



The Presbyterian Panel

Listening to Presbyterians



REPORT

GAMBLING AND CHRISTIAN FAITH

THE FEBRUARY 2000 SURVEY

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HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Most panelists report that one or more forms of gambling are legal in the state where they reside. Four in ten report that their state has either casinos or riverboat gambling.
- ✓ Two-thirds of lay panelists and large minorities of clergy panelists report that they gambled at least once in the prior year.
- ✓ Types of gambling reported by the largest numbers of panelists include buying raffle tickets, buying a state lottery or scratch-off ticket, and making a friendly wager with a friend.
- ✓ Very few panelists report betting on horse or dog races, or on professional or college sporting events.
- ✓ Younger panelists are more likely than older panelists to report gambling in the prior year.
- ✓ Rates of participation in all specific types of gambling are much higher in the U.S. adult population than among Panel members.
- ✓ Very few panelists report problems for themselves or their families due to gambling, but majorities of pastors report one or more persons with gambling-related problems in their congregations.
- ✓ Majorities of Americans and Panel members alike would classify such varied activities as church-sponsored bingo, office pools, state-sponsored lotteries, and poker with friends as “gambling.” But Americans are much more likely than Panel members to view investing in the stock market as “gambling.”
- ✓ Majorities of elders, pastors, and specialized clergy disapprove of gambling, as do a large minority of members. Most of the rest have mixed feelings.
- ✓ Few panelists support the use of legal gambling to raise state revenues, even when the funds go to a worthy cause such as education.
- ✓ Majorities of panelists would require states that have legalized gambling to designate a significant share of the revenues to help compulsive gamblers.
- ✓ A small majority of Americans believe that legal gambling is a legitimate form of entertainment, compared to only a quarter of Panel members.
- ✓ While about half of panelists believe that new casinos help the economies of local communities, large majorities still view the overall effects of legal gambling as bad for society.
- ✓ Majorities of pastors and specialized clergy would reduce the amount of legal gambling, and half again as many would ban it altogether.
- ✓ Eight in ten clergy and half of laity agree that legal gambling undermines Christian stewardship and opposes the Spirit of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Large majorities of panelists believe it is appropriate for the PC(USA) General Assembly to take stands on gambling issues, but only a quarter of members and elders are aware of the GA’s long history of opposition to gambling.
- ✓ Few sessions have taken any action to oppose gambling in their local communities, although six in ten pastors think such session action is appropriate.
- ✓ Panelists who themselves gamble are less likely to favor any action by their session to oppose gambling in their community.

OVERVIEW

The Presbyterian Panel consists of three nationally-representative samples of groups affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): members, elders (lay leaders), and ordained ministers. For analysis, ministers are split into two groups based on current call: *pastors*, serving in a congregation, and *specialized clergy*, serving elsewhere. New samples are drawn every three years.

These pages summarize major findings from the second survey completed by the 2000-2002 Panel, mailed in February 2000 (with returns accepted through mid-April 2000). The first half uses text and graphics to highlight important and useful findings. An appendix follows with comparative tables that display the percentage distribution of responses to every question for each of the four Panel groups.

Response rates for this survey are: members, 57%; elders, 61%; ministers, 68%. (2,260 panelists responded by mail and 164 via the Internet.) Results are subject to sampling and other errors. As a general rule, differences of less than 8% are not statistically meaningful.

In this report, the term *median* refers to the middle number in an ordered distribution. For example, the median age for a group of people aged 12, 21, 28, 35, and 64 years would be 28 years. The term *mean* refers to the mathematical average of values in a distribution; in the example, the mean age would be calculated as: $(12+21+28+35+64)/5$, or 32 years.

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Sponsor: This survey was requested jointly by the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) and the Office of Corporate Witness, National Ministries Division, both entities of the General Assembly Council, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). For more information on ACSWP and its services and programs, contact Peter Sulyok at 888-728-7228 ext. 5814. For more information on the Office of Corporate Witness and its services and programs, contact Vernon Broyles at 888-728-7228 ext. 5812.

Additional Copies: Additional copies of this *Report* may be purchased for \$5 from PDS—call 800-524-2612 and request item number 65100-00264. Copies of a four-page *Summary* of results are available for \$1.50 each directly from Research Services. Call for information on quantity discounts (888-728-7228 ext. 2040).

Panel on the Web: A catalogue of Panel topics and *Summaries* of recent surveys are available on-line at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Web site: <http://www.pcusa.org>. Click on the “A to Z Listing,” then click on the letter “P,” then scroll down and click on “Presbyterian Panel.”

GAMBLING PARTICIPATION

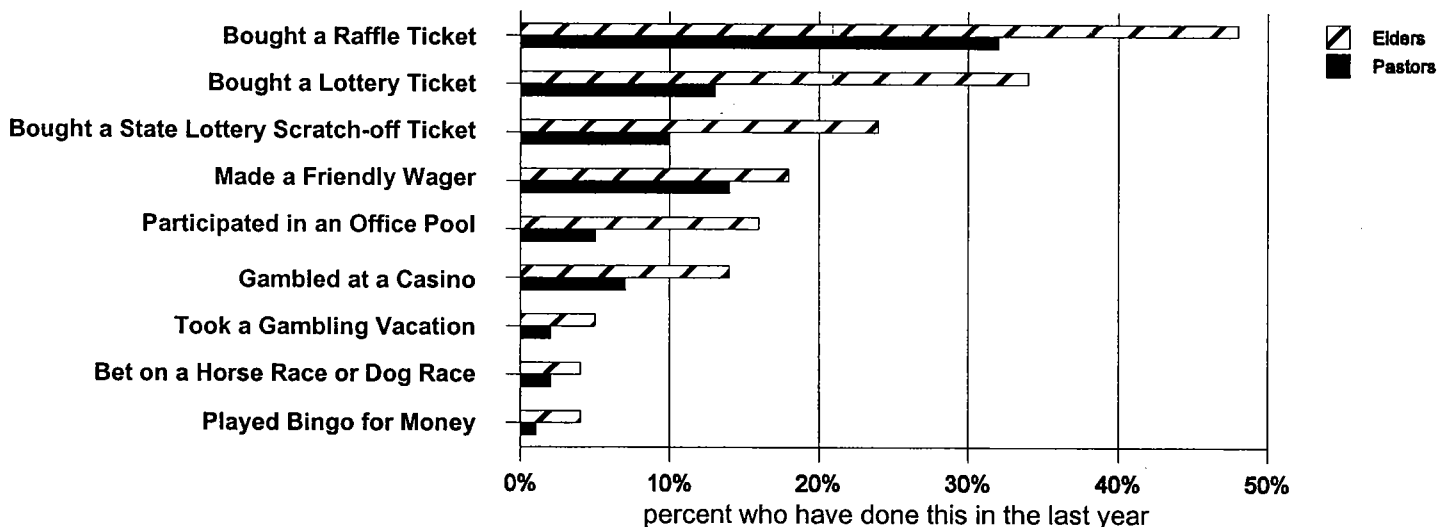
Access to Legal Gambling

- ✓ Almost all panelists live in a state with one or more forms of legal gambling. The most common types found are *state lotteries* (reported by 82% of members) and *scratch-off tickets* (74%). Majorities of members also report that their states offer *horse-racing tracks* (63%) or *bingo parlors* (61%).
- ✓ Around four in ten panelists (e.g., 43% of elders) report living in a state with *casinos* or *riverboat gambling*.
- ✓ Around one-half of panelists live near a casino on Native American lands.

Participation

- ✓ Around two in three members (67%) and elders (68%) and almost one-half of pastors (44%) and specialized clergy (49%) report participating in one or more forms of gambling in the year prior to the survey. The most popular activities include:
 - buying a raffle ticket (44% of members and 32% of specialized clergy did so)
 - buying a ticket for a state lottery drawing (members, 31%; specialized clergy, 18%)
 - buying a state lottery scratch-off ticket (members, 21%; specialized clergy, 14%)
 - making a friendly wager (members, 16%; specialized clergy, 11%)
 - gambling at a casino (members, 16%; specialized clergy, 9%)
 - participating in an office pool (members, 13%; specialized clergy, 6%)
- ✓ Only small percentages of panelists report:
 - gambling over the Internet (1% or fewer)
 - placing a bet on a college or professional sporting event (3% or fewer)
 - betting on a horse or dog race (4% or fewer)
 - participating in riverboat gambling (4% or fewer)
 - playing bingo for money (6% or fewer)
 - playing a video poker machine (6% or fewer)
- ✓ Around one in twenty members and elders and around one in forty clergy report taking a vacation in the prior year primarily for gambling, typically to somewhere in the U.S. (e.g., Las Vegas, Atlantic City).

Figure 1
Gambling Activities Among Presbyterians



GAMBLING PARTICIPATION

Who Gambles?

Gamblers are hardly a random slice of the population, but popular stereotypes of gambling as the domain of the poor and uneducated are overstated, even inaccurate, as this 1999 synopsis from Gallup shows for the U.S. as a whole:

College graduates are more likely to have played the lottery than have high school dropouts (59% to 51%), and those earning \$75,000 or more annually buy lottery tickets more often than do those earning less than \$25,000 a year (56% to 53%). . . . Casino gamblers are most likely to be white, male, college-educated, and in a higher income bracket. . . . By contrast, more women than men play bingo, and 12% of high school graduates have played bingo in the past year, compared to 7% of college graduates. (Mark Gillespie, "Lotteries Most Popular Form of Gambling for Americans," Gallup Poll Release, June 17, 1999. See <<http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr990617.asp>>.)

But what about Presbyterians? As Table 1 shows for the simplest measure (gambled or did not gamble in the last year), there are small differences across educational levels among members, but hardly of dramatic proportions. No difference by sex or income for either pastors or members attains statistical significance.

The largest differences are associated with age, as younger panelists, especially among pastors, are more likely than older members to have gambled in the last year (see Figure 2). Age differences are statistically-significant for both members (chi-square = 10.26, $p < .05$) and pastors (chi-square = 18.10, $p < .001$).

Table 1
Gambling Participation among Members and Pastors
by Selected Demographic Characteristics

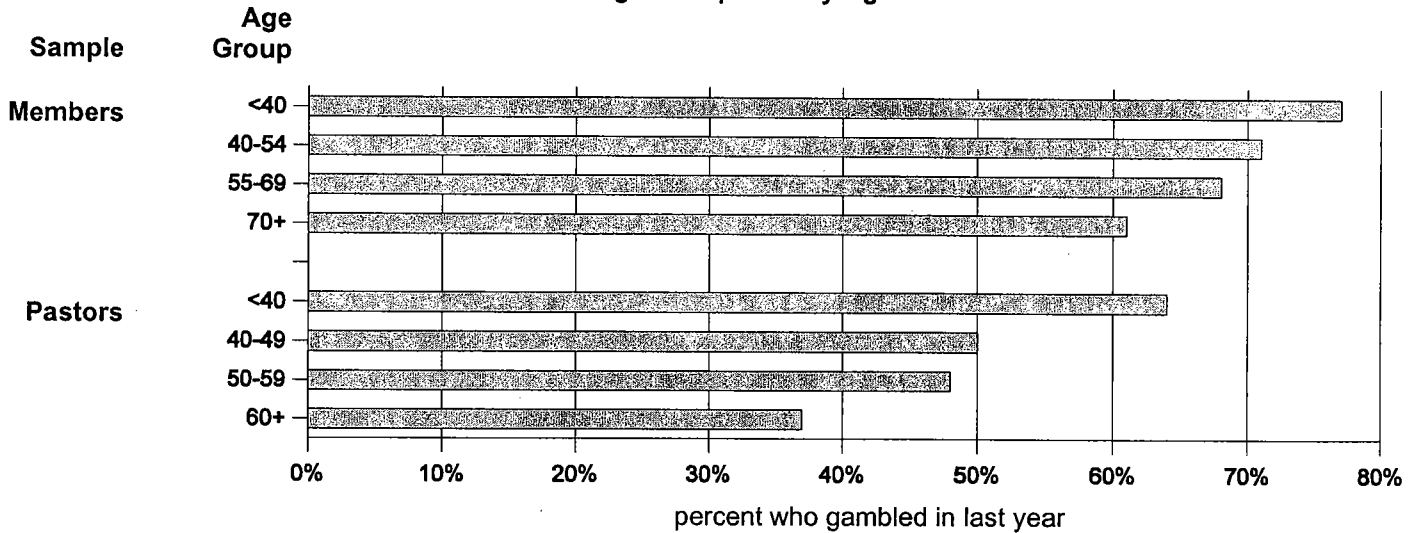
	Gambled in Last Year?			
	Members		Pastors	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
Sex				
Female	34%	66%	52%	48%
Male	29%	71%	51%	49%
chi-square	2.33, n.s.		0.06, n.s.	
Family Income				
<\$20,000	46%	54%	—	—
\$20K - 39,999	30%	70%	49%	51%
\$40K - 69,999	28%	72%	53%	47%
\$70K+	32%	68%	50%	50%
chi-square	6.88, n. s.		2.12, n.s.	
Education*				
high school or less	39%	61%		
some college	24%	76%		
college graduate	33%	67%		
graduate degree	37%	63%		
chi-square	8.44, $p < .05$			

n.s. = not statistically significant

*Education shown only for members because there is little variation in the schooling completed by pastors.

GAMBLING PARTICIPATION

Figure 2
Gambling Participation by Age



Comparing Panelists with Other Americans, I. Gambling Activities

Table 2
Gambling Activities in Year Prior to Survey:
Responses of Presbyterians and U.S. Adults

Done any of these in last 12 months?	Members	U.S. Adults
played bingo for money	6%	11%
gambled at a casino	16%	31%
bet on a horse or dog race	4%	9%
bought a state lottery ticket†	36%	57%
bet on a professional sports event	3%	13%
bet on a college sports event	2%	9%
participated in an office pool	13%	25%
gambled for money on the Internet	1%	*
played a video poker machine	6%	20%
participated in riverboat gambling	3%	10%

† members' data include the percentage who have either "bought a state lottery scratch-off ticket" or "a ticket for a state lottery number drawing."

* = < 0.5%; rounds to zero

Family and Friends

- ✓ Few panelists—6% of members, pastors, and other clergy, and 4% of elders—report that gambling has been “a source of economic, marital, psychological, or other problems within your family.”
- ✓ More than a third of members and elders know someone personally for whom gambling has been a problem.
- ✓ 60% of pastors report that gambling has been source of problems for one or more members in their congregation.

OPINIONS ABOUT GAMBLING: GENERAL

Defining Gambling

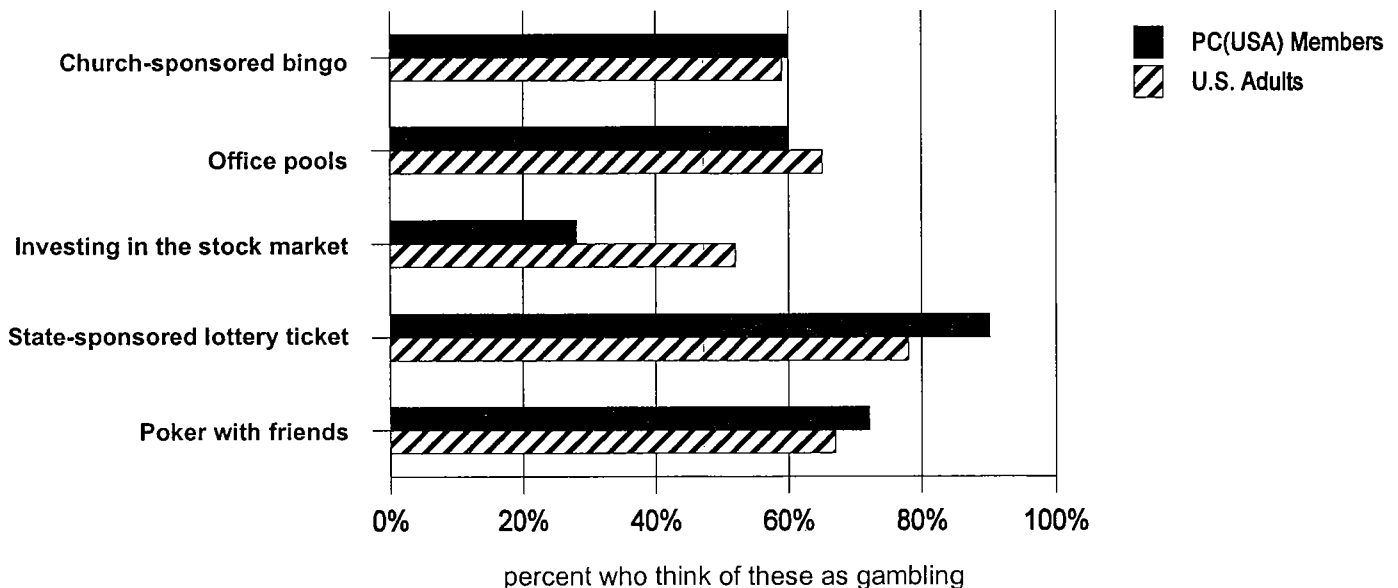
- ✓ Majorities in every Panel group think of the following activities as “gambling”:
 - buying a state lottery ticket (elders, 92%; pastors, 97%)
 - playing poker with friends for money (elders, 75%; pastors, 77%)
 - church-sponsored bingo (elders, 61%; pastors, 70%)
 - wagering a few dollars with a friend on the outcome of a golf match (elders, 61%; pastors, 66%)
 - participation in “office pools” (elders, 60%; pastors, 68%)
 - “friendly wagers” on future events (sports, election) (elders, 57%; pastors, 62%)

- ✓ Only minorities think these activities qualify as gambling:
 - raffles for charity (elders, 34%; pastors, 46%)
 - investing in the stock market (elders, 25%; pastors, 19%)
 - cakewalks and other games at school or church fund raisers (elders, 21%; pastors, 26%)

Comparing Panelists with Other Americans, II: What is Gambling?

Figure 3 compares the opinions of Presbyterians (as represented by the member sample) and those of Americans in general (from a 1999 Gallup Poll) on what constitutes “gambling.” In both groups, similar majorities of around 60-70% agree that relatively informal activities like *poker with friends*, *office pools*, and *church-sponsored bingo* all qualify as “gambling.” Even larger majorities, especially among Presbyterians, view *state-sponsored lotteries* as “gambling.”

Figure 3
What Qualifies as Gambling?
Opinions of Presbyterians and U.S. Adults



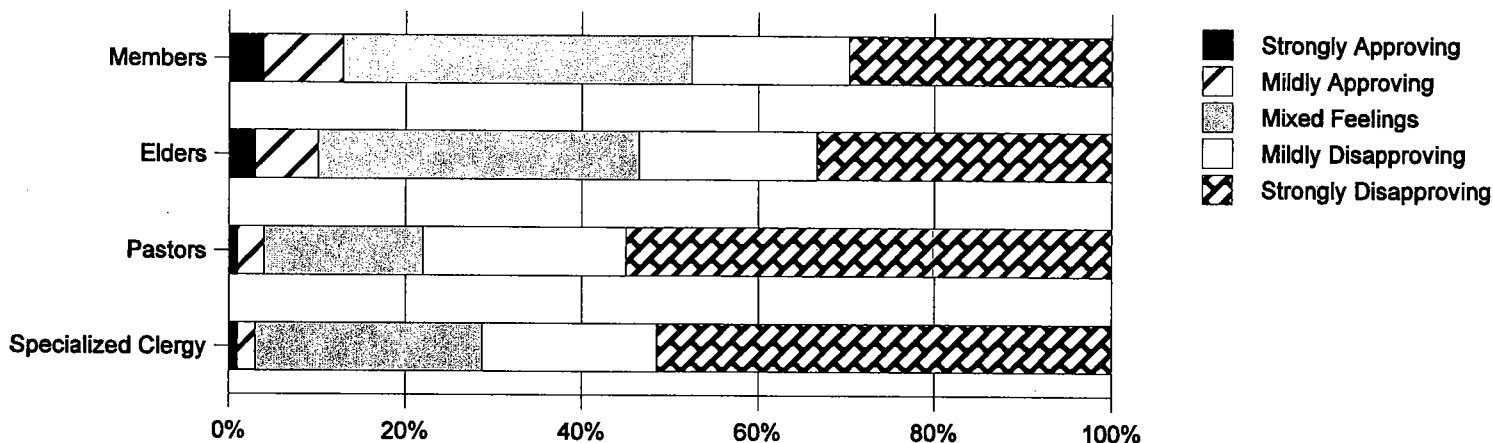
But Presbyterians and Americans in general part company over *investing in the stock market*. While a limited majority of Americans (52%) see such investing as “gambling,” only about half as many Presbyterians (28%), in relative terms, hold that view. This difference likely has much to do with both the higher average incomes of Presbyterians than Americans in general, and their greater likelihood of stock ownership. In 1995, a Presbyterian Panel survey found that 82% of members or member households own stock, either directly or through mutual funds, in sharp contrast to the 21% who own stock in American households overall.

OPINIONS ABOUT GAMBLING: GENERAL

Approval and Disapproval

- ✓ In every Panel group, many more panelists *disapprove* than *approve* of legal gambling. (See Figure 4.)

Figure 4
General Opinion of Legal Gambling



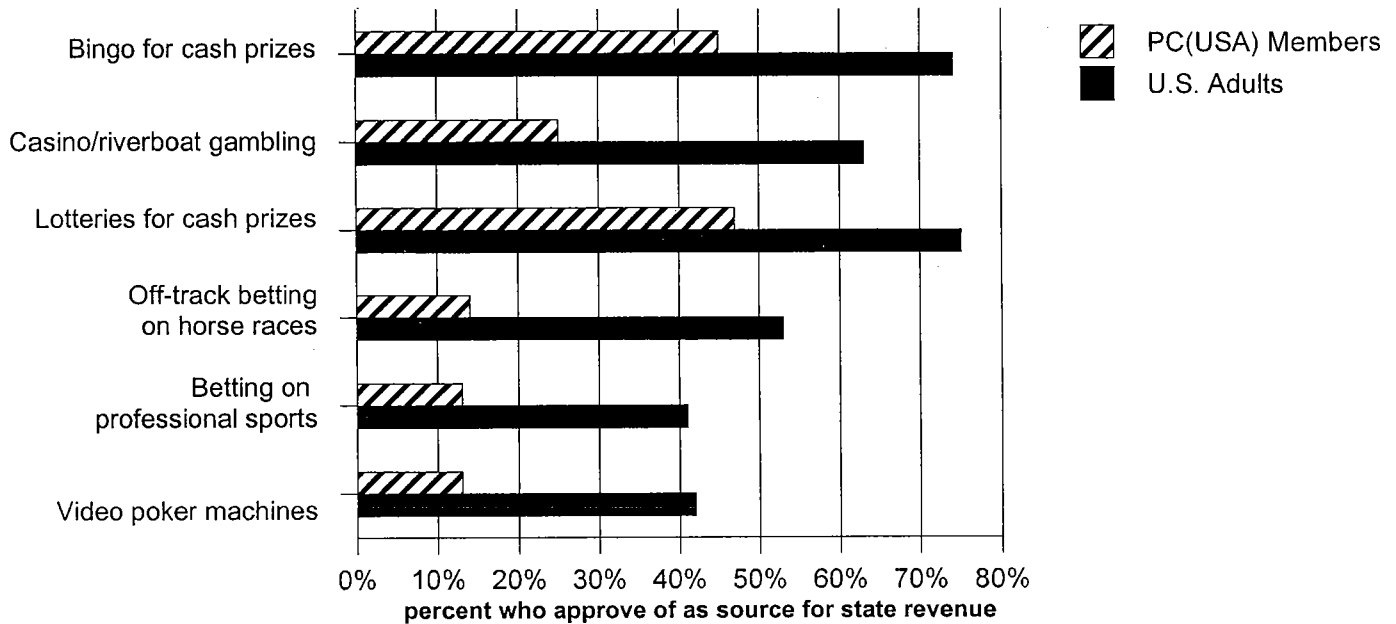
- ✓ The percentage of pastors (78%) and specialized clergy (72%) who *disapprove* of gambling is noticeably larger than the percentage among members (48%) and elders (53%).
- ✓ Major reasons panelists *approve* of gambling include its value as entertainment and as a source of government revenue. Majorities of members (55%) and elders (53%), and large minorities of pastors (41%) and specialized clergy (48%), *agree* that “gambling can be a form of entertainment that, if done in moderation, is no better or no worse than other activities”
- ✓ Major reasons panelists *disapprove* of gambling include the belief that it is addictive and that it causes family or economic problems for families and individuals.
- ✓ Relatively few panelists list moral, biblical, or other religious-based objections in response to an open-ended question asking those who disapprove of gambling to explain why. Nevertheless, when asked directly about the connection between gambling and morality and gambling and faith, many panelists see gambling as “immoral” (35% of members and 52% of pastors) and as “in direct opposition to the Spirit of Jesus Christ” (52% of members, 75% of pastors).

Gambling as a Source of State Revenues

- ✓ Few panelists in any sample (ranging from 19% of members to 5% of pastors) *agree* that “gambling is a legitimate and appropriate means for government to use to solve budget needs” A few more panelists (members, 31%; pastors, 11%) support state-sponsored gambling if the purpose is to raise funds “for worthy causes such as education and scholarships.”
- ✓ Majorities of elders, pastors, and specialized clergy *disapprove* or *strongly disapprove* of states raising revenue from *any* of ten possible types of legal gambling. Majorities of members concur on seven types. The exceptions are “scratch-off tickets for cash prizes” (47% of members *disapprove*), “bingo for cash prizes” (44% *disapprove*), and “lotteries for cash prizes” (44% *disapprove*).

OPINIONS ABOUT GAMBLING: GENERAL

Figure 5
Gambling as Government Revenue Source:
Opinions of PC(USA) Members and U.S. Adults Compared



- ✓ The forms of legal gambling that the largest percentages of member panelists *approve* of as a source for state revenue are:
 - lotteries for cash prizes (47% *approve* or *strongly approve*)
 - bingo for cash prizes (45%)
 - scratch-off tickets for cash prizes (44%)
 - betting on horse races at the track (37%)

- ✓ Member panelists show little support for raising state revenues via betting on jai alai (12% of members *approve*), video poker machines (13%), betting on professional sports (13%), off-track betting on horse races (14%), or betting on dog races (19%). Rates of approval among pastors are around one-half as large.

- ✓ Responses to other questions suggest why so many panelists object to government relying on gambling revenues:
 - 31% of members and 46% of pastors believe that the legal gambling industry “is creating serious corruption in government” (only 36% and 25% *disagree* or *strongly disagree* with this statement, while 32% and 30%, respectively, are *uncertain*). A similar response pattern is found for the statements, “the legal gambling industry is corrupt” and “much of the legal gambling industry has ties to organized crime.”
 - 55% of members and 80% of pastors believe that “legalized gambling is creating a compulsive gambling problem in this country.”

- ✓ To hold government and industry more accountable for gambling-related social problems, majorities ranging from 58% (members) to 77% (both clergy groups) *agree* or *strongly agree* that “states that permit legalized gambling should donate a significant share of their gambling revenues to help people who are compulsive gamblers.”

OPINIONS ABOUT GAMBLING: GENERAL

Approval and Disapproval: U.S.-Presbyterian Comparisons

A sizeable majority of American adults, 63%, told a 1999 Gallup Poll that they approved of legal gambling. In sharp contrast, only 13% of Presbyterian members responded either *strongly approving* or *mildly approving* on the Panel survey. Part of the difference owes to the addition of a “mixed feelings” choice on the Panel version, which Gallup did not have. But even if we add to the approving total all of the members reporting *mixed feelings—both approving and disapproving* on the Panel survey, the sum, 48%, still falls much below that of Americans in general. That same pattern holds when we examine opinions on specific forms of gambling, as shown in Table 3.

On gambling-related issues, Presbyterians also reveal less support for legal gambling than Americans in general. Relatively fewer members, for example, view gambling as “a form of entertainment that . . . is no better or worse than other[s],” while relatively more members view gambling generally as immoral and legal gambling specifically as a contributor to compulsive gambling problems.

But on some issues, opinion converges. Similar percentages of members and Americans in general view gambling as erosive of work ethics, conducive to government corruption, and encouraging of compulsive gambling, as Table 3 shows.

Table 3
Opinions on Gambling-Related Issues:
Comparing Responses of PC(USA) Members and U.S. Adults

	PC(USA) Members* (Panel 2000)	U.S. Adults (Gallup 1999)
Percent Who Agree		
states that prohibit gambling are making a mistake by losing gambling revenue to neighboring states	27%	52%
gambling is a form of entertainment that, if done in moderation, is no better or worse than other activities, like attending sports events or movies	58%	75%
keeping gambling legal is necessary to preserve American freedom, regardless of the problems it may cause	17%	47%
[all] gambling is immoral	40%	29%
legalized gambling does serious harm to people’s respect for the value of hard work	49%	43%
the legal gambling industry is creating serious corruption in government	41%	42%
the legal gambling industry is mostly based on taking advantage of poor people	48%	36%
legalized gambling is creating a compulsive gambling problem in this country	67%	55%

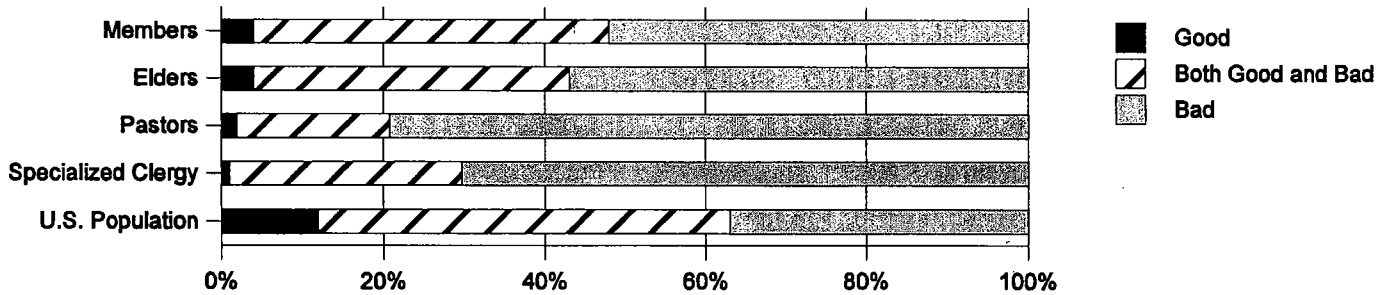
*To make Panel results more comparable with Gallup, percentages were recalculated after excluding all cases responding *uncertain*

OPINIONS ABOUT GAMBLING: GENERAL

Social and Personal Consequences

- ✓ By large majorities in every sample, more panelists view the effects of legal gambling as *bad* than view them as *good* for society. (See Figure 6.)

Figure 6
Opinions on the Effect of Gambling on Society

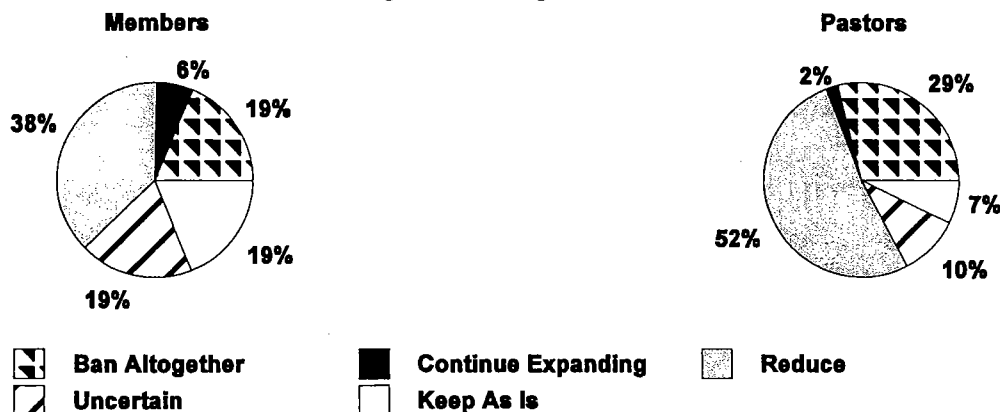


- ✓ That evaluation notwithstanding, majorities of members (53%) and elders (54%) and large minorities of pastors (45%) and other clergy (49%) *agree* that “when casinos open in a community . . . it helps . . . the local economy.”
- ✓ Negative effects are more likely thought to occur in “everyday family and community life” (majorities, ranging from 71% to 87%, believe legal gambling *hurts* this dimension) and in “the moral climate of the community” (74% to 82%).
- ✓ 55% of members and 80% of pastors *agree* that “legalized gambling is creating a compulsive gambling problem in this country.”
- ✓ Majorities of clergy, one-half of members, and 48% of elders believe “legalized gambling often results in increases in crime.”

Recommendations

- ✓ Few panelists opt for maintenance of the status quo when it comes to legal gambling in the United States (see Figure 7). Of those wanting change, almost none—6% of members, 4% of elders, 2% of pastors, and 1% of specialized clergy—favor *continued expansion of legal gambling*. Rather, four in ten members (38%) and elders (40%) and small majorities of pastors (52%) and specialized clergy (51%) would *reduce legal gambling*, and about half that many again in each sample would *ban gambling altogether*.

Figure 7
General Recommendations for Legal Gambling in the U.S.

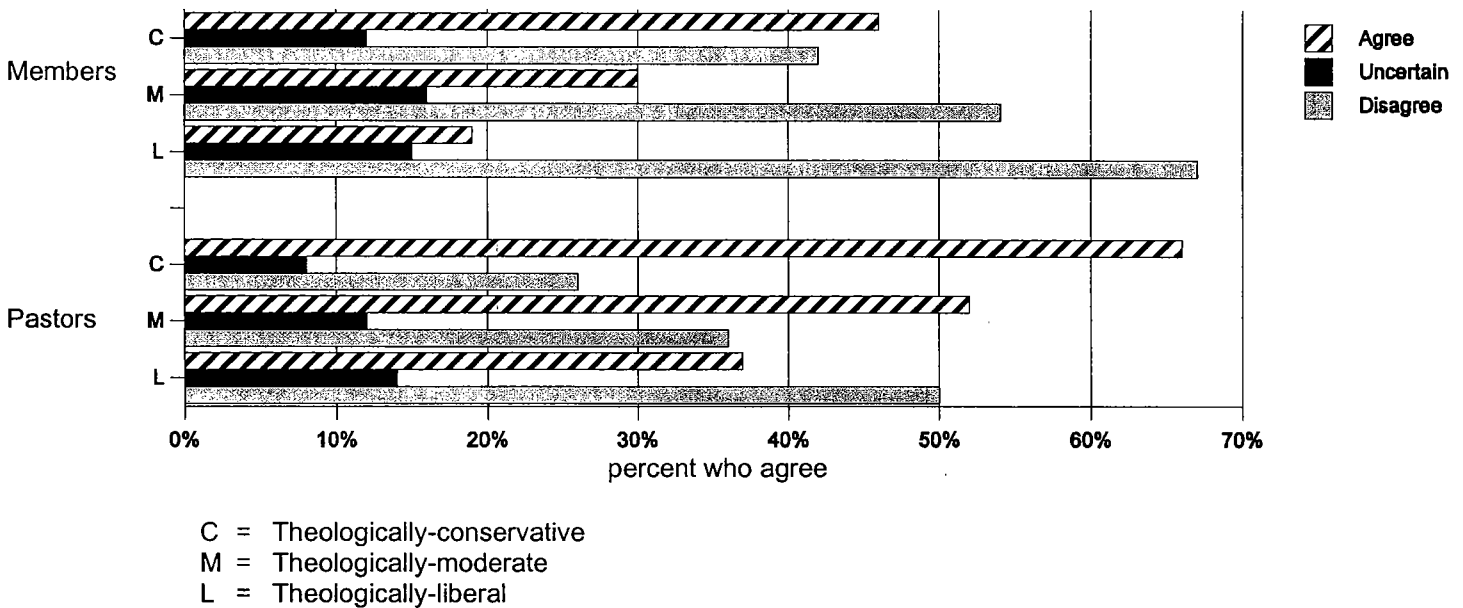


OPINIONS ON GAMBLING AND FAITH

Morality

- ✓ Panelists divide along lay-clergy lines on the morality of gambling. While more members and elders *disagree* than *agree* that “all gambling is immoral,” the reverse is true among the clergy. For members, 51% *disagree* and 35% *agree* that “all gambling is immoral”; among pastors, 52% *agree* and 36% *disagree*.
- ✓ In all samples except pastors, opinion is evenly divided on whether or not “legalized gambling does serious harm to people’s respect for the value of hard work.” Among pastors, 63% *agree*, while 29% *disagree*.
- ✓ Differences in opinion on gambling’s morality emerge by theological perspective, with theologically-conservative members much more likely than their respective theologically-liberal counterparts to *agree* that “all gambling is immoral” (see Figure 8).

Figure 8
Opinions on Statement
“All Gambling is Immoral”



Gambling and Faith

- ✓ Half of members and elders, two-thirds of specialized clergy, and eight in ten pastors *agree* that “legalized gambling undermines the principles of responsible Christian stewardship.”
- ✓ Similar percentages also *agree* that “the spirit of legalized gambling is in direct opposition to the Spirit of Jesus Christ.”

PC(USA) Issues

- ✓ Two-thirds of members and elders and more than nine in ten pastors and other clergy (92%) believe it is *appropriate* for “the General Assembly to take a stand on legalized gambling.”
- ✓ Two in three clergy, but less than one third of members (26%) and elders (29%), are aware that “the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has repeatedly expressed opposition to all forms of gambling.”

OPINIONS ON GAMBLING AND FAITH

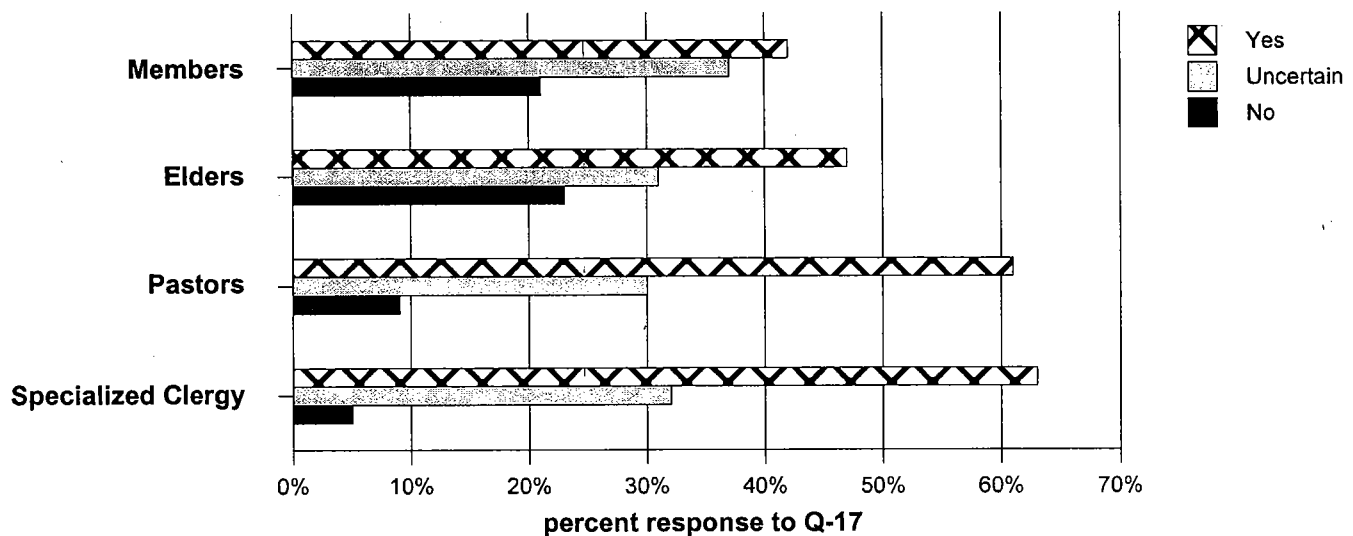
PC(USA) Resources

- ✓ Large majorities of panelists in all samples (members, 97%; pastors, 69%) report a lack of familiarity with the PC(USA) resource *Gambling and Christian Faith*, and even fewer have heard of or seen the March/April 1999 issue of *Church & Society* on the same topic.
- ✓ Of pastors who reported having read the *Gambling and Christian Faith* booklet, 39% found it *very helpful*; 43%, *helpful*; and 16%, *a little helpful*. Only 2% found it *not very helpful*, and no pastors—nor anyone in the other Panel groups—described it as *not helpful at all*. Pastors' evaluations of the March/April issue of *Church & Society* were similarly positive.
- ✓ Despite the largely positive evaluations of both denominational publications on gambling, only around 5% of panelists who report reading either item also acknowledge that the reading changed their opinions on gambling.

The Congregation

- ✓ Majorities of pastors (61%) and specialized clergy (63%) believe that “sessions should act to oppose legalized gambling in their communities.” Most of the rest respond *uncertain*. Among elders, 47% *support* the appropriateness of session action on local gambling issues, 23% *oppose* such action, and 31% are *uncertain*.

Figure 9
Opinions on Sessions'
Efforts to Oppose Gambling



Q-17: Do you believe that Presbyterian congregations, through their sessions, should or should not actively oppose efforts to expand or legalize gambling in their communities?

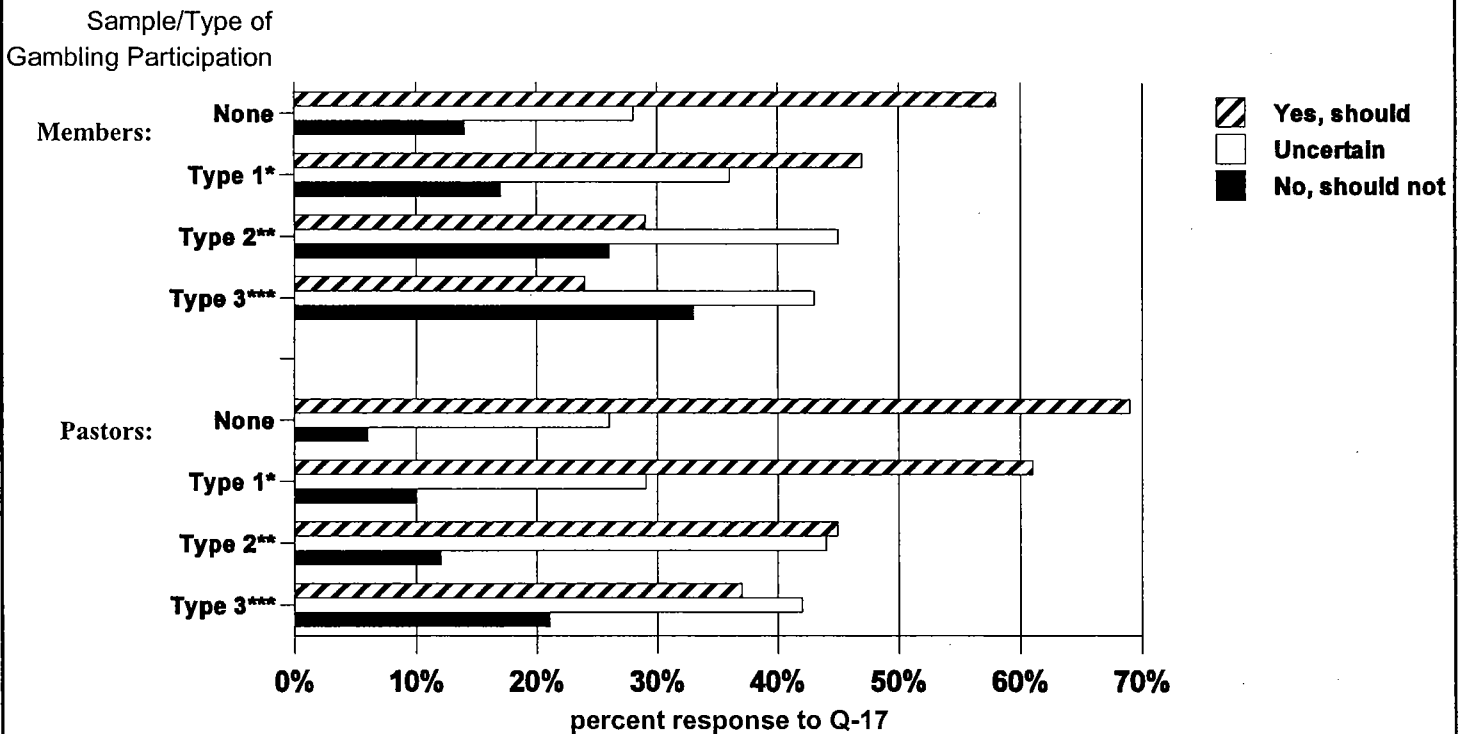
- ✓ Few sessions have taken actions “to oppose, reduce, or ban gambling” in their local area over the last five years: 6% of elders report that their sessions have done so, as do 13% of pastors. Among this subset of congregations, the most common action has been “to oppose additional legalized gambling.”
- ✓ Few congregations have ministries “to help individuals and families affected by compulsive gambling.” Only 2% of members and elders, and 5% of pastors, report such ministries.

OPINIONS ON GAMBLING AND FAITH

Faith Opinions: Gamblers vs. Non-Gamblers

Panelists who report any gambling in the prior year are more likely to respond positively toward gambling in response to the various opinion questions. Similarly, those who have gambled are more likely to oppose church involvement in efforts to ban gambling. Figure 10 shows this for members and pastors. Even more interesting are the differences in opinion among those who have gambled by type of gambling. Panelists who have participated in more commercial forms of gambling—that is, went to a casino or gambling riverboat, took a gambling vacation, bet on a horse or dog race, played a video poker, or gambled on the Internet—are more opposed to church involvement than those whose gambling has been limited to buying a state lottery or scratch-off ticket, or to more informal gambling (i.e., playing bingo, gambling on sports, participating in an office pool, or buying a raffle ticket). And, the lottery players, in turn, are more opposed to church involvement than those whose gambling is limited to one or more of the informal types.

Figure 10
Opinions on Church Opposition
to Gambling by Own Gambling Participation



Q-17: Do you believe that Presbyterian congregations, through their sessions, should or should not actively oppose efforts to expand or legalize gambling in their communities?

- *Type 1 In last year, have: gambled at a casino or on a riverboat; took a gambling vacation in the U.S. or abroad; bet on a horse or dog race; played a video poker machine; gambled on the Internet.
- **Type 2: In last year, have *not* participated in any Type 1 gambling, but have: bought a state lottery scratch-off ticket or ticket for lottery drawing.
- ***Type 3 In last year, have *not* participated in any Type 1 or Type 2 gambling, but have: participated in an office pool; bet on professional or college sports; bought a raffle ticket; played bingo for money.

THE PRESBYTERIAN PANEL

GAMBLING AND CHRISTIAN FAITH—The February 2000 Survey

Appendix

	Members	Elders	Ministers
Number of questionnaires mailed	1,211	1,146	1,504
Number of questionnaires returned	696	704	1,028 *
Percent returned	57%	61%	68%
*812 pastors; 216 specialized clergy			

Q-1. In general, what is your opinion of legal gambling or betting?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
strongly approving	4%	3%	1%	1%
mildly approving	9%	7%	3%	2%
mixed feelings—both approving and disapproving	35%	32%	17%	25%
mildly disapproving	18%	20%	23%	20%
strongly disapproving	30%	33%	55%	52%
uncertain---->Skip to Q-3	5%	4%	1%	1%

Q-2. Briefly explain your response in Q-1 by listing in this space one or two important reasons why you hold this opinion: (Please print.)

Pro

	◆	◆	◆	◆
an individual's choice/right/freedom	5%	5%	3%	4%
fun/entertainment/I like it	12%	12%	8%	10%
harmless/not immoral	1%	1%	1%	1%
morally all right	1%	1%	*	—
people will gamble anyway	2%	3%	1%	1%
easier to control if legal/it's legal	1%	1%	1%	1%
bad only if done in excess	3%	3%	1%	2%
source of state revenue/lowers taxes	9%	9%	3%	1%
creates jobs/benefits economy	1%	—	*	1%
benefits Native Americans	2%	*	1%	3%
way to make money	1%	*	*	1%
religious reasons/Bible supports it	—	*	*	—
other reasons in favor of gambling	3%	3%	2%	2%

Con

morally wrong/I don't like it	3%	4%	3%	2%
ruins lives/people go into debt	4%	5%	6%	6%
causes problems for families specifically	10%	10%	10%	7%
causes problems for the poor or less affluent	10%	16%	28%	24%
addictive	25%	25%	32%	34%
gives people false hope/promotes greed	5%	7%	15%	10%
some profit at others' expense	1%	1%	1%	1%
in excess can cause problems	2%	1%	*	1%
revenue benefits over-rated/governments misuse revenues	2%	1%	1%	1%

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Q-2. Briefly explain your response in Q-1 by listing in this space one or two important reasons why you hold this opinion: (Please print.)

Con (Cont.)

undermines work ethic	1%	2%	2%	3%
wasteful of time and money	3%	4%	4%	3%
religious reasons/bad stewardship/Bible opposes it	6%	6%	10%	8%
degrades morality of society/brings undesirable element to community	2%	2%	4%	3%
gives state approval or sanction to problem	*	—	*	1%
other reasons why gambling not acceptable	9%	8%	9%	9%

Other

reasons not classifiable as for or against	2%	2%	1%	1%
no response	18%	16%	11%	12%
response not applicable	2%	1%	1%	—

Q-3. Some states legalize betting, lotteries, and other games of chance so that the state can raise revenues. What forms of legal gambling, if any, are available in the state where you live? (✓ the for *all* that apply.)

	◆	◆	◆	◆
casinos/riverboat gambling	44%	43%	42%	42%
state-sponsored lottery (e.g., lotto, jackpot, keno, powerball) ..	82%	84%	87%	92%
scratch-off tickets	74%	77%	78%	77%
bingo parlors	61%	58%	52%	52%
horse racing tracks	63%	66%	66%	68%
dog racing	26%	23%	24%	24%
off-track betting sites	28%	32%	34%	33%
jai alai	4%	6%	4%	6%
video poker	21%	18%	23%	18%
betting on professional sports like basketball, football, baseball, boxing	12%	11%	14%	12%
other (specify): _____	4%	6%	6%	5%

Q-4. Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of each of following types of betting as a way to help state governments raise revenue.

a. bingo for cash prizes

strongly approve	5%	3%	1%	1%
approve	40%	34%	15%	18%
disapprove	26%	32%	31%	29%
strongly disapprove	18%	22%	44%	42%
uncertain	12%	9%	8%	10%

b. casino/riverboat gambling

strongly approve	3%	2%	1%	1%
approve	22%	18%	8%	13%
disapprove	33%	36%	26%	27%
strongly disapprove	30%	37%	62%	54%
uncertain	11%	8%	4%	6%

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Q-4. Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of each of following types of betting as a way to help state governments raise revenue.
(Cont.)

c. lotteries for cash prizes				
strongly approve	4%	3%	1%	1%
approve	43%	36%	14%	22%
disapprove	24%	28%	29%	21%
strongly disapprove	20%	26%	50%	49%
uncertain	10%	7%	5%	6%
d. scratch-off tickets for cash prizes				
strongly approve	4%	3%	1%	1%
approve	40%	32%	13%	23%
disapprove	26%	31%	31%	24%
strongly disapprove	21%	26%	50%	46%
uncertain	9%	8%	5%	7%
e. betting on horse races at the track(s) where the races are run				
strongly approve	4%	2%	1%	1%
approve	33%	32%	16%	19%
disapprove	28%	32%	30%	26%
strongly disapprove	24%	26%	48%	46%
uncertain	11%	8%	4%	9%
f. off-track betting on horse races				
strongly approve	2%	2%	1%	1%
approve	12%	9%	6%	6%
disapprove	41%	45%	33%	32%
strongly disapprove	33%	36%	58%	55%
uncertain	11%	9%	3%	7%
g. betting on professional sports, such as baseball, basketball or football				
strongly approve	2%	2%	1%	1%
approve	11%	8%	4%	4%
disapprove	41%	43%	29%	28%
strongly disapprove	36%	39%	62%	61%
uncertain	11%	8%	4%	6%
h. video poker machines at stores, bars, restaurants, or other local establishments				
strongly approve	2%	2%	*	1%
approve	11%	7%	4%	5%
disapprove	40%	43%	29%	31%
strongly disapprove	38%	41%	63%	58%
uncertain	9%	8%	3%	6%

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Q-4. Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of each of following types of betting as a way to help state governments raise revenue.
(Cont.)

i. betting on dog races				
strongly approve	2%	2%	1%	1%
approve	17%	14%	9%	8%
disapprove	36%	40%	30%	30%
strongly disapprove	34%	36%	56%	54%
uncertain	11%	8%	4%	8%
j. betting on jai alai				
strongly approve	2%	1%	1%	1%
approve	10%	10%	6%	6%
disapprove	35%	37%	30%	28%
strongly disapprove	29%	34%	55%	50%
uncertain	24%	19%	10%	16%

Q-5. Please indicate your degree of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements concerning gambling.

a. legalized gambling provides necessary revenue to states to fund government programs and keep taxes under control				
strongly agree	4%	4%	1%	1%
agree	29%	28%	16%	17%
disagree	31%	32%	33%	32%
strongly disagree	21%	26%	46%	45%
uncertain	15%	10%	5%	5%
b. states that prohibit gambling are making a mistake by losing gambling revenue to neighboring states				
strongly agree	4%	4%	1%	1%
agree	20%	21%	8%	10%
disagree	41%	39%	35%	37%
strongly disagree	22%	28%	52%	46%
uncertain	13%	8%	4%	8%
c. gambling can be a form of entertainment that, if done in moderation, is no better or no worse than other activities, like attending sports events or movies				
strongly agree	8%	10%	4%	4%
agree	47%	43%	37%	44%
disagree	23%	24%	28%	23%
strongly disagree	16%	18%	29%	26%
uncertain	6%	5%	3%	3%

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	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q-5. Please indicate your degree of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements concerning gambling.				
(Cont.)				
d. by legalizing gambling, the states limit the involvement of organized crime in the gambling industry				
strongly agree	4%	4%	2%	1%
agree	22%	22%	16%	20%
disagree	30%	33%	31%	30%
strongly disagree	20%	24%	36%	28%
uncertain	23%	18%	16%	22%
e. keeping gambling legal is necessary to preserve American freedom, regardless of the problems it may cause				
strongly agree	3%	1%	*	1%
agree	12%	12%	9%	11%
disagree	42%	40%	34%	40%
strongly disagree	28%	37%	51%	42%
uncertain	15%	9%	6%	6%
f. gambling is a legitimate and appropriate means for government to use to solve budget needs and other problems of economic development				
strongly agree	3%	2%	*	1%
agree	16%	14%	5%	6%
disagree	38%	39%	28%	29%
strongly disagree	28%	36%	61%	56%
uncertain	14%	9%	5%	8%
g. gambling is a legitimate and appropriate means for government to use only if the funds are used for worthy causes such as education and scholarships				
strongly agree	4%	4%	1%	2%
agree	27%	24%	10%	11%
disagree	37%	34%	34%	36%
strongly disagree	21%	29%	50%	45%
uncertain	10%	9%	5%	6%
h. the growing availability of lotteries, casino gambling, and other forms of legalized gambling is a good thing for the United States				
strongly agree	2%	1%	—	—
agree	6%	6%	2%	1%
disagree	40%	37%	24%	32%
strongly disagree	33%	41%	69%	56%
uncertain	19%	14%	6%	11%

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Q-6. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, or are uncertain with each statement below.

a. all gambling is immoral				
strongly agree	11%	11%	20%	18%
agree	24%	28%	32%	26%
disagree	41%	40%	30%	36%
strongly disagree	10%	9%	6%	8%
uncertain	14%	12%	12%	11%
b. legalized gambling does serious harm to people's respect for the value of hard work				
strongly agree	11%	13%	19%	16%
agree	33%	31%	44%	33%
disagree	38%	39%	27%	38%
strongly disagree	6%	6%	2%	6%
uncertain	11%	10%	7%	8%
c. the legal gambling industry is creating serious corruption in government				
strongly agree	10%	10%	16%	8%
agree	21%	24%	30%	31%
disagree	30%	34%	23%	29%
strongly disagree	6%	5%	2%	3%
uncertain	32%	26%	30%	29%
d. the legal gambling industry is mostly based on taking advantage of poor people				
strongly agree	10%	15%	29%	28%
agree	31%	35%	43%	35%
disagree	36%	34%	20%	23%
strongly disagree	7%	6%	1%	2%
uncertain	16%	11%	8%	11%
e. legalized gambling is creating a compulsive gambling problem in this country				
strongly agree	14%	17%	34%	26%
agree	41%	41%	46%	47%
disagree	20%	19%	10%	15%
strongly disagree	4%	4%	1%	2%
uncertain	21%	18%	10%	11%
f. legalized gambling undermines the principles of responsible Christian stewardship				
strongly agree	16%	20%	41%	33%
agree	34%	32%	40%	33%
disagree	28%	27%	12%	25%
strongly disagree	6%	4%	1%	3%
uncertain	16%	16%	6%	6%

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Q-6. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, or are uncertain with each statement (Cont.) below.

g. legalized gambling often results in increases in crime				
strongly agree	13%	14%	24%	18%
agree	37%	34%	41%	36%
disagree	19%	22%	10%	17%
strongly disagree	4%	3%	1%	2%
uncertain	28%	26%	24%	26%
h. the spirit of legalized gambling is in direct opposition to the Spirit of Jesus Christ				
strongly agree	17%	18%	36%	29%
agree	35%	37%	39%	30%
disagree	19%	19%	13%	21%
strongly disagree	6%	4%	2%	5%
uncertain	24%	22%	10%	16%
i. government-run lotteries mislead people to believe that they can get something for nothing				
strongly agree	19%	22%	42%	33%
agree	44%	46%	44%	43%
disagree	27%	24%	11%	16%
strongly disagree	4%	3%	*	2%
uncertain	6%	5%	2%	5%
j. it should be illegal for churches and other religious groups to raise money through raffles, bingo, or other games of chance				
strongly agree	11%	11%	21%	19%
agree	25%	28%	31%	27%
disagree	40%	40%	29%	37%
strongly disagree	9%	9%	6%	6%
uncertain	14%	12%	12%	12%
k. legalized gambling is a "voluntary tax on poor people"				
strongly agree	9%	12%	26%	21%
agree	26%	33%	41%	38%
disagree	38%	34%	19%	25%
strongly disagree	8%	7%	3%	4%
uncertain	19%	14%	11%	11%
l. the legal gambling industry is corrupt				
strongly agree	10%	12%	16%	11%
agree	25%	22%	32%	29%
disagree	24%	26%	15%	18%
strongly disagree	4%	5%	1%	2%
uncertain	37%	36%	36%	41%

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Q-6. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, or are uncertain with each statement (Cont.) below.

m. much of the legal gambling industry has ties to organized crime				+
strongly agree	10%	11%	13%	10%
agree	25%	23%	30%	22%
disagree	16%	20%	14%	13%
strongly disagree	4%	4%	1%	1%
uncertain	45%	41%	42%	54%
n. states that permit legalized gambling should donate a significant share of their gambling revenues to help people who are compulsive gamblers				
strongly agree	17%	22%	36%	32%
agree	41%	39%	41%	45%
disagree	19%	17%	9%	10%
strongly disagree	7%	7%	3%	2%
uncertain	16%	16%	11%	10%

Q-7. When casinos open in a community, do you feel that it helps or hurts:

a. the local economy?				
helps a lot	14%	14%	8%	9%
helps a little	39%	40%	37%	40%
hurts a little	11%	10%	13%	8%
hurts a lot	18%	17%	28%	26%
uncertain	19%	20%	15%	17%
b. everyday family and community life?				
helps a lot	1%	1%	*	1%
helps a little	6%	6%	3%	4%
hurts a little	33%	34%	29%	37%
hurts a lot	38%	38%	58%	45%
uncertain	23%	22%	10%	14%
c. the moral climate of the community?				
helps a lot	*	*	*	—
helps a little	3%	2%	1%	2%
hurts a little	31%	31%	23%	30%
hurts a lot	43%	44%	65%	52%
uncertain	23%	22%	11%	17%

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Q-8. Some people believe that legalized gambling is mostly a good thing for society, others think it is mostly a bad thing, still others think it has an equal combination of good and bad effects on society. What would you say is the overall effect of legalized gambling on society? (✓ only one □.)

very good	*	*	*	—
good	3%	3%	1%	1%
about equally good and bad	41%	37%	19%	26%
bad	33%	38%	46%	36%
very bad	15%	16%	32%	29%
don't know	8%	6%	2%	9%

Q-9. In recent years many Native American tribes have opened casinos and other forms of legalized gambling on their tribal lands. Is there a casino on Native American lands in your state or vicinity?

no	47%	50%	52%	48%
yes	52%	50%	47%	52%
don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%

Q9a. [If "yes,"] What would you say has been the overall effect of casinos and other legalized gambling on the Native American population in your state or area? (✓ one □.)

	n=331	n=327	n=352	n=100
very good	10%	4%	4%	6%
good	16%	13%	11%	16%
about equally good and bad	20%	20%	20%	22%
bad	6%	12%	26%	17%
very bad	4%	4%	10%	9%
don't know	43%	46%	30%	29%

Q-10. For each activity listed below, indicate whether you think of it as "gambling." (✓ the □ for *all* that apply.)

	+	+	+	+
	◆	◆	◆	◆
church-sponsored bingo	60%	61%	70%	70%
participation in "office pools" with co-workers or friends (e.g., on sporting events such as the Super Bowl or the NCAA Basketball Tournament, or on other events, like a "baby pool" to guess the day a pregnant employee or friend will give birth)	60%	60%	68%	70%
wagering a few dollars with a friend on the outcome of a golf match or other sporting event in which you are participating	59%	61%	66%	67%
making a "friendly wager" among family, friends, or co-workers on some future event (e.g., who will win a certain sporting event, who will win the next election)	56%	57%	62%	63%
investing in the stock market	28%	25%	19%	24%
raffles for charity	35%	34%	46%	47%
buying state-sponsored lottery tickets	90%	92%	97%	98%
playing poker with friends for money (other than at a casino) .	72%	75%	77%	78%
games and events at church or school bazaars to raise money, such as a cakewalk	19%	21%	26%	31%

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Q-11. Think back over the last 12 months. Have you on any occasion during that time ... (✓ the for *all* that apply.)

	◆	◆	◆	◆
bought a state lottery scratch-off ticket?	21%	24%	10%	14%
bought a ticket for a state lottery number drawing?	31%	34%	13%	18%
gambled at a casino?	16%	14%	7%	9%
participated in an office pool on the Super Bowl, World Series, or other sporting event?	13%	16%	5%	6%
bet on a professional sports event such as basketball, baseball, football, or boxing?	3%	3%	2%	2%
bought a raffle ticket?	44%	48%	32%	32%
participated in riverboat gambling?	3%	4%	1%	3%
took a vacation to Las Vegas, Atlantic City, Biloxi, or some other U.S. location primarily to participate in legal gambling? ...	5%	5%	2%	3%
took a vacation to the Bahamas, the Carribean, or some other location out of the country primarily to participate in legal gambling?	1%	1%	*	1%
bet on a college sports event such as basketball or football?	2%	2%	1%	1%
bet on a horse race or a dog race?	4%	4%	2%	4%
played bingo for money?	6%	4%	1%	2%
played a video poker machine?	6%	4%	3%	5%
gambled for money on the Internet?	1%	*	*	1%
made a friendly wager with a friend, relative, or co-worker? ..	16%	18%	14%	11%
none checked	33%	32%	56%	51%

Q-12. Has gambling ever been a source of economic, marital, psychological, or other problems

a. within your family?

yes	6%	4%	6%	6%
no	94%	96%	94%	94%
don't know	—	—	—	—

b. for anyone in your church (outside of your family)?

yes	12%	18%	60%	48%
no	67%	67%	36%	45%
don't know	21%	15%	4%	7%

Q-13. Do you know anyone else (outside of your family and your church), such as a neighbor, co-worker, or friend, for whom gambling has been a source of problems?

yes	36%	37%	66%	57%
no	64%	63%	34%	43%

Q-14. Before this survey, were you aware that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has repeatedly expressed opposition to all forms of gambling?

yes	26%	29%	68%	63%
no	74%	71%	32%	37%

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Q-15. Do you personally believe that it is appropriate or not appropriate for the General Assembly to take a stand on legalized gambling?

appropriate	67%	71%	92%	92%
not appropriate	14%	11%	4%	2%
uncertain	19%	18%	5%	6%

Q-16. Are you familiar with these resources produced by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

a. *Gambling and Christian Faith*, a booklet published in 1998 by the National Ministries Division and the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy

yes, have read some/all of it	1%	1%	10%	9%
yes, have seen a copy	*	*	9%	5%
yes, have heard of it but not seen a copy	2%	4%	12%	15%
no, not familiar → <i>Skip to Q16b</i>	97%	95%	69%	71%

a-1. If you have read the *Gambling and Christian Faith* booklet, how helpful was it in understanding the General Assembly's opposition to gambling?

	n=18	n=36	n=253	n=62
	+	+	+	+
very helpful	60%	78%	39%	23%
helpful	20%	22%	43%	73%
a little helpful	20%	—	16%	4%
not very helpful	—	—	2%	—
not helpful at all	—	—	—	—

a-2. Did reading this booklet change your opinions on gambling in any way?

	n=18	n=36	n=253	n=62
	+	+	+	+
yes	17%	—	6%	11%
no	83%	100%	94%	89%

[If "yes,"] Briefly describe the change(s):

[too varied to tabulate]

b. "Gambling and Christian Faith: A New Look at an Old Dilemma," the March/April 1999 issue of *Church & Society* magazine

yes, have read some/all of it	1%	1%	4%	5%
yes, have seen a copy	—	1%	5%	5%
yes, have heard of it but not seen a copy	1%	2%	7%	5%
no, not familiar → <i>Skip to Q17</i>	99%	97%	84%	85%

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Q-16. Are you familiar with these resources produced by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?
(Cont.)

b. "Gambling and Christian Faith: A New Look at an Old Dilemma," the March/April 1999 issue of *Church & Society* magazine (Cont.)

b-1. If you have read any part of this issue of *Church & Society*, how helpful was it in understanding contemporary gambling issues?

	n=8	n=19	n=124	n=31
	+	+	+	+
very helpful	20%	50%	35%	38%
helpful	40%	38%	47%	46%
a little helpful	40%	12%	10%	8%
not very helpful	—	—	6%	8%
not helpful at all	—	—	2%	—

b-2. Did reading this booklet change your opinions on gambling in any way?

	n=8	n=19	n=124	n=31
	+	+	+	+
yes	25%	10%	5%	14%
no	75%	90%	95%	86%

[If "yes,"] Briefly describe the change(s):

[too varied to tabulate]

Q-17. Do you believe that Presbyterian congregations, through their sessions, should or should not actively oppose efforts to expand or legalize gambling in their communities?

yes, sessions should act to oppose legalized gambling	42%	47%	61%	63%
no, sessions should not act to oppose legalized gambling	21%	23%	9%	5%
uncertain	37%	31%	30%	32%

Q-18. In the last five years, has your session taken any actions to oppose, reduce, or ban legalized gambling in your area?
(✓ the for *all* that apply.)

yes, we've worked to oppose additional legalized gambling	◆ 2%	◆ 3%	◆ 9%	◆ 4%
yes, we've worked to reduce or roll back some kinds of legalized gambling	1%	2%	2%	2%
yes, we've worked to ban legalized gambling completely	1%	2%	2%	2%
yes, other (specify): _____	1%	2%	3%	1%
no	36%	74%	77%	62%
don't know	61%	20%	10%	33%

Q-19. Has your congregation set up a ministry or taken other actions explicitly to help individuals and families affected by compulsive gambling?

yes	2%	2%	5%	3%
no	49%	78%	92%	77%
don't know	49%	20%	3%	20%

* = less than 0.5%; rounds to zero

— = zero (0.0); no cases in this category

n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question

+ = nonresponses of 10% or more on this question (reported percentages for all questions omit nonresponses)

◆ = percentages add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response

Q-20. In 1999 a Federal Commission recommended a moratorium on the expansion of legal gambling in the United States. How do you feel about this? Would you . . . (✓ only one □.)

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
favor continued expansion of legal gambling?	6%	4%	2%	1%
keep legal gambling as it is now?	19%	18%	7%	10%
reduce legal gambling?	38%	40%	52%	51%
ban gambling altogether?	19%	21%	29%	28%
uncertain	19%	16%	10%	10%

Q-21. What is your sex?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
female	61%	48%	22%	33%
male	39%	52%	78%	67%

Q-22. What is your present age? _____ years

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
less than 20 years of age	2%	*	—	—
20 - 24 years of age	2%	1%	—	—
25 - 29 years of age	2%	1%	—	—
30 - 34 years of age	4%	*	5%	3%
35 - 39 years of age	6%	4%	8%	6%
40 - 44 years of age	7%	9%	14%	12%
45 - 49 years of age	8%	13%	22%	15%
50 - 54 years of age	11%	14%	17%	14%
55 - 59 years of age	9%	12%	14%	18%
60 - 64 years of age	7%	11%	12%	16%
65 - 69 years of age	9%	13%	5%	12%
70 - 74 years of age	13%	11%	1%	2%
75 - 79 years of age	11%	7%	*	1%
80 years of age or above	8%	4%	*	2%

Q-23. Please use the space below for additional comments.

[not tabulated]

* = less than 0.5%; rounds to zero
 — = zero (0.0); no cases in this category
 n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question
 + = nonresponses of 10% or more on this question (reported percentages for all questions omit nonresponses)
 ◆ = percentages add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response

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