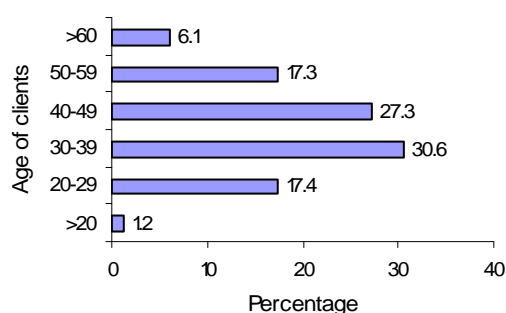


Demographics and Behaviour of Problem Gamblers Seeking Assistance

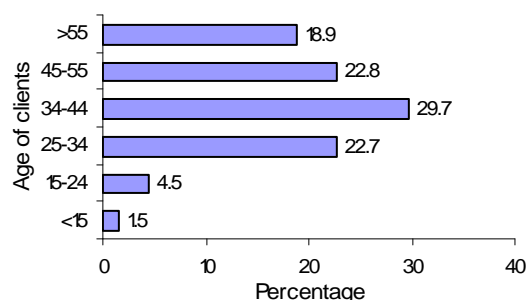
There is a dearth of information with regard to the demographic profile of problem gamblers seeking assistance. The AGC has chosen to contrast two of the published data sets, one from Victoria in 2001-02 and another from South Australia in 2004.

Demographics

Age of clients presenting to problem gambling counselling services – Victoria (2001-02)¹



Age of clients presenting to problem gambling counselling services – South Australia (2004)²



Ethnic background of clients presenting to problem gambling counselling services – Victoria (2001-02)¹

Area	% of clients
Australia	80.1
Europe and former USSR	10.6
Southeast Asia	3.5
Middle East and North Africa	2.0
New Zealand	1.1
Northeast Asia	0.8
Southern Asia	0.7
Africa - excluding North	0.5
South/Central America & Caribbean	0.4
Other Oceania and Antarctica	0.2
Northern America	0.2

Ethnic background of clients presenting to problem gambling counselling services – South Australia (2004)²

Area	% of clients
Australia	63.6
United Kingdom and Ireland	7.9
Europe and former USSR	6.6
Vietnam	6.6
Cambodia	5.0
Northeast Asia	3.4
Southeast Asia	2.2
Middle East and North Africa	1.8
Oceania and Antarctica	1.6
Southern Asia	0.7
South/Central America & Caribbean	0.4
North America	0.3
Africa – excluding North	0.0

Gender balance

In Victoria in 2001-02 the gender breakdown of those presenting to problem gambling counselling services was 48.4% male and 51.6% female¹.

The breakdown was similar in South Australia in 2004, with 48.3% of clients being male and 51.7% female².

Household structure of clients presenting to problem gambling counselling services – Victoria (2001-02)¹

Living arrangement	% of clients
Couple with children	32.7
Lone person household	18.2
Couple without children	17.0
Group/share household	14.2
One parent family	9.1
Other	8.7

Living arrangements of clients presenting to problem gambling counselling services – South Australia (2004)²

Living arrangement	% of clients
Living alone	19
Couple with children	19
Couple without children	15
Living with parents	11
Single parent family	8
Other	14
Unknown	15

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this publication has been obtained from external sources and has not been independently verified by the Australasian Gaming Council. The Australasian Gaming Council excludes liability for loss suffered by any person resulting in any way from the use of, or reliance on this publication.

Weekly income of clients presenting to problem gambling counselling services - Victoria (2001-02)¹

Income	% of clients
Less than \$120	8.9
\$120 - \$199	17.6
\$200 - \$399	23.1
\$400 - \$599	23.8
\$600 - \$799	15.0
\$800 - \$1,499	8.9
\$1,500 or more	2.7

Weekly income of clients presenting to problem gambling counselling services – South Australia (2004)²

Income	% of clients
No income	3.0
Less than \$120	2.9
\$120 - \$159	4.1
\$160 - \$199	10.8
\$200 - \$299	16.3
\$300 - \$399	11.4
\$400 - \$499	13.0
\$500 - \$599	10.4
\$600 - \$699	7.6
\$700 - \$799	6.0
\$800 - \$999	7.8
\$1,000 - \$1,499	5.6
\$1,500 or more	1.0

Participation and Behaviour

The most common reported gambling activity undertaken by new clients presenting to problem gambling counselling services in Victoria was gaming machine play (87.5%), although women reported playing at a significantly higher rate (96.2%) compared to males (78.1%).

The next most common gambling activity was off-course betting (10.0%), with participation by men (19.7%) considerably higher than women (0.9%). Card games (3.9%) were the third most common activity, with 6.4% of men and 1.5% of women participating in a typical gambling episode.¹

More recent information is available for problem gamblers gaming behaviour in New South Wales.

Number of problem gamblers who reported each principal gambling activity – New South Wales (2005)³

Principal gambling activity	Number of clients	% of clients
Gaming machines	1978	84.39
TAB/phonetab (racing & sports betting)	230	9.81
On-course (racing & sports betting)	10	0.43
Card games	13	0.55
Casino table games	78	3.33
Internet (gaming, racing & sports betting)	13	0.55
Lotto/scratch lotto/lottery/pools/keno	18	0.77
Bingo	1	0.04
Other	3	0.13
Total	2344	100.00

Problem Gambling Behaviours

Data here represents behaviour during a typical gambling episode reported by problem gamblers in Victoria who presented themselves to counselling services in 2001-02. Despite variations between different types of gambling, problem gamblers reported spending a considerable amount of both time and money on most forms of gambling.

Both males and females reported spending a median of 24 hours per month playing gaming machines with median expenditure of \$200 each time. Also of relative high frequency was betting on card games, with both males and females spending 20 hours per month and \$400 (males) or \$500 (females) during a typical episode.

Men were significantly more likely to participate in on-course and off-course betting, playing 18 and 16 hours respectively per month, while for females these corresponding figures were much lower (8 and 12 hours per month). Interestingly, males reported spending \$150 during a typical episode of betting on both on-course and off-course races, while females spent more per episode (\$300 and \$200 respectively).¹

¹ Dickerson M. (2003) Analysis of Clients Presenting to Problem Gambling Services 1 July, 2001 to June 30, 2002, Client and Services Analysis Report No. 8, Melbourne: Victorian Government Department of Human Services.

² South Australian Department of Families and Communities (2006). Gambling Rehabilitation Data Bulletin, Client Data & Community Education Activities October – December 2005.

³ Faunce, G. (2006) An Analysis of the Data Collected via the Responsible Gambling Fund Client Data Set (CDS): 1 January – 30 June 2005, NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing, June 2006