



Thinking of Lottery Tickets as a Stocking Stuffer? WCPG says “Think Again”

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(Green Bay, WI) – It can be difficult finding the right gifts for children, particularly the teens on your list. Some people have turned to lottery tickets and scratch-offs as a last minute gift. But the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](http://www.wi-problemgamblers.org) (WCPG) says that may not be a good idea.

“With growing concerns about problem and compulsive gambling among young people, parents and others should think twice about giving lottery tickets as a present to a minor child,” said Rose Gruber, WCPG Executive Director. “Gambling at an earlier age is one of the risk factors associated with problem gambling later in life.”

A survey of 2,000 high school students in Connecticut conducted by the Yale School of Medicine found that young people who receive scratch-offs or lottery tickets tend to begin gambling earlier in life. Meanwhile, a 2013 report in the Journal “Adolescent Health” also indicated that there’s a stronger association between the age of gambling onset and the severity of problem gambling among those who received lottery tickets.

Gruber notes that it is illegal in Wisconsin for anyone under the age of 18 to buy scratch-offs or lottery tickets.

“We don't want to encourage minors to engage in gambling,” Gruber added. “If people are going to buy lottery tickets or scratch-offs as gifts, we certainly urge them to consider the age of the recipient.”

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

*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](http://www.wisconsin-council-on-problem-gambling.com) website, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/wcpgambling>

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