



# Underage Gambling

## FACT SHEET



**39.5%** of NYS youth between the ages of 12 and 17 **have gambled** in the past year.

Nearly **30%** of these youth state they began gambling at age 10 or younger.

Past 30 day use of alcohol, being drunk, use of marijuana, and drinking energy drinks **is higher among youth** who are

### **GAMBLING**

*\*Source: OASAS, 2014-15*

## Top 3 Past-Year Gambling Behaviors

- Playing lottery, lotto, and scratch offs
- Betting money on raffles or charity games
- Betting money on sports

*\*Source: OASAS, 2014-15*

## Consequences of Underage Gambling

- Increased risk for DELINQUENCY & CRIME
- Increased risk for SUBSTANCE USE & ABUSE
- Increased risk for ADDICTION
- DAMAGED RELATIONSHIPS
- Poor academic performance
- Mental health issues including DEPRESSION & ANXIETY
- Overall, POOR GENERAL HEALTH

*\*Source:s: Wynne, et. al. (1996); Hardoon, et. al. (2002); Gupta & Derevensky (1998); Potenza, et. al. (2002).*

## YOU(th) Can Help!

### Parents

- Learn more about the dangers of underage gambling at [www.YOUthDecideNY.org](http://www.YOUthDecideNY.org)
- Talk to your children today about the dangers of underage gambling
- Use teachable moments (ads, movies, etc.) to teach your children how to analyze media

### Youth

- Know all of the facts before you DECIDE
- Learn more about the dangers of underage gambling at [www.YOUthDecideNY.org](http://www.YOUthDecideNY.org)
- Be a positive peer influence by choosing NOT to gamble
- Get involved in preventing underage gambling by partnering with a local prevention agency.

### Community leaders

- Go gambling free with your family and youth events
- Publicly express your support for gambling-free events for youth and families
- Learn more about the dangers of underage gambling at [www.YOUthDecideNY.org](http://www.YOUthDecideNY.org)

[www.YOUthDecideNY.org](http://www.YOUthDecideNY.org)

**Giving teens the power to decide!**

# Problem Gambling

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**WHAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW**

# **Problem Gambling Impacts Individual and Families**

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*INCREASING AWARENESS*

# What is Gambling?

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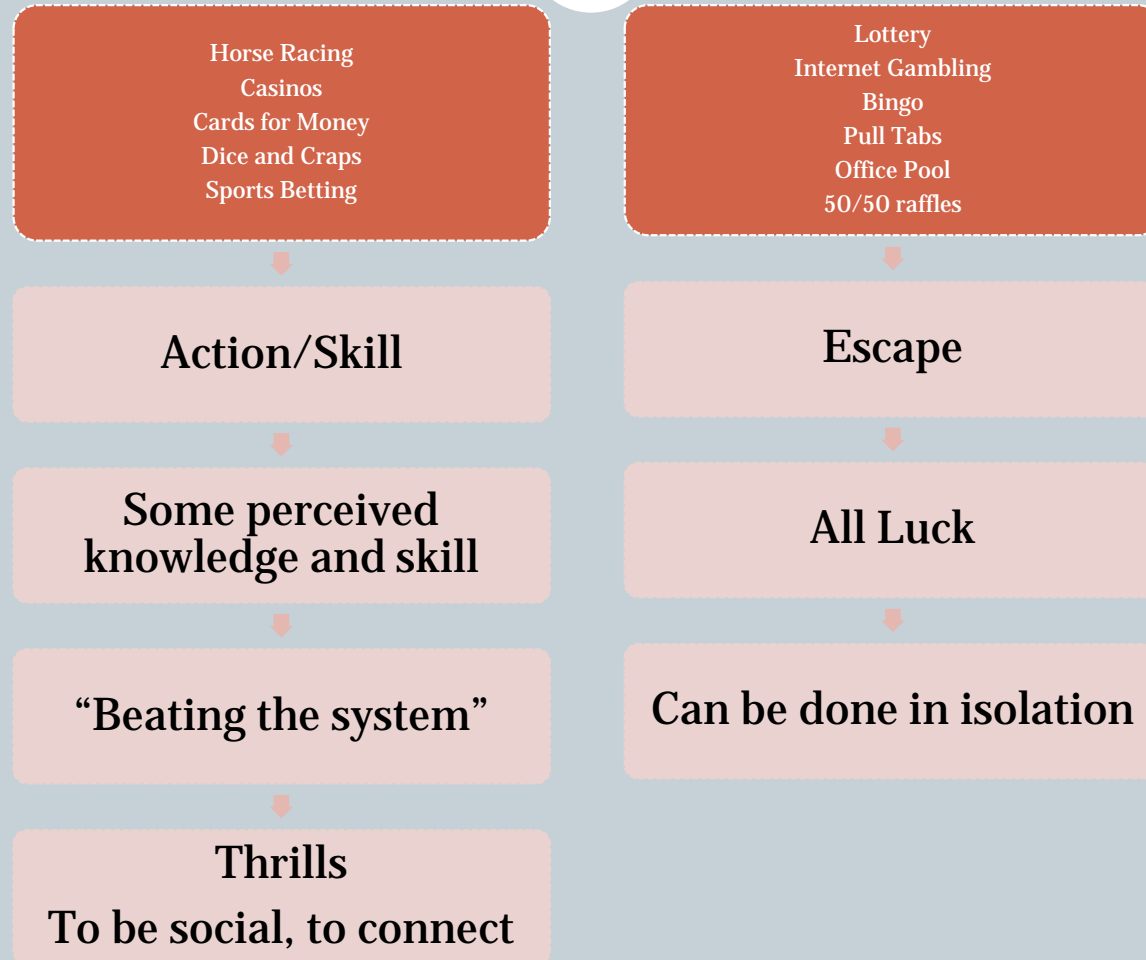
**Webster says:**

To stake or risk money on anything of value on the outcome of something involving chance

Any matter of thing involving risk

# COMPARISON OF GAMBLING ACTIVITIES

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# Five Types of Gamblers

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- Social Gambler
- Problem Gambler
- Pathological (Compulsive) Gambler
- Organized Crime Gambler
- Professional Gambler

# What might problem/ pathological gambling really look like?

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**MOVIE: BET THE HOUSE**  
**[HTTP://VIMEO.COM/63661594](http://vimeo.com/63661594)**

# Gambling in the US

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- Approximately 85% of U.S. adults have gambled at least once in their lives; 60% in the past year.
- 2 million (1%) of U.S. adults are estimated to meet criteria for pathological gambling in a given year.
- Another 4-6 million (2-3%) would be considered problem gamblers.

Source: National Council on Problem Gambling , Retrieved from  
<http://www.ncpgambling.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3314#widespread>



# Problem Gambling and Special Populations

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- **Adolescents**
- **College Students**
- **Senior Citizens**

# Adolescents

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**Adolescents are 2-4x more likely to develop a problem with gambling than adults (Gupta and Derevensky, 2000)**



# Why is gambling a problem for youth?

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- Societal influences have normalized gambling
- Parents, family members, schools, and the community are not aware of the risks of youth gambling
- The media is bombarding youth with pro-gambling messages
- Inadvertent promotion of gambling involvement by schools who host casino nights, 50/50 raffles and by parents who put scratch-offs in as stocking stuffers or encourage family poker nights, etc.

# Adolescent Prevalence

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- Approximately 68% of youth between the ages of 14 and 21 have gambled in the last year
- 11% report having gambled twice a week or more
- 2.1% already meet the criteria for problem gambling
- 6.5% of those youth are in the category of at-risk for problem gambling

**Adolescent involvement in gambling is believed to be greater than their use of tobacco, hard liquor, and marijuana.**

# What makes adolescents more at-risk?

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- Impulsivity
- Developmental nature
- Susceptibility to peer influence
- Emerging egos
- The attraction of winning
- Their belief that nothing negative can happen to them
- Their lack of understanding that there can be a downside to gambling

# Adolescent Brain Development

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- Adolescence is a period of profound brain maturation.
- It was once believed that brain development was complete during childhood.
- The maturation process is not complete until about age 25.

# Does normal brain development contribute to adolescent susceptibility to gambling?

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## INDIRECT SUPPORT:

1. Greater risk taking (particularly in groups)
2. Greater propensity toward low effort-high excitement activities
3. Lower capacity for good judgment and weighing consequences
4. Greater sensitivity to novel stimuli



# Forms of Gambling Associated w/ Problem Gambling in NYS Youth

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- Playing Cards for Money
- Playing Lottery or Scratch Off Games
- Playing Pool, Basketball or other games of skill for Money
- Betting on Sports for Money
- Playing Dice for Money

Figure 31: Gambling Behaviors - Past Year - Grades 9-10

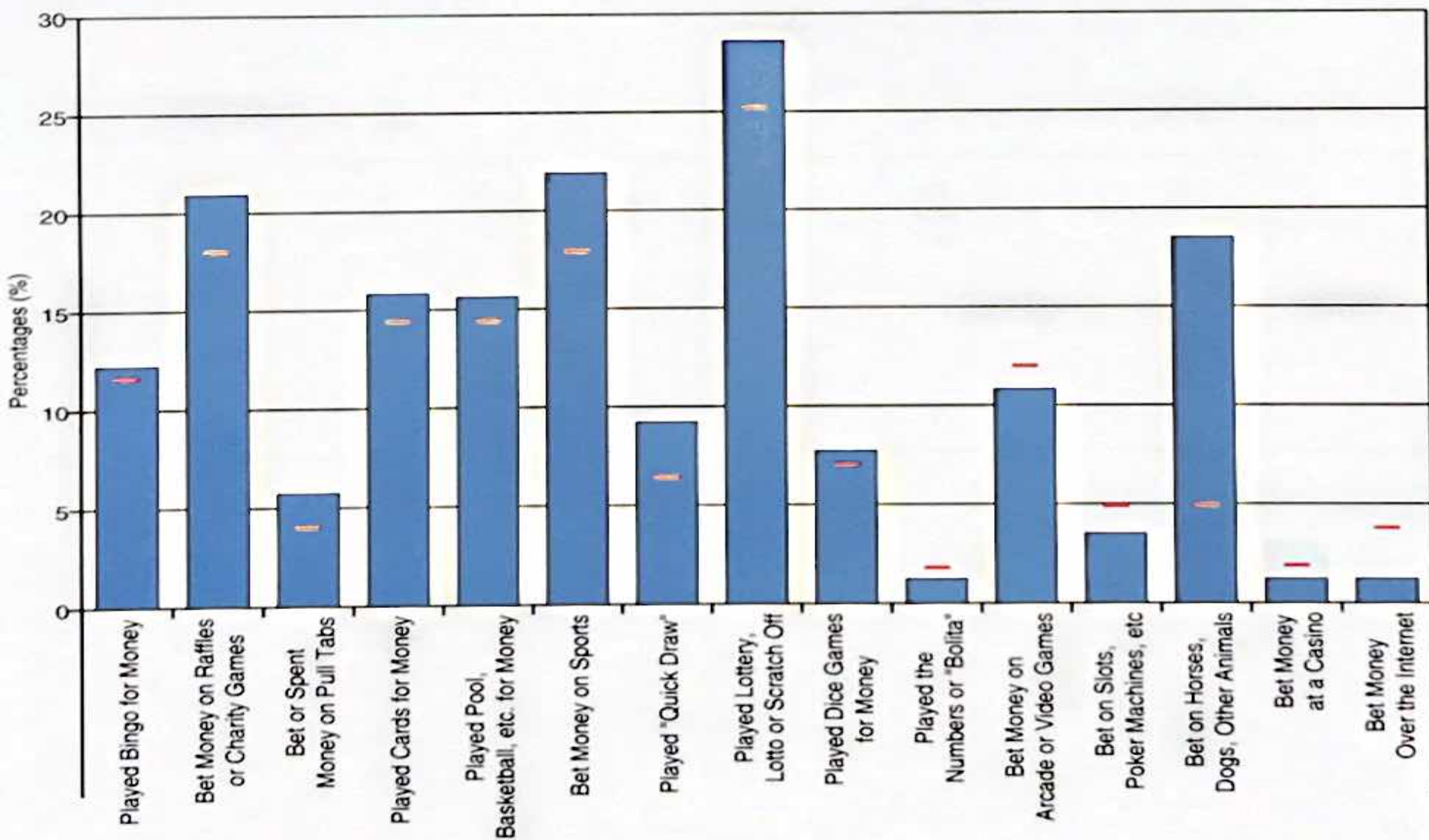
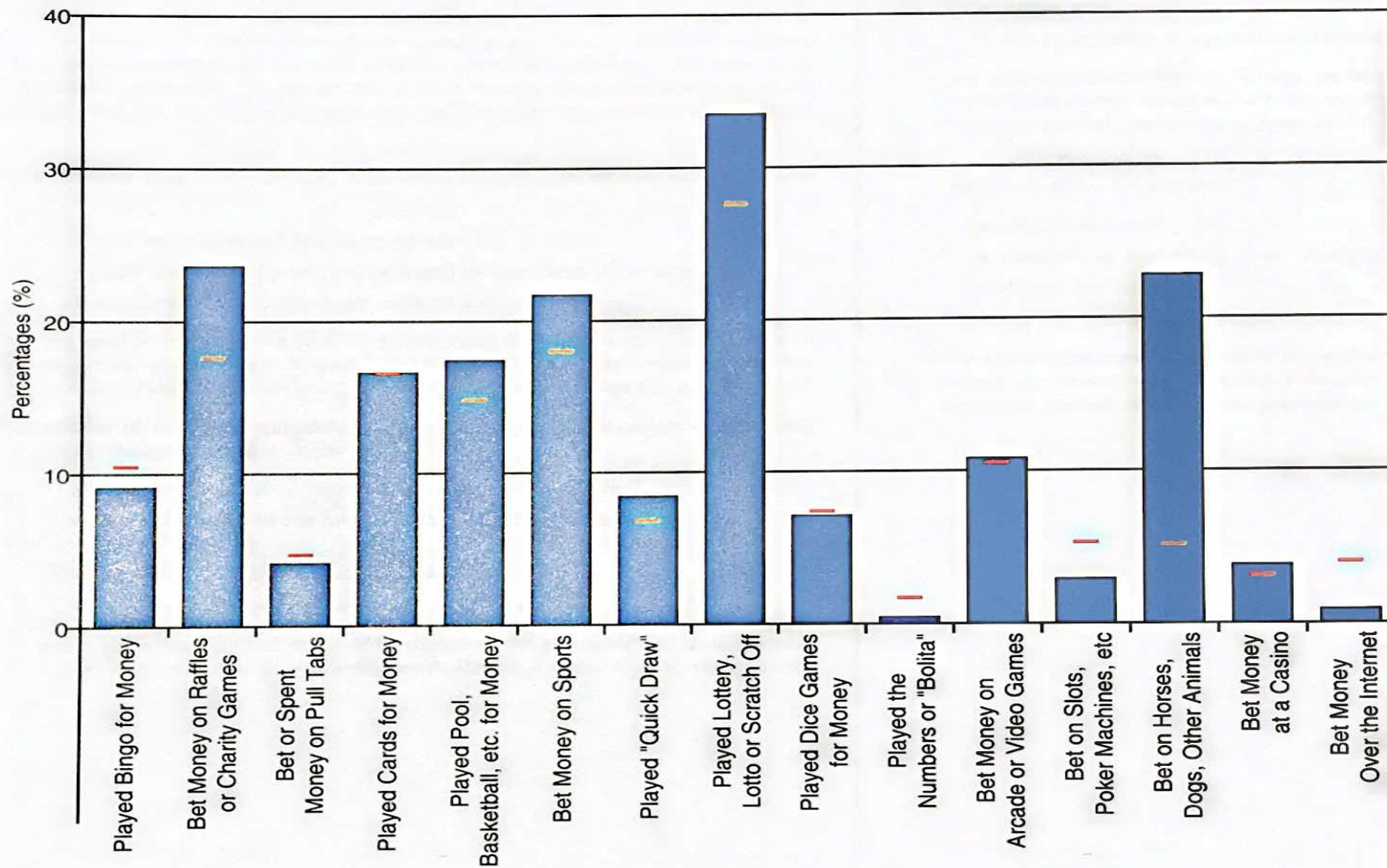


Figure 32: Gambling Behaviors - Past Year - Grades 11-12



# Reports show students that reported gambling were:

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- Over 50% more likely to drink alcohol
- More than twice as likely to binge drink
- More than three times as likely to use marijuana
- Three times as likely to use other illegal drugs
- Almost three times as likely to get in trouble with the police
- Almost three times as likely to steal or shoplift

(New York Council on Problem Gambling, Gambling and Problem Gambling Among Adolescents in New York, 1998)

# College Age Youth

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- Similar statistics and risk involved as for adolescents
- Less supervision and more access to gambling activities (i.e. poker tournaments, online gambling)
- School and Greek sponsorship of Texas Hold'em/ Casino Nights, excursions to casinos, etc.

# Sports Illustrated 2005

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- “In college you live wired...The number of hands you can play, the amount of thinking and studying you can do about those hands-**EVERYTHING’S ACCELERATED**”-Strausser
- Students are at the **HIGHEST-RISK AGE**...They think they’re smarter than anyone else-invulnerable.”-Derevensky

Quotes from Sports Illustrated 2005

# Aging Adults and Problem Gambling

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- Affected by environmental factors different from those experienced by youth.
- Due to stage of life and emotional factors are often primed to develop a problem.
- Face similar and different consequences than other populations.

# Factors Affecting Senior Gambling

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- Senior centers and churches regularly sponsor trips to casinos, bingo nights, etc.
- Many seniors have more disposable income or
- Many seniors have limited financial resources and are looking for a big win to compensate
- Many seniors are retired and have lots of time on their hands and/ or are looking for social interaction
- Perception is that they deserve to have some fun now
- Gambling can be a way to experience that “fun” as well as foster a sense of independence
- Gambling can be a form of emotional escape



# Problem Gambling Impacts

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# Impact on Quality of Life

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- **Mood swings**
- **Problem with loved ones**
- **Eating less or willingness to go without food, medications, household supplies, etc. to have money to gamble**
- **Cashing in insurance policies and/or spending retirement funds, college savings, etc.**

# Effects on the Family

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- Lack of trust
- Financial difficulties
- Anticipation of loved one's mood
- Concern over physical well-being of loved one
- Frustration with PG's inability to stop and related consequences
- Anxiety, Depression

# The Impact of Gambling on Communities

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- 20% of addicted gamblers have filed for bankruptcy.
- 20% of the homeless are gambling addicts
- 60% of those addicted to gambling will commit crimes
- Up to 50% of spouses of addicted gamblers are abused.

April 14, 2008 **Casino Watch Policy Briefs by Joseph Day,**  
[Expanded Gambling: Casinos' impact on a new community](#)

# The Impact of Gambling on Communities

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- When casinos opened in South Dakota child abuse rose by 42%.
- 20% of gambling addicts commit or attempt suicide.
- The cost of problem and pathological gambling does not only affect individuals and their families. Society also bears the brunt of gambling, with the overall cost to taxpayers estimated at \$56,000 for each problem gambler, including cost of treatment, health-related costs, absenteeism at work and time spent in courts

# Warning Signs

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- Spending more time on gambling activities
- Continues to gamble despite consequences
- Preoccupied with gambling
- Grades dropping/poor work performance
- Stealing money to gamble
- Time spent gambling interrupts previous engaged activities

# What Can You Do to Help Prevent Adolescent Problem Gambling?

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- Incorporate gambling lessons in already existing ATOD prevention programs.
- Analyze gifts, prizes and events to ensure they do not promote a pro-gambling message.
- Help parents and schools create policies about gambling.
- Raise awareness that gambling can be problematic.
- Challenge youth misconceptions about gambling and the odds.
- Educate youth about the potential dangers.
- Inform youth about how to get help.

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# MARCH IS PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

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**PROBLEM GAMBLING  
AWARENESS MONTH**

→ HAVE THE CONVERSATION

**24-HOUR HELPLINE**

Call **1-877-8HOPE-NY**  
or  
Text **HOPENY (467369)**



**Responsible Play  
Partnership**



**Office of Alcoholism and  
Substance Abuse Services**



**Gaming  
Commission**



New York Council on Problem Gambling





# PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH

→ **HAVE THE CONVERSATION**

# March Madness

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# March Madness and Your Bracket

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- **\$12 Billion**

# 2% Gambling Addiction at Mid and Large Sized US Companies

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- **2% Gambling Addiction at  
Mid and Large Sized US Companies**

# Find help and hope

for alcoholism, drug abuse or problem gambling

Call or Text

**1-877-8-HOPENY**

**1-877-846-7369**

Available 24 hours / 7 days



Office of Alcoholism and  
Substance Abuse Services

# If You or Someone You Know has a Problem with Gambling...

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**KNOW**  
— THE —  
**ODDS**  
**.ORG**

Help is Available

**New York Council on Problem  
Gambling**

**518-867-4084**

[www.nyproblemgambling.org](http://www.nyproblemgambling.org)

**NYS Office of Alcoholism and  
Substance Abuse Services**

[www.oasas.ny.gov/gambling](http://www.oasas.ny.gov/gambling)

**1-877-8-HOPENY**

***Gambler's Anonymous***

**213-386-8789**

[www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org)

# Questions

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