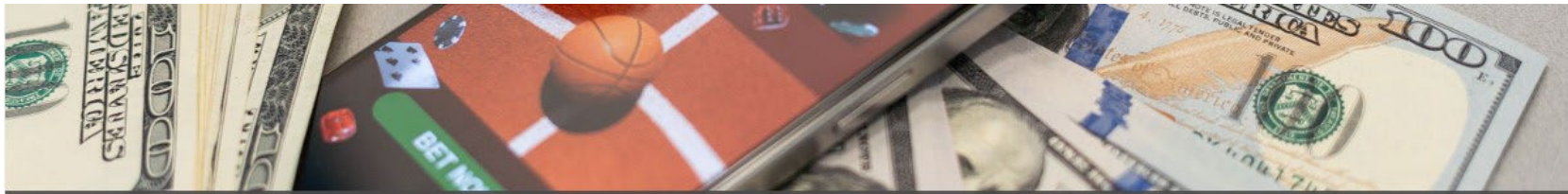


College Athlete Gambling

GT Ladd, Ph.D.

- Gambling defined
- Gambling is ubiquitous & human fascination with it
- Gambling & the brain
- The attraction to gambling is real !
- Access & frequency
- Gambling among college students is pervasive & growing.
- A deeper look suggests deeper involvement
- NCAA published in it's 2025 report...



Trends in NCAA Student-Athlete Gambling and Sports Betting Behaviors

January 2025



RESEARCH

Study Authors

- Thomas Paskus, Ph.D., NCAA research department
- Jeffrey Derevensky, Ph.D., director of the International Center for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors, McGill University

Gambling and Sports Betting Behaviors Among Student-Athletes

(by Age in 2024 Study)

2024 Study	Men 18-20	Men 21+	Women 18-20	Women 21+
Any form of gambling for money (past 12 months)	51%	52%	35%	38%
Bet on sports (past 12 months)	22%	21%	5%	5%
Bet on sports frequently (once+ per month in past 12 months)	11%	11%	1%	1%

Genesis of Gambling Behaviors

(Self-Reported First Time Gambling for Money)

First Time Gambled for Money	Men 2016	Men 2024	Women 2016	Women 2024
Before High School	31%	20%	14%	12%
High School	57%	57%	56%	52%
College	12%	23%	31%	37%

Note: Percentages among those who have ever gambled. Respondents were limited to one choice.

Most Likely To Gamble With ...

	Men 2016	Men 2024
Alone	6%	15%
Family or romantic partner	15%	12%
Teammates or sport friends	39%	35%
Friends outside of sports	39%	38%

	Women 2016	Women 2024
Alone	5%	5%
Family or romantic partner	63%	62%
Teammates or sport friends	11%	11%
Friends outside of sports	21%	22%

Note: Percentages among those who have ever gambled. Respondents were limited to one choice.

Percentage of Student-Athletes Gambling for Money During the Previous 12 Months

		2008 Study	2012 Study	2016 Study	2024 Study
Men	Overall	66%	57%	55%	52%
	Division I	58%	50%	48%	45%
	Division II	67%	56%	54%	51%
	Division III	73%	65%	61%	58%
Women	Overall	39%	39%	38%	36%
	Division I	31%	30%	32%	30%
	Division II	40%	41%	35%	37%
	Division III	45%	46%	44%	42%

"Gambling behaviors" include numerous activities of which "betting on sports" is just one (see next table for details). Note that throughout all tables, study participants are included in the totals for men or women based on the sport team of which they are a member (e.g., compete on men's basketball team or women's basketball team) and not on the participant's gender identity. A gender identity question was included in this survey and was used in analyzing other (nonwagering) items that are part of the full NCAA wagering and social environments surveys.

Gambling Behaviors Among NCAA Men

	2004 Study		2008 Study		2012 Study		2016 Study		2024 Study	
	Past Year	Monthly+	Past Year	Monthly+	Past Year	Monthly+	Past Year	Monthly+	Past Year	Monthly+
Played cards for money	46.8%	20.6%	45.9%	14.3%	27.4%	6.1%	22.9%	5.7%	29.2%	10.7%
Bet horses, dogs	9.8%	2.0%	8.5%	1.4%	6.5%	1.5%	6.3%	1.2%	4.2%	0.8%
Games personal skill	39.7%	16.3%	33.1%	13.0%	25.4%	9.9%	23.3%	9.5%	22.2%	9.4%
Dice, craps	13.4%	4.3%	11.7%	3.9%	7.8%	2.5%	7.7%	2.7%	7.1%	2.3%
Slots	19.8%	3.6%	15.1%	2.0%	11.9%	1.8%	11.8%	2.0%	10.6%	1.9%
Lottery tickets	36.2%	11.1%	31.4%	9.1%	35.2%	11.1%	36.4%	10.3%	21.3%	4.5%
Played stock market	10.2%	4.7%	9.2%	4.5%	7.4%	3.6%	8.5%	4.1%	19.4%	10.4%
Commercial bingo	6.5%	0.9%	6.9%	1.1%	5.3%	1.2%	5.0%	1.3%	5.1%	1.2%
Gambled in casino	--	--	22.9%	3.8%	18.7%	3.3%	18.6%	3.2%	17.3%	3.0%
Bet on sports	23.5%	9.6%	29.5%	9.6%	25.7%	8.3%	24.3%	8.9%	21.5%	10.7%
Online casino games	6.8%	2.8%	12.3%	4.7%	7.5%	1.9%	6.7%	1.8%	9.0%	3.4%

Note: Percentages displayed are cumulative rather than independent. A student-athlete reporting having gambled "monthly+" is also included in the "past year" figure.

Gambling Behaviors Among NCAA Women

	2004 Study		2008 Study		2012 Study		2016 Study		2024 Study	
	Past Year	Monthly+	Past Year	Monthly+	Past Year	Monthly+	Past Year	Monthly+	Past Year	Monthly+
Played cards for money	19.0%	4.4%	10.7%	1.3%	5.3%	0.6%	4.2%	0.4%	6.8%	0.5%
Bet horses, dogs	4.8%	0.4%	3.2%	0.1%	2.8%	0.2%	2.7%	0.2%	2.1%	0.1%
Games personal skill	14.1%	3.2%	7.2%	1.2%	4.0%	0.7%	2.8%	0.4%	4.9%	0.7%
Dice, craps	3.5%	0.7%	2.2%	0.3%	2.0%	0.3%	1.4%	0.1%	3.6%	0.3%
Slots	14.3%	1.3%	9.9%	0.5%	8.4%	0.6%	7.2%	0.3%	7.1%	0.4%
Lottery tickets	29.7%	5.4%	24.0%	3.5%	30.5%	5.1%	30.9%	3.7%	24.9%	2.7%
Played stock market	3.5%	1.3%	2.1%	0.6%	1.1%	0.4%	1.7%	0.6%	4.4%	1.5%
Commercial bingo	7.3%	0.8%	6.8%	0.8%	6.2%	0.8%	5.3%	0.7%	7.0%	0.8%
Gambled in casino	--	--	11.0%	0.6%	9.4%	0.6%	7.7%	0.4%	7.6%	0.4%
Bet on sports	6.7%	1.5%	6.6%	0.8%	5.2%	0.6%	4.5%	0.5%	5.1%	0.8%
Online casino games	2.1%	0.8%	1.9%	0.2%	1.8%	0.3%	1.3%	0.1%	1.8%	0.2%

Note: Percentages displayed are cumulative rather than independent. A student-athlete reporting having gambled "monthly+" is also included in the "past year" figure.

Percentage of NCAA Men Reporting That They Bet on Sports (by NCAA Division)

<u>Occasional (Past Year)</u>	<u>2004 Study</u>	<u>2008 Study</u>	<u>2012 Study</u>	<u>2016 Study</u>	<u>2024 Study</u>
Division I	17.1%	22.4%	18.7%	16.5%	12.6%
Division II	20.6%	27.9%	25.9%	22.8%	20.2%
Division III	30.7%	36.9%	31.9%	32.1%	30.2%

<u>Frequently (Monthly+)</u>	<u>2004 Study</u>	<u>2008 Study</u>	<u>2012 Study</u>	<u>2016 Study</u>	<u>2024 Study</u>
Division I	6.6%	6.8%	5.9%	5.8%	4.7%
Division II	8.7%	9.4%	8.5%	8.4%	9.4%
Division III	12.8%	12.1%	10.4%	12.1%	16.9%

<u>Heavy (Weekly+)</u>	<u>2004 Study</u>	<u>2008 Study</u>	<u>2012 Study</u>	<u>2016 Study</u>	<u>2024 Study</u>
Division I	2.8%	1.9%	2.1%	2.0%	1.9%
Division II	4.1%	2.9%	3.3%	2.7%	5.0%
Division III	6.7%	3.2%	3.1%	4.5%	9.7%

Note: Percentages displayed are cumulative rather than independent. A student-athlete reporting having bet "weekly+" is also included in the "monthly+" and "past year" figures.

Targets of Student-Athletes Who Reported Frequent Sports Betting in Previous Year

Bet on sports frequently (Once a month or more)	Men 2016	Men 2024
NFL	27%	43%
NBA	12%	31%
WNBA	1%*	3%
MLB	8%	18%
NHL	5%	13%
Soccer	3%	11%
College Football	11%	21%
NCAA Basketball (M)	18%	23%
NCAA Basketball (W)	1%*	4%
Other College Sports	1%*	6%
Golf	4%	7%
Tennis	1%	4%
UFC, MMA or Boxing	3%	12%

Bet on sports frequently (Once a month or more)	Women 2016	Women 2024
NFL	7%	13%
NBA	2%	5%
WNBA	1%*	1%
MLB	1%	2%
NHL	2%	1%
Soccer	2%	2%
College Football	1%	3%
NCAA Basketball (M)	4%	6%
NCAA Basketball (W)	1%*	3%
Other College Sports	1%*	1%
Golf	1%	<1%
Tennis	<1%	1%
UFC, MMA or Boxing	1%	<1%

Note: Category "Other pro or college sports" in 2016 could possibly include "WNBA," "NCAA Basketball (W)," and "Other College Sports," which were all unique categories in the 2024 survey.

DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria: Gambling Disorder

- A. Persistent and recurrent problematic gambling behavior leading to clinically significant impairment or distress, as indicated by the individual exhibiting four (or more) of the following in a 12-month period:
1. Needs to gamble with increasing amounts of money in order to achieve the desired excitement.
 2. Is restless or irritable when attempting to cut down or stop gambling.
 3. Has made repeated unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back, or stop gambling.
 4. Is often preoccupied with gambling (e.g., having persistent thoughts of reliving past gambling experiences, handicapping or planning the next venture, thinking of ways to get money with which to gamble).
 5. Often gambles when feeling distressed (e.g., helpless, guilty, anxious, depressed).
 6. After losing money gambling, often returns another day to get even ("chasing" one's losses).
 7. Lies to conceal the extent of involvement with gambling.
 8. Has jeopardized or lost a significant relationship, job, or educational or career opportunity because of gambling.
 9. Relies on others to provide money to relieve desperate financial situations caused by gambling.

- www.ncpgambling.org
- 1-800-MY-RESET – 1-800-697-3738
- text- 800GAM