PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

Gambling and problem gambling in the Republic of Cyprus: Results of a 2022 national quantitative survey

Matthew Young, PhD
Chief Research Officer, Greo Evidence Insights
Adjunct Research Professor, Carleton University

Introduction

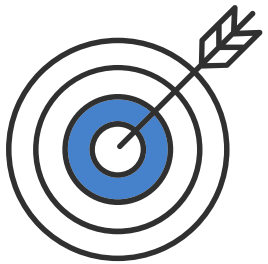
Outline

1. Background
2. What we did
3. What we found
4. Problem and high-risk gambling
5. Summary and implications

Document classification: NBA Public

Background

Background



The **purpose** of this study was to assess rates of gambling participation and problem gambling in the Republic of Cyprus using internationally comparable methods

The **results** of this study enhance our understanding of gambling harms in Cyprus, and serve as a foundation from which to build a public health approach to addressing gambling harms

Document classification: NBA Public

What we did

What we did

We collected information about people's gambling participation and harms from gambling

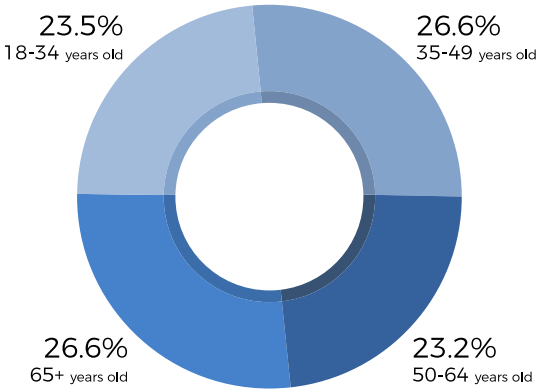
Data collected by Insights Market Research (IMR) Ltd via **Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews** in November and December 2022

Total sample size:
2 950 people living in Cyprus

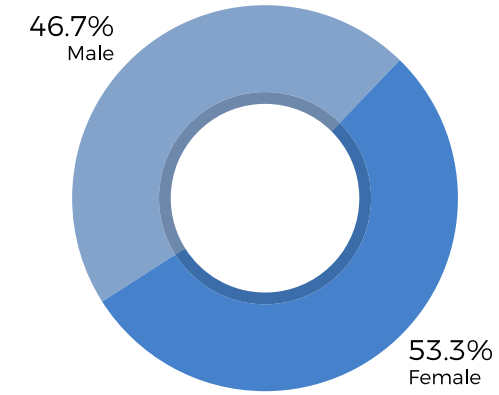
Document classification: NBA Public

Sample characteristics

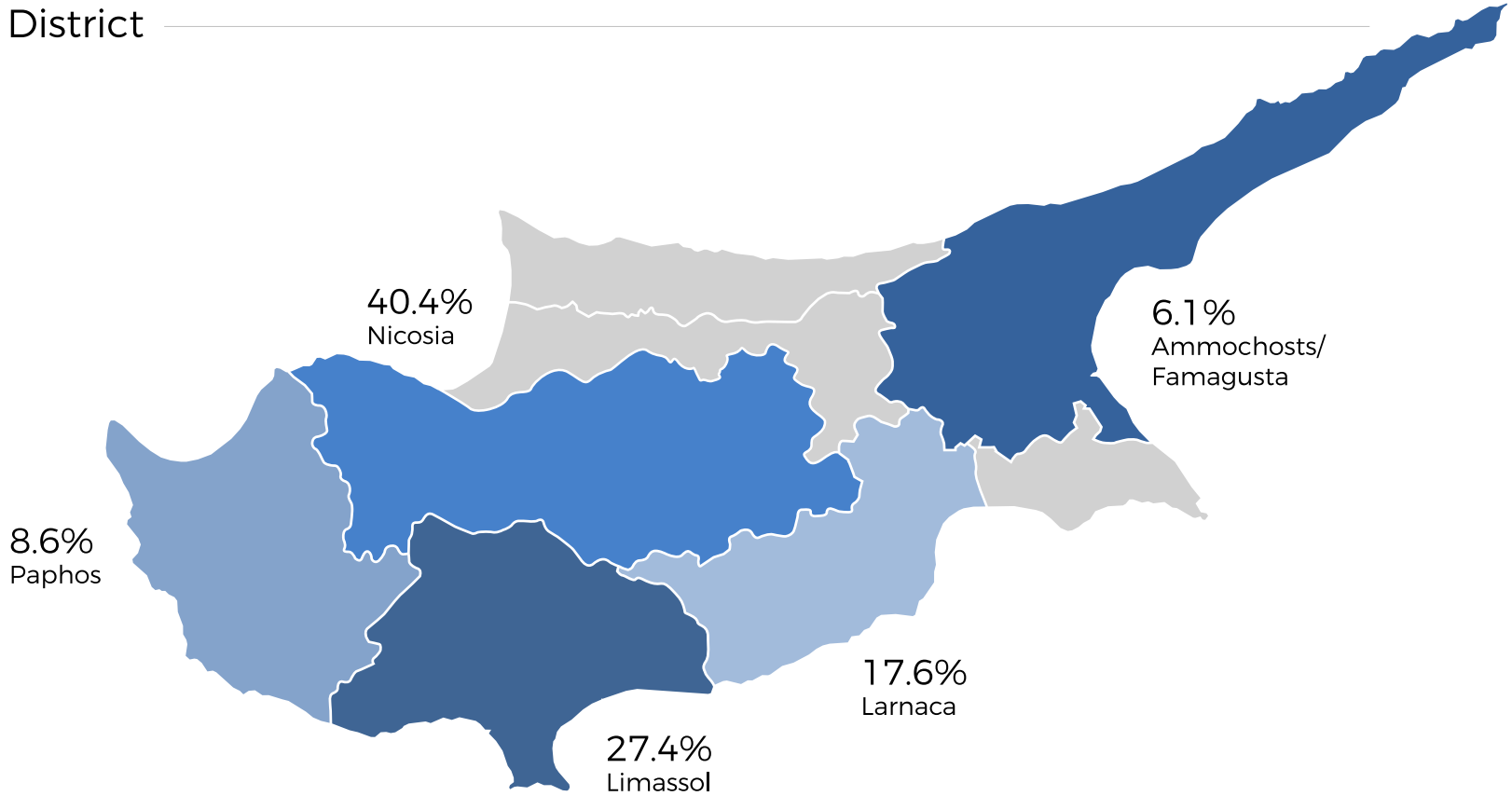
Age



Sex



District



Document classification: NBA Public

What we did

We also performed a systematic search of comparable studies conducted internationally between January 1st, 2019 and March 6th, 2021

What we found

Results of systematic search

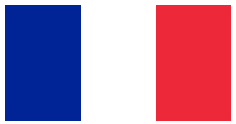
Ten studies met the inclusion criteria of the systematic search. Of these 10 studies, five used similar methods and were directly comparable to the current results.

These studies were from:

Australia
/ (Hing et al., 2021)
2019-20

Victoria (Australia)
/ (Rockloff et al., 2020)
2018-19

New South Wales (Australia)
/ (Browne et al., 2020)
2019

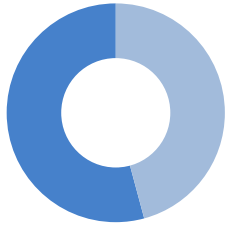


France
/ (Costes et al., 2020)
2019

Republic of Ireland
/ (Mongan et al., 2022)
2019-20

Document classification: NBA Public

How many people gamble?



In 2022, **55.3%** of people living in Cyprus reported gambling in the past year

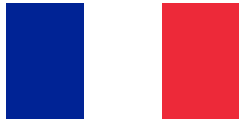
This means that approximately **359 197** adults living in Cyprus gambled in the past year
(based on 2011 Cyprus census population)

This is comparable to recent international estimates

56.9%
Australia
2019-20

69.0%
Victoria (Australia)
2018-19

53.3%
New South Wales (Australia)
2019

45.6% 
France
2019

49.0%
Republic of Ireland
2019-20

55.3%
Republic of Cyprus
2022

Document classification: NBA Public

What we found

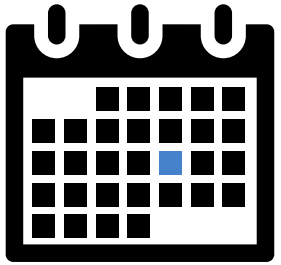
Who gambles?

Among the **55.3%**, who gamble they were most likely to be:

Male

Age 18-34 years old

Among people who gambled in the past year, **73.5%** gambled at least once per month

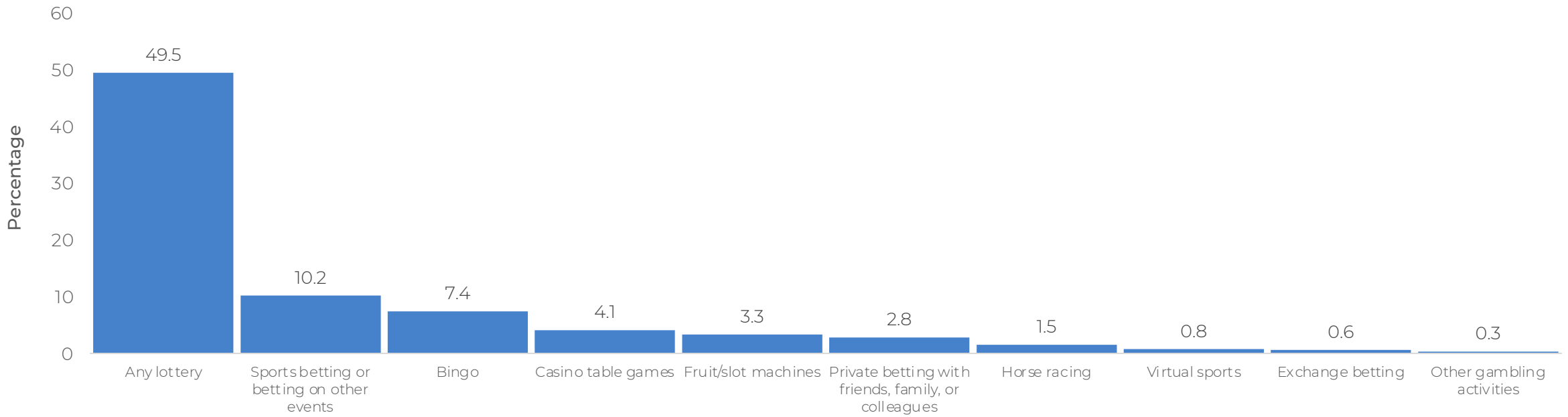


Document classification: NBA Public

What do they gamble on?

Most popular types of gambling among people in Cyprus:

LOTTERY GAMBLING SPORTS BETTING BINGO



Document classification: NBA Public

International comparisons

Lottery gambling was also the most popular across jurisdictions

Australia
2019-20

Lotteries

Race betting

EGMs

Victoria (Australia)
2018-19

Australian lotteries, raffles or sweeps

Horse, harness, or greyhounds race betting

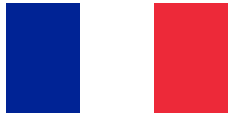
Pokies or EGMs

New South Wales (Australia)
2019

Lotteries

EGMs

Horse, or greyhounds race betting



France
2019

Lotteries or scratch cards

Sports betting

EGMs

Republic of Ireland
2019-20

Lotteries or scratch cards

Bookmaker's shop

Horse or dog race betting

Republic of Cyprus
2022

Lotteries

Sports betting

Bingo

Document classification: NBA Public

What we found

Online vs. in-person gambling

Online gambling has been linked to **greater** risks of harm

Among gamblers in Cyprus, **14.1%** gambled online in the past year

This represents **50 647** people living in Cyprus

The most popular online gambling activity was sports betting, with **11.7%** of all gamblers in Cyprus engaging in online sports betting

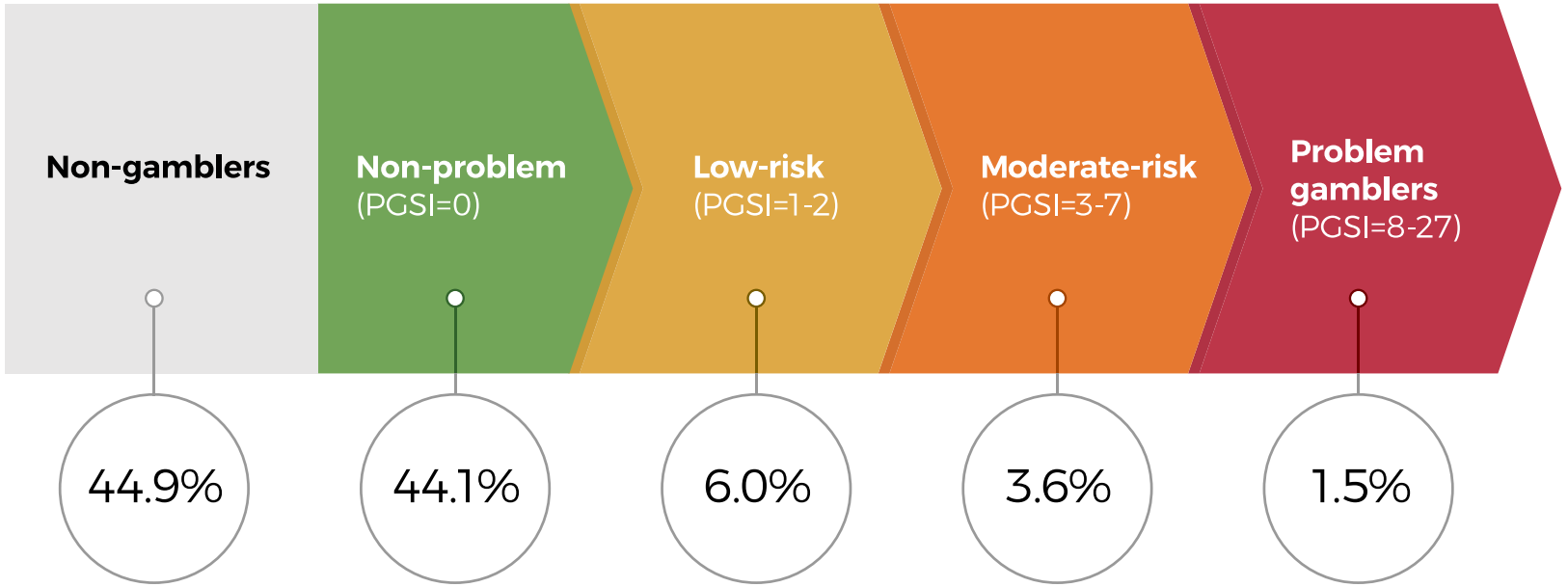
This represents **41 995** people living in Cyprus

Document classification: NBA Public

Problem and high-risk Gambling

Problem and high-risk gambling

We identified problem and high-risk gambling using the **Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI),** an internationally recognized and validated problem gambling instrument



Document classification: NBA Public

Prevalence and International Comparisons

Historically, problem gambling prevalence rates have been found to range between 0.4 – 8.1% (Williams et al., 2012).

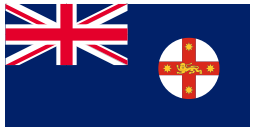
1.2%

Australia
2019-20

0.7%

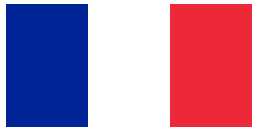
Victoria (Australia)
2018-19

1.0%



New South Wales (Australia)
2019

1.6%



France
2019

0.3%

Republic of Ireland
2019-20

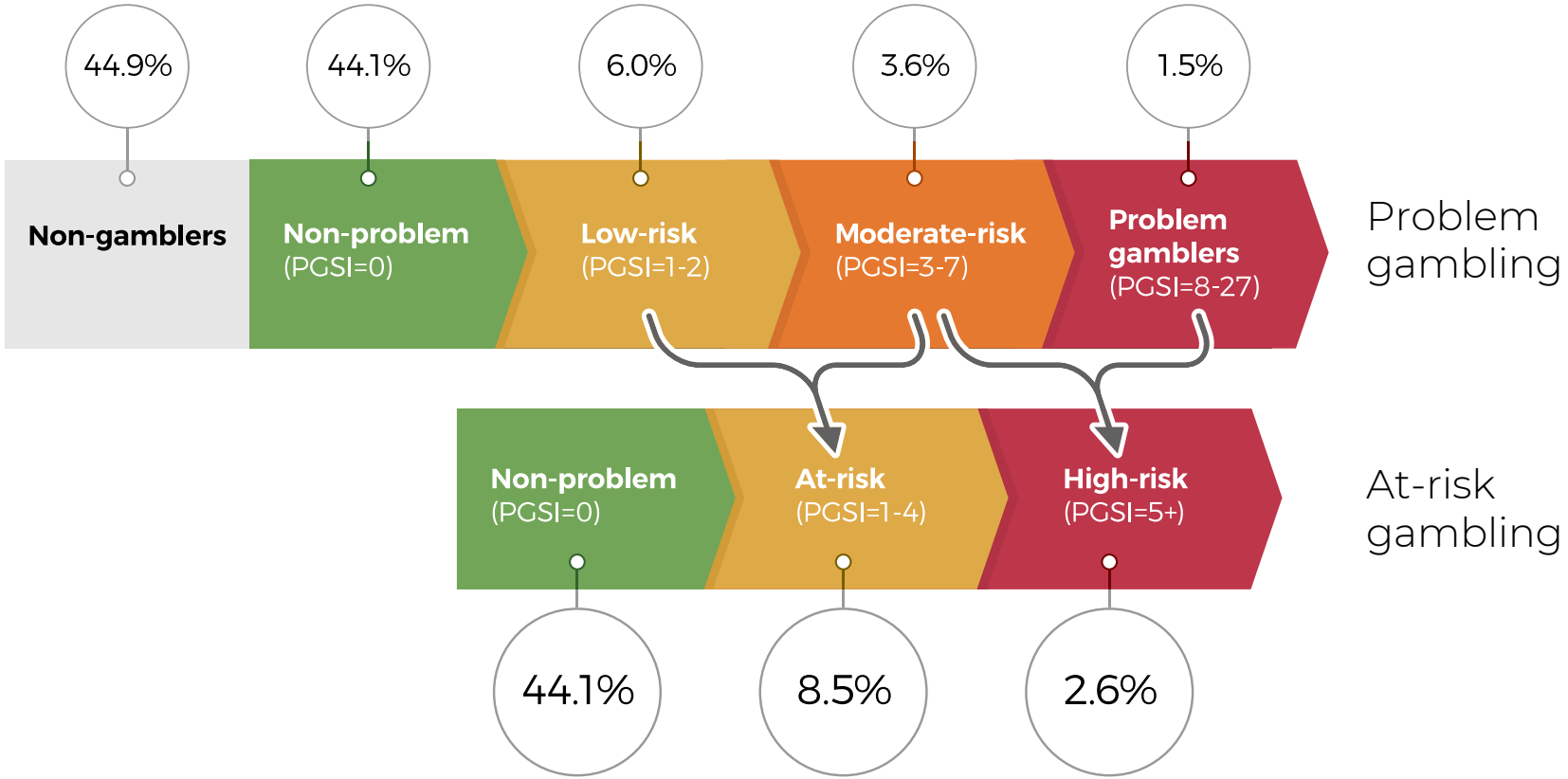
1.5%

Republic of Cyprus
2022

Note, the study from France reports problem gambling as percentage of all gamblers, rather than including those who did and did not gamble. Therefore, estimates are higher.

Document classification: NBA Public

Problem and high-risk gambling



Document classification: NBA Public

High-risk gamblers are most likely to be

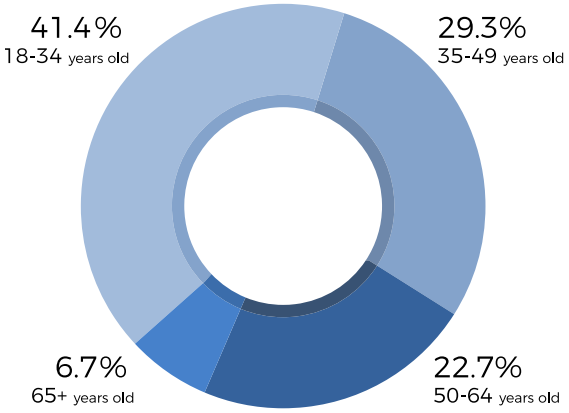
Male

Age 18-34 years old

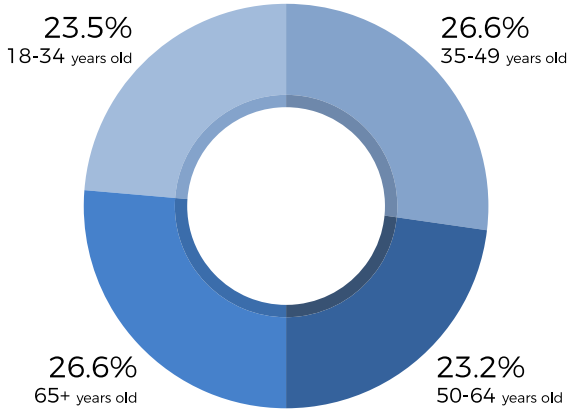
This consistent with international literature indicating young men are at highest risk of gambling harm

Age

HIGH-RISK GAMBLERS

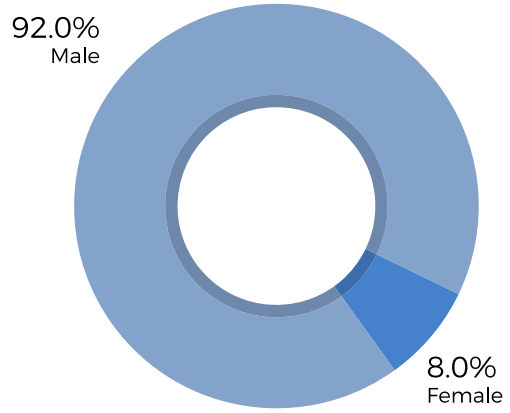


TOTAL SAMPLE

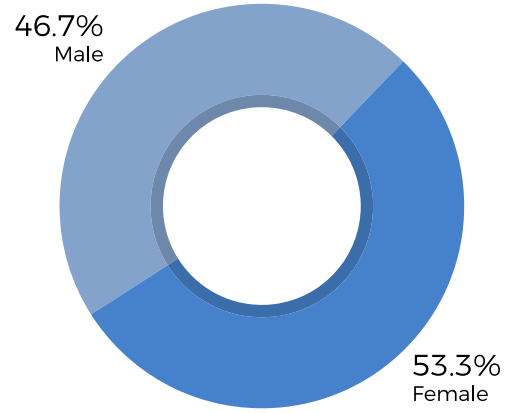


SEX

HIGH-RISK GAMBLERS



TOTAL SAMPLE

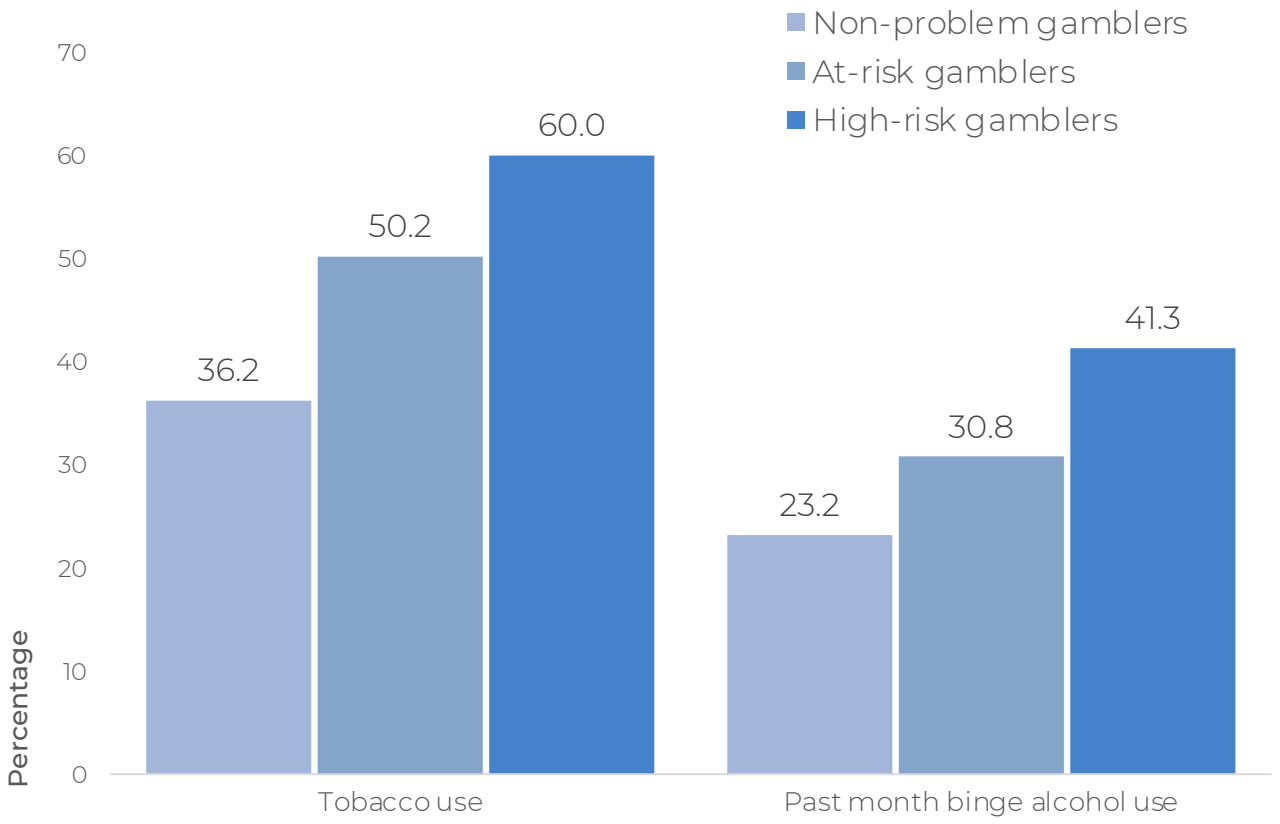


Document classification: NBA Public

Substance use

Compared to non-problem gamblers, high-risk gamblers were more likely to report

- Tobacco use
- Binge drinking

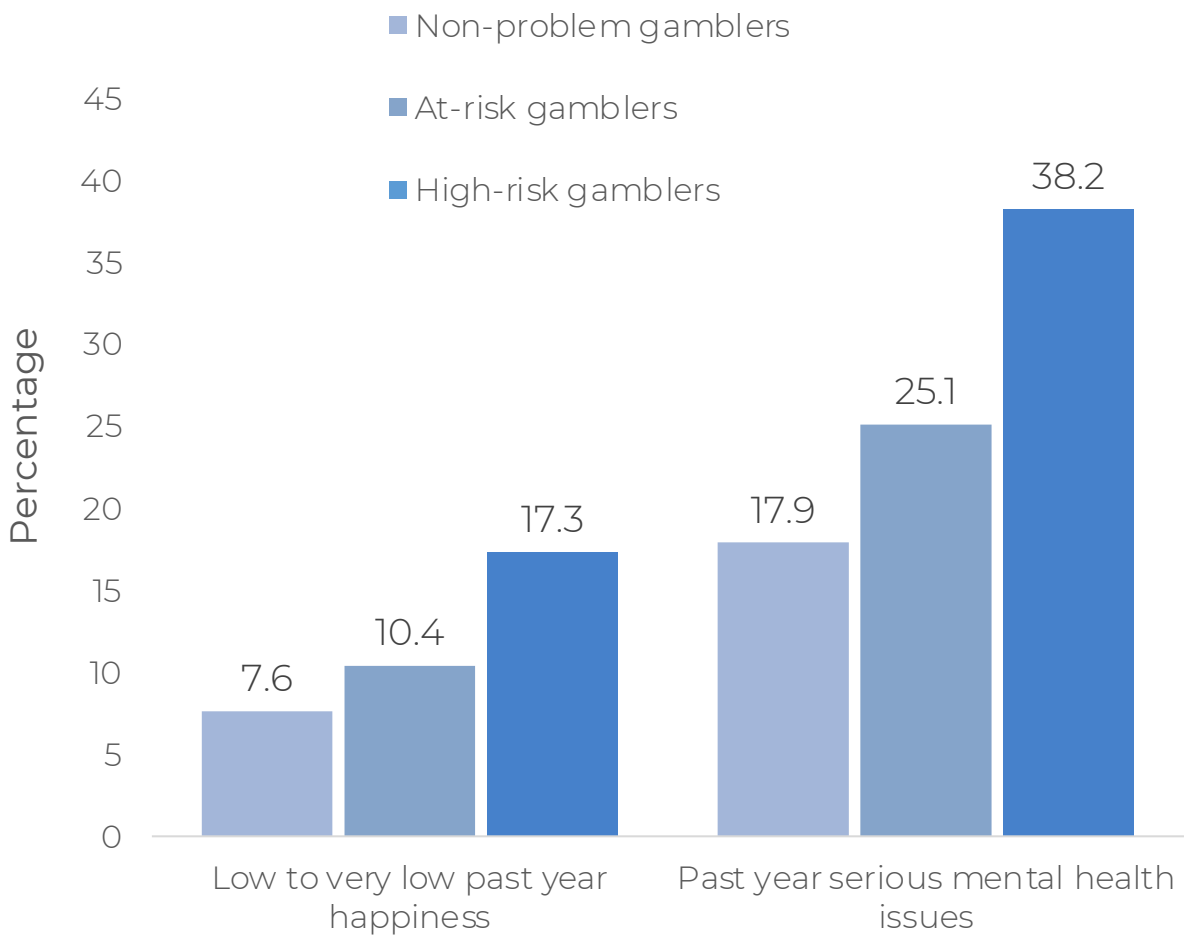


Document classification: NBA Public

Mental Health

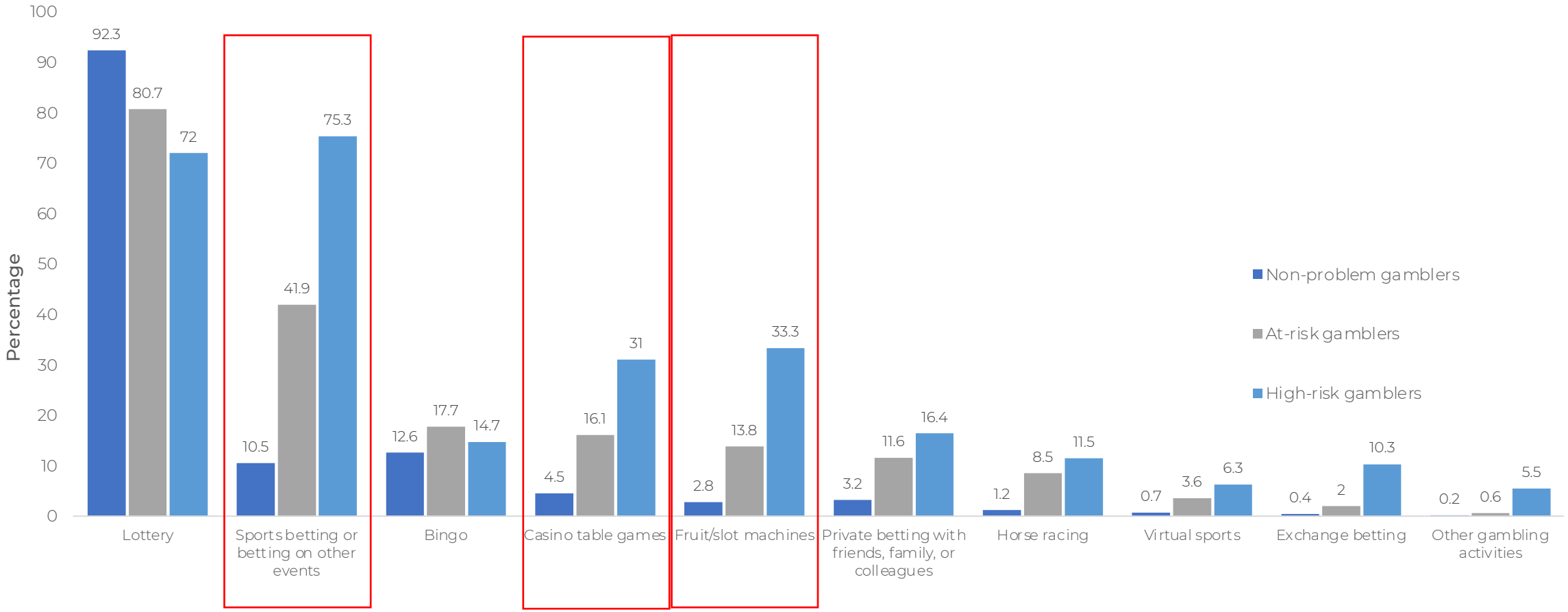
Compared to non-problem gamblers, high-risk gamblers were more likely to report

- being less happy
- serious mental health issues



Document classification: NBA Public

Gambling risk by type of gambling



Document classification: NBA Public

Gambling risk by type of gambling

Among **high-risk** gamblers, the most popular types of gambling were:

- Sports betting or betting on other events (75.3%)
- Lottery (72.0%)
- Fruit/slot machines (33.3%)

Among **non-problem** gamblers, the most popular types of gambling were:

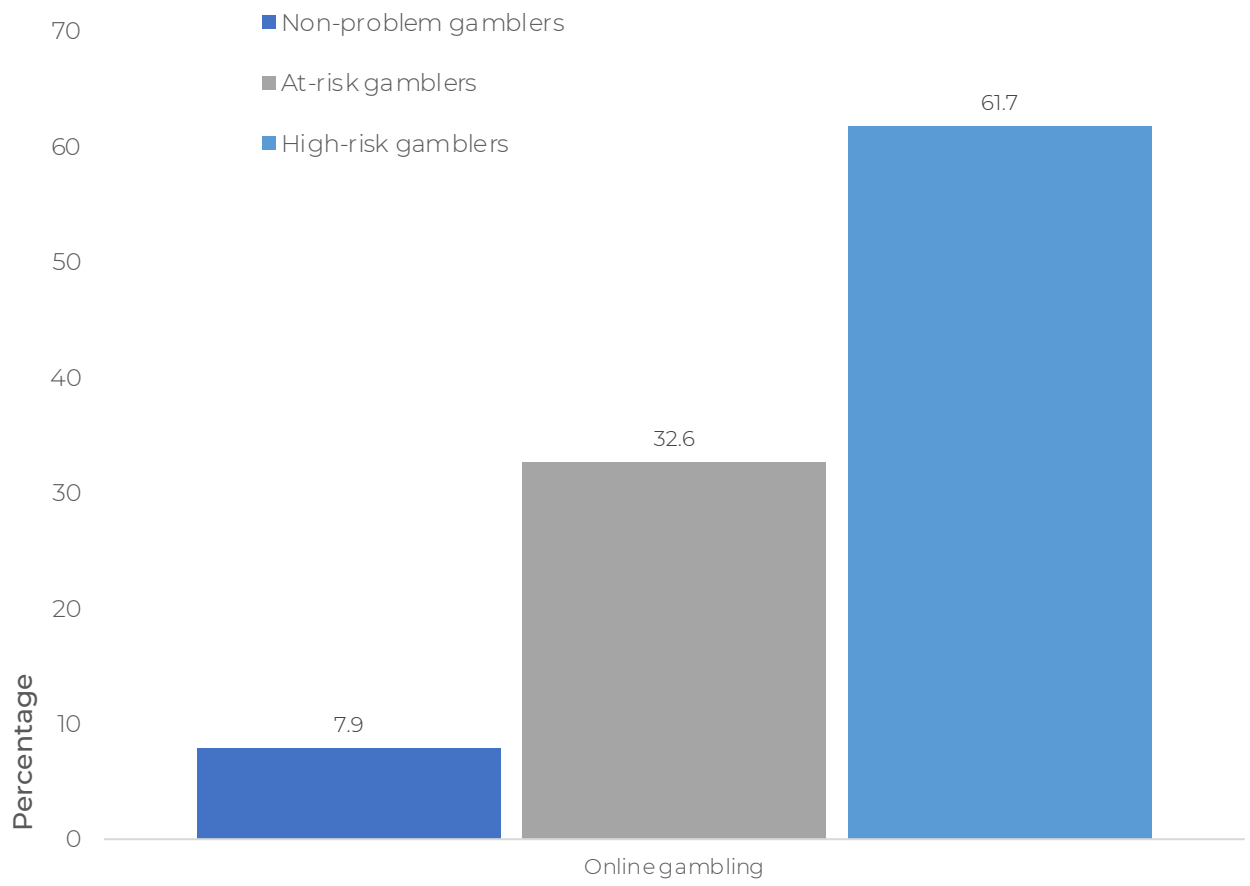
- Lottery (92.3%)
- Bingo (12.6%)
- Sports betting (33.3%)

Document classification: NBA Public

Gambling risk by online vs. in-person gambling

Only **7.9%** of **non-problem** gamblers gambled online in the past year

In contrast **61.7%** of **high-risk** gamblers gambled online in the past year



Summary and implications

Summary

In 2022, just over half of the Cyprus population (**55.3%**) reported gambling in the past year

most popular gambling type was lottery (49.5%) followed by sports betting (10.2%) and then bingo (7.4%).

1.5% of people living in Cyprus met the criteria for problem gambling.

People at higher risk of gambling harm were overwhelmingly male, younger (18-34), and more likely to gamble online

The most popular form of gambling among those at higher risk of gambling harm was sports betting (vs lottery among non-problem gamblers)

Document classification: NBA Public

Summary

In total, **2.6%** of people living in Cyprus are high risk gamblers. They were more likely to:

- Be 18 to 34 years old
- Be Male
- Gamble to escape or distract themselves
- Smoke tobacco and binge drink alcohol
- Be less happy, and report serious mental health issues

High risk gamblers were also more likely to participate in:

- Online gambling
- Sports betting

Document classification: NBA Public

Strategy

Safer Gambling Strategy for 2022 – 2025
The road to a public health approach in Cyprus
May 2022
NATIONAL BETTING AUTHORITY
Safer Gambling

Conclusion

This is the first gambling participation and problem gambling prevalence study conducted in the Republic of Cyprus that permits international comparison.

Because of changes in how questions were asked, trends cannot be derived from the current study.

Document classification: NBA Public

About the research

Greo Evidence Insights (greo.ca) is an independent knowledge translation and exchange organization with two decades of international experience in generating, synthesizing, and mobilizing research into action across the health and wellbeing sectors.

Authorship and Acknowledgements

Greo Evidence Insights

Carling M. Baxter, PhD (Research Analyst)

Matthew M. Young, PhD (Chief Research Officer)

Rachel Volberg, PhD (Research Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences & Greo Evidence Insights Research Associate)

Insights Market Research (IMR)

Christina Kokkalou, (Research Director)

Document classification: NBA Public