



# FACTS ABOUT YOUTH GAMBLING

## DID YOU KNOW?!?!



People with addiction use substances or engage in behaviors that become compulsive and often *continue despite harmful consequences*. Addiction is a treatable, chronic medical disease involving complex interactions among brain circuits, genetics, the environment and an individual's life experiences.



GAMING & Gambling Disorder have similar characteristics:

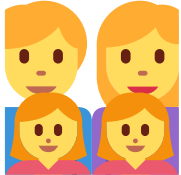
- Taking over important parts of life
- Impaired control
- Increased priority given to games
- Lying about gaming
- CONTINUED USE DESPITE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES



### PREVENTION WORKS!

**Make smart decisions about gambling & gaming**

1. Set and stick to time limits
2. Set and stick to MONEY limits
3. Play for FUN, not to win money
4. Don't let gaming become your whole life



**Most teens with serious gambling problems were introduced to gambling by a parent or other adult close to them**

Youth who start spending money WITHIN games are more likely to gamble later and are at risk for more gambling problems later in life

## In Butler County:

# 13.8%



of youth ages 12-17 were considered "at risk" for problem gambling

### Youth under 18 prefer:

- Betting on video games (46%)
- Playing cards for money (46%)
- Betting on sports events (33%)

Youth gamble because:  
it's "fun" and  
"to win/make money"

Teen Help.com

<http://www.teenhelp.com/money/teen-gambling/>

Youth Gambler Self-Assessment

<http://www.cdpha.ca.gov/Programs/OPG/Pages/youth-self-assessment.aspx>

Gamblers Anonymous

Pittsburgh Hotline: 724-281-7484

[www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org)

PA Problem Gambling Helpline

1-800-GAMBLER or 1-877-565-2112

TEXT LINE: 1-800-522-4700

Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania

<http://www.pacouncil.com>

National Council on Problem Gambling

<http://www.ncpgambling.org>

ButlerFirstStep

[www.ButlerFirstStep.org](http://www.ButlerFirstStep.org)

## WARNING SIGNS FOR TEEN GAMBLING ADDICTION

- Begins to sell personal belongings.
- Borrows money from friends and family and does not repay it.
- Steals and lies.
- Has large amounts of cash that cannot be explained.
- Has a great deal of debt that cannot be explained.
- Strangers call on the phone with increasing frequency.
- Withdraws from his or her regular social groups and activities.
- Makes "900" number calls to gambling numbers.
- Appears distracted and anxious; can be moody or depressed.
- Unexplained absences from school or work.
- Breaks curfew regularly.
- Spends hours on online gambling sites.
- Obsession with sports scores can indicate a sports gambling habit.

