

British Gambling Prevalence Survey

2007

User Guide

A survey carried out on behalf of the Gambling Commission

National Centre for Social Research

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1. Background

The data file contains data from British Gambling Prevalence Study 2007 (BGPS 2007), the second ever Gambling Prevalence Study to be carried out in the UK and the first of a new series of surveys designed to monitor trends in gambling behaviour. The BGPS 2007 was commissioned by the Gambling Commission and carried out by the *National Centre for Social Research*

The aims of the BGPS 2007 were to:

- Measure the prevalence of participation in all forms of commercial and private gambling (including estimates of expenditure and information on venue).
- Estimate the prevalence of 'problem gambling' and look at which activities have the highest prevalence of 'problem gamblers'.
- Investigate the socio-demographic factors associated with gambling and with 'problem gambling'.
- Assess attitudes towards gambling.

2. Survey Design

The BGPS 2007 was designed to provide data at a national level about the population living in private households in England, Scotland and Wales. The sample for the BGPS 2007 was designed to be representative of all adults aged 16 and over living within private households.

A random sample of 317 PSUs (Primary Sampling Units) was selected. The PSUs were selected with probability proportional to the total number of addresses within them. Within each PSU, a sample of 32 addresses were selected giving a total selected sample of 10,144 (317 x 32) addresses. Because PSUs were sampled with probability proportional to the numbers of addresses, and then a fixed number of addresses was sampled in each PSU, every address had an equal chance of being included in the sample. All adults aged 16 years or older at each household were eligible to take part in the study.

Interviewers visited each selected address and collected household information by conducting a short household interview with the Household Reference Person or their Spouse/Partner. Self-completion booklets, which collected individual information about gambling behaviour, were given to every adult aged 16 and over resident within the household. Respondents were also given the option of completing the questions online and

allocated a unique web survey password with which to access a specifically designed online questionnaire. Overall, 7% of respondents chose to complete the questionnaires online. Both the self completion questionnaire and the online questionnaire contained identical questions and were separated into the following modules:

- ◆ Module A: Participation in gambling in the past 12 months
- ◆ Module B: Participation in gambling in the past 7 days (including venue and expenditure)
- ◆ Module C: Problem gambling screens
- ◆ Module D: Attitudes to gambling
- ◆ Module E: Health, lifestyle and socio-demographic questions

Fieldwork was conducted between October 2006 and March 2007.

3. Documentation

The documentation has been organised into the following sections

- Interview (contains copies of the self-completion questionnaire)
- Data (contains the list of variables and derived variables)
- Other instructions (contains coding & editing instructions).

4. Using the data

The 2007 data consists of one file;

| | | |
|------------|--------------|---|
| BGPSai.sav | 9003 records | contains data for all individuals in co-operating households who completed the self completion questionnaire or completed the questionnaire online. It also contains relevant information from the household questionnaire. |
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4.1 Variables on the files

Each of the data files contain questionnaire variables (excluding variables used for administrative purposes) and derived variables. The variables included in the individual file are detailed in the “**List of Variables**” document in the data section of the documentation. This document is the best place to look at in order to plan your analysis. It includes:

- Major categories of variables (eg Participation in the past 12 months, Problem gambling screens)
- Sub categories of variables (eg Participation in the National Lottery Draw, Canadian Problem Gambling Severity Index)
- Source of each variable (eg Individual questionnaire, Household questionnaire, Derived variable)

Once you have decided which variables to include in your analysis, you can look up details of the question wording using the interview section documentation (all variables on the data file are given by name in the copy of the self completions provided), or use the “**Derived Variables Specification**” document in the data section of the documentation for derived variables.

4.2 Multicoded questions

Multicoded questions are stored in the archived BGPS data sets in two ways. Multicoded questions, where for example the respondent was instructed to "CODE ALL THAT APPLY" or where an open ended question has elicited more than one answer, were stored as array variables in the QUANTUM DBMS system which was used to read and edit the data.

However, in SPSS (which was used for analysis and archiving the data) multicoded variables must be stored as 'flat' variables, coded either **by mention** or **by category**. Questions coded by mention are stored as categorical variables where the complete value set is repeated in each of the variables. Questions coded by category are stored as indicator variables where each value in the set is stored as its own variable. Both approaches have been used in the BGPS 2007 data.

As an example, question B2_12B is a "CODE ALL THAT APPLY" question which asks "Where did you bet on horse races in the last 7 days?" The code frame consists of four values:

- 1 - At the track
- 2 - At a betting shop
- 3 - Telephone
- 4 - Somewhere else

If recorded by mention, four variables would record the (up to) four possible responses to the question assigning codes 1-4 in the first variable and codes 1-4 in each of the next three variables. In 2007, the variables B2_12B01 – B2_12B04 store the answer to this question by category as follows:

- B2_12B01 - coded 1 for those who bet at the track and 0 for those that didn't.
- B2_12B02 - coded 1 for those who bet at a betting shop and 0 for those that didn't.
- B2_12B03 - coded 1 for those who bet over the phone and 0 for those that didn't.
- B2_12B04 - coded 1 for those who bet somewhere else and 0 for those that didn't.

Because a respondent could have replied with more than one answer, that respondent could have a value 1 for a number of these variables. The missing values are the same across all five variables.

4.3 Missing values conventions

- 1 Not applicable: Used to signify that a particular variable did not apply to a given respondent usually because of internal routing. For example, those respondents who stated they had never gambled were not asked to complete the problem gambling screens.
- 8 Don't know, Can't say.
- 9 No answer/ Refused.

These conventions have also been applied to most of the derived variables. The derived variable specifications should be consulted for details.

5. Weighting variable

The data has been weighted to adjust for non-response and selection biases. The data was weighted in three stages. The first stage was to correct for dwelling unit and household selection probabilities, for the small number of addresses where either more than one dwelling unit or household was identified. The second stage calibrated the achieved household sample so that the distributions for age/sex and Government Office Region (GOR) matched the ONS 2005 mid-year population estimates. The third stage corrected for individual non-response within participating households.

Comparisons of the age and sex profile of the British population according to estimates from the Office of National Statistics show that the achieved sample was, in fact, a close reflection of the general population and therefore the weights were small. These weights have been combined into one weighting variable that has been included on the data (***weight***).

6. BGPS 2007 Report

Further information about the British Gambling Prevalence Study is available in:

Wardle H, Sproston K, Orford J, Erens B, Griffiths M, Constantine R and Pigott S *British Gambling Prevalence Study 2007*. TSO, London, 2007.

Or on the Gambling Commission website:

<http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/Client/mediadetail.asp?mediaid=245>