

Did you know that adolescent problem gamblers...

Report initiation gambling at approximately 10 years of age?

May use gambling as the “gateway” activity, thus leading to more risky behavior?

Have a higher rate of substance abuse, drunk driving, delinquency, sexual behavior, violence and other antisocial behavior?

May have lower self-esteem compared with other adolescents?

Report initiation gambling at an early age?

May have higher rates of depression and report higher suicidal tendencies and attempts?

May be truant from school to go gambling and as a result have poor grades in school?



“My son, Jason, was a compulsive gambler and was murdered along with two other young men by a 19 year old University of Wisconsin student from Taiwan who was an addicted gambler as well. In all, 5 young men are dead due to the compulsive gambling addictions of these two young men.”

- Robert McGuigan

For more information on this and other stories visit: www.wi-problemgamblers.org

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling

- Provides workshops and seminars on gambling awareness and education. Speakers are available for large and small groups.
- Provides training for treatment providers.
- Is one of 33 affiliates on the National Council on Problem Gambling in Washington, D.C.
- Maintains neutrality on the topic of legalized gambling.
- Is the only organization in Wisconsin dedicated to assisting thousands of problem and compulsive gamblers.
- Offers a 24-hour Helpline.

Help is just a call away

1-800-GAMBLE-5

(1-800-426-2535)

Or Text **850-888-HOPE**

(1-850-888-4673)



Scan this QR code with your smart phone to view our website where you can **chat live**.

The WCPG provides resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling.



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING, INC.

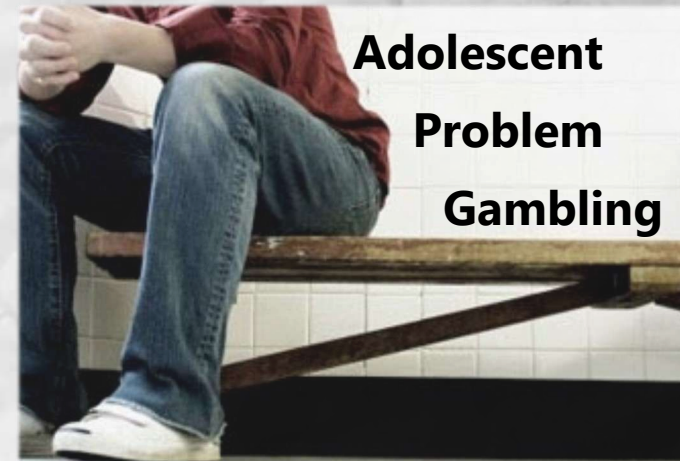
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How much you wanna bet?



“What started out to be just for fun has escalated to an addiction.”



**WISCONSIN COUNCIL
ON PROBLEM GAMBLING**

1-800-GAMBLE-5

“My gambling addiction started at the age of 10, when I went to go play Bingo with my Grandma.”

What is gambling?

Gambling is the act of risking money or something of value on an activity with an uncertain outcome.



What is problem gambling?

Problem gambling is any gambling behavior that has a negative effect on your life and the lives of people close to you— parents, siblings, and friends.

Can adolescents be problem gamblers?

Anyone who gambles can develop a gambling problem. Approximately 2 out of 3 adolescents gamble.

What are some of the warning signs?

Believing that betting is a fast and easy way to make money.

An increase in arguments with family and friends about gambling.

Pawning or selling personal and/or family possessions for gambling money.

Overly interested in how teams or athletes perform.



Unexplained absences from school and drop in grades.

Becoming overly upset at conclusion of sporting match.

Bragging about winnings.

Having an intense interest in gambling conversations.

Playing gambling type games on the internet.

Having unexplained debts, large amounts of cash, and/or new items (such as new clothes or jewelry).



When does gambling become a problem?

When you spend more time or money gambling than you intended.

When you gamble to win back money or possessions you lost.

When gambling makes you feel badly.

When you begin to lie to yourself and others about gambling.

When you want to quit gambling and you don't know if you can.

When you hide your gambling habits from your friends and family.

When someone tells you that you may have a gambling problem.

When you borrow money to gamble that you are unable to pay back.

The facts:

Problem gambling behavior exists in 6-20% of the adolescent (ages 12-19) population.

Adolescents are 2 to 4 times more likely than adults to have this problem.

Social gambling can quickly move to problem gambling.

Wagering is thought of as an adult privilege; therefore, adolescents are more susceptible to developing this behavior.

A gambling disorder is just as serious as a drug addiction.

