



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

[Visit Our Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## Gambling Alert -February 8, 2023



### **Super Bowl gambling surging as states legalize it? You bet**

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — As legal sports gambling proliferates, the number of Americans betting on the Super Bowl — and the total amount they're wagering — is surging, although most of the action is still off the books.

An estimated 1-in-5 American adults will make some sort of bet, laying out a whopping \$16 billion — twice as much as last year, according to an industry trade group.

Even as legal gambling has spread to two-thirds of U.S. states, independent analysts say only about \$1 billion of the total being wagered on the Super Bowl will happen through casinos, racetracks or companies such as FanDuel and DraftKings, whose ads have become ubiquitous during sporting events.

The vast majority of people, in other words, are still betting with friends and family, participating in office pools or taking their chances with a bookie.

More than 50 million American adults are expected to bet on the national championship game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs, according to the American Gaming Association. That's an increase of 61% from last year.

Experts in addiction say aggressive advertising is contributing to a rise in problem gambling.

“As sports betting expands, the risk of gambling problems expands,” said Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling.

Thirty-three states, plus Washington, D.C., now offer legal sports betting, and more than half of all American adults live in one of those markets.

“Every year, the Super Bowl serves to highlight the benefits of legal sports betting,” said Bill Miller, the gambling association’s president and CEO. “Bettors are transitioning to the protections of the regulated market ... and legal operators are driving needed tax revenue to states across the country.”

But legal sports betting still represents just a small piece of the pie.

Eilers & Krejcik Gaming Research, an independent analytics firm in California, estimates that just over \$1 billion of this year's Super Bowl bets will be made legally. The leading states are: Nevada (\$155 million); New York (\$111 million); Pennsylvania (\$91 million); Ohio (\$85 million) and New Jersey (\$84 million.) As legal sports betting grows, so too has a concern about its effect on people with gambling problems.

Between 2018 and 2021, the number of people whose answers indicated they were at risk of a gambling problem increased by 30%, said Whyte, the council's executive director. [READ](#)

### ***For Immediate Action***

- Share this Alert with your faith community and PRAY.
- Forward to 10 others.

Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action (tax-deductible)

**Donate Now**