

# 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), andCollegeGambling.org*

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**For help in the New Jersey Area:**

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