

Interactive Gambling in Australia

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15th International Conference on Gambling & Risk Taking
May 30, 2013

What forms of Internet gambling are legal in Australia?



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Yes ✓

What forms of Internet gambling are illegal?



Interactive gambling in Australia

- ~ 30-35 Australian sites
- ~ 2,242 sites accept play from Australia
- ~ 194 payment methods accepted
- ~ AUD\$1 billion spent on offshore sites

Zero operators or sites prosecuted
Online gambling participation increasing

→ Prohibition is not effective



Why do we need to understand interactive gambling?

- Concerns & possible impacts:
 - Land-based industry
 - Increase gambling
 - Vulnerable populations
 - Increased gambling problems
- A new type of gambling?



Advantages of Internet gambling

1. Don't have to leave the house
2. Availability/convenience
3. No crowds
4. No unpleasant people
5. Greater privacy & anonymity
6. More physically comfortable
7. Higher payout rates



Source: Gainsbury, Wood, Russell, Hing, & Blaszczynski, 2012

Disadvantages of Internet gambling

1. Too convenient
2. Easier to spend money
3. More addictive
4. Poorer social atmosphere
5. Concerns about money/deposits



Source: Gainsbury, Wood, Russell, Hing, & Blaszczynski, 2012

Research: Interactive Gambling Study

- Commissioned by Gambling Research Australia to determine interactive gambling:
 - Prevalence
 - Motivations, characteristics and behaviours
 - Game play & medium preferences
- Research team: Nerilee Hing, Sally Gainsbury, Alex Blaszczynski, Robert Wood, Alex Russell, Dan Lubman
- These findings are preliminary and not final

Interactive Gambling Study

- Nationally representative telephone survey
 - 15,006 Australian adults (18+)
- November-December, 2011
- Interactive gambler: anyone who has gambled using interactive methods in past 12 months
 - May also use land-based forms
- Land-based gambler: anyone who has gambled in past 12 months only on non-interactive forms

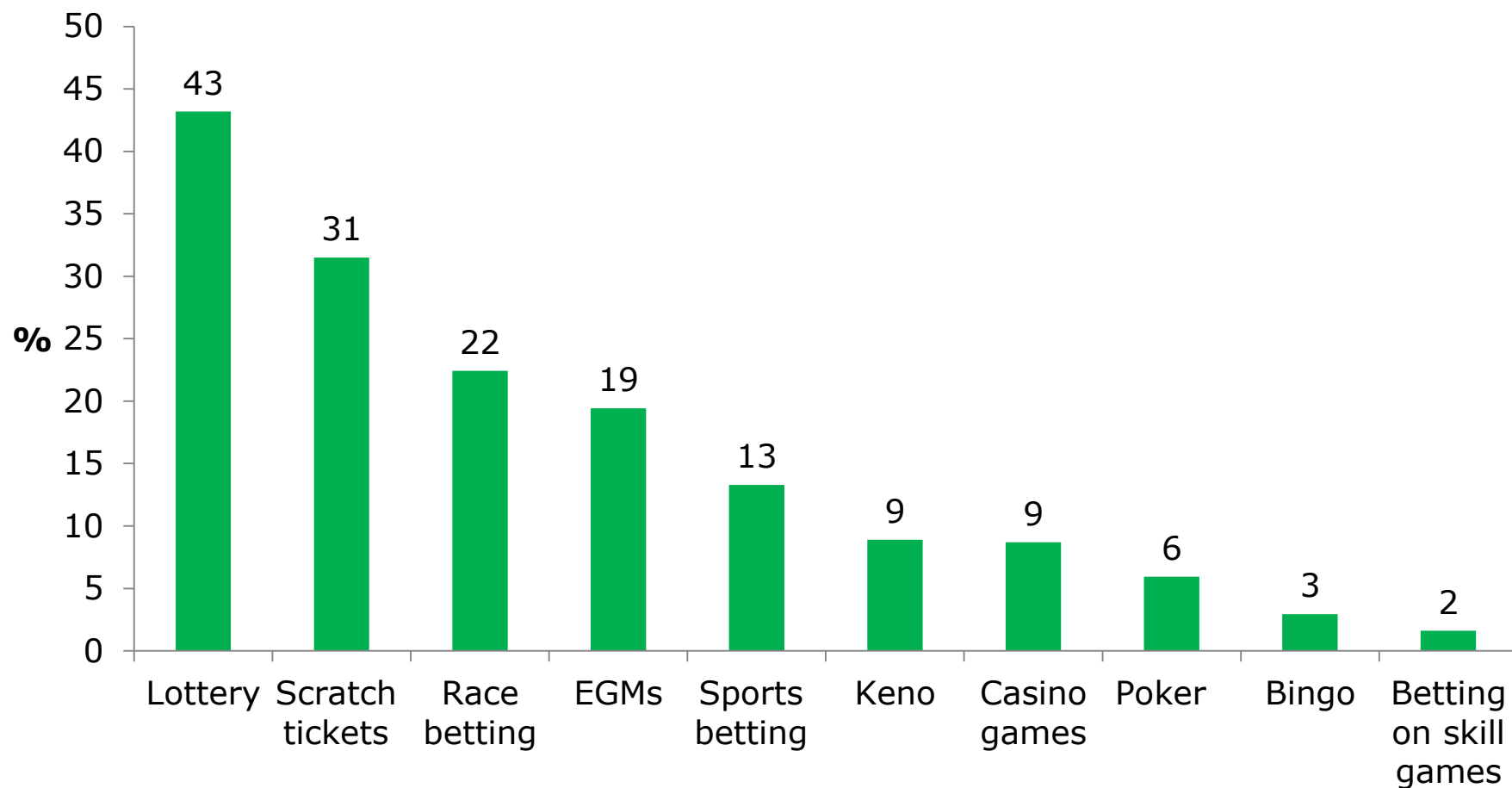
Prevalence of gambling in 2011

- Past-year prevalence of adult gambling: **64.26%**
 - *1998/99 prevalence 82%*
- Past-year prevalence of interactive gambling: **8.06%**
 - *1998/99 prevalence 0.6%*

Source: Interactive Gambling Study, Productivity Commission 1999

Note: Findings are preliminary and not final

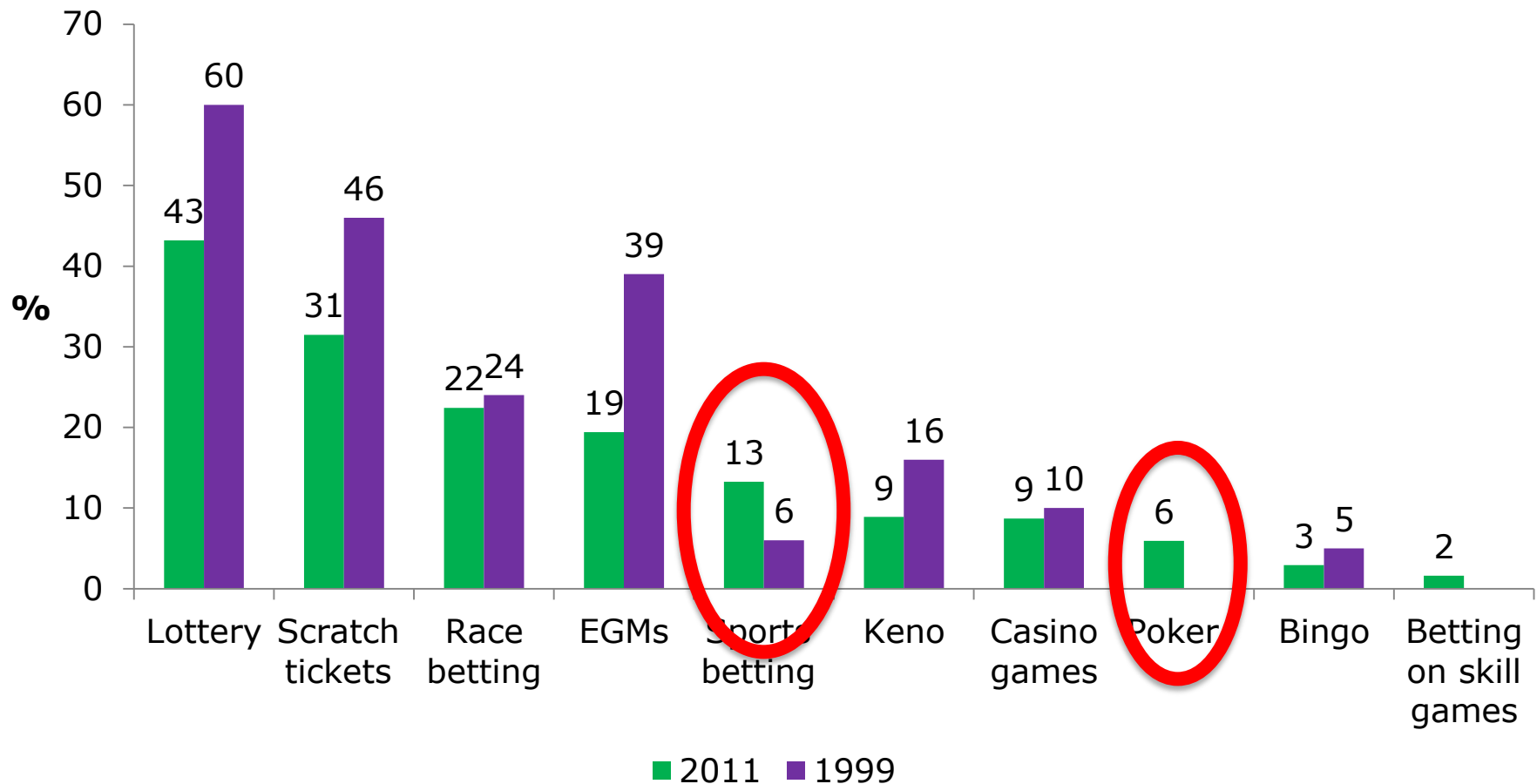
National participation in gambling activities



Source: Interactive Gambling Study

Note: Findings are preliminary and not final

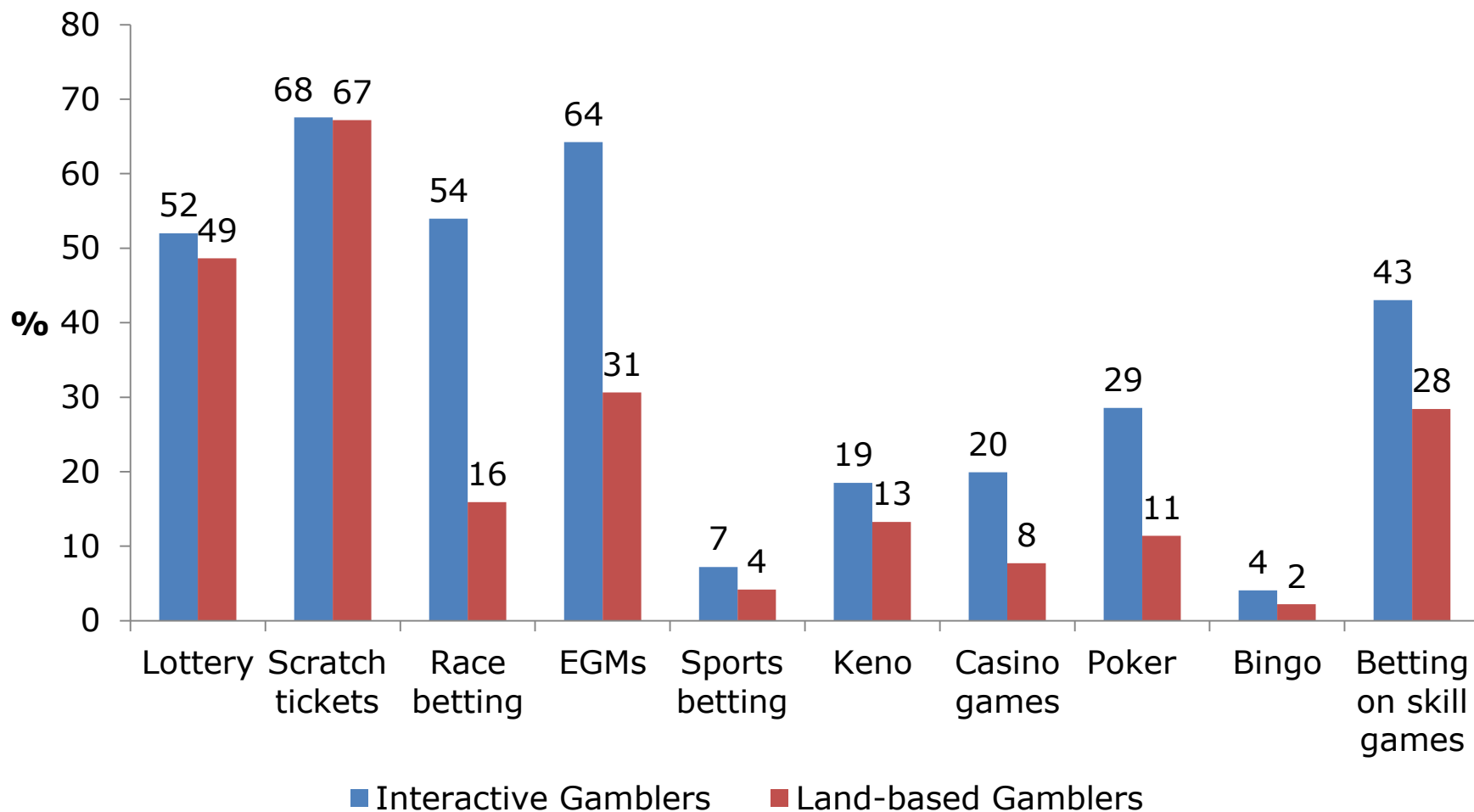
Participation in gambling activities 1999 vs. 2011



Source: Interactive Gambling Study; Productivity Commission, 1999

Note: Findings are preliminary and not final

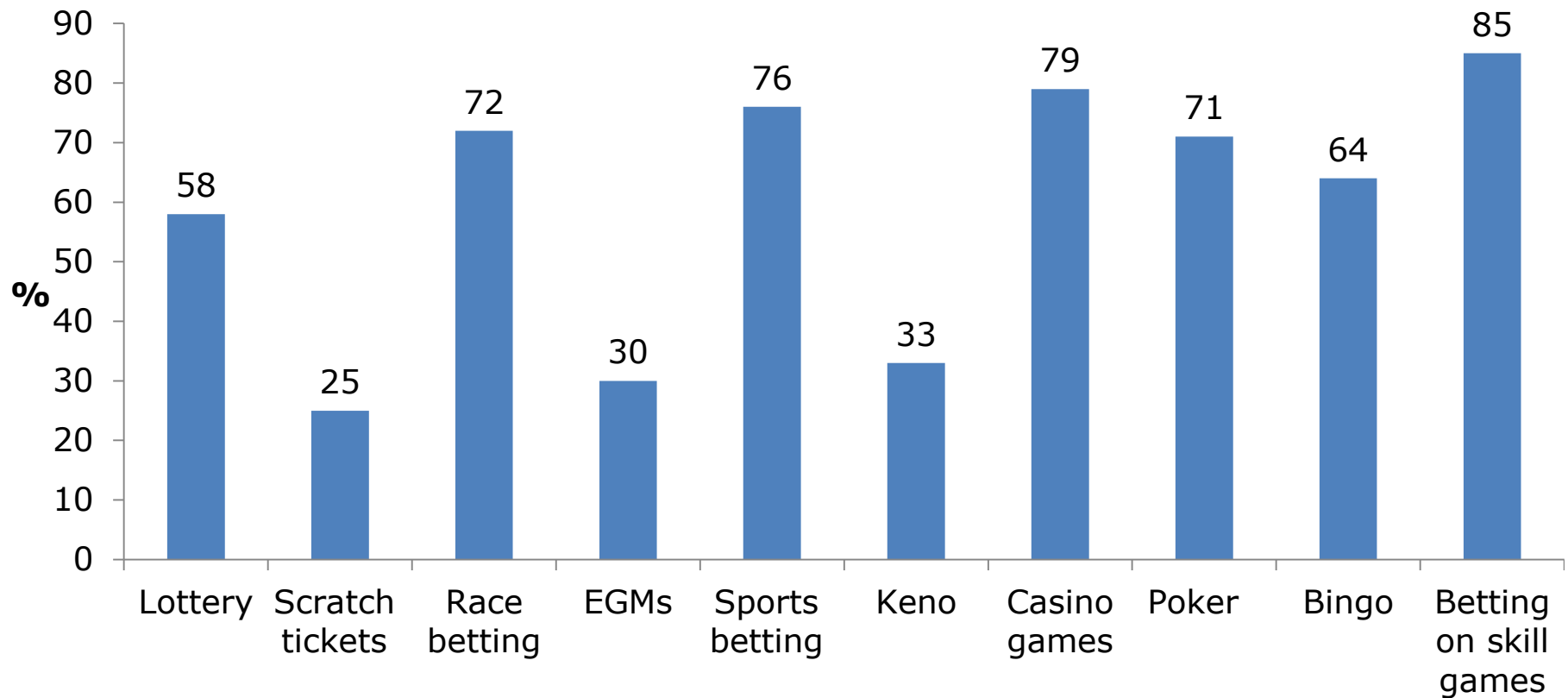
Annual gambling participation



Source: Interactive Gambling Study

Note: Findings are preliminary and not final

Average proportion of each gambling activity done online



Note: For those who gambled on each form online

Low N, interpret figures with caution

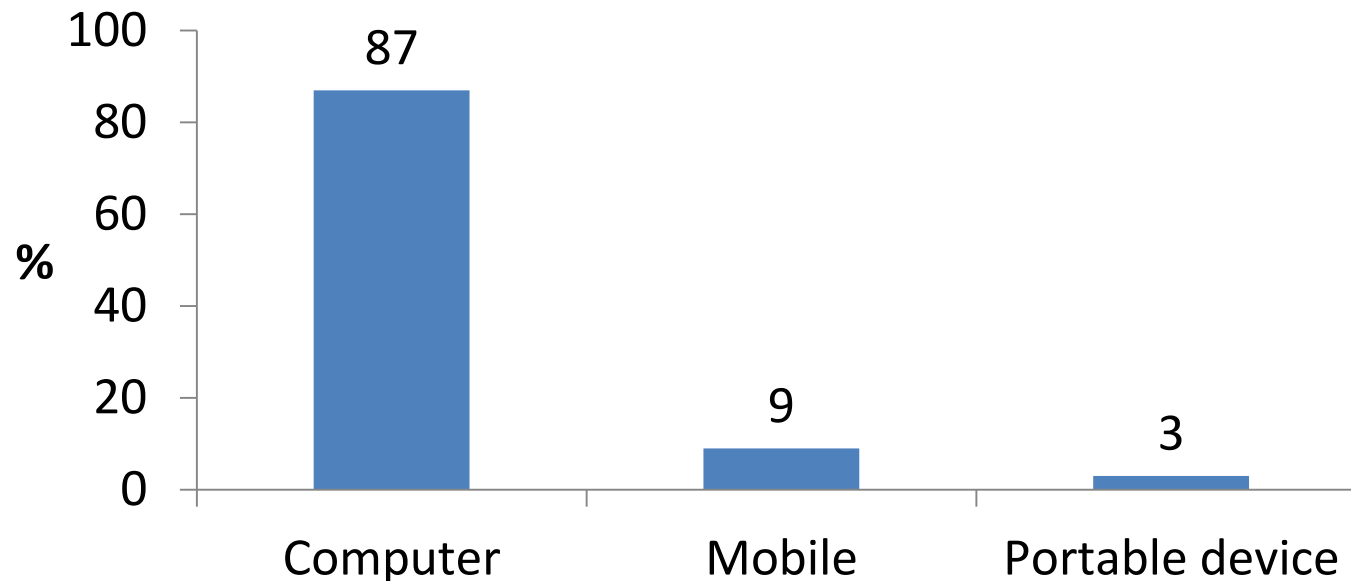
Source: Interactive Gambling Study, Note: Findings are preliminary and not final

Characteristics of Interactive Gamblers

- Compared to land-based gamblers, interactive gamblers are more likely to be:
 - Male
 - Younger
 - Single or living with partner
 - University educated
 - Employed full-time or student
 - Have broadband Internet access at home & work

Interactive gamblers

- Majority gambled online since 2009
- Computers preferred mode of interactive gambling



Interactive gamblers

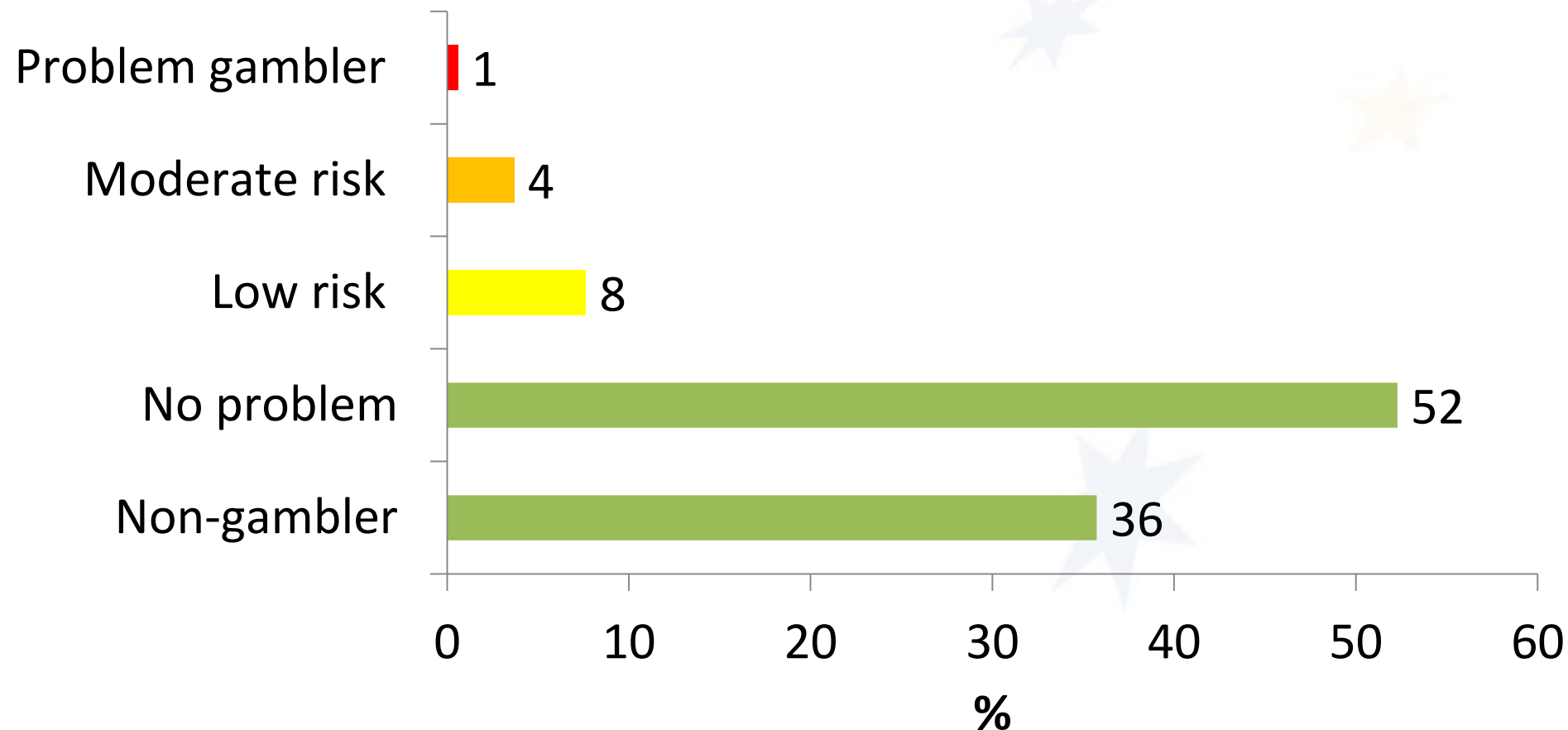
- 52% prefer interactive gambling
- 48% prefer land-based gambling
- Some unique problems:
 - 17% increase spending due to credit cards/electronic money
 - 10% sleep disruption
 - 4% disrupted eating

Source: Interactive Gambling Study

Note: Findings are preliminary and not final



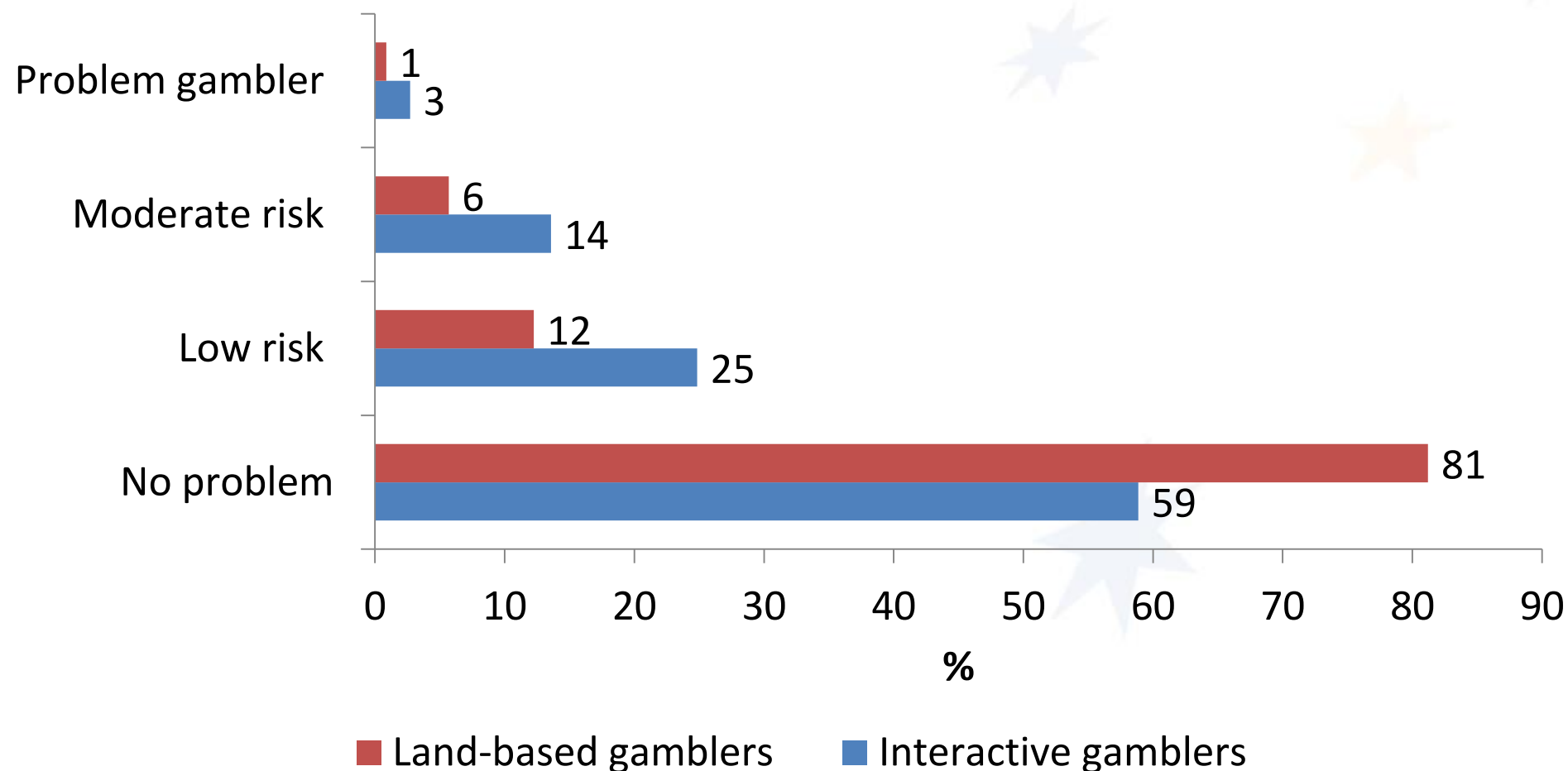
Prevalence of adult problem gambling



Source: Interactive Gambling Study

Note: Findings are preliminary and not final

Problem gambling among land-based and interactive gamblers



Source: Interactive Gambling Study
Note: Findings are preliminary and not final

Conclusions

- Participation in gambling is shifting in terms of what and how people gamble
- Internet gamblers are more involved in this activity
 - But not a homogeneous group
- Unique problems related to Internet gambling
- Continuing research is needed
- Policies to specifically address harms

Acknowledgments

Funding: Gambling Research Australia

Collaborators: Nerilee Hing, Alex Russell, Alex Blaszczyński, Dan Lubman, Robert Wood

The views expressed in this presentation are solely those of the author/s. The information, views and references material in this presentation are provided solely on the basis that the audience will be responsible for making their own assessment of the information provided

Thank you

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