

Announcement

8 December 2015

Responsible Gambling Trust announces secondary research into machines data

The Responsible Gambling Trust (RGT) has agreed to a detailed request from the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) to commission the original research team to investigate eight further questions, as a continuation of the RGT's programme of research into Category B gaming machines.

- Percentage of income from Problem Gamblers within the sample?
- Further analysis of loss distribution by decile?
- Understanding problem gamblers better: Can the range of linked data set variables be examined through a process of 'reverse engineering' to explore whether any other variables might play a useful role within the development of algorithms?
- What else might we learn from about problem gamblers from the loyalty card survey data? Can problem gambler typologies be developed?
- What are the differences in demographics between B2/B3 players? What else can we learn about players' transitions between B2 and B3 content?
- What further descriptive data can be extracted about the £100 stake?
- What are the differences in behaviour when players are spending wins vs loading their own new money into the machine?
- Whether there are any correlations with engagement and problem gambling and clusters of betting shops as opposed to proximity to one betting shop?

This project is a follow-up to the original research questions, which were also set by the RGSB. The researchers will be interrogating the same data set which was used for the first seven reports, published on 1 December 2014.

The additional report is expected to be published in February 2016 and will be subject to peer review prior to publication as part of the RGT's commitment to commissioning academically rigorous, entirely independent research.

Notes

1. The original research is available on the RGT website:
<http://www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/Research-Publications-new>
2. In order to ensure that all research commissioned is entirely independent RGT put in place a robust governance process to underpin stakeholder confidence in the quality, objectivity and independence of the gaming machine research programme.
 - a. Internally, all research activity is wholly the responsibility of the Responsible Gambling Trust's Research Committee which is chaired by Jo Wolff, Senior Independent Trustee. The Research Committee consists of five trustees who are wholly independent of the gambling industry and two RGT staff members, including the Chief Executive Marc Etches. All 'industry' trustees, including RGT's Chairman, are entirely excluded from directing or otherwise influencing any research activity that the Responsible Gambling Trust undertakes. In addition, Professor David Miers participates as an observer on behalf the RGSB.
 - b. Externally, a panel of international experts has provided the necessary expert and independent oversight and comment on the scientific rigour and methodology to underpin stakeholder confidence in the objectivity and quality of all research outputs. This expert panel - the Independent Research Oversight Panel (IROP) - is independent of both the RGT and the industry, and is chaired by Professor Alex Blaszczyński (University of Sydney). All aspects of the research programme were transparent to the RGSB, the Gambling Commission and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.