

UMass Lowell Center for Public Opinion
2017 Sports Poll – Sports Betting & Fantasy Football
August 14, 2017 – August 21, 2017

N=1,000 American adults
Margin of error +/- 3.7% for all respondents

HIGHLIGHTS

In partnership with the Washington Post, the UMass Lowell Center for Public Opinion surveyed 1,000 American adults on their attitudes about sports. This, the fifth release in a series, focuses on Americans attitudes towards and participation in fantasy sports and sports betting.

FINDINGS:

A majority of Americans approve of making betting on professional sporting events legal; this is the highest

One in five sports fans have bet on pro sports in the last 5 years; nearly ¾ of those who have bet on sports says it makes watching sports more interesting

Not only are Americans in favor of the legalization of sports gambling, but 17% of all Americans and 21% of all sports fans have placed a bet on pro sports in the last 5 years. Among those who have placed a bet, nearly ¾ (73%) indicated that placing a bet makes watching sports more interesting and only 1% say it made it less interesting; 26% had no opinion on the issue.

16% of sports fans have participated in a fantasy sports league; sports betting is more popular and prevalent than fantasy football

With all of the focus on fantasy sports in recent years, just 16% of sports fans participated in a fantasy league in the past 5 years. Among those who participated in fantasy sports, the vast majority (80%) participated in fantasy football. Of those who play fantasy sports, 51% said in led