

Vulnerable to Addiction: Gambling's Impact on Marginalized Populations

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Objectives

www.Maryhaven.com



1. Identify the prevalence of disordered gambling among marginalized populations
2. List factors that make these populations more susceptible to disordered gambling, including the ways the gambling industry targets marginalized populations through advertising and marketing
3. Examine the role of family and community support in preventing and treating disordered gambling
4. Describe effective prevention strategies
5. Identify effective treatment options for disordered gambling

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Maryhaven- History and Impact

- Comprehensive addiction and mental health treatment since 1953
- More than 350,000 clients over 71 years, 13,000+ clients annually
- Serving Franklin, Union, Delaware and Morrow Counties



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Maryhaven

- The greatest place in the world!
- #1 nonprofit addiction treatment center in Central Ohio
- Comprehensive services for patients in all stages of recovery
 - Addiction stabilization
 - Residential and outpatient programs
 - Medically assisted treatment
 - Individual counseling
 - Group counseling
 - OP/IOP/PHP



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Gambling Intervention Program

- Gambling program began in 2009
- One of 10 best practice recognized gambling treatment centers in Ohio
- Treatment is FREE for Franklin County Residents
- Services available to family members
- PGNO Gambling Fellowship
 - Four (4) Maryhaven staff have completed the program
- Received PGNO Consultation Grant for 2025
- Gambling program has presented at various conferences

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Why? The Impact

- Nearly 20% of Ohioans considered "at risk" for problem gambling – 2.8% (or 250,000) at diagnosable level.
- Up to 10 others are impacted by a single problem gambler – in Ohio, that means 2.5 million may be impacted.
- Higher rates of suicide (1-in-5) & intimate partner violence (40-60%) than any other addiction



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Gambling: A Serious Disorder

- Up to 50% also have substance use disorder and/or psychiatric condition*
- At least three-fourths suffer from depression
- One in five declare bankruptcy, theft/embezzlement is common



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Why Not Seek Help?

- Denial/Disorder
- Fear of disclosure
- Cost
- Stigma of "treatment"
- Inaccessibility
- Fear



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Serving Families

- Loved ones often take on family and financial responsibilities
- Statistics: Stress-related illness, depression, suicide & intimate partner violence
- Betrayed, angry
- Financial fallout, impact on children



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What are “marginalized populations”?

A marginalized population refers to a group of people who are systematically excluded from full participation in society. This exclusion can be based on various factors, including:

- Race and Ethnicity
- Socioeconomic Status
- Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation
- Age
- Religion
- Geographic Location



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Discussion Question

What do you think the relationship is between gambling disorder and marginalized populations?
What have you seen at your agencies or practice?



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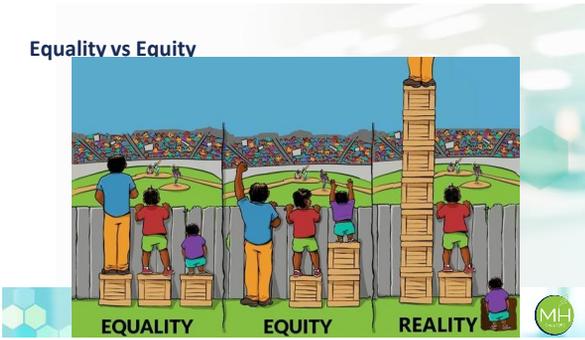
Other terms

- Oppression
- Disadvantages
- Prejudice
- Discrimination
- Bias
- Microaggression
- Intersectionality
- BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color)
- DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)



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Equality vs Equity



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Gambling and African American Populations



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Gambling and the African American Community

A 2011 study by Barry et al compared a nationally-representative sample of 32,316 Black and White adults in the US on measures of gambling behavior, problem gambling, mental health, and the co-occurrence of mental disorders and gambling. It found:

- Black respondents were more likely than White respondents to have exhibited problem gambling behaviors in the last year.
- Higher proportion of Black problem gamblers, compared with White problem gamblers, were women (49% versus 32%).



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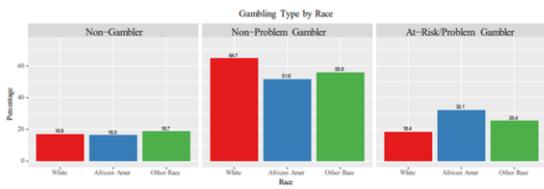
Gambling and the African American Community

A 2017 report by Nower and colleagues showed Black or African American respondents reported the second highest prevalence of problem gambling (compared with other racial/ethnic groups) with 18.5% having low-risk problems, 10.4% experiencing moderate-risk problems and 10.7% suffering from high-risk problems. Asian/Other respondents displayed the most problematic gambling behaviors and White or Caucasian respondents the least.



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Ohio Gambling Survey - 2022



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Impact of Gambling on African American Community

- BIPOC neighborhoods have more lottery outlets than their counterparts
- Neighborhoods associated with lower socioeconomic class have more lottery outlets than their counterparts
- Increased risk of disordered gambling
 - Stigma
 - Targeted advertising
 - Social conditions



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The Problem with Legal Gambling That Everyone Seems to Be Ignoring

“This new era of sports betting ain’t just more big business. It’s another industry undermining my people, targeting them with predation. Why do I think that? Because we arrived at this era by way of a law that’s been used to harm Black people and marginalized groups. Because Big Gambling resembles Big Tobacco in troubling ways. Because the industry must know that its efforts intersect with a culture, maybe the most influential culture in the Black community, that by and large has encouraged a reckless relationship with money.” - Esquire



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Barriers to Treatment in African American Populations

- Cost of therapy
- Distrust of health care system
- Cultural stigma
 - Seeking therapy sign of weakness
- Familial shame
 - Therapy is something to be ashamed of
- Lack of culturally competent providers
- Negative past experiences with therapy

(How Gambling Affects African Americans, 2022)



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Gambling and East/Southeast Asian Populations



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Reasons for Gambling in East/Southeast Asian Populations

- To earn money
- Cultural loss due to immigration
- Social isolation
- Targeted marketing by casinos
- Use as a proxy for a social network
- Relieve stress
- Escape reality



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Gambling in East/Southeast Asian Communities

‘Interviewees provided insights into the underlying issues of poverty and social and cultural loss due to immigration as root causes for problem gambling in the Asian American community. The interviews indicate that many individuals in these Asian immigrant communities, who are striving to make a living off low-wage and stressful jobs, struggle to integrate into American society. They often lack culturally appropriate and accessible social and recreational activities, a void that casinos capitalize on through targeted behaviors.’

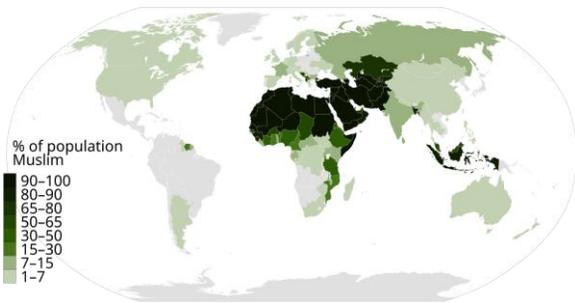


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Breaking the Sharam



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Arab/Muslim Americans Demographics

- Roughly 53,000 Muslim Americans in the state of Missouri
- 3.45 million Muslim Americans in the U.S. or about 1.1%
- Fastest growing religion in the world
- Second largest religion in the world
- Part of the minority in the west
- Victims of hate crimes and prejudice across the U.S.



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Gambling and Arab/Muslim Americans

What does Gambling mean to this community?

- Seen as sinful, forbidden or 'haram'
- Taboo
- Many may not believe in mental health problems/illnesses
- Usually stays within the family unit for fear of stigma and shame
- Do not seek treatment or help as opposed to white counterparts
- Distrust of providers
- Why is it haram?



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Gambling and Arab/Muslim Americans

- ★ Focus groups with Ohio in Arabic/Maryhaven in 2022
- ★ What did we learn from three focus groups
 - Challenges in defining gambling
 - Other nuanced/forms of gambling including day trading/financial markets
 - Work/Student Visas and Credit Card Usage/Student Loans
 - Lack of education around problem gambling
 - Increased shame, guilt and embarrassment
 - Did not feel comfortable getting help at a local mosque



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Gambling and Arab/Muslim Americans

Call from the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline

Arab American male had called on his way home from an out of state casino. Identified himself as being Muslim.

Phone conversation about exclusion in other states as he was already on Ohio VEP

Further discussion on religion/spirituality protective factors; wanting to get involved again in his faith community

Referred to local agency in Franklin County

Consulted with counselor but chose not to enter treatment

Follow up call a few days later

Good case example of self-determination and caller preference



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Gambling and Arab/Muslim Americans

Another Clinical Example

Eritrean American male has entered treatment for alcohol use and gambling.

Court mandated to treatment due to DUI. Has been active in treatment for 2+ years

Protective Factors: Strong faith, identified himself as being Muslim. Strong family and spousal support.

Risk Factors: Not as honest with his family and friends about drinking and gambling behaviors. Lack of outside support.

Negative perception of self-help groups and other group settings.



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Barriers to Treatment in Muslim Americans

- Language - may not have a word for gambling or mental health
- Many cultures may not believe in mental health problems/illnesses
- Gambling is forbidden or haram so less likely to be talked about
- Cultural norm of problems being taken care within family unit
- Admitting a problem publicly would bring shame on family members
- Shame/Stigma



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Gambling and Lower Socioeconomic Populations



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“Gambling may be viewed as one of the few opportunities for financial advancement, and perhaps provides the leare as a means for easily gaining money”

John W. Welte,
RIA senior research scientist
University of Buffalo



(People in Poor Neighborhoods Are Twice as Likely to Have Gambling Problems, Study Finds - University at Buffalo, 2014)



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Lotteries & BIPOC Neighborhoods

- BIPOC Neighborhoods have more lottery outlets than their counterparts*
- Neighborhoods associated with lower socioeconomic class have more lottery outlets than their counterparts*
- Increased risk of problem gambling
 - Stigma
 - Targeted advertising
 - Social conditions

Lottery on Your Block, The Howard Center for Investigative Journalism



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Lottery Inequities

- Americans spent approximately \$97.8 billion on lottery tickets in 2022 & \$105 billion in 2021
- In a nationwide investigation of state lotteries by the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism at the University of Maryland, researchers found that state lottery retailers are disproportionately grouped in lower-income communities and in some states, studies show these retailers exist primarily in Black and Latino neighborhoods.



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Lottery Inequities

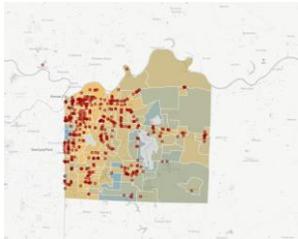
- When introduced to Americans, the original premise of state-run lotteries was marketed to raise funds for education — such as K-12, college or both. A few states use their lottery revenue for other things like road and park maintenance, according to the American Institute for Economic Research.
- Lotteries often create inequities by "disproportionately benefiting" college students and wealthier school districts far from the neighborhoods where lottery tickets are sold - the Howard Center



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Jackson County, Missouri

- Total population: 723,224 (#2 in the State)
- Average income \$49,219



<https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/missouri-jackson-county/>

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Lottery On Your Block



Lottery on Your Block, The Howard Center for Investigative Journalism

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Draftkings



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Discussion Question

Think about the actors in these ads. What do they say about the app's target audience?



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Clinical Implications

- What is Cultural Competence?
 - *"the ability to interact with people from different cultures in a way that is respectful, effective, and ethical"*
- Building Culturally Competent Care
- Recognizing Bias
- Fostering an Inclusive Environment
- DEI Initiatives and Committees
- "Nothing About Us, Without Us"



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Center for Substance Prevention

- Assessment
- Capacity
- Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation

Two principles must be integrated into all steps

1. Cultural Competence
2. Sustainability



(Strategic Prevention Framework | SAMHSA, n.d.)



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Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP)

Six Strategies

- Information Dissemination
- Education
- Alternatives
- Environmental
- Community-Based Process
- Problem Identification and Referral

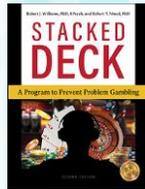


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Evidence-Based Prevention Curricula

RISKY BUSINESS

Substance Abuse Resource & Disability Issues Program
Dorsetshire School of Medicine, Wright State University



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Effective Prevention Strategies

- Education
 - Parents, grandparents, teachers, caregivers
 - Students
 - Coaches
 - Athletes
- Media Literacy
- Financial Literacy



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Works Cited

People in poor neighborhoods are twice as likely to have gambling problems, study finds - University at Buffalo, (2014, January 3). Welcome to the University at Buffalo - University at Buffalo. <https://www.atbuffalo.edu/news/releases/2014/01/03.html>

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