British Gambling Prevalence Survey

1999

User Guide

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1. Background

The data file contains data from the British Gambling Prevalence Study 1999 (BGPS 1999), the first ever gambling prevalence study to be carried out in the UK.

The *National Centre for Social Research (NatCen)* was commissioned by GamCare to carry out the first-ever survey of the Lottery and other gambling activities in Britain. GamCare is a national charity that promotes responsible gambling and monitors the social impact of gambling. In 1999, after the National Lottery was created and a wide range of gambling activities were available, this study was designed to find out who gambles, and on what. Most people enjoy gambling, and do so within sensible limits. A small number, however, get into severe problems with their gambling. Therefore an important aspect of this survey was to examine rates of problem gambling among the British population and to assess which gambling activities cause problems and for whom.

The aims of the BGPS 1999 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 problem gambling.
- Explore attitudes to gambling.

2. Survey Design

The BGPS 1999 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 1999 was designed to be representative of all adults aged 16 and over living within private households.

7000 addresses in England, Scotland and Wales were randomly selected from the Postcode Address File (PAF), a publicly available list of all addresses registered with the Post Office. We randomly selected 280 sampling points (each represented half a postcode sector). Within each sampling point, 25 addresses were randomly selected. The PSUs were selected with probability proportional to the total number of addresses within them. 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. The self-completion questionnaire contained the following modules:

♦ Module A: Participation in gambling in the past 12 months
♦ Module B: Participation in gambling in the past 7 days (including frequency, venue and expenditure)
♦ Module C: Attitudes to gambling and problem gambling screens
♦ Module D: Personal and family gambling behaviour and socio-demographic questions

Fieldwork was conducted between September 1999 and January 2000.

3. Documentation

The documentation has been organised into the following sections

- Interview (contains copies of the self-completion questionnaire, Household Grid, Showcards and Address Record Form)
- Data (contains the list of variables and derived variables)
- Other instructions (contains coding & editing instructions).

4. Using the data

The 1999 data consists of one file;

BGPS99ai.sav	7680 records	Contains data for all individuals in co-operating households who completed the self completion questionnaire. It also contains relevant information from the household questionnaire.

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

For some questions respondents could give more than one response to a question.
As an example, question B3_8D 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 six values:

      1   At the track

      2   At a betting shop

      3   Over the telephone

      4   On the internet

      5   Through an unofficial bookmaker

      6   Somewhere else

The variables B3_8D01 – B3_8D06 store the answer to this question by category as follows:

    B3_8D01 -   coded 1 for those who bet at the track and 0 for those that didn't.

    B3_8D02 -   coded 1 for those who bet at a betting shop and 0 for those that didn't.

    B3_8D03 -   coded 1 for those who bet over the phone and 0 for those that didn't.

    B3_8D04 -   coded 1 for those who bet on the internet and 0 for those that didn't.

    B3_8D05 -   coded 1 for those who bet through an unofficial bookmaker and 0 for those that didn't.

    B3_8D06 -   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 six variables.

An additional variable is also provided for each of these sets of variables which tells you the number of positive responses (i.e. value of 1) across the set. In the above example the variable is B3_8D.

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.

-7   Not included in Problem Gambling analysis as respondent did not answer a majority of the screening questions. For more information see the scoring index for the SOGS and DSM-IV in the 1999 report.

-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 were weighted in two stages. The first corrected for household selection probabilities in the small number of addresses (28) which were found to consist of more than one household. The second corrected for individual for non-response, so that the sample reflected the age and sex distribution of the general population. Comparison with the age and sex profile of the British population according to estimates from the Office for National Statistics showed that the achieved sample was in fact a very close reflection of the general population, and, therefore, the weights were very small. These weights have been combined into one weighting variable that has been included on the data (*weight1*).

6. BGPS 1999 and 2007 Report

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

Sproston K, Erens B, Orford J *GAMBLING BEHAVIOUR IN BRITAIN: Results from the British Gambling Prevalence Survey*. Accessed via the Gambling Commission website:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/research__consultations/research/bgps/bgps_2000.aspx

or the 2007 report

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

Accessed via the Gambling Commission website:

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