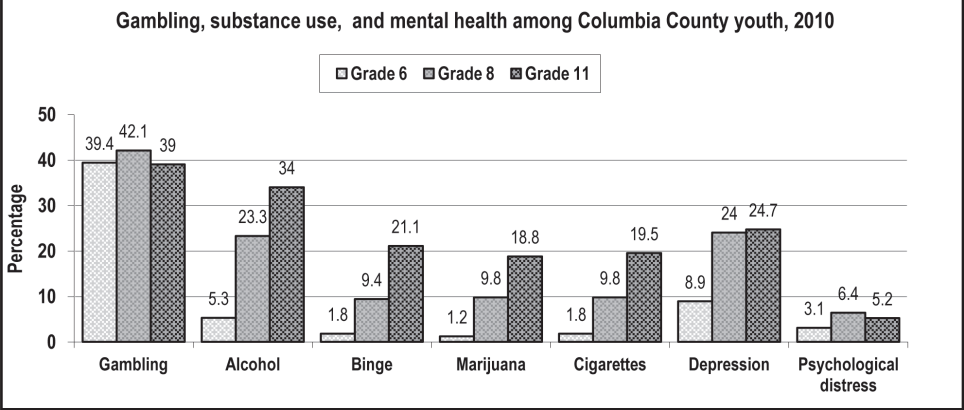


Kids and Gambling: The Hidden Problem

Kids are exposed to gambling every day--turn on TV, there's a poker tournament; walk into a minimart or grocery store -- Lottery tickets; log onto a computer -- popup messages from gambling sites. Even churches and schools use gambling for fundraising, so the pro-gambling message is everywhere; and Oregon is among the top states in the nation for gambling accessibility.

Adolescent brains offer a perfect environment for gambling, with their preference for high activity/low effort/high stimulation. Add to that the fact that parents and schools aren't talking to kids about the risks, and you can see why we're concerned. Too often we hear "Kids gambling too much? No way...if they were, we'd know it"; yet, the Oregon Student Wellness Survey and other research data tell a very different story:

- Most Oregon adolescents (63 percent) have gambled and it starts early (more than 1/3 of 6th graders have already gambled).
- One youth per classroom already has a (hidden) gambling problem. (Volberg, 2008)
- More Oregon kids reported gambling in the past 30 days than had used alcohol, cigarettes or marijuana (SWS 2010)

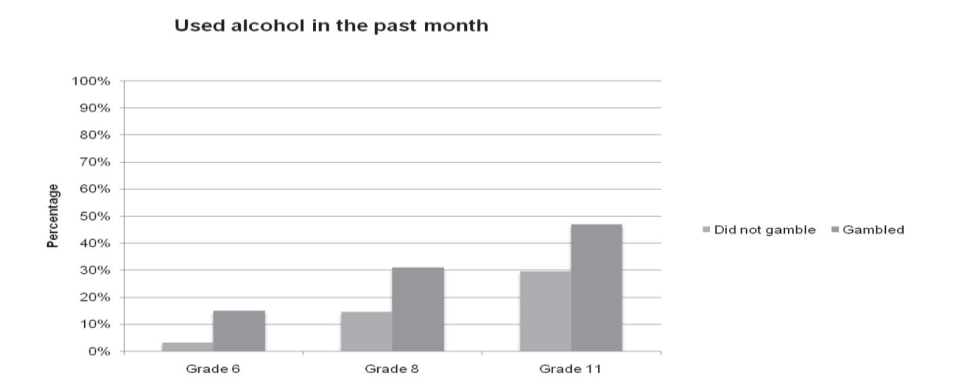


- Comparing the results of Oregon youth surveys over time, many risky behaviors are decreasing, yet gambling has significantly increased (SWS 2010)

Comparison of 8th and 11th grade results from 2001, 2009 and 2010

Grade 8	2001	2009	2010	Percent change		Grade 11	2001	2009	2010	Percent change	
				2001-2010	2009-2010					2001-2010	2009-2010
Gambling	**	34.5%	49.1%	**	42.3	Gambling	**	31.2	41.8	**	34.0
Alcohol	24.0%	23.2%	22.5%	-6.3	-3.0	Alcohol	43.0	38.3	36.3	-15.6	-5.2
Binge	9.3%	10.7%	8.9%	-4.3	-16.8	Binge	25.3	23.4	21.0	-17.0	-10.3
Marijuana	12.3%	10.6%	12.4%	0.8	17.0	Marijuana	22.1	21.8	24.3	10.0	11.5
Cigarettes	12.3%	9.9%	8.2%	-33.3	-17.2	Cigarettes	19.6	14.9	14.3	-27.0	-4.0
Depression	18.7%	19.1%	22.1%	18.2	15.7	Depression	20.4	20.9	23.4	14.7	12.0
Psychological Distress	**	8.5%*	6.7%	**	-21.2	Psychological Distress	**	7.2*	6.1	**	-15.3

- Kids who gamble are almost twice as likely to engage in alcohol use and binge drinking (SWS 2010)



- Kids who gamble are more likely to skip school, smoke and use marijuana. (SWS 2010)
- Youth of color have higher overall rates of gambling. (SWS 2010)



- Adolescents in families with parents who gamble are twice as likely to be an at-risk gambler and four times as likely to be a problem gambler. (Volberg, 2008)
- Parents and teachers don't talk as much to kids about gambling as they do other risk behaviors. (SWS 2010)

- Key points**
1. Whether you see it or not, kids are gambling and many teens already have gambling problems. Educate yourself and then talk to kids about the risks of gambling -- don't let the only messages they see be those coming from the gaming industry.
 2. Gambling is not a safe alternative to alcohol or drug use. Youth who gamble have almost twice the risk of alcohol and drug use and other risk behaviors. More young people are developing problems with gambling and it can become addictive.
 3. Kids who start gambling early are more likely to develop gambling problems. Honest education about gambling is important to preparing young people to make responsible choices.

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68 For every \$100 spent in independently owned stores, \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll, and other expenditures. If you spend that in a national chain, only \$43 stays here. Spend it online and *nothing comes home*.

1 The number of people it takes to start the trend...*you*.

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* Employment statistics courtesy U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2/6/2009; 68/43 courtesy Civic Economics study, 2008.

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