged 12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19
Agreed only those who are 18 years old and over can participate in gambling activities		74.3	67.4	74.2	84.7
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>		<i>409</i>	<i>439</i>	<i>337</i>	<i>176</i>
Whether would participate in gambling activities when turned aged 18	Yes	26.5	41.7	49.1	54.9
	No	73.5	58.3	50.9	45.1
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>		<i>355</i>	<i>408</i>	<i>269</i>	<i>162</i>

3.14 Media influence on gambling

Media coverage of different gambling activities-

		<i>% of respondents</i>			
		Aged 12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19
Make easier access to gambling information	Yes	31.3	41.3	44.1	52.6
	No	35.6	29.8	25.6	25.7
	Don't know / did not answer	33.1	28.9	30.4	21.7
Affect attitude towards gambling	Yes	9.5	10.7	13.0	13.0
	No	59.9	64.9	58.9	69.2
	Don't know / did not answer	30.6	24.4	28.1	17.8
Affect participation in gambling activities	Yes, it makes me want to participate in gambling activities more than before	3.2	4.9	4.4	5.5
	Yes, it dissuades me from participating in gambling activities	16.2	12.0	11.2	7.3
	No	53.9	54.5	54.7	69.1
	Don't know / did not answer	26.8	28.6	29.7	18.1
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>		<i>583</i>	<i>647</i>	<i>486</i>	<i>223</i>

HKJC's promotions (e.g. carnivals, Open Day, etc.) on different kinds of gambling activities-

		<i>% of respondents</i>			
		Aged 12-13	14-15	16-17	18-19
Affect attitude towards gambling	Yes	6.0	6.8	8.6	9.9
	No	66.2	65.9	64.5	73.9
	Don't know / did not answer	27.8	27.3	26.9	16.2
Affect participation in gambling activities	Yes, it makes me want to participate in gambling activities more than before	2.5	2.2	3.0	3.0
	Yes, it dissuades me from participate in gambling activities	16.2	9.3	7.7	6.1
	No	53.2	60.9	61.0	76.4
	Don't know / did not answer	28.2	27.7	28.3	14.5
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>		<i>583</i>	<i>647</i>	<i>486</i>	<i>223</i>

3.15 Pathological gambling

Students aged 12 to 19 in secondary schools only:

1.3% of respondents indicated that they had experienced five or more of the problems covered by the DSM-IV and can be classified as “probable pathological gamblers”.

1.3% of respondents indicated that they had experienced three or four of the problems covered by the DSM-IV and can be classified as “probable problem gamblers”.

<i>Problem / pathological gamblers</i>	<i>% of those who exhibited any symptoms (n=116)</i>	<i>% of all gamblers in the past year (n=509)</i>	<i>% among all respondents (N=1496)</i>
Probable pathological gamblers	17.2	3.9	1.3
Probable problem gamblers	16.4	3.7	1.3

Most of the identified ‘probable pathological gamblers’ said they experienced the DSM-IV problems when betting on *mark six, football betting, social gambling, and cussec*.

Secondary schools + VTC

1.3% of respondents could be classified as pathological gamblers by Dr Leung’s screen.

0.8% of respondents could be classified as problem gamblers by Dr Leung’s screen.

3.16 Awareness of preventive and remedial measures to address gambling related problems

	<i>% of respondents</i>	
	Yes	No
Whether aware of preventive / remedial measures	41.9	58.1
<i>Sample Size (n): 2019</i>		

Type of measures

TV commercials and docu-drama	73.9
Posters and banners	55.9
Counseling and treatment services for problem and pathological gamblers	20.9
Website	20.5
Competition and activities	15.2
Others	6.6
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>790</i>

3.17 Family's reactions to participation in gambling activities

<i>Type of reactions</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>
They feel calm	12.6
They give me advices on gambling	11.9
They don't know that I gamble	9.9
They persuade me to gamble less	9.8
They support me	4.9
They do not care	4.3
They cannot do anything to me	3.5
They add in stakes	3.4
They lend me the money	1.7
They want me to stop gambling	1.9
They avoid talking about it	0.9
They are upset	0.8
They are worried about the financial situation	0.6
<i>Sample Size (n)</i>	<i>679</i>

4. Overall Comparison with 2001

4.1 Telephone survey

	2005	2001
<i>Sample size</i>	2 093	2 004
<i>Participation in gambling activities (last year)</i>	81.1%	78.0%
<i>The three most popular forms of gambling in HK</i>	Mark Six (68.6%) Social gambling (47.4%) Horse racing (25.2%)	Mark Six (64.2%) Social gambling (45.9%) Horse racing (30.4%)
<i>Participation in legal gambling</i>	80.4%	77.8%
<i>Participation in illegal gambling</i>	2.1%	4.2%
<i>Pathological gamblers</i>	2.2%	1.8%
<i>Problem gamblers</i>	3.1%	4.0%

Participation in gambling activities (last year) as compared with 2001

<i>Type of gambling activities</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>	
	<i>2005</i>	<i>2001</i>
Mark Six	68.6	64.2
Illegal Mark Six	0.7	0.4
Horse racing with HKJC	25.2	30.4
Illegal Horse racing with (with local/offshore bookmakers)	0.4	0.5
Horse racing (Macau)	0.2	0.9
Football betting with HKJC	16.3	-
Football betting with local bookmakers	1.0	1.6
Football betting with offshore bookmakers	0.4	1.3
Other sporting events (except football games) with local bookmakers	0.2	-
Other sporting events (except football games) with offshore bookmakers	0.1	-
Mahjong house	0.9	1.2
Casino ship	3.8	4.3
Casino (Macau)	15.8	12.1
Online casino	0.1	0.6
Casino (local illegal)	-	0.3
Social gambling	47.4	45.9

(Year 2005: N=2093 / Year 2001: N=2004)

4.2 Youth survey

	<i>2005</i>	<i>2001</i>
<i>Survey Coverage</i>	Secondary school students and VTC students	Secondary school students
<i>Sample size</i>	1 939 students (1496 for secondary schools) aged 12-19	2 000 students aged 13-18
Participation in gambling activities (last year)	32.3% (34.0% for secondary schools only)	53.8%
The three most popular forms of gambling	Social gambling : 22.9% (24.5% for secondary schools only) Mark Six : 13.8% (15.0% for secondary schools only) Football betting with HKJC : 7.0% (6.8% for secondary schools only)	Social gambling (49.2%) Mark Six (19.4%) Horse racing (9.2%)
Pathological gamblers	1.5% (1.3% for secondary schools only)	2.6%
Problem gamblers	1.1% (1.3% for secondary schools only)	4.5%

Participation in gambling activities (last year) as compared with 2001 (for students aged 12-19 in secondary schools only)

<i>Type of gambling activities</i>	<i>% of respondents</i>							
	<i>Age 12-13</i>		<i>Age 14-15</i>		<i>Age 16-17</i>		<i>Age 18-19</i>	
	<i>2005</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2001</i>
Mark Six	5.6	10.0	12.1	14.8	14.6	23.7	33.5	38.0
Horse racing with HKJC	3.2	2.2	4.7	6.7	3.9	12.6	6.4	18.0
Football betting	5.3	1.8	5.3	4.6	6.5	8.4	12.9	4.7
Social gambling	15.1	33.2	24.3	45.6	26.2	55.4	33.0	59.3
Sample size (n)	284	271	514	825	465	754	233	150

Amount spent on gambling as compared with 2001 (underage secondary school students only)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount (\$)</i>	<i>Sample size (n)</i>
<i>2005</i>	<i>\$104.2</i>	<i>148</i>
<i>2001</i>	<i>\$172.1</i>	<i>266</i>