

Educators:

Did you know:

- The average age of first time gambling is 10 yrs.
- Gambling activity among youth has increased almost 15% from '03 to '05.
- Youth who gamble are 2x as likely to binge drink.
- Almost 45% of 12th graders report gambling.

*2005 NRPFS study

3 key points about youth gambling:

1. **ALL youth gambling is illegal.** Even playing a game of poker for money in your home is illegal. Gambling is NOT a risk free activity and minimum ages are set for a reason.
2. **Gambling is NOT a safe alternative to alcohol or drug use.** Gambling can have negative consequences and it is an addictive behavior.
3. **Many youth already have gambling problems.** In fact, the rate of youth pathological gambling addiction is 2x the rate for adults. And 10-15% of youth are at risk for developing gambling problems.

Youth Gambling Prevention



If they're not drinking, what's the big deal?

Gambling is correlated to other risky behavior such as:

- Alcohol and other drug use
- Delinquency
- Problems at home
- School problems
- Use of cigarettes
- Violence, criminal activity

Educators have an important role in the prevention of problem behaviors in youth. Talk to them about gambling while discussing other risky behaviors such as alcohol, tobacco or other drug use. Use opportunities in economics, math, social studies and health classes to explore financial, cultural, moral and social perspectives about gambling. Help protect youth by increasing their awareness of the risks associated with gambling, and avoid condoning activities that could minimize them. Youth that choose to gamble, should know how to play it safe.

The Odds Are: A Youth Gambling Prevention Project

www.theoddsare.org - www.dhhs.ne.gov

For more information call: 402- 441-4944

24hr Problem Gambling Helpline: 1800-522-4700

'The odds are you know someone with at gambling problem.'