

Unintended Consequences: Illegal and Unregulated Gambling Post Legalization

Gillian Russell

Assistant Research Professor of Criminal Justice



PennState



**Show of hands for the following ads
is this legal and regulated
gambling in Pennsylvania.**



PROMOTIONS

GAMES

COMMUNITY

HELP

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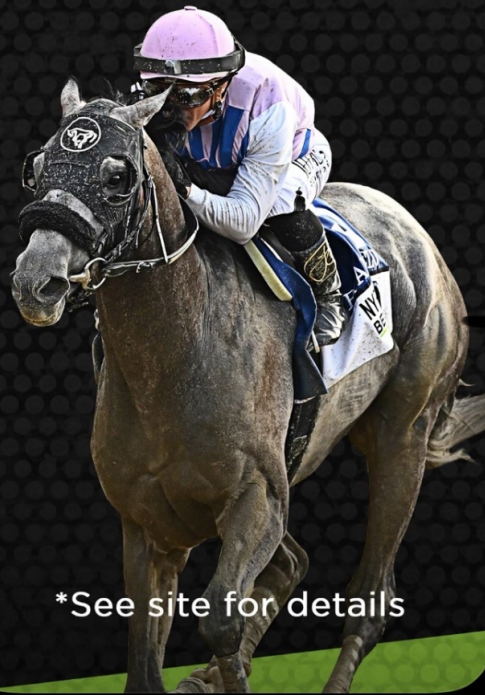


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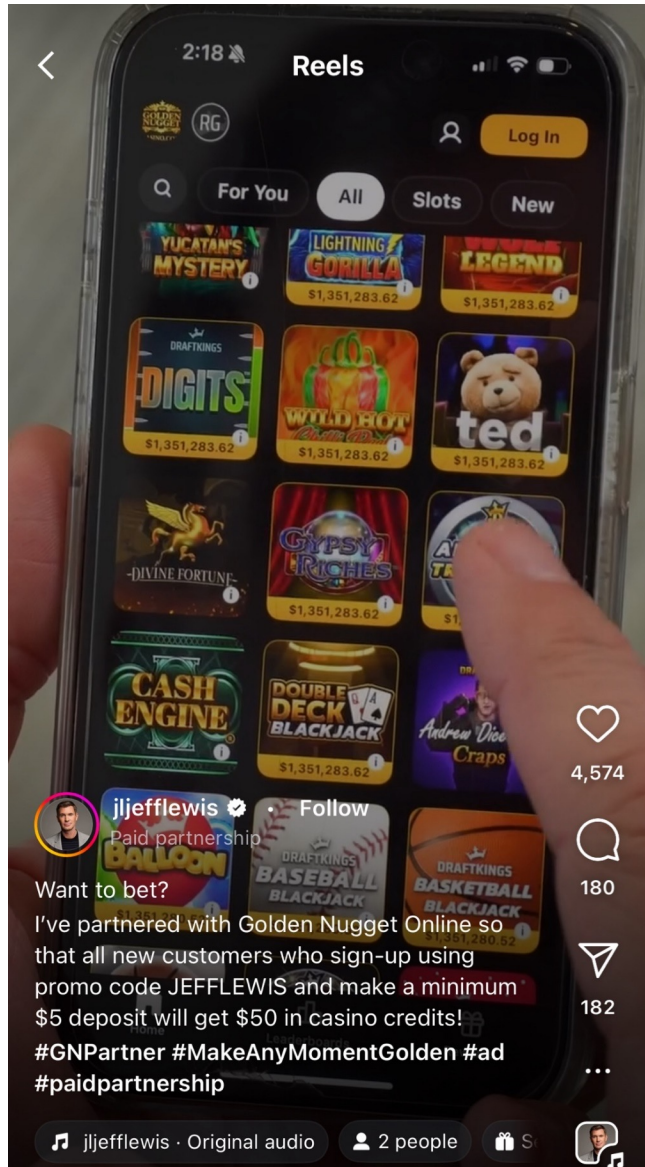
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*See site for details



2:18

Reels

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YUCATAN'S MYSTERY \$1,351,283.62	LIGHTNING GORILLA \$1,351,283.62	LEGEND \$1,351,283.62
DRAFTKINGS DIGITS \$1,351,283.62	WILD HOT \$1,351,283.62	ted \$1,351,283.62
DIVINE FORTUNE	GYPSY RICHES \$1,351,283.62	Andrew Dice Craps
CASH ENGINE	DOUBLE DECK BLACKJACK \$1,351,283.62	Andrew Dice Craps
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4,574
 180
 182

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 2 people



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CASH, GLORY!**



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bvdcasino Every hand is a new chance to cash in, play
Blackjack today! 🎰 🎲

#casino #onlinecasino #cryptocasino #blackjack
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Take your talents from the court to Casino and shoot for wins with Chandler Parsons, Former NBA Player, when you play NBA Super Slam – only on FanDuel Casino!



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Vote



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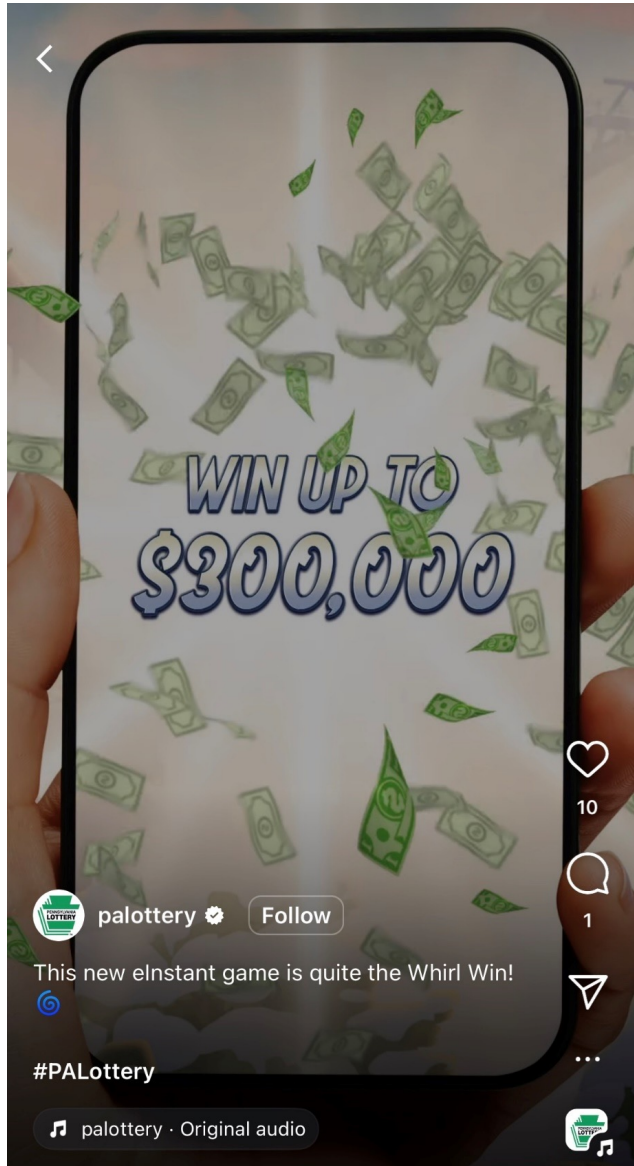
Every point counts with [@DKSportsbook!](#)

Download the DraftKings Sportsbook app and use code MYWORLD. New customers to get \$200 in bonus bets when you bet just \$5. Only on [@DraftKings](#) - The Crown Is Yours

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\$300,000



palottery



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This new elnstant game is quite the Whirl Win!



#PALottery



palottery · Original audio



10



1



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 ROOBET

With my code

DMM

TO GET EXCLUSIVE



BENEFITS

Exclusive Benefits

- ✓ \$2,000 USD Leaderboard
- ✓ Welcome bonus
- ✓ Perpetual loyalty bonus
- ✓ Weekly free spin raffle
- ✓ Guess & win on Bonus Hunt
- ✓ Exclusive bonus drops
- ✓ Youtube giveaways

BeGambleAWARE.org

Don't think of gambling as a way to make money. The venue is using gambling to make money.

It's not designed to work the other way around. Over time you will give away more money than you receive!

Think of gambling as an entertainment expense - just like buying a movie ticket.

Only gamble with money you can afford to lose. Gamble within your weekly entertainment budget, not with your phone bill or rent budget.

When the fun stops, **STOP!**



playbetusa and betparx
Sponsored



bet
PARX

TIGER LORD
IMPERIAL
88

GET UP TO

\$10000

BONUS BACK

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21+ Located in PA, NJ, MI. In Michigan, if you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call 1-800-270-7117. New Users Only, TC's apply, see site for details. Casino bonus must be wagered.

Get offer



16



playbetusa Play Tiger Lord Slots at betPARX online casino and enjoy up to a \$1000 bonus back 🎰



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FREE BONUS
250,000 GOLD COINS
& \$25 STAKE CASH**

CLAIM BONUS

BeGambleAware.org[®]

- Don't think of gambling as a way to make money
- Only gamble with money you can afford to lose
 - Set a money limit in advance
 - Set a time limit in advance
 - Never chase your losses
- Don't gamble when you're depressed or upset
 - Balance gambling with other activities
 - Don't take your bank card with you
 - Take frequent breaks
- Don't drink or use drugs when gambling

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21+ ONLY PLEASE GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY CALL 1-800-NEXT-STEP(AZ), 1-800-BETS-OFF(IA), 1-800-985-0023 (PA) OR VISIT WWW.1800GAMBLER.NET (NY). SUBJECT TO ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.
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BetRivers Sportsbook 🌟 @BetRivers · 16h

10 solid matchups on the ice tonight!

Place 3+ SGP wagers of \$10 or more on NHL games in one week to receive a 50% profit boost at BetRivers.com 🏒



NHL **SGP**
BET & GET

BETRIVERS GAMBLING PROBLEM? CALL 1-800-GAMBLER (CO, IL, IN, LA, MD, MI, NJ, OH, PA, VA, WV) (NY) Call (877-8-HOPENY) or text HOPENY (467369).

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(AZ) Call 1-800-NEXT-STEP or text "NEXT-STEP" to 53342; (DE) Call the DCGP Helpline at 888-850-8888 or visit www.deproblem Gambling.org; (IA) Call 1-800-BETS-OFF; (LA) In partnership with Bossier Casino Venture, Inc. d/b/a Margaritaville Resort Casino; (OH) In partnership with Dayton Real Estate Ventures, LLC d/b/a Hollywood Gaming at Dayton Raceway.



633



How did you do?

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Place 3+ SGP wagers of \$10 or more on NHL games in one week to receive a 50% profit boost at betRivers.com

NHL SGP BET & GET

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GAMBLING PROBLEM? CALL 1-800-GAMBLER (CO, IL, IN, IA, MD, MI, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV) OR CALL 877-5-HOPE5 (OR 877-5-HOPE5) for help. HOPE5 (467365)

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WIN UP TO \$300,000

#PA Lottery

This new instant game is quite the Wild! Wild!

#PA Lottery

Lottery · Original audio

Reels

NYRA BETS HAVE \$200 ON US!

100% Deposit MatchUp to \$200 Use Code APPLE200

*See site for details

My World with Jeff Jarrett @MyWorldWith

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@RealJeffJarrett · #DKSportsbook · #DKPartner · #DraftKings

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Take your talents from the court to Casino and shoot for wins with Chandler Parsons, Former NBA Player, when you play NBA Super Slam - only on FanDuel Casino!

FANDUEL CASINO

SCORE WINS ABOVE THE RIM

Chandler Parsons Former NBA Player

FanDuel Casino · Real Money · 4.8

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PROGRESSIVE WELCOME BONUSES UP TO 600%

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Non-Legal

Join ROOBET

With my code **DMM** TO GET EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS

Exclusive Benefits

- ✓ \$2,000 USD Leaderboard
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Stake US

SIGN UP & VERIFY

FREE BONUS

250,000 GOLD COINS & \$25 STAKE CASH

CLAIM BONUS

BeGambleAWARE.org

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- Don't take your bank card with you
- Take frequent breaks
- Don't drink or use drugs when gambling

Gamble Responsibly. 18+

CARDS, CASH, GLORY!

BLACKJACK

Every hand is a new chance to cash in, play Blackjack today!

#casino #onlinecasino #rtpcasino #blackjack #gambling #betler #21

**Now show of hands are the
following things legal and
regulated gamble on in
Pennsylvania**

Online 50/50 Tickets

Animal Fighting

Online Bingo

Poker Night

Skins Betting

**How well did you do? How did you
decide what is legal?**

Legal Gambling In the US

- **Gambling a state decision – large variation in provision**
 - Large variations – ranging from no provision to widespread of all forms

Illegal Gambling Research

- **Research from Canada**
 - Higher where no legal provision (in particular online)
- **Predictors of illegal gambling**
 - No legal provision
 - Age
 - Race/Ethnicity
 - Gambling behaviors
 - Having a gambling problem
- **Risks of illegal gambling**

The Interactive Gaming Assessment

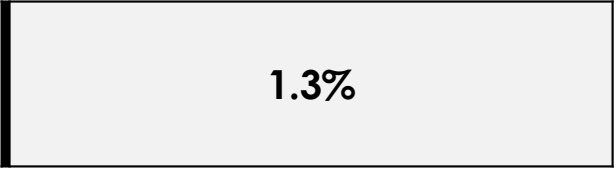
- Legislated annual assessment of online gambling within the state
 - Establish prevalence
 - Evaluate problems
 - Monitor trends

2020-2021 Data (Russell et al., 2023)

I am going to read another list of interactive gaming experiences. Again, please say yes or no to each.

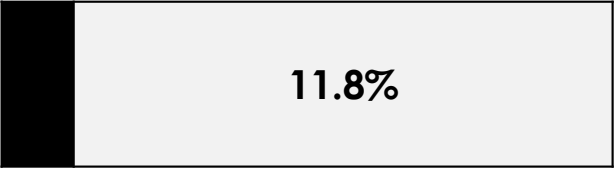
In the past 12 months, did you participate in:

- Offshore online sports books (such as Bovada, MyBookie, or BetOnline)
- Offshore online poker sites (such as Bovada Poker, Ignition, or SB Poker)
- Offshore online casinos
- Are there any other interactive gaming experiences you have done in the past 12 months? _____



1.3%

% of Pennsylvanians that engaged in illegal/offshore online gambling



11.8%

% of Pennsylvanians that gamble online that engaged in illegal/offshore online gambling

2021-2022 Data (Sterner et al., 2023)

Remember, all of your responses are kept confidential. We are examining if Pennsylvania's legal online options are changing the way residents gamble over the internet. In the past 12 months which of these interactive online gaming experiences that were not approved by Pennsylvania, did you participate in? (Select all that apply)

- Offshore online sports books (such as Bovada, MyBookie, or BetOnline)
- Offshore online poker sites (such as Bovada Poker, Ignition, or SB Poker)
- Offshore online casinos
- Other: <LIST TEXT RESPONSES>



1.5%

% of Pennsylvanians that engaged in illegal/offshore online gambling



13.3 %

% of Pennsylvanians that gamble online that engaged in illegal/offshore online gambling

2022-2023 Study Updates

- In the past 12 months, how often would you say you have _____?
- Did you do this:
 - In Person
 - Online (Please specify which websites) _____
 - Both (Please specify which websites) _____



Which websites are legal to gamble online PA ×

List of legal online gambling websites in PA

Is DraftKings legal in PA?

Is FanDuel legal in PA?

Online bingo Pennsylvania

Can I legally gamble on Stake online in PA?

Can I legally gamble on Bovada online in PA?



myPATH



Make a Payment




Where's My Income Tax Refund?



Property Tax/Rent Rebate Status



Customer Service 



Instructional Videos

[Pennsylvania Department of Revenue](#) > [Tax Types](#) > [Small Games of Chance](#) > [Club Licensees & Eligible Organizations](#) > Basic Guidance on What is Legal/Illegal

Basic Guidance on What is Legal Versus Illegal for Club Licenses and Eligible Organizations

In Pennsylvania, all forms of gambling are illegal unless specifically authorized by law. The Pennsylvania Lottery, bingo, slots, table games and small games of chance are forms of gaming authorized by law.

The Pennsylvania Local Option Small Games of Chance Act was passed in 1988 and has been amended several times since enactment. The law authorizes club licensees and eligible organizations licensed by county treasurers to conduct small games of chance to offer the following types of gambling:

- Pull-tab games
- Punchboards
- Raffles, including raffle auctions and special permit raffles
- Daily drawings
- Weekly drawings
- 50-50 drawings
- Race night games obtained from distributors licensed with the department
- Pools

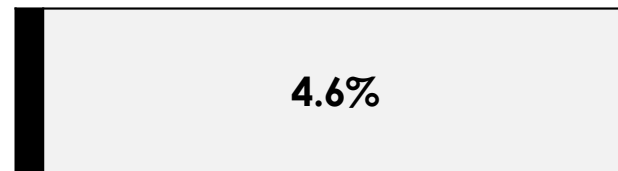
Following are some examples of illegal forms of gambling:

- Quarter auctions
- Monte Carlo/casino/poker nights (outside of authorized casinos)
- Numbers games (outside the Pennsylvania Lottery)

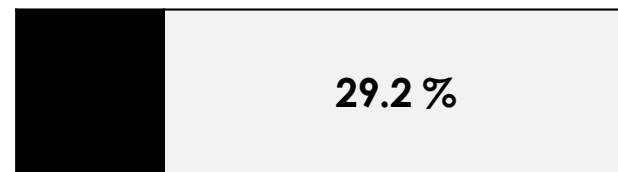
NOTE: This list is not exhaustive and is intended for illustrative purposes only. Ultimately, police and law enforcement officials are responsible for determining and prosecuting illegal gambling activity.

2022-2023 Data

- In the past 12 months, how often would you say you have _____?
- Did you do this:
 - In Person
 - Online (Please specify which websites) _____
 - Both (Please specify which websites) _____



% of Pennsylvanians that engaged in illegal or unregulated



% of Pennsylvanians that gamble online that engaged in illegal or unregulated online gambling

2024-2025 Data

- Include coding, underage, and fringe formats.
 - 0.7-0.9% underage
 - 4.0-10.7% illegal or unregulated sites
 - 0.1-0.9% skins betting
 - 0.1-1.5% animal fighting
 - 0.4-1.7% non-casino card games
 - 0.2-1.8% non-casino dice games
 - 0.3-1.7% board games
 - 0.6-0.9% televised entertainment events
 - 0.7-1.1% political events
 - 3.4-3.6% bought crypto currencies
 - 1.2-1.7% speculative financial practices
 - 11-19.7% engage in skill games

But there's a catch.....

**ONLY 2.2% of
Pennsylvania adults
report intentionally
engaging in some form of
illegal or unregulated
gambling in the past year**

2024-2025 Data

- Using our supplemental sample – 14.0% engaged in some form of illegal or unregulated gambling (not including skill games) based on researcher coding, significantly less than the 2.2% - adding in the researcher coding to this admission 14.4% indicated illegal gambling in the past year
 - Indicates that of those engaging in illegal or unregulated gambling:
 - 15.0% were doing so intentionally
 - 79.3% did so without intention (involuntarily)
 - 5.8% skill prefer not to answer

**Why do you think so many are
classified as involuntary?**

Who gambles illegally?

- Online bingo gambling!
 - 4.3% of Pennsylvania adults engaged – no legal online bingo!
- Identifying ads?
- Demographics?
- Gambling Behaviors?

How do you decide what is legal?

- Name recognition of provider is key
 - Complications....

Live Channels Clips

Sort By Viewers (High to Low)

LIVE

1,187 viewers

Ripp2

START 3000 \$ GIVEAWAY SUR !DISCORD...

Slots & Casino

Français 18+ Gambling

LIVE

989 viewers

6tnn

TIMBEANDO CON LOS PIBES EN !roobet

Slots & Casino

Español 18+ Gambling

LIVE

800 viewers

antaurus

QUISIERA UN MAX WIN EN ANUBIS !roobet

Slots & Casino

English 18+ Gambling

LIVE

773 viewers

KyleTooReal

BlackJackin !duelbits !newmax

Slots & Casino

English 18+ Gambling

LIVE

501 viewers

Mendigo

8000€ BONUS HUNT STAKE

Slots & Casino

Português 18+ Gambling

LIVE

486 viewers

iceinmyvein

★ CODE DROPS for STAKEUS/.COM + HU...

Slots & Casino

English 18+ Gambling

LIVE

460 viewers

xzost

Casino Games with BIGRED!

Slots & Casino

English 18+ Gambling

LIVE

367 viewers

BTCs

● BUYING VIEWER BONUSES ● WIN UP ...

Slots & Casino

English 18+ Gambling

LIVE

301 viewers

CODE RORO Stake

xROROX

1k to 10k stream giveaways if we profit! s...

Slots & Casino

English 18+ Gambling

LIVE

244 viewers

Stake

thestevestream

\$3,000 BONUS HUNT ON STAKE - !stake

Slots & Casino

English 18+ Gambling

LIVE

WIN \$173.10

LIVE

LIVE

Sinner

LIVE

LIVE

START 5000 \$ OVERLAY FOR DISCORD...

Slots & Casino

Français

18+

Gambling

LIVE

TEAM TOURNAMENT
 GO TO [HERE](#) FOR INSTANT ENTRY INTO THE TOURNAMENT!
486 viewers GO TO [HERE](#) TO BUY
Stake
 JOIN
 CODE: VIPMEMBER

EVENTS

Darkness Rises	1.25
Rainbow Rains	8.9%
POB	
Rainbow	
Monday	
First Party	0
Authority	45
Source	
Source	

Team Tournament - 65 People
 4 People Per Team! Each Team Will
 Have 500 Risked By The Mystery Wheel
 Highest X of each group of 4 teams moves on.
 1 in 4 chance of winning a prize. Just make the words
 1st Place - \$20 (CASH)
 2nd Place - \$10 each for each member
 3rd Place - \$7 each if online! (or solo = \$2)
 4th - \$3 each for each!

iceinmyvein

CODE DROPS for STAKEUS/.COM + HU...

Slots & Casino

FINDEANDO CON LOS FIBES EN...

Slots & Casino

Español

18+

Gambling

LIVE

15
 MAKE YOUR BET NOW!

460 viewers

xzost

Casino Games with BIGRED!

Slots & Casino

EN ANOBIS :ROBET

Blackjackin :duclibits :newmax

88888 BONUS H

Slots & Casino

English 18+ Gambling

Slots & Casino

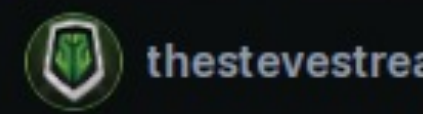
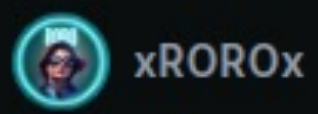
Português 18+



301 viewers

CODE RORO Stake

244 viewers



NUSES WIN UP ...

1k to 10k stream giveaways if we profit! s...

\$3,000 BONUS H

Slots & Casino

Slots & Casino

Twitch Mega Streamer xQc Signed By Gambling Company For \$100 Million

The top streamer has joined the Amazon-owned platform's biggest rival amid a flurry of controversies

By **Ethan Gach** Published June 16, 2023 | Comments (89)



Photo: Amy Sussman (Getty Images)

<https://youtu.be/TIECs6MA5t4?si=vnNludV8VMhUd00B&t=3172>



Stake





Let's Talk:

Gillian Russell
gxr5199@psu.edu