

Online Gambling in Pennsylvania: Results of the Interactive Gaming Assessment Two Years In

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What is Interactive Gaming?

“Any gambling game offered through the use of communications technology that allows a person, utilizing money, checks, electronic checks, electronic transfers of money, credit cards or any other instrumentality to transmit electronic information to assist in the placement of a bet or wager and corresponding information related to the display of the game, game outcomes or other similar information.”

(PA General Assembly, Act 42, 2017)

Brief History of Online Gambling

- InterCasino became the first internet gambling site to accept an online wager in January 1996
- Online gambling rapidly expanded primarily into sport/race books and casinos based in the Caribbean and Central America
- A lack of consistency in law, regulation and policy prevails, with jurisdictions taking wildly divergent approaches to online gambling and confusion among consumers

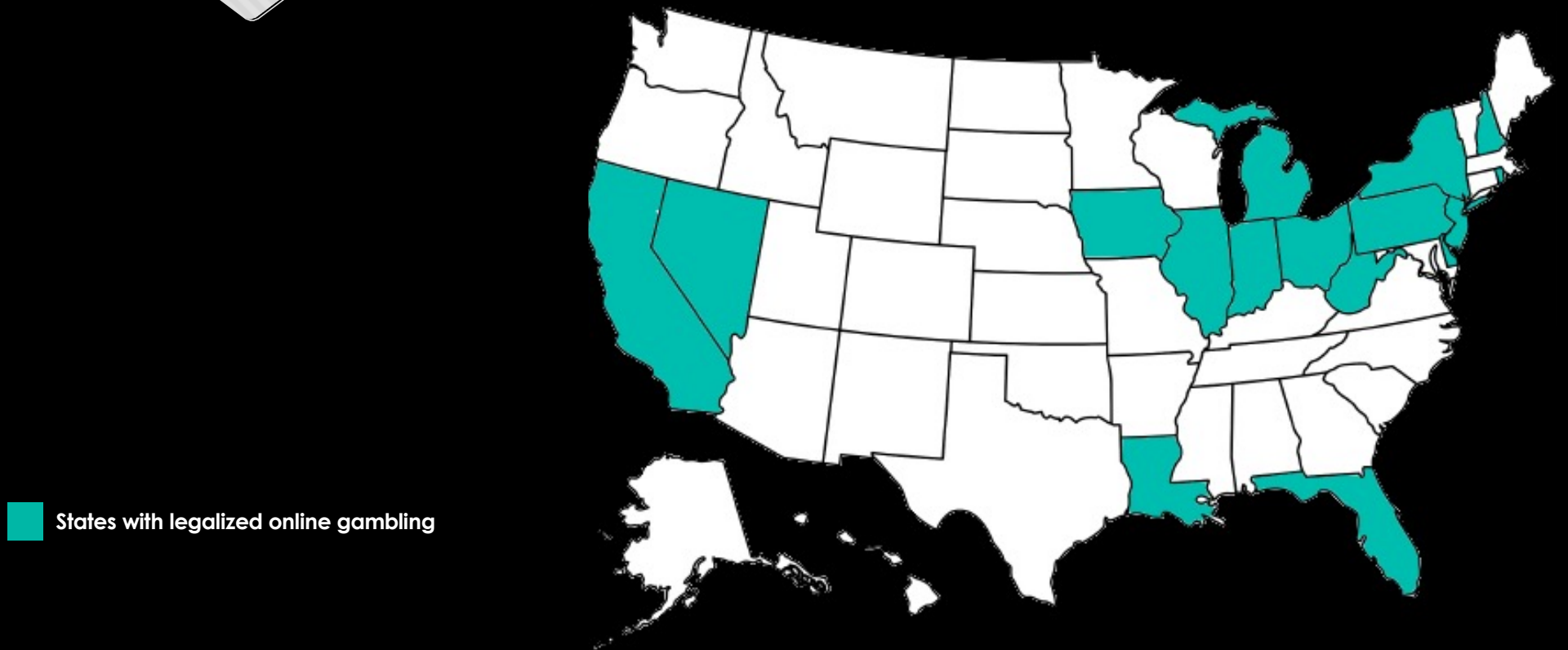
Online Gambling Research

- Lack of responsible gambling practices in implementation
 - Accessibility
 - Anonymity
 - Spending
 - Regulation
- Link between online gambling and gambling problems

Online Gambling in the US

- Little research on online gambling with American's, what does exist has tended to show lower prevalence rates than other countries
 - Much of this data collected before legalization
- Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006
- Legalization of online gambling in select regions

States with legalized online gambling available

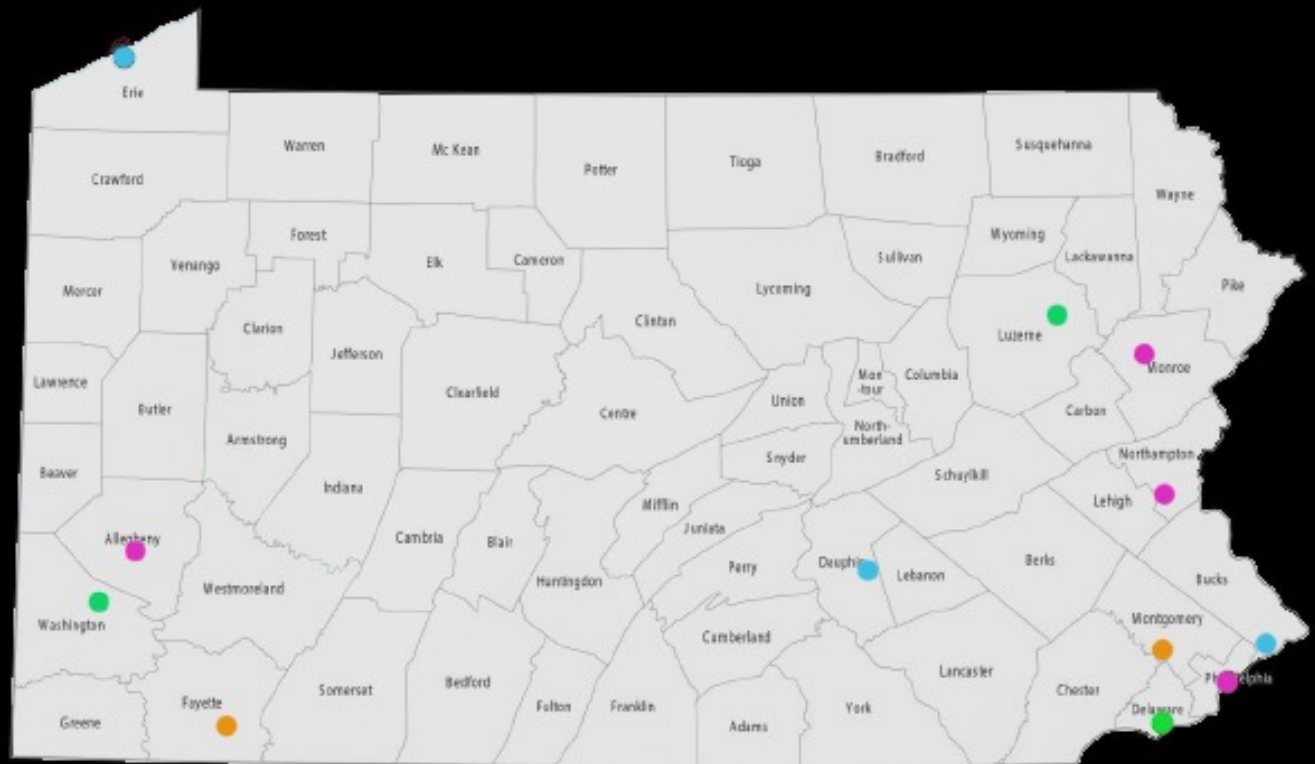


Online Gambling in Pennsylvania

- Legalized in 2017 through PA Act 42
- First Licenses in 2018
- Revenues 2021-2022
 - Over \$1.2 billion from iGaming (including slots, table games and poker)
 - Over \$267 million from online sports betting
 - Over \$27 million from fantasy sports (online and offline)

Casino Distribution Pre-2017

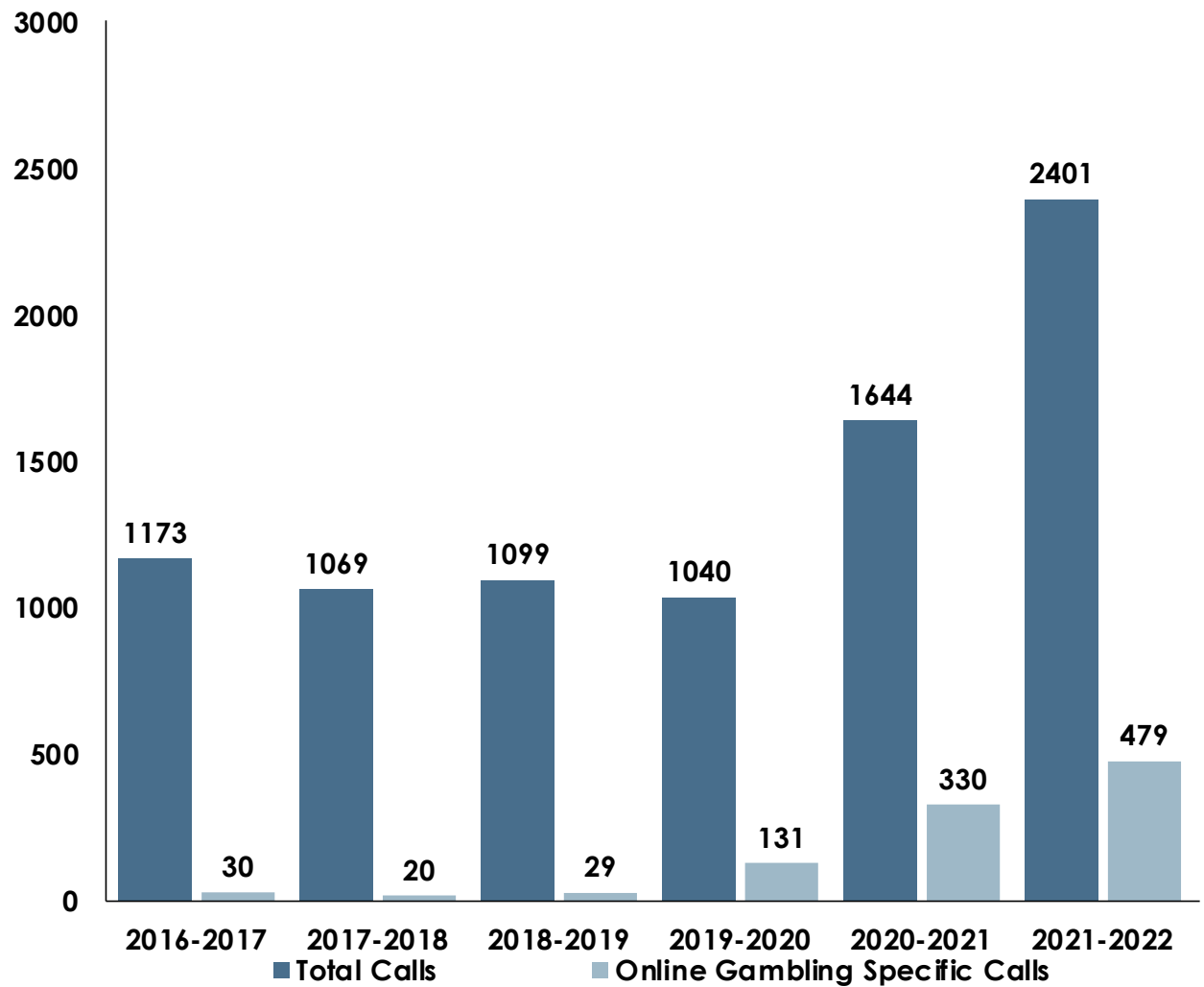
- Thoroughbred Racetrack and Casino
- Harness Racetrack and Casino
- Stand Alone Casino
- Resort Casino



The Interactive Gaming Assessment

- Legislated annual assessment of online gambling within the state
 - Establish prevalence
 - Evaluate problems
 - Monitor trends

Calls to 1-800-GAMBLER



Year 1



Methods

- Dual frame random digit dial survey between December 2020 and June 2021
- Those who are a Pennsylvania resident and 18 and older eligible to participate
- Asked to complete brief phone survey that takes about 5 minutes
 - Demographics
 - Past year online/offline gambling formats
 - Brief Problem Gambling Screen
 - 1-800-GAMBLER use

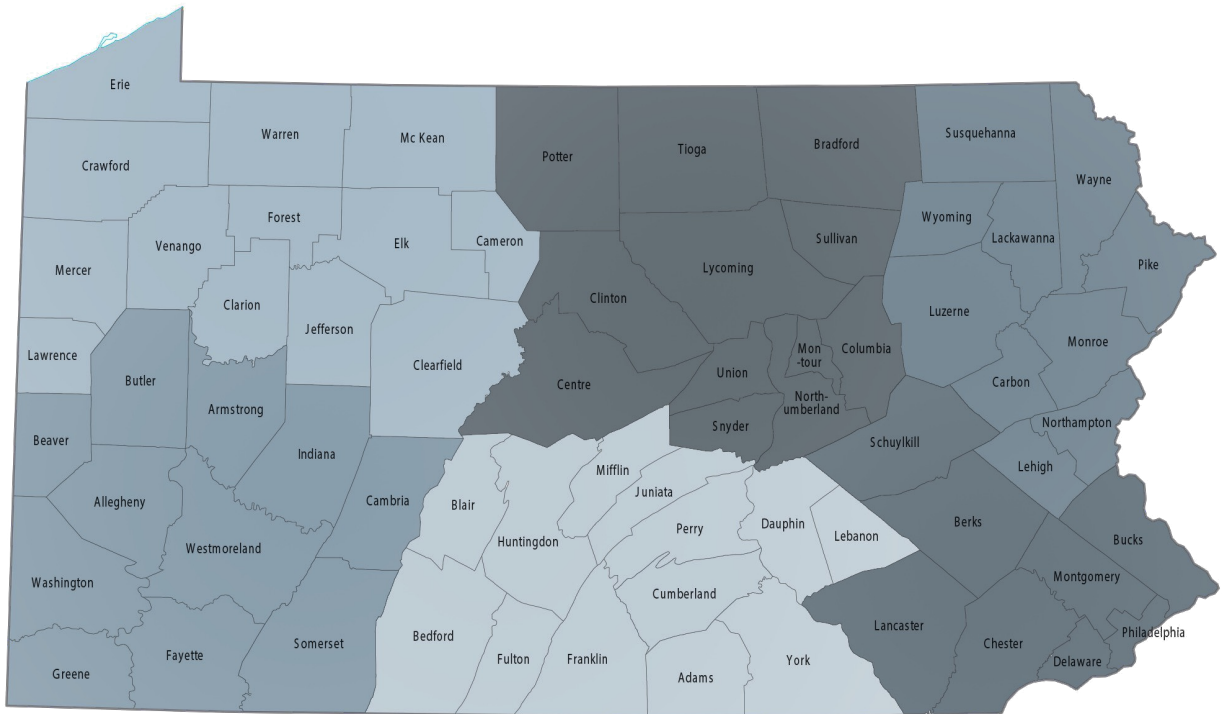
Methods

- Calls made to 22,349 Cellphones and 16,803 Landlines
 - 775 on cell phone completes
 - 372 on landline completes
- Response rate 10.3%

Sample

- Final sample was 1147 completes
 - 49.3% men
 - Average age 53.98 ($SD = 19.1$; range 18-97)
 - By Region:
 - 10.8% North West
 - 7.0% North Central
 - 9.2% North East
 - 22.5% South West
 - 16.6% South Central
 - 33.9% South East
 - 1.2% were PA residents with no county provided

Distribution of Online Gambling Participation by Region



8.0% North West

13.4% North Central

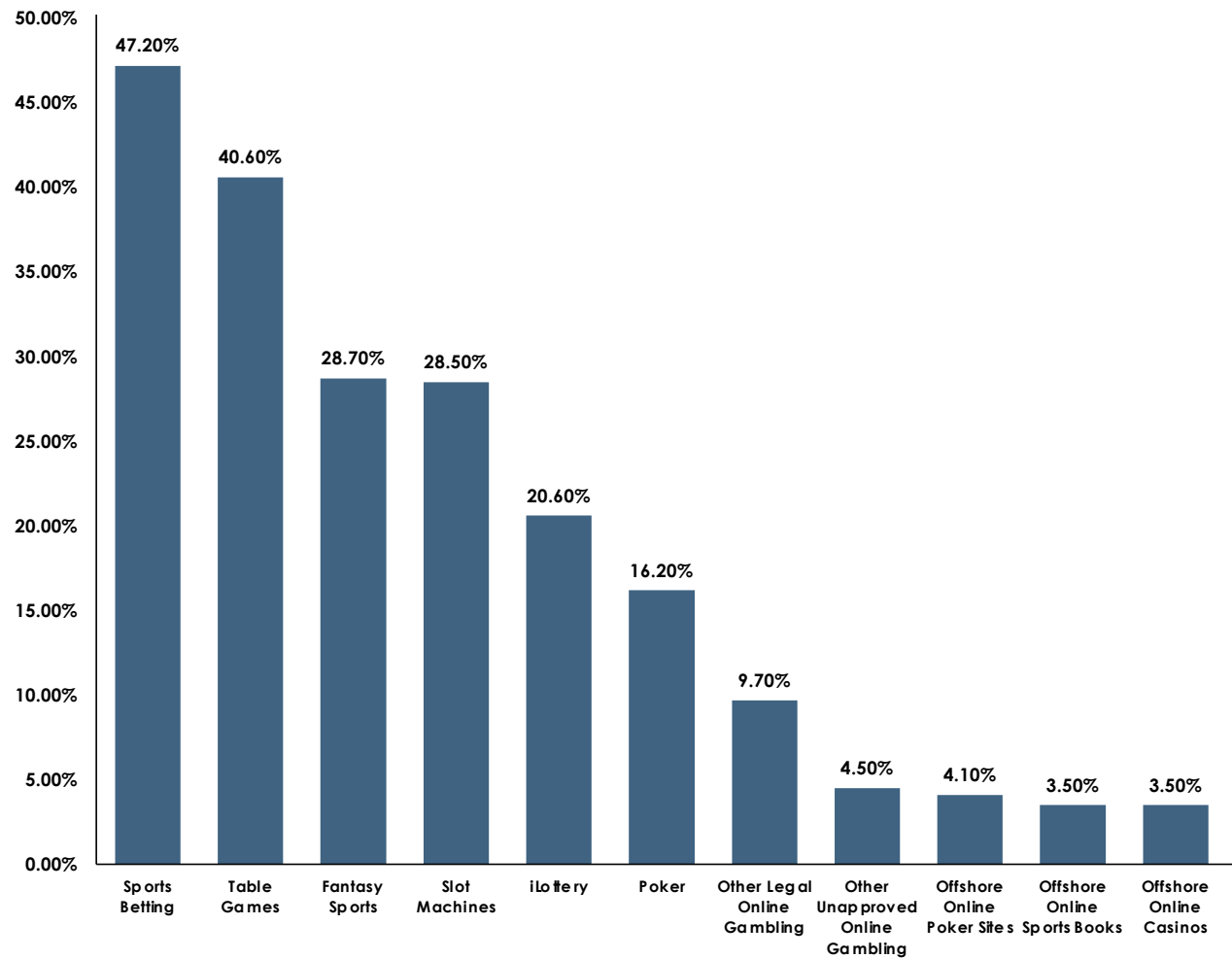
12.5% North East

10.6% South West

6.9% South Central

13.2% South East

Participation in Each Online Gambling Format



Demographics

Demographic Category	%	Demographic Category	%
Gender		Employment	
Man	67.8	Full time	80.7
Woman	31.3	Out of work	2.5
Other gender identification	0.9	Housemaker	1.1
Race/Ethnicity		Student	1.7
Black/African American	15.8	Retired	4.4
White	73.3	Unable to work	3.9
Asian	6.8	Marital Status	
Other race	5.0	Married or living with partner	41.5
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	12.7	Divorced	5.1
Education		Separated	1.6
High School or Less	22.9	Widowed	1.6
Some College	19.8	Single (never married)	44.5
Associate Degree/Trade School	9.0	Income	
Bachelor's Degree	31.6	Less than \$15,000	7.6
Above Bachelor's Degree	10.8	\$15,000 to \$49,999	24.6
		\$50,000 to <\$99,999	35.7
		\$100,000 to \$149,999	13.5
		\$150,000 or more	2.6

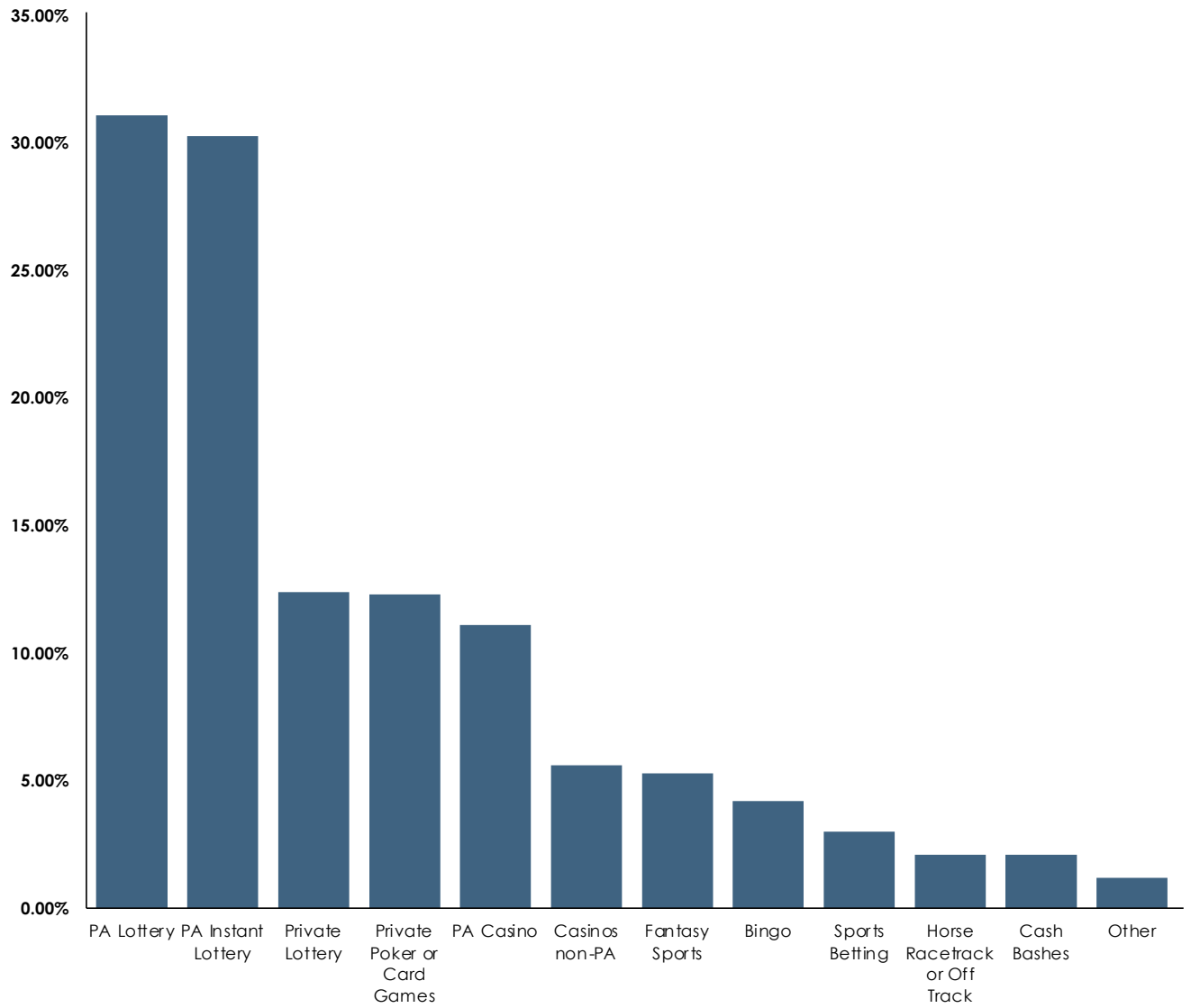
Gambling Problems Among Online Gamblers

The percent of PYOGs that indicated they had presented with a particular gambling problem or the intent to control or reduce their online gambling.

	%
In the past 12 months, would you say you have been preoccupied with gambling?	10.1
In the past 12 months, have you needed to gamble with larger amounts of money to get the same feeling of excitement?	12.5
In the past 12 months, have you often gambled longer, with more money or more frequently than you intended to?	22.5
In the past 12 months, have you borrowed money or sold anything to get money to gamble?	3.5
In the past 12 months, have you made attempts to either cut down, control or stop gambling?	29.3

Note: 1.8% of online gamblers did not respond to the questions regarding gambling problems.

Offline Gambling Participation by Format





Year 2

Changes to the Survey

- Removed screening questions about online/offline gambling
- Addition of motives question
- Addition of motives for ending gambling session question
- Addition of questions on beliefs about gambling harms/benefits and legality

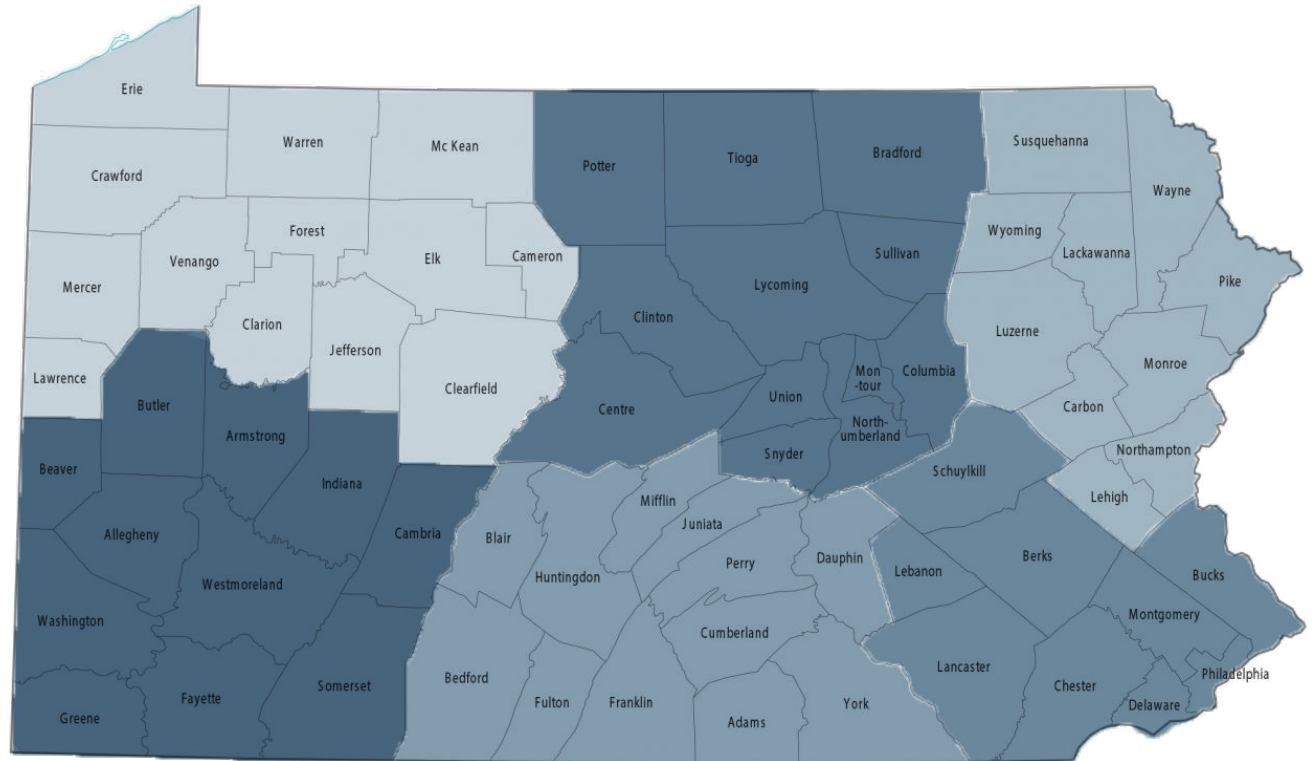
Methods

- **Calls made to 22,349 Cellphones and 16,803 Landlines**
 - 922 Landlines completed
 - 1031 Cellphones completed
- **Response rate 10.3%**
- **Brief phone survey with modified questions from year 1**

Sample

- Final sample was 1953 completes and 40 partial completes
 - Weighting procedures left a final sample of 2003
- After weighting:
 - 49.3% males
 - Average age 49.72 ($SD = 18.34$)
 - By Region:
 - 14.6% North West
 - 14.0% North Central
 - 10.3% North East
 - 21.0% South West
 - 13.9% South Central
 - 25.0% South East
 - 1.2% were PA residents with no county provided

Distribution of Online Gambling Participation by Region



5.5% North West

12.9% North Central

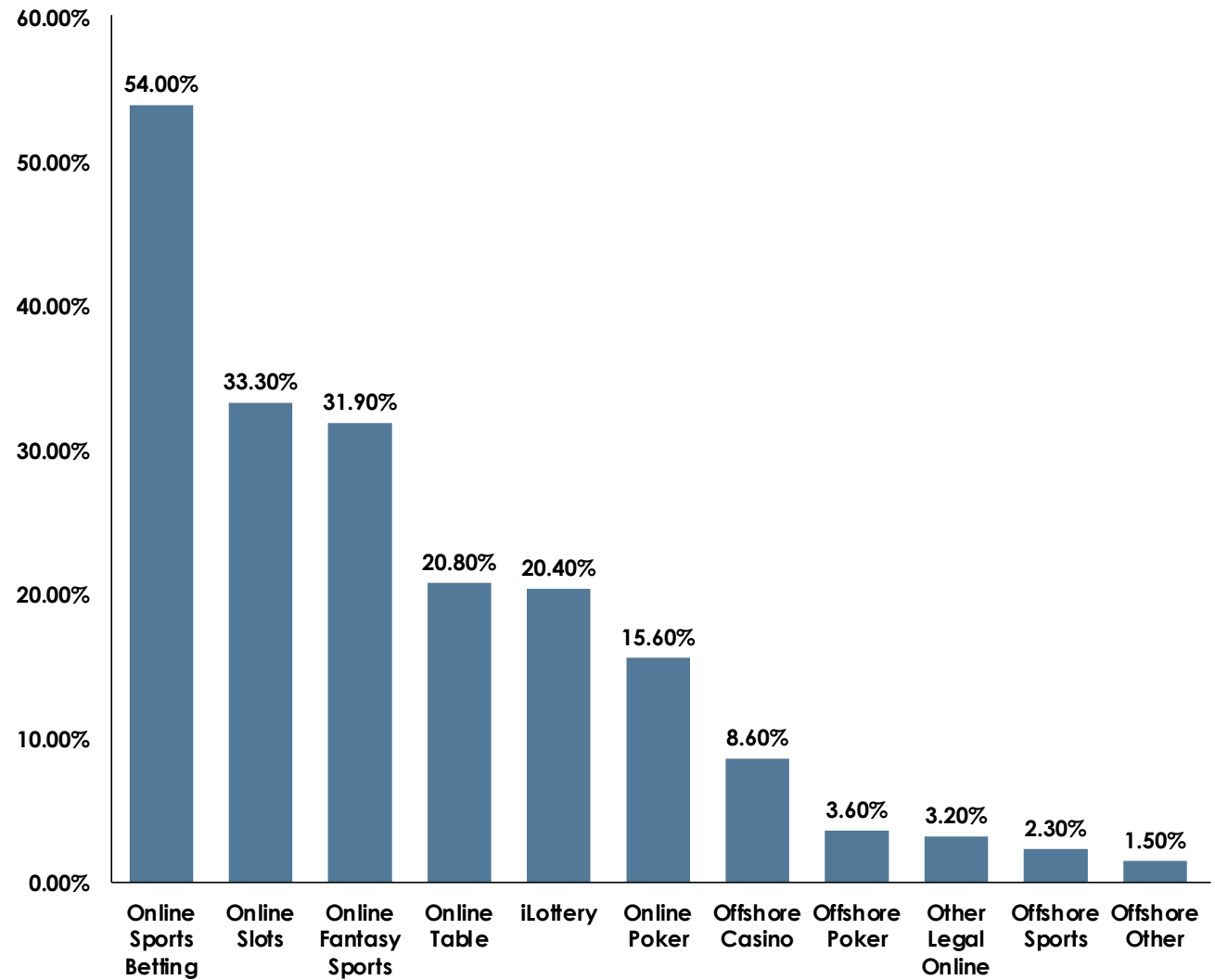
7.8% North East

15.2% South West

8.6% South Central

12.0% South East

Popularity of Online Gambling Formats



Demographic Characteristics of Online Gamblers

Demographic Category	%	Demographic Category	%
Gender		Employment	
Man	66.1	Employed	62.6
Woman	31.4	Out of work	9.8
Other	2.5	Homemaker	0.4
Race/Ethnicity		Student	0.6
Black/African American	24.2	Retired	7.7
White	72.9	Unable to work	7.4
Asian	5.1	Marital Status	
Some other race	2.4	Married or living with a partner	43.5
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	12.8	Divorced	6.8
Education		Widowed	3.2
High school or less	20.3	Single/Never married	36.3
Some college	15.7	Income	
Associates Degree/Trade School	7.2	Less than \$10,000	3.5
Bachelor's degree	36.3	\$10,000 - \$24,999	10.2
Higher than Bachelor's Degree	10.4	\$25,000-\$49,999	12.7
		\$50,000-\$74,999	14.1
		\$75,000-\$99,999	14.6
		\$100,000-\$149,999	8.0
		\$150,000-\$199,999	4.0
		\$200,000 or more	11.6

Problems with Gambling Among Online Gamblers

The percent of PYOGs that indicated they had presented with a particular gambling problem or the intent to control or reduce their online gambling.

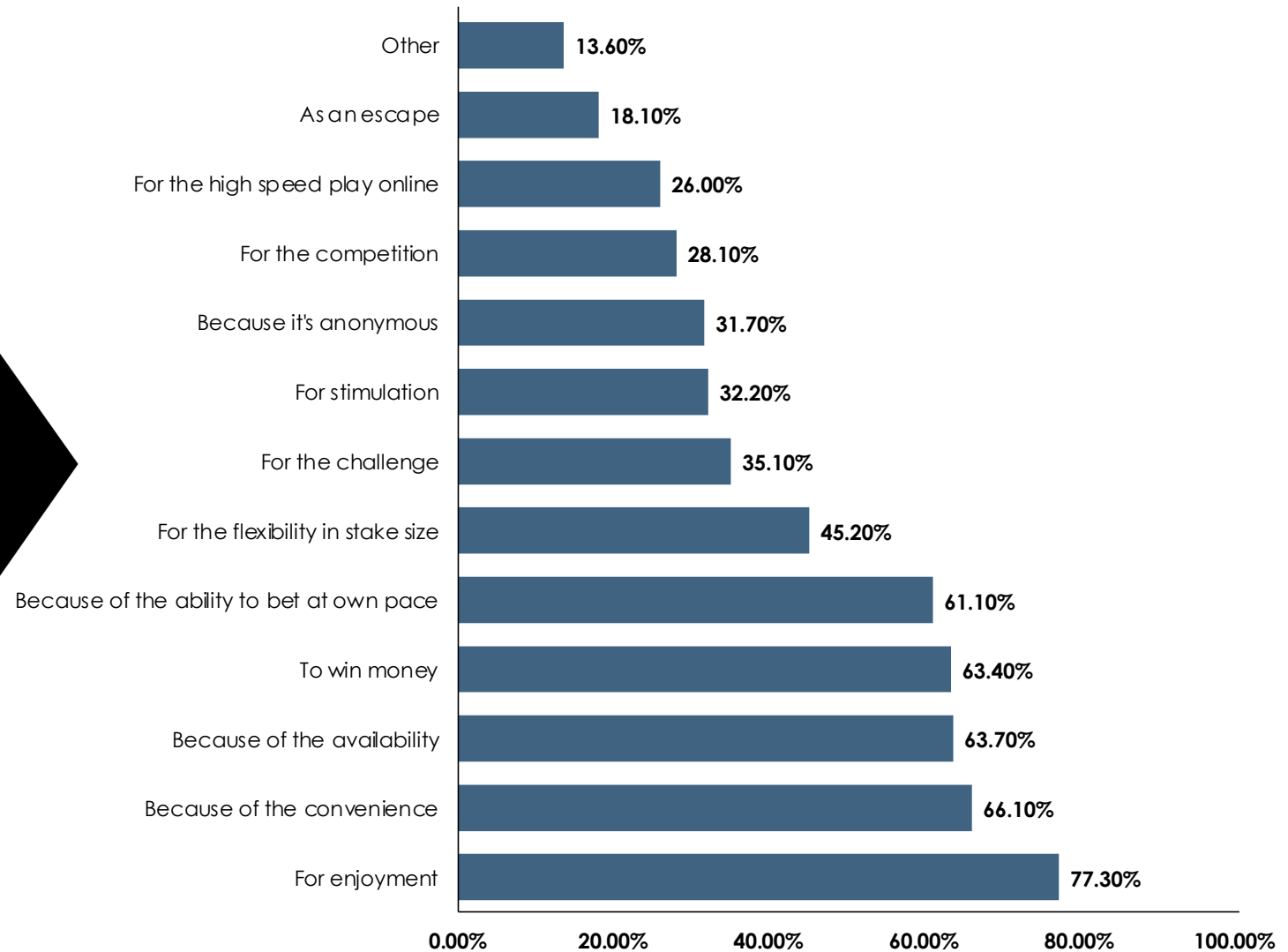
Question:	Endorsement Rate
In the past 12 months, would you say you have been preoccupied with gaming or gambling?	5.6%
In the past 12 months, would you say that you need to gamble with larger amounts of money to get the same feeling of excitement?	9.7%
In the past 12 months, have you often gambled longer, with more money, or more frequently than you intended to?	9.9%
In the past 12 months, have you made attempts to either cut down, control, or stop gambling?	26.5%
In the past 12 months, have you borrowed money, or sold anything, to get money to gamble?	0%

Note: 16.3% of online gamblers did not respond to the questions regarding gambling problems.

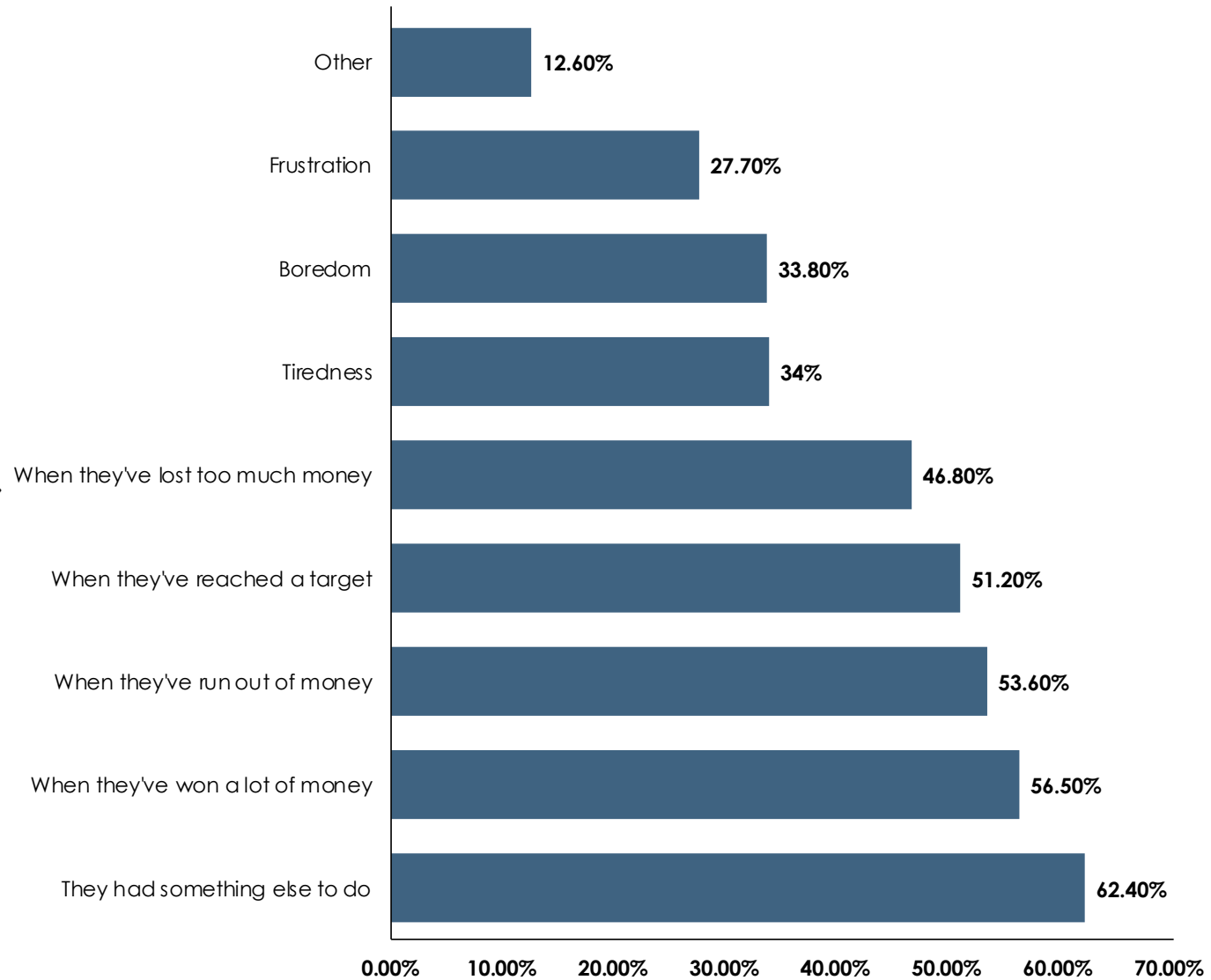
Demographic Characteristics of Online Gamblers with At Least One Problem

Demographic Category	%	Demographic Category	%
Gender		Employment	
Man	58.7%	Employed	78.7%
Woman	38.3%	Out of work	10.2%
Other	3.0%	Homemaker	0.6%
Race/Ethnicity		Student	1.1%
Black/African American	19.6%	Retired	2.4%
White	74.9%	Income	
Asian	13.8%	Less than \$10,000	1.8%
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	3.7%	\$10,000 - \$24,999	5.6%
Education		\$25,000-\$49,999	17.6%
High school or less	31.4	\$50,000-\$74,999	7.9%
Some college	16.2%	\$75,000-\$99,999	13.4%
Associates degree	4.7%	\$100,000-\$149,999	4.1%
Bachelor's degree	34.4%	\$150,000-\$199,999	9.2%
Above Bachelor's Degree	10.8%	\$200,000 or more	19.8%
Marital Status			
Married or living with a partner	49.4%		
Divorced	8.8%		
Widowed	3.2%		
Single/Never married	35.9%		

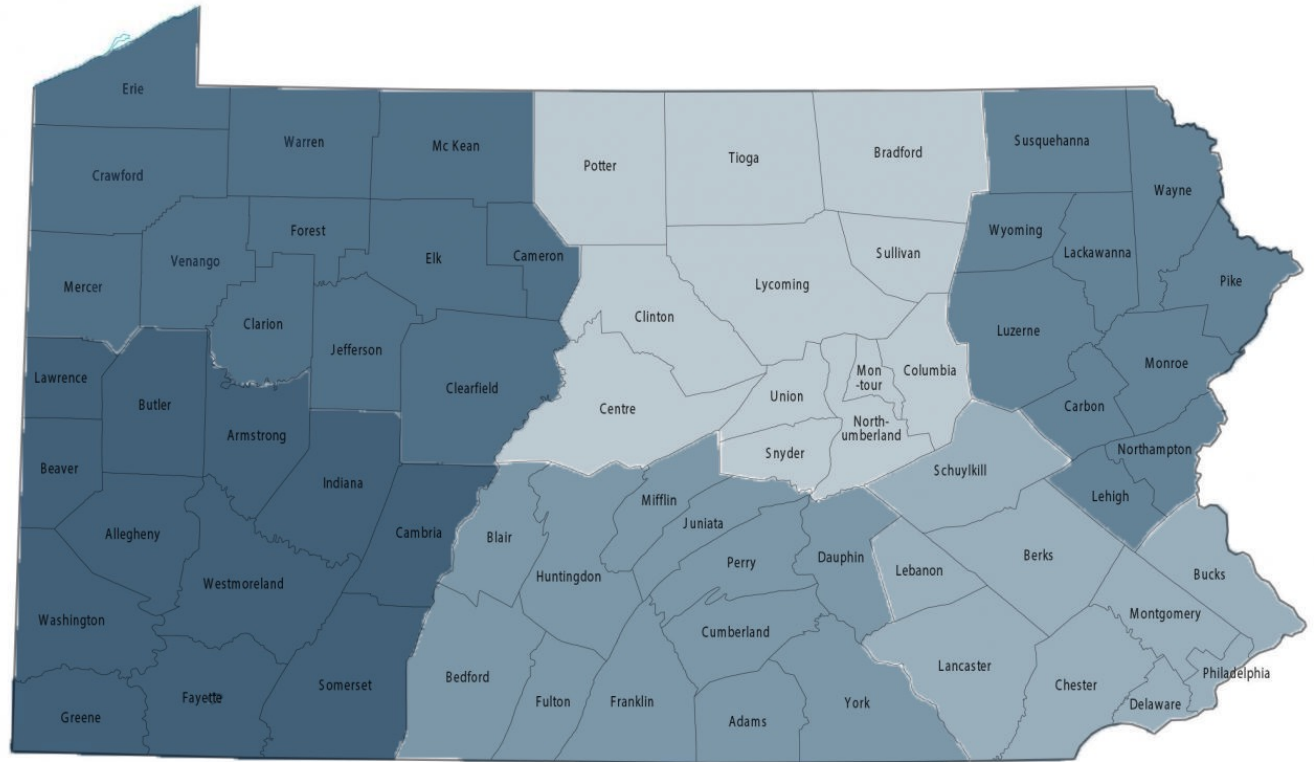
Motivations to Gamble Online



Motivations to End an Online Gambling Session



Distribution of offline gambling participation by region



72.2% North West

73.1% South West

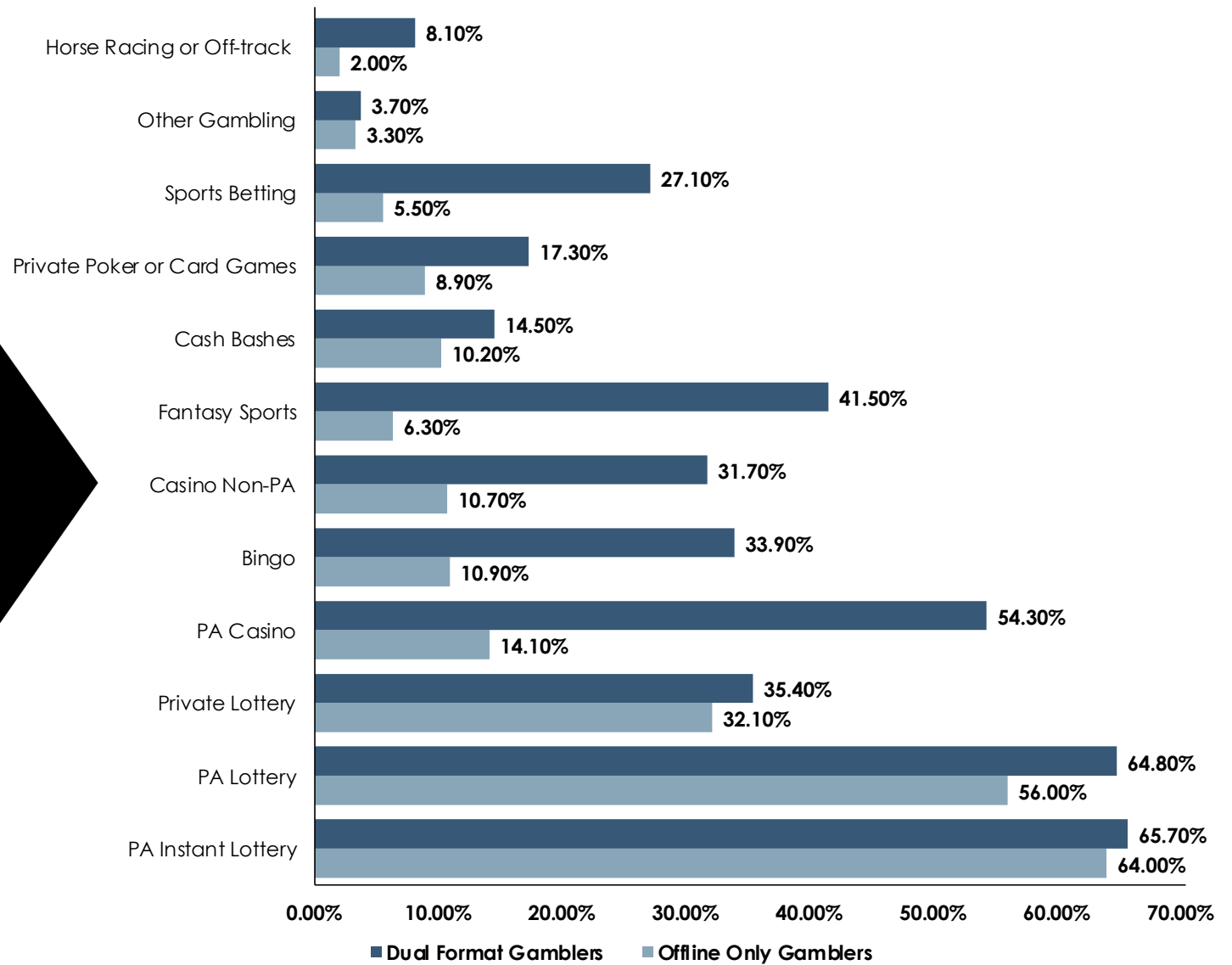
59.3% North Central

66.5% South Central

70.4% North East

64.9% South East

Participation in Offline Gambling Formats



Demographic Characteristics of Offline Gamblers

Demographic Category	%	Demographic Category	%
Gender		Employment	
Man	51.5	Employed	55.5
Woman	47.8	Out of work	4.5
Other	0.5	Homemaker	4.4
Race/Ethnicity		Student	3.2
Black/African American	13.3	Retired	23.2
White	81.7	Unable to work	5.8
Asian	4.3	Marital Status	
Some other race	1.8	Married or living with a partner	55.3
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin	9.6	Divorced	6.7
Education		Separated	1.5
High school or less	30.3	Widowed	7.7
Some college	17.1	Single/Never married	26.0
Associates Degree/Trade School	12.6	Income	
Bachelor's degree	25.4	Less than \$10,000	4.0
Higher than bachelor's degree	11.4	\$10,000-\$24,999	10.1
		\$25,000-\$49,999	15.8
		\$50,000-\$74,999	11.9
		\$75,000-\$99,999	11.4
		\$100,000-\$149,999	10.0
		\$150,000-\$199,999	5.4
		\$200,000 or more	7.7

**Are you surprised about the
findings of the reports?**

Can you think of any potential issues that may arise from individuals not identifying an activity they are engaged in as being gambling?

Future Directions

- **Issue of terminology**
 - Examining new online gambling formats
 - Examination of illegal online gambling
- **Continued monitoring of problem gambling among online gamblers**
- **Application to treatment and prevention**

**How might you use these findings
to inform your work?**

Year 1 Report

<https://www.ddap.pa.gov/Documents/Agency%20Reports/Interactive%20Gaming%20Reports/2021%20Interactive%20Gaming%20Report.pdf>



Year 2 Report

Coming Soon





Let's Talk:

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