



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Action Alert - February 1, 2022



Gambling Alert

Study finds “clear link” between gaming and gambling
Giant corporations would in no way abuse this knowledge, right?

A study has found that those who play video games regularly are 4.3 times more likely to participate in betting than people who play infrequently. Weekly gamers were 4.5 times more likely to take part in in-game forms of gambling such as microtransactions and loot boxes than those who play infrequently. The study believes this is in part due to the increasing popularity of esports. 37 percent of adults surveyed say they watch or intend to watch esports a new area in which Entain is seeing people gamble. [Read](#)

Ill-gotten gain

As backroom betting goes digital, states that make it legal may find the stakes are high

Lawmakers last summer voted to bring betting to the bayous, and mobile sports betting apps are expected to launch in Louisiana any day. Or at least in time for the Super Bowl. David Cranford pastor “We live in a state that is itself addicted to gambling,” he said, “and what I mean by that is the state of Louisiana is addicted to gambling revenue, and they will do anything to see gambling expand.”

So will gambling companies like FanDuel and DraftKings. They spent \$1 million trying to get a foothold in Louisiana. They also hired 16 of the

state's top lobbyists to eliminate opposition. The delay didn't stop Louisiana State University from striking a deal with Caesars Sportsbook, though.

No longer are players forced to make public entrances into casinos. Now they can roll the dice with the privacy of a touch screen any time day or night Apps make betting on sports as convenient as checking Facebook. In Louisiana, problem gamblers make up 7 percent of the population, according to the U.S. Gambling Research Institute. Their personal losses result in broken lives and homes. In 1996, the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute put the social costs of a problem gambler at \$9,469 per year—which would be about \$3 billion per year for Louisiana. That's triple the amount gambling brought Louisiana in revenue last year. LSU economics Professor Emeritus Jim Richardson says at most it was \$915 million.

With phones, you have 10 million prostitutes in your pocket. **“Now you have 10,000 bookies, too. It's the enemy's way of taking our focus off of who we are, who God made us to be, and it's just evil.”** Pastor Turner. [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

- Legislature is in remote session starting February 2nd.
- Share this Alert with your faith community and PRAY.
- Forward to 10 others.

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