

Population gambling trends in Finland: 2003-2011

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Quick facts about Finnish gambling policy

- state **monopoly**, regulated by the Lotteries Act
- three gambling operators
- renewal of Gambling Act in 2001/2002; **monitoring population gambling** became essential part of the policy and research
- changes in law in 2010: age limit for gambling was set at **18 years**

Finnish Gambling Surveys

- A stratified random sample of Finns aged 15 years and over
- Computer-assisted telephone interviews
- Survey years: 2003, 2007 and 2011
- N = 5013 -4484, response rates 48% - 40%

Combined survey data (2003-2011)

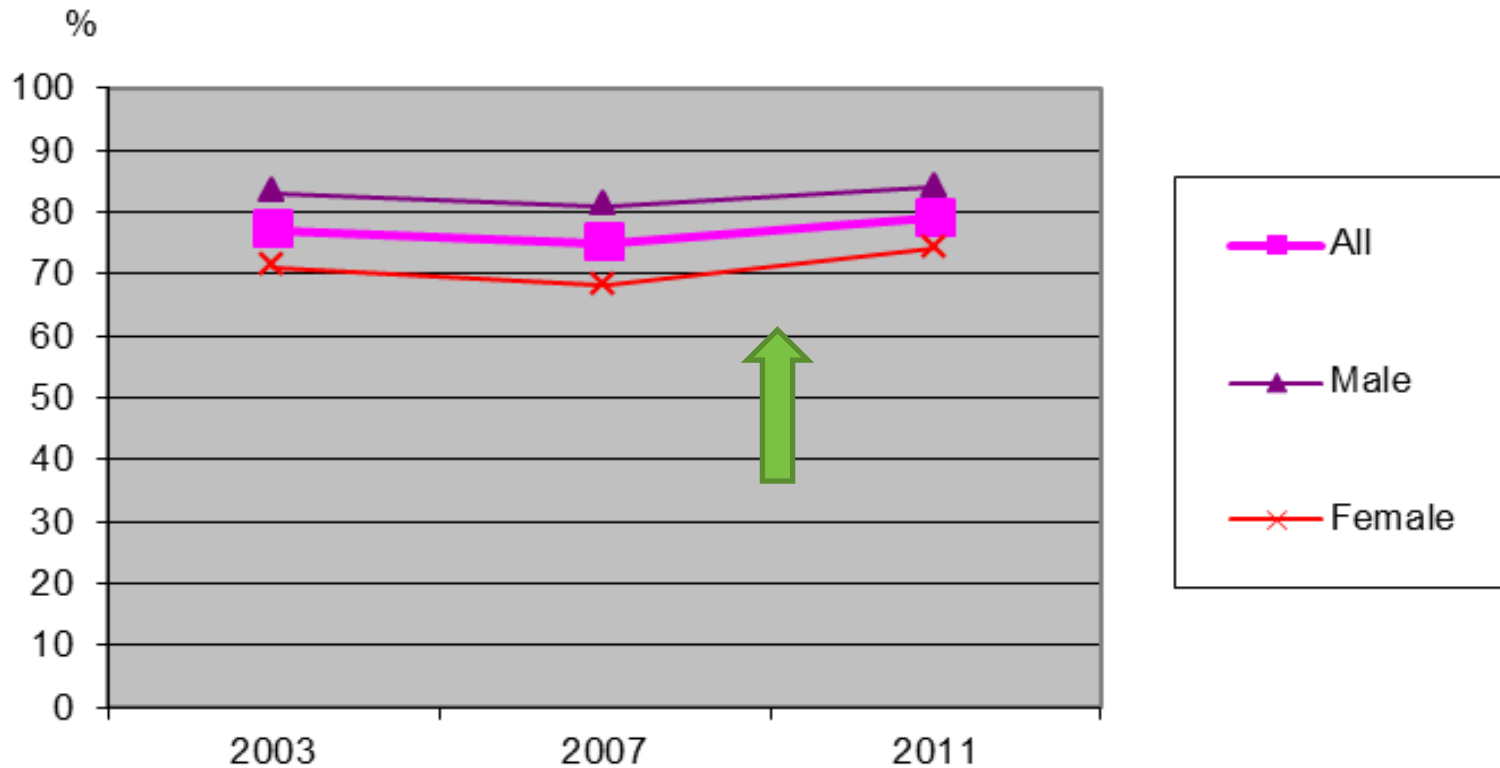
15-64 years

Data weighted by age, gender and residency

Comparable measures across study period 2003-2011:

- **past-year gambling participation**
- **gambling frequency**
- **type of gambling activity**
- **gambling problems as measured by SOGS (12-month)**
- **opinions about gambling**

Past-year gambling participation, % 15-64 yrs



Gambling frequency, cumulative %, 15-64 yrs



Type of gambling activity, %

15-64 yrs, %

	2003	2007	2011
1) Lotto	67	63	69
2) Slot machines	43	39	36
3) Scratch cards	43	36	36

Gambling problems, %

	15-64 yrs	
SOGS	2007	2011
No problem	96,7	97,1
Gambling problems	2,3	1,9
Probable pathological gambler	1,0	1,1

Perception of the seriousness of gambling problems, % 15-64 yrs

1) Is problem gambling a serious issue in Finland?

	2003	2007	2011
Yes	47	61	68
No	38	24	24
Don't know	16	15	8

Perception of the magnitude of gambling problems, % 15-64 yrs

2) Have gambling problems increased, remained stable, or decreased in recent years?

	2003	2007	2011
Increased	39	58	60
Remained stable	32	20	25
Decreased	2	2	3
Don't know	26	21	12

Summary of the results

- The most significant changes occurred in 2007-2011
- Participation in gambling increased in females aged 25-34 and 50-64 years
- Occasional gambling increased
- Problem gambling prevalence did not change (2007-2011)
- Opinions about gambling problems markedly changed over the study period (2003-2011)