

Youth Gambling and Gaming: Prevention Strategies in a Digital World for Hispanic Communities.

Today we'll explore the growing challenge of youth gambling in Hispanic communities.

We'll examine the risk factors, warning signs, and culturally-relevant prevention strategies.

Por: Anita Costales





"When everyone is
included, everyone wins"
Jessie Jackson



HISPANICS ARE CRITICAL TO THE ECONOMY**WORKFORCE****FUTURE OF AMERICA WORKFORCE**

74% of US new workers are
Hispanic.

40% of US workforce is
Hispanic

+250% the growth of latino
workforce in the last 25 Y.

VOTERS & TAXPAYER

AN AGING AMERICA IS COUNTING
ON LATINO CONTRIBUTIONS TO SS & MEDI

31.5M Latinos were eligible to
vote in 2020

\$102B to social security

\$215B Federal, State and local
tax revenues come from
Hispanic



The Rising Concern: Youth Gambling in the Digital Age

62%

Sleep Issues

Adults reporting sleep problems due to
gambling activities

24/7

Accessibility

Constant availability through mobile
devices

\$50B+

Gaming Industry

Annual revenue from microtransactions and
loot boxes

The line between gambling and gambling
continues to blur. Hispanic youth face unique
challenges in this digital landscape.



71%

71% of parents reported their children's gaming habits as a major family problem.

zipdo



8.5% of U.S. youth gamers
(ages 8-18) show signs of
behavioral addiction.

zipdo

HISPANICS ARE VERY DIGITAL

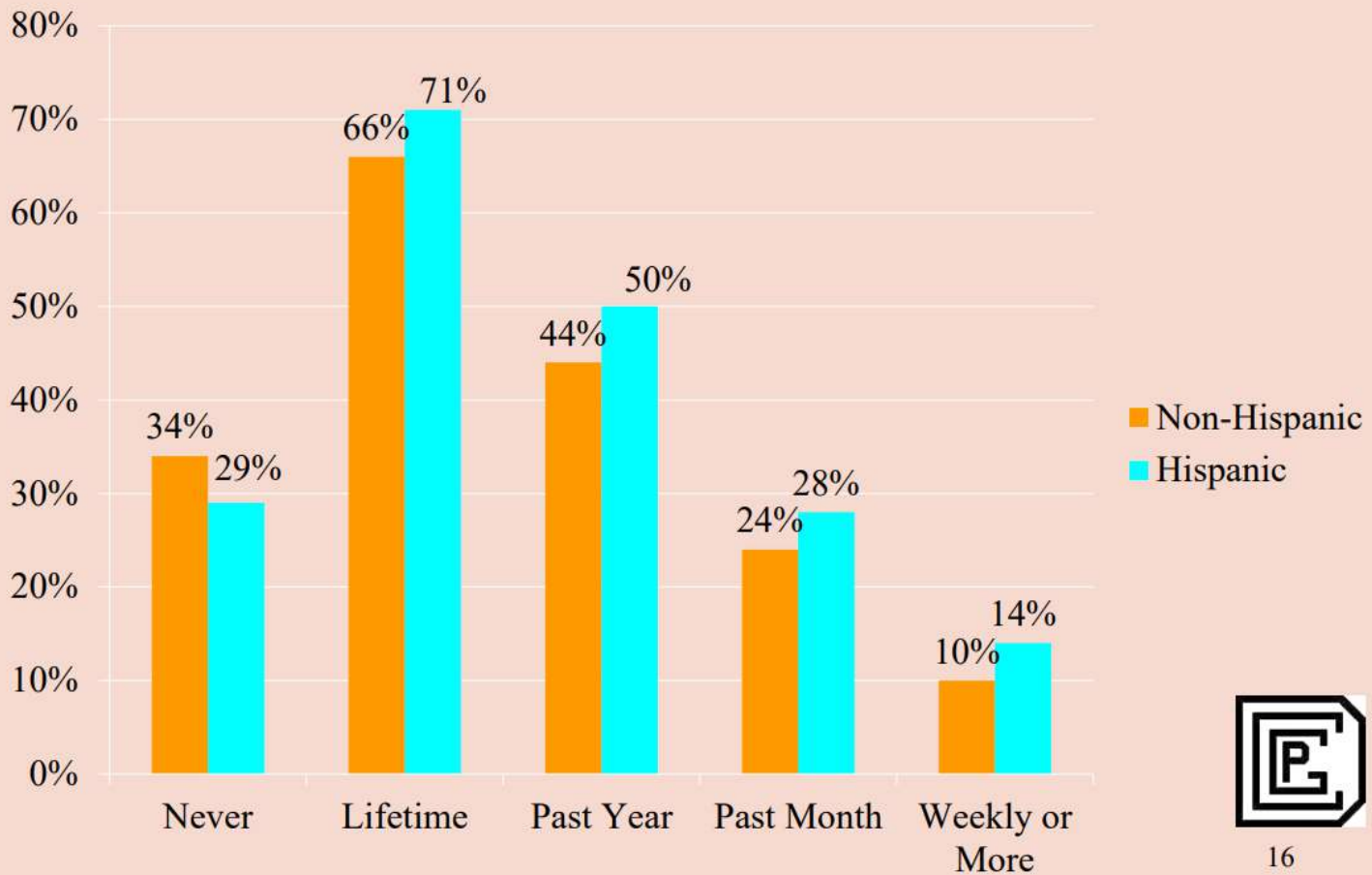
75% of Latinos are active Users versus 65% of total Population.

17% more likely to access To web. More through their Phone than a computer.

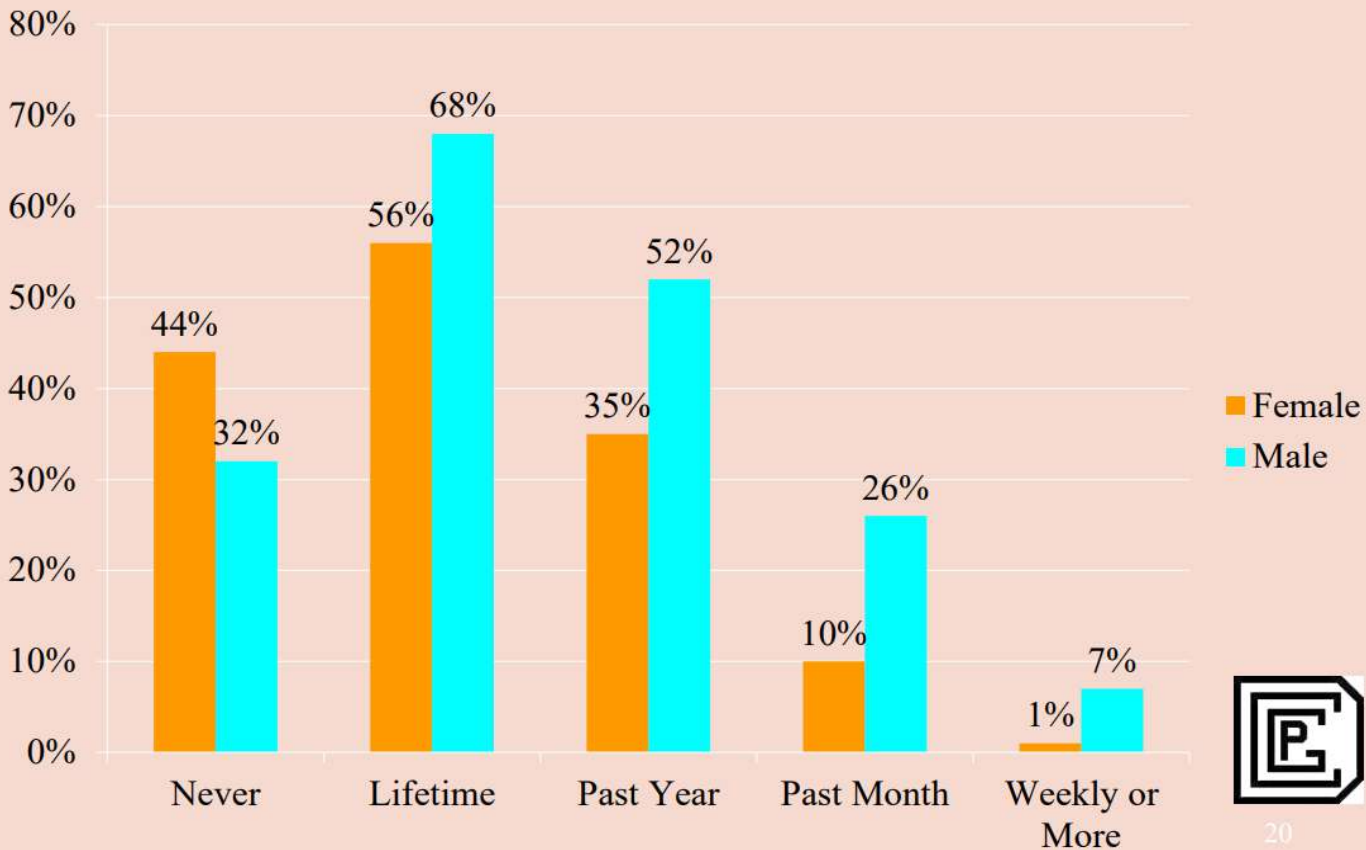
Latinos lead in the use of twitter with **11.1%** vs 6.7% of non-Hispa. Spending 6 hours a day in social M

34% of Latinos are eSports fans VS 18% of non- Hispanics

Gambling Among 2022 Delaware 5th Graders by Hispanic Ethnicity



Gambling Among 2022 Hispanic Delaware 11th Graders by Gender



Risk Factors for Hispanic Youth

Cultural and socioeconomic factors

Traditional games often involve betting elements
Familyism and machismo.
Gambling seen as potential financial solution

Acculturation

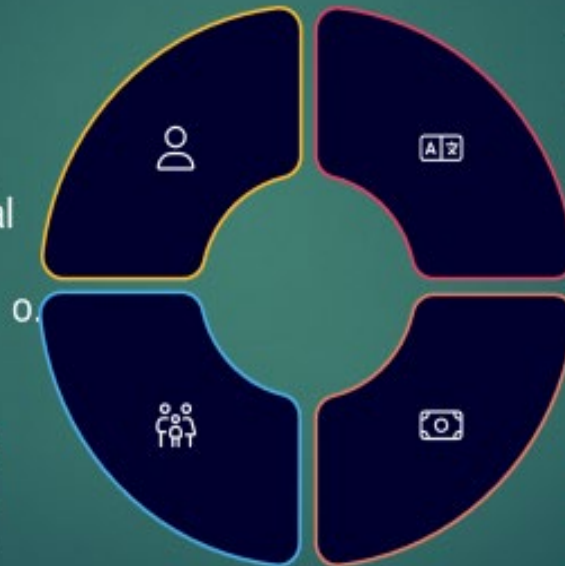
Process of adapting to a new culture can lead to addictive behaviors

Environmental and Social Factors

The widespread availability of G&G options. Online platforms, casinos, Race tracks.

Mental Health and Trauma

Depression; 2023, approximately 20.6% suffer some forms.
Anxiety, Trauma



Prevention Strategies for Hispanic Communities



Digital Literacy and Responsible Gaming

Recognize Gambling elements.

Identify loot boxes, slot mechanics.

Set Healthy Boundaries

Establish time limits and spending restrictions for digital activities.

Develop critical thinking

Learn to analyze odds and understand the house always wins.

Recognize techniques designed to trigger compulsive behaviors.

Protective Factors of the Hispanic Community

- ▶ Family and Social Support
- ▶ Cultural Values and Traditions
- ▶ Community and Cultural Assets

DCGP— PREVENTION PROGRAM

- ▶ build on the strengths of our community, including at schools providing culturally responsive and bilingual accessible resources to help our students and community navigate the digital world safely and healthy.
- ▶ Teaching coping skills and stress management techniques to the students
- ▶ Encouraging positive relationships with family and peers.



- ▶ DCGP Promoting healthy recreation and social connections, in collaboration with others organizations.
- ▶ Promoting cultural pride and identity.
- ▶ Providing opportunities for social skills development and practice





Resources and Support for Hispanic Families

* Help line 24/7

888-850-8888

Providing Spanish translations.

* GamblerAnnonymous.org/es
website resource.

* DCGP offers free therapy for
gambling problems, along with free
translation services.



DELAWARE COUNCIL ON
GAMBLING PROBLEMS, INC

¡Feliz Mes de la Herencia Hispana! May our cultures continue to unite and inspire us.



‘No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive.’ – Mahatma Gandhi

¡Hola!



José Camacho-Vargas

Responsible Gaming Specialist

MLGCA





José Camacho-Vargas
Responsible Gaming Specialist
MLGCA

Gaming Experience

- **Responsible Gaming Specialist**
 - Since March 2023
- **Casino Compliance Representative**
 - 4 years
- **Surveillance:
Operator/Supervisor/Technician**
 - 6 years

Over 12 years experience in the gaming industry in multiple roles.

Began career working Surveillance in a Casino and now work on the regulatory side for the State of Maryland.





Human Experience

- Born in Puerto Rico
- Latino/Hispanic
- Bilingual
- Currently reside in Baltimore, MD
- Favorite dish: Bistec Encebollado
- Army Brat
- Video Game enthusiast
- Comic Book fan
- Rap/Hip-Hop/R&B lover
- Bad Bunny & Tego Calderon fan
- Diamond Rank in Street Fighter 6
- Platinum in League of Legends
- Believes Goku can beat Superman



WHAT IS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH?



Hispanic Heritage Month Facts

- Hispanic Heritage Month is a month-long celebration of Hispanic and Latino history and culture.
- Runs from September 15 to October 15.
- Originally started as a week in 1968 under Lyndon B. Johnson.
- Later expanded to encompass a whole month in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan.
- Multiple Hispanic countries celebrate their independence on September 15.
 - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua
- **62.6 million!** The Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2021, per the Census.
- 18.9% of the total population.
- People of Mexican origin make up nearly 60% of the nation's Hispanic population as of 2021-2023 Census data.

Hispanic/Latino/Latinx/Latine

What does it mean?

- **Hispanic:**

from or connected with Spanish-speaking countries, especially those in Latin America, or having parents or grandparents from these countries.

- **Latino:**

a person with ancestry from Latin America, regardless of what language they speak.
The word is a shortened form of the Spanish term *latinoamericano* ("Latin American")

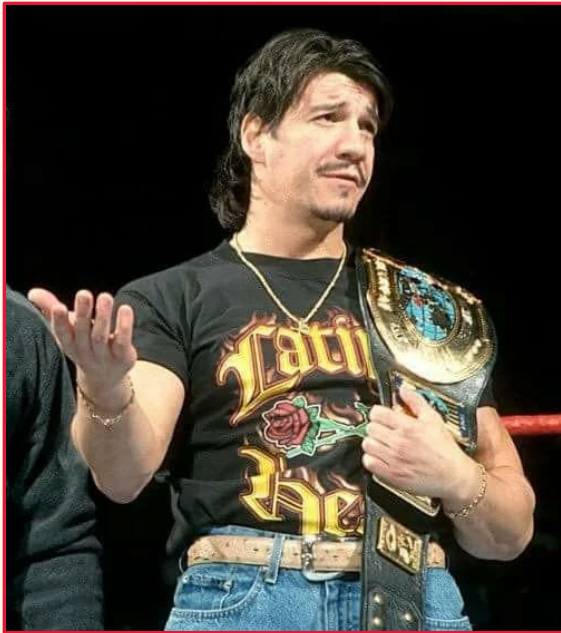
- **Latinx:**

a gender-neutral or non-binary alternative to the Spanish-language words Latino and Latina, which traditionally refer to people of Latin American descent.
The term was created to promote inclusivity for those who do not identify as male or female.

- **Latine:**

Latine is a gender-neutral term for people of Latin American heritage, a Spanish-language alternative to Latino/Latina/Latinx and is more easily pronounceable for Spanish speakers. The term uses the Spanish letter 'e' to replace the gendered 'o' and 'a' endings, mirroring existing non-gendered words in Spanish, like "estudiante" (student)

Famous Hispanic/Latino People You May Know



Eddie Guerrero

Professional Wrestler
(WCW, WWE)



Antonio Banderas

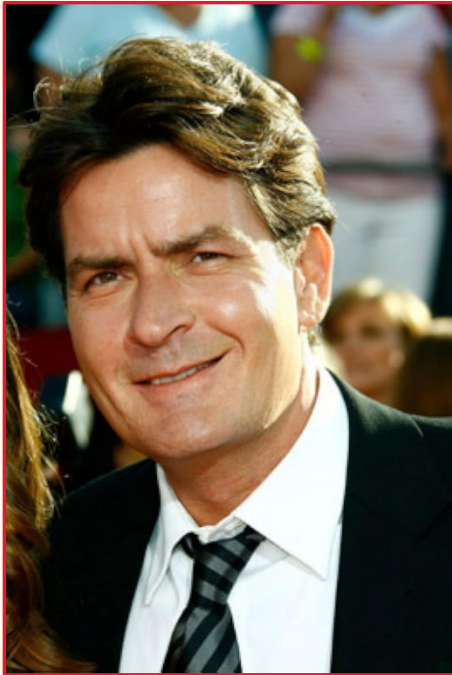
Actor
(Desperado, Puss in Boots)



Pedro Pascal

Actor
(Game of Thrones, Mandalorian)

Famous People You May **NOT** Know are Hispanic/Latino



**Charlie Sheen aka
Carlos Irwin Estévez**

Actor
(Two and a Half Men, Wall Street)



**Oscar Isaac aka
Óscar Isaac Hernández Estrada**

Actor
(Dune, Moon Knight)



**Bruno Mars aka
Peter Gene Hernandez**

Recording Artist
(24k Magic, Doo-Wops & Hooligans)

DID YOU KNOW?



Zoe Saldaña, who is of Puerto Rican and Dominican heritage, is the only actor in history to have starred in four films that have grossed over **\$2 billion** worldwide: Avatar (2009), Avengers: Infinity War (2018), Avengers: Endgame (2019), and Avatar: The Way of Water (2022).

With her appearances in these blockbuster franchises, her films have collectively grossed over \$14 billion, making her one of the highest-grossing actresses of all time.

Hispanic/Latino Contributions



Guillermo González Camarena:
Invented an early color television transmission system which helped bring color TV to Mexico! A simplified version of his system was even used by NASA in 1979 to capture and transmit color images from space!



Olga D. González-Sanabria:
highest-ranking Hispanic at the NASA Glenn Research Center. She also contributed to the development of nickel-hydrogen battery technologies which is most notably used to power the International Space Station (ISS).



Luis von Ahn:
a Guatemalan American entrepreneur and computer scientist, co-founded Duolingo and co-invented CAPTCHA.

My Hispanic/Latino Experience and Gambling

- The Lottery was and still is very popular in Puerto Rico.
- Cockfighting, Horse Racing, Casinos, and other forms of gambling are present on the island.
- Cockfighting is part of the culture in Puerto Rico and persists regardless of the federal ban.
- “El Premio Mayor”, was a massively successful telenovela produced in Mexico about a working-class man who won the national lottery. This show aired in the mid 90s.
- Sports wagering is legal in Mexico and Puerto Rico.
- Soccer is the most popular sport in Mexico.
- Baseball is the most popular sport in Puerto Rico.



2024 Prevalence Study

Key Findings:

*Hispanic/Latino adults have **similar or slightly higher rates** of gambling participation compared to the general population.*

***Higher rates of problem gambling** observed among Hispanic/Latino individuals in several studies.*

***Cultural acceptance** of gambling (e.g., family traditions, social gatherings, lottery) can normalize behavior early in life.*

***Barriers to treatment** include language, stigma, and lack of culturally relevant resources.*

*Many individuals may **not identify as having a gambling problem**, even when behaviors are concerning.*

Important Takeaway:

→ Hispanic/Latino communities are not at higher risk because of culture — but cultural and social factors can influence how gambling is perceived, experienced, and addressed.

MD Voluntary Self-Exclusion

What It Is:

- A voluntary self-exclusion program allowing individuals to ban themselves from certain gambling activities in Maryland.

Ways to Self-Exclude:

- In person at one of the **6 casinos**
- By appointment with **at MLCGA Headquarters at 1800 Washington, Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21230**

Exclusion Categories:

- Casinos
- Lottery
- Instant Bingo Halls (10+ machines)
- Fantasy Sports
- Sports Wagering

Exclusion Length Options:

- Minimum **2 years**
- **Lifetime** option available

Important Notes:

- **Removal is not automatic** — requires counseling session or recovery meetings
- **Trespass citations** and **forfeiture of non-cash gaming funds** apply if breached
- Confiscated funds are transferred to **Maryland Problem Gambling Fund**

Self-Exclusion is a serious commitment — our goal is to make the process supportive, accessible, and compassionate.

Language Line

Purpose:

- Provides **real-time interpretation** for individuals who don't speak English.

Why It Matters:

- Removes **language barriers** for those seeking help.
- Expands access to **self-exclusion** and **responsible gaming resources**.
- Available to **MLGCA staff** and **Casino Compliance Representatives** statewide.

Languages Supported:

- Over **240 languages**, including Spanish, Korean, Mandarin, and more.

Recent Use Example:

- Assisted a **Korean-speaking individual** during a self-exclusion process.

THANKS!

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