

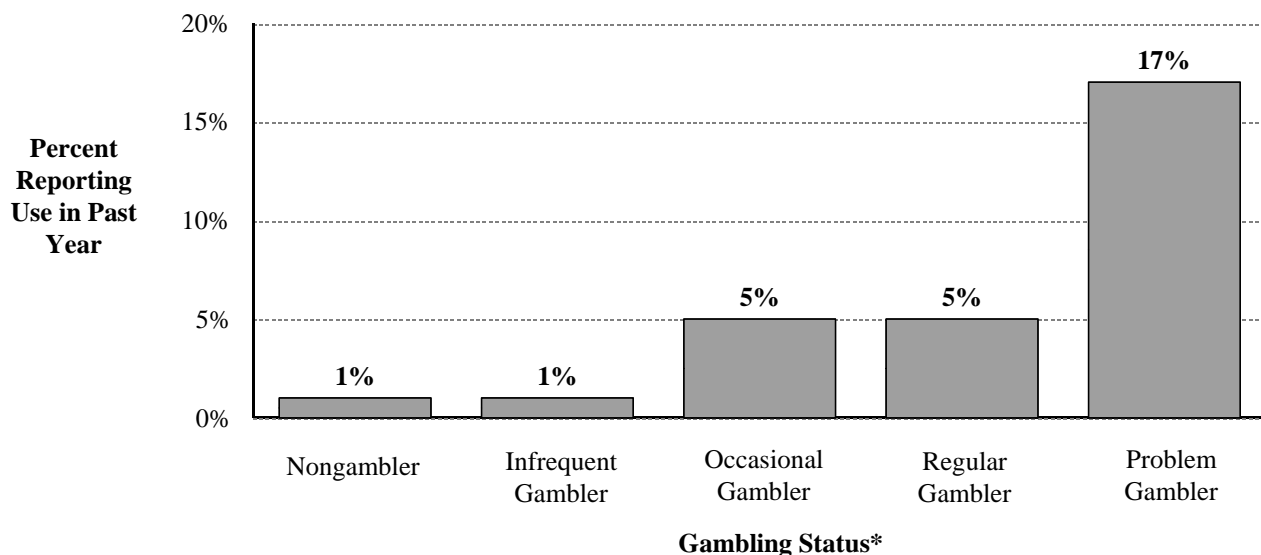
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park

Texas Study Finds High Rates of Illicit Drug Use Among Problem Gamblers

A study of gambling among Texas residents has found a high rate of illicit drug use among problem gamblers. Between March and August, 1995, over 7,000 adults residing in Texas households completed a computer-assisted telephone survey that asked questions about gambling as well as substance use. Problem gamblers were much more likely to report using illicit drugs within the past year than persons who had gambled once a week or less within the past year. Marijuana was the drug most frequently mentioned by drug-using problem gamblers.

**Percentage of Texas Gamblers and Nongamblers
Reporting Illicit Drug Use Within the Past Year
(N=7,015 adults)**



*Nongambler: has never gambled; Infrequent Gambler: has gambled at least once in lifetime but not in past year; Occasional Gambler: has gambled at least once in the past year, but not weekly; Regular Gambler: has gambled at least once a week in the past year; Problem Gambler: as determined by a diagnosis as a problem or pathological gambler by the South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS).

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Gambling in Texas: 1995 Surveys of Adult and Adolescent Gambling Behavior, Austin, Texas, August 1996. For more information, contact the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse at 512-349-6600.

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