

CONNECTICUT COUNCIL on
PROBLEM
GAMBLING

2022 Annual Report



Forging the path to recovery for those affected by gambling related harms.

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Message From Our Executive Director

Dear friends,

2022 was a year of changes for the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling. The restrictions set in place due to COVID finally began being lifted and people started to return to a version of normalcy. In addition, online gambling, first implemented in the fall of 2021, was fully in effect resulting in a sustained increase of calls/chats to our Problem Gambling Helpline.

The primary focus of our advocacy before the Connecticut General Assembly resulted in the successful passage of legislation enabling a prevalence study of gambling across the state. With online gambling now a fully codified reality, this new data is sorely needed to understand the scope and impact of the expansion. The initiative was fully funded and tasked the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services with commissioning a study.

The Council saw itself grow and change in 2022. After having had to reduce our staffing levels at the onset of the pandemic, we were able to expand our team once again by hiring a training and prevention coordinator and a helpline coordinator. After our team successfully demonstrated its ability to work remotely, we decided to continue the model and were able to get out of a costly lease and move to a much more streamlined office space in the Non-Profit Center in Hartford. That money, that for many years went to an expensive overhead, can now be redirected towards programs to help those adversely impacted by problem gambling. Our Board of Directors saw significant change as well. After many years of leadership, Dr. Willie Coleman has stepped down as President and Dave Fleming has assumed the role. We were fortunate to see several new board members volunteer to be a part of our organization that brought new experience in legal and veterans' issues among their diversified skill sets.

CCPG continued to offer a robust slate of training initiatives for those interested in learning about gambling related issues. The College Campus Gambling Initiative saw several Connecticut colleges and universities accept funding to incorporate problem gambling prevention strategies. The Fox 61 Student News Program saw several submissions into our "Not Just a Game" category where students develop news stories on gambling related issues. Our Powered Up Professional training sought to raise awareness regarding the correlation among gaming and gambling and enable parents and others influential to youth to begin to have conversations on the topic. Our 19th Annual Conference, hosted in Glastonbury, was almost filled to capacity, and featured an exciting group of presenters.

Lastly, we maintained our strong relations with our gambling industry partners, Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mohegan Sun, the Connecticut Lottery, and Sportech. We also successfully developed relationships with the new providers, Wondr Nation, DraftKings, FanDuel, and Rush Street Interactive, that have begun operating in our state since the implementation of online gaming.

I'm proud of the work that the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling has done this year to strengthen the state's Problem Gambling Safety Net. I'm optimistic about the future for our organization and our mission to share responsible gambling strategies to those that choose to gamble and to always be here for those that are adversely affected by gambling related harms to help them on their road to recovery.

Diana Goode, Executive Director
CT Council on Problem Gambling



About CCPG

The Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG) is a non-profit agency dedicated to reducing gambling related harm and helping those who may be negatively impacted by gambling. CCPG does not advocate for or against gambling but is committed to working with all stakeholders to help individuals and families who are experiencing issues. CCPG provides Connecticut's only 24/7 helpline- offering support, resources and referrals through phone, chat and text.

CCPG actively collaborates with behavioral health experts, community stakeholders, the state gambling regulatory agency, the gambling industry and the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services (DMHAS) Problem Gambling Services division to ensure the safety of our community.

Problem Gambling is known as the “hidden addiction” because there are almost no visible signs.



Our Team



Staff:

Diana Goode, Executive Director

Kaitlin Brown, Senior Director of Programs & Services

Paul Tarbox, Director of Public Policy & Communications

Rayallen Bergman, Prevention & Training Coordinator

Valerie Tebbetts, Helpline Coordinator

Board of Directors:

David Fleming, President

Tina LaMorte, Vice President

Alex Clausen, Treasurer

Jennifer Leavitt, Secretary

Greg Adams

Declan Barry

Willie Coleman

Aaron Jones

Programs & Services

Problem Gambling Helpline: Provides free support, resources and referrals to counseling, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to individuals or those impacted by gambling related harm (available via phone, text & chat). From the launch of online gambling offerings in October the calls/chats to the helpline increased significantly. Compared to the year before, calls/chats/texts increased 91%, with a 76% increase in calls and a 620% in chats.

Training: in 2022 CCPG offered a total of 37 trainings where 1184 people took the opportunity to increase their knowledge and awareness of problem gambling, as well as ways to integrate these concepts into their work.

Outreach: CCPG staffers hosted resource tables at many events such as the CCAR Recovery Fest, Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Stand Down, Recovery Celebrations, Vets Rock Event at Mohegan Sun Casino, and Yard Goat Games

The College Campus Gambling Prevention Initiative provided grants to 9 CT Colleges and Universities. With this funding, campuses implemented activities utilizing the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) to increase awareness that gambling is not a risk-free activity. Strategies include policy change, surveys, focus groups, integration of gambling materials at wellness events and trainings with RA's, Public Safety, students and staff.



CCPG's website designed to facilitate conversations among youth and parents about the harms associated with problem gambling and gaming: Ctgamblingandgaming.org

The Fox61 Student News Program provided training and scholarships to students submitting news stories in the category of "Not A Game" discussing Gambling as a co-occurring disorder and potential risks to youth.

CCPG was proud to partner with the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), and DMHAS Problem Gambling Services (PGS) on the Gambling Awareness Youth Media Project which provided training to middle and high school students including types of gambling, warning signs, risk factors and resources. Students utilize the information learned to create campaigns to educate their peers and communities.

The Powered-Up Program provided information about gaming to parents and young people across the state. Through the Powered Up Professional Program, CCPG trained Prevention Specialists and Behavioral Health Providers around the topics of healthy gaming. CCPG staff provided support in facilitating conversations to educate communities they serve about healthy gaming, boundaries and the convergence between gaming and gambling.

Advocacy



The 2022 legislative session was one of the shortest in the last few decades. Even with those tight deadlines, CCPG has remained busy advocating for the interests of problem gambling community by meeting with legislators and testifying on bills before the Public Safety, Public Health, Insurance, and General Law Committees. Most importantly, CCPG was instrumental in advocating for a fully funded study on the effects of legalized gambling throughout the State of Connecticut. The data will be crucial in helping direct programs and resources in the future, especially with the implementation of online gambling last year.

CONNECTICUT COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DIANA GOODE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CONNECTICUT COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING
PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 03, 2022

S.B. No. 140 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING STUDIES OF THE EFFECT OF LEGALIZED GAMBLING IN THE STATE.

Sen. Clizen, Rep. Horn and Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill to study the effect of legalized gambling. My name is Diana Goode, Executive Director of the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling (CCPG).

Connecticut has approximately 3,565,000 citizens. That means that over 100,000 citizens and over 275,000 family members are negatively impacted by gambling every day. Using current population models, gambling related problems directly affects 735 individuals and 1,911 family members in each House district and 3,056 individuals and 7,946 family members in each Senate district.

It is our strong recommendation that the state, through a neutral organization or institution of higher education, conduct surveys of the prevalence of gambling related harm, this is especially necessary given the new landscape after the expansion of legalized gambling (i.e., sports betting, online wagering, casino expansion) and at regular periods thereafter to monitor impacts and have data that will support evidence-based mitigation efforts. Data collected by regulated operators on gambling activity should be made publicly available through the regulatory agency to qualified researchers to help support mitigation efforts. To safeguard consumers, this data should be encrypted and de-identified to remove personally identifying information, consistent with federal and state privacy, intellectual property, and freedom of information laws.

The bill language calls for the study of gambling activity engaged in by the public and the desirability of expanding, maintaining, or reducing the amount of legalized gambling permitted in this state. We feel that the study and collection of this data must be conducted by an independent provider that isn't affiliated with the gaming industry to completely ensure impartiality.

While the CCPG does not advocate for or against gambling, we feel that it is necessary to ensure that the state has a robust problem gambling safety net to help those individuals and families impacted by problem gambling and to reduce harms. Additionally, the need to educate those that choose to gamble about responsible gambling strategies is vital to ensuring that those consumers have the knowledge at their disposal to play safer. We can't do that without understanding the scope of gambling's impact on



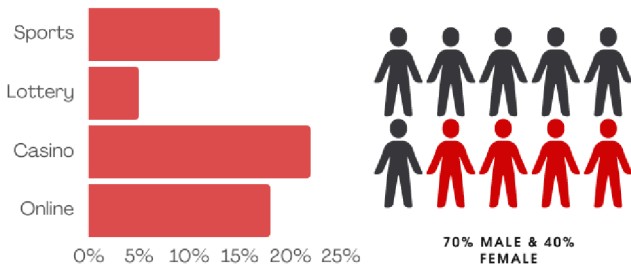
Helpline

CONNECTICUT COUNCIL on
**PROBLEM
GAMBLING**

HELPLINE DATA 2022



Approximately 75% of helpline callers were referred to the Better Choice Gambling Specific Treatment Program and/or peer support services



UNDER THE AGE OF 35



REFERRED TO GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS OR GAM-ANON



INFO ON SELF EXCLUSION



CALLING FOR THEMSELVES



REPORT CO-OCCURRING CONCERNS



CALL FOR HELP VS. CHAT OR TEXT

**P R O B L E M
G A M B L I N G
H E L P L I N E**

24/7

1-888-789-7777

www.ccpq.org/chat



Total Increases in Calls/Texts/Chats

91%
Increase of Calls/Texts/Chats from 2021 to 2022

76%
Increase of Helpline Calls from 2021 to 2022

620%
Increase of Helpline Chats from 2021 to 2022

Training

Topics Covered

37

Trainings Offered By CCPG

1184

People Trained

- Overview of Problem Gambling & Current Trends
- Plug Back into Life: Normal Versus Disordered Screen Use
- PGAM Kick Off Recovery Event
- Legalized Sports Betting in CT: Potential Impacts
- Fish & Chips: All-inclusive Collegiate Responsible Gambling Programming
- To The Moon! A Virtual Introduction to Cryptocurrency
- Gambling 101: The Nuts & Bolts
- Not Just a Game: CT Gambling Expansion & Potential Impacts for Youth
- Overview of Stacked Deck & Adaptations in CT
- Discovering the Synergy Between Problem Gambling & Substance Misuse Prevention
- Problem Gambling: Understanding Disparities and Building Health Equity
- Gambling as a Co-Occurring Disorder
- The Evolving World of Gaming & Gambling
- CADCA Building capacity for problem Gambling using the SPF (Part 1)
- CADCA Building capacity for problem Gambling using the SPF (Part 2)
- CADCA Building capacity for problem Gambling using the SPF (Part 3)
- Powered Up Player, Parent & Professional Program Training Part 1
- Powered Up Player, Parent & Professional Program Training Part 2
- CADCA Building capacity for problem Gambling using the SPF (Part 4)
- A Guide to Unlocking Your Full Leadership Capacity
- Problem Gambling, Gambling-Motivated Crime, and the Criminal Justice System
- Caring for our Military and Veterans: Ethical Considerations for Culturally Informed Care
- The Animal-Human Therapy Team
- Hidden in Plain Sight
- Access to Care for Gambling Disorder: Thinking Outside the Box
- A Covert Threat: Problem Gambling Among U.S. Veterans
- LGBTQ+ & Gambling-Disorder
- Overview of Anonymous & Gam-anon Meetings

www.ct.gov/dmhas/pgs
www.ccpg.org



Responsible Play



In 2021, CCPG working in partnership with Foxwoods Resort Casino, Mohegan Sun, the Connecticut Lottery, and Sportech designed and launched a statewide marketing campaign: Responsible Play – The CT Way. Providing responsible gambling tips and strategies to Connecticut residents that chose to gamble. Throughout 2022 the campaign was expanded. CCPG completed a major upgrade and redesign of the Responsible Play website. Foxwoods, Mohegan Sun, and Sportech have used the images in posters, brochures, digital displays, and employee educational materials throughout the respective facilities. The Connecticut Lottery has placed the new logo on its various terminals, digital vending machines, retail counter mats, the organization’s website, in billboards, and in employee educational trainings.

The Responsible Play Campaign was selected as a Finalist for the AGA's Responsible Gaming Award!

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CCPG In The News



The expansion of online gambling in October of 2021 led to a significant increase in calls and chats to CCPG's Problem Gambling Helpline. We saw a shift of callers from those who frequent casinos to college aged males that were using online sports betting platforms. CCPG was often in the news as the media sought to understand the impact of the gambling expansion on the citizens of Connecticut. Heavy advertising by the gambling platforms, especially around major sporting events led to frequent calls to us for interviews to describe resources available in Connecticut and to share responsible gambling tips.



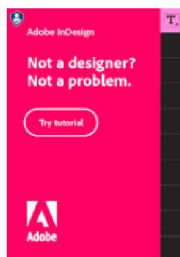
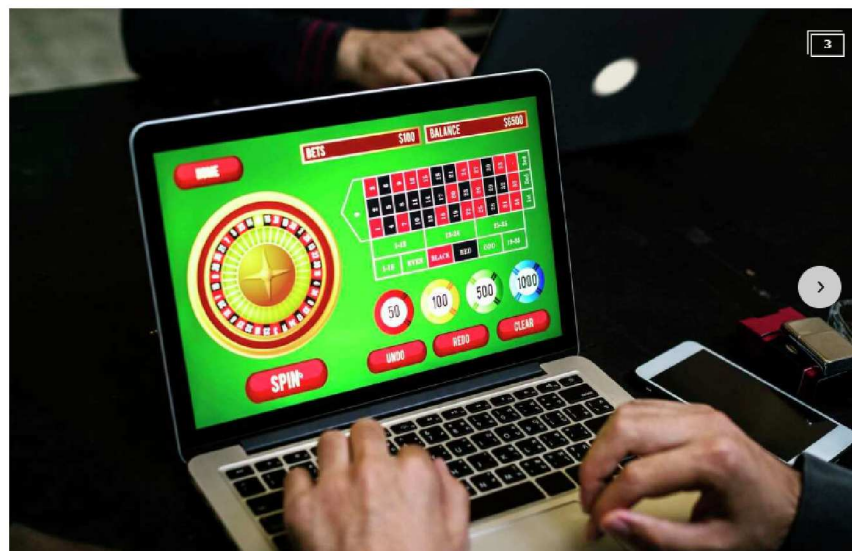
NEWS

Calls to CT's problem gambling hotline up 203% since launch of online gambling



John Moritz

April 16, 2022 | Updated: April 16, 2022 7:27 a.m.



Membership

PLATINUM LEVEL SUPPORTERS



CORPORATE LEVEL SUPPORTERS



NONPROFIT LEVEL SUPPORTERS



The Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling exists because of the support of others.

We offer our sincerest and most heartfelt, "Thank you!" to all of our organizational and individual members who financially assist us with their generous, voluntary contributions. Our mission of helping those struggling with gambling related issues and their families access support and resources would not be possible without their help. As a non-profit organization, funding is always challenging. With loyal contributors, we will continue to work hard every day to advocate for and raise awareness of problem gambling through education, prevention, and our 24/7 Helpline to help individuals and families that are impacted.

19th Annual Conference

On Thursday October 20th CCPG hosted its annual conference offering 9 sessions and continuing education units to the attendees. The 19th Annual Conference featured presentations on how problem gambling affects our military and veterans, LGBTQ+, access to care, animal assisted therapy, leadership, the criminal justice system, awareness for parents of risky adolescent behaviors, and overviews of Gamblers Anonymous and Gam-anon meetings.

The conference was a great success with the room at capacity, filled with a variety of backgrounds including mental and public health professionals as well as educators, students, people in recovery, community advocates, policymakers, and industry representatives.

Presentations & Presenters:

David O'Brien-Discovering the Leader in You-A Guide to Unlocking Your Full Leadership Capacity

Michelle L. Malkin, JD, Ph.D-Problem Gambling, Gambling-Motivated Crime, and the Criminal Justice System

Dr. Heather Chapman-Caring for our Military and Veterans: Ethical Considerations for Culturally Informed Care

Jordan Wasik-The Animal-Human Therapy Team

Haley Brown & Anna Gasinski-Hidden in Plain Sight

Jennifer Davis-Walton & Dr. Heather Chapman-Access to Care for Gambling Disorder: Thinking Outside the Box

Jonathan Crandall-A Covert Threat: Problem Gambling Among U.S. Veterans

Dr. Michelle Malkin-LGBTQ+ & Gambling-Disorder

Moderator Stephen Matos-Overview of Gamblers Anonymous & Gam-anon Meetings

Statewide Partnerships

CCPG relies on our community partners to help us to increase our reach and effectiveness. We participate in regional and statewide community coalitions and task forces, collaborating to further integrate problem gambling curriculum into existing programs and services with our community partners throughout the State of Connecticut.

- CT Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR)
- CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)
- CT Partnership on Responsible Gambling
- CT Suicide Advisory Board (CTSAB)
- Northeast Consortium on Problem Gambling
- Statewide Regional Gambling Awareness Teams
- Communities 4 Action
- The Connection Inc.
- Supporting and Engaging Resources for Action and Change (SERAC)
- Amplify
- Midwestern CT Council on Alcoholism (MCCA)
- CT Healthy Campus Initiative
- Advocacy Unlimited
- CT Clearinghouse/Wheeler Clinic
- Wolcott CASA
- Eastern CT State University
- Shelton Intermediate School
- Naugatuck Youth Services
- Montville Youth Services
- New Britain Community Services
- Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders
- Beacon Health Options
- Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)

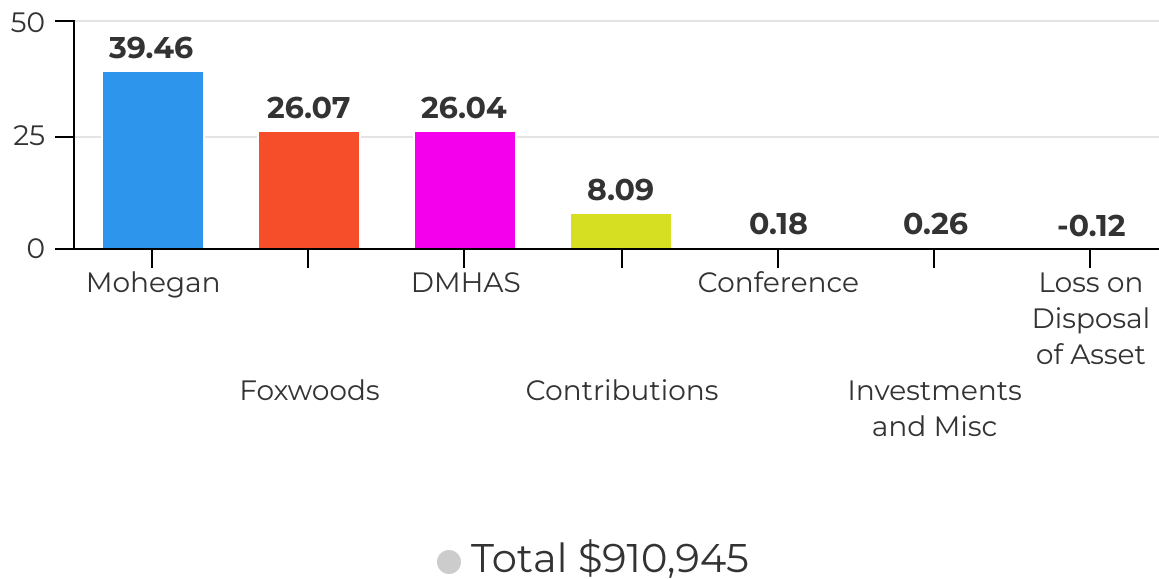
- CT Women’s Consortium
- CT Association of Prevention Professionals (CAPP)
- CT Department of Veterans Affairs
- The Hub
- CT Department of Correction
- CT Re-Entry Committees
- Southern CT State University
- Gateway Community College
- University of CT
- Fairfield University
- BH Care/Alliance for Prevention & Wellness
- Positive Directions
- CT Renaissance
- Recovery Network of Programs
- Wheeler Clinic
- United Community and Family Services (UCFS)
- Western CT Coalition
- Western CT State University
- Central CT State University
- CommuniCare
- Liberations Program
- Mountainside Treatment Center
- Community Renewal Team
- All In: The Addicted Gamblers Podcast



Summary of Revenue & Expenses

For year ending December 31, 2022

Revenue/ Contributions By Percentage



Expenses By Percentage

