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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Illinois Gambling Report - May 10, 2022



The Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery has provided the first-ever assessment of problem gambling and service needs in the State of Illinois. Conducted in 2021, the assessment reports on the prevalence of different types of gambling in the state, the prevalence of problem gambling among different groups, characteristics of people with problem gambling, availability of treatment and other services, and overall attitudes about gambling.

Some key findings of the study are:

- 3.8% of adult Illinoisans have a current gambling problem, and an additional 7.7% are at risk of developing a gambling problem (approximately 1.1 million Illinois residents).
- Latino (7.3%), Other races/Multiracial (4.1%), and Black (3.6%) Illinoisans appeared to have a higher prevalence of problem gambling.
- One in ten Illinoisans with problem gambling thought about or **attempted suicide** in the past year; **one in three** had done so in their lifetime.
- Gambling at video gaming terminals and online sports betting showed significant growth over time.
- In an average year, Illinoisans with problem gambling estimated that they spent a median of \$16,750 on gambling.
- **Depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders** were very

common among Illinoisans with problem gambling.

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