**Marijuana and Gambling Connections Continue To Increase**

*Ohio For Responsible Gambling aims to alert Ohioans of a growing national trend*

**Situation:**

[National studies suggest](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25303983) marijuana users gamble more often than the general population, with a 20% overlap in marijuana addiction and a gambling disorder.

Those under the influence of marijuana [are more apt to make rash and impulsive decisions](http://www.nevadacouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/2.5-MJ-and-Gambling.pdf), according to a study conducted by the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling. The parts of the brain impacted by marijuana cause an increase in stimulus to winning and losing, magnifying the reactions of gambling to those under the influence of cannabis.

The situation is of particular concern for young adults 18-26. [A 2014 study of gamblers 18-26](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25303983)  found 30% used cannabis within the past three months. Those who use marijuana also gambled more frequently.

Some states like Nevada and California are struggling with regulating how close marijuana dispensaries can be to casino properties.

**Solutions:**

Ohio For Responsible Gambling has developed two campaigns that aim to educate Ohioans on the changing landscape of gambling in Ohio.

* [The Before You Bet campaign](https://www.beforeyoubet.org/) has a diverse set of tools to provide education and grow awareness of how to keep gambling fun for those who gamble and how to get help for those who need it.
* [Change the Game](https://changethegameohio.org/) aims to stop youth gambling before it starts by connecting parents, educators and children to available resources for prevention and treatment.

**Sources:**

[Dr. Timothy Fong](https://www.uclahealth.org/timothy-fong) is Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the Jane and Terry Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA. A leading national expert on the clinical characteristics of gambling disorders, he will speak on the connections between marijuana and gambling Thursday, Feb 20, 2020 at the 17th annual Ohio Problem Gambling Conference in Lewis Center, Ohio.

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