



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Corrected Gambling Alert - December 19, 2022



Write and Tell the Illinois Gaming Board to not approve Bally's Casino in Chicago

Casinos Increase Crime!

New Illinois Report: Increased access to video gambling leads to rise in violent and property crimes in Chicago

An academic paper written by Ph.D. candidates at the University of Illinois took a closer look at the expansion of video gambling machines in the state and their relation to crime.

According to the paper, **“increased access to video gambling leads to a statistically significant rise in violent and property crimes in Chicago.”**

On average, being near at least one video gambling establishment is associated with a 7.5% and 6.7% increase in violent and property crime. These estimates control for potential confounders, including access to riverboat casinos, community area-specific trends, and demographic controls. Reassuringly, these effects are strongest in the block groups closest to video gambling establishments. The effects decrease as gambling access declines, becoming zero after moving three census block groups away, and remaining at zero thereafter. [READ](#)

Gambling poses problems for 1M Illinoisans

More than a million Illinois residents either have a gambling problem or are at risk of developing one, according to the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). Conducted by Health Resources in Action, the assessment reports on the prevalence of different types of gambling in the state, the availability of treatment and other services, the prevalence of problem gambling among different groups, and overall attitudes about gambling.

The study found that 68% of adult Illinoisans reported gambling in the past year, with the state lottery being the most popular form. The report states that gambling at video gaming terminals and online sports betting has shown significant growth. [Read](#)

Write and tell the Illinois Gaming board No to Bally's Casino in Chicago!

Illinois Gaming Board
160 North LaSalle
Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois 60601

For Immediate Action

Write and tell the Illinois Gaming board No to Bally's Casino in Chicago!

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

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

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