Gambling in Pennsylvania

2010 Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Disclaimer

Due to revised wording, these data are not directly comparable to the 2008 or 2009 Pennsylvania BRFSS Gambling data. Please reference the technical notes section on page 9 for additional information.

Bought lottery tickets in the past 12 months

Demographic	Prevalence	CI
Total	41	39-43
Male	44	41-47
Female	38	36-40
18-29	37	30-44
30-44	40	36-43
45-64	47	44-49
65+	35	33-38
< High School	35	28-43
High School	42	39-45
Some College	44	41-48
College Degree	38	35-42
<$15,000	33	27-39
$15,000 to $24,999	40	36-45
$25,000 to $49,999	43	39-47
$50,000 to $74,999	48	43-53
$75,000+	41	38-45
White, non-Hispanic	41	39-43
Black, non-Hispanic	45	37-53
Hispanic	NSR	NSR
Married	42	40-44

Demographic	Prevalence	CI
Divorced/Separated	43	38-48
Widowed	34	31-38
Never Married	40	35-46
Veteran	44	39-49
Non-Veteran	41	39-43
Diagnosed Diabetic	42	37-47
Not Diagnosed Diabetic	41	39-43
Asthmatic (Current)	37	31-43
Not Asthmatic	41	39-43
Obese (BMI >= 30)	49	46-52
Overweight (25 <= BMI < 30)	41	38-44
Neither Overweight nor Obese	35	31-38
Current Smoker	51	47-56
Former Smoker	43	40-47
Never Smoked	36	34-39
Chronic Drinker	48	40-57
Drink but Not Chronic	46	44-49
Non-Drinker	33	31-36
No Health Care Coverage	38	32-44
Have Health Care Coverage	41	39-43

NSR = Not Statistically Reliable due to small numbers
CI = 95% Confidence Interval

Gambled in the past 12 months

Demographic	Prevalence	CI
Total	25	23-26
Male	28	25-31
Female	22	20-24
18-29	23	18-30
30-44	27	23-30
45-64	25	23-27
65+	21	19-23
< High School	23	16-31
High School	24	22-27
Some College	27	24-31
College Degree	24	21-27
<$15,000	14	11-19
$15,000 to $24,999	23	20-28
$25,000 to $49,999	24	21-27
$50,000 to $74,999	28	25-33
$75,000+	28	25-32
White, non-Hispanic	24	23-26
Black, non-Hispanic	31	24-40
Hispanic	24	14-37
Married	24	22-26

Demographic	Prevalence	CI
Divorced/Separated	29	24-34
Widowed	19	16-22
Never Married	26	22-32
Veteran	24	20-28
Non-Veteran	25	23-27
Diagnosed Diabetic	23	19-27
Not Diagnosed Diabetic	25	23-26
Asthmatic (Current)	23	18-29
Not Asthmatic	25	23-26
Obese (BMI >= 30)	28	25-32
Overweight (25 <= BMI < 30)	26	24-29
Neither Overweight nor Obese	20	17-23
Current Smoker	33	29-37
Former Smoker	24	22-27
Never Smoked	22	20-24
Chronic Drinker	38	30-46
Drink but Not Chronic	29	27-32
Non-Drinker	18	16-20
No Health Care Coverage	21	16-27
Have Health Care Coverage	25	23-27

NSR = Not Statistically Reliable due to small numbers
CI = 95% Confidence Interval

Played slot machines in the past month

(out of those who gambled in the past 12 months)

Demographic	Prevalence	CI
Total	45	41-49
Male	40	34-46
Female	51	46-56
18-29	NSR	NSR
30-44	42	34-49
45-64	46	41-51
65+	52	46-58
< High School	NSR	NSR
High School	50	44-56
Some College	37	30-43
College Degree	44	38-51
<$15,000	61	49-73
$15,000 to $24,999	43	34-53
$25,000 to $49,999	41	33-48
$50,000 to $74,999	44	36-53
$75,000+	43	37-51
White, non-Hispanic	44	40-48
Black, non-Hispanic	NSR	NSR
Hispanic	NSR	NSR
Married	45	40-49

Demographic	Prevalence	CI
Divorced/Separated	40	30-51
Widowed	60	51-67
Never Married	47	36-58
Veteran	44	34-54
Non-Veteran	45	41-49
Diagnosed Diabetic	59	48-68
Not Diagnosed Diabetic	44	40-48
Asthmatic (Current)	49	37-62
Not Asthmatic	45	41-49
Obese (BMI >= 30)	42	36-48
Overweight (25 <= BMI < 30)	45	39-51
Neither Overweight nor Obese	48	40-56
Current Smoker	51	44-59
Former Smoker	46	40-53
Never Smoked	41	36-47
Chronic Drinker	NSR	NSR
Drink but Not Chronic	44	39-49
Non-Drinker	49	43-56
No Health Care Coverage	46	32-59
Have Health Care Coverage	44	41-48

NSR = Not Statistically Reliable due to small numbers
CI = 95% Confidence Interval

Bet on table games in the past 12 months

(out of those who gambled in the past 12 months)

Demographic	Prevalence	CI
Total	24	20-27
Male	33	27-39
Female	13	10-17
18-29	61	46-73
30-44	23	18-31
45-64	17	14-22
65+	11	8-16
< High School	NSR	NSR
High School	17	13-23
Some College	25	19-33
College Degree	28	22-35
<$15,000	11	6-22
$15,000 to $24,999	18	11-27
$25,000 to $49,999	21	14-29
$50,000 to $74,999	20	14-28
$75,000+	30	23-37
White, non-Hispanic	24	21-29
Black, non-Hispanic	NSR	NSR
Hispanic	NSR	NSR
Married	21	17-26

Demographic	Prevalence	CI
Divorced/Separated	21	14-29
Widowed	12	7-20
Never Married	42	30-54
Veteran	27	18-38
Non-Veteran	23	19-27
Diagnosed Diabetic	19	12-29
Not Diagnosed Diabetic	24	20-28
Asthmatic (Current)	NSR	NSR
Not Asthmatic	23	19-27
Obese (BMI >= 30)	20	15-26
Overweight (25 <= BMI < 30)	24	19-31
Neither Overweight nor Obese	28	21-36
Current Smoker	24	18-32
Former Smoker	22	17-29
Never Smoked	24	19-30
Chronic Drinker	NSR	NSR
Drink but Not Chronic	28	24-33
Non-Drinker	15	10-22
No Health Care Coverage	26	15-40
Have Health Care Coverage	23	19-27

NSR = Not Statistically Reliable due to small numbers
CI = 95% Confidence Interval

Money spent gambling led to financial problems

(out of those who gambled in the past 12 months)

Demographic	Prevalence	CI
Total	1	0-3
Male	2	0-6
Female	1	0-1
18-29	2	0-7
30-44	2	0-9
45-64	1	0-1
65+	0	0-1
< High School	NSR	NSR
High School	0	0-1
Some College	1	0-3
College Degree	0	0-2
<$15,000	8	3-16
$15,000 to $24,999	2	0-8
$25,000 to $49,999	0	0-1
$50,000 to $74,999	0	0-1
$75,000+	0	0-1
White, non-Hispanic	1	0-4
Black, non-Hispanic	3	1-12
Hispanic	NSR	NSR
Married	0	0-0

Demographic	Prevalence	CI
Divorced/Separated	1	0-3
Widowed	1	0-4
Never Married	NSR	NSR
Veteran	0	0-2
Non-Veteran	1	0-3
Diagnosed Diabetic	0	0-3
Not Diagnosed Diabetic	1	0-3
Asthmatic (Current)	3	1-8
Not Asthmatic	1	0-3
Obese (BMI >= 30)	1	0-2
Overweight (25 <= BMI < 30)	0	0-1
Neither Overweight nor Obese	3	1-11
Current Smoker	4	1-13
Former Smoker	0	0-1
Never Smoked	0	0-1
Chronic Drinker	NSR	NSR
Drink but Not Chronic	0	0-1
Non-Drinker	1	0-3
No Health Care Coverage	1	0-3
Have Health Care Coverage	1	0-3

NSR = Not Statistically Reliable due to small numbers
CI = 95% Confidence Interval
The Rule of Three (3/n) was used to calculate the 95% upper bound when there were no observed units.

Time spent gambling led to family, work, or personal life problems

(out of those who gambled in the past 12 months)

Demographic	Prevalence	CI
Total	2	1-4
Male	3	1-7
Female	1	0-2
18-29	0	0-3
30-44	3	1-9
45-64	2	1-4
65+	1	0-3
< High School	NSR	NSR
High School	1	0-3
Some College	2	1-5
College Degree	2	0-5
<$15,000	9	4-18
$15,000 to $24,999	2	1-10
$25,000 to $49,999	1	0-2
$50,000 to $74,999	2	0-7
$75,000+	1	0-5
White, non-Hispanic	2	1-4
Black, non-Hispanic	0	0-3
Hispanic	NSR	NSR
Married	1	0-3

Demographic	Prevalence	CI
Divorced/Separated	4	2-12
Widowed	0	0-3
Never Married	NSR	NSR
Veteran	2	0-11
Non-Veteran	2	1-4
Diagnosed Diabetic	1	0-5
Not Diagnosed Diabetic	2	1-4
Asthmatic (Current)	1	0-3
Not Asthmatic	2	1-4
Obese (BMI >= 30)	0	0-2
Overweight (25 <= BMI < 30)	2	1-4
Neither Overweight nor Obese	4	1-11
Current Smoker	6	3-14
Former Smoker	1	0-2
Never Smoked	1	0-2
Chronic Drinker	NSR	NSR
Drink but Not Chronic	1	0-3
Non-Drinker	2	1-5
No Health Care Coverage	3	0-13
Have Health Care Coverage	2	1-4

NSR = Not Statistically Reliable due to small numbers
CI = 95% Confidence Interval

Technical Notes

There is evidence that the 2010 data is biased and should be used with caution. Bias often occurs when the survey sample does not accurately represent the population. It is believed that differences in wording have biased the gambling module and made it incomparable to previously collected data. An introduction which provided gambling examples was included in 2008 but it was removed in 2009 and 2010. Removing the introduction may have caused the survey respondents to under estimate the number of different activities considered gambling which caused the entire gambling module to be under estimated.

The following introduction was used in 2008: "Now I would like to ask you some questions about gambling. This includes any game of skill or chance where you put up cash to win a cash prize, from buying lottery tickets to casino gambling." Since this was not stated in the 2010 survey, respondents may not have considered any game of chance or skill when answering about gambling. For example, many of those who play lottery tickets may not consider this a form of gambling.

The questions asked in 2010 appear in the appendix. There were also some different questions asked in the 2008 survey, which appear below.

1. Have you gambled in the past 12 months?
   NOTE: The following questions (2-10) are only asked if they have gambled in the past 12 months
2. In the past 12 months have you played a slot machine?
3. In the past 12 months have you bet on horse racing?
4. In the past 12 months have you bought lottery tickets?
5. In the past 12 months have you played bingo for cash prizes?
6. In the past 12 months have you bet on sporting events, or participated in sports pools?
7. In the past 12 months have you bet on table games like poker, other card games, dice, backgammon or dominos?
8. In the past 12 months have you gambled online using a personal computer?
9. Has the money you spent gambling led to financial problems?
10. Has the time you spent gambling led to problems in your family, work, or personal life?

In 2008, an estimated 46% (95% CI: 44-48) of Pennsylvania adults reported having gambled in the past 12 months. This number was dramatically higher than the estimated percent in 2010 (25% CI: 23-26). The 2010 gambling data should be used cautiously due to the likelihood that the data is biased.

Appendix: 2010 State Added Gambling Questions

The following were asked in the 2010 Pennsylvania Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey. Questions 3 through 6 were only asked if the respondent answered "yes" to question 2.

Question 1

In the past 12 months have you bought lottery tickets?

1. Yes
2. No
7. Don't Know/Not Sure
9. Refused

Question 2

Have you gambled in the past 12 months?

1. Yes
2. No **SKIP → Leave Gambling Module**
7. Don't Know/Not Sure **SKIP → Leave Gambling Module**
9. Refused **SKIP → Leave Gambling Module**

Question 3 (If Question 2 = 1)

In the past month have you played a slot machine?

1. Yes
2. No
7. Don't Know/Not Sure
9. Refused

Question 4 (If Question 2 = 1)

In the past 12 months have you bet on table games like poker, other card games, dice, backgammon or dominos?

1. Yes
2. No
7. Don't Know/Not Sure
9. Refused

Question 5 (If Question 2 = 1)

Has the money you spent on gambling led to financial problems?

1. Yes
2. No
7. Don't Know/Not Sure
9. Refused

Question 6 (If Question 2 = 1)

Has the time you spent gambling led to problems in your family, work, or personal life?

1. Yes
2. No
7. Don't Know/Not Sure
9. Refused