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January 21, 2026

AIBM launches sports betting policy hub to address rising harms—especially for young men

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, the American Institute for Boys and Men (AIBM), in partnership with [Arnold Ventures](#), announced the launch of a new Sports Betting Policy Hub—a national resource designed to help policymakers, researchers, and advocates respond to the rapid expansion of sports betting and the growing evidence of related financial and health harms, particularly among young men.

As sports betting has become more accessible, policymakers face urgent questions about consumer protection, advertising, public health impacts, and regulatory oversight. Yet critical gaps remain in policy analysis and public awareness. AIBM’s Sports Betting Policy Hub will fill those gaps by providing authoritative, timely information and by connecting key stakeholders working toward sensible regulation that reduces social harms.

The scale and stakes of this issue are high. The total amount of bets placed since legalization has exploded 30-fold—to approximately \$148 billion in 2024, according to the [American Gaming Association](#). Indicators of financial distress and calls to the National Problem Gambling Helpline have also [climbed](#) in recent years—especially in states where sports betting is legal.

Public sentiment toward sports betting has turned more negative. Notably, young men have soured the most: Among men under 30, the share who said legal sports betting is bad for society [rose](#) from 22% in 2022 to 47% in 2025, according to a [Pew Research Center survey](#).

“Sports betting has expanded faster than our understanding of its downstream effects—especially for boys and young men,” said [Richard Reeves](#), President of AIBM. “This hub will bring together the best available evidence, track policy developments as they happen, and help leaders make informed choices that protect individuals, families, and communities.”

Led by [Jonathan D. Cohen](#), the Sports Betting Policy Hub will focus on three core areas of work:

- Ongoing policy analysis: Monitoring industry and policy developments, aggregating data, and delivering practical, decision-ready insights.
- Coordination and convening: Connecting researchers, advocates, industry representatives, and policy leaders, supporting aligned strategies, and reducing duplication of effort.

- Public awareness and journalistic partnerships: Expanding public understanding of sports betting's financial and social costs through journalism partnerships and sustained media engagement.

“Smart regulation depends on clear facts, credible analysis, and strong networks of leaders who can turn evidence into action,” said [David Sasaki](#), Director of AIBM’s Boys & Men Online program. “This hub will strengthen the ecosystem by connecting policymakers, researchers, and advocates with the information and analysis they need to respond to a fast-moving industry.”

Arnold Ventures, a philanthropy focused on evidence-based policy, is supporting the policy hub with a \$2 million grant. “Our philanthropic mission is to pursue nonideological, evidence-based approaches to complex challenges, and sports betting is no exception,” said [John Arnold](#), co-founder and co-chair of Arnold Ventures. “By building a stronger foundation of research and solutions, we can provide policymakers with the insights they need to regulate effectively while protecting individual freedoms.”

In addition to the policy hub, Arnold Ventures will announce funded research grants this spring. The philanthropy received nearly one hundred responses to its 2025 request for proposals from research teams across the country. It will invest several million dollars in rigorous, causal research that deepens understanding of the financial, social, and behavioral impacts of legalized sports betting.

Key outputs of AIBM’s policy hub over the next two years will include policy briefs, commentaries, awareness campaigns, convenings, and journalistic collaborations—aimed at reaching decision-makers and the broader public. Alongside the launch, AIBM released “Sports betting in America: A policy framework to minimize financial and social distress,” a nine-part framework designed to reduce financial, emotional, and social harms without reverting to prohibition.

For more information, visit AIBM’s [Boys & Men Online program page](#).

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About AIBM

The [American Institute for Boys and Men](#) conducts non-partisan research on issues that affect the well-being of boys and men across the United States, and designs programs and policies to

help them thrive.

About Arnold Ventures

[Arnold Ventures](#) is a philanthropy that supports research to understand the root causes of America's most persistent and pressing problems, as well as evidence-based solutions to address them. By focusing on systemic change and bipartisan policy reforms, AV works to improve the lives of American families, strengthen communities, and promote economic opportunity.