

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

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