



College Students are at Risk for Sports Betting

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SPOKESPERSON: *Available for comment/interview*
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(Green Bay, WI) – The college football bowl season kicks off on December 15. By the time the national champions are crowned on January 7, there'll have been 41 games to watch and enjoy...or to bet on and hope for a winner. Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling (WCPG) Executive Director Rose Blozinski says it's a time of temptation for those dealing with an unhealthy fixation on gambling.

“What many students see as a harmless recreation may lead to devastating consequences” states WCPG Executive Director Rose Blozinski. “College students in particular may be at higher risk for developing problems with gambling. Students, parents, coaches and administrators must realize gambling can be just as dangerous as using drugs or alcohol.”

A number of factors place college students at particular risk, including:

- **Participation:** The rate of gambling on sports by college students is twice as high as that of adults.
- **Financing:** College students find numerous ways to finance their gambling, including the easy availability of unsecured credit.
- **Accessibility:** There are over 2,000 websites that offer gambling opportunities, and the point spread is highly publicized in the media.
- **Early Onset:** The earlier an individual starts gambling the more likely they are to develop a problem.

WCPG is a statewide organization that provides resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling. The WCPG operates a Problem Gambling Helpline, Text and Chat line that are available 24/7 as a resource for anyone facing a gambling problem.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5, Text at 850-888-HOPE or Live Chat through the WCPG website at www.wi-problemgamblers.org.

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*The **Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling** is funded by a public awareness grant from the State of Wisconsin and additional funding from donors, including Wisconsin Native American Tribes. The Council operates a 24-hour Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5, distributes informational brochures, organizes an annual statewide conference, makes presentations on problem gambling and conducts training sessions for treatment providers interested in the special requirements for working with compulsive gamblers and their families.*

For more information, visit the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](#) website, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/wcpgambling>