Rolling the Dice on Our Future: Preventing Youth Problem Gambling

Maryland Center of Excellence: January 2026

SAUL MALEK

OBJECTIVES

Learn how gambling can harm young people (beyond financial consequences)

Develop strategies for preventing youth gambling harm

Learn how gambling affects diverse populations of young people

WOULD YOU PUSH IT?

MEET SAUL

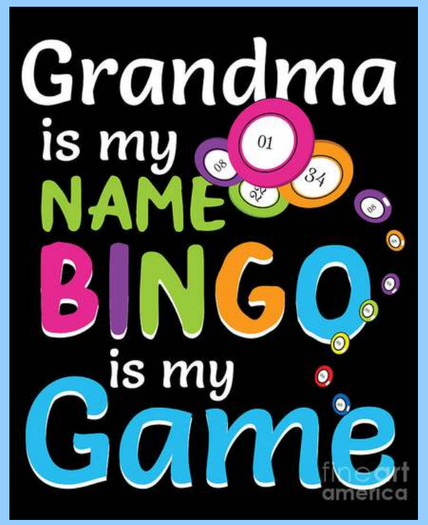


- I’ve been there
- Keynote speaker on problem gambling
- Experience with parents and behavioral health centers

GAMBLING:

"THE PRACTICE OF RISKING MONEY OR OTHER STAKES IN A GAME OR BET"- MERRIAM-WEBSTER









A RELEVANT ISSUE?

- 2018 Supreme Court Decision
- Unavoidable in the media
- Starting to garner attention

HOW???


FLIFF
FREE TO PLAY
SOCIAL SPORTS GAMES


DER VILLARES
TONY CHA
DEATH TORRES
PLEDGE EDUCATOR


Aviator
145.47x
20.00
BET
20.00
BET


NEW CUSTOMERS
BET $5
GET $200
INSTANTLY
IN BONUS BETS
DRAFT KINGS
VS
GAMBLING PROBLEM? CALL 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2
(AZ/CO/IA/IL/IN/KS/KY/LA/MD/ME/MI/NJ/OH/OR/PA/TN/VA/VT/WV/WY), (800) 327-5050 OR
GAMBLINGHELPLINEMA.ORG (MA). CALL 877-8-HOPENY/TEXT HOPENY (467369)
Please Gamble Responsibly. Call 1-800-522-4700 (NH). 888-789-7777/visit ccpg.org (CT), or visit www.1800gambler.net

NOT THE SAME THING



What’s at Stake



Time

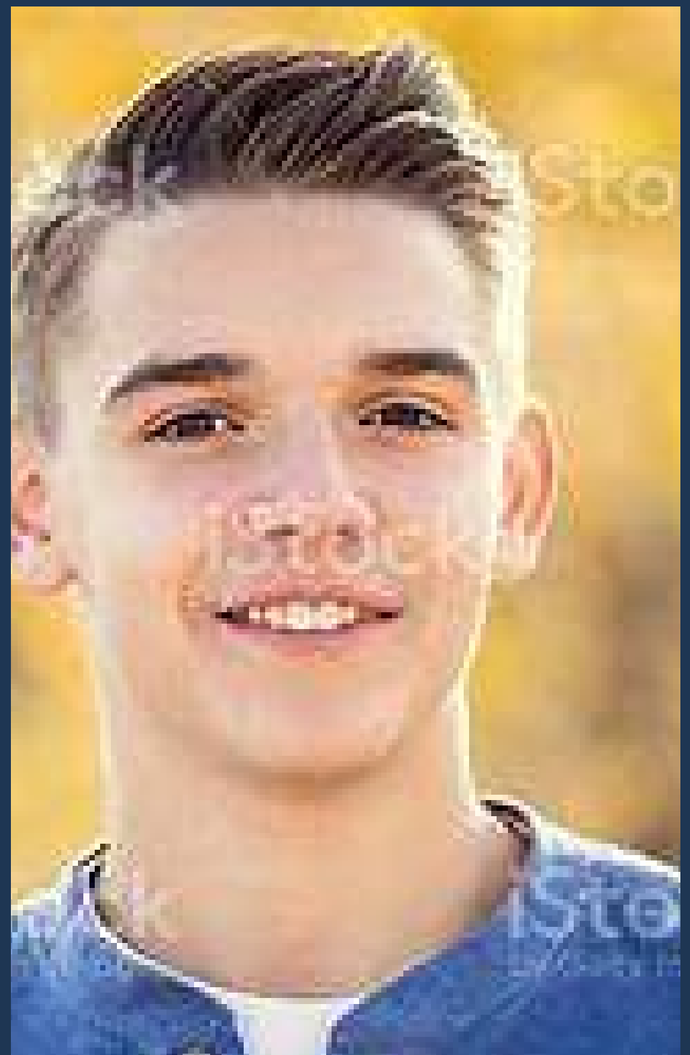


Relationships



Proper Development

BEYOND THE BUCK



“How much money did you lose?”

“Wow bro.... that’s a lot!”

IT MIGHT NOT BE YOU...



THE ODDS AREN'T EVEN

"The juice"

The celebrity influencer

Just say... maybe?



Not a Question of “If” but “When”

ORGANIC CONVERSATIONS

Communicate at THEIR level. Avoid lecturing.

AVOIDING STIGMATIZING LANGUAGE

People are not “bad,” choices have consequences.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

A child’s day does not end at school. Encourage parents to become educated on the topic.

ATTITUDES MATTER

“99 percent of gamblers quit before they win big”

YOU MAY NOT HAVE CONSIDERED

- The Stock Market Game
- March Madness brackets
- World Series pool
- Raffles/bingo/Casino Night

FUTURE

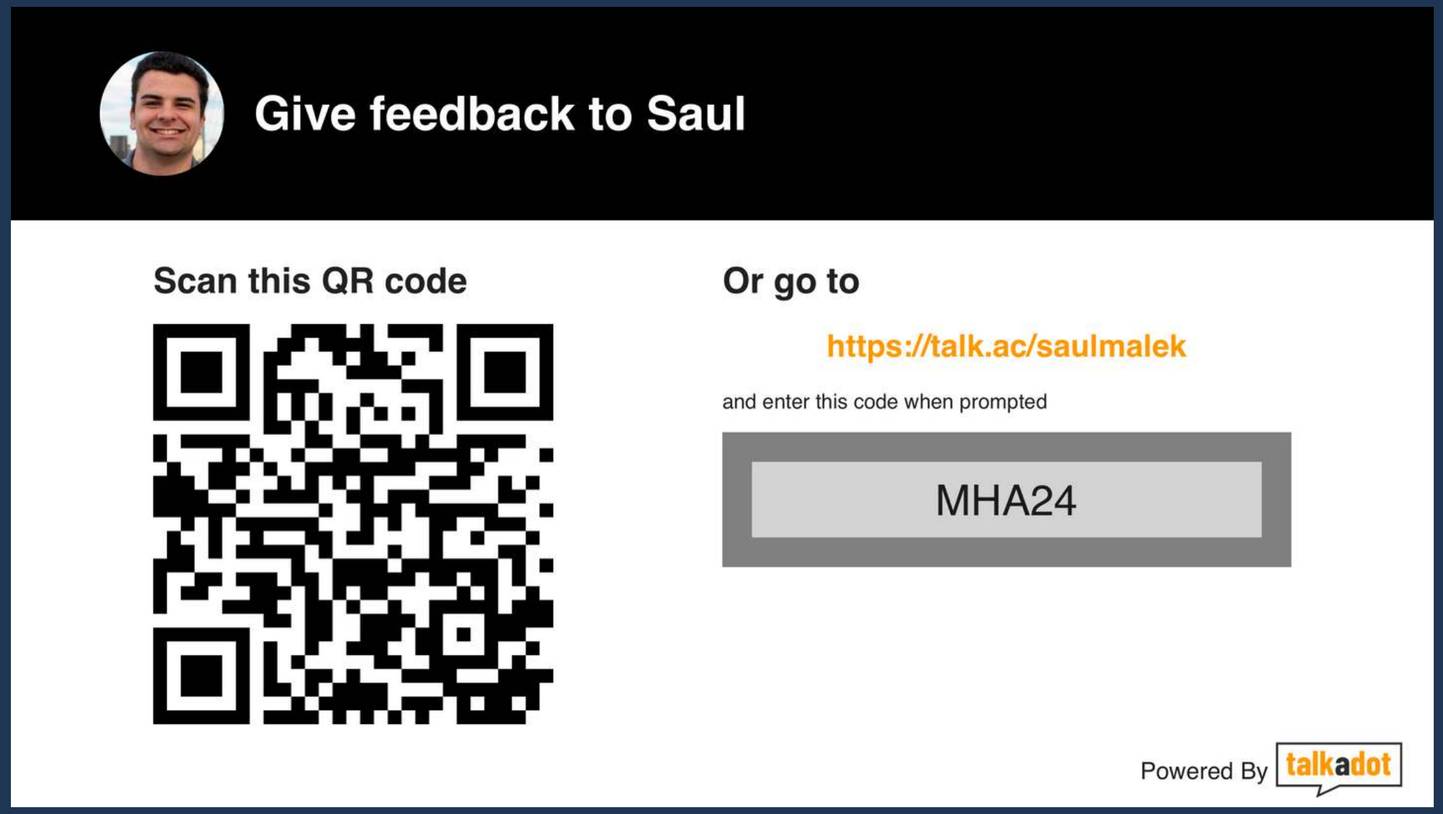
- New school policies?
- New ways to gamble?
- Need for more gambling expertise?



QUESTIONS?

THOUGHTS?

FEEDBACK


Give feedback to Saul
Scan this QR code
Or go to
https://talk.ac/saulmalek
and enter this code when prompted
MHA24
Powered By talkadot

STAY IN TOUCH!

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Saul Malek



Saul Malek

Speaker/Educator/Consultant