



Underage Gambling

FACT SHEET



39.5% of NYS youth between the ages of 12 and 17 **have gambled** in the past year.

Nearly **30%** of these youth state they began gambling at age 10 or younger.

Past 30 day use of alcohol, being drunk, use of marijuana, and drinking energy drinks is **higher among youth** who are

GAMBLING

**Source: OASAS, 2014-15*

Top 3 Past-Year Gambling Behaviors

- Playing lottery, lotto, and scratch offs
- Betting money on raffles or charity games
- Betting money on sports

**Source: OASAS, 2014-15*

Consequences of Underage Gambling

- Increased risk for DELINQUENCY & CRIME
- Increased risk for SUBSTANCE USE & ABUSE
- Increased risk for ADDICTION
- DAMAGED RELATIONSHIPS
- Poor academic performance
- Mental health issues including DEPRESSION & ANXIETY
- Overall, POOR GENERAL HEALTH

**Sources: Wynne, et al. (1996); Hardoon, et al. (2002); Gupta & Derevensky (1998); Potenza, et al. (2002).*

YOU(th) Can Help!

Parents

- Learn more about the dangers of underage gambling at www.YOUthDecideNY.org
- Talk to your children today about the dangers of underage gambling
- Use teachable moments (ads, movies, etc.) to teach your children how to analyze media

Youth

- Know all of the facts before you DECIDE
- Learn more about the dangers of underage gambling at www.YOUthDecideNY.org
- Be a positive peer influence by choosing NOT to gamble
- Get involved in preventing underage gambling by partnering with a local prevention agency.

Community leaders

- Go gambling free with your family and youth events
- Publicly express your support for gambling-free events for youth and families
- Learn more about the dangers of underage gambling at www.YOUthDecideNY.org

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Giving teens the power to decide!