



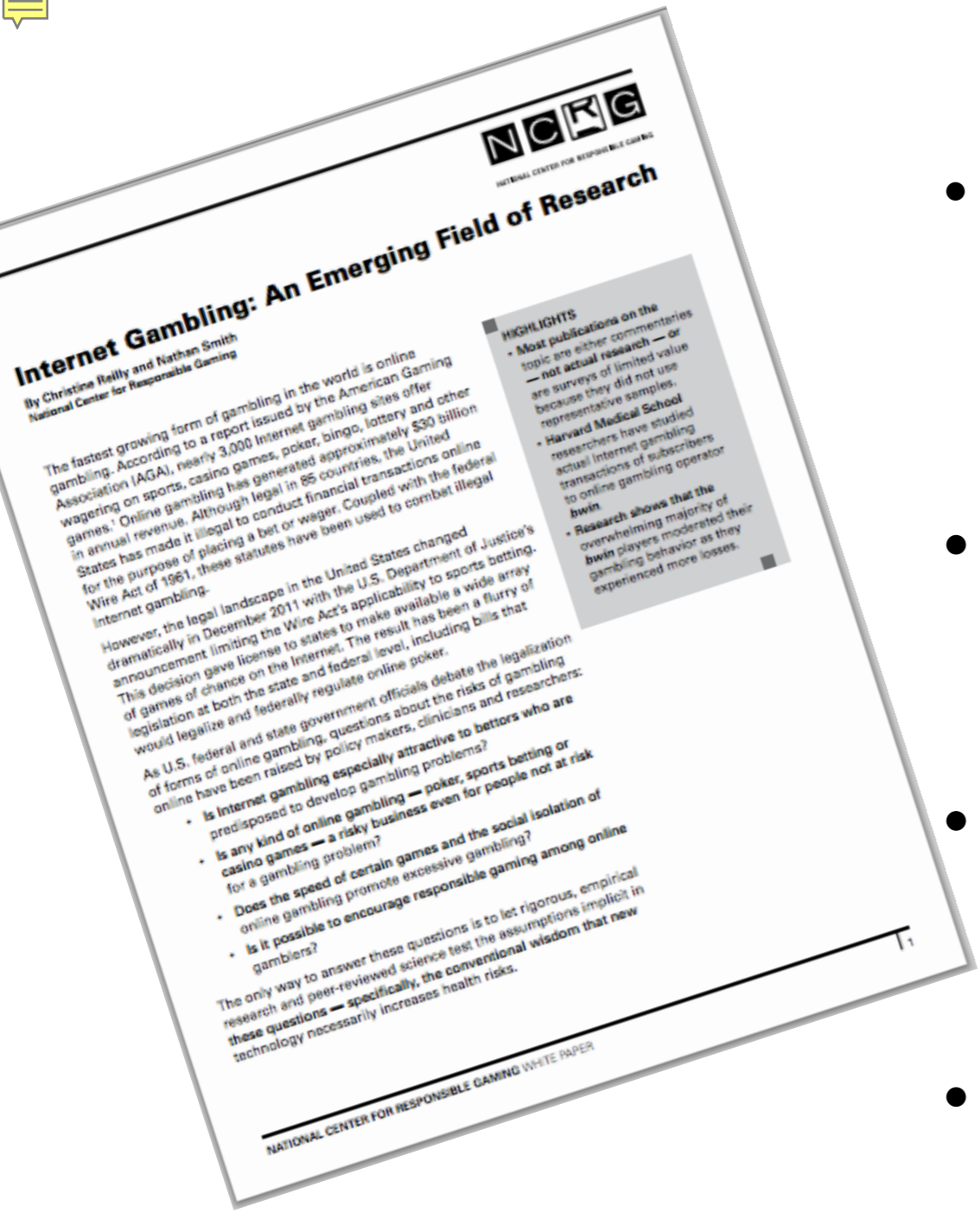
NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING

Advancing Research, Education and Awareness

Approaching Responsible Gaming and Gambling Disorders from a Research Perspective

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- The state of the science: gambling disorders and responsible gaming
- The NCRG's role in advancing the field
- Potential impact of new casinos in New York
- Public health programs to mitigate harm

Focus of Testimony



NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING

Advancing Research, Education and Awareness

The National Center for Responsible Gaming is the only organization in the U.S. dedicated to peer-reviewed research and evidence-based educational programming on gambling disorders and responsible gaming



- Founded in 1996 to support peer-reviewed research and education on gambling disorders and youth gambling
- \$25 million donated by commercial casino industry and related manufacturers and businesses
- Firewall has protected integrity of research funded by the NCRG

About the NCRG

- Modeled on the National Institutes of Health process and firewall
- Rigorous review ensures high quality research
- Has enabled the NCRG to attract leading research institutions: Harvard, Yale, Columbia, University of Chicago, Massachusetts General Hospital and more



Foundation of the
NCRG's Research Program



Proposals reviewed by independent experts



NCRG Scientific Advisory Board selects research projects for funding



NCRG-funded research is published in a competitive, peer-reviewed scientific journal



Protecting the Integrity of NCRG-funded Research



Launched field in the United States



Raised the standard for research and education programs



More than 200 articles in peer-reviewed journals



NCRG-funded research cited nearly 15,000 times in scientific publications



Significant advancements, thanks to NCRG-funded research




The NCRG's Impact

Will gambling problems increase in New York?



- Conventional wisdom: Increased exposure to gambling = more gambling problems
- Does research substantiate this assumption?

Common Questions for New Casino Jurisdictions

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- Prevalence rate of 1% in the U.S. has remained unchanged from 1979-2008, despite expansion of gaming
 - New gambling opportunities can cause problems at first because of the novelty effect
 - Evidence suggests that most populations adapt over time to the presence of gambling venues

Exposure and Adaptation

What can we expect to see if/when we bring casinos into New York?



- Few differences in prevalence estimates from state to state
- Although New York is already a mature gaming state, there may be a slight increase of gambling problems due to the novelty effect
- University of Iowa study also showed that the prevalence rate has stabilized at 1%

Common Questions for New Casino Jurisdictions

- Collaborate with public health community leaders, researchers and clinicians to address this issue
- Let evidence-based research guide your decisions; use science-based program for casino employee education
- Beware of the “grey literature”
- Unjustified intrusion is not likely to help - beware of unintended consequences



Best Practices for Operators and Regulators¹⁵

- Help customers make informed decision - help them know the odds of the games and how the games work
- Educate employees about responsible gaming and gambling addiction
- Encourage researchers to evaluate responsible gaming programs
- When looking to reach out to those with a gambling problem, understand that only 15% of those diagnosed actually seek help



Best Practices for Operators and Regulators¹⁵

What responsible gaming programs are effective?



- Self-exclusion programs have support from peer-reviewed research as a safe way to reduce or stop gambling
- The act of enrollment is more important than fear of legal repercussions
- Self-excluders who received treatment or self-help interventions were the most successful
- Lifetime bans likely to scare away gamblers already ambivalent about changing their behavior

Common Questions for New Casino Jurisdictions



Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen (BBGS) *A "yes" answer to any of the questions means the person is at risk for developing a gambling problem.*

1. During the past 12 months, have you become restless, irritable or anxious when trying to stop/cut down on gambling?	YES	NO
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. During the past 12 months, have you tried to keep your family or friends from knowing how much you gambled?	YES	NO
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. During the past 12 months did you have such financial trouble as a result of your gambling that you had to get help with living expenses from family, friends or welfare?	YES	NO
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NCRG www.ncrg.org
NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING www.divisiononaddiction.org

- *Talking with Children about Gambling* brochure in 6 languages
- Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen
- CollegeGambling.org
- Free webinars
- Regional Treatment Provider Workshops
- NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction
- Publications geared for specific professions (e.g., criminal justice professionals and HR managers)
- Brief shareable videos

Resources Available from the NCRG



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