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Video Gambling and Crime - August 28, 2017



Study: Video Gambling Linked to Crime Spike

A new study led by economists at the University of Illinois suggests that access to video gambling is responsible for an **increase of violent crime and property crime in Chicago.**

... The study found that "**access to gambling adds on average 0.10 and 0.28 violent and property crimes per block group each month.** In other words, legalizing video gambling has contributed to approximately 1,450 and 4,100 additional violent and property crimes in Chicago since the Video Gaming Act took effect."

... "**The effect of access to video gambling on crime seems to be permanent.** [Read more](#)
Download the [study](#)

Shooting and video gambling

An Alton bar had its license suspended for one day and had to add security measures after a shooting and stabbing. The shooting happened in the video gambling area, with the suspect and victim playing machines next to each other at 2 a.m., having an exchange of words, then one pulling a gun and firing at the other. [Read more](#)

No end in sight for video gambling

"We didn't anticipate that the state would take such a hands-off approach, and let us deal with so much of this at the local level," Sterling Mayor Skip Lee said. The city has approached state officials about the situation, but they haven't been receptive, Lee said. "We'd like the state to be a partner in regulating this, but as long as they're getting their money, I guess that's all they care about," Lee said.

... City officials are concerned about the economic and moral implications of gambling for some of its citizens, as well as what it does for the cities' image, but they have little at their disposal to fight it.

"You wonder that with so many kids on free and reduced lunches here, how so much money can be going into these machines," Lee said. **"I'm concerned about what this is doing to our most vulnerable citizens,** but there's nothing I can do about it." [Read more](#)

Washington declares 2-month moratorium on video gambling licenses

When the city declared a moratorium on video gambling licenses, they made it clear that video gambling cafes that have sprung up in communities across the area are not welcome in Washington. [Read more](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Share this Alert with your Mayor and City Council and urge them to pass an ordinance declaring a moratorium on video gambling. NOTE: Illinois has the most video gambling in the country--27,193 machines in 6,163 establishments.
2. Write a letter to the editor.
3. Share this Alert with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
4. Forward to 10 others.

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