

Sports betting is now legal in Ohio. Experts worry about a rise in gambling addiction

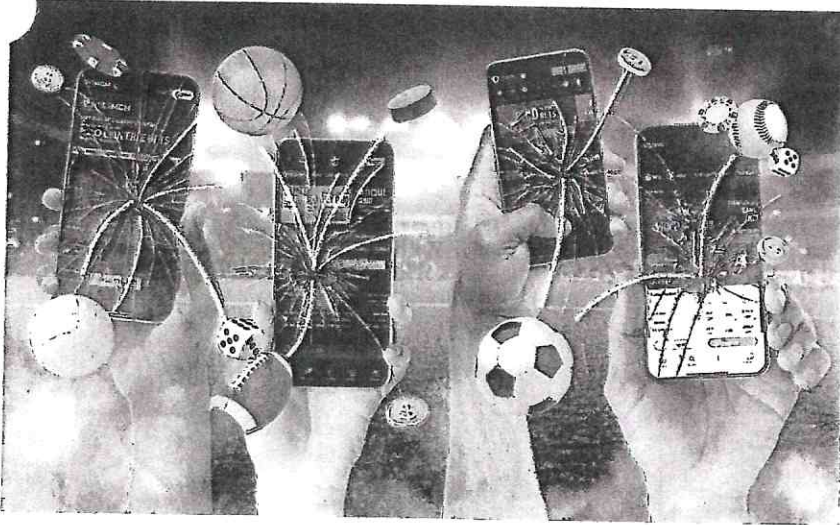
Ideastream Public Media | By Abigail Bottar

Published January 4, 2023 at 6:00 AM EST

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GAMBLING Addiction:

HIGHEST
SUICIDE #
RATE →



Lauren Green / Ideastream Public Media

Sports betting became legal in Ohio on Jan. 1. Experts are warning this will lead to an increase in problem gambling.

On Jan. 1, Ohio became one of the latest states to legalize sports betting. More than three fifths of the country has made this move in recent years. These states have seen a massive increase in problem gambling, Problem Gambling Network of Ohio Associate Director Mike Buzzelli said.

This wraps into another concern Buzzelli has: college-aged men being the most susceptible to problem gambling. Newberry warns men in this age group who already participate in betting will be more prone to gambling addictions.

*College -
Age
men
are
winners*

"It's more the people who are already doing some betting who are going to get in trouble," Newberry said.

Most college students can't legally place bets, as the age to legally gamble is 21 in the state. Newberry worries that underage gambling will be an issue.

"That possibility is pretty high, especially because on the mobile apps you can lie about your age or you can sign in under somebody else's name and date of birth," Newberry said.

Treatment for problem gambling is accessible and effective, both Buzzelli and Newberry said.

One effective tool Newberry often suggests to his clients is the Voluntary Exclusion program, where people can ban themselves from casinos and racinos for different amounts of time.

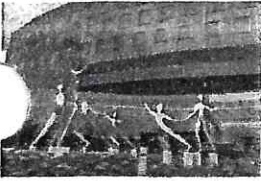
"That will be connected to sports gambling so the sports books that are in those venues and the ability to download the apps and things like that," Buzzelli said.

Ohio is ready to take on problem gambling with the legalization of sports betting, Buzzelli and Newberry said. They feel hopeful the precautions and laws in place will help prevent and provide treatment to those struggling.

"The one thing I can say about Ohio is we are known as one of the number one states in the country in problem gambling treatment and prevention," Newberry said.

One example of problem gambling prevention in the state is the way sports betting companies advertise. Advertisements right now tout risk free bets, but that will change once it's legalized.

"Come Jan. 1, they won't be able to advertise risk free bet," Buzzelli said, "because every bet has a risk involved in it."



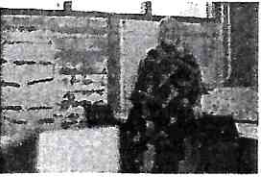
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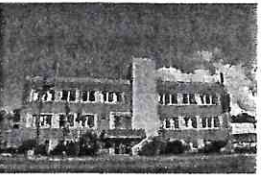
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The Sound of Ideas

Stateline

As Sports Betting Grows, States Tackle Teenage Problem Gambling

STATELINE ARTICLE

July 12, 2022

By: Marsha Mercer

Read time: 6 min

next page: - 4-6% HS states addicted
- most at risk, "18-24
year olds who are sports bettors."

to stay in the game and wanting to win “the big one” so much that they keep playing even when losing a great deal.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way to legal sports betting in 2018, states have raced to open the taps of tax revenue from the practice. Thirty states and the District of Columbia have live, legal sports betting, and five more states have live sports betting on the way.

Support for the practice has grown: About two-thirds of recently surveyed adults approved of legalizing betting on professional sports, up from 55% in 2017, according to polling from *The Washington Post* and the University of Maryland. However, roughly 60% of respondents said they were concerned that the increasing availability of sports betting will lead to children gambling.

But as sports betting becomes pervasive—in brick-and-mortar betting parlors and, often, for anyone with a cell phone—state gambling addiction services are underfunded, Whyte and state administrators say, and their focus is on adults.

“Kids who have problems fall through the cracks,” Whyte said.

There’s a growing recognition among state legislators and health departments that the youngest gamblers need help, but that awareness has yet to materialize into widespread gambling prevention programs for youth, according to Whyte and other experts.

“Children and young people are the fastest-growing segment of gamblers,” said Virginia Del. Sam Rasoul, a Democrat, who this year sponsored the first state law in the country requiring all public schools to teach students about the risks of gambling.

“I had some Virginia families contact me, saying, ‘This is a problem, what should we do about it?’” he said in an interview.

Rasoul’s law, which had nearly unanimous support in the legislature, requires the state Board of Education to develop and distribute to all school divisions educational materials on gambling as part of the existing curriculum on substance misuse. Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin signed the measure in April.

“This is a problem that needs to be addressed,” Rasoul said. “It’s a great first step for Virginia.”

Brianne Doura-Schawohl, a lobbyist on problem gambling issues, strongly supports Virginia’s new law as a first step, but asked: “Is it going to be enough to move the needle? I’m not sure.

In Maryland, where mobile sports betting is expected to go live this fall, Republican state Sen. Bryan Simonaire said, "We should be informing young people of the dangers."

Simonaire, the Senate minority leader, has tried for the past three years to pass a bill authorizing the Maryland Board of Education to prepare a problem gambling curriculum that local school districts could use, if they choose, in high schools.

His first bill in 2020 would have required curriculum use, but after pushback from teachers' groups, he made the teaching optional. His bill passed the Senate before COVID-19 upended the session. For the following two years, though, his bills have failed to get out of committee.

"The education community lobbied for casinos, to have money for education, and legislators pushed for gambling as a way to help education," Simonaire said in an interview. "The point I made is, you got all this money, and now you have a moral obligation to inform and to teach kids to see the warning signs."

He is also personally passionate about the issue: "My father ended up penniless because of gambling."

His father was a millionaire who moved to Arizona and would fly to Las Vegas to gamble for fun, Simonaire said, but when a casino opened 5 miles from his home, "that's when he had the problem. He was a wonderful person, but we all have issues in life."

In West Virginia, Democratic state Del. Sean Hornbuckle, a professional financial adviser, tried this year to create a three-year pilot program in five public high schools to teach about problem gambling in a financial literacy class. The bill quietly died in the Republican-controlled education committee. He plans to try again, potentially with a GOP co-sponsor.

How much information youth get about gambling varies greatly, in part depending on where they live.

"We were starting to hear and see that the risk for teens with gambling disorder was high," said Rose Blozinski, executive director of the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, a nonprofit affiliated with the national council. "We thought it was better to give the information to them sooner rather than later."

So, in 2015, the Wisconsin council developed a free, 45-minute gambling prevention class for high schools. Last year, the council created a similar video presentation for virtual schooling. About 16,500 students have seen one or both presentations.

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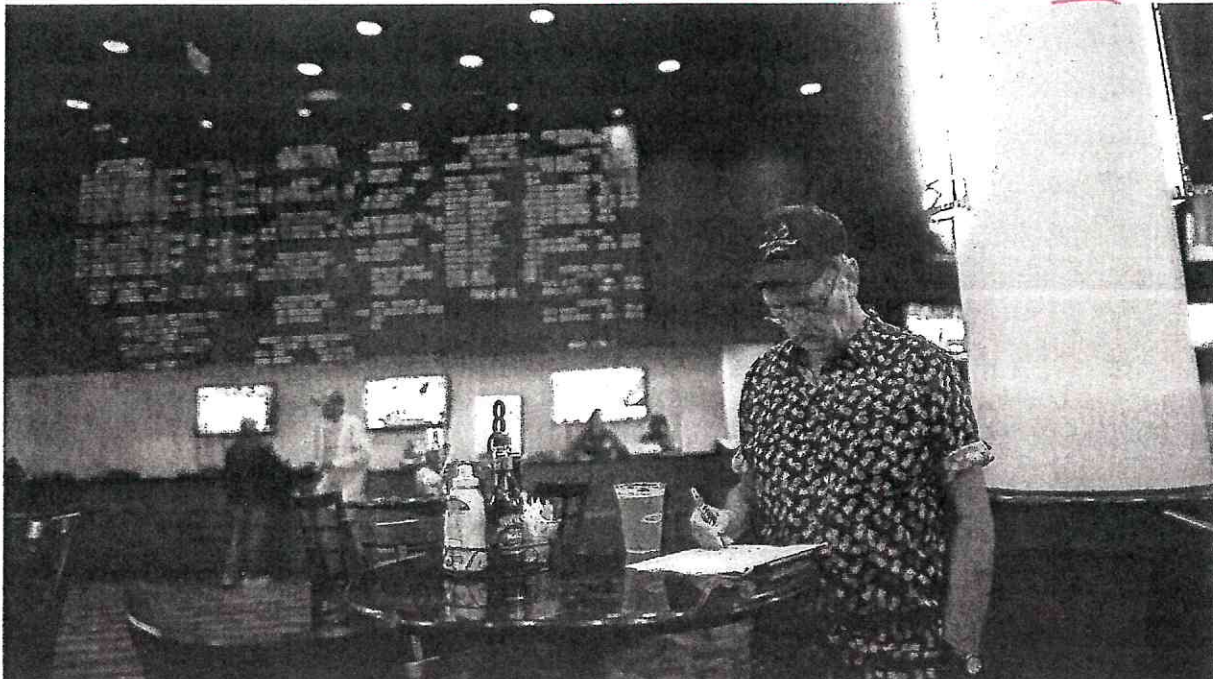
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As more states legalize the practice, 19% of U.S. adults say they have bet money on sports in the past year

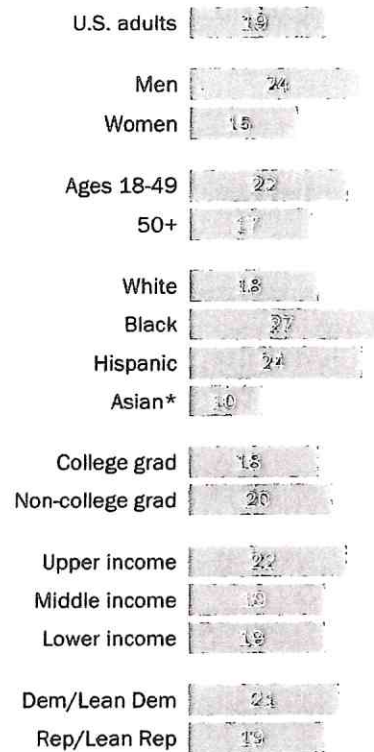
BY JOHN GRAMLICH

*Poll: only 8% of Americans think GAMBLING is a GOOD thing for society
p. 4 of 7*



Black and Hispanic Americans are among the groups most likely to report betting on sports

% of U.S. adults who say they have personally bet money on sports in the last 12 months with friends or family, in person at a casino, racetrack, or betting kiosk, or online



*Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2020 earnings. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 5-17, 2022.

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Men are more likely than women (24% vs. 15%) to say they have bet on sports in some form in the past year, as are adults under the age of 50 when compared with those 50 and older (22% vs. 17%). There are also differences by race and ethnicity: Black (27%) and Hispanic adults (24%) are more likely than White (18%) and Asian American adults (10%) to report doing so.

There are no significant differences in self-reported sports betting by educational attainment or household income level. For example, 18% of college graduates say they have bet on sports in some way in the past year, as have 20% of non-college graduates. Similar shares of adults in upper-income (22%), middle-income (19%) and lower-income households (19%) say they have bet on sports in the past year.

Few Americans see the widespread legalization of sports betting as a good thing for society or for sports

% of U.S. adults who say the fact that betting on sports is now legal in much of the country is ...

	A bad thing	A good thing	Neither good nor bad
For society	34	8	57
For sports	29	16	49

Note: Those who did not give an answer are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 5-17, 2022.

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The public is slightly more divided on a separate question about whether the widespread legalization of sports betting is a good or bad thing for *sports*. Around half of Americans (49%) say the fact that sports betting is now legal in much of the country is neither a good nor bad thing for sports, while a third say it is a bad thing for sports and 16% say it is a good thing.

On these questions, too, there are some demographic differences. Americans 50 and older are more likely than adults under 50 to say that legalized sports betting is a bad thing for both society (41% vs. 27%) and sports (38% vs. 29%). College graduates and those in upper-income households are also more likely to see the widespread legalization of sports betting as a bad thing for both society and sports.

While there are no significant partisan differences on most of the Center's questions related to sports betting, one such divide does appear on the question of whether legalized sports betting is a good or bad thing for society. Republicans are slightly more likely than Democrats to say this is a bad thing for society (38% vs. 31%). Still, more than half in both groups (54% of Republicans and 59% of Democrats) see it as neither a good nor bad thing for society.

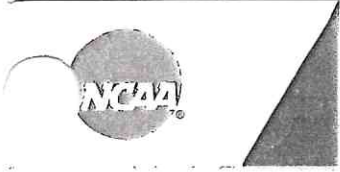
Rep
vs
Dems

Note: Here are the questions used for this analysis, along with responses, and its methodology.

Topics Personal Finances, Lifestyle, Leisure

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NCAA paper

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Mind, Body and Sport: Gambling among student-athletes

GAMING IS NOT GAMBLING p.4

AN EXCERPT FROM THE SPORT SCIENCE INSTITUTE'S GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORTING STUDENT-ATHLETE MENTAL WELLNESS

By Jeffrey L. Derevensky and Tom Paskus

Gambling remains one of the fastest-growing industries in the world, with multinational corporations investing billions of dollars to attract customers. While age restrictions exist in most jurisdictions (age often is dependent upon the type of gambling), it is an activity in which many college students participate.

Most individuals gamble legally, occasionally and in a generally responsible manner (that is, setting and maintaining time and money limits). However, for a small but identifiable subset of youth, gambling can quickly escalate out of control and affect both psychological and physical well-being.

Excessive, problematic or pathological gambling has been repeatedly shown to result in consequences that can include deviant anti-social behaviors, decreased academic performance, impaired athletics performance, and criminal and legal problems.

Generally, the social and problem gambling experiences of college student-athletes are similar to those of other youth gamblers. Results of a 2012 study that the NCAA commissioned found that 57 percent of male student-athletes and 39 percent of female student-athletes reported gambling in some form during the past year, with those student-athletes in Division I reporting the lowest incidence of gambling (50 percent for males; 30 percent for females).

While pathological gambling is a problem that affects relatively few student-athletes, it is nonetheless a persistent health concern for some individuals: 1.9 percent of males and 0.2 percent of female student-athletes are exhibiting some clinical signs of problem gambling, placing them at extremely high risk for mental health issues.



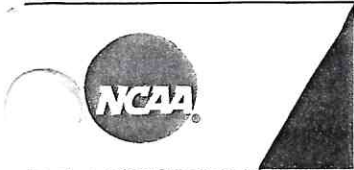
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Slots	19.8%	3.6%	15.1%	2.0%	11.9%	1.8%
Lottery tickets	36.2%	11.1%	31.4%	9.1%	35.2%	11.1%
Played stock market	10.2%	4.7%	9.2%	4.5%	7.4%	3.6%
Commercial bingo	6.5%	0.9%	6.9%	1.1%	5.3%	1.2%
Gambled in casino	-	-	22.9%	3.8%	18.7%	3.3%
Bet on sports	23.5%	9.6%	29.5%	9.6%	25.7%	8.3%
Casino games on Internet for money	6.8%	2.8%	12.3%	4.7%	7.5%	1.9%

Percentages displayed are cumulative rather than independent. A student-athlete reporting having wagered "once/month or more" is also included in the "past year" figure.

Gambling behaviors among female student-athletes

	2004 STUDY		2008 STUDY		2012 STUDY	
	PAST YEAR	1/MONTH +	PAST YEAR	1/MONTH +	PAST YEAR	1/MONTH +
Played cards for money	19.0%	4.4%	10.7%	1.3%	5.3%	0.6%
Bet horses, dogs	4.8%	0.4%	3.2%	0.1%	2.8%	0.2%
Games of personal skill	14.1%	3.2%	7.2%	1.2%	4.0%	0.7%
Dice, craps	3.5%	0.7%	2.2%	0.3%	2.0%	0.3%
ts	14.3%	1.3%	9.9%	0.5%	8.4%	0.6%
Lottery tickets	29.7%	5.4%	24.0%	3.5%	30.5%	5.1%
Played stock market	3.5%	1.3%	2.1%	0.6%	1.1%	0.4%



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JD: The landscape has changed dramatically. There are more states with casinos than ever before. When the NCAA initiated its first gambling task force in 2003, only Nevada and New Jersey had casinos. Now there are plenty of casinos in Florida, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Louisiana and many other states. Also, electronic forms of gambling are becoming increasingly popular. In 2003, very few people even thought of gambling online. Now you can wager virtually on anything online. There were odds on what Prince William and Kate Middleton were going to name their baby. You can gamble on who's going to be the next pope, or the next president. There were odds on where Angelina Jolie would adopt her next child from. In that vein, there is now live in-game betting - odds generated in real time for participants to bet on various aspects of a game as it unfolds. About 10 percent of male student-athletes in the 2012 study who wager on sports have engaged in live in-game betting. "Spot fixing" is another one. Spot fixing is just a single midgame event or portion of a contest needing to be fixed for a bet to pay off. It's generally seen as easier to do and harder to detect than manipulating a final outcome.

What about the technology? Has gambling through social media become pervasive?

JD: Simulated forms of gambling - often referred to as "practice sites" - that's the new phenomenon. We currently don't know if there's a causal relationship between simulated forms of gambling (for virtual currency) and actual gambling. We do know, however, that as simulated gambling goes up, so does actual gambling and gambling-related problems.

Percentage of student-athletes reporting that they played simulated gambling activities in the past year

	MALES	FEMALES
Played activity via video game console	18.2%	4.8%
Played activity via social media website	12.0%	4.2%
Played activity via Internet gambling site	10.3%	2.4%
Played activity on a cell phone	14.5%	5.4%
Played a free sports-betting or bracket game online	11.7%	2.2%

Q: What do you mean by simulated forms of gambling?



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...able, then problematic gambling might be at the root of these behaviors.

Q: Are there approaches on campus that are known to work?

JD: Student-athletes report that coaches and teammates are their primary influences, so programs targeting those people – particularly coaches – are helpful. I like the idea of involving student services groups as well. The more campus-wide involvement, the better. This is a more general student issue, and not one that affects only student-athletes. It’s important to understand that what starts off as a fun, harmless activity can lead to other serious problems. One or two out of 100 college students having a problem isn’t likely to set the world on fire, but if you approach the gambling issue as being among a number of things that can negatively impact student health and well-being, then your odds of resonating, so to speak, are much greater. It’s important to remember that every problem gambler tends to seriously impact a dozen other people: boyfriends, girlfriends, peers, teammates, coaches, parents and employers. And for student-athletes, it can jeopardize their eligibility.

Most effective ways to influence student-athletes not to wager on sports

(as reported by student-athletes who have wagered on sports in the past year)

RANK	MALES	FEMALES
1	Coach	Teammates
2	Teammates	NCAA penalties
3	NCAA penalties	Coach
4	Pro athlete presentation	Pro athlete presentation
5	Parents	Law enforcement presentation
6	Athletics department info	Athletics department info

Jeff Derevensky is the director of the International Center for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University in Montreal. The National Center for Responsible Gaming recently honored Derevensky with its coveted Scientific Achievement Award, one of dozens of accolades he has earned from his research over time. He and NCAA Principal Scientist Tom Paskus co-authored the 2008 and 2012 NCAA studies on student-athlete wagering behaviors.

The Columbus Dispatch

concerns for student-athletes. How schools are responding

Victoria Moorwood and David Wysong Cincinnati Enquirer

Published 6:58 a.m. ET Feb. 26, 2023

Just weeks after sports betting became legal in Ohio, the state's lead gambling regulator had to address the issue of gamblers harassing college athletes.

“It was something I wasn’t planning on talking about today,” said Matt Schuler, executive director of the Ohio Casino Control Commission. “But I thought that it was important enough to bring up to make sure that anyone who’s listening understands that this type of behavior is not OK for anybody in any venue at all.”

Schuler spoke during the group's first meeting of the year on Jan. 18, per PlayOhio, a gambling news organization. Sports betting became legal in Ohio on Jan. 1.

Ohio schools and athletic departments were against sports gambling years ago before it became legal. Now, those same universities must juggle obstacles that come with legalized betting, including any potential harassment of student-athletes.

An offensive renaissance: How a year of exploration changed Sean Miller

Cincinnati Bearcats: 'I'm fueled by caffeine and the Holy Spirit.' UC taps Niko Palazeti to strengthen Bearcats

College athletes faced online harassment well before sports betting

Schuler's statement came a day after the men's basketball coach at the University of Dayton raised concerns about player harassment from gamblers upset about losing bets.

In a postgame press conference Jan. 17, Dayton Flyers head coach Anthony Grant said his players had received hateful messages from disgruntled gamblers on social media. The team lost to Virginia Commonwealth University on Jan. 13, which Grant suggested spurred the harassment.

The Columbus Dispatch

have families. They don't deserve that. Mental health is real. So if you're a Flyer fan, I ask you just to understand what you're dealing with, with young people. All right? Take a step back, and reevaluate your priorities. And if you can't, we don't need you."

Social media harassment against college athletes was an issue even before sports betting came into the picture.

E.J. Liddell, a former Ohio State University basketball player, posted messages from social media users wishing death and threatening to kill him after his team's loss to Oral Roberts University in the 2021 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.

Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud received death threats after the Buckeyes lost to Michigan on Nov. 26, his mother told Sports Illustrated.

Meanwhile, student-athletes continue to report elevated mental health concerns. A 2021 NCAA survey administered to Division I, II and III schools showed mental exhaustion, anxiety and depression among collegiate athletes were about as prevalent as they were in 2020, and 1.5 to 2 times higher than pre-pandemic numbers.

Ohio's DI universities were against collegiate sports betting

Ohio schools and athletic departments knew legalized sports betting was coming to the state, and tried to fight it.

Thirteen DI athletic directors sent a letter to Larry Obhof, former president of the Ohio Senate, and Larry Householder, former Ohio House speaker, in 2019 opposing collegiate sports gambling. Among those to sign the letter included Greg Christopher of Xavier University, Ohio State's Gene Smith, David Sayler of Miami University and former University of Cincinnati athletic director Mike Bohn.

"Permitting gambling on college sports in Ohio poses risks of increased incidents of problem gambling, threats to the mental and financial well-being of our student populations and the integrity of university athletic programs," the letter, which The Enquirer obtained from Christopher, read.

Another concern with college sports betting, voiced by Christopher, is proposition bets. Also called prop bets, these allow gamblers to place wagers on specific players or occurrences that ,

The Columbus Dispatch

~~The University of Cincinnati athletic department declined to comment for this article.~~

Athletic departments regularly prepare student-athletes for potential challenges they could face during their time as college athletes. Sports gambling is another obstacle schools must address.

"There's a handful of what I would call third-rail-type issues that our student-athletes can find themselves facing, and there's no doubt that gambling is one of those," Christopher said. "So, it's a regular topic that we make sure we talk with our student-athletes (about), and especially the sports like basketball where there is active betting on the games, we make sure that they're educated and aware."