

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse**  
*Roads to Recovery – A Collaborative Approach*

**Title of Poster:**

Adolescent Gambling in Kansas: Prevalence of Gambling by Type, Gender, and Age/Grade

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**Abstract:**

The main purpose of the study was to examine the prevalence of adolescent gambling in Kansas and to identify the types of gambling that appeal most to youth as a means to target prevention efforts. Another purpose of the study was to identify gender and age/grade differences in gambling behavior among Kansas youth.

Responses from 84,287 students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades who participated in the 2008 Kansas Communities That Care (KCTC) student survey were collected for past year gambling, past 30-day gambling and eight different types of gambling (casino, lottery or scratch-off tickets, betting on team sports, playing cards for money, betting on horse races, Internet gambling, betting on dice games, betting on games of personal skill). Twenty-five percent (25%) of respondents had gambled in the past year and 13% had gambled in the past 30 days. The highest prevalence gambling types were lottery or scratch-off tickets (26%), betting on team sports (24%) and playing cards for money (18%). Consistent with other research, males reported significantly higher rates of gambling than females on every gambling measure. Age/Grade was incrementally linked with past year gambling and past 30-day gambling, with older adolescents reporting more gambling activity than younger adolescents. Although prevalence increased from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade for all gambling types, the progression was not always continual as there was cross-over between higher prevalence for 8<sup>th</sup> versus 10<sup>th</sup> grades for lottery or scratch off tickets and team sports.

As gaming expansion occurs in the State, these data will serve as a baseline for measuring the impact of both gaming and prevention and will assist in the State's current development of a strategic plan to address and prevent problem gambling. Further analyses of adolescent gambling, substance use, and other risk factors or contributors to problem gambling are planned.

