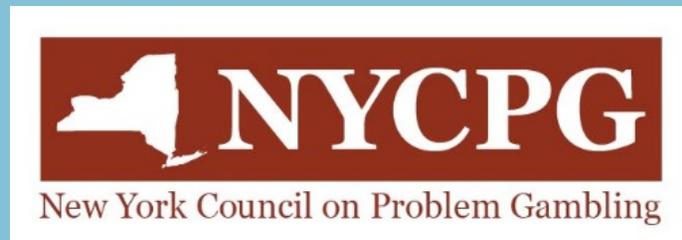


Underage and Problem Gambling Awareness Toolkit for Education Settings

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YOUTH ACTION SHEET

Are your PEERS gambling?

Most youth in NYS have **NOT** gambled in the past year (OASAS, 2014-2015).

Youth who do gamble are more likely to:

- have poor relationships with friends and family;
- suffer from depression; and
- develop substance abuse disorders.

Resources:

- [Odds and Ends Video](#) – Great video about how gambling can affect you!
- [YOU\(th\) Decide NY](#) – Learn what youth, parents and community leaders can do!
- [DID YOU KNOW Brochure](#) – A fact-filled brochure about underage gambling.
- [Strange Odds Palm Cards](#) – Fun facts to print out and give away.
- Find the help and information that best suits your needs by connecting with your local Problem Gambling Resource Center: www.nyproblemgamblinghelp.org

CALL TO ACTION

Speak to peers, parents, and community leaders about the risks of underage gambling!

Make the healthy choice to NOT GAMBLE.

TALKING POINTS

- Gambling is not a guaranteed way to make money.
- You're more likely to be struck by lightning than you are to win a large-sum lottery jackpot.
- 2% of U.S. youth age 14-21 meet criteria for problem gambling, and an additional 6.5% are at risk! (Welte, 2007)
- Increase your media literacy, especially about gambling advertisements, so you can make the best choices for yourself.

PARENT ACTION SHEET

Teens are experiencing problem gambling!

Of U.S. residents age 14-21, approximately 2.1% struggle with problem gambling, and another 6.5% are at-risk (Welte, 2007). Underage gambling can have devastating consequences that affect the rest of kids' lives! If you don't say anything, kids may assume you support their participation in underage gambling.

Resources :

- Talk2Kids.org – A website full of tips on talking to your kids about the dangers of gambling.
- [Underage Gambling Fact Sheet](#) – A fact sheet to print and hand out.
- [Dangers of Youth Gambling Addiction](#) – an eBook about underage gambling.
- Find the help and information that best suits your needs by connecting with your local Problem Gambling Resource Center: www.nyproblemgamblinghelp.org

CALL TO ACTION

Talk to your kids about the dangers of underage gambling, and express your disapproval for underage gambling!

TALKING POINTS

- Teens who gamble are more likely to have depression issues, get lower grades and attempt suicide.
- Gambling for fun can quickly turn into an addiction.
- Be critical of media messages.
- Youth are more likely to become an astronaut in the next 54 years than win a large-sum lottery jackpot.
- Underage gambling is NOT safe!

SCHOOL PERSONNEL ACTION SHEET

Gambling can affect academic success!

Underage gambling occurs in your school! Over 39% of NYS youth have gambled in the last year (OASAS, 2014-2015) and 2% of youth struggle with problem gambling (Welte, 2007). These struggles affect an average of 10 other people (such as close friends and family members). Problem gambling is affecting youth in your school!

Resources :

- [YOU\(th\) Decide](#) – A great resource for addressing underage gambling.
- [Don't Bet Yet](#) – Here's a great resource talk with youth about gambling.
- [Odds and Ends \(Brian\)](#) – Video on effects of underage gambling.
- [Understanding Problem Gambling](#) – A great eBook to raise awareness.
- Find the help and information that best suits your needs by connecting with your local Problem Gambling Resource Center: www.nyproblemgamblinghelp.org

CALL TO ACTION

Be aware of jargon and behavior associated with underage gambling, and talk to youth about the risks!

TALKING POINTS

- Underage gambling is not safe!
- Underage gambling increases the risks of student delinquency.
- Youth falsely believe gambling is a guaranteed way to make money.
- Many times, gambling is a hidden addiction because you can't see or smell its effects like with other addictions.
- If a student lives with a parent problem gambler, they may be struggling with depression and anxiety because of the gambling.

ADMINISTRATOR ACTION SHEET

Create a SAFE school climate for youth!

Approximately 2.1% of U.S. youth age 14-21 struggle with problem gambling, and another 6.5% are at-risk (Welte, 2007). Underage gambling can have devastating consequences especially increasing the risk for delinquency and substance abuse! Youth awareness of risks may improve academic performance.

Gambling AFFECTS the school climate!

60% of U.S. adults have gambled in the past year, and 2-4% of them struggle with problem gambling ([NCPG](#)). In homes with someone struggling with problem gambling, 50% of spouses suffer abuse, and child abuse has been seen to raise by 40% (Day, 2008). Adults struggling with problem gambling, or with a loved one's problem gambling, who get help could find more joy, feel less anxiety and help improve the atmosphere at your school.

Resources:

- [You\(th\) Decide School Policy Notes](#) – Get more information about underage gambling and policy ideas to make your school safer.
- [The Hidden Addiction PSA](#) – Learn how problem gambling stays hidden.
- [Understanding Problem Gambling](#) – An eBook about problem gambling.
- Find the help that best suits your needs by connecting with your local Problem Gambling Resource Center: www.nyproblemgamblinghelp.org

CALL TO ACTION

Talk to your staff about gambling and how to address underage gambling in your school and express concern for problem gambling by including it in your policies.

TALKING POINTS

- Those struggling with problem gambling are often preoccupied with thoughts of gambling.
- Nearly 3 of 4 problem gamblers have an alcohol use disorder.
- 1 in 5 problem gamblers attempts or completes suicide.
- People struggling with problem gambling live with anxiety.
- Someone struggling with gambling addiction can seek help.

RESOURCES

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Talk2Kids.org - Tools and tips for talking to your children about gambling

www.NYProblemGambling.org – **New York Council on Problem Gambling’s** main website

www.KnowTheOdds.org – Resources to learn more about problem gambling

www.DontBetYet.com – Website and video resource for parents of, and, 9-12 year olds (video and resources specific to those audiences)

www.YOUthDecideNY.org – A resource for youth, parents and community leaders looking to work to prevent underage gambling in their community.

SUPPORT AND TREATMENT RESOURCES

www.NYProblemGamblingHelp.org – Home page for the NYS Problem Gambling Resource Centers (PGRCs). Your local PGRC is dedicated to addressing the issue of problem gambling within the surrounding communities through increasing public awareness and connecting those adversely affected with services that can help them.