

Expansion of Legalized Gambling in Connecticut ~ Fact Sheet

This is the first generation in a century to grow up with access to widespread legalized gambling.

- Early America was so marred by gambling problems that states other than Nevada began banning gambling in the 1870s.¹



- After nearly a century of gambling prohibitions, New Hampshire inaugurated the state lottery in 1964, with multiple states subsequently following suit.¹
- Prior to 1990, only two states allowed casino style gambling. Currently, 48 US states allow legalized gambling, with casinos now operating in over 30 states.²
- In regions with multiple forms of legalized gambling widely available, lottery and scratch tickets are the most common gambling activities, followed by Keno and slot machines.³



What is gambling? The act of risking something of value, including money and property, on an activity that has an uncertain outcome.

What is social gambling? Social gamblers gamble for entertainment, will not risk more than they can afford, and often gamble with friends.

They gamble for a limited period of time and are not preoccupied with gambling.

Resources for Help

Problem Gambling Services
Department of Mental Health &
Addiction Services, State of CT
860-344-2244

Services include
Peer Support; Bettor Choice
Program Sites; Local, regional
and statewide Prevention
Services.

The Connecticut Council on
Problem Gambling (CCPG)
Helpline 1-888-789-7777,
www.problemgambling.org



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Gambling problems relate to accessibility.

- Rates of problem gambling are **twice as high among persons who live within 50 miles of a casino** relative to those who do not.⁴
- Prevalence rates of problem gambling are higher in surveys conducted after 1993 relative to those conducted before 1993, prior to widespread legalization of gambling.⁵
- Crimes increase, **especially property crimes**, in regions proximal to gambling venues within a few years of them opening.^{4,6}



Increases in gambling problems will require greater need for social services in CT, including:

- **Police to assist with gambling-related crimes and violence.**^{6,11}
- **Economic support for those experiencing gambling-related divorce, job loss, and bankruptcy.**^{4,12}
- **Treatment for medical and psychiatric problems associated with gambling problems.**^{7,8,1,3}



Greater access to popular types of gambling (i.e., slot machines, Keno) is likely to increase the proportion of the CT population who gamble and develop problems, especially in high risk, heavy social service utilizing groups.^{7,8}

PGS