

IT'S JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT! No big deal!



**Older Adult Problem
Gambling is a big deal!
Ask their adult children calling
our Helpline.**

Many older adults are unaware of the problems excessive gambling may cause and the potential for addiction. Many adults begin gambling more frequently later in life. It is important to know the difference between social and problem gambling. **It becomes a problem when it has a negative effect on your life and the lives of people close to you.** Not all gambling is problem gambling.

It may be merely an occasional social activity. However, this can lead to problem gambling. Gambling may also be used as a coping mechanism. Older adults are often widowed and frequently suffer losses of lifelong friends; may be geographically separated from loved ones; or may be simply bored or unhappy with retirement. Seniors sometimes see gambling as a way to supplement a limited income. Problem gambling affects all ages, male and female. **It is a hidden illness and can be difficult to address, especially with older adults.**

Did you know problem gamblers:

- May lie about their gambling?
- May hide their losses?
- May chase losses?
- May gamble in spite of the consequences?
- May borrow money to gamble?
- May deplete savings & insurance?



ADOLESCENTS = High Risk Population

MYTH: Kids are too young to have a gambling problem
FACT: Almost 20% (ages 12-19) have a gambling problem

Did you know adolescent problem gamblers...
May have lower self-esteem compared with other adolescents?

May have higher rates of depression and report higher suicidal tendencies and attempts?

May be truant from school to go gambling and as a result have poor grades in school?

**So when you think
adolescent problem
gambling is no big deal...
How much
you wanna' bet?**



Problem gambling behavior exists in 6-20% of adolescents ages 12-19. Adolescents are two to four times more likely than adults to have this problem. Social gambling can quickly move to problem gambling. Wagering is thought of as a grown-up privilege; therefore, adolescents are more susceptible to developing this behavior. **Even your kids!**

**Can adolescents become
problem gamblers?**

Yes.

**Approximately 2 out of 3
adolescents gamble.**



Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling — 1-800-GAMBLE-5 (426-2535)
www.wi-problemgamblers.org email: wcp@wi-problemgamblers.org

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.

Did You Know?...

Gambling Can Affect Everyone.

- Approximately 333,000 WI residents have a gambling problem.
- Compulsive gamblers are more likely not to buy homes.
- Compulsive gamblers are more likely not to take vacations.
- Compulsive gamblers are more likely not to pay their taxes.
- 14,731 people called the WCPG Helpline in 2014.
- \$46,967 was the average debt in 2014.
- Female gamblers calling WCPG 24-hour Helpline have increased 91% since 1996.
- Calls to WCPG 24-hour Helpline have increased 329% since 1996.

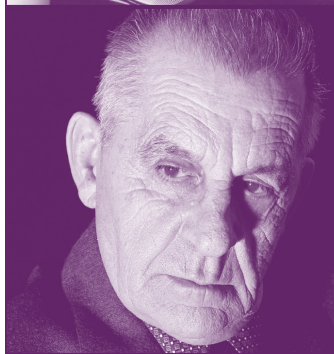
Many compulsive gamblers are homeless, hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, may have filed bankruptcy, committed illegal acts or attempted suicide. They are not the only ones affected by their addiction. It affects families, friends and employers.

Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling

- Provides education and awareness on the issues of problem and compulsive gambling.
- Provides training for treatment providers.
- Offers a 24-hour Helpline.
- Maintains neutrality on the topic of legalized gambling.
- Is a model for other states in the country.
- Is one of 36 affiliates of the National Council on Problem Gambling in Washington, D.C.
- Is the only organization in Wisconsin dedicated to assisting thousands of problem and compulsive gamblers.

According to the National Council on Problem Gambling

- Suicide rates are 20 times higher among pathological gamblers.
- 65% of compulsive gamblers commit crimes to finance their gambling.
- Six to twenty percent of adolescents develop gambling problems.
- People who have other addictions are at a higher risk of becoming addicted to gambling.
- Seniors and adolescents are at high risk to become addicted to gambling.



A Milwaukee County man called looking for help for himself and his wife. His wife is the gambler. "She left 5 days ago and hasn't been back. She has been bouncing checks and pawned our wedding rings." His wife has had 3 surgeries for a head injury and is still in extreme pain.

An Outagamie County man had owned his own company but lost it due to his gambling. He is over \$30,000 in debt.

A distraught woman called after buying \$10k of lottery tickets. She doesn't know what will happen when her husband finds out.

A Dane County caller tells the WCPG that her gambling "was an escape, but now it is not fun any more."

The WCPG made a follow up call to a Rock County man. Since he called the Helpline he has not gambled and has gone to Gamblers Anonymous. He also found the information that was sent to him very helpful.

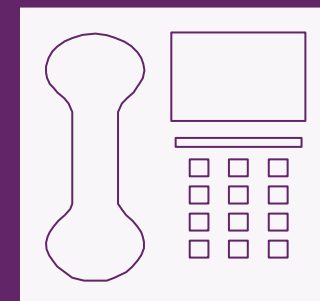
14,731 called for Help in 2014.

We Listened.

Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling offers a 24 hour Helpline to assist problem and compulsive gamblers. **REAL CALLS.**

REAL PROBLEMS.

Approximately 333,000 Wisconsin residents have a gambling problem. Average debt in 2014 was \$46,967.



A Portage County woman called the WCPG Helpline for information on a treatment provider in her area that treats someone with a gambling addiction. She told the WCPG, "I am very thankful that you are here and do what you do."

A California mother called with concerns for her daughter who lives in Wisconsin. "She has huge IRS problems and is selling blood platelets for money to gamble." The daughter told her mother that "she feels like an outsider, the black sheep of the family."



WISCONSIN COUNCIL
ON PROBLEM GAMBLING



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*Calls come from every county in the state. *Please Note: Examples are similar to calls received on the WCPG Helpline. The Helpline is confidential and all calls have been modified to ensure the anonymity and confidentiality of callers.

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