



Get the Facts About Gambling

Nebraska Gambling Statistics

- ➔ According to Nebraska state law, only certain forms of gaming are legal. And often, common forms of gambling such as sports betting, office pools, Internet gaming and private poker parties are actually illegal.
- ➔ Approximately 55,000 Nebraskans engage in problem gambling behaviors.¹
- ➔ In 2010, 17.5 percent of 6th graders reported gambling for money or possessions in the past 12 months. Among 12th graders, the rate increased to more than 22 percent. Youth gambling using the Internet has increased from 4.1 percent in 2007 to 13.5 percent in 2010.
- ➔ The most common forms of gambling among Nebraska youth include betting on sports, card games (such as poker), and games of personal skill; playing bingo for money; and buying lottery or scratch-off tickets.²
- ➔ In the last 10 years, more than 3,000 problem gamblers in Nebraska have been served by the Gamblers Assistance Program.

National Gambling Statistics

- ➔ Some form of legalized gambling is available in 48 states. The only two states that prohibit gambling are Utah and Hawaii.
- ➔ Approximately 85 percent of Americans have gambled at least once in their lives; 60 percent have gambled in the previous year.³
- ➔ In 2010, approximately 25 percent of Americans over age 21 had gambled in casinos in the past 12 months.
- ➔ In 2010, the lottery was the most popular form of gambling nationally, with 49 percent of Americans reporting having played the lottery in the past 12 months.⁴
- ➔ Approximately 2 million Americans (1 percent) are pathological gamblers. An additional 2 to 3 percent of Americans experience problems due to their gambling behavior, though they may not meet all the criteria to be considered pathological.³
- ➔ Approximately one in five pathological gamblers attempts suicide, a rate higher than that for any other addictive disorder.⁵

¹ Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Behavioral Health, Gamblers Assistance Program, http://dhhs.ne.gov/behavioral_health/Pages/beh_gam_gam.aspx, 2012.

² Nebraska Department of Education and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, "Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey," 2010.

³ National Council on Problem Gambling, www.ncpgambling.org, 2012.

⁴ American Gaming Association, "State of the States," 2011.

⁵ National Council on Problem Gambling, "The Need for a National Policy on Problem and Pathological Gambling in America," 1993.