



## **MEDIA RELEASE ON 2011 SURVEY ON PARTICIPATION IN GAMBLING ACTIVITIES AMONG SINGAPORE RESIDENTS**

### **PROBLEM GAMBLING RATES STABLE BUT CONCERNS ABOUT LOW INCOME, FREQUENT GAMBLERS AND POOR SELF-CONTROL**

The 2011 Survey on participation in gambling activities among Singapore Residents, conducted by the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), shows that the probable pathological and problem gambling (PPG) rates for Singapore Residents have remained largely unchanged.

2 However, the proportion of low-income gamblers who bet large amounts has increased. Probable pathological gamblers are found to have higher gambling frequency and poorer self-control in gambling. Poorer self-control in gambling was detected among those who participated in horse racing, online and casino gambling.

#### **Decline in Gambling Participation**

3 The Survey also found that 47% of Singapore Residents aged 18 years old and above have participated in some form of gambling activity over a one-year period, compared to 54% in the 2008 Survey.

#### **No Change in Problem Gambling Rates**

4 The overall probable pathological and problem gambling (PPG)<sup>1</sup> rates among Singapore Residents have not changed significantly from 2008. The

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<sup>1</sup> The probable pathological and problem gambling rates in the Survey were derived from a screen tool from the DSM-IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders). The same screen tool was used in the previous Survey in 2008. It is also a common screen used in many other jurisdictions. Probable pathological gambling indicates more severe addiction compared to probable problem gambling.

probable pathological gambling rate for 2011 is 1.4%, compared to 1.2% in 2008. The probable problem gambling rate for 2011 is 1.2%, compared to 1.7% in 2008. The difference in percentage points can be attributed to random fluctuation.

#### Low-Income Gamblers with Large Betting Amounts

5 The median monthly betting amount has fallen from \$100 in 2008 to \$40 in 2011, but the average amount has risen from \$176 to \$212 over the same period. This is because while the majority are gambling with lower amounts, there is an increase in the proportion of gamblers betting large amounts. This is especially so for low-income gamblers (i.e. the proportion of low-income gamblers<sup>2</sup> with an average monthly betting amount of more than \$1,000 has increased from between 0% to 0.8% in 2008 to 2% in 2011).

#### Probable Pathological Gamblers, Gambling Frequency & Self-Control in Gambling

6 The Survey found that probable pathological gamblers gambled more frequently (i.e. 68% gambled at least once a week compared to 43% for all gamblers). Probable pathological gamblers (PPGs) were much more likely than non-PPG gamblers to have poor self-control in gambling, in terms of duration, betting amount and frequency of gambling. Poorer self control was in turn observed among horse racing, online and casino gamblers.

Mr. Lim Hock San, Chairman of NCPG said:

*“The latest gambling participation survey highlights several focal areas for NCPG’s work ahead. We must continue to help problem gamblers overcome their problem. While we continue to educate the public on the dangers of problem gambling, we must also ensure that there are adequate services in the community to help those who are addicted to gambling.”*

7 The report on the 2011 Survey on participation in gambling activities among Singapore Residents will be available on the NCPG website ([www.knowtheline.sg](http://www.knowtheline.sg)) from **23 February 2012, 6 pm.**

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<sup>2</sup> Monthly income less than \$2,000.

**About the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG)**

The NCPG was appointed in August 2005 as part of Singapore's national framework to address problem gambling. Under the Casino Control Act, NCPG has the statutory authority to decide Self, Family and Third-Party casino exclusions. NCPG also provides advice and feedback to the Government on problem gambling, and conducts public education and research to address problem gambling.

Stop Problem Gambling. Know The Line. Call 1800-6-668-668. For more information, please see [www.knowtheline.sg](http://www.knowtheline.sg).

**Media Contact:**

Mr. Chung Sang Pok  
National Council on Problem Gambling  
510, Thomson Road, #12-05/06  
SLF Building  
Singapore 298135  
Tel: 6354-7073  
HP: 9672-4112  
Email: chung\_sang\_pok@mcys.gov.sg