

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



Arizona Youth Survey 2008 Gambling Fact Sheet

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

February 2010

For the 2006 administration of the Arizona Youth Survey (AYS), youth gambling questions were added at the request of the Office of Problem Gambling. In the 2008 AYS these questions were included again with some revisions to make them more comparable to the information being collected on youth gambling in other states. This fact sheet provides a brief overview of the results of the gambling questions and their relationship to risk and protective factors, substance use, and antisocial behavior.

Table 1: Characteristics of Respondent by Level of Gambling

	Non Gamblers		Infrequent Gamblers		Frequent Gamblers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Students	11,277	21.1	21,347	40.0	20,703	38.8
Grade						
8	4,458	17.8	9,773	39.0	10,820	43.2
10	3,392	21.6	6,471	41.2	5,834	37.2
12	3,427	27.2	5,103	40.6	4,049	32.2
Gender						
Male	4,255	16.8	9,143	36.0	11,987	47.2
Female	6,843	25.3	11,845	43.8	8,325	30.8
Race/Ethnicity						
Native American	865	18.5	1,685	36.1	2,120	45.4
African American	758	20.2	1,394	37.2	1,594	42.6
Hispanic	3,801	18.2	8,085	38.8	8,975	43.0
White	7,148	22.8	12,990	41.5	11,166	35.7
Asian	476	23.1	815	39.5	770	37.4
Pacific Islander	189	17.5	403	37.4	485	45.0

In 2008, students could mark more than one race/ethnic category.

Gambling Behavior

Table 1 describes the characteristics of students' type of gambling behavior. Infrequent gamblers are those who indicated they had gambled "Before, but not in the past year," or "At least once in the past 12 months," and frequent gamblers are those who responded that they had gambled "Once or twice a month," "Once or twice a week," or "Almost everyday." Of those youth who responded to the gambling questions, 21.1 percent have never gambled, 40 percent were categorized as infrequent gamblers, and 38.8 percent were categorized as frequent gamblers.

The survey also allows for analyses of which gambling behaviors youth reported participating in during the previous 12 months (Table 2). The gambling behaviors that had the highest percentage of youth reporting participation during the 12 months prior to the survey are playing cards, betting on games of skill, and betting on sports. Gambling by youth has increased in every category except for playing the lottery since the 2006 AYS.

Table 2: Gambling Questions by Grade and AYS Administration

How often have you done the following for money, possessions, or anything of value: (At least once in the past 12 months)	8th Grade		10th Grade		12th Grade		Total	
	2006	2008	2006	2008	2006	2008	2006	2008
Any Gambling	54.2	69.1	51.8	65.9	46.3	60.6	51.4	66.2
Played cards?	24.8	43.7	26.2	43.7	24.6	40.6	25.2	42.9
Bet on a game of personal skill such as pool or a video game?*	20.8	32.7	21.4	31.3	18.5	27	20.4	31
Bet on sports?*	n/a	31.8	n/a	30.2	n/a	25.6	n/a	29.9
Played a dice game?*	n/a	31.5	n/a	25.1	n/a	19.2	n/a	26.7
Played bingo?	18.5	32.6	12.1	23.2	7.1	14.7	13.4	25.6
Played the lottery or scratch-off tickets?	26.3	24.8	22.3	21.8	17.9	19	22.8	22.5
Bought a raffle ticket?	n/a	20.4	n/a	20.7	n/a	18.9	n/a	20.1
Played a slot machine, poker machine or other gambling machine?	2.7	6.4	2.6	6.1	3.1	5.8	2.8	6.2
Bet on a horse or other animal race?*	n/a	6.4	n/a	5.8	n/a	5.1	n/a	5.9
Gambled on the Internet?	6	6.3	5.4	5.1	4.4	4.7	5.4	5.6

* Denotes a change in the wording of the question between the 2006 and 2008 administrations.

Risk and Protective Factors

The core of the Arizona Youth Survey are questions based on a risk and protective factor prevention model. This model is based on research that has identified several risk and protective factors for delinquency and substance use. The data reveals that as risk factors accumulate in youths' lives, the percentage of youth who report gambling in the past year also increases. Conversely, as protective factors increase, the percentage of youth who report gambling decreases (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Relationship Between Youth Gambling and Accumulated Risk and Protective Factors

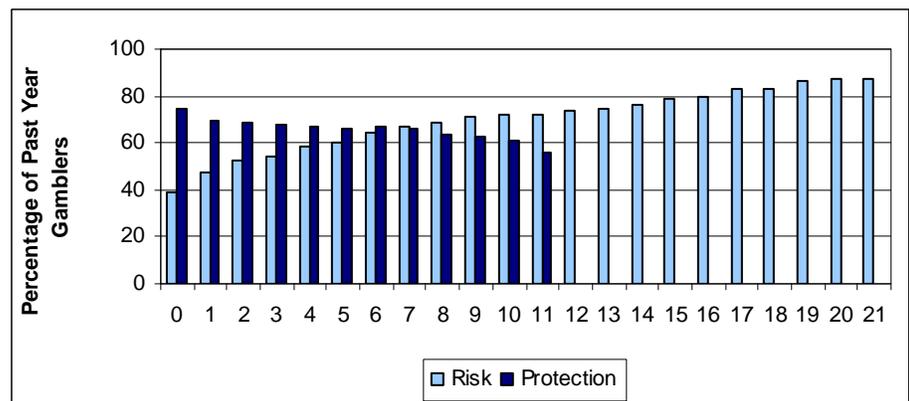
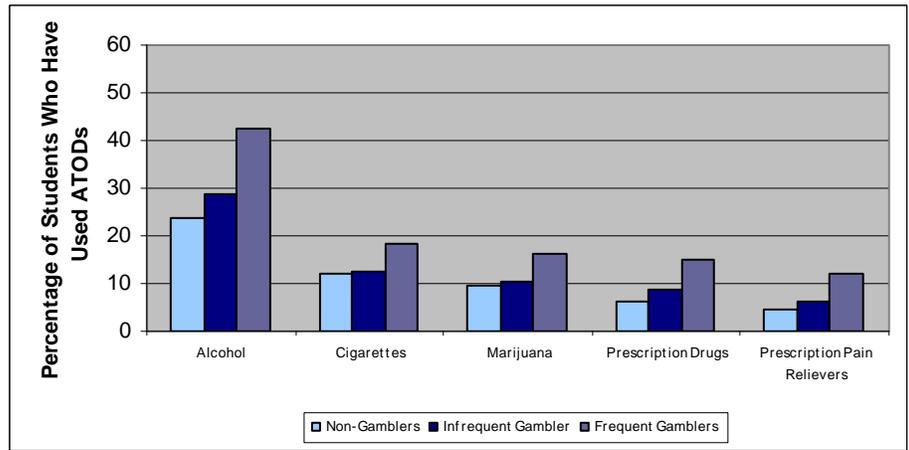


Table 3: Substance Use by Type of Gambler

	Non-Gamblers	Infrequent Gamblers	Frequent Gamblers
Alcohol			
Lifetime Use	44.6	58.3	69.2
30-Day Use	23.7	28.8	42.5
Cigarettes			
Lifetime Use	28.8	33.1	42.9
30-Day Use	12	12.3	18.5
Chewing Tobacco			
Lifetime Use	6.7	9	16.2
30-Day Use	2.3	2.8	6.6
Marijuana			
Lifetime Use	22.2	24.9	32.7
30-Day Use	9.4	10.6	16.1
Hallucinogens			
Lifetime Use	3.2	3.5	5.7
30-Day Use	1.1	1.1	2.1
Cocaine			
Lifetime Use	4.7	4.8	7.8
30-Day Use	1.2	1.4	2.7
Inhalants			
Lifetime Use	6.3	10.9	17.7
30-Day Use	1.7	2.7	6.2
Methamphetamines			
Lifetime Use	2	1.6	3
30-Day Use	0.4	0.3	0.9
Heroin			
Lifetime Use	1.2	1.5	2.5
30-Day Use	0.3	0.5	1
Ecstasy			
Lifetime Use	2.7	3.2	6
30-Day Use	0.7	0.9	2.1
Steroids			
Lifetime Use	0.8	1.3	3.4
30-Day Use	0.3	0.4	1.5
Prescription Pain Relievers			
Lifetime Use	11	15.7	23
30-Day Use	4.4	6.4	11.9
Prescription Stimulants			
Lifetime Use	3.9	5.1	7.7
30-Day Use	1.1	1.6	3.1
Prescription Sedatives			
Lifetime Use	6.4	9.9	13.5
30-Day Use	2.3	3.4	5.9
Prescription Drugs			
Lifetime Use	14	20.6	28.8
30-Day Use	6.2	8.8	15.2
Over-the-Counter Drugs			
Lifetime Use	7.2	10.3	15.1
30-Day Use	3.3	4.9	8.4

Chart 2: 30-Day Substance Use by Type of Gambler



Youth Gambling and Substance Use

This analysis reveals that in most instances, as the frequency of gambling increases so does the percentage of youth reporting substance use (Table 3 and Chart 2). Consistent with the findings on substance use by youth more generally, the most commonly used drugs by youth who gamble are alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, and prescription drugs. In addition, frequent gamblers use substances at a higher rate than infrequent gamblers, non-gamblers, and youth in Arizona as a whole.

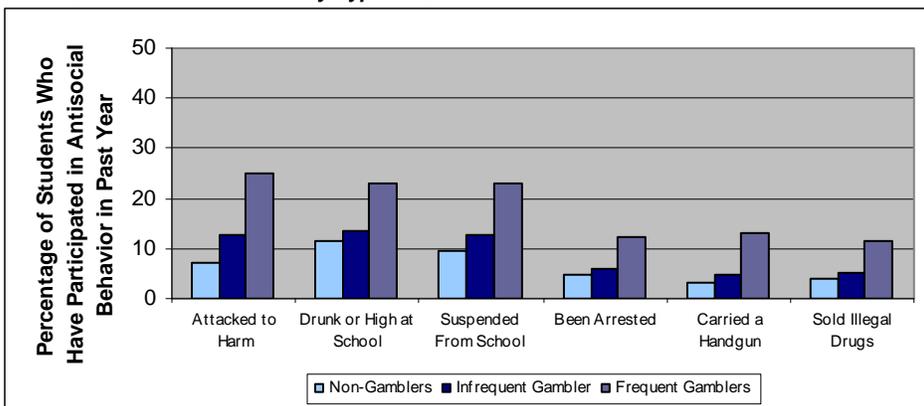
Youth Gambling and Antisocial Behavior

The data also allows for an investigation of the relationship between frequency of gambling and participation in anti-social and delinquent behaviors (Chart 3). Similar to the relationship between gambling and substance use, frequent gamblers are much more likely to report antisocial behavior in the past year than other types of gamblers. For example, approximately 25 percent of frequent gamblers report attacking someone with the intent of seriously hurting them, while only 7.2 percent of non-gamblers report attacking someone with the intent of seriously hurting them.

Initiation of Youth Gambling

In 2008, for the first time youth were asked how old they were when they first gambled. The average age of initiation of gambling was 12.1 years of age, with the majority of youth reporting that they began gambling at age 12 or younger. In addition, youth were asked how old they were when they began using various substances and began participating in antisocial or delinquent behaviors, including being suspended from school, being arrested, and carrying a gun. Of all behaviors asked about, the average age of first gambling or betting was younger than the average age of first use (alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or methamphetamine use) or first participation in any antisocial or delinquent behavior.

Chart 3: Antisocial Behavior by Type of Gambler



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