



WISCONSINCOUNCIL
ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

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Before you bet on the Super Bowl, know the signs of problem gambling

For Immediate Release

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(Green Bay, WI) – For many people the Super Bowl is a special day to gather with friends and relatives to party and watch the big game. But for problem gamblers, it can be another day of compulsive thoughts on betting and fantasies about winning on what’s believed to be the biggest gambling day of the year.

“For those addicted to gambling, Super Bowl Sunday and the days leading up to the big game can be very tense,” said Rose Gruber, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling. “Many problem gamblers see the Super Bowl as a last chance to catch up on their debt after a season filled with losses. But in the end, most will only have greater losses. We typically see a spike in calls around the Super Bowl.”

Last year, Helpline calls hit a monthly record of 1,434 in January and 1,110 in February on its way to a record year with 12, 946 calls to the Helpline.

Gruber notes that a simple bet on the big football game is not a problem for most people, but it can be for approximately five to seven percent of Wisconsin’s population. Signs of problem or compulsive gambling include:

- Using your income or savings to gamble while letting bills go unpaid
- Repeated, unsuccessful attempts to stop gambling
- Arguing about your gambling behavior with people you care about
- Feeling depressed or suicidal because of your gambling losses

Gruber says any gambler who feels they may have a problem, should call the Helpline at 800-GAMBLE-5. The 24-hour, statewide Helpline offers problem and compulsive gamblers a place to turn for assistance and referrals. The Helpline is staffed by trained volunteers and professional staff who work with a statewide database of qualified treatment providers, Gamblers Anonymous and GamAnon (for family members) chapters to which callers can be referred.

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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 www.wi-problemgamblers.org.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 for confidential help.

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