

**STATEMENT: KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING (KYCPG)  
TO KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY PARI-MUTUEL  
WAGERING TAXATION TASK FORCE  
NOVEMBER 19, 2021**

**MISSION:** The Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling will increase awareness of problem gambling, promote prevention and research, and advocate for the availability of treatment.

**NEUTRALITY:** The Kentucky Council on Problem Gambling takes no position on gambling expansion or prohibition.

**DISORDERED GAMBLING:** Defined in the *American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition*.

**PREVALENCE:** Statistics indicate that as much as 5 percent of a population may have a gambling problem or addiction.

**RISK FACTORS:** Opportunity and Proximity are prime risk factors leading to disordered gambling. Gambling expansion creates more opportunity and proximity.

**THE REQUEST:** KYCPG urges the General Assembly to establish a publicly funded Problem and Addicted Gambling Education, Prevention and Treatment Program in Kentucky.

# Kentucky Is a Gambling State

## Horse Racetracks



# Kentucky Is a Gambling State

## Historical Racing



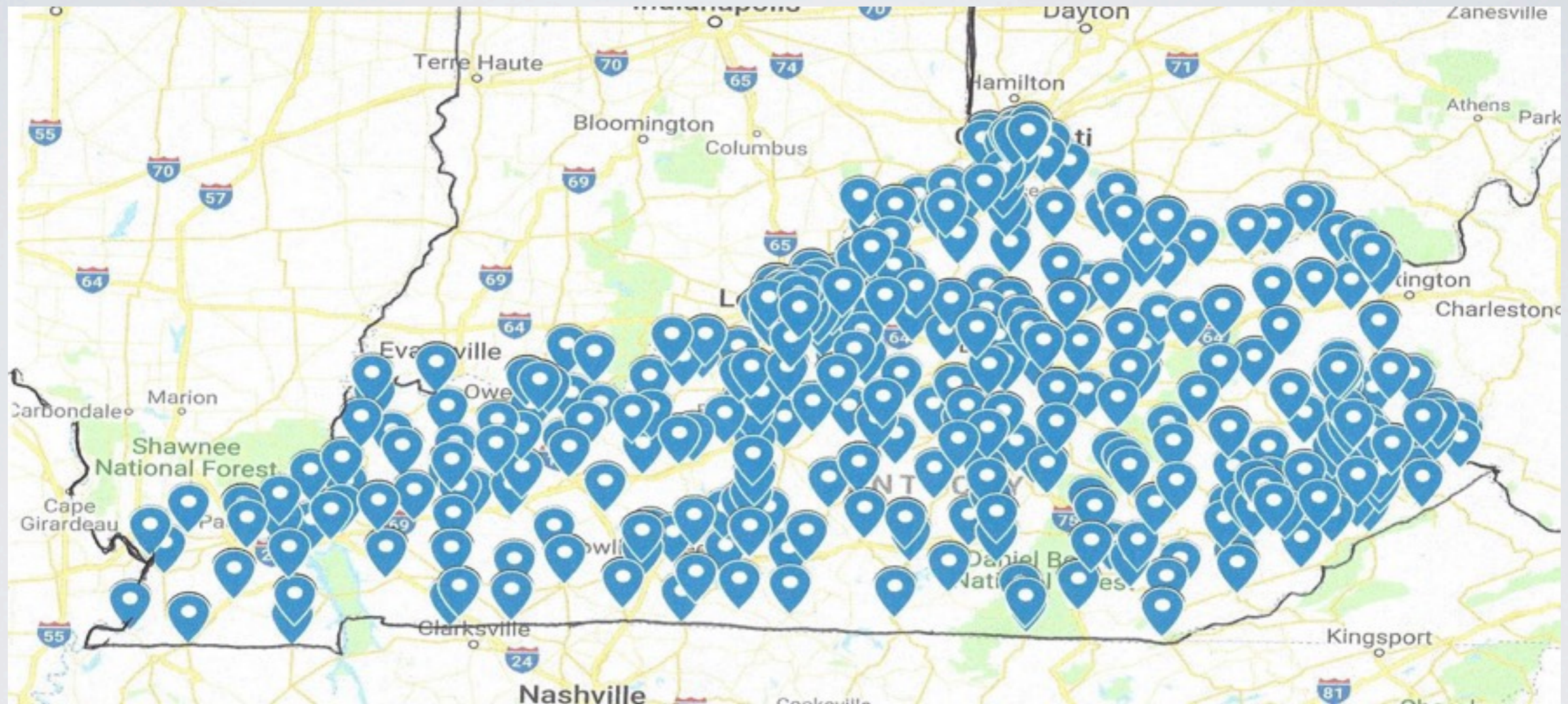
# Kentucky Is a Gambling State

## Charitable Gaming (Bingo)



# Kentucky Is a Gambling State

## Lottery Retailers



- **78 percent** of adult Kentuckians gambled in the past year according to a survey from IPSOS released in 2021 by the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG).
- Last year, about **\$2 billion** was wagered on legal gambling in Kentucky, with the state government receiving about **\$300 million** in revenue.
- The latest survey in Kentucky showed **9,000 addicted** gamblers, **51,000 problem** gamblers, **190,000 at risk** of developing a gambling problem or addiction.
- A gambling problem is evident when someone continues to gamble in spite of recurring negative consequences resulting from gambling activity.

## Gambling problems are associated with poor health, several medical disorders, and increased medical utilization.

U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)

- Increased chances of an individual developing a psychological disorder, particularly antisocial personality disorder.
- Disordered gambling linked to alcohol use and drug use disorders, nicotine dependence.
- Addicted gamblers have a higher suicide rate than any other addictive disorder.
- Each addicted gamblers affects 8-10 other individuals.
- Higher divorce rate.
- Increased domestic violence and partner abuse.
- Negative impacts on family monetarily, socially and personally.
- Children with parents who have a gambling problem are 10 times more likely to develop a gambling problem.
- Increased involvement in criminal activity.
- Lowered work productivity.
- Higher incidence of bankruptcy.

## Society pays for the criminal justice and social services in place to address these problems.

- Each addicted gambler costs society between \$1,200-\$19,000.
- Impact on state social costs greater than \$10 million to as much as \$300 million.
- Services for problem and addicted gamblers and their families are scarce in Kentucky.

# Gamblers' Anonymous Meetings in Kentucky and Nearby States



# Location of Certified Gambler Counselors



KYCPG estimates funding for a problem and addicted gambling program starts at \$1.4 million in the first year; increases to \$3.7 million in the fifth year.

Evidence from Kentucky Incentives for Prevention (KIP) surveys of public school students suggests prevention works to minimize gambling harm; supported by evidence from other states and countries.

Research shows every \$1 spent on treatment of disordered gambling saves \$2 in social costs.

Problem and addicted gambling is a public health issue that can be best addressed through a state-operated program of evidence-based approaches to prevention, mitigation and counseling. **KYCPG urges the General Assembly to designate a portion of the revenue received from legal gambling to fund a public program of problem and addicted gambling education, prevention and treatment services.** The opportunity and means are before the General Assembly.