

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Oklahoma Association on Problem Gambling and Gaming (OAPGG) calls upon all stakeholders in the debate over legalized sports gambling to recognize the harms of gambling disorder.

OAPGG believes the expansion of legalized sports gambling in the state of Oklahoma will likely increase gambling participation and problems unless the following steps are taken to minimize harm.

Any sports legislation should include:

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Annual funding for treatment, prevention, education, and awareness of all issues related to sports betting

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Training for all employees and vendors on the signs and symptoms of gambling disorder with oversight by a third party

ACCURATE ADVERTISING AND HELPLINE PROMOTION

- Accurate representation of the odds of winning and accurate representation of the risk involved
- Display of 1-800-GAMBLER information on all teller windows and online platforms
- 1-800-GAMBLER promotion on all print, billboard, social media, and other advertising

LIMITS ON GAMBLING

- Participation in the OAPGG state-wide self-exclusion program
- Ability to set limits on the amount time and money wagered
- No sports betting for individuals under 21 years of age

A NOTE ON GAMBLING NEUTRALITY

This white paper takes a gambling-neutral approach to the proposed solutions for gambling disorder and does not make recommendations for or against gambling. Regardless of whether there are legalized opportunities for gambling, it is possible for an individual to develop a gambling problem. Any new legislation or expansion in gambling should include protections and funding to prevent and mitigate harm.

THE FACTS ABOUT GAMBLING DISORDER

WHAT IS GAMBLING DISORDER?

Gambling disorder is widely recognized as a chronic mental health condition marked by an uncontrollable urge to gamble. The individual cannot stop gambling despite ever-increasing negative consequences to themselves.

DIAGNOSING GAMBLING DISORDER

- loss of control
- preoccupation
- negative impact on major life areas
- tolerance
- cravings/urges
- withdrawal
- chasing losses
- lying to conceal the damage
- asking for bailouts

gambling disorder Meets 4 or more of the 9 criteria for gambling disorder in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th edition.

at-risk Meets 1 to 3 of the criteria.

IMPACTS OF GAMBLING DISORDER

Bankruptcy Gambling disorder can wreak havoc on finances on an individual, family, and community level. Nationally, 20% of those with gambling disorder eventually declare bankruptcy due to gambling debts (Grant et al., 2010).

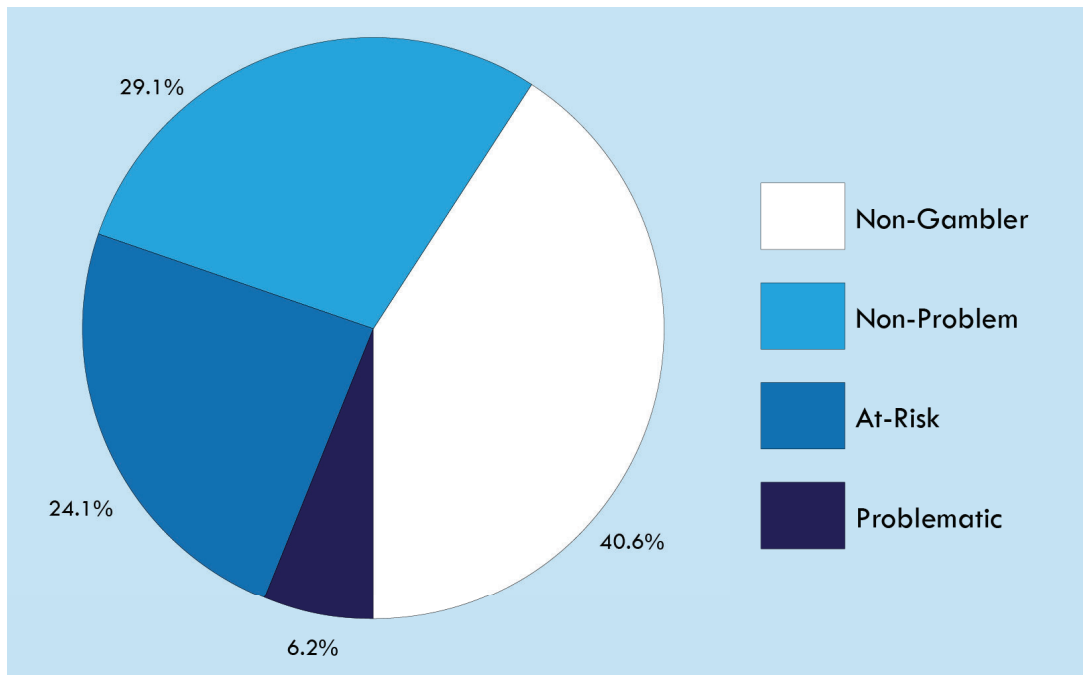
Domestic violence In families with a gambling disorder, domestic violence and child/elder neglect are more likely (Muellemann et al., 2002; Korman et al., 2008; Afifi et al., 2010).

Suicide Gambling disorder has the highest rate of suicidal thinking and behavior of all addictions. About 19% of those with a gambling problem have made a suicide attempt (American Psychiatric Association, 2013).

Crime Although most individuals with a gambling disorder do not commit crimes (American Psychiatric Association, 2013), some will commit fraud, embezzlement, theft, or burglary to fund their gambling or manage debts.

HIGH GAMBLING DISORDER PREVALENCE IN OKLAHOMA

Nearly a third (29.8%), or 1 million, of Oklahoma adults are either at-risk for or currently suffering from gambling disorder.



Harwell, W. H., Spare, K., & Mills, D. J. (2023). Assessing the prevalence of gambling and problem gambling in Oklahoma among a non-probabilistic sample of adults. Report created by OAPGG and the Kansas City Port Authority Problem Gambling Fund Advisory Committee. Norman, OK: Authors.

59.4% of Oklahomans have gambled in the past year. This percentage includes the players who are able to play without any problems as well as those who are at-risk, or experiencing a problem.

One in 16 (6.2%) Oklahoma adults meet the DSM-5 criteria for gambling disorder.

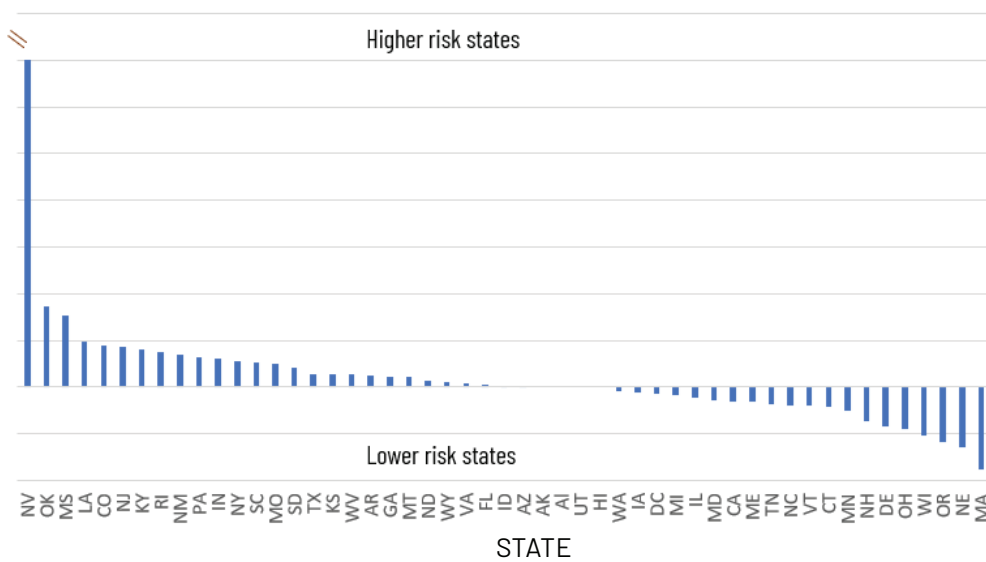
An additional 23.5% are at-risk. Collectively, these findings suggest that nearly a third (29.8%) or 1 million of Oklahoma adults are either at-risk for or currently suffering from gambling disorder.

THE FACTS ABOUT GAMBLING DISORDER

OKLAHOMANS ARE AT A HIGHER RISK FOR GAMBLING DISORDER

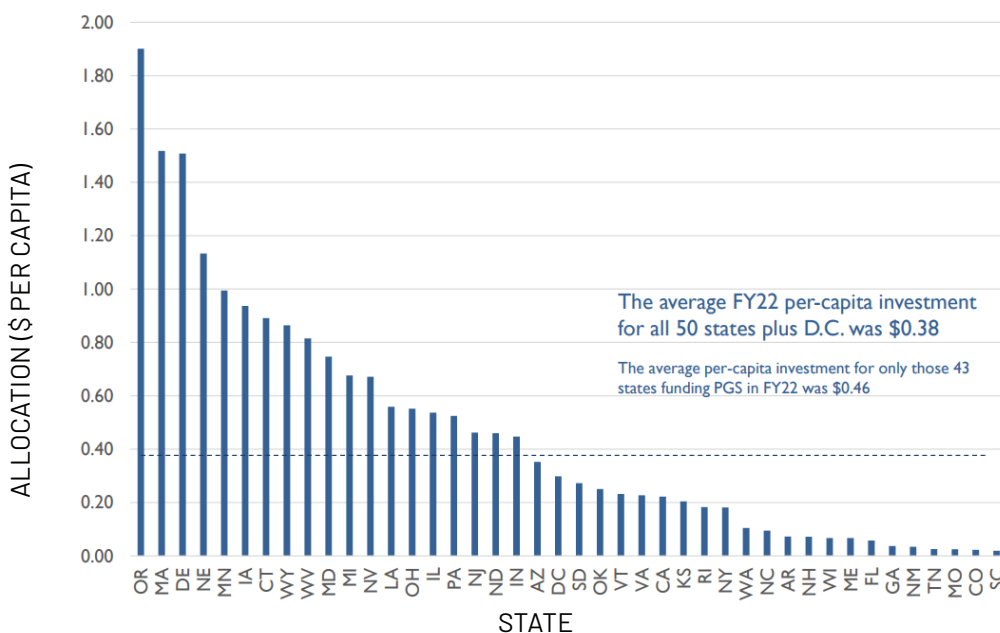
Oklahoma ranks second in the nation for problem gambling risk, in part because it is below the national average in funding for problem gambling.

2021 PROBLEM GAMBLING RISK-ADJUSTED STATE SCORES



Marotta, J. & Yamagata, G. (2022). 2021 survey of publicly funded problem gambling services in the United States. National Association of Administrators for Disordered Gambling Services.

2022 PER CAPITA SPENDING BY STATES FOR GAMBLING DISORDER



Marotta, J. & Yamagata, G. (2023). 2022 Budget Update: Publicly funded problem gambling services in the United States. National Association of Administrators for Disordered Gambling Services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

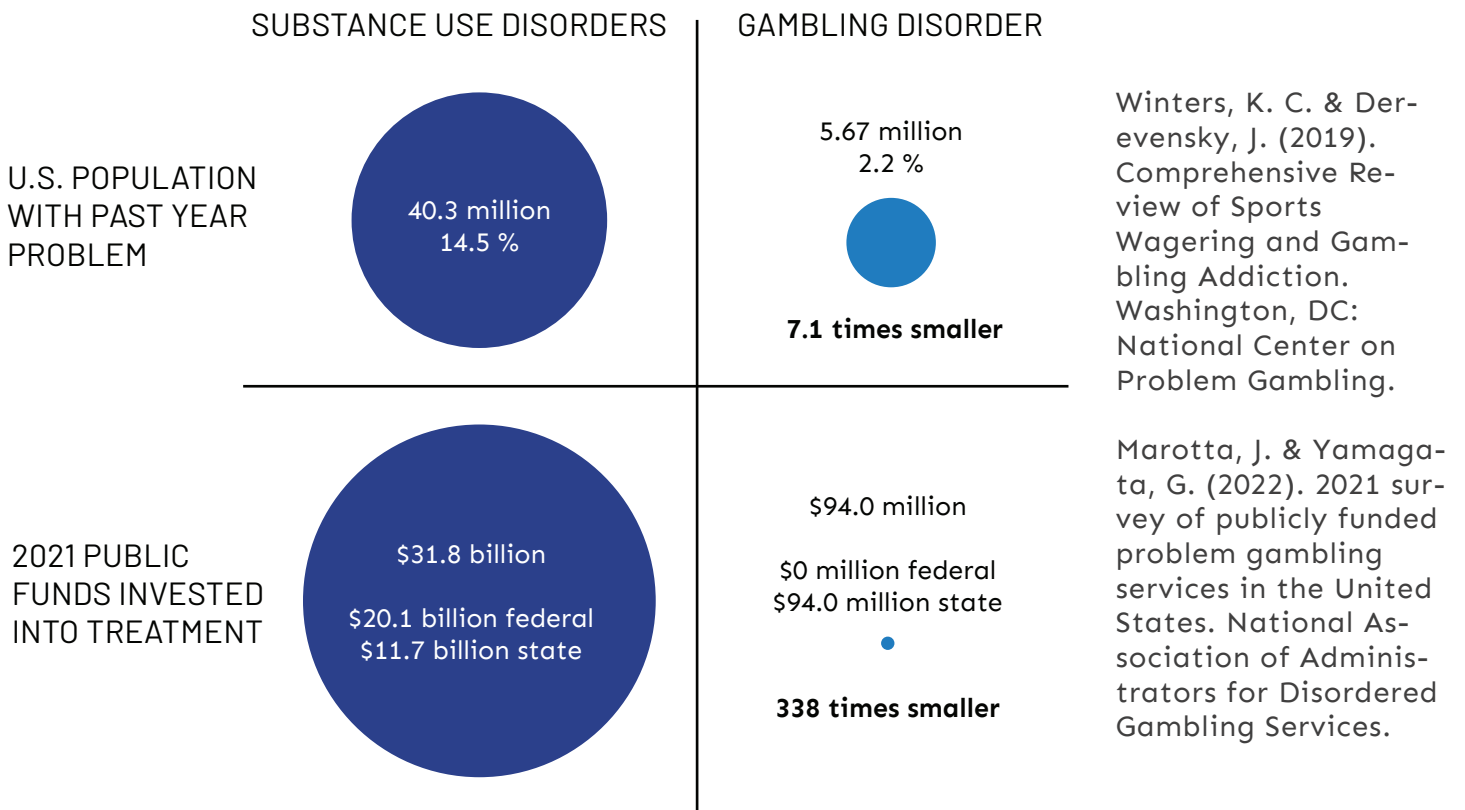
FUNDING

Revenue from sports betting should support an annual allocation to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for the treatment and prevention of sports betting.

Legalizing sports betting should trigger an increase in funding for problem gambling treatment and prevention, particularly because **the rate of gambling problems among sports bettors is at least twice as high as among gamblers in general** (Winters & Derevensky, 2019).

The National Council on Problem Gambling recommends allocating at least 1% of all gambling revenues toward initiatives that increase awareness or provide treatment and prevention for problem gambling.

Funding for problem gambling is already low compared to funding for substance use disorders and prevalence rates (Marotta, & Yamagata, 2022).



THE FACTS ABOUT FUNDING FOR GAMBLING DISORDER

OKLAHOMA GAMBLING REVENUE

Of the \$202 million in state revenue from the tribal compact in FY2023, \$250,000 was allocated for problem gambling.

2023 REVENUE AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Tribal gaming revenue (Class III only)*	\$3.34 billion
State revenue from tribal compact*	\$202 million
State's allocation for problem gambling†	\$250,000
Lottery's contribution for problem gambling‡	\$750,000

IN NATIONAL RANKINGS, OKLAHOMA IS . . .

1ST

in number of tribal casinos.*

3RD

in number of slot machines and casino gambling revenue.*

23RD

in per capita funding for problem gambling services.‡

*American Gaming Association & Gambling Compliance. (2023). State of the states 2022: The AGA analysis of the commercial casino industry. Washington, DC.

† Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services. (2021). Oklahoma Gaming Compliance Unit Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2020.

‡ Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services. (2021). Oklahoma Gaming Compliance Unit Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2020.

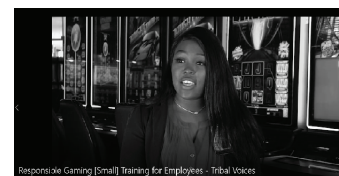
RECOMMENDATIONS

TRAINING

All employees and vendors should be trained on the signs and symptoms of gambling disorder with oversight by a third party.

Casino employees have the most opportunities for spotting the signs and symptoms of problem gambling, which means that casinos are the leading referral source for the helpline and treatment services. Each casino and each shift needs dedicated and trained people to speak with those who show signs of a gambling disorder.

OAPGG offers a variety of trainings to casinos, counselors, and others. In cooperation with tribal nations, OAPGG has developed training films and an intervention approach, as well as other responsible gambling trainings.



ADVERTISING

Operators may not misrepresent the odds of winning and may not misrepresent the risk involved to a bettor's own money.

Misrepresentations of risk in advertising can support thinking and behavior that leads to gambling disorder. In the 2022 Oklahoma problem gambling prevalence survey, individuals with maladaptive beliefs were more likely to have gambling disorder. Only 5.3% of individuals who endorsed neither maladaptive belief showed signs of gambling disorder, whereas 48.5% of individuals who endorsed both maladaptive beliefs had gambling disorder (Harwell et al., 2023).

MALADAPTIVE BELIEFS

gambler's fallacy

believing that the outcome of a random game is determined by previous events

winning strategies

believing that following a certain strategy will affect the outcome of a random game

RECOMMENDATIONS

HELPLINE PROMOTION

All teller windows and online platforms should have brochures and posters to promote the Oklahoma Problem Gambling Helpline (1-800-GAMBLER).

All print, billboard, social media or other advertising should promote responsible gambling by including 1-800-GAMBLER.

All public prevention and awareness efforts should offer a unified message. OAPGG works with the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association to lead **Tribal Voices**, a grassroots and cooperative effort to enhance responsible gambling efforts across the state of Oklahoma. The unified Smart Play OK public awareness campaign, developed by Tribal Voices, is used across the state to promote responsible gambling.

Smart Play OK
Gamble Responsibly Oklahoma

There is help for
Problem Gambling

Resources & Support

- ★ Self-Exclusion
- ★ Self-Assessment
- ★ Outpatient Treatment
- ★ Peer Support

Call the Helpline
1-800-GAMBLER

Oklahoma Association on Problem Gambling & Gaming

Smart Play OK
Gamble Responsibly Oklahoma

GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY

When played responsibly, gambling can be an enjoyable source of entertainment for adults. However, it can lead to problems for individuals and families, as well as be addictive.

Problem gambling is defined as gambling to the extent that it causes any kind of emotional, family, legal, financial, or other problems for the person who is gambling or those around them. People of all ages, races, and socio-economic backgrounds can become problem gamblers.

There are many levels of problem gambling. In fact, you could be practicing risky behaviors without even realizing it. That's why it's so important to know the rules for playing safe.

Keep it fun.

Know your limits.

Never borrow to play.

For more information,
contact:
Oklahoma Association on
Problem Gambling & Gaming
405-801-3329

Visit our website at
www.oapgg.org

Resources and Support

- Self-Assessment
- Outpatient Treatment
- Peer Support
- Telehealth Counseling
- Self-Exclusion

Call the helpline
1-800-GAMBLER

Provided by
Oklahoma Association on Problem Gambling & Gaming
Partially funded by
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health
and Substance Abuse Services

OAPGG provides brochures, posters, and other materials to tribal partners.

Billboards around the state are displayed courtesy of Chickasaw Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, and Choctaw Nation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

.....

SELF-EXCLUSION

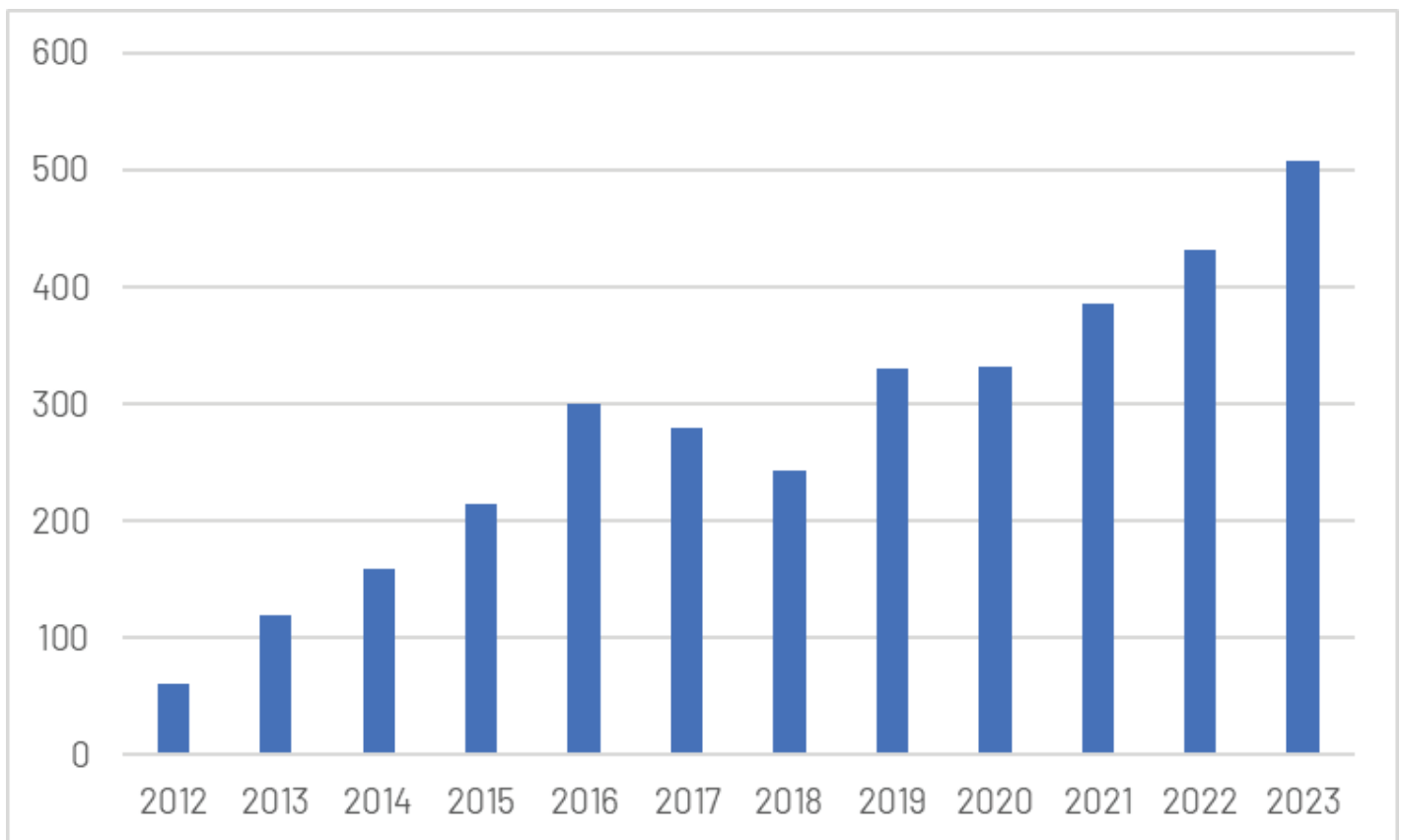
Sports betting operators should participate in the statewide self-exclusion program.

The current **statewide database**, managed by OAPGG, should be used by all gambling outlets to allow customers to voluntarily ban themselves.

It is recommended that self-exclusion should be for **1, 3, or 5 years**, and if there is a process for lifting the exclusion then a class on problem gambling should be used as one consideration for the lifting process.

The number of new self-exclusions continues to increase from year to year.

NEW SELF-EXCLUSIONS IN OKLAHOMA (2015-2023)



RECOMMENDATIONS

MINIMUM AGE

A consistent minimum age for sports gambling and related fantasy games should be established.

21 is the recommended minimum age.

Teens and young adults are **neurologically predisposed** to take risks, and they lack judgment in decision making. The judgment needed to evaluate gambling risk is one of the last neurological skills to develop in young adults, putting them at risk for problem gambling.

Earlier experiences of gambling are correlated with higher rates of problem gambling.

ABILITY TO LIMIT TIME AND MONEY

Players should be able to set daily, weekly, and monthly limits on the time and money that they spend gambling.

A variety of features in sports betting increase the risk of gambling problems.

In-play betting

Continuous in-play betting encourages bettors to keep placing bets without pausing to think clearly about the risk.

Fandom

A sense of connection to a favorite sports team or player can challenge clear thinking about a wager.

Scarcity principle

Bettors can believe that time is running out and they must place a bet immediately for the game ends.

Social proofing

The increase in sports betting advertising and participation can lead to the assumption that sports betting has no harms.

ABOUT THE OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING AND GAMING

The Oklahoma Association on Problem Gambling and Gaming (OAPGG) is the Oklahoma affiliate of the National Council on Problem Gambling. It is the mission of the Oklahoma Association on Problem Gambling and Gaming to:

- Increase the general public's awareness of problem gambling and gaming.
- Enhance the availability and quality of treatment services for those with a gambling or gaming problem and their families.
- Ensure the quality of education and prevention programs for all citizens of Oklahoma.
- Provide support to the National Council on Problem Gambling through development of information and education programs that could be utilized on a national scale and high quality research in the field of gambling addiction and co-occurring dependencies.

OAPGG is funded in part by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS).

OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION ON
PROBLEM GAMBLING AND GAMING

501 E. ALAMEDA ST, SUITE E, NORMAN, OK 73071

405-801-3329 (OFFICE) 405-801-3330 (FAX)

WWW.OAPGG.ORG

