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Research Article

# Modelling vulnerability to gambling related harm: How disadvantage predicts gambling losses

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## Abstract

Electronic gambling machines (EGMs) are a major source of gambling expenditure in Australia, and club and hotel EGMs are the most prevalent. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between disadvantage and gambling losses. Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Australian Gambling Survey (AGS) were used to examine the relationship between disadvantage and gambling losses. The findings reveal that disadvantage is a significant predictor of gambling losses. The highest rates of gambling losses were found in areas classified in IRSD Quintile 1, the most disadvantaged areas; in the least

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disadvantaged areas, mean annual losses were \$298 per adult (CI \$260 –\$342). The density of EGMs confounds the relationship between losses and disadvantage. In this model, 40% of the apparent effect of disadvantage is explained by the density of EGMs. The vulnerability surface reflects socioeconomic patterns across Melbourne. EGM vulnerability is clustered (Moran's Index 0.52;  $p < 0.001$ ). High levels of EGM density in disadvantaged areas are contributing to a disproportionate share of EGM losses in already disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Regulation of EGMs could be improved to better protect vulnerable neighbourhoods from EGM harm.

Gambling EGM slots socioeconomic disadvantage public health policy GIS

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Gambling in Two Regional Australian Aboriginal Communities: A Social Practice Analysis

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Challenges in the Conceptualisation and Measurement of Gambling-Related Harm.

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