

FINDING HELP

THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING HAS A 24-HOUR HELPLINE THAT PROVIDES INFORMATION AND REFERRALS FOR GAMBLERS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND CONCERNED FRIENDS OR EMPLOYERS OF GAMBLERS WHO HAVE FINANCIAL, LEGAL OR OTHER DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF THEIR GAMBLING.



*Help is just
a call
away:*

1-800-GAMBLE-5

Mission Statement:

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling provides resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling.



The Council's public awareness campaign is funded by the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services, Division of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery.

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GAMBLING & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



1-800-GAMBLE-5



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GAMBLING & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Domestic violence takes many forms: physical violence, sexual abuse, psychological and emotional abuse, social abuse, financial abuse, harassment and stalking
- 25-50% of spouses of compulsive gamblers have been abused (National Research Council, 1999)
- Survey of 144 spouses of compulsive gamblers found 50% were physically and verbally abused by spouse and 12% had attempted suicide (Bland, Newman, Orn & Stebelski, 1993)
- Emergency room study showed odds ratio of intimate partner violence increased 10.5 times when partner was a problem gambler (Muelleman, Denotter, Wadman Tran & Anderson, 2002)
- For many women gambling venues are a refuge from violence and gambling becomes a method of escape.
- Child neglect is a form of domestic violence. In Indiana 72 children were found abandoned on casino premises in a 14 month period (Courier Journal, 7/18/2000)
- In Mississippi domestic violence centers reported 300% increase in requests for help after casinos opened (National Gambling Impact Commission Study)
- Nebraska medical school study found problem gambling as much a risk for domestic violence as alcohol abuse (Jejkal, 2000)

Higher Rate of Violence

Partners and children of pathological gamblers experience high rates of physical and verbal abuse. Women whose partners are compulsive gamblers are 10.5 times more likely to be victims of domestic violence than if the partner is not a gambler, according to the “Pathological Gambling” report. If the gambler is also an alcoholic, women are more than 50 times more likely to experience domestic violence.

Though violence is more prominent in families with a pathological gambler, the reasons behind the violence are unclear, according to the report. While the violence could be related to the gambler’s antisocial behavior, mood disorder or substance abuse, it could also be linked to poor impulse control, aggressiveness or low frustration tolerance.

Taken from CRC Health Group, Inc.