

Oregon problem gambling facts

Prevalence estimates

More than 74,000 Oregon adults (2.7 percent of adults) are believed to meet the criteria for being current problem or pathological gamblers (Moore, 2006).

About 6,000 Oregonians over 62 years old (1.2 percent) are believed to meet the criteria for problem or pathological gambling (Moore, 2001).

1.3 percent of Oregon youth are problem gamblers; 4.6 percent are at-risk gamblers. That means there are between 1,100 and 6,300 adolescents with severe gambling-related difficulties (Volberg, 2007).

Snapshot: problem gambling effects in Oregon

Problem gamblers experienced a complex array of mental health, social, financial and legal issues:

Effects of adult problem gambling on children

“Children of compulsive gamblers are often prone to suffer abuse, as well as neglect, as a result of parental problem or pathological gambling.” (National Opinion Research Center, 1999).

Research consistently shows higher rates of pathological gambling in teens whose parents gamble excessively (Gupta & Derevensky, 1997; Jacobs, 2000; Wallisch & Liu, 1996).

Children of problem gamblers have been shown to have higher levels of tobacco, alcohol and drug use and overeating than do their classroom peers (Gupta & Derevensky, 1997).

The National Research Council (NRC, 1999) reported on studies indicating that 10-17 percent of children of compulsive gamblers had been abused.

Domestic violence

The National Research Council (1999) reported on studies indicating that 25-50 percent of spouses of pathological gamblers have been abused.

Studies of 10 casino communities revealed that domestic violence rates increased with the opening of casinos (National Opinion Research Center, 1999).

Crime

More than one in three (36 percent) clients enrolled in Oregon’s gambling treatment system reported committing illegal acts to finance their gambling (Moore, 2008).

“As access to money becomes more limited, gamblers often resort to crime in order to pay debts, appease bookies, maintain appearances, and garner more money to gamble” (NRC, 1999).

Gamblers Anonymous (GA) studies report that approximately half of the members had stolen to gamble and more than one-third had been arrested (Thompson, Gazel, & Rickman, 1996).

The majority of gambling-related crimes are non-violent; embezzlement, check forgery, credit card theft, fenced stolen goods, tax evasion, insurance fraud, employee theft and fraud are common gambling-related crimes.

Suicide/depression

Of clients enrolled in Oregon's gambling treatment system, 48 percent had suicidal thoughts and about 7 percent had made suicide attempts (Moore, 2008).

A major depressive disorder is likely to occur in 76 percent of pathological gamblers (Unwin, Davis, & Leeuw, 2000).

Financial

According to economist Earl Grinols, in 2004 the average social-economic cost of problem gamblers was approximately \$3,000 each and \$11,000 for each pathological gambler – or an estimated social-economic cost in excess of \$449 million for Oregonians.

Those entering treatment in Oregon had an estimated combined gambling-related debt of more than \$44 million.

Oregon spending on gambling

The Oregon Lottery had net sales of \$1,245.5 billion in fiscal year 2008 (Oregon Lottery, 2008).

Oregonians spent \$1.6 billion in 2006 on all forms of gambling, equaling \$434 per adult; this represents a 13 percent increase over 2005 (ECONorthwest, 2008).

Oregon's casinos garnered about 32 percent of all gambling dollars spent by Oregonians in 2006, a decline compared to 2005 (ECONorthwest, 2008).

Oregon Lottery sales data (07/01/07 – 06/28/08)

COUNTY	Video Lottery SM (% of total)	Video Lottery SM per capita (18 yrs+)*	TOTAL SALES (% of total)	TOTAL SALES per capita (18 yrs+)
Baker	.40	\$272.27	.41	\$385.68
Benton	.57	\$73.52	.71	\$126.00
Clackamas	10.36	\$327.29	10.02	\$436.69
Clatsop	1.64	\$495.99**	1.57	\$655.28**
Columbia	1.73	\$428.88**	1.77	\$604.41**
Coos	.72	\$127.61	1.03	\$251.89
Crook	.45	\$206.16	.48	\$302.43
Curry	.28	\$142.86	.37	\$258.39
Deschutes	3.56	\$253.41	3.78	\$348.01
Douglas	2.10	\$227.56	2.30	\$344.61
Gilliam	.04	\$223.28	.03	\$283.63
Grant	.12	\$176.83	.14	\$300.62
Harney	.05	\$62.05	.06	\$133.72
Hood River	.60	\$342.46	.59	\$459.04
Jackson	4.52	\$256.77	4.57	\$358.91
Jefferson	.41	\$233.05	.44	\$344.69
Josephine	1.87	\$255.29	2.03	\$384.75
Klamath	1.25	\$223.80	1.50	\$338.59
Lake	.11	\$176.66	.13	\$271.57
Lane	7.81	\$255.97	7.97	\$360.26
Lincoln	1.21	\$298.19	1.35	\$461.60
Linn	3.15	\$341.67	3.32	\$496.37
Malheur	1.02	\$384.05	.96	\$505.33
Marion	7.70	\$299.05	7.82	\$419.43
Morrow	.14	\$141.96	.14	\$192.31
Multnomah	30.13	\$485.52**	28.64	\$636.79**
Polk	.75	\$128.13	.89	\$210.66
Sherman	.12	\$689.94**	.12	\$1,001.17**
Tillamook	.86	\$367.05	.89	\$528.82
Umatilla	1.39	\$230.67	1.51	\$340.29
Union	.50	\$231.03	.53	\$334.90
Wallowa	.07	\$117.49	.09	\$187.27
Wasco	.71	\$345.22	.74	\$502.14
Washington	12.16	\$290.29	11.79	\$388.20
Wheeler	0	0	.01	\$72.85
Yamhill	1.53	\$192.15	1.63	\$283.05

* Video LotterySM players must be 21 years of age or older. Oregon population figures by age group break at 18-19 years and 20-24 years. Oregonians 18-20 years of age, who are included in this per capita calculation, are not eligible to play Video LotterySM games. ** Multnomah, Clatsop, Columbia and Sherman Counties are located near major population areas in Washington with easy access to Oregon Lottery® retailers. Per capita sales figures in these counties reflect “cross-over” sales.

Oregon tribal casinos data

Oregon Casinos by Date Opened (Source: ECONorthwest, 2008)

Casino	Date Opened	City/County	Tribe	VLTs/ Slots	Table Game s	Bing o seats	Poke r table s
1. Seven Feathers	Apr 1994	Canyonville/ Douglas	Cow Creek	1,290	22	346	7
2. Wildhorse	Nov 1994	Pendleton/ Umatilla	Umatilla	675	12	350	3
3. Chinook Winds	May 1995	Lincoln City/ Lincoln	Siletz	1,231	24	1,200	5
4. Kah-Nee-Ta	May 1995	Kah-Nee-Ta/ Wasco, Jeff.	Warm Springs	323	6	0	3
5. The Mill	May 1995	North Bend/ Coos	Coquille	714	13	0	4
6. Spirit Mountain	Oct 1995	Grande Ronde/ Polk, Yamhill	Grande Ronde	1,971	36	0	17
7. Kla-Mo-Ya	Jun 1997	Chiloquin/ Klamath	Klamath	340	6	No	No
8. Old Camp	Sep 1998	Burns/ Harney	Burns Paiute	134	0	60	0
9. Three Rivers	Jun 2004	Florence/ Lane	Coos, L. Umpqua, Siuslaw	400	6	0	0
Total (data are from yr end 2006)				7078	125	1956	39