

Gambling and Problem Gambling in Massachusetts: Results of Three Online Panel Surveys

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Overview

- Panel survey methods
 - Analysis focused on regular/monthly gamblers
- Attitudes about gambling
- Gambling behavior
- Gambling problems and harms
- Discussion and future directions

Background

- Monitoring and public health
- Online panel surveys
 - Not representative
 - High proportion of regular gamblers, gamblers experiencing problems
 - “It’s a feature, not a bug”
 - Useful to regularly monitor direction of changes at relatively low cost
- Allows for timely introduction of protective, mitigation measures

SEIGMA Surveys

Survey	Sample Size	Year
Baseline General Population Survey (BGPS)	9,578	2013-2014
Baseline Online Panel Survey (BOPS)	5,046	2013-2014
Baseline Targeted Surveys (Plainville, Springfield) (B-TPP, B-TPS)	~1,000 each	2014, 2015
Follow-up Targeted Surveys (Plainville, Springfield) (F-TPP, F-TPS)	~1,000 each	2016, 2019
Follow-up General Population Survey (FGPS)	6,293	2021-2022
Follow-up Online Panel Survey (FOPS)	3,038	2022
Online Panel Survey 2023 (OPS23)	3,380	2023
MA Gambling Impact Cohort (MAGIC) – 5 waves	3,139	2013-2019

Methods

- Questionnaire
 - Aligned closely with questionnaire used in population surveys
 - Described as gambling survey since purpose was to recruit gamblers
 - Sections included
 - Physical & mental health, alcohol & drug use
 - Attitudes, gambling behavior, gambling problems
 - Awareness of services
 - Wording of question about sports betting changed in 2022 to include newer forms
- Data collection
 - 2014 conducted by Ipsos (n = 5046)
 - 2022 and 2023 conducted by Qualtrics (n = 3038, n = 3380)

Comparing Panels to MA Population

	BGPS 2013		BOPS 2014		Percent Difference
	Percent	95% CI	Percent	95% CI	
Total	100		100		
Non-gambler	26.6	(25.3, 28.0)	20.7	(19.6, 21.9)	-5.9
Recreational gambler	62.9	(61.4, 64.4)	59.6	(58.3, 61.0)	-3.3
At-risk gambler	8.4	(7.5, 9.4)	13.3	(12.4, 14.3)	4.9
Problem or pathological gambler	2.0	(1.6, 2.6)	6.4	(5.7, 7.1)	4.4
	FGPS 2021		FOPS 2022		
	Percent	95% CI	Percent	95% CI	
Total	100		100		
Non-gambler	38.7	(36.7, 40.7)	21.2	(19.7, 22.7)	-17.5
Recreational gambler	51.3	(49.3, 53.4)	53.4	(51.6, 55.1)	2.1
At-risk gambler	8.5	(7.4, 9.8)	14.3	(13.1, 15.5)	5.8
Problem or pathological gambler	1.4	(1.0, 2.1)	11.2	(10.1, 12.4)	9.8

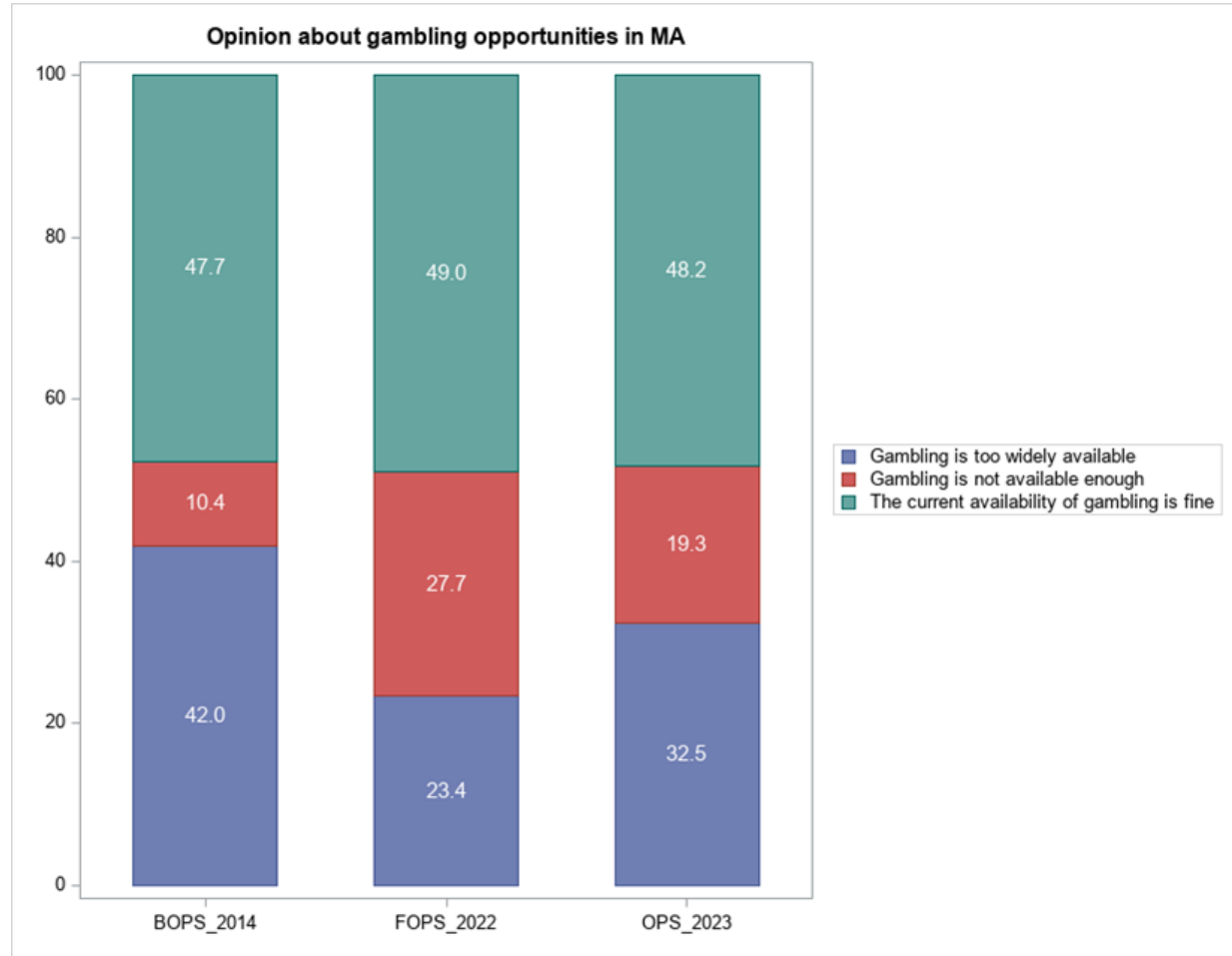
Note: Data from the population surveys (BGPS and FGPS) are weighted to the MA population while data from the online panels (BOPS and FOPS) are unweighted.

Panel Samples for Analysis

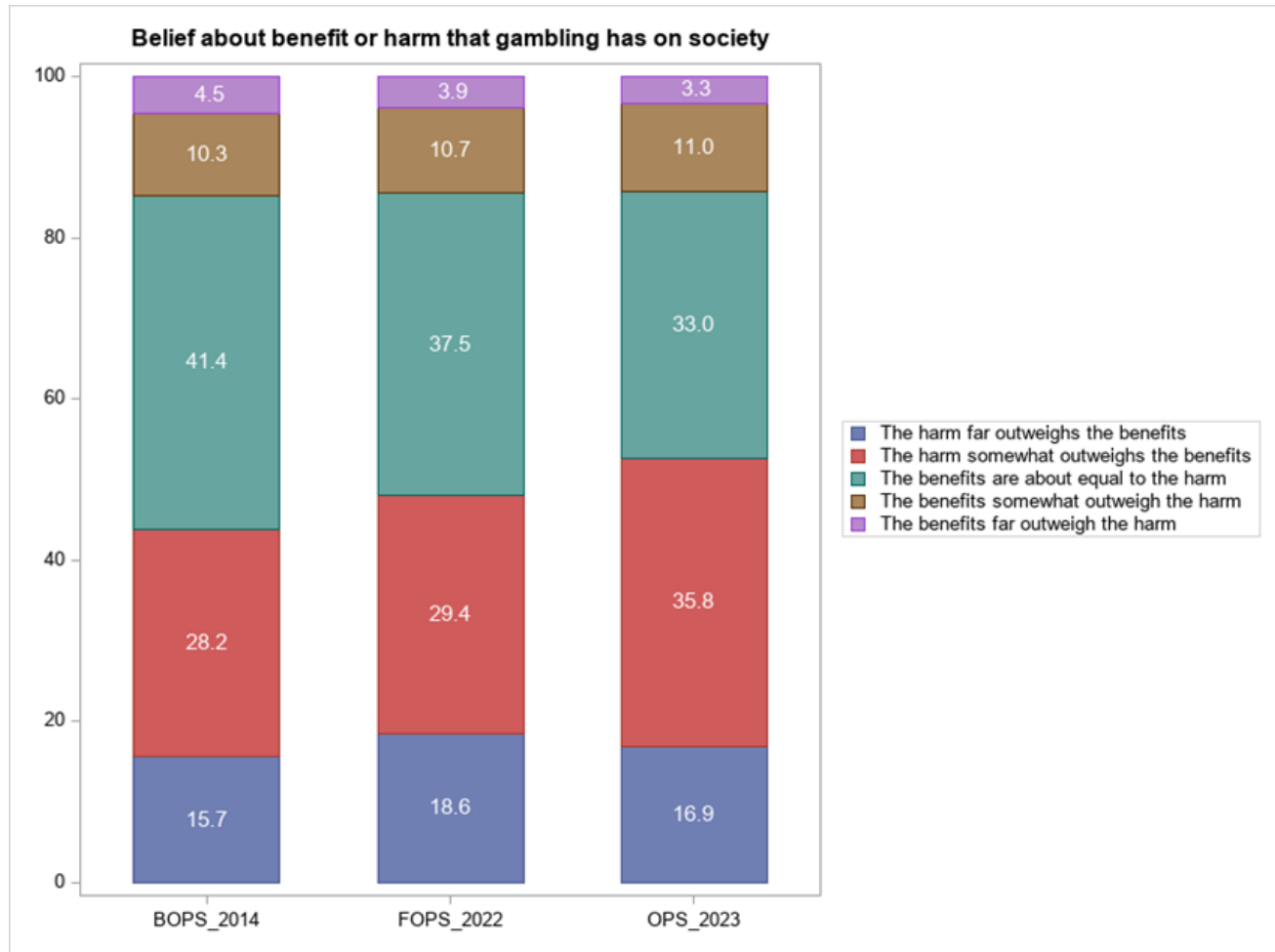
Online Panel	Overall Sample	After Removing Duplicates	%	Gambled Monthly or More	%
BOPS 2014	5046	5046	100	2497	49.5
FOPS 2022	3038	3038	100	1631	53.7
OPS23 2023	3380	3215	95	1866	58.0

ATTITUDES TOWARD GAMBLING

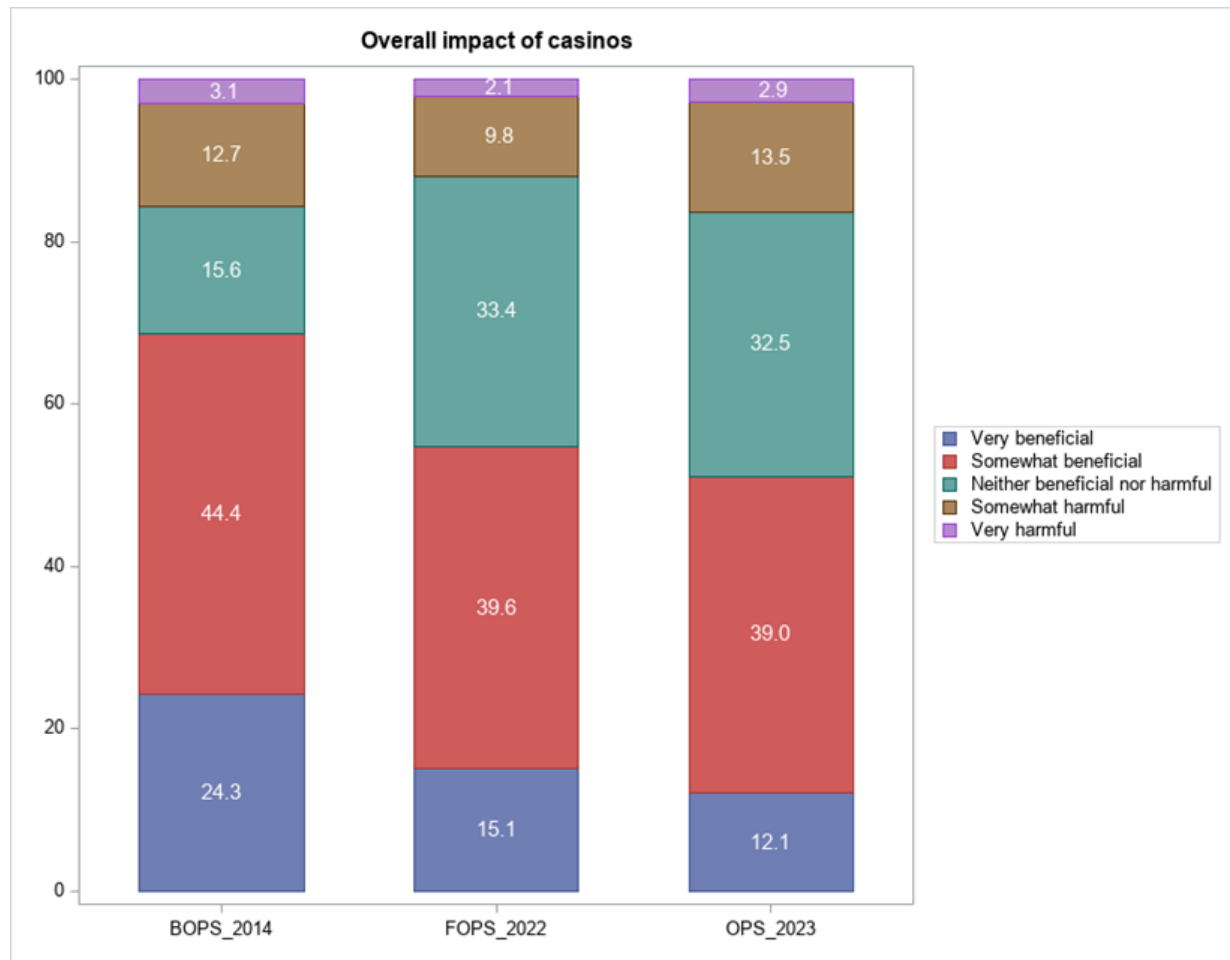
Attitudes: Availability



Attitudes: Benefits and Harms



Attitudes: Overall Impact of Casinos



GAMBLING BEHAVIOR

Gambling Participation

- Definition provided for consistency:

We define gambling as betting money or material goods on an event with an uncertain outcome in the hopes of winning additional money or material goods. It includes things such as lottery tickets, scratch tickets, bingo, betting against a friend on a game of skill or chance, betting on horse racing or sports, investing in high risk stocks, etc.

- 13 activities assessed
 - Past-year participation
 - Frequency of participation
 - Expenditures

Gambling Participation

	BOPS_2014			FOPS_2022			OPS_2023		
	N	%	95% CI	n	%	95% CI	n	%	95% CI
All gambling	2497	100 (,)		1631	100 (,)		1866	100 (,)	
All lottery	2449	98.2 (97.6, 98.7)		1506	92.3 (90.9, 93.5)		1751	93.8 (92.7, 94.8)	
Traditional	2378	95.5 (94.6, 96.2)		1436	88.0 (86.4, 89.5)		1675	89.8 (88.3, 91.1)	
Instant games	1880	76.8 (75.1, 78.4)		1135	69.6 (67.3, 71.8)		1357	72.7 (70.7, 74.7)	
Daily games	775	31.6 (29.8, 33.5)		937	57.4 (55.0, 59.8)		1237	66.3 (64.1, 68.4)	
Raffles	840	44.3 (42.1, 46.6)		619	38.0 (35.6, 40.3)		1012	54.2 (52.0, 56.5)	
Any casino	1087	47.3 (45.2, 49.3)							
EGMs				581	35.6 (33.3, 38.0)		935	50.1 (47.9, 52.3)	
Table games				462	28.3 (26.2, 30.6)		807	43.2 (41.1, 45.5)	
Sports betting	535	21.8 (20.2, 23.4)		629	38.6 (36.2, 41.0)		1014	54.3 (52.1, 56.6)	
Private wagering	618	25.2 (23.5, 26.9)		487	29.9 (27.7, 32.1)		835	44.7 (42.5, 47.0)	
Horse racing	268	10.9 (9.7, 12.1)		302	18.5 (16.7, 20.5)		694	37.2 (35.1, 39.3)	
Bingo	354	14.2 (12.9, 15.6)		510	31.3 (29.1, 33.6)		918	49.2 (47.0, 51.4)	
Online	260	10.7 (9.5, 11.9)		411	25.2 (23.1, 27.4)		714	38.3 (36.1, 40.5)	

Gambling Intensity

	BOPS_2014			FOPS_2022			OPS_2023		
	n	mean	SE of mean	n	mean	SE of mean	n	mean	SE of mean
# gambling formats	2497	3.6	0.04	1631	4.6	0.07	1866	6.0	0.080
Maximum number of days/year gambled across all gambling types	2497	85.3	1.77	1631	103.0	2.47	1866	112.6	2.274
Gambling expenditures	2484	1,908.2	2509.85	1630	15,838.6	8311.79 *	1866	7,962.8	391.86 *

*Indicates significant change from previous survey

Sports Betting: Frequency & Activities

		BOPS_2014		FOPS_2022		OPS23_2023	
		% ¹	95% CI ¹	% ¹	95% CI ¹	% ¹	95% CI ¹
Frequency of sports betting	1=never	78.2	(76.6, 79.8)	61.4	(59.0, 63.8)	45.7	(43.4, 47.9)
	2=at least yearly	7.8	(6.8, 8.9)	6.9	(5.7, 8.2)	6.8	(5.7, 8.0)
	3=at least monthly	7.0	(6.0, 8.0)	12.8	(11.3, 14.5)	19.2	(17.5, 21.0)
	4=at least weekly	7.0	(6.1, 8.1)	18.9	(17.1, 20.9)	28.3	(26.4, 30.4)
Type of sports betting engaged in	Professional sporting events			60.4	(56.5, 64.2)	61.9	(58.9, 64.9)
	Sports parlays			36.9	(33.2, 40.7)	51.2	(48.1, 54.2)
	Fantasy sports betting			32.4	(28.9, 36.2)	34.6	(31.7, 37.6)
	Betting on sports you participated in			11.8	(8.8, 15.6)	13.2	(11.3, 15.4)

¹ Percentages and 95% CI are calculated using the unweighted N

Sports Betting & Recapture

		FOPS_2022		OPS23_2023	
		% ¹	95% CI ¹	% ¹	95% CI ¹
Where and how bet on sports	Office sports pools or social betting against friends/family	49.3	(45.4, 53.2)	33.6	(30.8, 36.6)
	Legal land-based sportsbook outside MA	29.3	(25.8, 32.9)	31.8	(29.0, 34.7)
	Legal land-based sportsbook in MA	22.6	(19.5, 26.0)	42.6	(39.6, 45.6)
	Illegal/underground land based sportbook or bookmaker in MA	16.9	(14.1, 20.0)	19.6	(17.3, 22.2)
	Sporting event with online sportsbook outside MA	22.4	(19.3, 25.8)	16.0	(13.8, 18.4)
	Sporting event with online sportsbook in MA	11.4	(9.2, 14.2)	26.6	(24.0, 29.4)
Legal/illegal /leakage	Any legal sports betting	86.5	(83.6, 88.9)	93.2	(91.5, 94.6)
	Only legal sports betting	66.1	(62.3, 69.7)	68.1	(65.2, 70.9)
	Any illegal sports betting	33.9	(30.3, 37.7)	31.9	(29.1, 34.8)
	Only illegal sports betting	13.5	(11.1, 16.4)	6.8	(5.4, 8.5)
	Any sports betting leakage	54.5	(50.6, 58.4)	51.2	(48.1, 54.3)
If MA had not legalized sports betting, would you have spent the money that you spent gambling on sports at sportsbooks in other states or countries (on-line or in person)				53.0	(47.0, 58.8)

¹ Percentages and 95% CI are calculated using the unweighted N

GAMBLING PROBLEMS & HARMS

Problem Gambling

Category	Classification criteria
Non-Gambler	Has not gambled in the past 12 months
Recreational Gambler	Has gambled in past 12 months Total score 0
At-Risk Gambler	Total score 1+ Does not meet criteria for more severe categories OR Gambling frequency and expenditure \geq PG median
Problem Gambler	Has gambled at least once a month in past 12 months Impaired Control score 1+ Problems score 1+ Total score of 2-4 OR Total score 3+ Gambling frequency and expenditure \geq PG median
Pathological Gambler (equivalent to severe problem gambler)	Has gambled at least once a month in past 12 months Impaired Control score 1+ Problems score 1+ AND Total score of 5+

Problem Gambling

	BOPS_2014			FOPS_2022			OPS_2023		
	n	%	95% CI	n	%	95% CI	n	%	95% CI
Total	2497	100.0	(,)	1631	100.0	(,)	1866	100.0	(,)
Recreational gambler	1631	65.3	(63.4, 67.2)	888	54.4	(52.0, 56.9)	921	49.4	(47.1, 51.6)
At-risk gambler	549	22.0	(20.4, 23.7)	402	24.6	(22.6, 26.8)	467	25.0	(23.1, 27.0)
Problem or pathological gambler	317	12.7	(11.4, 14.1)	341	20.9	(19.0, 23.0)	478	25.6	(23.7, 27.6)

Gambling Harms

	BOPS_2014			FOPS_2022			OPS_2023		
	n	%	95% CI	n	%	95% CI	n	%	95% CI
Financial	273	11.2	(10.0, 12.5)	293	18.0	(16.2, 19.9)	385	20.6	(18.9, 22.5)
Health	261	10.7	(9.5, 11.9)	124	7.6	(6.4, 9.0)	188	10.1	(8.8, 11.5)
Emotion/psychological	127	5.2	(4.4, 6.2)	295	18.1	(16.3, 20.0)	343	18.4	(16.7, 20.2)
Family/relationships	104	4.3	(3.5, 5.1)	227	13.9	(12.3, 15.7)	332	17.8	(16.1, 19.6)
Work/school	42	1.7	(1.3, 2.3)	163	10.0	(8.6, 11.5)	231	12.4	(11.0, 14.0)
Illegal	42	1.7	(1.3, 2.3)	135	8.3	(7.0, 9.7)	162	8.7	(7.5, 10.0)

Discussion

- This study focused on the utility of using online panel surveys to identify changes in gambling behaviors and harms on a regular, affordable basis
- Identified differences in attitudes, gambling behavior, problem gambling and gambling harms among monthly gamblers across 3 online panels
- Recalling population (FGPS) results, it is interesting to observe increases in participation among monthly gamblers in 2023 compared to 2022

Future Directions

- Multivariate analyses comparing recreational, at-risk and problem gamblers to identify predictors
- Future brief reports on gambling and problem gambling among online panelists to serve as an early warning system to allow for timely efforts at harm minimization and mitigation

Thank you!

For more information:

www.umass.edu/seigma/reports

<https://massgaming.com/about/research-agenda/>