Three-Quarters of Massachusetts Residents Gamble Before Massachusetts Casinos Open
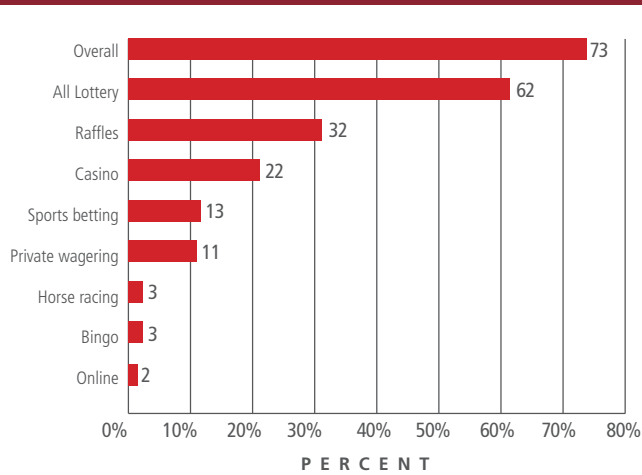
With the passage of the Expanded Gaming Act, Massachusetts will host three casinos and a slot parlor. The SEIGMA team took a "snapshot" to understand how Massachusetts residents participated in gambling prior to casinos and the key demographic groups who are more likely to gamble. Here, we summarize findings from SEIGMA's *Gambling and Problem Gambling in Massachusetts: Results of a Baseline Population Survey* based on responses from approximately 10,000 Massachusetts adults.

In 2013, nearly three-quarters of Massachusetts residents reported participating in one or more of these gambling activities in the past year:

Gambling Participation by Activity Prior to MA Casinos

- A quarter of the Massachusetts adult population did not gamble, 35% gambled yearly, 20% gambled monthly, and 18% gambled weekly

- Approximately 6 in 10 people reported playing the lottery

- Just under a quarter (22%) of Massachusetts adults reported visiting casinos to gamble. Over half of people who did so (66%) visited casinos in Connecticut

Despite not having any casinos in 2013, the past-year casino participation rate in Massachusetts was similar to participation rates in some other U.S. jurisdictions with newly introduced casinos, including Maryland and Ohio. The past-year casino gambling rate was higher in U.S. states with mature casino industries compared with Massachusetts, such as Connecticut and Iowa.

Who is more likely to gamble in Massachusetts?

- Men are more likely to gamble than women (77% of men vs.70% of women)

- Middle-aged adults (25-64) are more likely to gamble than younger adults (75% of middle aged adults compared to 55% of young adults)

- Those who identify as White are more likely to gamble than those who identify as Hispanic, Black, or Asian (76% of Whites compared to 63% of Hispanics, 66% of Blacks, 56% of Asians)