

COLLEGE GAMBLING FACTS AND STATISTICS

What are the odds

- Of a college player becoming a pro football player: **3,000 to 1**
- Of being struck by lightning: **280,000 to 1**
- Of winning a Powerball jackpot: **140,000,000 to 1**

College Students and Gambling

- Youth rates of being at-risk for problem gambling are 2 to 3 times higher than adult rates
- Nearly all U.S. colleges and universities have policies on student alcohol use; however, only 22% have a formal policy on gambling
- Researchers estimate that 75% of college students gambled during the past year, whether legally or illegally
- Approximately 6% of college students in the U.S. have a serious gambling problem
- The most frequently chosen gambling activity for college students is the lottery at 41%, followed by card games at 38%, and sports betting at 23%

Sports Betting on College Campuses

- About 67% of all college students bet on sports.
- Nearly 30% of male athletes bet on sports. The report stated that 26% of these athletes started gambling prior to high school, and 66% began in high school.
- Athletes are at high risk for sports gambling because of their competitive personalities, need for action and excitement, perception of social norms, and sense of entitlement.

A Perfect Storm

- **Age:** College years associated with a wide range of at risk behaviors
- **Availability:** First generation to be exposed to wide-scale legal gambling. Technological advances make placing bets easier than ever
- **Acceptability:** Operated by governments, commonly endorsed by schools, integrated into mainstream culture
- **Advertising/Media:** More than ever. Promoted as sport, glamorized, winning bias
- **Access to Cash:** The average college student receives about 25 credit card solicitations per semester (National Public Radio)

Compared to their non-gambling counterparts, students who had gambled in the past year had higher rates of:

- Binge drinking
- Marijuana use
- Cigarette use
- Illicit drug use
- Unsafe sex after drinking

Signs & Symptoms of a Compulsive Gambler

- Preoccupation with thoughts about gambling
- Asking for larger amounts of money or gambling more frequently
- Personality changes, such as irritability, restlessness, and withdrawal
- Alienation from family and friends
- Inability to cut back or stop gambling
- Lying to friends and family about how much you gamble
- Borrowing to relieve a desperate financial situation caused by your gambling
- Thinking about or committing an illegal act to finance your gambling
- Suicidal thoughts

References

National Council on Problem Gambling, National Council on Responsible Gaming REAP (Risk Education for Athletes Program), and CollegeGambling.org.

Barnes, G.M., Welte, J. W., Hoffman, J. H., & Tidwell, M.C . (2010). Comparisons of gambling and alcohol use among college students and noncollege young people in the United States. *Journal of American College Health*, 58(5), 443-452.

Huang, J. H., Jacobs, D. F., Derevensky, J. L., Gupta, R., & Paskus, T. S. (2007). A national study on gambling among U.S. college student-athletes. *Journal of American College Health*, 56(2), 93-99.

LaBrie, R. A., Shaffer, H. J., LaPlante, D. A., & Wechsler, H. (2003). Correlates of college student gambling in the United States. *Journal of American College Health*, 52(2), 53-62.

National Collegiate Athletics Association. *Don't Bet on It*. Retrieved January 17, 2011, from www.dontbetonit.org.

Nelson, T. F., LaBrie, R. A., LaPlante, D.A., Stanton, M., Shaffer, H. J., & Wechsler, H. (2007). Sports betting and other gambling in athletes, fans, and other college students. *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*, 78(4), 271-283.

Shaffer, H. J., Donato, A. N., LaBrie, R. A., Kidman, R. C., & LaPlante, D.A. (2005). The epidemiology of college alcohol and gambling policies. *Harm Reduction Journal*, 2(1), 1.

Weinstock, J., Whelan, J. P., Meyers, A. W., & Watson, J. M. (2007). Gambling behavior of student-athletes and a student cohort: what are the odds? *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 23(1), 13-24.



Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling

Helpline: 800-522-4700

www.mdproblemgambling.com

HCDrugFree
Empowering the Community

HC DrugFree is pleased to partner with the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling. For more information about free educational programs and resources, please visit www.hcdrugfree.org or call 443-325-0040.