Cannabis Use Is Increasing Among Problem Gamblers Entering Treatment

Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2018, 2,596 problem gamblers entered CalGETS outpatient treatment. They were asked if they had used cannabis in the past year. In Fiscal Year 2015-16, 20% of problem gamblers reported that they used cannabis in the past year. Cannabis use increased to 21% in FY 2016-17, and 26% in FY 2017-18. These percentages are higher than the 12% of U.S. and 16% of Western-state adults who report using cannabis.

Medicinal use of cannabis was legal throughout the study timeline. Recreational use of cannabis was legalized in California starting January 1, 2018.


In California, problem gamblers can receive no-cost treatment through CalGETS. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call 1-800-GAMBLER.