

## TEN THINGS EVERY BUSINESSMAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CASINOS

California's gambling advocates have long used the argument that Indian casinos will create jobs and spur economic development. They are critical of all the national studies by reputable academics that show casino gambling as being destructive by claiming that the studies are all about non-Indian casinos, and that Indian casinos somehow will not create the same problems for the community as non-Indian casinos.

Yeah, and if you believe that, then I've got a bridge in Brooklyn I'd like to sell you!

Casinos are casinos, regardless of who owns and operates them. National studies have included both non-Indian AND Indian casinos. The fact is that Native Americans, in opening casinos, are engaging in a business that is destructive to the environment, destructive to people's lives (including their own tribal members), and destructive to local economies,

Over a decade of research across the nation done by college professors and business journals on the effect of gambling on local and regional economies indicates that ***increases in gambling results in an economic decline.***

Here's the truth about the effect that ALL forms of gambling have on the community:

1. ***Casinos cause local businesses to decline and drain millions from local retail businesses::***

In South Dakota, one year after video gambling was legalized in the state, Professor Robert Goodman, from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and Director of the U. S. Gambling Study, in his study entitled, "Legalized Gambling as a Strategy for Economic Development", indicated that there were ***"...significant declines for selected activities such as clothing stores, recreation services, business services, auto dealers and service stations."***

Timothy Ryan, a University of New Orleans economist, reported that a proposed casino in New Orleans, ***"..will direct over \$62 million (AWAY) from all retail businesses, excluding hotels."***

2. ***Casinos cause an increase in homelessness:*** Goodman reported that ***"...in Atlantic City, homelessness increased after the introduction of casinos, while clothing stores and eating and drinking establishments declined.*** Only a few (new) retail stores opened in the off-Boardwalk and downtown areas."

3. ***Casinos create crime:*** In Sacramento, ***DUI's*** on the approach roads to the 1 year old Thunder Valley casino are ***up 600%*** (CHP). At the 1 1/2 year old River Rock casino, crime, including ***assaults and car thefts, is up 58%*** (Sonoma County Sheriff). In Atlantic City, ***crime increased 258% after the casinos opened.*** (National Institute of Justice).

4. ***Casinos reduce property value:*** "Researchers calculated that ***the growth of crime in the Atlantic City region reduced property values by \$24,000,000 for each easily accessible community to Atlantic City..***" (Goodman)

5. ***Local casinos ( as Indian casinos are) increase the number of compulsive gamblers:*** A casino within ten miles of a home has a significant effect on problem gambling, causing a 90% increase in the odds of becoming a pathological gambler. (University of Buffalo Research

Institute on Addiction, 2004)

6. ***Compulsive gambling is a major influence causing regional economic decline.*** Loss of job productivity and increase in white collar crimes play a part in the decline. In Connecticut, ***public officials in five towns near the two (CT) Indian casinos, several of them tax collectors, embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay their gambling debts.*** In Sonoma County, ***a bookkeeper at a Healdsburg business embezzled \$548,000 to pay her gambling debt at River Rock casino.*** (Goodman, The Buffalo News [NY], The Press Democrat [CA])

7. ***Compulsive gamblers drain regional economies of billions of dollars per year*** because of costly social programs and damage, including loss of disposable income, to existing businesses. (Goodman, also Yaffee and Politzer)

8. ***Casinos do NOT reduce unemployment:*** Employment figures for four (riverboat casino) communities shows that ***".. none of the (casinos) for which a full year of post-opening data was available showed a significant effect of reducing unemployment or increasing employment, though one showed a significant negative effect on employment."*** (Illinois Business Review)

9. ***Casinos cause NET JOB LOSS!*** Casinos promise to create thousands of jobs, but Professor John Kindt, a professor at University of Illinois, said, ***"The field research indicates that nationwide you stand to lose 1.5 jobs for every job the casinos create. In Chicago the field research indicated that 2 to 2.75 jobs would be lost if a land-based casino were built"***.

10. ***Casinos cost us all: "...for every dollar legalized gambling interests indicate is contributed in taxes, it really costs the taxpayer \$3.00 to address the increased socio-economic costs to society."*** (Kindt)

(For further reading, see also Research from Gaming Expert J. Kindt)