

Can You Rank The Risks?

Cultural Perspectives



**Can You Rank
the Risks?**

A 15-year-old wins \$300 playing a game of chance at a cultural festival (e.g., a heritage festival, cultural fair, community celebration, or similar cultural gathering).

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During Lunar New Year, relatives playing a small-stakes gambling game.

**Can You Rank
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A first-generation college student spends hours each night playing free casino-style apps.

**Can You Rank
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A person who buys lottery tickets every time they see their lucky number.

**Can You Rank
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A young adult struggles to support their family and views gambling as a way to make money.

**Can You Rank
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A first-year international student participates in online sports betting after being introduced to it by their friends.

**Can You Rank
the Risks?**

Friends and relatives gather during holidays, celebrations, and family events playing dominoes and dice games, often wagering money on the outcome.

**Can You Rank
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A person joins a workplace betting pool to feel included with coworkers.

**Can You Rank
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**An older person
starts
participating in
weekly poker
games after
recently going
through a divorce.**

**Can You Rank
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**A person attends
a monthly bingo
night at their
place of worship.**

**Can You Rank
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**A person who is
retired spends
time at casinos as
a primary form of
social interaction.**

**Can You Rank
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**A person on
military
deployment who
drinks alcohol
while playing slot
machines on base
as a form of
entertainment.**

**Can You Rank
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**A person attends
a Pride event with
their partner at a
casino playing
slot machines
before the event
begins.**

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**Create your own
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Facilitator Guide:

This interactive activity helps increase awareness of the risks associated with gambling. Thank you for facilitating these important conversations.

- 1. Start with 5 cards. If they finish and remain engaged, give them 3–5 more cards.**
- 2. Ask participant(s) to read all of the scenarios on their cards.**
- 3. Individually or as a group, have participants discuss and rank the scenarios from lowest risk to highest risk based on their perceptions of potential harm or consequences.**
- 4. Encourage participant(s) to explain their reasoning and discuss factors that influenced their decisions.**
- 5. After completing one set of cards, provide additional cards if time allows.**
- 6. Remind participant(s) that there is no single correct answer; all scenarios involve some level of risk, and the goal is to encourage discussion and critical thinking.**
- 7. Invite participants to create their own gambling scenario and have the group discuss where it would fall on the risk spectrum. Encourage conversation about how cultural values, lived experiences, family and community norms, and personal perspectives may influence perceptions of risk.**

Use the discussion guide below to answer questions and encourage reflection. Explore how cultural values, lived experiences, family and community norms, and personal perspectives shape perceptions of gambling risk. Emphasize that there is no single "right" perspective and encourage respectful discussion about how context influences decision-making.

If you have any questions, please find our contact information at www.ct.gov/dmhas/pgs.

Scenarios

A 15-year-old wins \$300 playing a game of chance at a cultural festival (e.g., a heritage festival, cultural fair, community celebration, or similar cultural gathering).

- Experiencing an early win or frequent early wins can increase the risk of developing gambling-related problems.
- How can family celebrations and community reactions influence future behavior?

During Lunar New Year, relatives playing small-stakes gambling games as part of the celebration.

- When does a cultural game stay harmless, and when could it become risky?
- How might younger family members learn attitudes about gambling from these traditions?

A first-generation college student spends hours each night playing free casino-style apps.

- May face challenges such as adjusting to new academic expectations, navigating college systems and resources, managing financial concerns, building support networks, and balancing family or cultural expectations.
- How might gambling become a coping mechanism for loneliness, stress, or pressure?
- What healthy alternatives could help manage stress and build social connections?

A person who buys lottery tickets every time they see their lucky number.

- Beliefs about luck can affect how people assess risk, make choices, and interpret outcomes. For example, someone who believes they are “due” for a win may take greater risks or continue gambling despite losses.
- How might family, friends, or community traditions influence gambling behavior?
- While some gambling activities involve skill, all gambling includes an element of chance, and outcomes cannot be predicted or guaranteed.

A young adult struggles to support their family and views gambling as a way to make money.

- May seem like a quick solution because it offers the possibility of immediate financial gain. However, gambling outcomes are uncertain, and trying to recover financial losses through gambling can increase the risk of further financial harm.
- What support systems or resources could help someone in this situation?

Scenarios

A first-year international student participates in online sports betting after being introduced to it by their friends.

- Friends, family, and community norms can either encourage safer choices or increase exposure to gambling opportunities and risky behaviors.
- What role does peer pressure play across cultures?
- How can someone balance social belonging with healthy decision-making?

Friends and relatives gather during holidays, celebrations, and family events playing dominoes and dice games, often wagering money on the outcome.

- Do you view this as gambling?
- Social gambling can become risky if someone feels pressure to participate, spends more than they can afford, chases losses, or experiences negative impacts on relationships or finances.
- How can communities maintain traditions while reducing risk?

A person joins a workplace betting pool to feel included with coworkers.

- How can the desire to fit in influence gambling decisions?
- How do money-related differences among employees play a role in this at work?

An older person starts participating in weekly poker games after recently going through a divorce

- Experiencing a major life change, such as losing a job, ending a relationship, or grieving a loved one, can be a risk factor for problem gambling.

A person attends a monthly bingo night at their place of worship.

- How might frequent participation normalize gambling?
- How do places of worship view or influence gambling behavior?
- Could winning or losing money change how someone feels about the activity over time?

Scenarios

A person who is retired spends time at casinos as a primary form of social interaction.

- How can social isolation increase gambling frequency?
- How might fixed income affect risk?

A person on military deployment who drinks alcohol while playing slot machines on base as a form of entertainment.

- Deployment-related stress, isolation, and limited recreational options may increase vulnerability to using gambling as a coping strategy or source of entertainment.
- How does the country of deployment influence gambling behavior?
- Gambling may turn into a problem if someone starts chasing losses, gambles to cope with stress, or needs to bet more to feel the same excitement, leading to financial and personal problems.
- Alcohol increases risk-taking: lowers inhibitions and impairs judgment, which can lead people to bet more money, make riskier gambling decisions, or gamble longer than intended.

A person attends a Pride event with their partner at a casino and plays slot machines before the event begins.

- How can combining social events (like Pride celebrations) with gambling venues affect spending and behavior?
- What are some ways individuals can set limits on gambling when attending events in casinos?
- Studies suggest that people who identify as LGBTQIA+ may experience higher rates of problem gambling compared to the general population.



Resources

DMHAS Problem Gambling Services-

<https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Programs-and-Services/Problem-Gambling/PGS---Home-Page>

Know The Risks Campaign- <https://responsibleplayct.org/risks/>

Impact of Legalized Gambling in CT Study-

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/dmhas/publications/2023-ct-final-report-jan312024.pdf>

Gambling Awareness CT- <https://gamblingawarenessct.org/>

CT Clearinghouse Problem Gambling Training and Resources-

<https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/problem-gambling/>

CT Council on Problem Gambling- <https://ccpg.org/>

National Council on Problem Gambling- <https://www.ncpgambling.org/>

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