



IPGAP Update

July 2, 2015

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Online gambling would benefit from better regulation

The U.S. government's attempt to crack down on Internet gambling is widely seen as a convoluted mess. Yet, more controlled and defined regulation would likely benefit the \$41 billion industry and protect consumers alike, finds a new study by Michigan State University business scholars.

The study is the first to estimate the costs and benefits of the Unfair Internet Gambling Enforcement Act, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2006. Despite ongoing uncertainty and confusion stemming from the law, the industry has reacted positively, with the value of publicly traded online gambling firms increasing nearly 3 percent.

"The online gambling industry is at the point where it wants controlled regulation," said Mark Johnson, MSU finance professor and study co-author. "We conclude that both the industry and individuals -- including underage and problem gamblers -- would be better off if regulation exists."

The law essentially made online gambling such as virtual poker and blackjack illegal except for "fantasy" sports, online lotteries and horse/harness racing. Although the law was passed in 2006, governing rules weren't issued for two more years. In addition, the Department of Justice seemed unsure of its own enforcement strategy until 2010.

Then, in 2011, the Justice Department appeared to flip-flop positions by signaling that online gambling was legal if allowed by state law. While uncertainty remained -- the DOJ's ambiguous ruling didn't exactly open the floodgates to Internet gambling, the study says -- it did open the possibility that future rulings might further clarify the law.

Johnson and his fellow researchers studied the public value of online gaming firms in the years following passage of the 2006 law, and found that values increased when such positive signals were given. The Justice Department's 2011 ruling, for example, was associated with a 3.5 percent boost in firm values.

Worldwide, the online gambling market has nearly tripled in the past decade, from \$14 billion in 2005 to \$41 billion in 2015, according to industry estimates.

"Internet gambling is expected to continue to grow," Johnson said. "And while it's unclear which types of online gambling will be and won't be legal in the future, if the U.S. government more clearly defines 'legal gaming,' the benefits and risks associated with investment in all areas of the industry will be altered."

Johnson co-authored the study with A.J. Singh, professor of hospitality business, and Yifan Zhou, a former finance student. The paper appears in the *Journal of Hospitality Financial Management*.

Story Source:

The above post is reprinted from [materials](#) provided by [Michigan State University](#). *Note: Materials may be edited for content and length.*

2015 National Conference



29th National Conference on Problem Gambling

New Challenges - Creative Solutions · Baltimore, Maryland July 10-11, 2015

Please join us for this year's National Conference on Problem Gambling

Nowhere else will you find the biggest and best lineup of responsible gaming and problem gambling specific speakers, the most networking opportunities with peers in the field, and the widest collection of stakeholders. We've worked hard to make this the *must attend conference of the year*. The organizers, speakers, exhibitors and attendees are leaders in prevention, education, treatment, responsible gaming, research and recovery.

Come connect with all of us in beautiful Baltimore!

Have you ever felt the need to bet more and more and more money?

Have you ever had to lie to people about how much you gamble?

An answer "yes" to either or both of these questions may indicate a problem with gambling.

Lie Bet Screen by Johnson, E.E., et al. (1988).

FOR A CONFIDENTIAL REFERRAL CALL

1-800-994-8448

The Indiana Problem Gambling Awareness Program (IPGAP) is funded by a contract with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Division of Mental Health and Addiction with funds through the Indiana Problem Gamblers' Assistance Fund.

The **Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor** — the official headquarters of the 29th National Conference on Problem Gambling — is adjacent to Oriole Park at Camden Yards and provides a great central location from which to discover Baltimore's Inner Harbor and the surrounding neighborhoods, featuring many family-friendly attractions, shops, and restaurants, all within walking distance.

Opening reception July 9. Pre-Conference July 8 – 9. Main Conference July 10 – 11.

Hosted by the *Maryland Council on Problem Gambling*
& the *Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling (University of Maryland School of Medicine)*

[Online Registration Open!](#)

NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction



16th Annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction
Sept. 27-29, 2015

Congress Center at The Venetian and Palazzo in Las Vegas



About the Conference

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) is pleased to invite you to the 16th Annual NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction, the premier annual forum on gambling disorder and responsible gaming. Healthcare providers, researchers, public health professionals, gaming regulators and gaming industry professionals will convene in Las Vegas to learn about the latest research on gambling disorder, responsible gaming and addiction from leaders in the field, while exchanging ideas with attendees from all over the world.

Featuring one of the most diverse audiences of all gambling conferences, the NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction strives to meet the varied needs and interests of attendees by offering the following:

- A special track for gaming regulators and industry exploring the use of science to develop and evaluate responsible gaming programs and regulations designed to reduce gambling-related harms
- Up to 15 continuing education hours accepted by the American Psychological Association, NAADAC, and other certifying agencies for healthcare providers
- A pre-con workshop for clinicians led by one of the leading CBT trainers in the nation
- A poster session providing researchers and students the opportunity to showcase their new research on gambling disorder
- A pre-con workshop for researchers on working with the media

Once again, the NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction boasts the highest quality programming relevant to all stakeholders in the gambling field. We hope you can join us in September!

This Year's Speakers



William C. Moyers
Hazelden Betty Ford
Foundation



Bruce S. Liese, Ph.D.
A.B.P.P.
University of Kansas
Medical Center



John F. Kelly, Ph.D.
Massachusetts General
Hospital



Holly Hagle, Ph.D.
National SBIRT ATTC



Victor Ortiz, M.S.W.
Massachusetts Council
on Compulsive Gaming



Kahil Philander, Ph.D.
British Columbia
Lottery Corporation



Irene Johnson
Esk'etemc



Fred Johnson
Esk'etemc

Presented by the National Center for Responsible Gaming

In partnership with the NCRG Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research at The University of Chicago and Yale University

In conjunction with Global Gaming Expo

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