



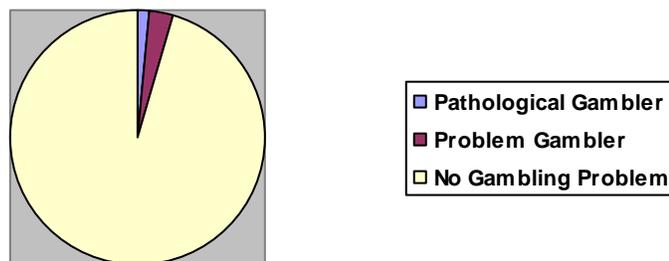
Problem Gambling in Georgia

Rates of problem (PG) and pathological gambling (PAG) within Georgia's population have been found to be similar to those of other states despite Georgia's limited opportunities to participate in legal gambling activities compared to some other areas. Furthermore, the rate of PG estimated within the general population of the State was based on data that *excluded* residents who belong to groups with higher rates of problem gambling, such as those who are under the age of 18, incarcerated, hospitalized, homeless, who have served in the military, or have been institutionalized in a mental health or substance abuse treatment center. Therefore, to enhance the accuracy of PG estimates among GA residents the Georgia State University Pathological Gambling Research Team is in the process of obtaining population specific estimates of PG prevalence among those groups that are at increased risk for PG and that have been excluded from previous prevalence studies.

General Population

- Of the general adult population in the State 4.0% were assessed as having a gambling problem.
 - 1.4% were Pathological Gamblers
 - 2.6% were Problem Gamblers
 - Given a population of 9.5 million in Georgia this equates to 380,000 adult residents with a gambling problem (133,000 Pathological and 247,000 Problem Gamblers)

Types of gamblers in Georgia's general Population



College Students

- Among college students in the State 7.8% were assessed as having a gambling problem
 - 2.4% were Pathological Gamblers
 - 5.4% were Problem Gamblers
 - The University System of Georgia reported that 283,000 students were enrolled in public GA colleges in 2008. This equates to 22,074 college students with a gambling problem (6,792 Pathological Gamblers and 15,282 Problem Gamblers).

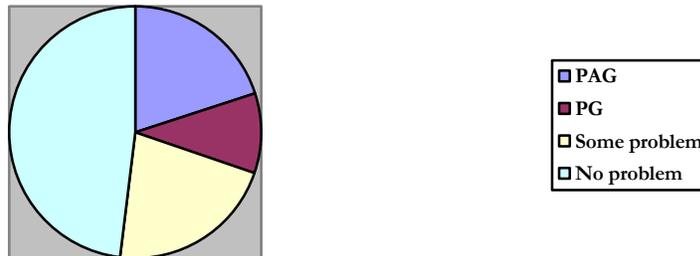
High School Students

- The prevalence of problem gambling has yet to be assessed within this population. However,
 - 57% reported having gambled
 - 15% reported gambling frequently
 - Males and those of Color significantly more likely to be frequent gamblers than others

Drug and DUI Court Clients

- The prevalence of PG may be highest among this population than among any other.
 - 20.1% were Pathological Gamblers
 - 10.3% were Problem Gamblers
 - 21.6% had some problem gambling

Prevalence of Gambling Type among Drug/DUI Court Clients



Veterans who are also Drug and DUI Court Clients

- Rates of PG and PAG in military and veteran populations exceed those for other adults. This is especially true among those who also have co-occurring substance abuse and legal problems.
 - 14.0% were Pathological Gamblers
 - 10.0% were Problem Gamblers
 - 25.0% had some problem gambling

Youth involved in Alternative Courts (Juvenile, Juvenile Drug, and Family Courts)

- The rate of gambling problems within this population far exceeds what is found among youth not involved with the criminal justice system. *Note:* “Pathological Gambler” does not apply to youth.
 - 12.4% were Problem Gamblers
 - 10.3% were had some problem gambling, often called “at risk”

Summary and recommendations to reduce the incidence/prevalence of PG

The identification of those at risk of and suffering from PG provides opportunities to intervene, which may reduce the incidence and prevalence of PG, as well as alleviate associated negative impacts to public health. Therefore, increasing prevention efforts and screening those at risk for gambling problems is recommended.

- Contact The GSU Pathological Gambling Intervention Project for resources regarding the prevention and treatment of problem gambling, as well as for technical assistance: www.GeorgiaGamblingHelp.org
- Screen for PG so that interventions can be targeted at those at increased risk or experiencing problems.

LIE-BET TOOL TO RULE OUT PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING¹

This 2-item measure has been found to be reliable and valid at discriminating between pathological and non-problem gamblers. A response of “Yes” to either question indicates further assessment is warranted.

- 1) **Have you ever felt the need to bet more and more money?**
- 2) **Have you ever had to lie to people important to you about how much you gambled?**

For more information visit the GSU Problem Gambling Research and Intervention Project web site:

www.GeorgiaGamblingHelp.org

¹Johnson, E. E., Hamer, R., Nora, R. M., Tan, B., Eistenstein, N., & Englehart, C. (1988). The lie/bet questionnaire for screening pathological gamblers. *Psychological Reports, 80*, 83-88.