

SPORTS GAMBLING IN OHIO

Responsible Gambling Issues Brief



RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is most interested in reasonable consumer protections being added with sports gambling to ensure Ohio players the safest environment.

- Reliable age verification is required, and the state must determine what the legal sports gambling age will be, 18 or 21? Safeguards are needed to prevent underage gambling. Face-to-face account set-up, such as at a casino or racino, provide the best controls to promote responsible play.
- Two percent of taxes collected should be for services to assist individuals and families impacted by problem gambling engaged in the OhioMHAS system of care.
- Need constant and conspicuous use of the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline number **1-800-589-9966**.
- Built-in opportunities for players to pause play are needed to allow for breaks and other activities - see phone pop-up message at left that slows down play.

WELCOME BACK!

Your last login was
May 8, 2019 at 11:00 pm.

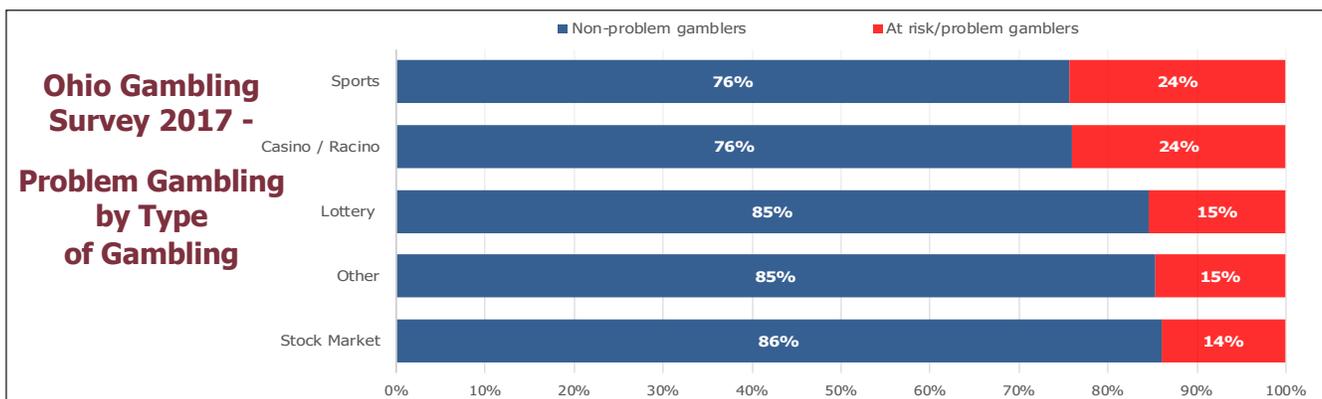
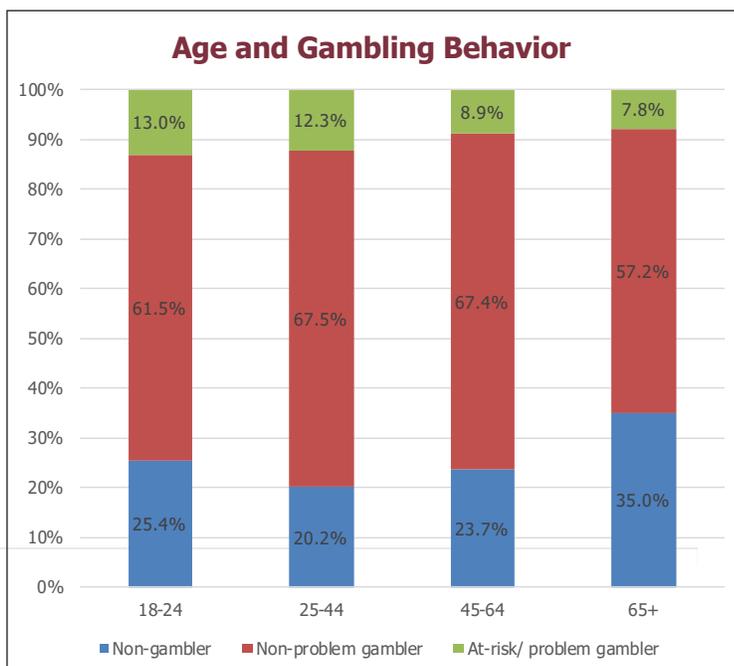


Ohio for Responsible Gambling encourages you to gamble responsibly. For problem gambling assistance, call the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-589-9966 to talk or chat online. Or visit www.beforeyoubet.org.

GOT IT

OHIO GAMBLING FACTS

- ⇒ Sports gambling WILL appeal mostly to 18-44 year-old men who are Ohio's highest at-risk group for problem gambling and addiction.
- ⇒ Sports gambling is the type of gambling in Ohio that leads to the highest rates of problem gambling and addiction at 24.5%.
- ⇒ More gambling opportunities in an area increase gambling problems.
- ⇒ Any sports gambling legislation should specifically state that the Problem Gambling Services funding, a percent of the taxes collected, should flow to OhioMHAS to help individuals and families in crisis due to the consequences of problem gambling and gambling addiction.



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SOCIAL COSTS OF PROBLEM GAMBLING

A number of serious socio-economic results accrue from problem gambling and addiction. These include:

- ⇒ Lost Productivity
- ⇒ Divorce
- ⇒ Bankruptcy
- ⇒ Foreclosure
- ⇒ Crime - including money laundering, human trafficking, fraud, stealing, domestic violence

MOST AT-RISK GROUPS

- ⇒ Males 18-44
- ⇒ Veterans
- ⇒ Older Adults
- ⇒ Asian/Pacific Islanders
- ⇒ People with PTSD/Brain-Injuries
- ⇒ People on Medications for Parkinson's and Restless Leg Syndrome
- ⇒ African-Americans
- ⇒ Trauma Victims
- ⇒ Adolescents

HUMAN COSTS OF PROBLEM GAMBLING

Serious gambling problems are usually connected to physical and behavioral health concerns that erode the life of the individual and his/her family, friends and employment. From national studies,...

- ⇒ Domestic Violence - In a study of women with consecutive ER admissions, they were 10 times more likely to be beaten if the partner was a problem gambler.
- ⇒ Suicide Attempts - 32% of problem gamblers; 21% of all attempts say it is gambling related
- ⇒ Physical illnesses common are heart disease, obesity, ulcers, liver disease, and many others
- ⇒ Substance Use Disorder - 20-30% are problem gamblers
- ⇒ Depression and Mental Illness - Three-fourths of all problem gamblers suffer from depression; 16-40% experience anxiety; 24% experience bi-polar disorder

BACKGROUND

In Spring 2018, the US Supreme Court determined that sports gambling can be legalized if a state chooses. In the past year, states have been working to create sports gambling legislation that will bring new revenue into state treasuries, while helping to curb illegal sports gambling that has continued for decades. As of March 2019, seven states have legal, state-regulated sports betting industries, and 20 more are in the process of introducing or passing legislation. (<https://www.legalsportsreport.com/sportsbetting-bill-tracker/>)

OHIO'S RESEARCH

What do we know from research in Ohio? Based on the Ohio Gambling Surveys, *from 2012 to 2017, the percentage of adults at-risk for problem gambling grew from 5.7% to 10.3% or roughly 500,000 adult Ohioans to just under one million.* Two significant gambling expansions occurred during that timeframe:

1. Ohio opened 11 new casinos and racetrack-based racinos from 2012 to 2017.
2. Daily fantasy sports gambling companies DraftKings and FanDuel entered the scene and offered sports gambling as easy as betting on one's own phone to anyone ostensibly over age 18.



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