

PROBLEM GAMBLING FACT SHEET



Whether you're seeking information for yourself or a loved one, this fact sheet can help you gain a better understanding of what problem gambling is, its impact, and how to find support.

What is Problem Gambling?

Problem gambling (sometimes referred to as “gambling addiction” or “gambling disorder”) is gambling behavior that is damaging to a person or their family, often disrupting their daily life and career. Anyone who gambles can be at-risk for developing a gambling problem. Gambling disorder is a recognized mental health diagnosis.

Some warning signs of a gambling problem are:

- Thinking about gambling all the time.
- Feeling the need to bet more money and more often.
- Going back to try to win your money back (“chasing losses”).
- Feeling restless or irritable when trying to stop or cut down.
- Gambling despite negative consequences.
- In extreme cases, problem gambling can cause bankruptcy, legal problems, job loss, family harms, and thinking about suicide.

How Widespread is Problem Gambling in the U.S.?

- An estimated 2.5 million US adults (1%) meet the criteria for severe gambling problems in a given year.
- Another 5-8 million (2-3%) meet one or more of the criteria for gambling disorder and are experiencing problems due to their gambling behavior.

Problem Gambling Support & Resources

The National Problem Gambling Helpline (1-800-GAMBLER) is available via call, text, or chat and can provide detailed information regarding treatment resources available in your area.

The National Council on Problem Gambling estimates that the annual national social cost of problem gambling is \$14 billion.

These costs include job loss, bankruptcy, gambling-related healthcare spending and other consequences.

Get Help for a Gambling Problem

Call: 1-800-GAMBLER • Text: 800GAM • Chat: www.1800gamblerchat.org