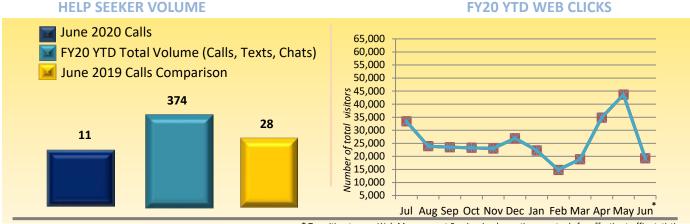
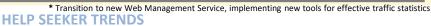
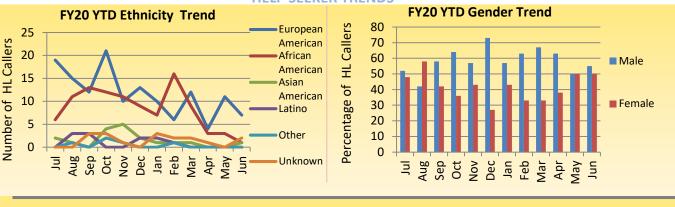
# Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling

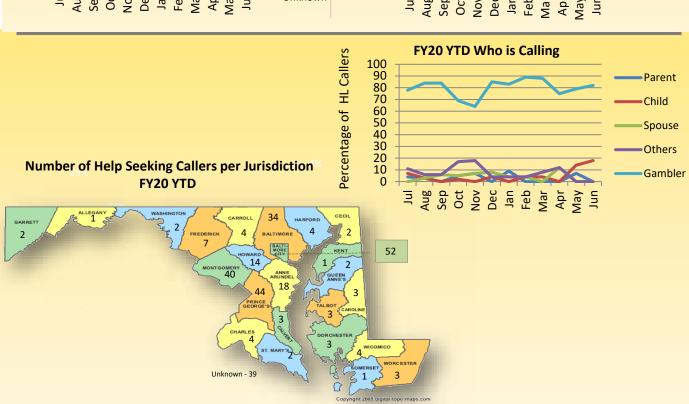
## Helpline Report June 2020 Call Data











### **Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling Helpline Report**

June 2020

#### Summary

Help seeker volume in June 2020 continues to be impacted by the Federal/State mandated closures in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic (including closure of all state casinos/bingo halls) and is reflected in continued low monthly volume of help seeker calls. June Help seeker outreach (n=11) decreased 23% over May calls (n=14), and substantiates the historical trend that June help seeker call volume is lower than May volume. Although overall web traffic decreased 56% in June, traffic to special population websites increased significantly. Help seeker calls from the South Region (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Dorchester, Montgomery, prince George's and St. Mary's counties) increased 22% relative percentage over previous month. No callers were recorded in the West or East regions. Casinos as main gambling problem increased 15% in June; Lottery also increased as main problem (4%). Referrals to Internet resources (helpmygamblingproblem.org, mdproblemgambling.com) increased (35%) over the previous month. Electronic media continues to be the most frequented source of the helpline number.

- **Gender**: 55% male (n=6); 45% female (n=5).
- Ethnicity: European American callers comprised 64% (n=7) of helpline callers in June. African American callers comprised 9% (n=1). Asian American callers also comprised 9% (n=1). No Latino callers or other ethnicities were recorded this month.
- Who is Calling: Gamblers comprised 82% (n=9) of total help seeking calls in June. Calls from child comprised 18% (n=2). No calls from a parent, spouse or others (friends, family) were recorded.
- Primary Gambling Problem:
  - 36% (n=4) of help seekers reported casino-based gambling as the primary gambling problem. Of those help seekers, 25% reported slot machines (n=1) and 75% reported other casino games (n=3) as most problematic.
  - Internet as primary gambling problem was reported by 27% (n=3)
  - Lottery totaled 18% (n=2)
  - Internet Stock trading totaled 9% (n=1)
  - Unwilling to share totaled 9% (n=1)

#### TREATMENT REFERRALS

#### 11 help seeking calls:

- Referrals: were given to 9 help seeking callers (82%) and most received multiple referrals:
  - Internet: 78% were given internet resources (n=7).
  - Treatment Providers: 67% of callers were referred to trained behavioral health providers providing no cost treatment (n=6).
  - **G.A.:** 56% of callers were given information about Gamblers Anonymous meetings (n=5).
  - Peer Support: 44% were referred to telephonic support with a trained person in recovery (n=4).
  - Lottery Self-Exclusion: 33% were referred to the Maryland voluntary self exclusion program (n=3).
  - 22% of callers were given referrals to Other Support Services (such as GamAnon) (n=2).
  - Referrals to Maryland Coalition of Families/MCF represented 22% (n=2).
  - Requests for Mailed Information recorded 11% (n=1). Refused: 18% of callers refused any referrals (n=2).

### **Analysis**

#### **CALLER PROFILE**

82% of total help seeking callers in June were Gamblers; calls from a child (son or daughter) increased 4% over the previous month recording an increase for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight month. Relative percentage of Asian American callers in June increased 9% over the previous month and recorded callers in this ethnicity for the first since March. Male callers recorded a 5% increase in June. Help seekers in age groups 18-24 increased again for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight month, reporting a 13% increase in June. Data is analyzed on a monthly and quarterly basis to identify any help seeking call trends.

#### SOURCE OF HELPLINE INFORMATION

- 55% Electronic media (internet) (n=6)
- 9% Lottery (n=1)
- 36% Unwilling (n=4)

#### **WEBSITE TRAFFIC**

Although overall web traffic visits in June (19,291) decreased 56% over May traffic (43,658), visits to special population websites increased. New statistical tools are being installed for web traffic tracking and will be activated in FY21 Q1:

- 113,686 page views were recorded in June over all active websites.
- Visits to the dedicated website for active military/veterans militarygamblesafe.org – increased 10% in June.
- Visits to the gamblesafewomen.org also increased in June.
- Asiangamblesos.org tripled in visits and page views this month, providing information to Asian Americans in several dialects.
- 26 Chat intakes were recorded this month. This high volume is due to a repeat caller chatting without leaving any significant information.
- · No text intakes were recorded.

#### **AGE**

In June, relative percentage of callers increased in age groups 18-24 (13%)(n=3), 55-64 (2%) (n=1) and 65 plus (2%) (n=1). and 35-44 (14%) (n=2). Callers decreased in age groups 35-44 (4%) (n=2) and 45-54 (21%) (n=0). No callers were reported in age groups 25-34 and 45-54.

