



# Underage Gambling

## FACT SHEET



**68%** of American youth between the ages of 14 and 21 have gambled in the last year.

**11%** gambled 2x a week or more

**6.5%** are at-risk for, or have already developed, a

### **GAMBLING PROBLEM**

*\*Source: Welte, 2007*

## Consequences of Underage Gambling

- Increased risk for ADDICTION
- Increased risk for DELINQUENCY & CRIME
- DAMAGED RELATIONSHIPS
- Poor academic performance
- Mental health issues including DEPRESSION & ANXIETY
- Increased risk for SUBSTANCE USE & ABUSE
- Overall, POOR GENERAL HEALTH

*\*Sources: Wynne, et. al. (1996); Hardoon, et. al. (2002); Gupta & Derevensky (1998); Potenza, et. al. (2002).*

## YOU(th) Can Help!

### Parents

- Learn more about the dangers of underage gambling at [www.YOUthDecideNY.org](http://www.YOUthDecideNY.org)
- Talk to your children today about the dangers of underage gambling
- Use teachable moments (ads, movies, etc.) to teach your children how to analyze media

### Youth

- Know all of the facts before you DECIDE
- Learn more about the dangers of underage gambling at [www.YOUthDecideNY.org](http://www.YOUthDecideNY.org)
- Be a positive peer influence by choosing NOT to gamble
- Get involved in preventing underage gambling by partnering with your local prevention agency.

### Community leaders

- Go gambling free with your family and youth events
- Publicly express your support for gambling-free events for youth and families
- Learn more about the dangers of underage gambling at [www.YOUthDecideNY.org](http://www.YOUthDecideNY.org)

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**Giving teens the power to decide!**