

BARAKA POLICY INSTITUTE (BPI) EAST LEGON, ACCRA

THE PREVALENCE OF SPORTS BETTING AND ITS EFFECTS ON EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA

(A Summary of BPI Research Report)



ABOUT BARAKA POLICY INSTITUTE (BPI)

- A social policy Think Tank with focus on promoting social justice and equitable national development through *Research and Advocacy*
- Core activity areas are in **education development** and **general well-being** of people, particularly, the less privileged/deprived communities.

ABOUT SPORTS BETTING?

- ▶ A Game of chance played on any sporting event (largely in Football) to pre-determine their outcomes or results, for a reward
- ▶ It is legal in Ghana; regulated by the Gaming Commission of Ghana (Act 721), 2006
- ▶ Source of Revenue to the State, like other “legalized social ills” in modern liberal societies

Why is SB proliferation a problem?

- ▶ Sports Betting is not legal to all; robust regulatory regime is required - in protecting minors and vulnerables, youth
- ▶ Its made very attractive and easy to get go.....
- ▶ Recent but fast emerging social phenomenon posing some challenges to children education/youth development- globally, efforts made by some countries.
- Studies show: High risk of social/emotional instability to young people

- A study by Kindbridge Behavioral Health, US (2018)
 - Young people have higher rate of gambling problems than adults - dealing with stress and emotional stability
 - **75%** of students interviewed had gambled before in the past 3 years. **82%** responded having been stressed with betting - destructive addiction
- In Ghana, several calls on authorities to check SB....

Research objectives & Methodology

- ▶ To explore the extent of youth/children involvement in sports betting
- ▶ To ascertain the effects of sports betting on schooling of young people
- ▶ Close-ended questionnaires; 360 randomly sampled bettors found at betting centres in four cities Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi and Tamale
- ▶ AFCON 2019 -

KEY FINDINGS

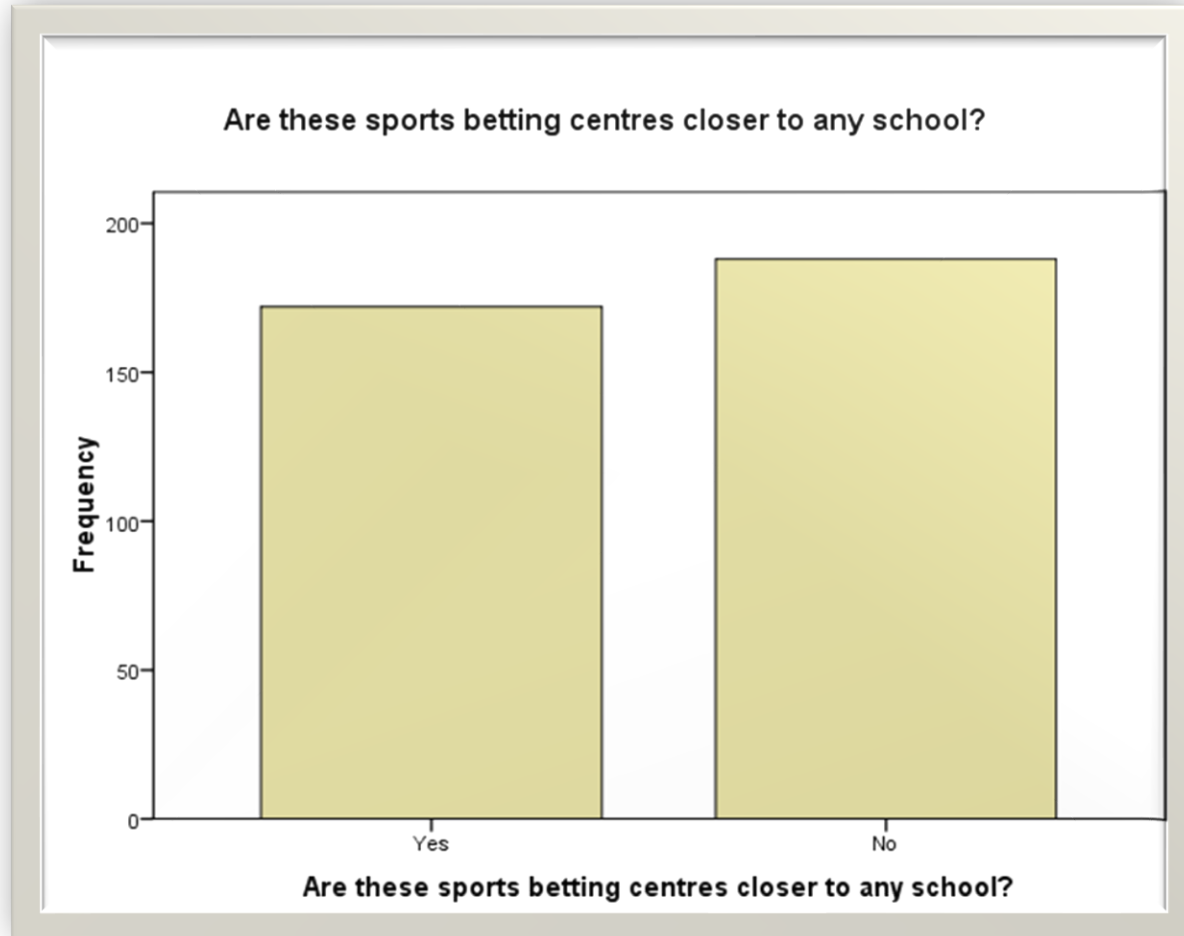
- Proliferation of sports betting centres

No.	Madina	Mamobi	James Town	Ashaiman
1	My bet.com	Socca bet	Premier bet	Supa bet
2	Eazi bet	Premier bet	Supa bet	Safari bet
3	Champion bet	Supa bet	Simba bet	My bet
4	Socca bet	Safari bet	Euro bet	Eazi bet
5	Supa bet	Simba bet	Safari bet	Premier bet
6	Bet yetu	Bet way	My bet	Socca bet
7		My bet	Socca bet	Millionaires bet

No.	Kasoa	Tamale	Kumasi	Takoradi
1	My bet	Premier	Socca bet	Socca bet
2	Safari bet	Safari	Premier	Premier
3	Socca bet	Bet way	Supa	Supa bet
4	Simba bet	Alfa bet	Simba	Simba bet
5	Supa bet	Najia bet	Euro bet	Euro bet
6	Bet way	Socca bet	Safari	Safari bet
7	Premier bet	Supa bet	My bet	My bet
8	Bet 360	Simba bet	1xbet	Bet way
9	1xbet	Euro bet	Eazi bet	Sporty bet
10		My bet	Winner bet	Najia bet
11		Bet 360	Bet way	Champion bet
12			Bet power	Euro bet
13			Lolly bet	Afro bet
14			Bet fair	1xbet
15			Sun bet	Winner bet
16			Pawa bet	Africa bet
17			Bet yetu	
18			Bet 360	

Closeness of betting centers to schools - Act 721

37.8% are situated 500 meters to schools



Children engaging in sports betting

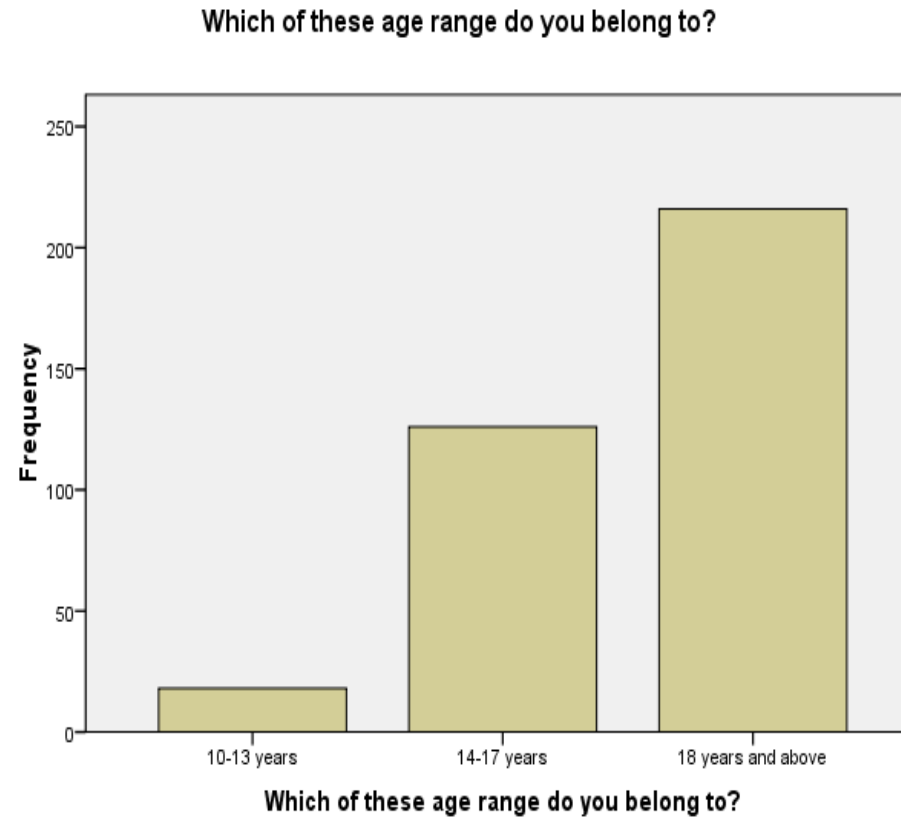
Are children (below 18) engaged in Sports Betting?

“A person responsible for a gambling machine shall not permit a child to use the gambling machine or to enter a place where the gambling machine is operated” - Act 721 (48)

Ages of bettors (respondents)

Which of these age range do you belong to?

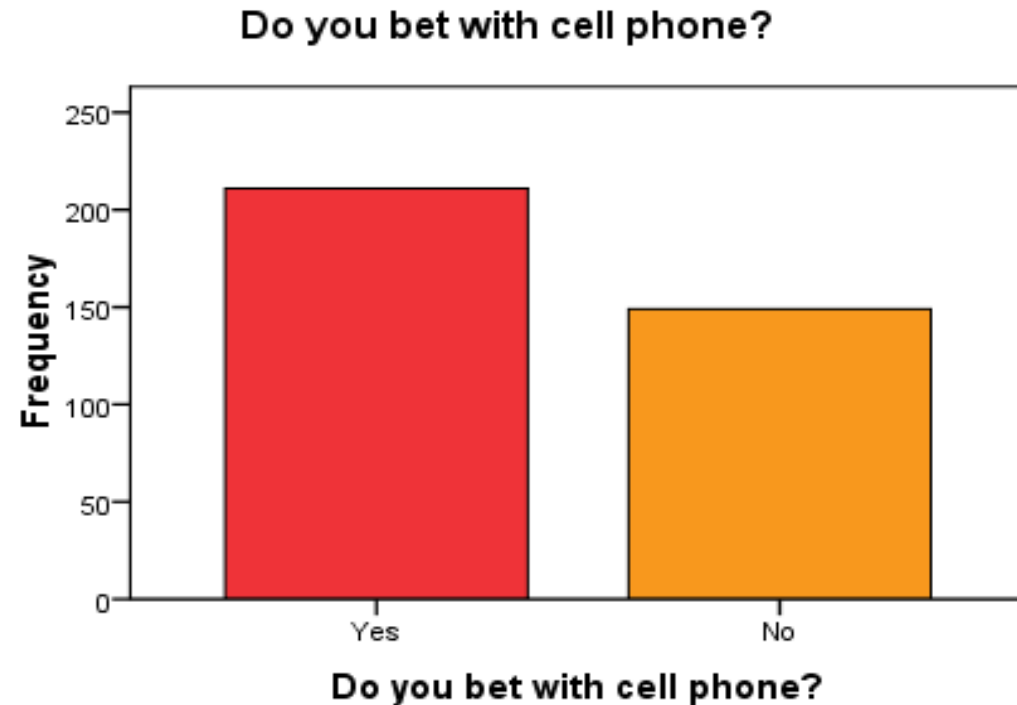
Response	Frequency	Percent %
10-13 years	18	5.0
14-17 years	128	35.6
18 years and above	214	59.4
Total	360	100.0



Betting made easy/accessible to children

➤ Online betting/Mobile phone

Do you bet with cell phone?			
Response	Frequency	Percent %	
Yes	211	58.6	
No	149	41.4	
Total	360	100.0	

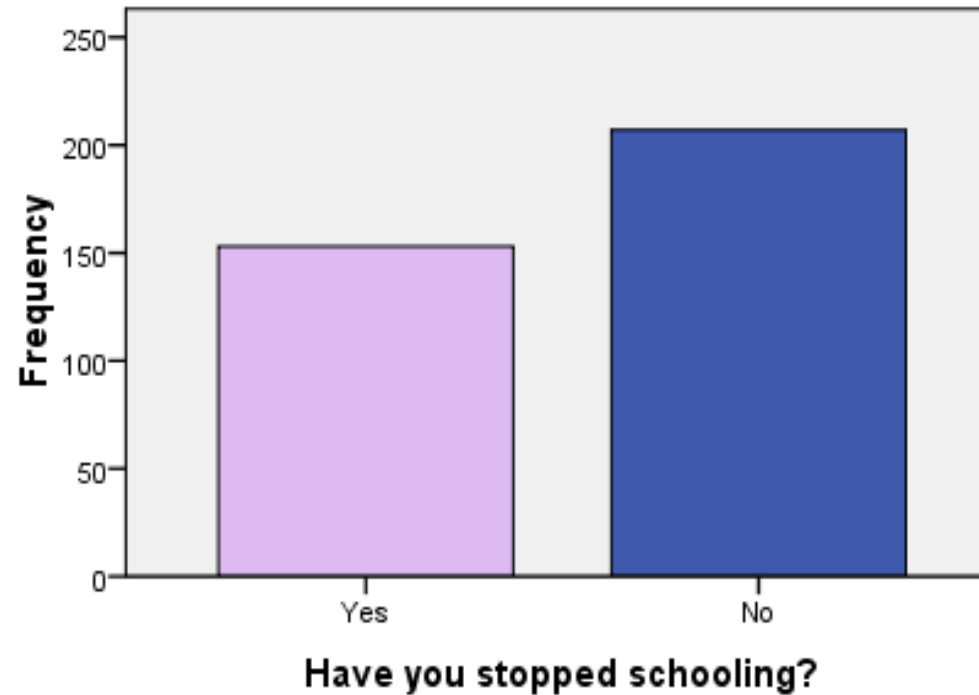


School attendance

Have you stopped schooling?

Response	Frequency	Percent %
Yes	153	42.5
No	207	57.5
Total	360	100.0

Have you stopped schooling?

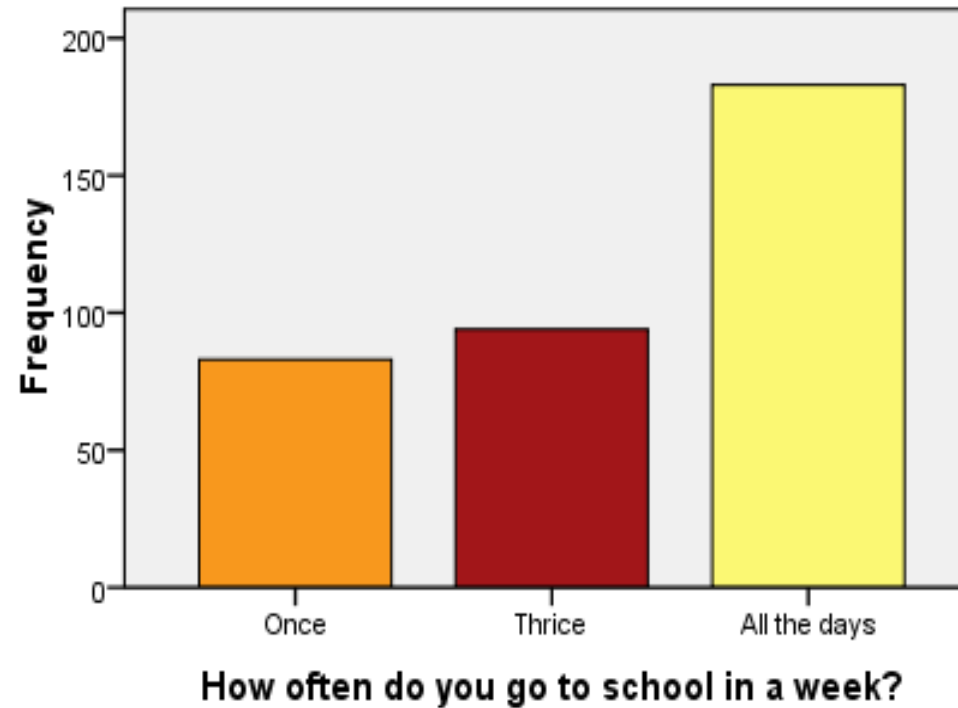


Punctuality to school

How often do you go to school in a week?

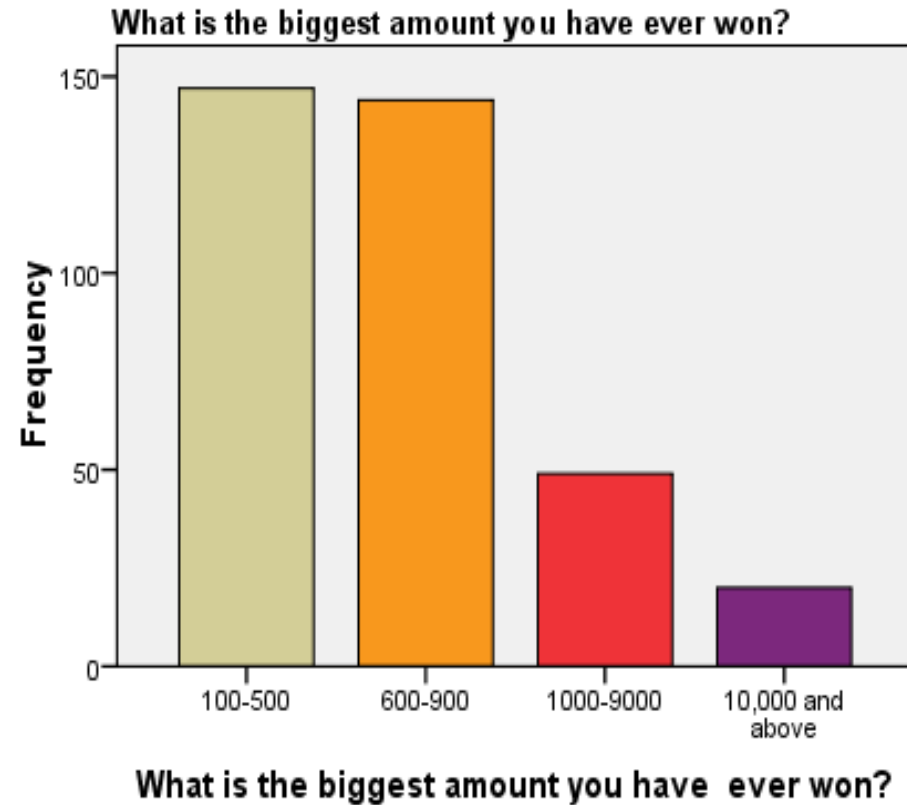
Response	Frequency	Percent %
Once	83	23.1
Thrice	94	26.1
All the days	183	50.8
Total	360	100.0

How often do you go to school in a week?



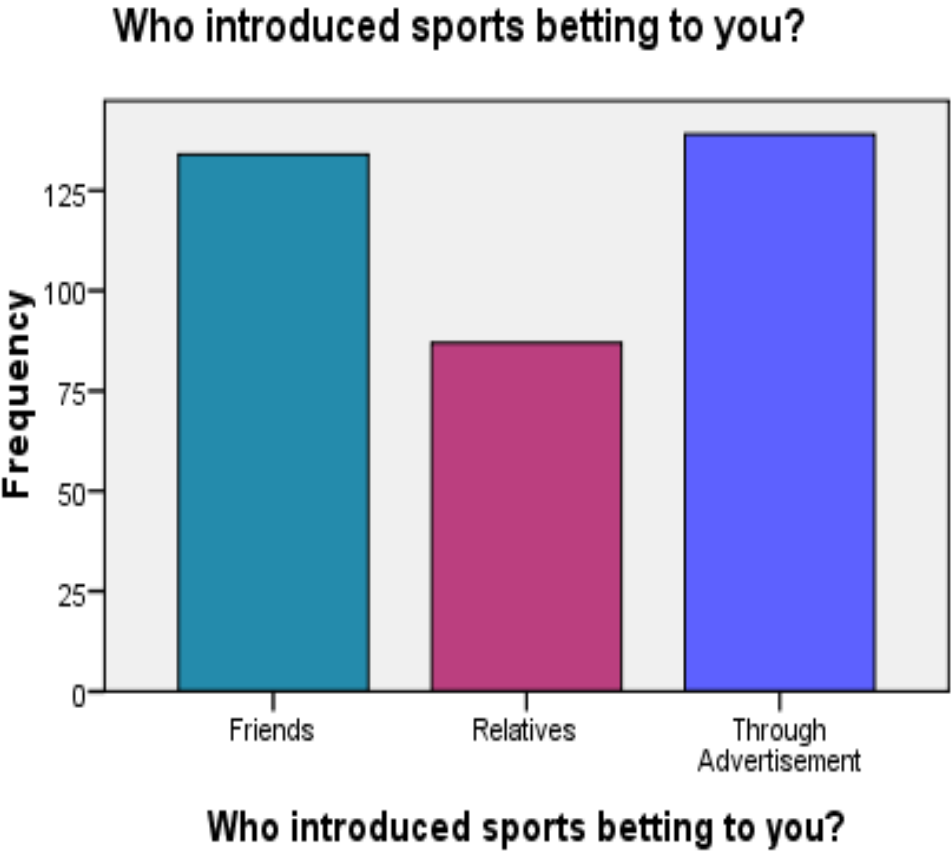
Average winning of Bets by the youth

What is the biggest amount you have ever won?		
Response	Frequency	Percent %
Ghs 100-500	147	40.8
Ghs 600-900	144	40.0
Ghs 1000-9000	49	13.6
Ghs 10,000 and above	20	5.6
Total	360	100.0



Drivers of Sport Betting (for children)

Who introduced sports betting to you?		
Response	Frequency	Percent %
Friends	134	37.2
Relatives	87	24.2
Through Advertisement	139	38.6
Total	360	100.0



Trends/Drivers of Sport Betting proliferation among the youth

- ▶ Alarming no. of Betting Centres & proximity to residence/schools, vulnerable communities
- ▶ Online/mobile betting
- ▶ Lack of parental control and responsibility
- ▶ Legality - weak regulations/enforcements
- ▶ Unmeasured Advertisements - huge corporate presence
- ▶ Peer- funfair: exploiting love for the game
- ▶ Get rich quick syndrome

Conclusions/Recommendations

- ▶ Sports betting - a serious social force against schooling/general well-being of the youth
- ▶ Strict regulations/compliance on sports betting - to protect children and young people
- ▶ legislative reforms - directed at protecting the vulnerable
- ▶ Stronger Coalition/Campaign by Moral/Religious Authorities including Civil society

“we need to deal with sports betting effects on child development”

NOW

THANK YOU

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