



NEWS

August 31, 2016

For Immediate Release
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Gambling Research Sparks National/International Attention

Albany, NY — Interest in the Rockefeller Institute's recent report on the impact of gambling on state fiscal health has peaked in recent months as state and national media organizations have cited the Institute's findings. The report's author, Dr. Lucy Dadayan, has also been a featured presenter at national association conferences both in the United States and in Canada.

At meetings of the Council of State Governments-Eastern Regional Conference, the National Council on Problem Gambling, and the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States, Dadayan showed that states turning to gambling as a quick fix for revenue woes have often been disappointed with the results. Her presentations drew from the April 2016 *Blinken Report*, entitled [State Revenues From Gambling: Short-Term Relief, Long-Term Disappointment](#).

According to Dadayan, officials in many states, having seen decreases in more-traditional categories of tax revenue, have increasingly turned to expanding gambling in the hopes of generating more tax revenues. In the recession's wake, over a dozen states have legalized and expanded different forms of gambling activities. However, the report shows that gambling revenue still plays a small role in state budgets, ranging between 2.0 and 2.5 percent of state own-source general revenues in the typical state. It also reveals that tax and fee revenues from gambling activities have softened considerably in recent years, due in part to market saturation and industry cannibalization.

The Institute's analysis of trends in gambling revenue indicates that gambling is not a reliable and sustainable source of revenue for states or a solution to their budgetary problems. Dadayan also notes that gambling may be associated with economic and social costs that are hard to quantify and measure. The study warns that, "State officials considering expansion of existing gambling activities or legalization of new activities should weigh the pros and cons carefully."

For a copy of the presentation to the Council of State Governments, go to www.rockinst.org/newsroom/news_releases/2016/Dadayan%20CSG.pdf.

The *Blinken Report on Gambling* will be the subject of a public forum at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on November 16th. For more information or an invitation, contact Rockefeller Institute Deputy Director of Operations Robert Bullock at (518) 443-5837 or robert.bullock@rockinst.suny.edu.

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About the Rockefeller Institute of Government

The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government is the public policy research arm of the State University of New York. The Institute conducts fiscal and programmatic research on American state and local governments. Journalists can find useful information on the Newsroom page of our Web site, www.rockinst.org.

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