

Baseline Negative Impacts of Gambling in Massachusetts

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Baseline Online Panel Survey

- Online Panels not representative, but useful in oversampling people with high rates of pathology (including problem gambling). Only 129 problem gamblers in Baseline General Population Survey (BGPS) using Address-Based Sampling, with $n = 9,578$.
- Ipsos Baseline Online Panel Survey (BOPS):
 - Oct 2013 – Mar 2014 (coincident with BGPS)
 - $n = 5,046$
 - Weighting via iterative raking
 - **317 problem gamblers**
 - **Modest, but significant differences with BGPS problem gamblers** (i.e., younger, more tobacco use, fewer immigrants, greater engagement in extreme sports, more bingo participation), thus results reported separately

Baseline Negative Financial Impacts of Gambling

- **Financial problems** most commonly reported negative impact of gambling
 - Gamblers: 3.9%
 - Problem Gamblers: 48.0% (BGPS) - 54.8% (BOPS)
- **Bankruptcy** because of gambling
 - Problem Gamblers: 5.2% (BOPS) - 5.6% (BGPS)
 - Projects to ~5,000 bankruptcies per year

Baseline Negative Health Impacts of Gambling

- **Health and Stress-Related problems** because of gambling almost as common
 - Gamblers: 3.8%
 - Problem Gamblers: 47.7% (BGPS) - 49.6% (BOPS)
- **Gambling-related health or mental health problems resulted in seeking medical or psychological help**
 - Problem Gamblers: 3.9% (BGPS) - 8.7% (BOPS)
 - ~6,500 people

Baseline Negative Mental Health Impacts of Gambling

- **Significant guilt, anxiety, or depression** because of gambling
 - Gamblers: 3.2%
 - Problem Gamblers: 31.4% (BOPS) - 36.5% (BGPS)
- **Suicidal thoughts** because of gambling
 - Problem Gamblers: 4.5% (BOPS) - 4.9% (BGPS)
 - ~5,000 people
- **Suicide attempts** because of gambling
 - Problem Gamblers: 0.2% (BGPS) - 3.4% (BOPS)
 - ~1,900 people

Baseline Relationship Impacts of Gambling

- **Relationship Problems** because of gambling
 - Gamblers: 1.2%
 - Problem Gamblers: 13.7% (BOPS) - 18.8% (BGPS)
- **Neglect of children or family** because of gambling
 - Problem Gamblers: 6.1% (BGPS) - 9.1% (BOPS); ~8,000 people
- **Domestic Violence** because of gambling
 - Problem Gamblers: 5.2% (BOPS) - 6.3% (BGPS); ~6,000 people
- **Separation or Divorce** because of gambling
 - Problem Gamblers: 3.7% (BOPS) - 3.8% (BGPS); ~4,000 people
- **Child Welfare Services Involvement** because of gambling
 - Problem Gamblers: 0.0% (BGPS) - 3.4% (BOPS); ~1,800 people

Baseline Work or School Impacts of Gambling

- **Work or School Problems** because of gambling
 - Gamblers: 0.4%
 - Problem Gamblers: 5.8% (BGPS) - 9.3% (BOPS)
- **Lost job or quit school** because of gambling
 - Problem Gamblers: 3.0% (BOPS) - 3.2% (BGPS); ~3,300 people
- **Received Public Assistance or Welfare Payments** because of gambling
 - Problem Gamblers: 2.3% (BGPS) - 3.0% (BOPS); ~2,800 people

Baseline Illegal Activity Impacts of Gambling

- **Committed Illegal Acts** because of gambling
 - Gamblers: 0.5%; ~11,000 people
 - Problem Gamblers: 2.7% (BGPS) - 8.4% (BOPS); ~5,800 people
- **Arrested** because of gambling
 - Problem Gamblers: 0.8% (BGPS) - 2.6% (BOPS); ~ 1,800 people
- **Convicted** of offense because of gambling
 - Problem Gamblers: 0.0% (BGPS) - 1.5% (BOPS); ~ 750 people
- **Incarcerated** because of gambling
 - Problem Gamblers: 0.0% (BGPS) - 1.5% (BOPS); ~ 750 people

Problem Gamblers in MA

- **2.0% population prevalence; ~105,000 people**
- **Heard or seen media campaigns to prevent problem gambling in Massachusetts:**
 - Gamblers: 49.8%
 - Problem Gamblers: 49.4% (BOPS) - 50.0% (BGPS)
- **Wanted help for gambling problems**
 - Problem Gamblers: 8.7% (BOPS) - 22.8% (BGPS)
- **Sought help for gambling problems**
 - Problem Gamblers: 0.9% (BGPS) - 11.3% (BOPS)