



**Oct. 18, 2017**

## **Second Ohio Gambling Survey Analysis Released**

(COLUMBUS) – The Ohio for Responsible Gambling coalition today released an analysis of the Ohio Gambling Survey – Round Two, a follow-up to the baseline survey done in 2012, before any of the state’s casinos and racetrack-based racinos had opened. Ohio for Responsible Gambling (ORG) includes the Ohio Commissions of Casino Control, Lottery and Racing, and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS).

The new 2016-17 survey gathered 24,000 completed responses and includes the same prevalence measurement used in 2012, the Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI). This allows for a summary of current gambling activity among Ohio adults, and highlights changes in gambling behavior over a four-year period.

The most notable statistic is that Ohioans deemed to have problem gambling, otherwise known as “gambling disorder,” total 0.9 percent. This is significantly below the national average rates of past-year problem gambling of 2.2 percent. The 0.9 percent of Ohio adults totals approximately 76,379.

“Under the leadership of Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio for Responsible Gambling partners, Ohio has committed to ensuring that prevention of problem gambling and education on responsible gambling practices reaches all citizens. For the small number who may need help due to gambling challenges, we have a quality system of care in place,” explained Director Tracy Plouck of OhioMHAS.

### **OHIO GAMBLING SURVEY 2016-17 HIGHLIGHTS**

- Ohioans estimated to be at-risk of problem gambling (843,000) constitute the prime audience for responsible gambling education.
- Younger adults, ages 18-44, were more likely to be at-risk for problem gambling, as in the 2012 survey.
- Also as in 2012, African-Americans were more likely to be in the at-risk/problem gambling group, and “other” racial groups, such as Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander, and multiracial were more likely to be in the at-risk/problem gambling group than Whites.
- Individuals who were unemployed (looking for work; not looking for work; and due to disability) had the highest rates of at-risk/problem gambling.
- Individuals with less education showed higher rates of at-risk/problem gambling than those with post-secondary education; those with some post-secondary education showed higher rates of at-risk/problem gambling than those with post-secondary degrees.
- The two activities most likely to be associated with at-risk/problem gambling were gambling in a casino/racino and sports gambling (online and fantasy football, sports bookie, horse racing).
- RELATED HEALTH CONCERNS - Individuals with a family history of problem gambling; or with a family history of alcohol/drug problems; or under a doctor’s care due to stress; and/or those who reported being seriously depressed were all most likely to be in the problem gambling category.

Ohio adults gamble in many different ways: 50-50 raffles, bingo, casinos, keno, horse racing, scratch-off tickets, lottery tickets and sports betting to name just a few. Proceeds from the taxes on casino profits and the Lottery sales help to support schools, local governments, and prevention and responsible

gambling campaigns and programs. Funds from Ohio's taxes related to gambling revenues ensure that any Ohioan who needs treatment for gambling disorder can obtain care at no cost.

Youth and adults who do not gamble, or gamble but have not had any negative experiences from gambling, make up the main audience for prevention of problem gambling messaging and education in the state.

The ORG-sponsored "Get Set Before You Bet" campaign emphasizes the importance of knowing the odds, paying bills, not playing alone, and knowing how to get help for one's self or a loved one in trouble due to gambling. The campaign website [www.beforeyoubet.org](http://www.beforeyoubet.org) offers extensive tools and resources, including a "Take the Quiz" feature that lets visitors rate their gambling activity on an at-risk scale. Nearly 30,000 Ohioans have taken the quiz to date.

The Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline is staffed 24/7 by trained referral specialists who can provide help in all areas of social service needs including counseling, financial assistance and health services. The helpline is run through the United Way of Greater Cleveland, which maintains an up-to-date referral database of health and human services to assist callers anywhere in Ohio.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-589-9966 or visit [www.beforeyoubet.org](http://www.beforeyoubet.org).

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