

Notizie dal mondo

La Gambling Commission del Regno Unito ha recentemente pubblicato il suo rapporto annuale <http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news-action-and-statistics/news/2017/Gambling-Commission-publishes-Annual-Report-and-Accounts-for-201617.aspx>

Secondo il report l'1,4% dei giocatori d'azzardo sono stati classificati come giocatori problematici e rappresentano lo 0,8% della popolazione; il 6,4% giocatori a rischio (3,9% della popolazione): dati molto simili a quelli pubblicati nella relazione del 2012. Il problema di gioco si diffonde maggiormente tra coloro che giocano a più tipi di giochi. Il 63% degli adulti (di età compresa tra 16 anni in su) in Gran Bretagna ha giocato l'anno scorso. Tra questi, il 66% è uomo ed il 59% è donna. Le attività più amate del gioco d'azzardo sono state: lotterie nazionali (46%), gratta e vinci (23%) e altre lotterie (15%).

Più interessanti forse per noi, sono le ricerche australiane, paese molto simile al nostro per la diffusione dell'azzardo e in particolare delle macchinette (pokies).

<http://theconversation.com/three-charts-on-australias-addiction-to-poker-machines-78353>

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Three charts on: Australia's addiction to poker machines

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Australia has [more poker machines per person](#) than any country in the world, excluding casino-tourism destinations like Macau and Monaco. It has nearly 200,000 machines – one for every 114 people.

This startling statistic resulted from a wave of pokie liberalisation during the 1990s that saw them introduced into pubs and clubs in every state and territory – except Western Australia.

To track the social impacts of this expansion, state and territory governments have commissioned surveys to measure the levels of gambling consumption and gambling-related harm. In total, more than 275,000 Australians have been interviewed in 42 studies of this kind since 1994.

We recently conducted [an analysis](#) of these studies to build a nationwide picture of how pokie gambling has changed across Australia over the past 25 years. We linked the participation rates reported by the surveys with government data on [actual poker machine expenditure in pubs and clubs](#) for each jurisdiction – converted into 2015 dollars to account for inflation.

The expenditure data exclude poker machines in casinos; these data are not disaggregated for government reporting purposes.

Consequently, the figures we present here should be considered minimums – especially in Tasmania and the Northern Territory, where a large proportion of pokies are located in casinos. WA is excluded from the expenditure analysis because it has no pokies outside Burswood Casino.

A recent gradual decline in pokie losses

Nationally, pokie losses in pubs and clubs increased fourfold between 1990 and 2000 before plateauing at around A\$860 per adult per year in 2005. Since 2005, there has been a consistent gradual decline in gambling losses across the various jurisdictions. Throughout this period, pokie losses per adult in New South Wales have remained around 50% higher than the national average.

The biggest contributor to the decline since 2005 has been tobacco control, not gambling policy. The introduction of indoor smoking bans across Australia in the 2000s [hit pokie revenues](#) quite hard.

It is also likely that caps on pokie numbers – which have been relatively stable since 2000 – [played a role](#) in limiting pokie expenditure.

However, this should give no reason for complacency. The decline in pokie revenue is slowing, and possibly beginning to reverse in NSW, the NT and Queensland.

Current annual losses on pokies in pubs and clubs for Australia amount to \$633 per adult. Losses in NSW are highest at \$978 per adult and lowest in Tasmania at \$283 per adult – although casinos play a more important role in Tasmania.

These figures are [very high by world standards](#). The losses by Australians on pokies outside of casinos dwarf those of any other comparable country. They are 2.4 times greater than those of our nearest rival, Italy.

These losses are even more anomalous when compared to non-casino gambling machines in other English-speaking countries. Australians lose three times more than New Zealanders, 4.1 times more than Canadians, 6.4 times more than the Irish, 7.5 times more than the British, and 9.8 times more than Americans.

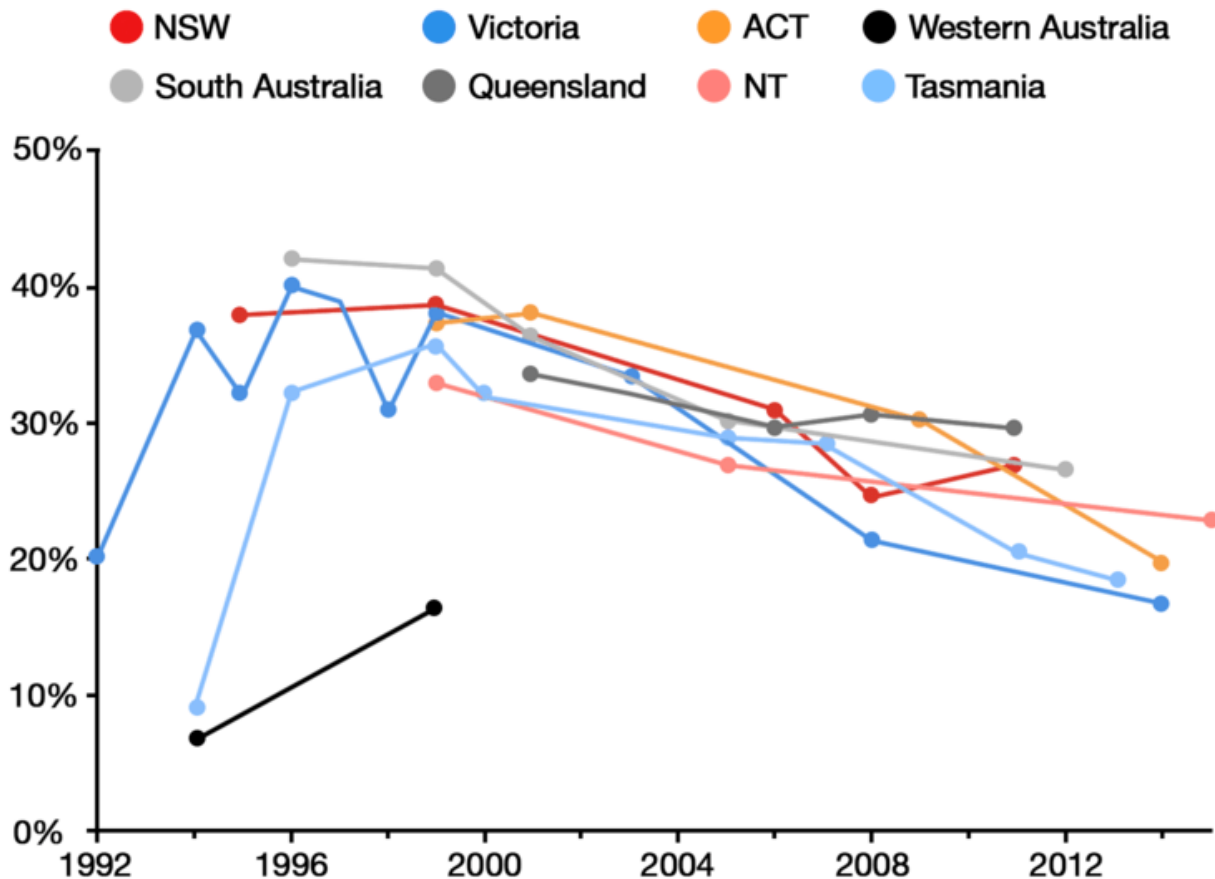
Falling numbers of pokie gamblers

The modest decline in losses since the mid-2000s has been driven by a falling number of people playing the pokies.

The chart below shows the proportion of the adult population in each Australian state or territory that gambles on pokies at least once per year. These proportions are derived from the surveys described above. Each survey estimate is represented by a single dot.

Percentage of the adults who gambled on pokies in past 12 months

State breakdown, 1992-2015



Source: Authors' calculations from 42 Australian gambling surveys



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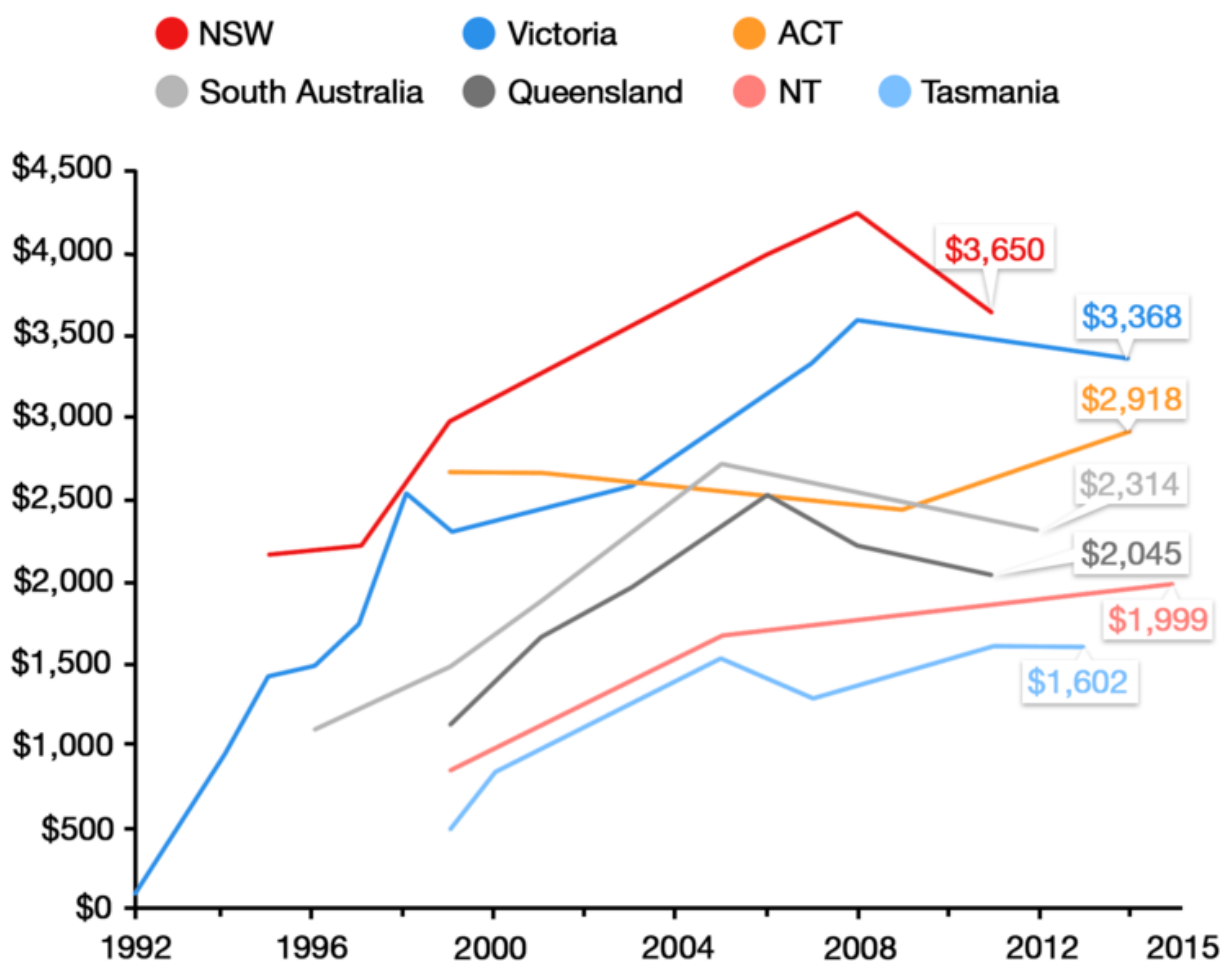
Participation rates peaked shortly after pokies were introduced in the late 1990s at around 40% for the larger states. Since that time, participation has consistently dropped to below 30% across Australia and has fallen to less than 20% in Tasmania, Victoria and the ACT.

Amounts lost per gambler have remained constant

Dividing the pokie losses in clubs and pubs for each jurisdiction by the number of actual gamblers reveals the average amount lost per pokie gambler per year as shown by the chart below. Some lines on this chart are shorter than others because the survey-based participation data is not uniformly available.

Mean amount lost per gambler per year on pokies

State breakdown, 1992-2015



Source: Authors' calculations from 42 Australian gambling surveys



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The reduction in total pokie losses since 2005 has not been matched by a corresponding decline in losses per individual gambler. After a reduction due to the smoking bans, losses per gambler appear to have plateaued – with some jurisdictions trending up (ACT and NT) and others down (NSW and SA).

This suggests that while fewer people are playing the pokies, the amount of money lost per gambler has remained relatively constant. And this amount appears very high.

The amount lost per pokie gambler (just in pubs and clubs) in both NSW and Victoria is around \$3,500 per year, or around \$65 per week. The ACT sits at around \$3,000 per gambler per year, followed by the NT and Tasmania at around \$1,500 per year.

To put this in some perspective, the average Australian adult [spent \\$1,245](#) on electricity and gas in 2014-15.

And while we now have concerted government action to [reduce energy costs](#), the regulatory reforms required to reduce the amount of losses for pokie gamblers are not on the legislative agenda in most of Australia.