

# HEALTH OP-ED

## MOBILE SPORTS BETTING: INCREASING THE RISKS



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On January 8, 2022, New York State unleashed Mobile Sports Betting (MSB), and by doing so, exponentially increased the risks of problem gambling for New Yorkers. During the first two weeks, estimates suggest there were \$1.62 billion wagered and \$113 million of revenue generated.

What is NOT discussed however is the other side of the story. The cost of the potential impact that gambling has on the life of the individual placing the bet, as well as the subsequent impact on their families, is hard to calculate. Estimates suggest if this trend continues, issues related to problem gambling could result in an estimated \$4.9 million lost daily, a figure that could reach \$1.8 billion in one year!

Gambling can lead to loss of income and an increased risk of domestic violence and suicide, as well as other mental and physical health risks. One in five suicide attempts is associated

with problem gambling. With the legalization and expansion of sports betting we can expect to see increasing numbers of individuals developing risky or problem gambling behaviors, some of which may evolve into a serious gambling disorder. Young people will also be more easily drawn into sports betting with iGambling and eSports.

The industry, as well as lawmakers, have described the launch of MSB as one that exceeded all expectations – not only in revenue generated but also in breaking records for the sheer number of bets placed and new accounts opened. Out of all MSB accounts, nearly 88 percent were new. The gambling industry has begun an unprecedented surge in marketing of online gambling through all forms of media, including enticing imagery, offering start-up dollars to gamble, and other messaging that can be characterized as predatory in nature.

It's time to have the conversation, consider the risks, and know the trends. Gambling is a silent addiction, often lacking in the visible signs and symptoms associated with alcohol and drug misuse.

For more resources on identifying and preventing problem gambling among adults and youth, visit the NCADD-RA's website at <https://ncadd-ra.org/resources/awareness-campaigns/underage-gambling/> or join the conversation on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NCADDRA/>.



### THE PIKE COMPANIES, LTD.

The Pike Company, Inc. & LECESE Construction Services

The Pike Company and LECESE Construction actively encourage participation from M/WBE certified firms.

Contact Kathy Rooney, Diversity & Community Engagement Manager, to discuss potential opportunities.

1.800.264.7453 | [www.thepikecompanies.com](http://www.thepikecompanies.com) | [info@pikecos.com](mailto:info@pikecos.com)

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence - Rochester Area

[ncadd-ra.org](http://ncadd-ra.org)

## Good Kids – Bad Choices



### Youth and Alcohol

- Drug of choice
- Easy access
- Deadly consequences

### Act Now

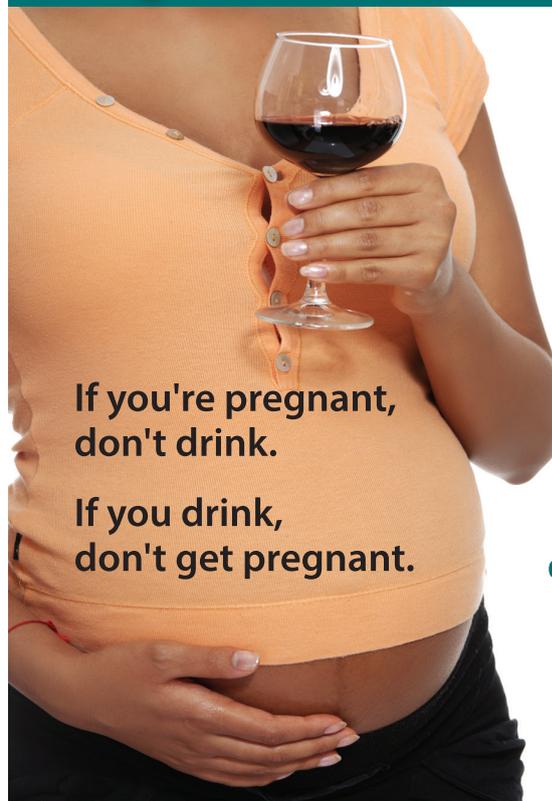
- Reduce availability
- Decrease death and injury
- Parents understand their risk and your potential liabilities.

**Refuse to supply alcohol to anyone under 21.**

**Supervise your teen's party.**

**Call Tipline at 1-800-851-1932 to report underage drinking.**

## A Pregnant Woman Never Drinks Alone



### Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

is the leading known cause of preventable developmental disabilities.

**If you're pregnant, don't drink.**

**If you drink, don't get pregnant.**

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence –Rochester Area

(585) 719-3480



[ncadd-ra.org/resources/awareness-campaigns/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorder/](http://ncadd-ra.org/resources/awareness-campaigns/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorder/)

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