



# Research Briefs

Office of the Dean of Students  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

No. 20: October 2004

## Gambling and Entering Students\*

UH-Mānoa may not face the same concerns about student gambling as do many mainland campuses, especially those located close to casinos. However, many gambling venues are available to UHM students, such as betting on sports events, card games, dice games, darts, stock market, lottery, and skill games. Celebrity gambling television shows are increasingly popular and access to gambling and easy credit is readily available on the Internet at numerous web sites.

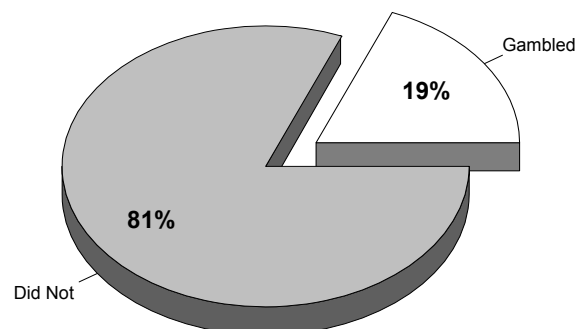
In a meta-analysis of 23 college studies on gambling, researchers found that about 5 percent of students were pathological gamblers and 7 percent were problem gamblers. Similar rates were found for high school students. Multicampus studies show a positive correlation between problem gambling and increased use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. A national survey found that student gamblers were more likely to engage in high-risk behaviors such as binge drinking and unprotected sex.

As gambling grows in popularity and social acceptability, the monitoring of the influence of gambling on student behaviors as related to success in the educational environment becomes increasingly important. The following statistics on fall 2004 UHM entering students are provided to enhance awareness and understanding of student gambling, to establish a baseline for future comparisons, and to build a culture of evidence to assist decision making in this area.

First-time freshmen and transfer students are similar in that in the past year:

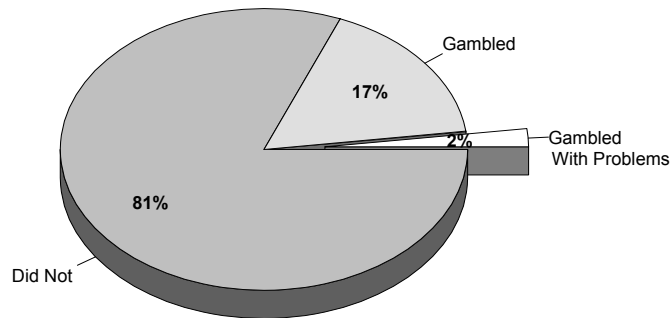
- 19 percent have gambled.. See Figure 1.
- few (2 percent) gambled on the Internet.
- few (1-2 percent) had difficulty placing limits on their gambling. See Figure 2.

Figure 1  
Entering Students Who Gambled



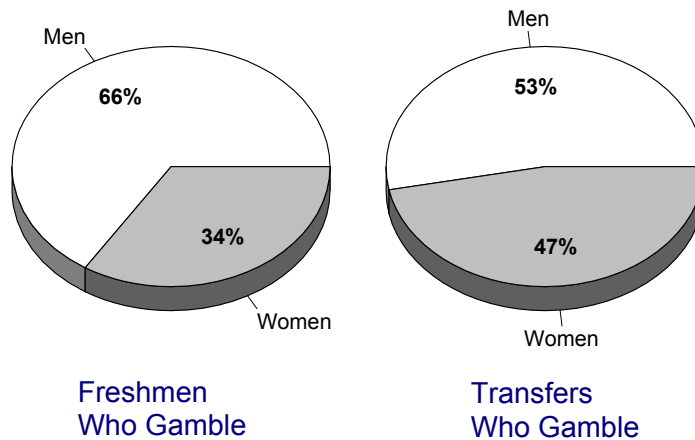
(OVER)

Figure 2  
 Entering Students Who Gambled  
 and Had Problems Setting Limits



C For freshmen who gambled, men outnumbered (66 percent) women (34 percent). Unlike freshmen gamblers, transfer gamblers were more evenly distributed between men (53 percent) and women (47 percent). See Figure 3.

Figure 3  
 Entering Students Who Gamble  
 and Gender



C Finally, disproportionately more men than women gambled compared to the population in general. The proportion of freshmen males (66 percent) and transfer males who gambled (53 percent) far exceeded the proportion of males (36 percent) in the overall population of entering students.

\* Gambling is defined as betting on sports events, cards, dice, darts, casino games, etc.