



# By the Numbers

## A Research Analysis of Gambling and Problem Gambling in Kentucky

Prepared by the Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling (KYCPG)

Kentucky is a gambling state. There are three broad categories of legal gambling in Kentucky: lottery, parimutuel wagering, and charitable gaming. Annually, more than \$2 billion is spent on legal gambling in Kentucky; and additional money is spent on unregulated, unsupervised, and potentially illegal gambling. State government receipts from taxes, fees and fines, and transfer payments from legal, legislatively sanctioned gambling is approaching \$400 million annually.

The latest survey of gambling activity in Kentucky by IPSOS, a survey firm that conducted the survey for the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), showed that 78 percent of Kentucky adults gambled over the past year. That is more than 2.5 million Kentucky citizens. Additionally, the Kentucky Incentives for Prevention (KIP) survey conducted by REACH of Louisville, of sixth, eighth, 10th and 12th grade public school students showed more than 26 percent of high school seniors gambled for money or possessions during their lifetimes. The KIP survey indicated almost 2 percent of the more than 100,000 respondents reported gambling money or time spent gambling led to financial problems or problems with family, work, school or personal life, which are criteria for gambling addiction.

### Analysis of gambling surveys and statistics reveal:

- 102,401 - 165,791 Kentucky Adults with problem gambling traits.
- 47,020 - 64,435 Kentucky Adults with gambling addiction.
- 9,221 - 15,816 Kentucky College Students with gambling addiction.
- 9,500 - 15,759 Prison/probation/parole adults in Kentucky with gambling addiction.
- 33 percent of those with gambling addiction committed robbery.
- 13 percent of those with gambling addiction assault someone to get money.
- 73 percent of those with gambling addiction have an alcohol disorder.
- 50 percent of those with gambling addiction identify with mood disorder.
- 34 percent of those with gambling addiction suffer from PTSD.
- 19 percent of those with problem gambling considered suicide.
- 4.7 percent of those with problem gambling attempted suicide.

This analysis was performed by Scott Hunt, Ph.D., Associate Dean, College of Justice, Safety, and Military Science, Eastern Kentucky University. Dean Hunt is a member of the Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling (KYCPG) Board of Directors and serves as the KYCPG Research Committee Chair. KYCPG does not take a position for or against legal gambling. KYCPG's mission is to increase awareness of problem gambling, promote prevention and research, and advocate for the availability of treatment. Contact KYCPG at [kmstone1951@gmail.com](mailto:kmstone1951@gmail.com).

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