

How to Beat Your Friends in Poker

Analyzing Behavioral Trends of Online Poker Players

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Texas Hold'em Overview

- **Blind** - a forced bet put in by one or more players before any cards are dealt
 - **Big Blind** - the larger of the two blinds
 - **Small Blind** - the smaller of the two blind bets
- **Pre-flop** - Any action that occurs before the flop is dealt
 - At the beginning of the game, small blind and big blind post the blinds, and cards are dealt to each player
- **Flop** - The first three community cards dealt face-up on the table
- **Turn** - The fourth community card dealt face-up on the table
- **River** - The fifth community card dealt face-up on the table
- **Showdown** - The point at which all players remaining in the hand turn their cards over and determine who has the best hand
 - If a final bet or raise is not called, there is no showdown

Behavioral Trends



Position Profitability



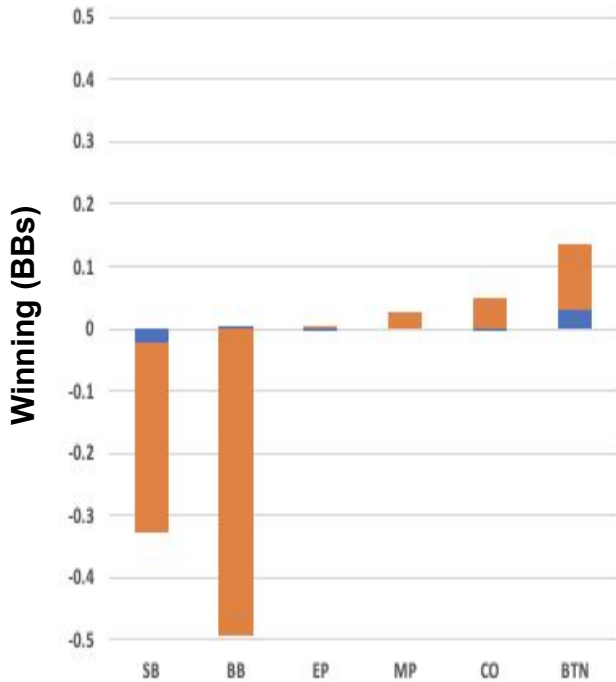
Maximum Street



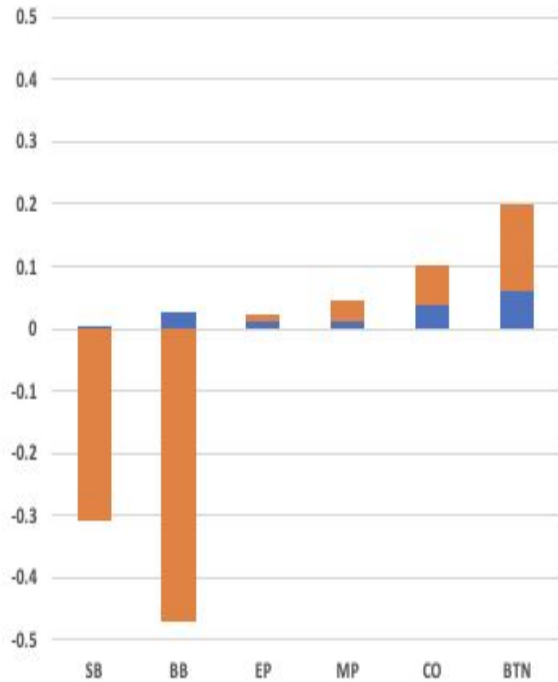
Pot Size

Profitability by Position

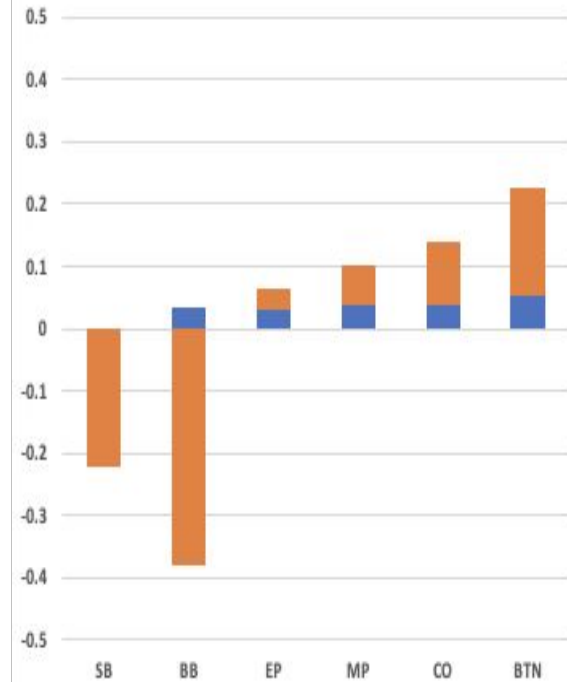
Big Blinds Between \$0-\$1



Big Blinds Between \$2-\$4

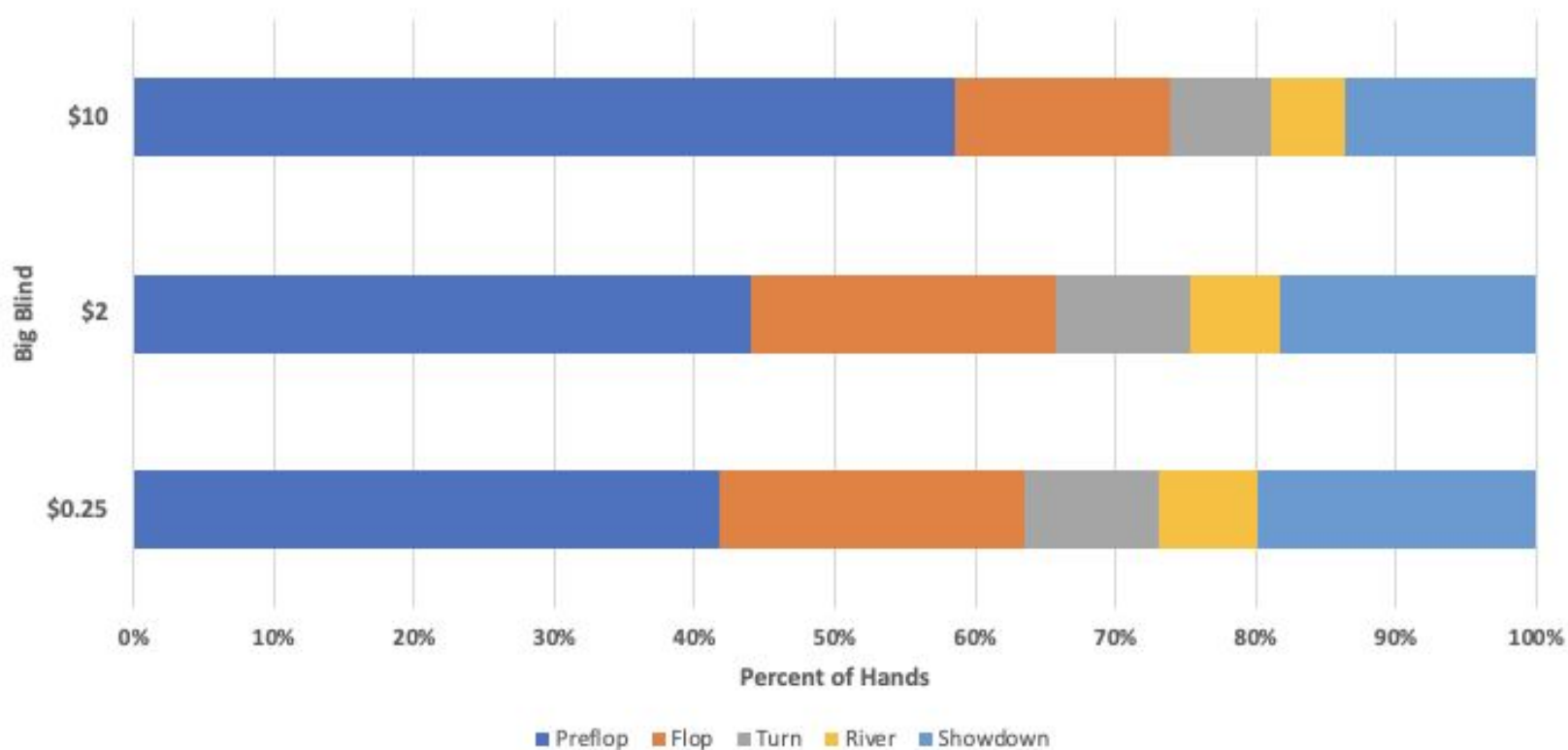


Big Blinds Between \$6-\$10

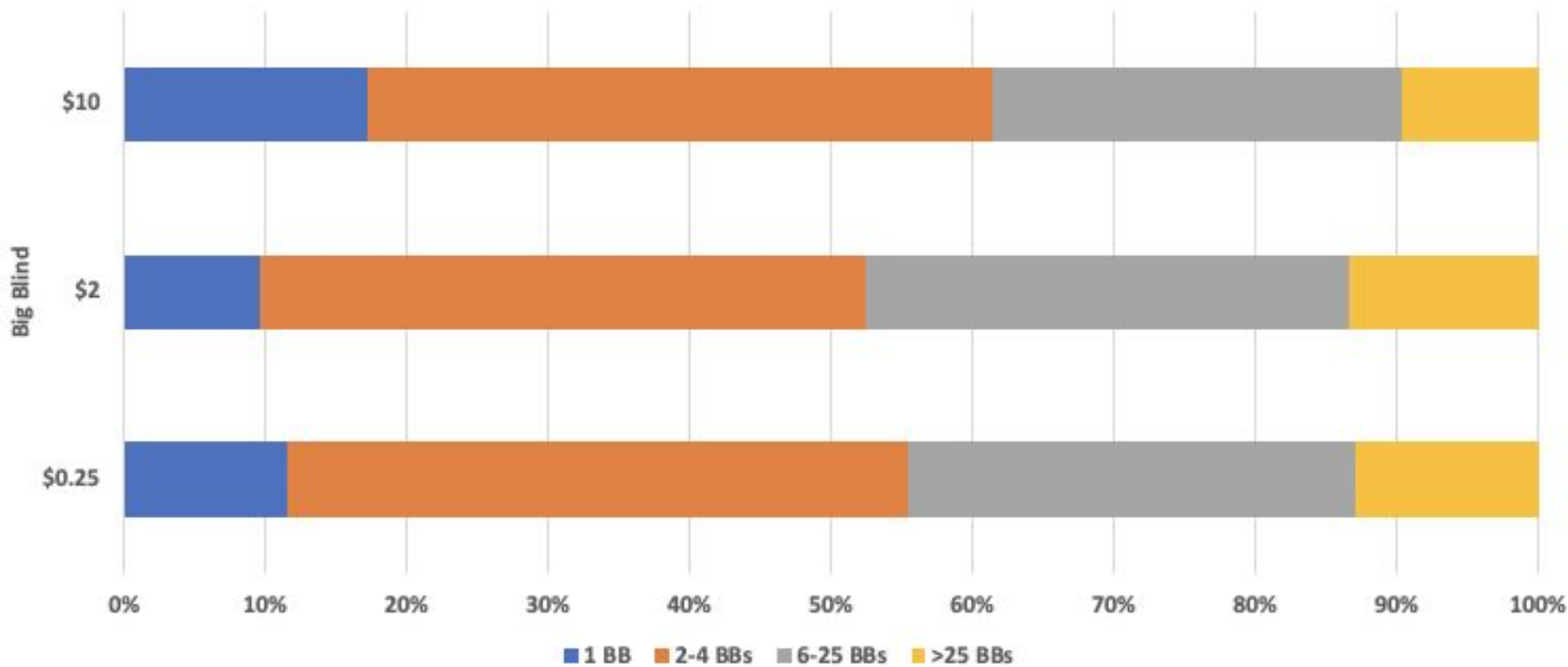


Showdown | No Showdown

Maximum Street



Pot Size



Other Behavioral Trends

- **More Experience → Less People Reaching Showdown**
 - *Distribution of net winnings are independent of blind size, but the distribution of net losses are typically lower for lower blinds*
 - *Indicates that there are more people splitting the losses during hands with lower blinds*
- **More Experience → Less People Seeing Flop**
 - *58% of hands reach flop with \$0.25 blinds*
 - *31% of hands reach flop with \$10 blinds*

How to Beat Your Friends in Poker

- ***When you're in the later positions, use the information of the cards in front of you to your advantage***
 - *Use an equity calculator to do this*
- ***Don't fall into sunk cost fallacies and be okay with cutting your losses***
- ***Be aggressive: don't be afraid to raise***

Equity Calculator

Demonstration

