
Gambling and Problem Gambling in Oregon

FACT SHEET



Revised 1/25/07

Gambling in Oregon

Gambling has become part of the Oregon landscape, culture, and economy. Oregon has more forms of legalized gambling and offers easier access to gambling than almost every other state. Consider the following statistics:

- ◆ Oregon is one of only five states with video lottery games (i.e., video poker, slots). As of February 2006, the Oregon Lottery operated 10,848 video poker machines in over 2,077 bars and taverns across the state.¹
- ◆ Every Oregon tribe operates a tribal casino. The nine Oregon tribal casinos offer approximately 6,000 slot machines and over 100 table games.⁵
- ◆ Gambling is continuing to expand in Oregon. In 2005, the lottery expanded into slot gaming, and planning is taking place to open a new tribal casino closer to Portland.
- ◆ In 2006, a survey found 64.5% of adult Oregonians gambled in the past year (up 26% from 2001); video poker was played at a bar or tavern by 29.8% of adults (up 31% from 2001) and 43.8% gambled at a casino (up 36% from 2001).²
- ◆ In 2004, Oregonians lost \$1.27 billion on all forms of gambling, equaling \$457 per adult.⁵
- ◆ In the 2005-07, the Lottery earned over one billion dollars (\$1,243,300,000). This is up 30% over the previous biennium and projected earnings in 2007-09 constitute an increase of 20.3 percent over 2005-07.³
- ◆ Gambling revenues in Oregon grew from approximately \$95 million in 1986⁴ to \$1.27 billion in 2004.⁵

¹Chuck Bauman, Oregon Lottery (personal communication, February 23, 2006)

²Moore, T.L. (2006). The Prevalence of Disorderly Gambling Among Adults in Oregon: A Replication Study. Portland, OR: Oregon Gambling Addiction Treatment Foundation.

³Office of Economic Analysis (2006). Oregon Economic and Revenue Forecast December 2006. Salem, OR: Department of Administrative Services.

⁴Governor's Task Force on Gambling (October, 1996). Governor's Task Force on Gaming – Final Report. Salem, OR: Department of Justice.

⁵ECONorthwest (2006). The Contributions of Indian Gaming to Oregon's Economy in 2004. Retrieved from <http://econw.com/reports/tribes4376.pdf> on January 25, 2007.

Public Health Concerns

A survey found that approximately 47,000 adult Oregonians are current problem gamblers, with an additional 28,000 classified as pathological gamblers.²

- ◆ About 6,000 Oregonians over 62 years old are believed to meet the criteria for problem or pathological gambling.⁶
- ◆ One in every 25 Oregon teens (13-17 year olds) is a problem or pathological gambler—that's more than 10,000 Oregon teens.⁷

Problem Gambling:

“Gambling behavior which causes disruptions in any major area of life: psychological, physical, social or vocational”

Pathological Gambling:

“Persistent and recurrent maladaptive gambling behavior that disrupts personal, family or vocational pursuits”

The negative impacts of problem and pathological gamblers can be viewed in terms of individual human suffering, human suffering secondary to problem gambling such as child neglect and domestic violence, and lastly through societal economic costs.

- ◆ Of the 1,700 gamblers that received publicly funded treatment in Oregon in 2005-06, the following gambling related consequences were reported.⁸
 - Average gambling debt: \$23,331.
 - 18% reported suicidal ideation, up to 10% made an attempt.
 - 28% had alcohol-related problems.
 - 23% reported committing crimes to obtain gambling money.
- ◆ According to the National Research Council (1999), studies indicate that between 25-50 percent of spouses of pathological gamblers have been abused and between 10-17 percent of their children had been abused.⁹
- ◆ Recent national estimates place the social-economic cost of problem gamblers at approximately \$3,000 each and \$11,000 for each pathological gambler¹⁰ – or an estimated social-economic cost in excess of \$449 million for Oregonians.

⁶ Moore, T. (2001). Older adult gambling in Oregon: An epidemiological survey. Salem, OR: Oregon Gambling Addiction Treatment Foundation.

⁷ Carlson, M.J. & Moore, T.L. (1998). Adolescent gambling in Oregon. Salem, OR: Oregon Gambling Addiction Treatment Foundation.

⁸ Moore, T. & Marotta, J. (2006). Oregon gambling treatment programs evaluation update 2005. Salem OR: Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services

⁹ National Research Council (NCR). (1999). Pathological Gambling: A Critical Review. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.

¹⁰ Grinols, E. (2004). Gambling in America: Costs and Benefits. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Oregon's Problem Gambling Treatment & Prevention Efforts¹¹

Oregon is home to a problem gambling treatment and prevention system that has received a national award and widespread recognition as among the best in the world. Oregon is one of the few jurisdictions to witness a significant expansion in gambling availability and activity without a corresponding increase in problem gambling rates.

- ◆ Since 1995, the number of persons enrolling in state-funded gambling treatment programs has increased on average 30.6% each biennium. Since July 1, 1995, well over 14,500 Oregonians have enrolled in gambling treatment.
- ◆ In 2006, \$4.65 million in Lottery revenues were transferred to the Department of Human Services to fund Problem Gambling Services. Additionally, the Oregon Lottery allocated \$1.2 million toward ad campaigns encouraging responsible gambling and increasing awareness of problem gambling.
- ◆ Oregon Lottery problem gambling awareness campaigns stressed that; treatment services are free for both gamblers and their family; treatment is confidential; and treatment is effective (6-months post-treatment, 90% reported improvement).
- ◆ In 2005-06, Oregon's Problem Gambling Services included:
 - A Problem Gambling Help Line (877-2-STOP-NOW) that received 5,000 calls and made 2,198 referrals. There was a 10% increase in the number of Oregonians calling for help over the past year.
 - Twenty-four outpatient treatment centers that served 2000 Oregonians.
 - Two short-term residential programs, one longer-term residential program.
 - The Gambling Evaluation and Reduction Program (GEAR), a home-based, telephone supported minimal intervention program.
 - GEAR Coffee Creek Program, offering information and skills to female inmates with a history of problem gambling that are about to be released.
 - Nineteen-community problem gambling prevention & outreach programs.
 - An extensive quality control and evaluation component.
- ◆ Oregon Problem Gambling Awareness Week (OPGAW) occurs the second week of March. The Planning Committee produces a community resource guide, conducts a poster contest for middle school-age youth, submits press releases and disseminates information. Tools for OPGAW can be found at <http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/gambling.shtml#aware>

¹¹ Information from this section was gathered from Oregon Gambling Treatment Programs Evaluation Update 2006 available online at www.gamblingaddiction.org