

Gambling problems in clients of mental health services

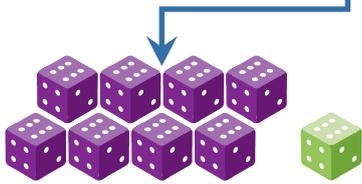
62% of Victorian adults gamble*

41% of people seeking treatment for mental illness gamble

Of clients in mental health services:

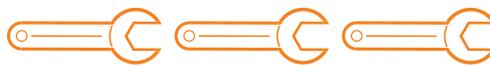
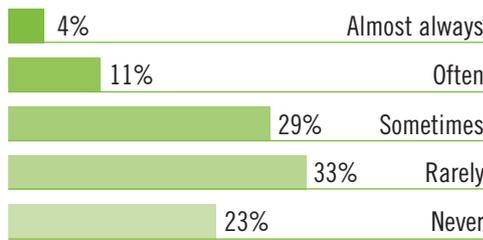


However, the rate of problem gambling is 8 times higher than the general population.



90% of clinicians agree it is important to identify if a client has a gambling problem.

Do mental health clinicians screen clients for problem gambling?



89% of clinicians are unaware or uncertain of screening tools available to detect gambling problems.



Nearly three-quarters agree a brief assessment tool for identifying gambling problems would be useful.

Two brief assessment tools

One-item assessment

Thinking about the last 12 months, have you bet more than you could really afford to lose?

Yes No

Three-item assessment

1 

In the last 12 months, have you needed to gamble with larger amounts of money to get the same feeling of excitement?

Yes No

2 

In the last 12 months, have you often gambled longer, with more money or more frequently than you intended to?

Yes No

3 

In the last 12 months, have you made attempts to either cut down, control or stop gambling?

Yes No

YES to any question means the person may have experienced harm because of gambling and suggests a need for further assessment.

The Statewide Problem Gambling Service at Alfred Health can provide further assessment. Go to: alfredhealth.org.au/services/hp/waiora-clinic

*This excludes raffles. Reference: Hare, S 2015, *Study of gambling and health in Victoria: findings from the Victorian prevalence study 2014*, Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation and Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation, Melbourne.