

Facts About Gambling

Did You Know?...

- **Addiction** is a condition that results from someone ingesting a substance or engaging in an activity which then becomes habitual and interferes with their life. Addiction is psychological or physiological dependence on a substance or activity that is beyond voluntary control.
- 3-5% of the population are problem gamblers, while slightly less than 1% are pathological gamblers, which is an addictive illness. Problem gamblers can progress to pathological gamblers.
- A major depressive disorder is likely to occur in 3 out of 4 problem gamblers (76%), and 1 in 5 problem gamblers (20%) have attempted suicide. That rate is 20 times higher than for non-gamblers.
- 65% of problem gamblers commit crimes to support their gambling habit. The annual social cost of problem gambling is an estimated \$7 billion.
- Research indicates between 9.9% and 14.2% of adolescents are at risk of developing serious gambling problems.
- Teenagers experiment earlier and get hooked into gambling more quickly. Many start gambling before age 11, earlier than they experiment with alcohol and drugs.
- Most teens with serious gambling problems were introduced to gambling by a parent or other adult close to them.

In Butler County:

- 40% of adults ages 25-64 know someone who they think may have a gambling problem. 15% of youth under age 18 know someone who they think may have a gambling problem.
- **Youth are gambling!**
 - Youth under age 18 prefer the following types of gambling:
 - Betting on sporting events (48.1%),
 - Playing bingo (44.2%),
 - Playing games of skills for money (36.5%), and
 - Betting on video games (30.8%)
 - 21.7% of youth under age 18 are **at risk** for a potential gambling problem (they reported at least one of the following behaviors: felt need to bet/gamble more money, lied about gambling, borrowed money, felt guilty about gambling)

See the next page for more information and resources for problem gambling

Resources for Problem Gambling

Certified Gambling Counselors

Dawn Boggs

3104 Unionville Road, Suite 175
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
724-776-3366

Transformation Counseling Center

314 Thomson Park Drive
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
Brent Olean, 724-496-8377
Brady Novotny, 724-814-9720

Kathleen Wilson

6200 Brooktree Road, Suite 210
Wexford, PA 15090
412-292-8439

Armstrong County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs/ARC Manor

724-548-7607

Kittanning office: 200 Oak Avenue,
Kittanning, PA 16201

Leechburg office: 116 Main Street,
Leechburg, PA 15656

Other Resources

Gamblers Anonymous

Pittsburgh hotline: 724-281-7484
www.gamblersanonymous.org

PA Problem Gambling Helpline

1-877-565-2112

PA Problem Gambling website

<http://www.paproblemgambling.com>

National Council on Problem Gambling

<http://www.ncpgambling.org>

Lanie's Hope

<http://lanieshope.org/>

ButlerFirstStep

www.ButlerFirstStep.org

Butler County Problem Gambling Council

Butler County Human Services: Drug & Alcohol Programs
Beth Ehrenfried-Neveux, 724-284-5114,
bneveux@co.butler.pa.us

WARNING SIGNS FOR GAMBLING PROBLEMS

Adults

- Always thinking about gambling or having an urge to gamble that they can't stop
- Having to bet more money more often to keep up the thrill of gambling
- Being cranky when trying to cut back
- Lying to hide gambling
- Making bets through illegal activity
- Trying to win money lost by gambling more
- Using gambling as an escape
- Relying on others to help them when they lose all their money

Teens

- Desperation to have money, valuables missing from home
- Keeps quiet about amount taken to gamble or amounts returned from gambling
- Cards/dice at school
- Missing/late to school
- Excessive sports watching
- Carrying large amounts of cash
- Secretive/late night phone calls
- Not able to control or stop their gambling

Gambling treatment is covered under some insurance plans or available FREE of charge for individuals and family members/significant others without insurance coverage. Contact a certified gambling counselor for more info.

Last updated 01/18