
**1992 TEXAS SURVEY OF
ADOLESCENT GAMBLING BEHAVIOR**



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CHAPTER 2: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gambling by Texas Teens

- 79 percent of Texas teens have ever bet money on an activity (Figure 1).
 - 66 percent of Texas teens bet money within the past year, and 14 percent gambled weekly in the past year.
 - On average, teens who have ever gambled made their first bet at age 12.
 - The three most common types of gambling among Texas teens are betting on card/dice/board games with friends and family (59 percent lifetime prevalence), betting on sports or other events with friends (49 percent lifetime), and betting on games of skill such as bowling or pool (41 percent lifetime).
 - About 15 percent of past-year gamblers spent over \$100 on their bets in that year.
- Teens who gamble frequently are more likely to be male, Hispanic, to receive a weekly income of \$50 or more, and to come from the Border or Corpus Christi regions (Figure 2).
 - 25 percent of teens interviewed before the Texas Lottery began said they intended to buy tickets, compared to 40 percent of teens interviewed after the Lottery began.

Problem Gambling Among Texas Teens

- In Texas before the state lottery began, 5 percent of teens were identified as problem gamblers, and another 12 percent were at risk of developing problems.
- Problem gamblers are about five times more likely than non-problem gamblers to say that

FIG 1 PERCENT OF TEXAS TEENS WHO HAVE GAMBLED:
1992

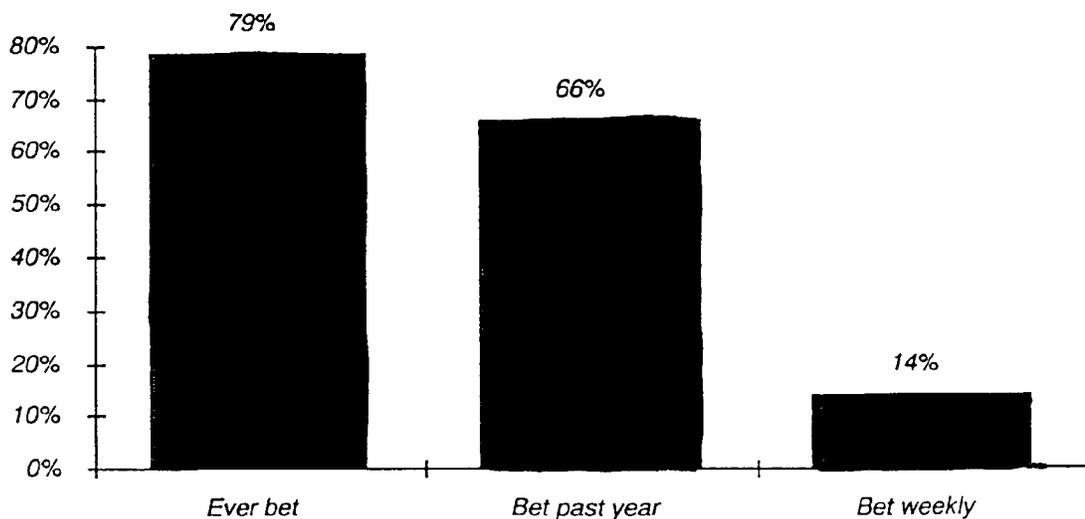
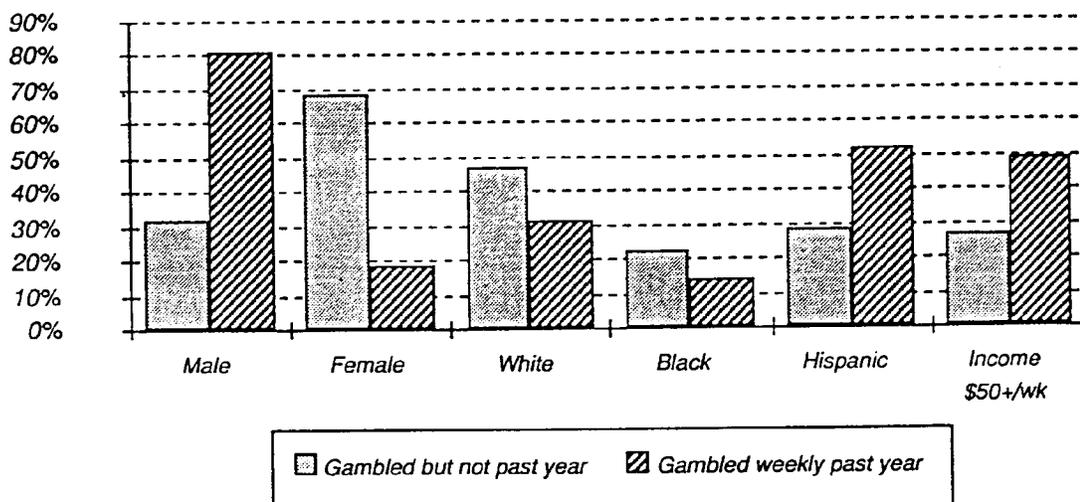


FIG 2 COMPARISON OF TEXAS TEENS WHO DIDN'T GAMBLE IN PAST YEAR AND THOSE WHO GAMBLER WEEKLY: 1992



they gamble to forget their problems (35 percent vs. 7 percent).

- Problem gamblers are much more likely than non-problem gamblers to have bet in the past year on dog/cock fights (23 percent vs. 0 percent), slot machines (29 percent vs. 10 percent), and horse/greyhound races (21 percent versus 6 percent).
- At-risk and problem gamblers are more likely to skip school, be sent to the principal, have friends who carry weapons and belong to gangs, to commit illegal acts, and to be arrested than non-problem gamblers.

Substance Use and Gambling

- 14 percent of Texas teens have gambled, drunk alcohol, and used illicit drugs in their lifetime; 38 percent have done just two of these activities, and 32 percent have done just one (Figure 3).

- 34 percent of weekly gamblers have ever used illicit drugs or inhalants, compared to 17 percent of past-year gamblers and 9 percent of not-past-year gamblers.
- 78 percent of weekly gamblers have drunk alcohol, as compared to 69 percent of past-year gamblers and 38 percent of not-past-year gamblers.

Comparisons Between Adolescent and Adult Gamblers

- 79 percent of teens, 78 percent of adults under 30, and 75 percent of adults 30 and over have ever gambled.
- A higher percentage of teens have gambled on games of skill than adults (41 percent for teens, 29 percent for adults under 30, and 17 percent for adults over 30) (Figure 4).
- Adolescent problem gamblers are more likely than adults to be male and to be Hispanic.

FIG 3 PERCENT OF TEXAS TEENS WHO HAVE GAMBLED, DRUNK ALCOHOL, AND/OR USED OTHER DRUGS: 1992

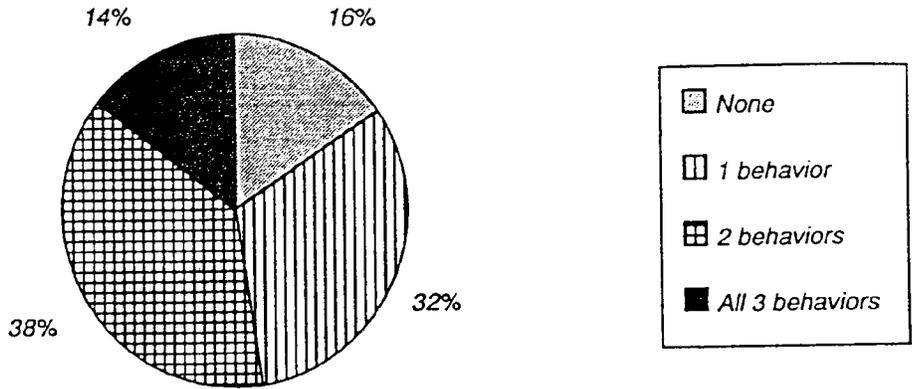


FIG 4 PERCENT OF TEXANS WHO HAVE GAMBLED ON VARIOUS ACTIVITIES, BY AGE GROUP: 1992

