

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: June 2, 2025

Name: Derek Longmeier

Are you representing: Yourself ☐ Organization ☒

Organization (If Applicable): Problem Gambling Network of Ohio

Position/Title: Executive Director

Address: 355 E. Campus View Blvd., Suite 285

City: Columbus State: Ohio Zip: 43235

Best Contact Telephone: (614) 750-9899 Email: jbrill@pgnohio.org

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes ☐ No ☒

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB298

Specific Issue: Testimony

Are you testifying as a: Proponent ☐ Opponent ☐ Interested Party ☒

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes ☐ No ☒

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 5 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

We want to urge the legislature to take time and gather more data before adding expanded gambling into the budget

*Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.*



## Testimony of the Problem Gambling Network of Ohio (PGNO)

Derek Longmeier, Executive Director

Re: Opposition to Gambling Expansion in HB298

Presented to the Ohio House Finance Committee

June 3, 2025

Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Derek Longmeier, Executive Director of Problem Gambling Network of Ohio (PGNO). Our mission is to provide leadership and innovation to enhance Ohio's problem gambling service system through collaboration, advocacy, and support. PGNO is neutral regarding legalized gambling, but focuses on ensuring appropriate consumer protections are in place to mitigate gambling-related harm.

PGNO is concerned about additional legislative efforts to expand gambling in Ohio at this time. Our concerns are not rooted in opposition to gambling itself, but rather in the lack of data and a clear understanding of how expansion affects Ohioans.

We believe it is premature to move forward without first addressing these critical questions:

- What has been the impact of legalized sports betting on Ohioans since its implementation?
- How has electronic bingo (e-bingo) affected communities, particularly veterans?
- What are the projected consequences of iLottery and iCasinos on families, individuals, and public health?
- Do Ohioans support this sweeping expansion, just two years after the largest gambling expansion in our state's history?

In addition to those concerns, we'd also like to address the testimony that has been presented to you. You've heard statements from the proponents claiming that:

- This won't cannibalize local businesses, but will increase gambling
- It will stamp out the black market
- It won't add to addiction.

These claims are not only misleading, they are inaccurate.

If this expansion is "additive," as proponents claim, it means more Ohioans will be gambling. But gambling dollars don't come out of thin air. That money will come from somewhere, less spent on groceries, healthcare, 401(k)s, child care, or local business investments. These are real trade-offs that impact the financial stability of Ohio households.

PGNO is committed to providing leadership & innovation to enhance Ohio's problem gambling service system through collaboration, advocacy, and support.



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PGNOOhio.org



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As for the black market, this legislation doesn't directly address it. We already know the black market doesn't disappear just because a product becomes legal. Right now, high school students are sports betting despite "know your customer" protections in place.

Students are stealing their parents' social security numbers and are forming gambling rings. Law enforcement has had to get involved (see attached addendum). If we can't stop black-market betting under current law, we shouldn't believe unsupported promises that this expansion will eliminate it. Despite what the lobbyists are trying to make you believe, you can't have it both ways.

If legalization really eliminated the black market, why does the Casino Control Commission continue to seize hundreds of illegal slot machines every year? In fact, they have confiscated more illegal machines across the state than there are legal slot machines in all of the state's licensed casinos combined.

Finally, let's address the issue of addiction.

Pro-iGaming lobbyists have claimed that expanding gambling access won't lead to a rise in gambling-related harm. That claim is simply false.

According to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, 2.8% of Ohio adults are considered 'high risk' or in clinical terms, meet the diagnostic criteria for disordered gambling. That's more than 250,000 Ohioans. This data didn't come from an advocacy group with a particular agenda, it was funded by the state legislature.

The same 2022 statewide study of 14,569 individuals shows a clear trend: when gambling is expanded, the number of individuals experiencing gambling problems increases. This isn't just a statistic, it's common sense. Greater access leads to greater risk.

PGNO takes no position on iGaming as a concept. But we cannot support a large-scale expansion of gambling without a thorough evaluation of its impacts, proper guardrails, and the voice of Ohioans at the center of the conversation.

We also urge the Legislature to wait for the results of the upcoming study from the Ohio Casino Control Commission on the impact of sports betting. Advancing legislation before this data is released defeats the purpose of the study and disregards responsible policymaking. Without this information, we are navigating a public health challenge without knowledge of the current environment and its related impact.

This is not about opposing revenue generation. This is about protecting people.



### **The truth about Ohioans struggling with gambling**

Increased access to gambling results in increased rates of problem gambling. In 2012, 5% of Ohioans were at-risk for problem gambling. In 2022, the most recent survey conducted, the at-risk rate skyrocketed to nearly 20%, which represents 1.8 million Ohio adults. It's crucial to note that the 2022 Ohio Gambling Survey, conducted by the OhioMHAS Office of Quality, Planning, and Research, was completed before the launch of legal sports wagering in the state. Given current trends, we anticipate these numbers will continue to rise, but we will not know definitively until the report commissioned by the Ohio Casino Control Commission is released.

Additionally, according to the Ohio Casino Control Commission, enrollments in the statewide voluntary exclusion program, Time Out Ohio, have significantly increased year over year since sports betting was legalized.

Time Out Ohio allows individuals to exclude themselves from Ohio's casinos, racinos, and sports gaming. Also they have seen a significant increase in Ohioans enrolling in GamBan, which blocks gambling apps on personal devices.

### **Understanding the impact of gambling in Ohio**

To consider iGaming online casinos, we must first fully understand the impact of legalized sports wagering, which reshaped the gambling landscape in Ohio. In the first full year of legalized sports wagering, The Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline received 55% more calls than the prior year, rising from over 6,000 in 2022 to more than 10,000 in 2023 (Figure 1). That number has stayed consistent at over 9,000 in 2024.

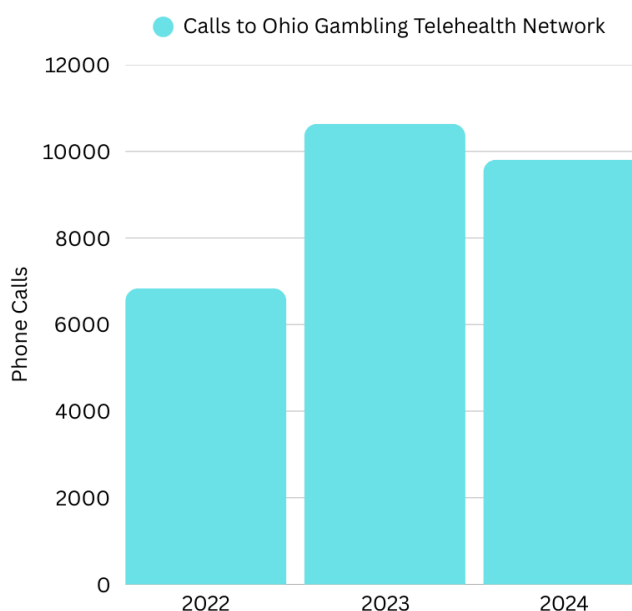


Figure 1. Calls to Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline, 2022-2024.



This surge has been accompanied by a 67% spike in online searches for gambling help, according to the American Medical Association, signaling growing distress among Ohioans.

Any expansion of gambling inevitably exposes new audiences to risk, which drives increased demand for prevention, intervention, and treatment services. Yet despite a growing workforce, Ohio is not currently equipped to meet the increased demand resulting from this expansion. Half of our state's counties have no access to gambling-qualified counselors within their borders.

### **Ohio is unprepared for gambling expansion**

PGNO launched the nation's first gambling-specific telehealth program, the Ohio Gambling Telehealth Network (OGTN), to ensure access to care for gambling is available for all Ohioans while also working to build Ohio's gambling services system to address this critical need. OGTN has already delivered remarkable results, but additional support is essential to scale this safety net and lay a strong, lasting foundation for the effective and responsible use of resources.

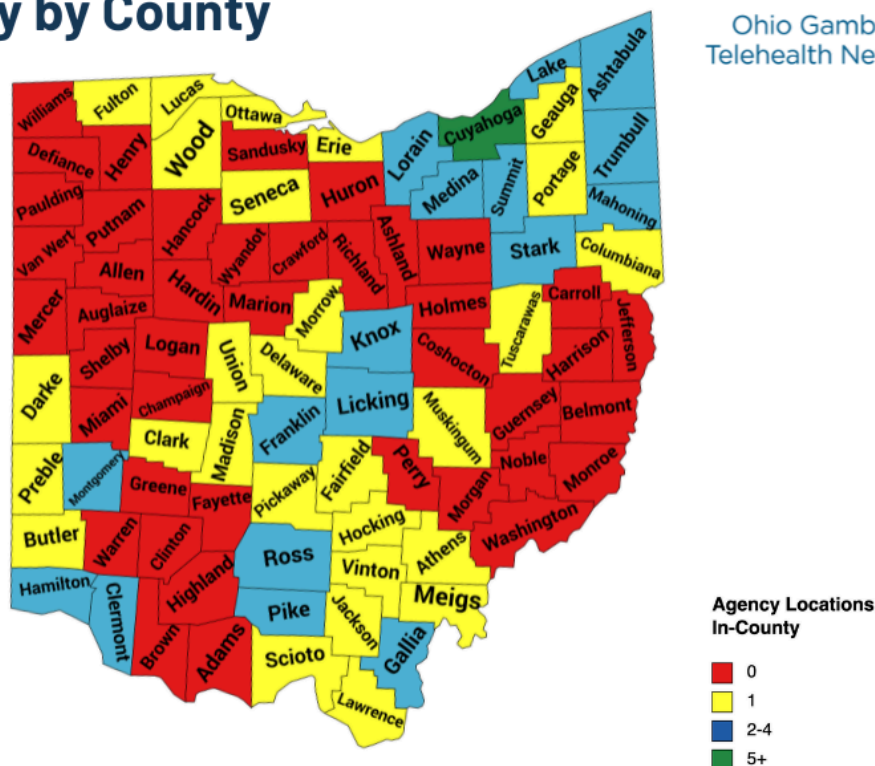
The Disordered Gambling Treatment Availability by County Map shows (Figure 2), this coverage gap disproportionately impacts rural communities, leaving some of Ohio's most vulnerable residents without the support they need. While OGTN is available for all Ohioans, teletherapy is not always the best fit for all individuals with a gambling disorder. This is why it is critical to have more time to develop the needed services in all counties.



## Disordered Gambling Treatment Availability by County



Ohio Gambling  
Telehealth Network



Data provided by  
GamblingHelpOhio.org  
Updated April 2025

Ohio Gambling Telehealth Network  
OhioGTN.org

Figure 2. Disordered Gambling Treatment Availability by County Map.  
Provided by OGTN

While HB298 does add consumer protections by prohibiting the use of credit cards. HB298 overlooks a crucial component: adequate funding to mitigate gambling-related harm. Unlike existing frameworks for casino gambling and sports wagering, which dedicate 2% of tax revenue to prevention and treatment services, HB298 proposes allocating only 1%. This reduction not only represents a significant shortfall in resources but also weakens protections for those most vulnerable to gambling addiction.

The 2% dedicated to problem gambling in both the casino and sports wagering legislation established a critical precedent that must be upheld. As gambling access expands rapidly, with every smartphone effectively becoming a betting terminal, the risks to individuals and families increase accordingly. Sustaining robust funding to support prevention, treatment, and research is essential to meet the rising demand for support and treatment caused by broader accessibility.



**Youth are already being affected**

Gambling is increasingly affecting people of all ages, especially our youth. As stated earlier, we've recently been made aware of a situation where students' online gambling behaviors required the involvement of local law enforcement. This underscores the critical need for carefully crafted legislation, updating the necessary and robust Know Your Customer (KYC) protocols to protect our youth and uphold the integrity of any gambling expansion. This also reinforces the need for education for parents about gambling and youth. Young people are disproportionately impacted and remain especially vulnerable to the targeting tactics of online gambling platforms. That is why any expansion of online gambling, from casinos, lotteries, and horse racing, must be only available to those 21 and over.

**Gambling is a public health crisis**

Problem and disordered gambling is becoming a public health crisis. Individuals experiencing gambling-related harm face the highest suicide rates among all addictive disorders. According to the American Psychiatric Association, **one in five** people with a gambling disorder will attempt suicide, more than any other addiction. A staggering and sobering statistic that underscores the severe emotional and psychological toll of this addiction.

Finally, I would direct your attention to Figure 3: Expansion and Risk. It clearly illustrates the steady rise in problem gambling that has tracked in lockstep with the expansion of legalized gambling in Ohio. However, one critical element is missing: up-to-date data that reflects the current scope of the issue.

While we've seen the rate increase from 5% of Ohioans in 2012 to 20% in 2022, we have no reliable data on how many individuals are impacted today. Without this information, we are navigating a public health challenge without a complete map.



## EXPANSION AND RISK

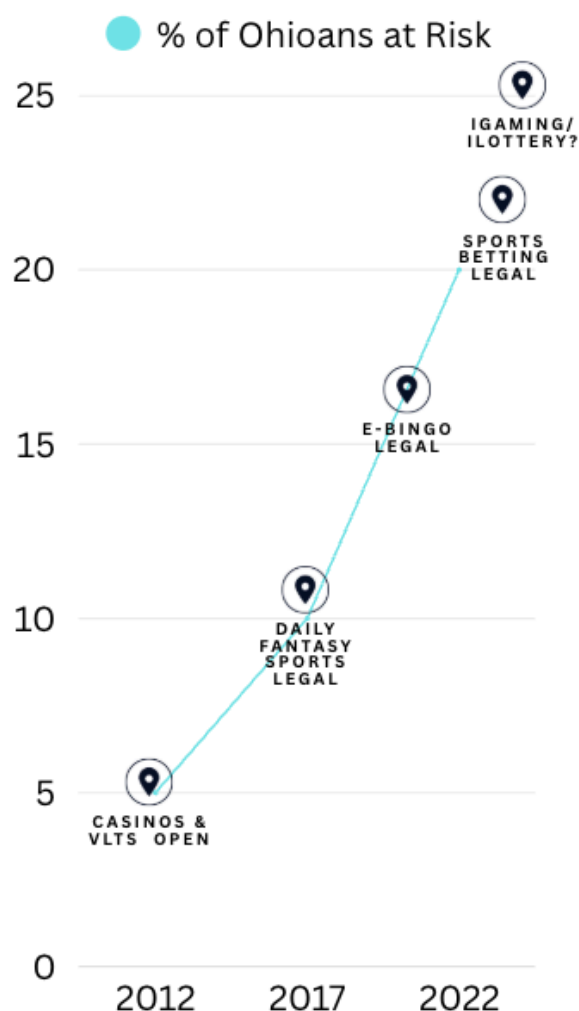


Figure 3: Expansion and Risk. Timeline of % of at-risk Ohioans and gambling expansions.

It is your responsibility as legislators to fully consider the ramifications of this expansion, and it is our job to help you mitigate the harm that we know will come. We implore you to take the time necessary to consider the impact of this proposed expansion and resist the urge to pass a gambling expansion through a budget amendment. Ohioans deserve a thoughtful, transparent process that allows us to understand the full scope of the problem, ensure adequate funding, and responsibly scale the support systems needed to protect those at risk.

This is not just about policy, it's about fulfilling the duty entrusted to you by the people of Ohio: to craft legislation that safeguards their futures, protects their finances, and shields their families from harm.





**Additional gambling revenue without expansion**

With the inclusion of placeholder language in the budget indicating a desire to expand gambling, there are two additional areas worth considering. First, Ohio could follow states like Arizona in recognizing and regulating Daily Fantasy Sports as a form of gambling. Second, social casino platforms such as MyVegas Slots merit closer examination. While these games don't offer cash prizes, players can spend real money for the chance to receive casino-related coupons or discounts. These platforms currently operate without consumer protections, often feature youth-oriented designs, and fall entirely outside Ohio's regulatory and tax frameworks.

**You can stop this from harming your constituents**

As you consider this legislation, we urge you to ask yourselves: Is this truly in the best interest of your constituents? Is it in the best interest of Ohio?

If the answer is no, and this is simply a short-term solution to generate additional budget revenue, then we must ask: Is it worth risking the well-being of countless Ohioans and advancing a policy that may ultimately cause more harm than good?

In closing, we've had many thoughtful conversations with members of the Legislature, and one thing has become clear: if this proposal were introduced as a stand-alone bill, outside the state budget, it would likely not pass.

Ohio deserves better than a rushed, backdoor expansion of gambling. Let's choose responsible, evidence-based legislation that puts Ohioans first.

Thank you again Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the Finance Committee, for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB298. We are here to provide you with information and support in any way we can.

Thank you for your time and I welcome your questions.





James Brill &lt;jbrill@pgnohio.org&gt;

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Fwd: [REDACTED] Gambling

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James Brill <jbrill@pgnohio.org>  
To: James Brill <jbrill@pgnohio.org>

Wed, May 21, 2025 at 8:07 AM

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 6:02 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED]

Good Evening,  
I went to the [REDACTED] Health Fair. The biggest takeaway from the event was gambling concerns. From my understanding, a lot of students are sports bet and online gambling. Students mentioned gambling with play money and said "even the loser gets upset with fake money."  
I spoke with a minimum of one hundred students and majority said "gambling is a BIG problem in the school."

Officer K (he worked closely with [REDACTED] said students are stealing parents SSN and credit cards to create accounts therefore [REDACTED] PD will get involved. Officer K suggested speaking with [REDACTED] school counselor, in hopes of setting monthly (bi-monthly) presentations for the student in the fall. Officer K also suggested taking a poll of how many students are gambling in the school, but this would be set up through [REDACTED]. He also mentioned some students are underage drinking but the gambling in on the rise.

I briefly spoke with [REDACTED] and let her know that someone from [REDACTED] will be in touch.

[REDACTED] School Counselor  
[REDACTED]

Thanks!!  
[REDACTED]



## Overview of the 2022 Ohio Gambling Survey

Every five years since 2012, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, in partnership with Ohio for Responsible Gambling, has distributed a survey designed to gather information about how adults are gambling; how often they are gambling, what characteristics they have; and what characteristics may relate to gambling behaviors. This survey was completed in 2012, 2017 and most recently in 2022. The current survey was done with the Ohio State University CHRR research group after a competitive Request for Proposals process.

## How the Data Will Be Used

This data informs the Ohio behavioral health system of care on strategies for awareness, prevention, clinical care and recovery support related to problem gambling and the Gambling Disorder diagnosis for those experiencing serious consequences from their gambling. The statewide data summary helps to distinguish appropriate messages for different age groups, race or ethnic groups, gender, and status as a parent/caregiver, employer, spouse, etc. Along with the statewide highlights, each of the 50 County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Boards receives its own summary of data and a slide deck for community education.

## Ohio for Responsible Gambling and Awareness, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery

Ohio for Responsible Gambling (ORG) was formed in 2013 to bring together the agencies most involved in ensuring consumer protections and providing resources and education for anyone engaged in gambling activities. ORG includes the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), Ohio Casino Control Commission (OCCC), and Ohio Lottery Commission (OLC), and works in conjunction with prevention and treatment specialists, individuals in recovery, and industry professionals to inform education, prevention, and treatment programs. This voluntary cooperation across diverse perspectives is nationally recognized as the “Ohio Model.”

## ORG Efforts to Support Ohio Adults and Youth Affected by Gambling and Gaming

### Awareness and Prevention:

- Award-winning prevention and responsible gambling campaigns reach many millions of Ohioans annually.
- “[Pause Before You Play](#),” Ohio’s latest statewide awareness campaign is geared toward sports gaming and encourages individuals to set limits on time and money spent when betting on sports.
- School-based gaming/gambling prevention offered via multiple strategies throughout the state.
- Growing the Problem Gambling workforce regularly with 30 required hours of clinical training offered virtually four times every year.
- In SFY 2023, 9,448 calls came to the Problem Gambling Helpline, an increase of 66 percent over SFY 2022.

### Responsible Gambling:

- With the introduction of mobile sports betting, the Casino Control and Lottery Commissions developed a fully online version of the Voluntary Exclusion Program, [TimeOutOhio.com](#). Anyone wanting to be excluded from Ohio gambling sites may self-ban from their computers or mobile phones, or sign-up in person at a venue.
- [Gamban](#), now available to all Ohioans, is a downloadable application that once activated prevents a device from accessing more than 60,000 gambling websites and apps (legal and illegal) worldwide. It is being offered at no cost to anyone looking for protection from online gambling.

### Clinical Care:

- In SFY 2023, 67,713 Ohioans were screened for Gambling Disorder and 1,139 received treatment.
- With access to sports betting now 24/7 in the palm of one’s hand, clinical care must also be accessible. In the past three months, the Ohio Gambling Telehealth Network was created to make care available to anyone who does not have access to a behavioral health agency in their area.
- [Gamfin](#) is a group of financial specialists now collaborating with gambling clinicians to provide financial training and case counseling to help clinicians better support clients’ needs. GamFin will provide two webinar training sessions and 100 licenses for their online course list on behalf of ORG.

# 2022 Ohio Gambling Survey

## Highlights

Amid the rapid expansion of the sports gambling and gaming industry, Ohio has established itself as a national leader in promotion of responsible gaming and the prevention and treatment of gambling disorders. The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) partners with the Ohio Casino Control Commission, Ohio Lottery Commission, and Ohio State Racing Commission in Ohio for Responsible Gambling (ORG) to ensure these services are in place.

Since 2012, a statewide gambling survey has been undertaken every five years. Thus, the 2012, 2017, and 2022 surveys provide a 10-year perspective on the state's gambling prevalence landscape. The new survey analysis describes Ohio adult survey participants' gambling behaviors through December 31, 2022 – the eve of Ohio's legalization of sports gambling. Below are some of the survey's most compelling statistics, and the picture they provide.

**Table 1. Prevalence of Gambling in Population**

	Do Not Gamble	Non-Problem Gambler	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	Problem Gambler
2022 Ohio %	17.2%	63.0%	10.9%	6.1%	2.8%
2022 Ohio Pop. Est.	1,573,094	5,758,463	991,513	560,248	254,729
2017 Ohio %	25.1%	64.4%	6.4%	3.0%	0.9%
2012 Ohio %	41.4%	53.0%	4.2%	1.1%	0.4%

An estimated **1,806,490** adult residents in Ohio can be categorized as low-risk, moderate-risk, or problem gamblers (or **19.8%** of the general adult population).

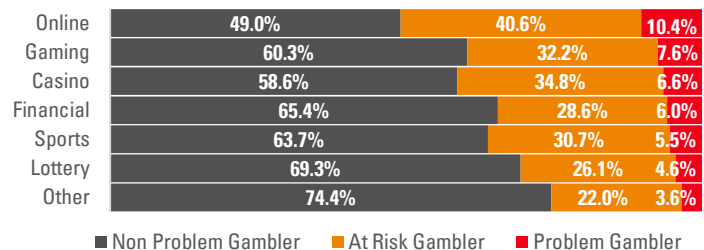
The prevalence of problem gambling in Ohio is **2.8%**, which is an estimated **254,729** individuals among the Ohio adult population of 9,193,508.

**Table 2. Demographics and Gambling Type**

	% of Pop.	GAMBLING TYPE		
		Non-Gambler	Non-Problem Gambler	At-Risk/Problem Gambler
<b>SEX</b>				
Men	47.6	15.9	63.7	20.4
Women	52.4	17.3	63.5	19.2
<b>RACE</b>				
White	83.9	16.9	64.7	18.4
African American	9.3	16.3	51.6	32.1
Other Race	6.8	18.7	55.9	25.4
<b>ETHNICITY*</b>				
Hispanic	3.6	9.9	60.5	29.6
Non-Hispanic	96.4	17.3	63.1	19.6
<b>AGE</b>				
18 - 24	11.5	19.7	56.1	24.1
25 - 44	39.7	15.1	62.7	22.2
45 - 64	30.9	14.2	66.1	19.7
65+	17.9	25.6	62.8	11.6
<b>VETERAN</b>				
Non-Veteran	93.1	17.0	63.0	20.0
Veteran	6.9	19.0	62.3	18.7

\*Due to a small representation in our sample, results for Hispanics should be interpreted with caution.

**Figure 1. Percentage of at-risk/problem gambling by game type.**



Note. Online consists of using gambling websites or apps and playing games in an app. Gaming consists of betting on eSports, arcade or video games, and in-app or in-game items (including purchases). Other consists of betting on card or board games, bingo, and raffles or fundraising tickets.

**Risk Factors:** Based on survey data, problem gambling is often related to a higher co-occurrence of risk factors, including a family history of gambling problems, using alcohol or drugs, gambling while intoxicated, experiencing serious depression, and experiencing serious stress.

# Ohio Gambling Survey 2022

OhioMHAS Office of Quality, Planning, and Research



Mike DeWine, Governor  
Lori Criss, Director

Please contact [Milan.Karna@mha.ohio.gov](mailto:Milan.Karna@mha.ohio.gov) with questions.

# The Problem Gambling Index: CPGI

In the past 12 months...

1. Have you bet more than you could really afford to lose?
2. Have you needed to gamble with larger amounts of money to get the same feeling of excitement?
3. When you gambled, did you go back another day to try to win back the money you lost?
4. Have you borrowed money or sold anything to get money to gamble?
5. Have you felt that you might have a problem with gambling?
6. Has gambling caused you any health problems, including stress or anxiety?
7. Have people criticized your betting or told you that you had a gambling problem, regardless of whether or not you thought it was true?
8. Has your gambling caused any financial problems for you or your household?
9. Have you felt guilty about the way you gamble or what happens when you gamble?

Each of the 9 items are scored on a scale of 0 to 3.

- 0 “Never”
- 1 “Sometimes”
- 2 “Most of the time”
- 3 “Almost always”

The score can range from 0 to 27.

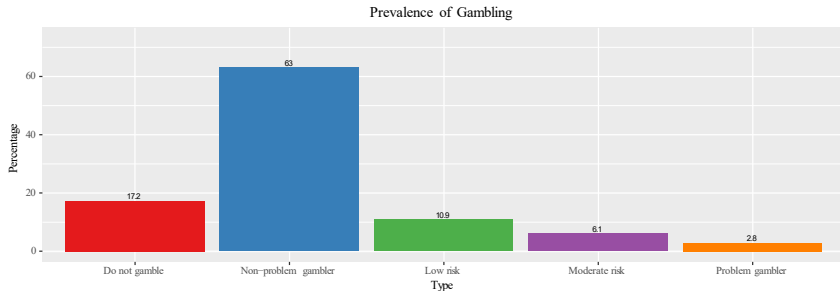
Scores place an individual in one of the following categories:

- No risk: 0
- Low risk: 1 to 2
- Moderate risk: 3 to 7
- Problem gambler: 8 or higher

# Definitions: At-Risk and Problem Gambling

- *Low Risk:* These individuals scored 1-2 on the PGI. This group does not experience adverse consequences from gambling. People with this score range may benefit from prevention messages (education and awareness of gambling problem signs and symptoms) but would not necessarily be candidates for further intervention.
- *Moderate Risk:* These individuals scored 3-7 on the PGI. This group may experience adverse consequences from gambling, however, they do not meet diagnostic criteria for pathological gambling.
- *Problem:* These individuals scored 8 or higher on the PGI and meet diagnostic criteria for pathological gambling. This group generally exhibits loss of control and distortions in thinking regarding gambling behaviors.

# Prevalence of Gambling

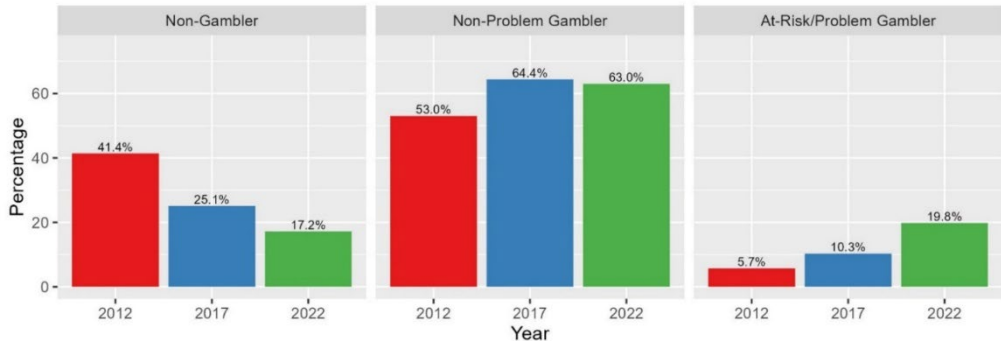


- An estimated 1,806,490 adult residents in Ohio can be categorized as low-risk, moderate-risk, or problem gamblers (or 19.8% of the general adult population)
- The prevalence of problem gambling in Ohio is 2.8%, which is an estimated 254,729 individuals among the Ohio adult population of 9,193,508



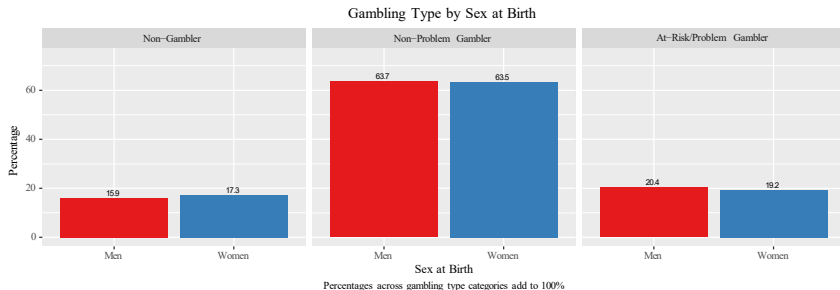
# Prevalence of Gambling Behavior by Survey Year

**Gambling Behaviors by Year**



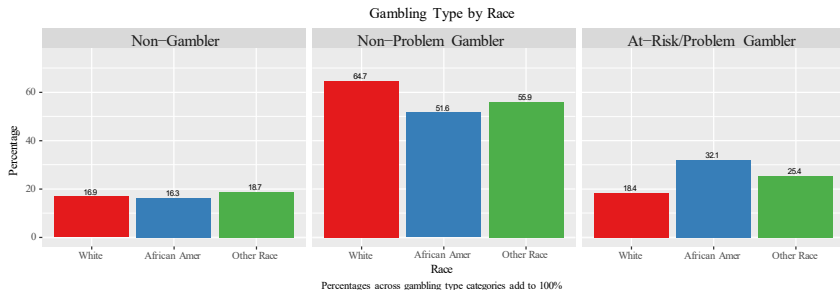
- As in other states and countries, the more opportunities there are to gamble, the more people tend to gamble – and they are more likely to experience problems with gambling.

# Gambling Type by Sex at Birth



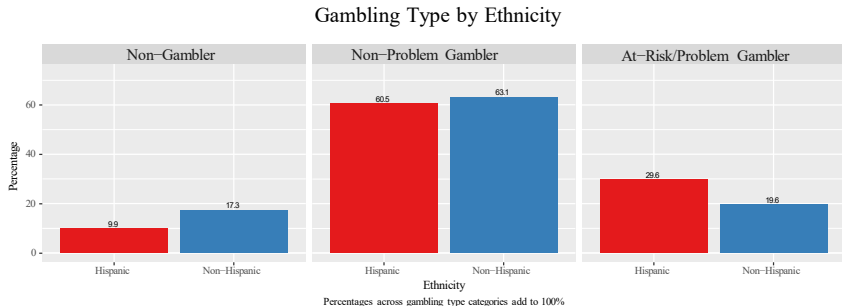
- In the 2022 OGS sample for Ohio as a whole, the sex at birth breakdown of the population is 47.6% men, and 52.4% women.
- Men and women were similar in their percentages of at-risk or problem gamblers.
- When considering gender, small sample sizes precluded reporting percentages for transgender individuals separately. When defining male and female as the transgender and cisgender members of each category, results were similar to the results for sex at birth.

# Gambling Type by Race



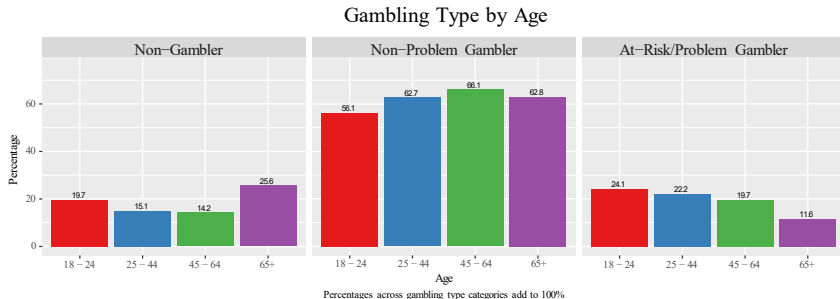
- In the 2022 OGS sample for Ohio as a whole, the race breakdown of the target population is 83.9% White, 9.3% African American, and 6.8% other race.
- When considering the mutually exclusive race groups examined, African Americans had the highest percentage of at-risk or problem gamblers and other races had the highest percentage of non-gamblers.

# Gambling Type by Ethnicity



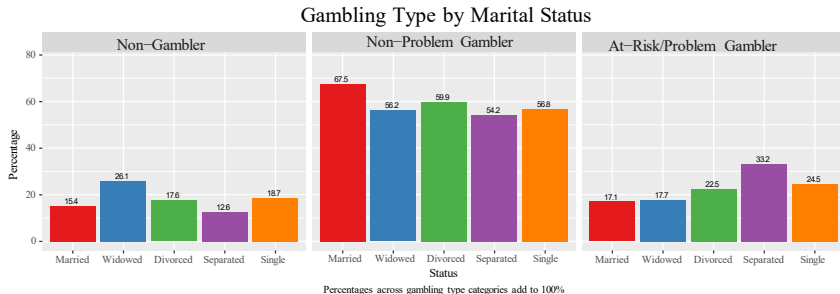
- In the 2022 OGS sample for Ohio as a whole, the ethnicity breakdown of the target population is 3.6% Hispanic and 96.4% non-Hispanic.
- Hispanics had the highest percentage of at-risk or problem gamblers and non-Hispanics had the highest percentage of non-gamblers.

# Gambling Type by Age



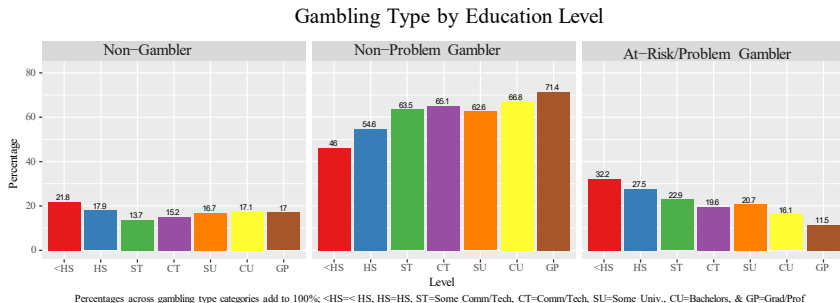
- In the 2022 OGS sample for Ohio as a whole, the age breakdown of the target population is 11.5% 18 - 24, 39.7% 25 - 44, 30.9% 45 - 64, and 17.9% 65+.
- Of the age groups examined, 18 - 24 year-olds had the highest percentage of at-risk or problem gamblers and 65+ year-olds had the highest percentage of non-gamblers.

# Gambling Type by Marital Status



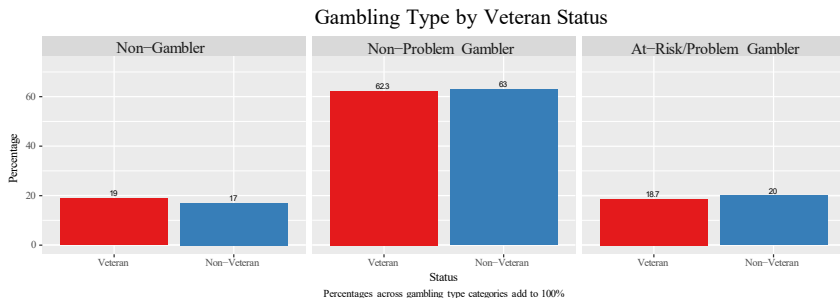
- In the 2022 OGS sample for Ohio as a whole, the marital status breakdown of the target population is 56.1% married or in a domestic partnership, 3.9% widowed, 9% divorced, 1.4% separated, and 29.6% single, never married.
- Of the sample, separated individuals had the highest percentage of at-risk or problem gamblers and widowed had the highest percentage of non-gamblers.

# Gambling Type by Education Level



- In the 2022 OGS sample for Ohio as a whole, the education level breakdown of the target population is 3.1% less than high school, 18.7% high school diploma or equivalent, 9.9% some community/technical college, 5% completed community/technical college, 23.3% some university, 25.3% bachelor's degree, and 14.6% graduate/professional degree.
- The education level groups were similar in their percentages of at-risk or problem gamblers.

# Gambling Type by Veteran Status



- In the 2022 OGS sample for Ohio as a whole, the veteran status breakdown of the target population is 93.1% non-veteran and 6.9% veteran.
- Veterans and non-veterans were similar in their percentages of at-risk or problem gamblers.



# Past 12 Month Forms of Gambling Asked About

## Lottery

- Daily lottery tickets
- Instant win, scratch tickets
- Lottery tickets like Mega Millions, Powerball

## Casino/Racino

- Slot machines/video terminals
- Played poker
- Played blackjack
- Played other games

## Sports (bet on)

- Sports pools or lotteries
- Fantasy sports
- Horse races
- Games of skill

## Gaming

- Bet on eSports
- Bet on arcade or video games
- Made in-app or in-game purchase
- Bet on in-app or in-game items

## Internet/App

- Used gambling websites or apps
- Purchased lottery tickets online

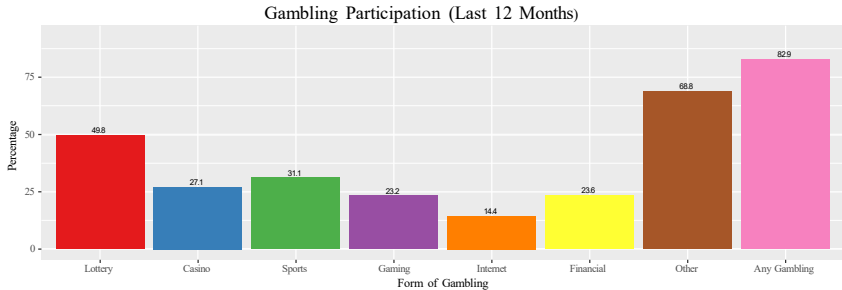
## Financial Markets

- Day trading
- Invest in Cryptocurrencies

## Other

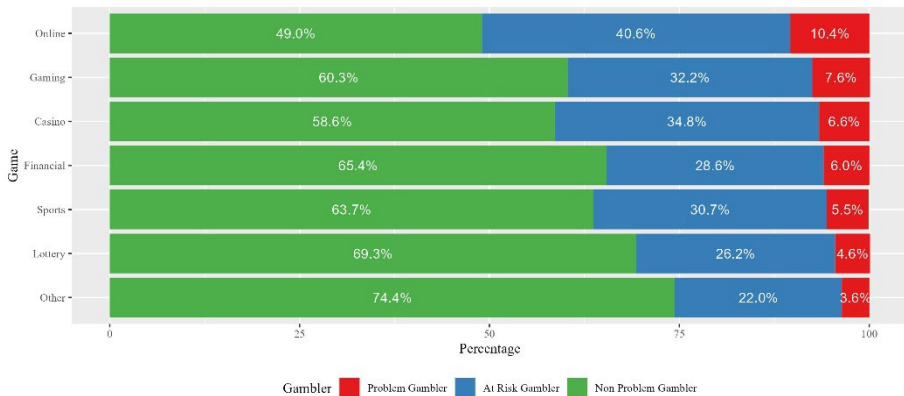
- Bet on card or board games
- Played Bingo, pull-tabs
- Raffle/fundraising tickets

# Gambling Participation in the Population (Last 12 Months)



- The two most common forms of gambling in the state were lottery and sports (excluding other).

# Percentage of At-Risk/Problem Gambling by Game Type



- Online consists of using gambling websites or apps and playing games in app. Gaming consists of betting on eSports, arcade or video games, and in-app or in-game items (including purchases). Other consists of betting on card or board games, bingo, and raffles or fundraising tickets.
- The two game types with the most problem gamblers were online and gaming.

# Forms of Lottery Gambling Examined (with examples)

## Daily Lottery

- Pick 3
- Pick 4
- Rolling Cash 5
- KENO

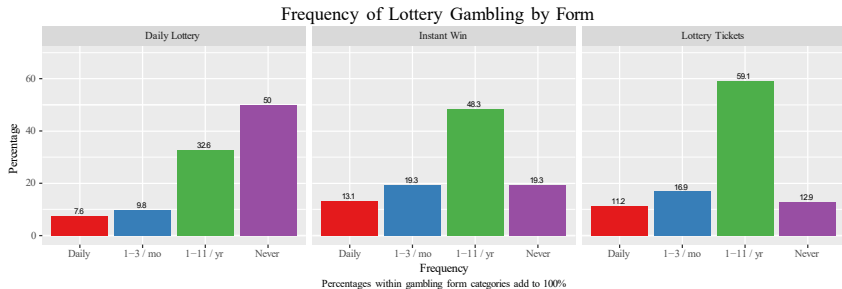
## Instant Win

- Ez-Play
- Scratch Tickets

## Lottery Tickets

- Mega Millions
- Powerball
- Classic Lotto

# Lottery Gambling in Past 12 Months

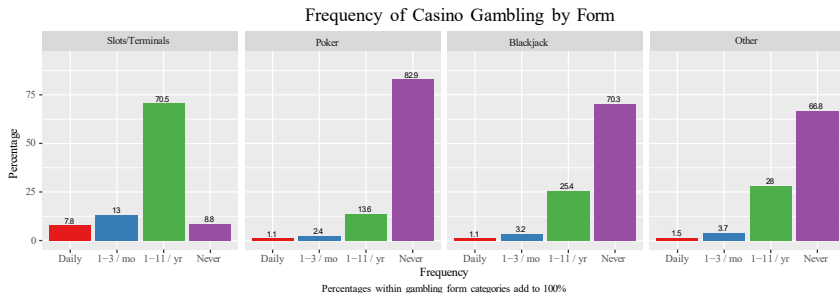


- The most popular form of lottery gambling was lottery tickets.

# Forms of Casino/Racino Gambling Examined (with examples)

- Bet or Spend Money on Slot Machines or Video Lottery Terminals
- Played Poker in a Casino
- Played Blackjack in a Casino
- Other Games at Casino (e.g., roulette, craps, and baccarat)

# Casino Gambling in Past 12 Months



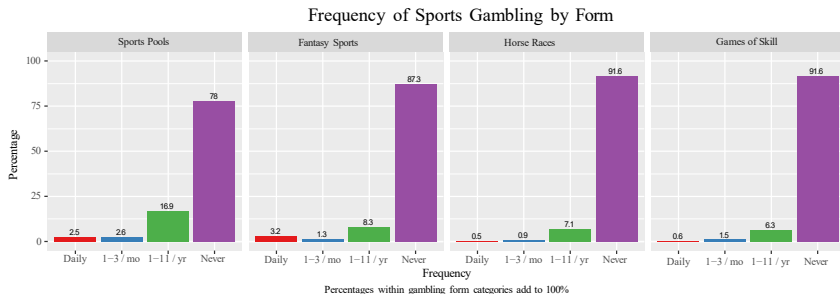
- The most popular form of casino/racino gambling was slots/terminals.

# Forms of Sports Gambling Examined (with examples)

- Sports Pools or Sports Lotteries (e.g. March Madness Brackets, NFL Survivor Pools, MLB Beat the Streak)
- Bet on Fantasy Sports (e.g., fantasy football)
- Bet on Horse Races at the Track or an Off-Track Facility
- Bet on Games of Skill (e.g., pool, bowling, darts)



# Sports Gambling in Past 12 Months

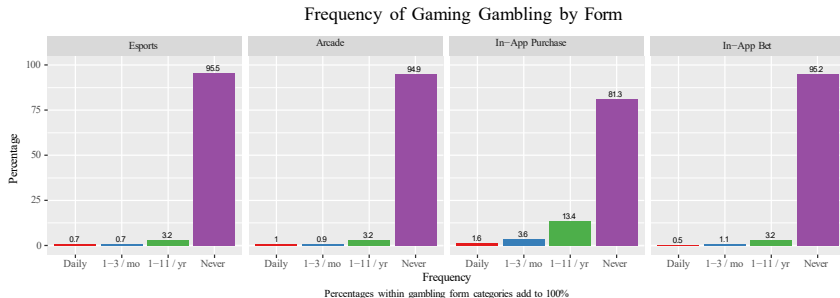


- The most popular form of sports betting was sports pools.

# Forms of Gaming Gambling Examined (with examples)

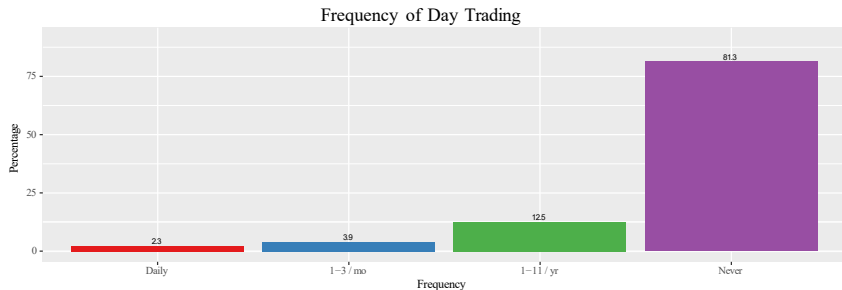
- Bet on the Outcome of an e-Sports Match, Tournament, or Championship
- Bet on Arcade or Skilled Video Games (through streaming service like Twitch or in-person)
- In-App or In-Game Purchase (e.g., skin, loot box)
- In-App or In-Game Auction/Bidding (e.g., skin, loot box)

# Gaming Gambling in Past 12 Months



- The most popular form of gaming gambling was in-app purchase.

# Day Trading in Past 12 Months

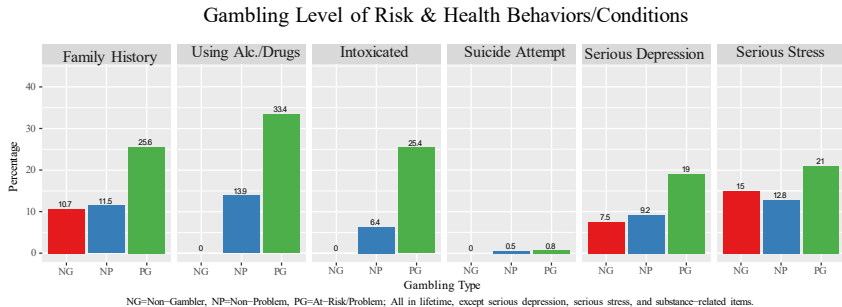


- Day Trading In Stocks, Options, or the Commodities Markets
- Does Not Include Mutual Funds or Retirement Savings Plans

# Potential Consequences of Gambling Examined

- Anyone in family had a gambling problem
- Used alcohol or drugs while gambling (past 12 months)
- Gambled while drunk or high (past 12 months)
- Seriously thought about or attempted suicide as a result of gambling
- Felt seriously depressed "most of the time" or "almost always" (past 12 months)
- Experienced physical, medical, or emotional problems brought on by stress "most of the time" or "almost always" (past 12 months)

# Gambling Level of Risk and Health Behaviors/Conditions



- Based on survey data, problem gambling is often related to a higher co-occurrence of risk factors, including a family history of gambling problems, using alcohol or drugs, gambling while intoxicated, experiencing serious depression, and experiencing serious stress.



**PGNO**  
PROBLEM GAMBLING  
NETWORK OF OHIO

# THE STATE OF PROBLEM GAMBLING IN OHIO

## WHAT IS PROBLEM GAMBLING?

Problem gambling, sometimes referred to as “gambling addiction” or “gambling disorder”, is gambling behavior that is damaging to a person or their family, often disrupting their daily life and career.

### SCOPE OF PROBLEM

**Individuals At-Risk:** 1 in 5 Ohioans, approximately 1.8 million individuals, are at risk for developing a gambling problem.

**Prevalence:** Approximately 2.8% or 255,000 individuals among Ohio’s adult population have a gambling disorder.

### WHO IS AT RISK?

**Anyone who gambles.** Problem gambling can impact anyone regardless of economic, social, cultural background, or education. Certain factors can increase risk: genetics, environment, medical history, and age.

**Gambling is more than just casinos,** it can also be sports betting, online gaming, cryptocurrency, day trading and more.

**Children and teens** are at higher risk than adults. Individuals who start gambling at a young age are also more likely to develop a gambling addiction later in life.

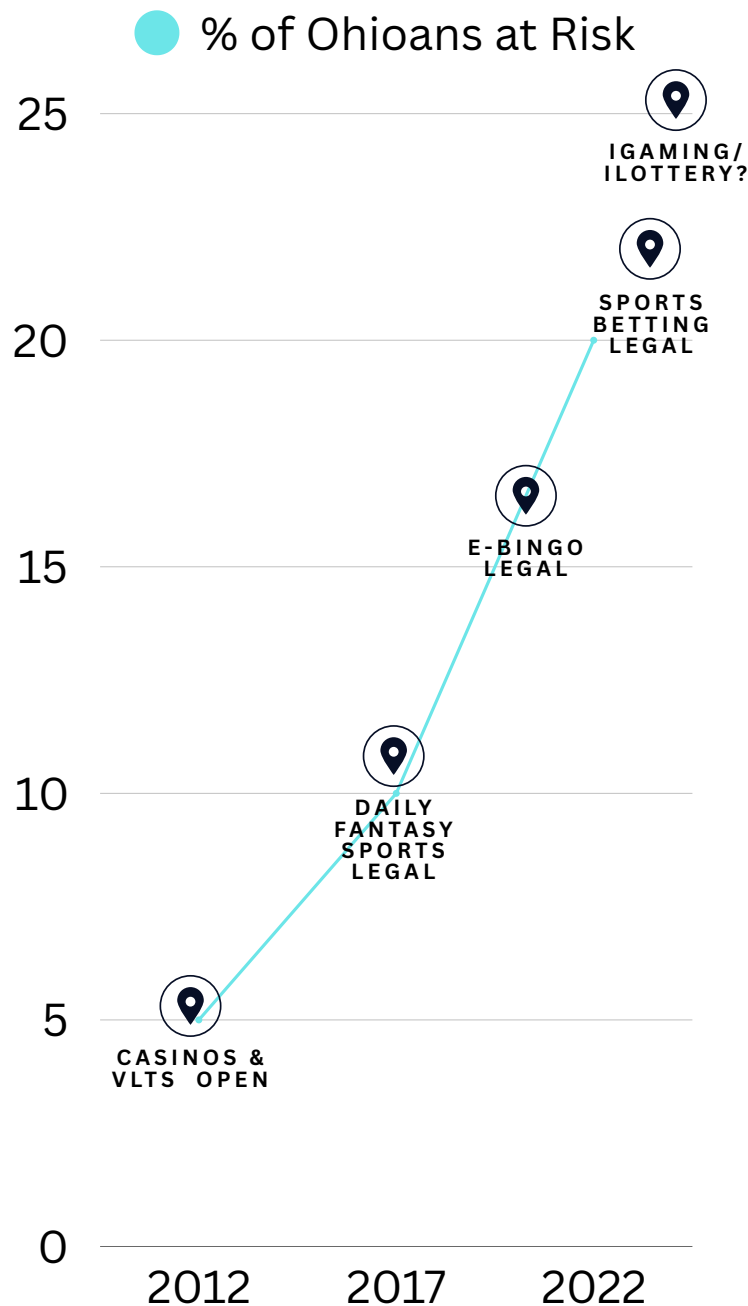
**How can a person be addicted to something that isn't a substance?** Just as a person builds tolerance to drugs or alcohol, a person with unhealthy gambling habits finds that it takes increasing gambling experiences to achieve the same emotional effect as before. This creates an increased urge for the activity and makes it harder to resist.

### GAMBLING & SUICIDE

Gambling has the highest rate of suicide amongst addictions. Roughly **1 in 5** problem gamblers will attempt suicide.

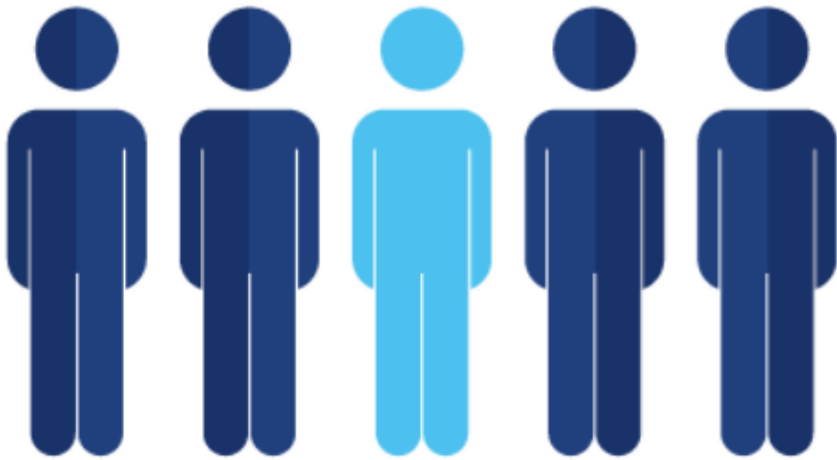
Because of this high risk for suicidality, it is important to screen for immediate harm. **988** is the national suicide hotline number, and will take calls and texts 24/7.

### EXPANSION AND RISK



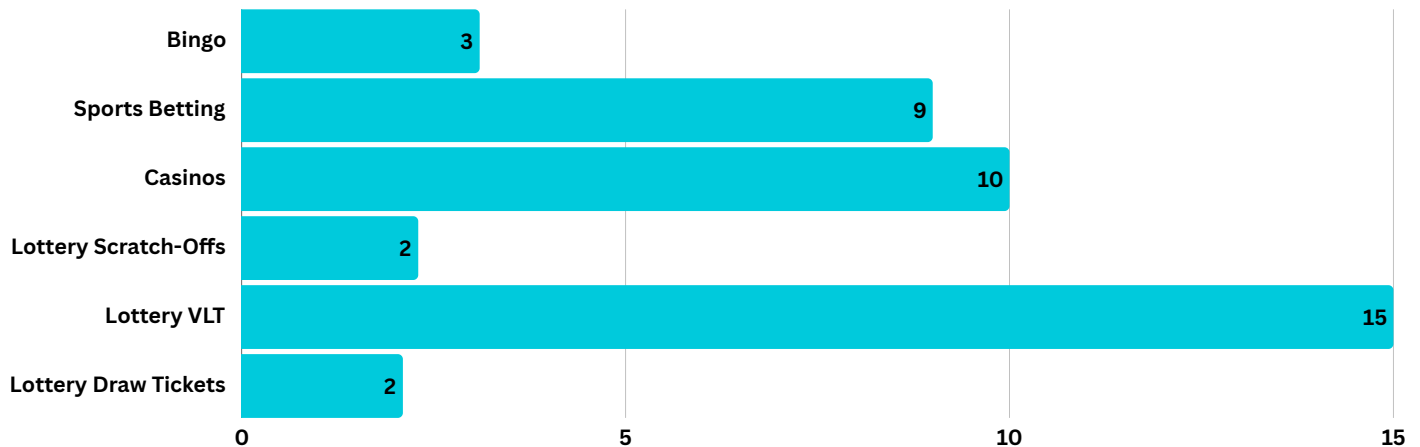
# TRUE COSTS OF GAMBLING

## GAMBLING AND SUICIDE



**1-IN-5  
STRUGGLING  
WITH GAMBLING  
WILL ATTEMPT  
SUICIDE**

## **\$41 BILLION SPENT IN 2024**



## RESOURCES AVAILABLE



**Ohio Gambling  
Telehealth Network**

Ohio Gambling Telehealth Network (OGTN) provides counseling services to those without local access to qualified counselors specifically trained to address problem gambling concerns or gambling disorder. All Ohio residents, regardless of ability to pay, will be considered for services with OGTN if they are living with gambling-related harms.

**Learn more at:** [OhioGTN.org](https://OhioGTN.org)

**Phone:** (614) 750-9877

**Resources for individuals:** [OhioGTN.org/Individuals](https://OhioGTN.org/Individuals)

**Resources for families:** [OhioGTN.org/LovedOnes](https://OhioGTN.org/LovedOnes)

**PGNO is committed to providing leadership & innovation to enhance Ohio's problem gambling service system through collaboration, advocacy, and support.**



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