

FACT SHEET 9

EFFECT OF LIFE EVENTS

PAST YEAR LIFE EVENTS – BY RISK CATEGORY

All gamblers in the study were asked about life events experienced in the past 12 months.

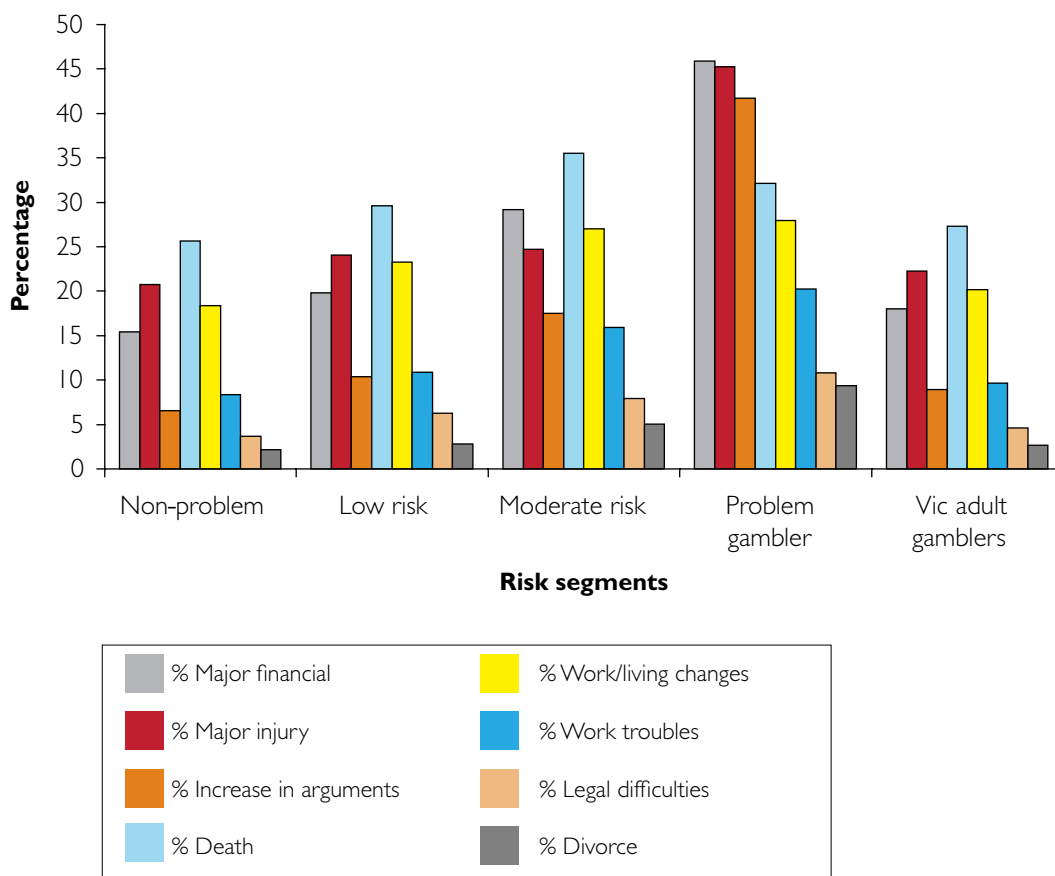
When compared to non-problem gamblers, problem gamblers were significantly more likely to have experienced the following life events: the death of someone close to them; a divorce; legal difficulties; a major injury or illness to either themselves or someone close; trouble with work, boss or superiors; a major change to their financial situation; and an increase in arguments with someone close.

TABLE A. LIFE EVENTS EXPERIENCED BY GAMBLERS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY RISK CATEGORY

LIFE EVENTS	NON-PROBLEM GAMBLERS (%)	LOW RISK GAMBLERS (%)	MODERATE RISK GAMBLERS (%)	PROBLEM GAMBLERS (%)	VICTORIAN ADULT GAMBLERS (%)
Major change to your financial situation	15.44	19.83	29.15	45.86	18.02
Major injury or illness to either yourself or someone close to you	20.75	24.04	24.7	45.27	22.23
Increase in the number of arguments with someone you are close to	6.59	10.38	17.53	41.74	8.95
Death of someone close to you	25.64	29.64	35.51	32.16	27.30
Major change in living or work conditions	18.37	23.29	27.05	27.95	20.18
Troubles with your work, boss or superiors	8.33	10.85	15.94	20.27	9.66
Legal difficulties	3.65	6.26	7.91	10.79	4.63
Divorce	2.16	2.78	5.06	9.36	2.66

a. Question – Which of the following life events did you experience in the past 12 months?

FIGURE A. LIFE EVENTS EXPERIENCED BY GAMBLERS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS – BY RISK CATEGORY



Study results illustrate that problem gambling may be associated with the experience of a number of major life events. For instance:

- 45.86% of problem gamblers report a major change in their financial situation, compared to a lower proportion of moderate risk gamblers (29.15%), low risk gamblers (19.83%) and non-problem gamblers (15.44%)
- 45.27% of problem gamblers report experiencing a major injury or illness themselves or to someone close to them. This is considerably higher than moderate risk gamblers (24.70%), low risk gamblers (24.04%) and non-problem gamblers (20.75%)
- 41.74% of problem gamblers report an increase in the number of arguments with someone they are close to, which is considerably higher than moderate risk gamblers (17.53%), low risk gamblers (10.38%) and non-problem gamblers (6.59%)
- higher proportions of moderate risk gamblers (35.51%) and problem gamblers (32.16%) report having experienced the death of someone close to them, compared to low risk gamblers (29.64%) and non-problem gamblers (25.64%)
- 27.95% of problem gamblers experienced a major change in living or work conditions, along with 27.05% of moderate risk gamblers – however, results were lower for low risk gamblers (23.29%) and non-problem gamblers (18.37%)

- 20.27% of problem gamblers report difficulties with work, a boss or superior, compared to a lower proportion of moderate risk gamblers (15.94%), low risk gamblers (10.85%) and non-problem gamblers (8.33%)
- 10.79% of problem gamblers and 7.91% of moderate risk gamblers experienced legal difficulties, compared to a lower proportion of low risk gamblers (6.26%) and non-problem gamblers (3.65%)
- 9.36% of problem gamblers and 5.06% of moderate risk gamblers experienced divorce, compared to a lower proportion of low risk gamblers (2.78%) and non-problem gamblers (2.16%).

TRIGGERS FOR INCREASED GAMBLING

Only a small proportion of gamblers (2.93%) were able to identify a trigger which increased their gambling.

Of this very small group, the most commonly reported triggers were:

- a major injury or illness to the gambler or someone they are close to (23.22%)
- a major change to living or work conditions (17.93%)
- a major change to the financial situation (9.96%)
- the death of someone close (9.04%).