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Wednesday's Powerball Jackpot: 5 Things *Less* Likely Than Winning

You're actually more likely to win the Powerball than have these things happen.

Across America, US

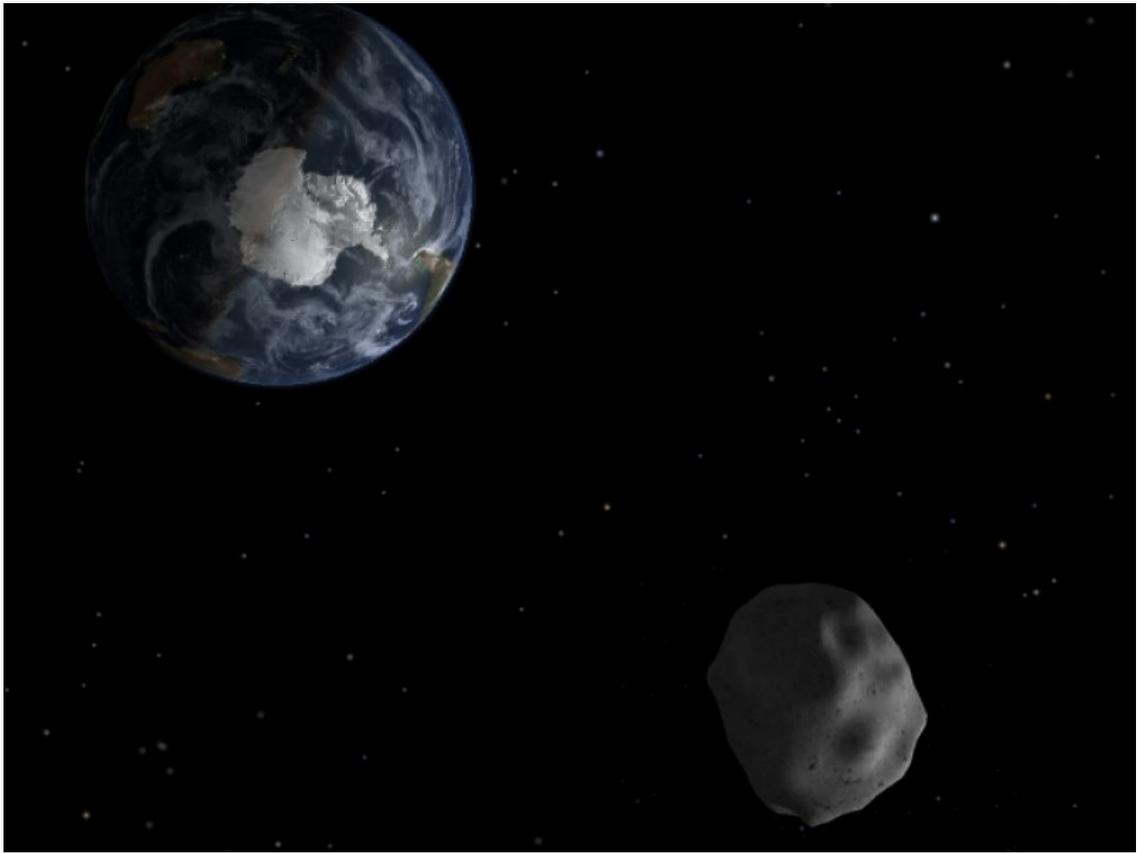
By **MARC TORRENCE** (Patch National Staff) (<http://patch.com/users/marc-torrence>)

🕒 January 12, 2016 2:58 pm ET | **P** (<http://contribute.patch.com/moderation/26110798>)

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By now, you've probably heard about how long the odds are to win Wednesday's \$1.5 billion Powerball jackpot (<http://patch.com/us/across-america/powerball-jackpot-climbs-13-billion-after-no-one-matches-winning-numbers-jan-9-0>).

Technically the odds of winning the Powerball (<http://patch.com/maryland/annapolis/powerball-jackpot-reaches-15b-your-odds-winning-0>) are 1 in 292,201,338. That means you're more likely to get hit by lightning, flip a coin heads 28 times in a row, date a supermodel or be bitten by a shark.



OK, OK, those are all pretty standard things to hear whenever a lottery jackpot gets into the hundreds of millions.

But some things have even *less* of a chance of happening than winning the lottery. What are they? Here are five things we found.

SEE ALSO:

- **[Powerball Jackpot Grows to World-Record \\$1.5 Billion for Jan. 13 Drawing \(http://patch.com/illinois/orlandpark/powerball-winning-numbers-illinois-drawing-1-billion\)](http://patch.com/illinois/orlandpark/powerball-winning-numbers-illinois-drawing-1-billion)**
- **[Powerball Jackpot Reaches \\$1.5B; Your Odds of Winning \(http://patch.com/maryland/annapolis/powerball-jackpot-reaches-15b-your-odds-winning-0\)](http://patch.com/maryland/annapolis/powerball-jackpot-reaches-15b-your-odds-winning-0)**
- **[Powerball Jackpot Climbs to \\$1.5 Billion After No Winners in Saturday's Drawing \(http://patch.com/connecticut/danbury/powerball-saturday-what-time-](http://patch.com/connecticut/danbury/powerball-saturday-what-time-)**

[will-connecticut-know-winning-numbers-0](#)

- **[Powerball Lottery Winning Numbers Sat., Jan. 9, 2016 \(http://patch.com/virginia/reston/find-winning-powerball-lottery-numbers-sat-jan-9-2016-0\)](#)**

An asteroid destroying your home

When an asteroid passed within 17,200 miles of Earth in 2012, the real estate blog Movoto calculated the [odds of an asteroid actually destroying your home \(http://www.movoto.com/blog/novelty-real-estate/asteroid/\)](#).

If you have a 1,600 square-foot house, for example, your odds were **1 in 3.4 trillion, give or take.**

Filling out a perfect March Madness bracket

Duke math professor Jonathan Mattingly put the [odds of a perfect bracket \(http://ftw.usatoday.com/2015/03/duke-math-professor-says-odds-of-a-perfect-bracket-are-one-in-2-4-trillion\)](#) at **1 in 2.4 trillion.**

More from Across America Patch

- 'Affluenza' Teen's Mom Released From Jail After Reduced Bond ([http://patch.com/us/across-america/affluenza-teens-mom-released-jail-after-reduced-bond-0](#))
- WATCH: Man Steals Python By Stuffing It In His Pants ([http://patch.com/us/across-america/see-man-puts-python-pants-rob-pet-store-reports-0](#))
- 5 People Who Won The Lottery And Blew It All ([http://patch.com](#))

And even that's a generous estimate, since he took seeding odds into account — like the fact that a 16 seed has never beaten a No. 1 seed.

A DePaul professor [calculated the odds to be **one in 128**](#)

[billion](#)

([http://www.themarysue.com](#))

[/us/across-america/5-people-who-won-lottery-blew-it-all-0\)](#) [/odds-of-perfect-bracket/#geekosystem](#)). If you went with a truly random approach (<http://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/082714/what-are-odds-getting-perfect-bracket-warren-buffetts-1-billion-march-madness-bracket-challenge.asp>), the odds are more than **1 in 9 quintillion** (one followed by 18 zeroes).

Any way you slice it, you're much more likely to win the Powerball. (So, maybe make up for the money you've wasted on Powerball by staying out of the March Madness pools?)

Shuffling cards in order

Assuming a truly random shuffle, the chances that a full deck of cards ends up in perfect order (<http://www.sciencefocus.com/qa/what-are-odds-shuffling-deck-cards-right-order>) and suit — spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs — are **1 in 1-to-the-power-of-68**. (Which is to say, 1 with 68 zeroes behind it.)

That's "roughly equal to the number of atoms in our galaxy," according to Focus magazine.

Having sextuplets

Without using any fertility treatment, the odds of having sextuplets (<http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/technology/multiple-births-1.850647>), six children at the same time, is **1 in 4.7 billion**, according to CBC. It's only been recorded 160 times worldwide, CBC reported.

Having five kids, though — at 1 in 65.61 million — is more common than winning the Powerball.

Your existence

OK, this one is a bit of a stretch, but bear with us.

Dr. Ali Binazir, who studies and writes about love and relationships, attempted to calculate the odds that you came to be (<http://blogs.harvard.edu/abinazir/2011/06/15/what-are-chances-you-would-be-born/>).

As explained in a blog post on Harvard University's website, he took into account your parents meeting and having kids together; the exact sperm meeting the exact egg; and then that happening for their parents, and their parents and so on back to the beginning of human history about 3 million years ago.

The odds he came up with? **1 in 10-to-the-power-of-2,685,000** (10 with 2,685,000 zeroes behind it).

So really, you've won the lottery already — many, many times over.

Image: NASA

Trending Across Patch

- WATCH: Wild Powerball Celebration -- Until Workers Realize They Read Wrong 'Winning' Numbers (Englewood-Englewood Cliffs, NJ) (<http://patch.com/us/across-america/s/fjnh3/watch-wild-powerball-celebration-until-workers-realize-they-read-wrong-winning-numbers>)

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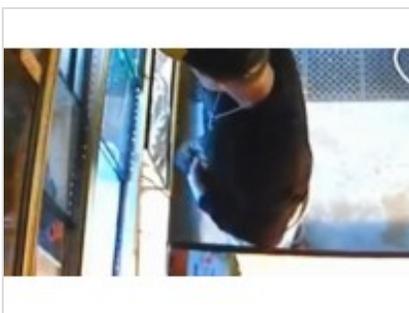
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- 2 ► **Wednesday's Powerball Jackpot: 5 Things *Less* Likely Than Winning**
(http://patch.com/us/across-america/wednesdays-powerball-jackpot-5-things-less-like-winning-0)

- 3 ► **Southern California Reporter Grabbed During Live Broadcast**
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(<http://patch.com/us/across-america/affluenza-teens-mom-released-jail-after-reduced-bond-0>)



She will be monitored electronically.

WATCH: Man Steals Python By Stuffing It In His Pants
(<http://patch.com/us/across-america/see-man-puts-python-pants-rob-pet-store-reports-0>)



Watch him in the act, then walk out like nothing happened.

5 People Who Won The Lottery And Blew It All (<http://patch.com/us/across-america/5-people-who-won-lottery-blew-it-all-0>)



Don't be these people if you win Wednesday's \$1.5 billion Powerball jackpot.

UPDATE: Men Rescued From Dangling Scaffolding In Downtown Houston (<http://patch.com/us/across-america/breaking-men-dangling-scaffolds-downtown-houston-rescue-underway-reports-0>)



Local news showed scaffolding hanging at a steep angle.

Powerball Jackpot Climbs to \$1.5 Billion for January 13 Drawing
(<http://patch.com/us/across-america/powerball-jackpot-climbs-13-billion-after-no-one-matches-winning-numbers-jan-9-0>)

No one won the near \$950 million Powerball prize



Saturday night and the jackpot has long crossed the \$1 billion mark.

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