

POLICY RESPONSES TO PROBLEM GAMBLING IN NZ



Non-Casino Gambling Machines

Territorial authorities (TAs) across NZ have been imposing different restrictions on the use of non-casino electronic gambling machines (EGMs) since 2004. The policies vary not only geographically, but also over time. Of the TAs that initially chose to impose only the minimum restrictions required by the Gambling Act 2003, some later switched to more restrictive policies.

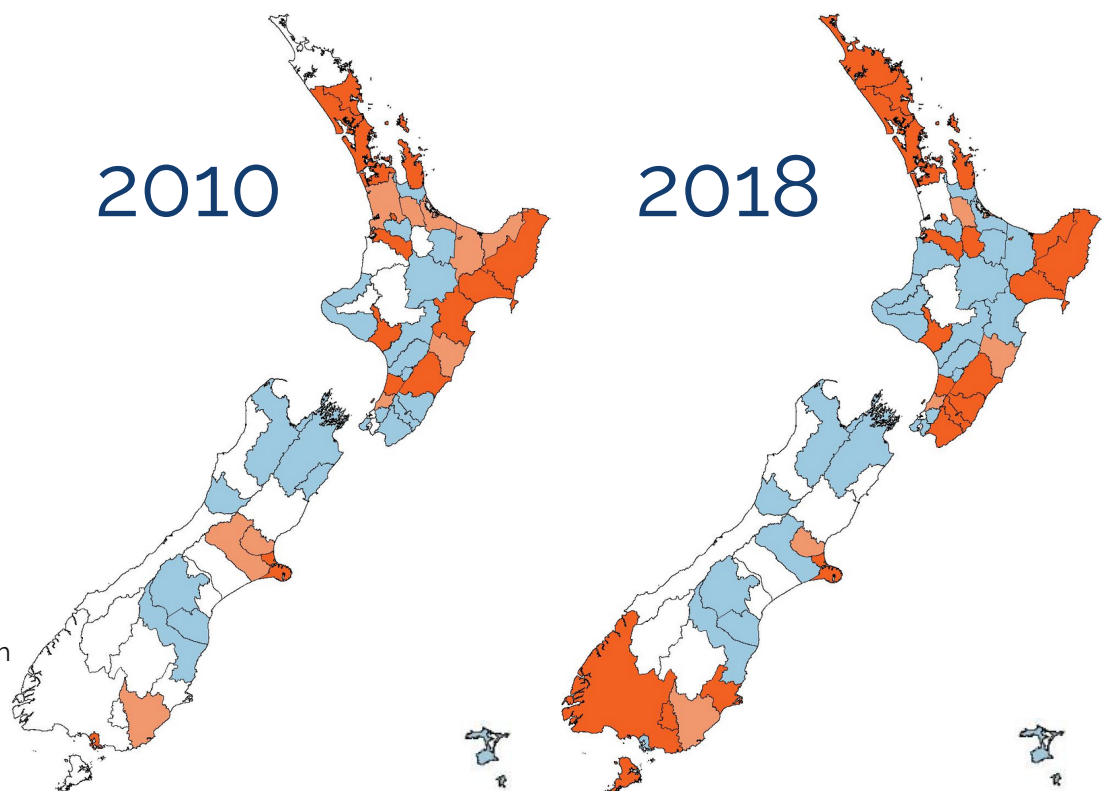
Research question: Compared to legislative minimums, what is the impact of three stricter policies aimed at reducing access to EGMs?

Reference group
A policy which re-states the minimum standards set out in the Gambling Act 2003.*

Absolute cap
A cap on number of EGMs and/or venues within a TA.

Per capita cap
A cap on number of EGMs and/or venues on a per capita basis within a TA.

Sinking lid
A limit on number of EGMs or venues within a TA that is permanently lowered with each reduction of EGMs or venues.



Method: We use a difference-in-differences approach** using data over the period 2010 to 2018. Results illustrate the impact of a particular policy over the first two years post-implementation relative to the reference group.

	Absolute cap	Per capita cap	Sinking lid
EGMs	↓ 15%	↓ 19%	↓ 8%
Venues	↓ 17%	↓ 20%	↓ 11%
Expenditure	↓ 10%	↓ 14%	↓ 13%

*A limit on the number of EGMs to 18 per venue if a gaming license was granted before 17 October 2001, and 9 per venue if a license was granted later.
** Controls included in analysis encompass ethnicity, age and gender composition; deprivation; GDP growth rates; and TA and year fixed effects.
All outcomes illustrated above are statistically significant. EGMs and venues are per 100,000 population, while expenditure is net losses per capita in real 2019 dollars.