



Effects of Sports Gambling

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Introduction

Sports gambling accounts for several billions of dollars in circulation every single month. With that being said, in recent times mobile betting has become one of the biggest innovations making sports gambling accessible from anywhere in the world with an internet connection. While the boost to the economy is great as a result, the psychological impacts on society, gamblers, families, and even the athletes are substantially demoralizing. The mental health of the subjects listed has been affected in so many ways that have led politicians, bookmakers, and therapeutic institutions to change the ways they approach online sports gambling. While the leading reason that gamblers continue to gamble is due to the “one big win” that they are ever so close to attaining, sports books are always getting the “one big win” every time a bet is placed. Through analyzing data from studies and statistics, I was able to gather information giving an overview of the impact sports gambling has had on society. By combing through countless studies I was able to find the best ones which allowed me to create concise conclusions on its effects throughout society. The results found were that while sports gambling has been great for the economy and the growth of the culture of sports, it has a history of ruining families and leading people down a path of exploitation and addiction. Overall, the study is open-ended and allows the reader to come to their own conclusion by stating both positive and negative effects. A collection of sources were collected as the purpose of the project and are expanded upon in the QR code.

Background

In 1868, the American Stud Book created the first standardized thoroughbred horse race betting in the United States, trailblazing an industry that would come to affect almost all people today. From this, gambling boomed in the economy with horse racing leading the way, with over 300 horse racing tracks being built across the United States. In 1910, sports gambling was made illegal once again due to many scandals and fraud. All of that changed once again when Las Vegas legalized betting on sports to boost their tourism industry and allowed the government to collect a 10% tax on all sports bets. This tax almost ruined the industry taking too much money from the casinos and was lowered to 2% to revive the industry. Congress was opposed to the sports gambling and beginning in the 1960s, worked to establish new laws to slow down illegal sports gambling with no avail, making sports gambling one of the biggest aspects of athletic entertainment by the 1980s. Now in the 21st Century, the industry has seen a boom like no other with online betting and legalization across most states. The increase in legalization and societal acceptability has caused a massive increase in negative effects on both individuals and society.

Demographics of sports bettors and non-sports bettors

Demographic factor	Sports bettor		Non-sports bettor	
	N	%	N	%
<i>Gender</i>				
Male	324	54.8%	247	36.2%
Female	267	45.2%	436	63.8%
<i>Marital status</i>				
Never married	177	29.7%	159	23.2%
Married	287	48.2%	327	47.8%
Divorced	40	6.7%	92	13.5%
Widowed	14	2.3%	30	4.4%
Common law/Living with partner	77	12.9%	70	10.2%
<i>Employment status</i>				
Full-time	413	69.3%	273	39.9%
Part-time	54	9.1%	103	15.1%
Unemployed	13	2.2%	32	4.7%
Student	27	4.5%	16	2.3%
Retired	55	9.2%	153	22.4%
Homemaker	18	3.0%	47	6.9%
Sick, parental or disability leave or other	16	2.7%	57	8.4%
<i>Highest level of education</i>				
Some high school/Junior high	11	1.8%	34	5%
High School	71	11.9%	134	19.6%
Some college or University	105	17.6%	130	19.0%
College/University	329	55.2%	307	44.9%
Graduate or Professional school	79	13.3%	69	10.1%

Cooper, Alysha, et al. "Predictors of Problem Gambling for Sports and Non-Sports Gamblers: A Stochastic Search Variable Selection Analysis." *Journal of Gambling Studies*, vol. 38, no. 3, Sept. 2022, pp. 767-83. EBSCOhost, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-021-10025-2>

Gambling attitude of sports bettors and non-sports bettors

Gambling attitude	Sports bettor		Non-sports bettor	
	N	%	N	%
<i>Harms versus benefits</i>				
Harms far outweigh the benefits	111	18.6%	311	45.6%
Harms slightly greater than the benefits	159	26.7%	171	25.1%
Harms equal to the benefits	203	34.1%	160	23.5%
Benefits slightly greater than the harms	89	14.9%	25	3.7%
Benefits far outweigh the harms	34	5.7%	15	2.2%
<i>Betting on sports is morally wrong</i>				
Yes	38	6.4%	65	9.5%
Unsure/don't know	102	17.2%	193	28.3%
No	453	76.4%	424	62.2%



Resources

Methods

- Participants: Gabriel Segurola
- Measures: Psychological Impact of gambling, Therapeutic records of gambling addicts, any relevant trauma related to sports gambling, effects on the economics of sports gambling
- Procedures: Searching through numerous studies summarizing the information to be easily digestible by anyone interested in the matter.
- Data Analysis: An analysis of studies by calculating percentages and ratios to come to definitive conclusions was conducted

Results / Conclusions

- Sports gambling studies show the theme of dehumanization of athletes making them seem more like chess pieces than human beings.
 - Gambling advertisements have also affected the way that children think of professional sports with studies showing that at least 1/5 of children said they will gamble when they are 18 years old with almost no negative attitude towards it displayed.
- Due to advertisements, commercials, and societal trends, sports gambling has created a toxic environment for sports and feeds on the psychological weaknesses of gamblers.
- With the increased accessibility of placing a bet anywhere in earth where there is internet connection, psychological wellbeing is being targeted and exploited with 64% of pathological gamblers having emotional trauma, 40.5% physical trauma, and 24.3% sexual trauma with a higher dependance on alcohol and attempted suicide.
- Research proves that the legalization of this industry is due to billions of dollars going unregulated and untaxed, forcing the government to change its legislation and get a cut of the profits.

Conclusion

In recent times, we have seen a rise in the social acceptance of sports gambling with sports betting legalized and the birth of online betting. This has caused a new industry to be created generation billions of dollars a year in our economy but it comes with the price of increasing addiction and targeting individuals with existing mental traumas, ultimately hurting the general public.