



Articles about High School & Problem Gambling

ARTICLE 1

(<http://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/NewsDetails.aspx?myId=429>)

The Unrecognized Risks of Gambling for Male High School Athletes: Male Athletes Drove Recent Poker Craze and Are at Higher Risk of Gambling Problems

Wednesday, April 27, 2011

Although athletics is a healthy and popular extracurricular activity in American high schools, it also has its risks. The recent poker craze among adolescents in the U.S. was driven largely by interest in poker play among high school male athletes, a just-released analysis of adolescent gambling in the National Annenberg Surveys of Youth (NASY) indicates. The analysis conducted by the Adolescent Communication Institute at the Annenberg Public Policy Center examined the responses of over 2,000 high school males over the period of 2002 to 2008. It found that the rise in gambling on cards among high school age youth that occurred from 2003 to 2006 was attributable primarily to male youth who participated frequently in sports, about 55% of high school males. As seen in Figure 1 below, at its peak in 2005 over 19% of male athletes reported playing cards at least once a week. This was compared to less than 4% of males who did not participate in athletics on a frequent basis (see also Table 2 below). The survey indicated that female youth were much less likely to engage in poker play at all and were therefore not a focus of the study.

The findings suggest that high-status male youth, a group that includes athletes, were at the center of the poker craze that occurred during the last decade. High-status students tend to have close-knit peer networks that enable them to organize poker and other parties at their homes. Other youth, who were likely left out of these networks, were less likely to gamble, and when they did tended to engage in more *formal* gambling activities (e.g., state lotteries and slot machine parlors) that do not require the cooperation of peers. Moreover, in most states these gambling activities are restricted to persons at least 18 years of age and would therefore be off limits to most high school age youth.

ARTICLE 2

http://my.hsj.org/Schools/Newspaper/tabid/100/view/frontpage/articleid/458355/newspaperid/2202/Teen_Gambling.aspx

Teen Gambling

The temptations of gambling –

Ortega Times, Ortega High School, Lake Elsinore, CA

Wednesday, October 05, 2011 By Jr. Estrada

Gambling today is all around us, from local high school sports to the local lottery in your area. Many teens today gamble daily without even knowing that they are. One of the main problems of gambling is that it can occur with innocent competition. For example, two teens are playing a video game and one teen says, "I bet I can get a higher score than you can." Now this may end with just that and nothing more. Or it may turn into situation in which money, property, or even a teen's future can be at stake. Because technically teens are under age and not legally allowed to gamble, they can easily get past online permissions well below the age of an adult. In a few extreme situations teens have learned how to play online poker and within a few days a debt of \$20,000-\$30,000 occurs. The long term damage caused by such an experience can affect a family for many years. For teenagers, online poker, sports betting and online casinos are all popular attractions. Recently researchers have now estimated that there are more teenage gambling addicts than adults. Often personal relationships with family and friends are lost or sacrificed to hide the problem of their addiction. Many times friendships are lost because of the teen's borrowing large amounts of money that are never paid back. Teen gambling is a serious issue and is considered a mental health disorder commonly referred to as pathological or compulsive gambling. According to American Psychological Associations gambling is technically considered to be an "impulsive control disorder." Gambling becomes a problem when it begins to disrupt a teenager's grades, social activity, and financial debts.