



PROBLEM GAMBLING
AWARENESS MONTH
→ HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Problem Gambling Awareness Month

March 2015 Bulletin 2

Keep the Problem out of Gambling: Who's at Risk

Research on groups at higher risk for gambling problems:

- Men remain at higher risk for gambling problems than women. However, women are catching up and women who develop gambling problems are likely to progress from no problem to problem gambling much faster than men. (Volberg, 2006)
- Teens and young adults have 2 to 4X the rate of problem gambling than adults (CT Youth Gambling Study, 2008)
- Student athletes (Huang, et al., 2007)
- Older adults who gamble at gambling facilities are 6 times more likely to be problem gamblers than older adults in the general population. (McNeilly & Burke, 2000)
- Individuals with a history of a substance use disorder. One study found problem drinkers to be 23X more likely to have a gambling problem (Welte, 2001)
- Individuals with a history of a mental health disorder. One CT study found individuals in treatment for a serious mental illness had over 10X more likely to meet criteria for problem gambling than the general adult population (Desai & Potenza, 2009)
- Ethnic and minority groups that are most economically and socially marginalized in an area. (Volberg et al, 2007)
- Individuals who work in the gambling industry (Shaffer et al, 1999)

Other Risk Factors:

- ✓ The younger someone starts gambling the higher the risk of developing gambling problems
- ✓ Times of major life change or loss (retirement, transition from high school to college, death of a loved one, immigrating to a new country, etc)
- ✓ Living within 50 miles of a casino.
- ✓ Having a parent who had or has a gambling problem.
- ✓ History of trauma or neglect.

For more information contact Problem Gambling Services at 860.344.2244 or www.ct.gov/dmhas/pgs
Toll Free Problem Gambling Helpline: 888-789-7777