



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SCIENCES

# A SIX-YEAR LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF GAMBLING & PROBLEM GAMBLING IN MASSACHUSETTS

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# Legislative Mandate

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- Section 71 of Expanded Gaming Act requires MGC to establish an “annual research agenda” to assist in understanding the social and economic effects of casino gambling in MA & in making annual scientifically-based recommendations to the Legislature
  
- Essential elements of the research agenda:
  - Understand the social & economic effects of expanded gambling
  - Baseline study of problem gambling and existing prevention & treatment programs
  - Facilitate independent studies to obtain scientific information relevant to enhancing responsible gambling and minimizing harmful impacts



# Why MAGIC?

- No major gambling cohort studies of gambling in the U.S.
- Change in gambling availability in MA is opportunity to understand role of increased gambling availability in development of problem gambling
- Builds on prior longitudinal research in other jurisdictions
- Findings synergistic with SEIGMA producing richer results than either study on its own



# Research Goals

1. Monitor changes in level of gambling and problem gambling over time within the cohort that might identify **impacts of MA-casino introduction**.
2. Determine **stability and course** of problem, at-risk, and recreational gambling within the cohort.
3. Identify predictors of problem gambling onset, continuation, remission, and relapse for the purposes of developing an **etiological model of problem gambling**.
4. **Operationalize above findings to optimize treatment and prevention** of problem gambling in MA.



# Details of Each Wave

Wave	95% Assessment Window	Complete	Response/Retention
1	Sep 2013 – Apr 2014	3,096	36.6% response
2	Mar – Jun 2015	3,139	65.1% response
<i>Jun 24, 2015: Opening of Plainridge Park Casino (PPC)</i>			
3	Apr – Jul 2016	2,450	78.1% retention
4	<i>Postponed due to budgetary constraints</i>		
4	Apr – Jun 2018	2,444	81.1% retention
<i>Aug 24, 2018: Opening of MGM Springfield (MGM)</i>			
5	Mar – Jun 2019	2,382	79.7% retention
<i>Jun 23, 2019: Opening of Encore Boston Harbor (EBH)</i>			

- Wave 1 over-selected for at-risk characteristics: all problem gamblers, at-risk gamblers, weekly gamblers, >\$1200 past year gambling expenditure, military service.
- Limited number of variables assessed in Wave 1 and 2; comprehensive set included in Waves 3 – 5.