NGB commissioned a research survey in the 2015/2016 Financial Year to determine the prevalence and incidence of gambling, as well as to monitor problem gambling in South Africa. A standard questionnaire was used to track responses over a four year period (from FY2011 to FY2015). The latest findings are based on a total of 3 451 representative interviews conducted with adults aged 18 years and older in urban and rural areas across South Africa. Field work took place between 20 March 2015 and 17 April 2015.

SLIGHTLY MORE PEOPLE ARE GAMBLING SINCE NOVEMBER 2012 – ESPECIALLY BUYING LOTTO TICKETS

The incidence of gambling increased by one percentage point (from 14.3% in November 2012 to 15.3% in April 2015), as reflected below.

Overall, a decline was recorded in gambling at casino and bingo outlets, on Limited Payout Machines and betting on horses and sport. Buying of national lottery tickets, however, increased.

DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ILLEGAL FORMS OF GAMBLING SUCH AS GAMBLING ONLINE AND AT UNLICENSED GAMBLING OUTLETS
Based on the findings, 17.5% of the gambling population participates in illegal gambling activities such as playing Fafi / IChina / mo-China / fhafee, dice / card / table games / roulette / slot machines and/or bingo not at a licensed venue or on the internet, betting on horse racing / sport and other contingencies not at a licensed facility, and/or using electronic devices to play games for money.

Illegal gambling has the highest risk of people becoming problem gamblers.

WINNINGS FROM ILLEGAL GAMBLING WILL BE FORFEITED TO THE STATE
Problem gambling in South Africa (population versus gamblers) as at April 2015

Measured by the Canadian Problem Gambling Index

An examination of various gambling sub-groups indicated that, although the percentage of gamblers in South Africa has increased, the percentage of problem gamblers within the SA population and gambling population have declined slightly. This can in all likelihood be attributed to the fact that the greatest growth in gambling has taken place in terms of participation in the national lottery, a category of gambling that has shown to be of lower risk than most of the other gambling activities and having the highest proportion of non-risk gamblers (56.5%).
The main trends in the data, November 2012 to April 2015, are as follows:
i. Gambling participation has increased from 14.3% to 15.3%;
ii. National lottery participation has increased from 77.0% to 78.9%;
iii. Illegal gambling has seen a significant decrease from 41.0% to 17.5%;
iv. 54.4% of gamblers may be considered as “no risk”, a significant increase from 43.4%;
v. 9.9% of gamblers may be regarded as “problem gamblers”.
vi. There is a slight increase in gambling across both genders of South African gamblers;
vii. More coloured South Africans are participating in gambling, an increase to 19.8% from 11.3%;
viii. The ages groups 25 and older all show an increase in gambling participation;
ix. Problem gambling has decreased from 3.1% to 1.8% for those gamblers earning R1 to R2999; and
x. Both metro and non-metro problem gamblers have decreased.

The board has studied the findings of the report. Strategic recommendations have been crafted and will be discussed at various industry, government and regulatory forums in the continuous effort to address challenges (as highlighted in the research report) and ensure integrity in the South African gambling sector.

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