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Estimated prevalence of problem gambling in Shropshire

1   Introduction

Gambling risk status has been defined using the short-form Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI) for the Gambling Behaviour Surveys. A score of 4 or higher indicates problem gambling status implying the gambling behaviours have negative consequences for the individuals affected and a possible loss of control (see Table 1).

Table 1: Gambling risk classification

Score	Classification	Explanation
0	Non-problem gambler	Gamblers who gamble with no negative consequences.
1	Low risk gambler	Gamblers who experience a low level of problems with few or no identified negative consequences
2-3	Moderate risk gambler	Gamblers who experience a moderate level of problems leading to some negative consequences.
4+	Problem gambler	Gambling with negative consequences and a possible loss of control.

The purpose of this estimate is to quantify the scale of problem gambling among Shropshire residents to inform local strategies and plan to manage the problem.

2   Method

The levels of problem gambling from the 2021 Gambling behaviour survey based on age-specific rates for 16-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, and 65+ year olds were used to multiply the ONS mid-year population estimates for 2020 to estimate the numbers with problem gambling assuming the national profile applies to Shropshire. The survey covered all forms of gambling including online gambling.

The local rate was calculated per 10,000 resident population aged 16 years or older and compared with the national average.

Please see Table 2 for details.

2.1   Data sources

- Prevalence estimate: Gambling behaviour in 2021: Findings from the quarterly telephone survey (Year to March 2021) - data.gov.uk
- Local population estimate: Office for National Statistics (ONS) Mid-2020 Population Estimates for 2020 Wards, and 2021 LAs in England and Wales by Single Year.

    The above are the most recent relevant data available

3   Interpretation and Limitations

This is a synthetic estimate intended to highlight the scale of the local problem and is not based on real local data. Nationally the population structure has a higher proportion in younger working age population than Shropshire, and problem gambling rates are higher in this age group, local estimate will be generally lower in areas with higher concentration of the older age group and higher in areas with predominantly younger working age population.

The latest survey was done during the COVID pandemic during which some activities (e.g., sporting activities) were suspended. There is a potential the survey findings may underestimate the extent of the problem gambling levels nationally.

Additionally, the national survey has not been broken down by sex specific age groups hence it was not possible to provide estimates by sex.

Finally, due to the relatively small sizes of the national survey sample split by age the estimates should be treated with caution.

In spite of the above limitations, this estimate provides a useful baseline for informing local strategies to address problem gambling given the fact that a significant proportion (42.0% the 2021 national survey participate population) in one form of gambling or the other and gambling is a significant source employment and revenue for government.

Table 2: Estimated levels of Problem Gambling by Electoral Ward (September 2021)

Ward Name	Estimated number affected	Estimated Rate per 10,000 aged 16 or above	Rank of rate (Rank 1 is the lowest rate and Rank 63 is the highest rate)
Abbey	13	34.89	17
Albrighton	12	32.28	5
Alveley and Claverley	12	33.84	9
Bagley	16	40.19	57
Battlefield	17	42.42	62
Bayston Hill, Column and Sutton	37	35.17	21
Belle Vue	15	38.20	43
Bishop's Castle	11	33.51	8
Bowbrook	16	39.63	52
Bridgnorth East and Astley Abbotts	20	33.29	7
Bridgnorth West and Tasley	22	36.32	31
Broseley	15	36.25	29
Brown Clee	12	34.36	12
Burnell	15	35.10	20
Castlefields and Ditherington	16	42.29	61
Cheswardine	14	38.13	41
Chirbury and Worthen	9	34.36	12
Church Stretton and Craven Arms	24	29.95	2
Clee	13	33.23	6
Cleobury Mortimer	21	32.08	4
Clun	11	31.80	3
Copthorne	14	39.72	53
Corvedale	11	34.42	14
Ellesmere Urban	13	36.86	34
Harlescott	16	40.76	58
Highley	11	35.04	18
Hodnet	16	38.55	45

Ward Name	Estimated number affected	Estimated Rate per 10,000 aged 16 or above	Rank of rate (Rank 1 is the lowest rate and Rank 63 is the highest rate)
Llanymynech	13	34.78	16
Longden	13	37.26	38
Loton	13	37.04	35
Ludlow East	12	35.80	26
Ludlow North	10	29.06	1
Ludlow South	13	36.73	33
Market Drayton East	17	36.38	32
Market Drayton West	28	38.46	44
Meole	14	38.17	42
Rea Valley	13	33.98	10
Monkmoor	14	38.60	46
Much Wenlock	12	34.69	15
Porthill	16	39.56	51
Prees	14	35.71	23
Quarry and Coton Hill	17	39.22	48
Radbrook	16	39.90	55
St Martin's	14	37.25	37
Severn Valley	14	36.23	28
Shawbury	17	39.93	56
Shifnal North	19	39.54	50
Shifnal South and Cosford	22	39.84	54
Sundorne	14	43.00	63
Tern	14	34.12	11
The Meres	16	36.06	27
Underdale	15	42.21	60
Wem	26	35.09	19
Whitchurch North	24	37.44	39
Whitchurch South	14	37.16	36
Worfield	11	35.74	24
Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston Rhyn	21	36.26	30
Oswestry East	31	39.49	49
Oswestry South	14	35.78	25
Oswestry West	14	41.20	59
Ruyton and Baschurch	14	38.74	47
St Oswald	14	35.61	22
Whittington	13	37.50	40
Shropshire total	**998**	**36.65**	N/A
Nation Average	N/A	**39.80**	N/A