



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Alert - February 15, 2022



Super Bowl Betting Is a \$7.6 Billion Problem Fewer Evangelicals Care About

Tom Grey, a Methodist minister, traveled 250 days a year with the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, which now goes by the name Stop Predatory Gambling. Grey, 81, is retired, but now he is watching the latest iteration of the industry take off: sports betting. “I think there’s going to be a lot of devastation to individuals and families the following weeks,” the Super Bowl, said Anita Bedell, who worked to fight gambling in Illinois for decades as the head of Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems. “What do you do when you’ve lost all that money? Paying it back, that could take a lifetime.” After working on the issue since 1990, Bedell—known in the statehouse as the “Church Lady”—retired last week. She said it was “disheartening” how quickly sports betting has swept the state and the nation. Jason McGuire, who heads up the evangelical organization New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms, fought the legalization of online betting in the state last year. “The Christian community needs to understand, this is devastating to families that are impacted if people get caught up in this,” he said. Despite their gloom about the immediate impact, the Christians who worked on the issue for decades are a bit more optimistic about the future. “This is the third historical wave of gambling in America,” said Grey. “It has a boom-bust cycle to it. Why? Because it doesn’t work.” “Let’s call for more regulation and get advertising under control. Those are doable things.” [Read](#)

“How sports betting has increased predatory gambling across the U.S.: The high cost to poorer communities”

A record 31.4 million American adults plan to bet on Super Bowl LVI, a 35% increase from 2021, according to new research by the American Gaming Association. While half that number is casual bets among friends, 18.2 million will place traditional sports wagers online, at a retail sportsbook, or with a bookie. This is an increase of 78% from the 2021 Super Bowl. [Read](#)

3 New Startups Betting They Can Transform the \$59 Billion Sports Gambling Industry

A new crop of online sports betting companies is targeting sports fans of all kinds, from social gamblers to women who want a space of their own.

DraftFuel: Gambling without guilt. Wagr: Bet against your network, instead of the house Chalkboard: A friendlier, more inclusive space to bet. According to the HPL Digital Sports study, women's participation in betting went up from 28 percent to 33 percent between 2020 and 2021.

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