

## PROXIMITY MATTERS!

### Far more NH residents will become problem gamblers from casinos located in New Hampshire than from casinos in Massachusetts

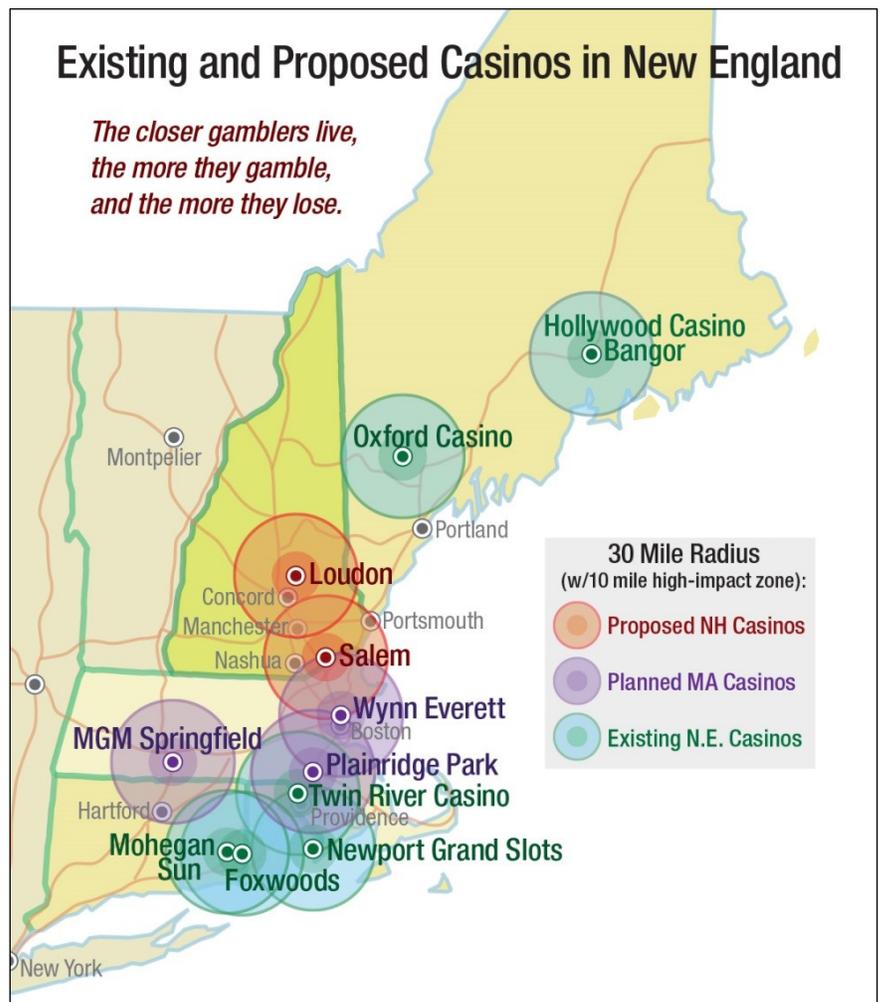
Numerous studies and common sense tell us that the closer people live to a casino the more likely they are to make a regular habit of playing the slots or high stakes table games. This is important because the people who play slot machines or casino games most frequently are the same people who are most likely to become gambling addicts, harming themselves, their families, and their communities. That is why proximity to slot machines and addiction go hand-in-hand.

NH has relatively few gambling addicts now. That's because the types of gambling now legally available in NH are the less addictive forms that don't offer continuous rapid play and because to play a legal video slot machine – the most addictive form of gambling – most NH residents have to drive more than an hour to get to a casino. Planned casinos in Everett and Springfield Massachusetts will be closer, but still more than an easy drive away for most NH residents. This lack of proximity will make it difficult for most NH residents to play the slots with the frequency (such as several times per week or even daily) that feeds, and so greatly increases, the likelihood of addiction. Casino spending drops off rapidly beyond 25 miles distance (see reverse).

This all changes if two casinos are built in New Hampshire. Less than 5% of NH's population lives within 30 miles of an existing or proposed casino, but most NH residents will live within 30 miles of a NH casino and many will live within 10-15 miles of one, where the risk of disordered gambling is the greatest. "A large-scale study in 2004 found that people who live within 10 miles of a casino have twice the rate of pathological and problem gambling as those who do not." [Why Casinos Matter, p. 18, p. 45]

With the casino market becoming rapidly saturated in the northeast, much or most of the revenue from 2 NH casinos will come from NH residents and will be losses to the players, their families and other businesses within the community.

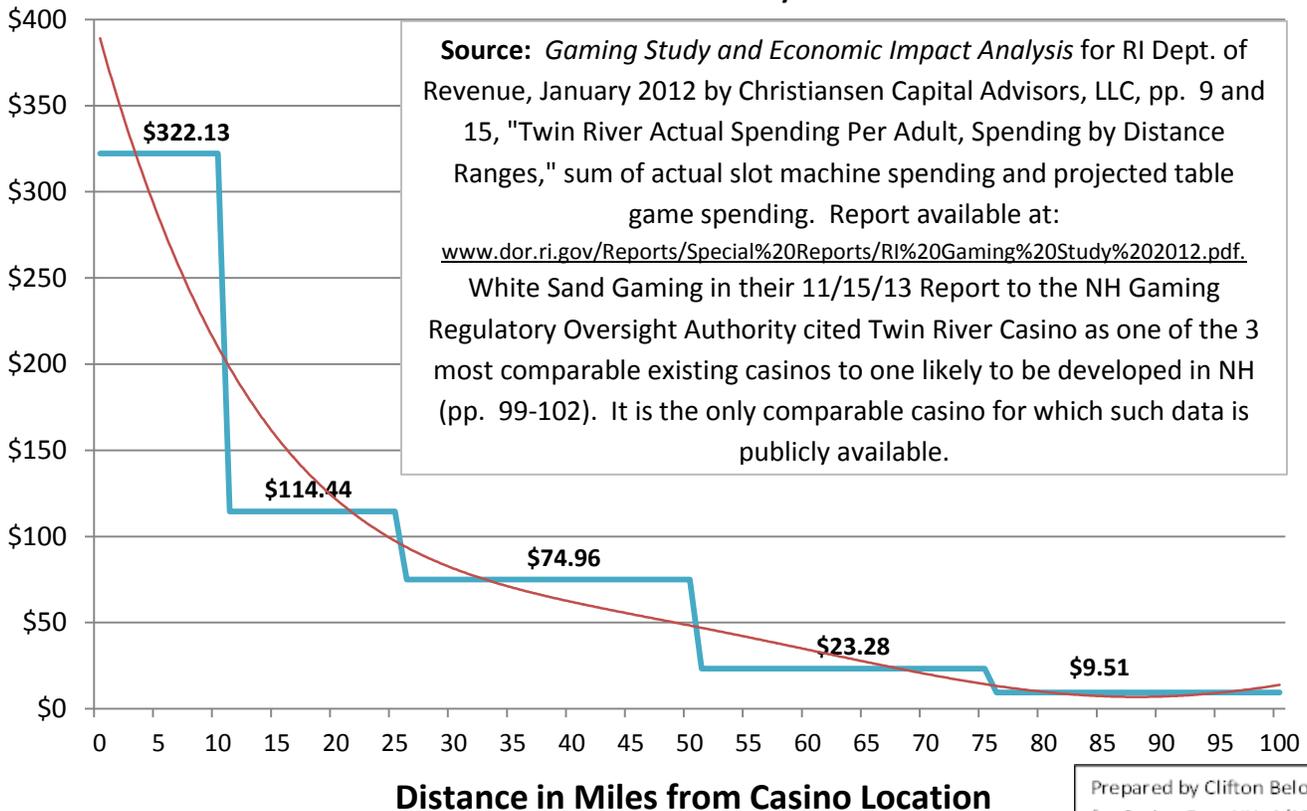
Data from UMASS Dartmouth's 4th Biennial New England Gaming Behavior Survey (p.7) confirms this effect even for destination resort-style casinos like Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun where the overwhelming portion of NH visitors only visited once or twice in the last survey year, 2012, while only 3% made 5 or more trips to Foxwoods and 0% made 5 or more trips to Mohegan Sun. In contrast, 23% of CT visitors to Foxwoods and 28% of CT visitors to Mohegan Sun made 5 or more trips in 2012.



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## Casino Spending (losses) per Adult per Year by Distance of Home from Casino

from 2012 RI Study

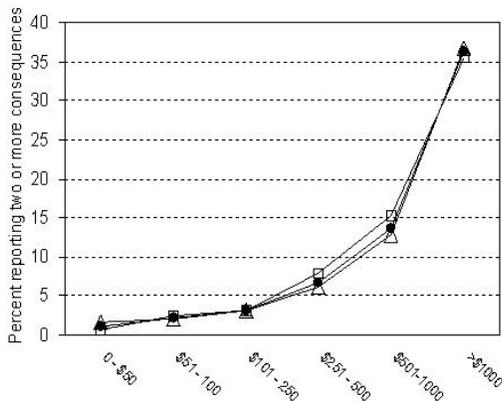


**Source:** *Gaming Study and Economic Impact Analysis* for RI Dept. of Revenue, January 2012 by Christiansen Capital Advisors, LLC, pp. 9 and 15, "Twin River Actual Spending Per Adult, Spending by Distance Ranges," sum of actual slot machine spending and projected table game spending. Report available at: [www.dor.ri.gov/Reports/Special%20Reports/RI%20Gaming%20Study%202012.pdf](http://www.dor.ri.gov/Reports/Special%20Reports/RI%20Gaming%20Study%202012.pdf). White Sand Gaming in their 11/15/13 Report to the NH Gaming Regulatory Oversight Authority cited Twin River Casino as one of the 3 most comparable existing casinos to one likely to be developed in NH (pp. 99-102). It is the only comparable casino for which such data is publicly available.

Prepared by Clifton Below  
for Casino Free NH, 4/15

### **HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES FROM GAMBLING INCREASE IN PORTION TO \$ SPENT (LOST)**

Figure 2. Harm from gambling (proportion reporting 2 or more negative consequences in last 12 months) by total dollars spend in a year for men (open triangles), women (open squares), and total population (circles). (From endnote source # 6)



From: Currie S. R., et al. "Risk of harm among gamblers in the general population as a function of level of participation in gambling activities." *Addiction* 2006; 101:570-80.

### **NH CASINOS WILL BE CONVENIENCE CASINOS DRAWING MAINLY FROM THE LOCAL MARKET:**

#### ***Pulling \$ Out of the Economy, Not Bringing \$ In***

White Sands Gaming cited Twin River as the only market comparable casino that is in New England as to what is likely for NH. Below is shown visitor travel time for Twin River Casino according to *Bring It On Home, An Overview of Gaming Behavior in New England*, 3/2013, Center for Policy Analysis, University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, p. 28.

