

### Gambling in Missouri

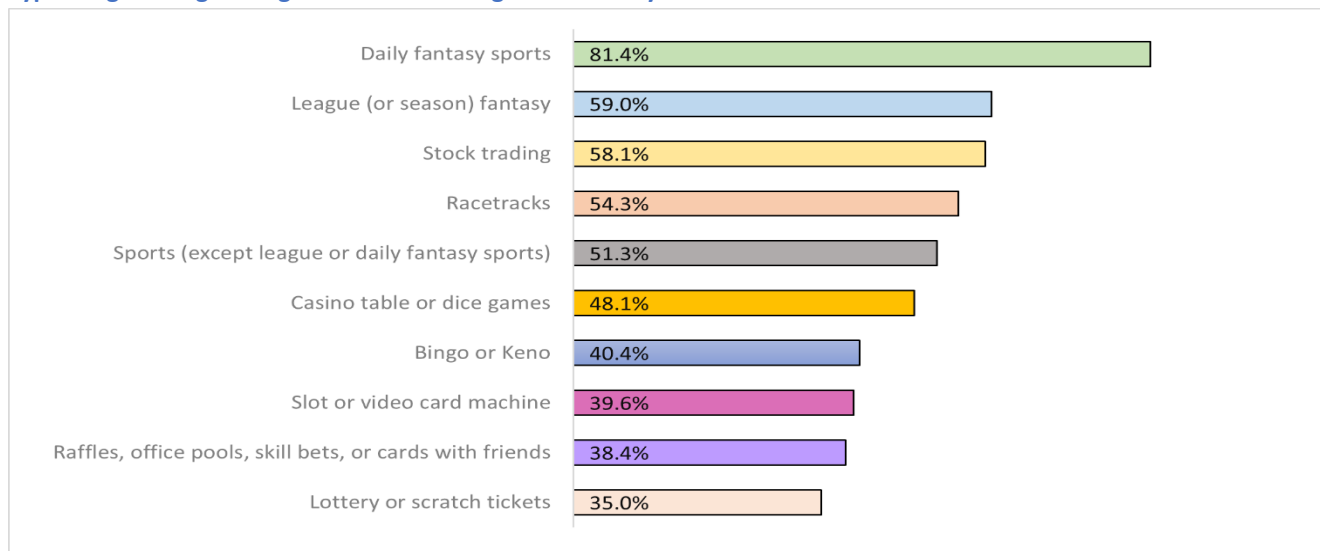
On December 1, 2025, sports gambling became legalized in Missouri, allowing residents in state to place bets on sporting events at licensed venues or online. Gambling is the act of risking money or possessions based on the outcome of future events. Examples of gambling can include placing bets on a sports game or race, using slot machines, buying a lottery ticket, placing money on fantasy sports, participating in raffles, trading stocks, playing bingo, or even buying mystery loot boxes in video games. The International Classification of Diseases, eleventh revision (ICD-11) identifies gambling disorder with the following diagnostic criteria:

- Impaired control over gambling
- Increasing priority given to gambling, taking precedence over other life interests and daily activities
- Continuation of gambling despite negative consequences.<sup>1</sup>

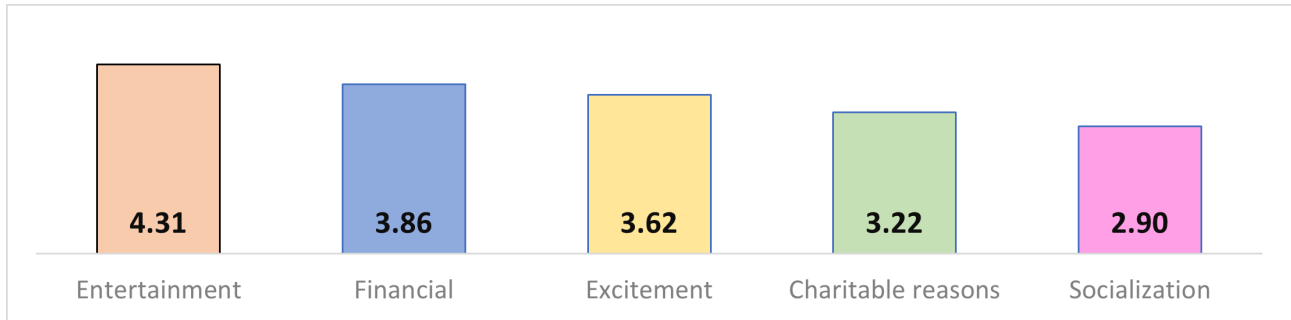
According to the 2022 Missouri Gambling Prevalence Study, 64.1% of Missourians reported having gambled in the past twelve months. While 4.1% of Missourians met the criteria for a gambling disorder, 20.8% of Missourians were at-risk for a gambling disorder. About a quarter of Missourians (24.1%) gamble less than monthly, 19.5% gamble about monthly, and 20.2% gamble weekly or more.<sup>2</sup> The people who gamble weekly or more rated that their motivations for gambling were for entertainment or for financial purposes.

Associations have been identified between substance use and gambling. People who gamble commonly use substances. Additionally, substances such as alcohol or marijuana cause impaired decision-making and risk-taking behaviors which may lead to larger financial losses or social consequences when consumed while gambling.

#### Types of gambling among Missourians who gamble weekly or more<sup>2</sup>



### Gambling Motivations for Missourians who gamble weekly or more<sup>2</sup>



The numbers represent a six point Likert scale, ranking 1 as “low importance” and 6 as “high importance” to the survey participant.

### Prevention & Treatment

While uptake for treatment for gambling disorder is low, Missouri’s Division of Behavioral Health offers outpatient services throughout the state. A list of treatment services and certified counselors in Missouri can be found at <https://dmh.mo.gov/behavioral-health/treatment-services/specialized-programs/gambling><sup>3</sup>.

Additionally, a national 24/7 helpline, 1-888-BETS-OFF (888-238-7633), offers resources for people struggling with gambling addiction.

The Missouri’s Gaming Commission allows Missourians to sign up for their Voluntary Exclusion Program (VEP) from casinos online or at their offices with the option of removing themselves from that list in five years. Visit the Missouri Gaming Commission’s website at <https://www.mgc.dps.mo.gov/> for more information.

Contact the Behavioral Health Epidemiological Workgroup:

For more information, contact [Susan Bradford](#).

Learn about the [Behavioral Health Epidemiological Workgroup](#).

### References

- 1) World Health Organization. (2024, December 2). *Gambling*. WHO. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/gambling>
- 2) Spare, K. E., Harwell, W. D., Mills, D. J., Lee, U., & Lewis, L. E. (2023). *2022 Missouri Gambling Prevalence Study*. Retrieved from <https://888betsoff.org/resources/publications/2022MOGamblingPrevalenceStudy.pdf>
- 3) Missouri Department of Mental Health. (n.d.). *Gambling treatment services*. Missouri Department of Mental Health. Retrieved November 21, 2025, Retrieved from <https://dmh.mo.gov/behavioral-health/treatment-services/specialized-programs/gambling>