



Building on Past Successes

As We Face New Challenges

The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling

Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023



UNIVERSITY
of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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CENTER STAFF

Christopher Welsh, MD
Medical Director
UMSOM Faculty

Robert K. White, LCPC
Director of External Affairs and
Business Development

Mary Drexler, MSW
Program Director

J. Kathleen Tracy, PhD
Director of Research
UMSOM Faculty

Teresa E. Yates
Business Operations Director
Research Services

Ahmed Al-Hadidi, MPH
Clinical Research Specialist

Kristen Beall, LCSW-C, ICGC-I, CAC-AD
Clinical Manager

Michael Kafes
Communications Manager

Heather Eshleman, MPH
Prevention Manager

Davene Hinton, MBA
Training Coordinator

Katrina Davis, MHRM
Business Manager

Blair Inniss, JD, MA
Government Relations Manager

Francina Benjamin
Program Assistant

Kenneth Wolfson, CPRS, RPS
Certified Peer Recovery Specialist

William Hinman, CPRS, CRC, RPS
Certified Peer Recovery Specialist

Kenneth Crawford, CPRS, CRC
Certified Peer Recovery Specialist

James Nowlin, CPRS
Certified Peer Recovery Specialist

Carin Miller, CPRS, CRC
Certified Peer Recovery Specialist

Lori Rugle, PhD, ICGC II
Consultant

Anthony Parente, MA, LCPC, NCC, MAC,
ICGC II, BACC
Consultant

Mohamed Kakay, MPH
CDC Public Health Associate

Executive Summary

In fiscal year FY23, the Maryland Center of Excellence (the Center) began once again providing in-person training and educational opportunities. The Center expanded engagement with behavioral health providers, private practitioners, preventionists, and other organizations; increased the number of individuals assisted through Peer Recovery Support; and increased the number of total participants in clinical training and educational programs.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The Center continued to expand its public awareness and outreach initiatives in FY23. Over 2,825 individuals within 646 organizations within communities “had a conversation” with Center staff about problem gambling. Over 242,000 gambling awareness materials and giveaways were distributed both physically and electronically. With COVID19 restrictions lifting throughout the State, the Center was able to attend more than double the amount of public awareness and outreach events.

Over 54,000 e-communications were sent promoting awareness information and resources. 45% were opened by providers, preventionists and other community organizations or strategic partners. The Center enhanced access to resources for non-English speaking help seekers by translating three current awareness materials into Spanish and/or Korean.

The Center’s paid social media awareness campaign had exceptional visibility across a variety of channels using strategic audience targeting. Over 10.5 million digital impressions were specially served to Maryland residents which boosted website traffic overall by 532% when compared to the previous period.

TREATMENT AND INTERVENTION SERVICES

In FY23, the provision of no cost treatment to Maryland residents for problems related to gambling, regardless of insurance or income status, continued as part of the collaboration between the Center, the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) and Optum Maryland. To further the integration of gambling treatment services, the Center outreached to 646 organizations and private practitioners in the behavioral health field. The goal is to increase the competency of Maryland treatment providers in problem gambling and encourage them to participate in the Maryland Problem Gambling Reimbursement Program. At the end of FY23, 129 behavioral health treatment providers offering no cost treatment to individuals with gambling related problems and their families were listed on the Maryland Problem Gambling Provider Referral Directory covering 20 jurisdictions.

PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT

In FY23, The Center maintained its Problem Gambling Peer Recovery Support Program with a total of five Peer Specialists, all of whom are certified through the Maryland Addiction and Behavioral Health Professional Certification Board (MABPCB). The Center’s Peers have lived experience in gambling recovery and are well-trained in assisting those seeking help with gambling behavior. With their experience, the Peers assisted 285 new clients, connecting them to resources to limit, control, or stop their gambling behavior. In addition, the Peers conducted 189 presentations to recovery/community groups and participated in 120 community events, interacting with 10,422 Maryland residents.



TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Outreach through clinical training and education programs across the state continues to be a key initiative for the Center. These programs build the capacity to prevent, address, and treat problem gambling/gambling disorder among mental health and substance use treatment, social services, and prevention organizations. In FY23, 3,446 total participants attended, in-person or virtually, one or more of the 39 clinical training and educational programs conducted by the Center.

PREVENTION

The goal of the Center's Prevention Program is to use the public health model to build community collaborations to implement prevention strategies to address underage and problem gambling in the State of Maryland. In FY23, the Center's Prevention Program focused on capacity building and expanding the number of special population grants to Maryland's underserved areas and minority populations by awarding ten grants. Through these grant efforts, 63 awareness and prevention strategies were completed, reaching 51,325 people, and 38,916 awareness materials were distributed. In addition, prevention grants were provided to three of the four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Maryland. Through these grant efforts, eight awareness and prevention strategies were completed, reaching 989 people, with 2,670 awareness materials distributed. Also, data analyses and compilation summaries for the Maryland Underage and Problem Gambling Prevention Needs Assessment were completed in FY23.

PUBLIC POLICY

Public policy is the process by which governments translate their political vision into programs and actions to deliver desired changes in the real world. To that end, the Center, in concert with the Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy and the Public Health Law Clinic at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, continued to broaden their focus by beginning to include the international community in conversations around best practices in responsible gaming. The Center presented and moderated panels at events that looked at problem gambling and sports betting at the macro-level and discussed robust problem gambling safeguards as sports betting continues to roll out across the country. The Center responded to requests from The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency to report on responsible gambling provisions related to iGaming, otherwise known as internet casinos. In anticipation of problem gambling fund legislation being introduced in the 2024 legislative session, the Center has been providing research and education on best practices in sports betting funding with examples from across the country.

RESEARCH

The goal of the Research Program on Gambling is to implement a research agenda that: informs our understanding of gambling behavior; monitors the impact of gambling on the population and identifies evidence-based approaches to mitigate any harmful impacts of gambling. In FY23, the Research Program released 2022 Prevalence Study. In addition, focus continued on identification and prevention of problem gambling behavior and attendant consequences for public health.



History and Context

Fiscal Year, FY23 was the 11th year of operation of the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling (the Center). The Center is part of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Division of Addiction Research and Treatment.

MISSION: The Center promotes healthy and informed choices regarding gambling and problem gambling through public awareness, training and education, prevention, technical assistance to the behavioral health care system, peer recovery support, research, and public policy. It does so by working closely with appropriate state stakeholders and bringing together experts from a variety of disciplines including psychiatry, medicine, epidemiology, social work, law, and others.

The Center began operation on July 1, 2012, to help address the expansion of legal gambling availability within Maryland. Legislation authorizing this expansion also provided for a problem gambling fund to be established and administered by the Maryland Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) to support the services provided by the Center.

The primary goal of the Center is to minimize the risks and problems associated with gambling in the State of Maryland. In FY23, ongoing outreach was made to 646 behavioral health providers and private practitioners to promote the no cost treatment program for problem gamblers and their families.

The Maryland Problem Gambling Reimbursement Program continued as part of the collaboration between the Center, BHA, and Optum Maryland. This program offers reimbursement to behavioral health providers for the delivery of no cost treatment for problem gambling, regardless of insurance or income status.

With the emergence of sports betting in the state of Maryland in five of the six Maryland casinos in January 2022, the Center worked closely with the casinos to ensure responsible gambling practices were maintained for this addition to casino operations.

Online and mobile sports betting also became legal in late November 2022, opening up a whole new way to access gambling activity. Marylanders no longer needed to leave their homes to place bets on their favorite sporting events. Betting then became more available and accessible, potentially leading to a greater risk for developing a gambling problem, especially impacting a younger demographic of Marylanders.

The 10th Annual Maryland Conference on Problem Gambling was held in-person on June 16, 2023. The conference drew 400 community organizations, behavioral health providers, peer support specialists, preventionists, and private practitioners from all Maryland jurisdictions.

The Center maintained its Problem Gambling Peer Recovery Support Program with a total of five Peer Specialists, all of whom are certified through the Maryland Addiction and Behavioral Health Professionals Certification Board (MABPCB). In FY23, the Peer Recovery Support program engaged with 285 new clients, with 631 clients total remaining active.

The Center's Prevention Program continued collaboration with key Maryland stakeholders to promote prevention initiatives. In FY23, the Center awarded 10 prevention grants. In addition, the Center began a prevention grant program for HBCUs. The HCU grant program provided 3 grants, completed 8 projects, and reached 989 people with 2,670 awareness materials distributed.

KEY CENTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2023

Sports was reported as a primary gambling problem by 15% (n=91) of the 626 callers in FY23.

The HBCU grant program provided 3 grants, completed 8 projects, and reached 989 people with 2,670 awareness materials distributed.

Peer Support Specialists assisted 288 new clients with 631 clients total remaining active during FY23.

Peer Support Specialists assisted 330 new clients; an 11% increase compared to FY21.

3,446 total participants attended 39 virtual clinical trainings and educational programs.

A total of 10 Prevention grants awarded with 63 projects completed, reaching 51,325 Maryland residents.

The Center tracked 26 bills that referenced gambling within the State legislature. The Center provided written and oral testimony and updated a real-time legislative tracking

Public Awareness

The Center continues to utilize a variety of digital and social media platforms to become more accessible to those who wish to connect, engage, and “have the conversation” about gambling and learn about problem gambling. By significantly increasing its digital presence and reach with paid social media advertising, use of QR codes, and email marketing, The Center has been able to increase awareness distribution by more than 20%.

GENERAL AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

Public awareness and community outreach are the cornerstones for all the Center’s initiatives. In FY23, the Center saw a significant increase in the number of providers, strategic partners, and other collaborators that treat, support, and distribute resources for Marylanders and their families. Additionally, with COVID 19 restrictions lifted, the Center was able to directly interface with the public at community outreach events around the state.

TARGETED AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

The Center promotes and distributes gambling awareness literature, such as, the signs and risks of problem gambling, information about no cost treatment, and resources for those who may identify as having a gambling problem, and the Peer Recovery Support program. These resources are promoted to the public through physical and social media campaigns throughout the year.

Positive messaging is incorporated into these campaigns which help people consider the benefits of positive goals rather than negative consequences or harmful failures.

Monthly Awareness Campaigns

Whether it’s related to the holidays, yearly sporting events, or simply promoting good mental health, the Center integrates responsible gaming and problem gambling messaging into several nationally recognized awareness campaigns in order to connect and engage with more groups and targeted populations that have a greater incidence of developing a gambling problem.

**DON'T GET SACKED
BY RECKLESS BETTING**

Know The Odds & Set A Limit

Is your sports betting becoming a problem?

Scan the QR Code to Learn the Risks

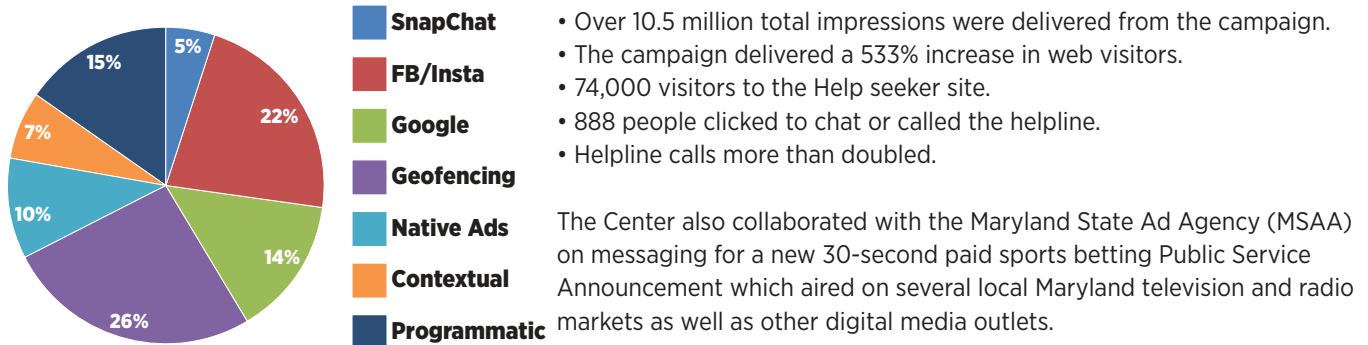
**call, text or chat
1-800-GAMBLER**

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on Problem Gambling

2023 Statewide Social Media Campaign

The Center collaborated with G3 Media Group to conduct a four-month social media campaign targeted to raise awareness for problem gambling – specifically at sports betters and families at risk.

Digital channels used in this campaign include: Snapchat, Facebook/Instagram, Google Search, Google Display, Geofencing Casinos, Geofencing Colleges, Native Ads, Contextual Ads, and Programmatic Display Ads.



March 2023 – Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM)

Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM) is an annual grassroots public awareness and outreach campaign which is a key awareness initiative for the Center. Created and sponsored by the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), PGAM aims to educate health care professionals and the public about the importance of problem gambling screening, the warning signs of problem gambling, and to raise awareness about the support and resources available within the state.

PGAM, in conjunction with the Statewide PSA broadcasts and social media campaigns, reported an 18% increase in the number of help seeker calls to 1-800-GAMBLER.

This year, the Center’s PGAM efforts included:

- Collaborating with 15 key strategic partners to disseminate awareness and screening materials both physically and electronically.
- 6 news and community affairs interviews and 1 press release about the Center’s PGAM efforts.
- 9 in person outreach events at casinos, treatment centers and community based public events.
- 36 virtual trainings, events, and presentations

The total number of PGAM, screening, and general problem gambling awareness materials and giveaways distributed both physically to providers and at public outreach events as well as digitally at trainings and other virtual events totaled over 35,000.

GAMBLING NOT FUN ANYMORE?

Help us spread **AWARENESS** of the risks of gambling and how to take **ACTION** for help and hope.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

MARCH IS PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH
Celebrating 20 Years

call, text or chat our **FREE & Confidential 24/7 Helpline**
1-800-GAMBLER

Awareness Campaign Toolkits

The Center continues to develop and improve four supplemental public awareness campaign toolkits. These toolkits are designed to aid providers and community-based organizations with how to integrate problem gambling awareness information and prevention messaging into already established national awareness campaigns. The Center chooses national campaigns to align with based on overlapping targeted populations who share common characteristics that tend to correlate with at-risk and/or problem gambling behaviors. Such national awareness campaigns include but are not limited to:

- Gift Responsibly (In collaboration with the MLGCA)
- Mental Health Month
- PGAM
- BIPOC (Black and Indigenous People of Color)

Each toolkit contains suggestions and resources for taking action to spread awareness regarding problem gambling and mental health among minority populations. In FY23, the Center distributed over 15,000 awareness toolkits and screening guides to behavioral health providers, preventionists and public information officers both physically and digitally.



COMMUNITY EVENTS AND AWARENESS

The Center continues to work collaboratively with key stakeholders and community partners on problem gambling awareness and outreach efforts around the State.

As COVID 19 restrictions were lifted throughout FY23, the Center began attending many more public awareness events in the community and at conferences:

- Senior Power of Age Expo
- National Night Out
- Walk for Recovery
- Money Power Day
- S.A.D.D. Conference
- MAPPA
- Tuerk Conference

PRINTED MATERIALS AND GIVEAWAYS

The Center maintains a resource library with unique awareness items highlighting the Maryland Helpline number (1-800-GAMBLER), and the help seekers' website, HelpMyGamblingProblem.org. The Center continued to develop and distribute awareness materials e.g., flyers, posters, rack cards at no cost. The Center also has several branded, imprinted items, such as pens, bag clips, keychain flashlights, water bottles, etc.

In FY23, more than 113,000 awareness materials and 88,000 giveaways were shipped, or physically distributed at presentations and outreach events throughout the State. Over 21,300 awareness materials were sent electronically and an additional 18,600 were viewed on the Center's Websites, for a total of 242,860 Awareness Materials distributed.



An Awareness Toolkit to Promote Responsible Gambling & Prevent Underage Gambling

for Behavioral Health Providers
& Preventionists
2022 Edition

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on Problem Gambling

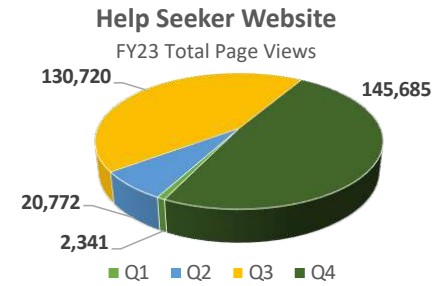
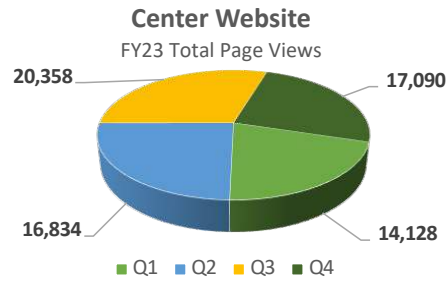
To print: this guide was designed to be printed double sided, long edge.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
This guide is a composite of information provided by the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency, the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), NCPG Affiliates, additional Organizations across the country, and the Center.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

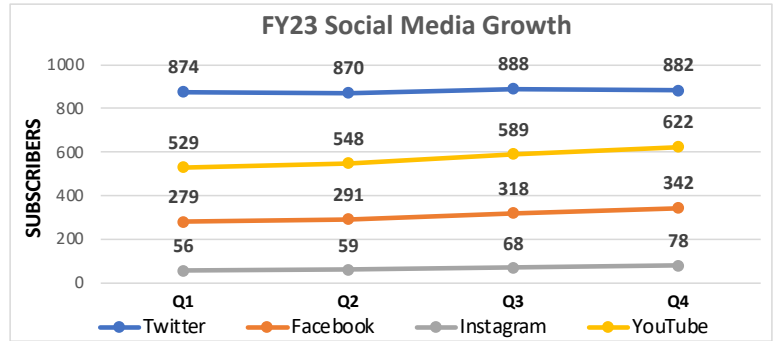
Websites

The Center's websites remain a priority for the dissemination of public awareness materials and vital Center related resources. The site's utilization by the public continues to grow. In FY23, over 371,000 guests visited the Center's websites, which is a 37% increase from the 275,000 recorded in FY22.



Social Media

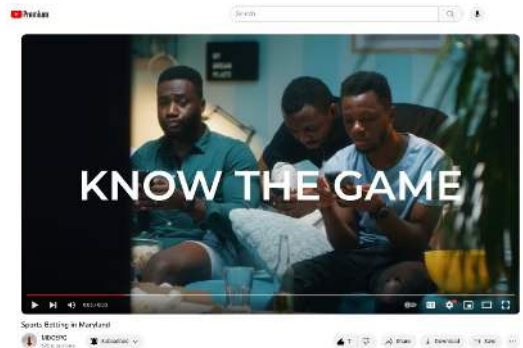
The Center continues to contract with G3 Media Group Inc. In FY23, the Center posted over 700 public awareness, events and training opportunities on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. These messages reached Nearly 2,000 subscribers and garnered over 1,800 engagements (likes, shares, comments, etc.)



Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and Documentaries

The Center continues to promote and distribute its library of over 60 PSAs and problem gambling documentaries both digitally and on DVD as requested. A new 30 second sports betting PSA was developed by the Maryland State Advertising Agency. It aired on TV, radio, and was posted on the Center's websites.

PSAs are used in presentations, learning tools, and viewable on the Center's websites via Center's YouTube channel. To date, the Center's YouTube channel has served over 428,000 Videos to the public.



PRESS/MEDIA INTERVIEWS

One of the ways the Center propagates information about its mission and initiatives is through broadcast news media outlets. In FY23, the Center's Program Director, Medical Director, and Peer Specialists were featured in 24 articles and news appearances. In total, there were:

- 10 Television and on-line video broadcasts including Fox-45, ABC, NBC, and CBS News
- 10 Online and print media quotes including The Baltimore Sun, Maryland Matters, and The New York Times.
- 4 Live radio broadcast appearances



Treatment and Intervention Services

In FY23, the Center increased total outreach by engaging 646 agencies, organizations, and providers to increase the capability of treatment and awareness of resources for problem gambling; 22% of those contacts were newly engaged.

NO COST TREATMENT FOR GAMBLING PROBLEMS

In FY23, the Maryland Problem Gambling Reimbursement Program continued as part of the collaboration between the Center, the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), and Optum Maryland (as of January 1, 2020). This program offers reimbursement to behavioral health providers for the delivery of no cost treatment for problem gambling, regardless of insurance or income status. Services continue to include outpatient, intensive outpatient, and residential/inpatient behavioral health services for both the person struggling with gambling and/or their concerned others who are Maryland residents. These providers are listed on the Maryland Problem Gambling Provider Referral Directory.

NATIONAL GAMBLING DISORDER SCREENING DAY – MARCH 14, 2023

The Center, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and in conjunction with March Problem Gambling Awareness Month, launched a targeted screening campaign to encourage behavioral health providers to screen clients for gambling using evidenced based screening tools. The Center provided a Screening Guide with clinical information and resources to integrate gambling screening into any provider's current treatment processes.

Both MDH and the Center distributed March awareness e-communications to healthcare providers and organizations across Maryland. In addition, the Center developed and implemented a flyer promoting gambling screening. The flyer directs people to the interactive screening page of the help seeker site. A March 2023 Problem Gambling Awareness Month Activity Survey was distributed to over 2,800 Maryland providers and organizations. 78 of those providers and organizations responded: 68% requested, downloaded and distributed awareness materials; 54% scheduled and facilitated PGAM events/presentations.

COURT MANDATED REFERRALS FOR SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

The Center, in collaboration with the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency, continues its educational outreach to Maryland Courts and State's attorneys as a means for intervening in the cycle of problematic gambling-related criminal behavior through early intervention, and provides options for treatment to those facing legal consequences. Cases where problematic gambling may be an issue could include bankruptcy, divorce, unpaid child support, domestic violence, fraud, theft, or embezzlement.

As part of this collaboration, courts can serve as a proactive agent for change by directing individuals to the Center's Certified Peer Recovery Specialists and/or a referral to a behavioral health provider on the Maryland Problem Gambling Provider Referral Directory for no cost treatment. In FY23, the Center received no court referrals.

INTEGRATED INTERVENTION APPROACHES FOR COMMUNITIES

In FY23, the Center's staff outreached and collaborated with 646 agencies, organizations, and private practitioners to provide effective assistance for addressing and integrating problem gambling awareness, prevention, and treatment strategies into existing protocols.

Of those 646, the Center's staff networked with 142 new agencies, organizations, and private practitioners to evaluate needs and implement problem gambling training strategies.



No Cost Treatment Now Available for Anyone Wanting Help for a Gambling Problem

Counseling for gambling problems at no cost to Maryland residents is available for anyone seeking help regardless of insurance coverage, financial status, or ability to pay.



Do You Have a Gambling Problem?

- Have you ever felt the need to bet more and more money?
- Have you ever had to lie to people important to you about how much you gamble?

Scan the QR Code to Take a More Detailed Screening



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The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling



FOR FREE & CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES WITH A PROFESSIONAL

Call ~ Text ~ Chat 24/7 the Maryland Helpline

1-800-GAMBLER

(1-800-426-2537)

RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING COLLABORATION AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION PROGRAM (VEP)

The Center continued its participation in the Maryland Alliance for Responsible Gambling (MARG). MARG, a statewide partnership for responsible gambling, sponsored by the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA), continued to address ways to minimize the potential harm that may arise from gambling behavior and to coordinate resources to address problem gambling in Maryland. The Alliance members include representatives from the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA), Maryland Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), Maryland Department of Public Safety (DPS), Maryland Department of Correctional Services (MDCS), Maryland State Senate, Maryland House of Delegates, Maryland Council on Problem Gambling, Maryland's six casinos, and other interested nonprofit organizations serving individuals with gambling addiction.

The Maryland Voluntary Exclusion Program (VEP), operated by MLGCA, is available as an effective self-limiting, exclusion tool for individuals who find themselves at-risk in any of the Maryland gaming venues (six Maryland casinos, six of Maryland's instant bingo facilities, mobile apps, and the Maryland Lottery). The Center continued to work collaboratively with the MLGCA to incorporate up-to-date resource information and materials for the problem gambler during their VEP application process.

Individuals who seek removal from VEP, after their compulsory two-year commitment, are required to complete a Healthy Lifestyle Choices Workbook, designed as a self-assessment tool. In FY23, a total of 201 referrals from MLGCA were received by the Center. Of these referrals, 89.74% were Maryland residents and were referred to a counselor for VEP workbook review at no cost. In addition, 10.26% of referrals were out-of-state residents who completed this process at cost.

MARYLAND PROBLEM GAMBLING PROVIDER REFERRAL DIRECTORY

A priority for the Center is to continue to connect help seekers with resources to limit, control, or stop their gambling by offering referrals to treatment and recovery services within their communities. The Maryland Problem Gambling Provider Referral Directory is maintained and updated by the Center once a month with behavioral health providers and private practitioners who participate in the Maryland Problem Gambling Reimbursement Program. Behavioral health services are available at no cost for both the person struggling with gambling and/or their families impacted by the problem gambling behavior.

An interactive directory is available on the Center's main website — mdproblemgambling.com, and the Center's help seeker website — helpmygamblingproblem.org. The Maryland Problem Gambling Provider Referral Directory is also utilized as a referral source for the Maryland Coalition of Families and callers to Maryland's Problem Gambling Helpline, 1-800-GAMBLER.

At the end of FY23, a total of 129 agencies, organizations, and private practitioners offering no cost treatment for individuals and families, were listed on the Maryland Problem Gambling Provider Referral Directory, representing 20 jurisdictions in Maryland.



HELPLINE 1-800-GAMBLER

The total recorded volume of help seeker outreach (calls, text, and chats) was 1059 in FY23. Of this total volume, help seeker calls represented 59% (n = 626). Texts and chats represented about 41% (n = 433), an increase of 14% from FY2022.

Helpline Caller Characteristics and Demographics Jurisdictions

Helpline callers were reported from 19 jurisdictions in FY23. As compared to calls in FY2022, the Central and Western regions of Maryland saw a decline from 35% (n=181) to 31.2% (n=195) and 18% (n=94) to 12.9% (n=81), respectively. There was a slight increase in the proportion of calls received from the Eastern and Southern regions (3% to 4.3% and 21% to 25.1%). (See Figure 1)

Gender

Male callers continue to exceed female callers in FY23 (59.5% vs 40.5%). (See Figure 2)

Caller Age

About 30% of callers in FY23 were aged 25-44 years (25-34 years 15.7% and 35-44 years 14.2%). During this fiscal year there were also 12.8% of callers aged 55-64 years, 10.2% of callers aged 18-24 years, and 8.3% of callers aged 65+. Callers who were unwilling to disclose their age comprised 26.4% of callers in FY2023. (See Figure 3)

Primary Gambling Problem

Helpline callers continue to report casino gambling as the primary gambling problem (50.6%, n = 317) in FY23, with slots being the most popular casino game (38.9%, n = 123) in FY23. Sports (including fantasy sports) was reported as a primary gambling problem by 14.5% (n=91) of callers in FY23. Internet was reported as a primary problem by 8.5% (n = 53) and Lottery or Scratch was reported by 8.3% (n = 52) of callers. Out of all FY23 callers, 14.1% (n = 88) opted not to disclose their primary gambling problem. (See Figure 4)

Caller Ethnicity

European Americans continue to comprise the majority of Helpline callers (40.7%, n = 255) in FY23. Additionally, callers who identified as African American comprised 30.8% (n = 193) of helpline callers. (See Figure 5)

Primary Source of Helpline Number

The internet (43%, n = 268) continues to be the primary source for connecting Maryland residents to the Helpline. Casinos and lotteries also continue to be the most common secondary source (15%, n = 91). (See Figure 6)

Who is Calling

The majority of calls to the Helpline in FY23 were from gamblers (78.8%, n = 493). Family members comprise 11.5% (n = 72), significant others make up 3.5% (n = 22=), and friends make up 3.4% (n = 21) of all helpline callers. (See Figure 7)

Helpline Caller Referrals

Referrals were given to 84% (n = 526) of Helpline callers in FY23. 46.8% (n = 293) of callers were referred to a Center Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist with 47.4% (n = 139) being warm transferred (real-time transfer with callers on the line) as a means for immediate Peer support. 41.4% (n = 259) were referred to gamblers anonymous (GA) and 37.2% (n = 233) were referred to a treatment provider offering no cost treatment. 25.1% (n = 157) were referred to the lottery self-exclusion program and 18.8% (n = 118) were referred to internet-based resources. Lastly, 5.9% (n = 37) were referred to Family Peer Support at the Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF). (See Figure 8)



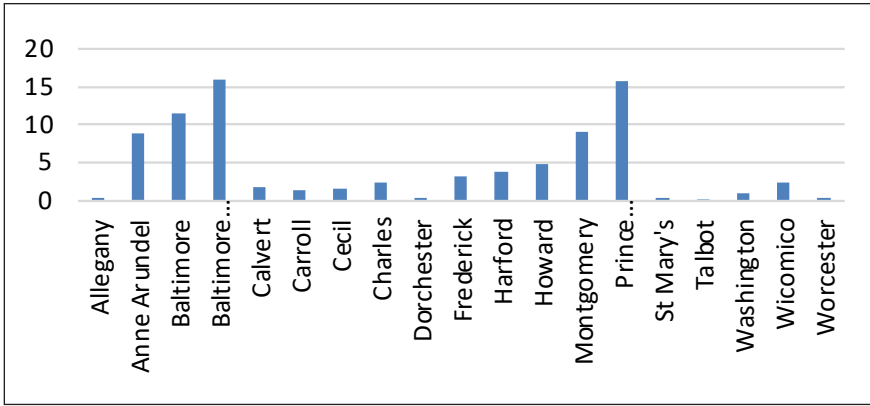


Figure 1: Provider Referral List by Jurisdiction (%)

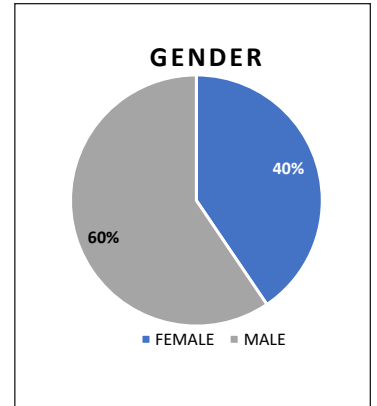


Figure 2: Gender

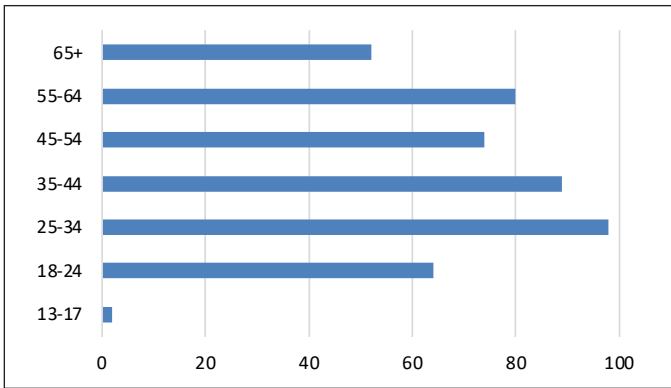


Figure 3: Number of Helpline Callers by Age Group

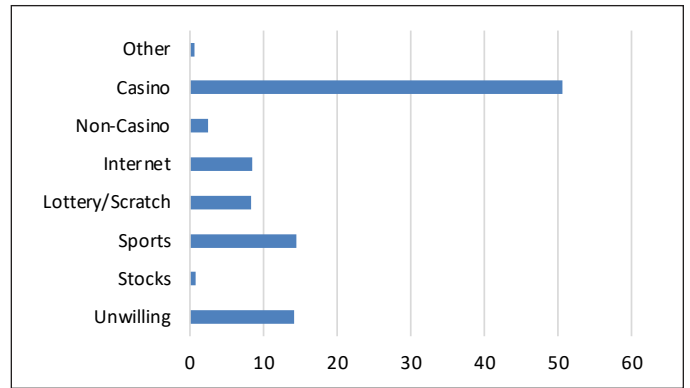


Figure 4: Primary Gambling Problem by Percentage

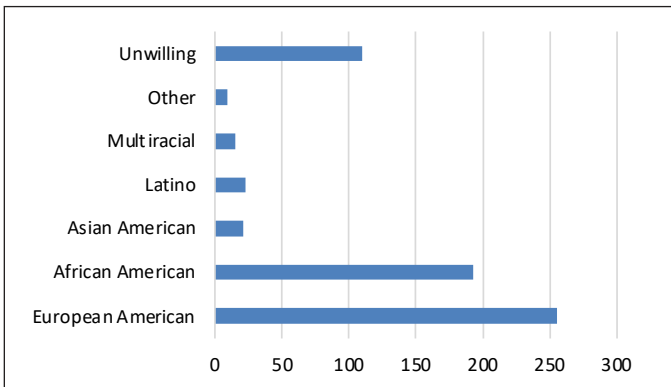


Figure 5: Number of Helpline Callers by Ethnicity

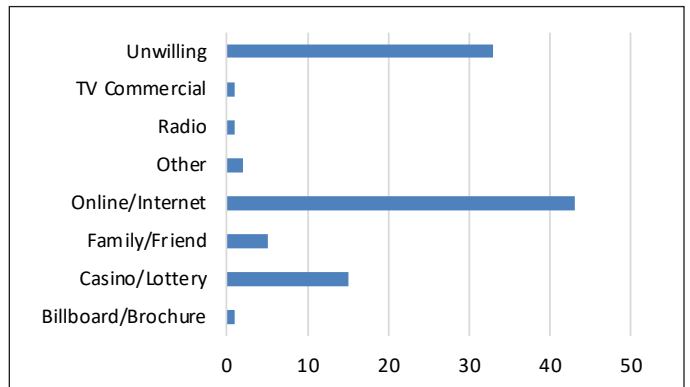


Figure 6: Where Callers Learned of Helpline by Percentage

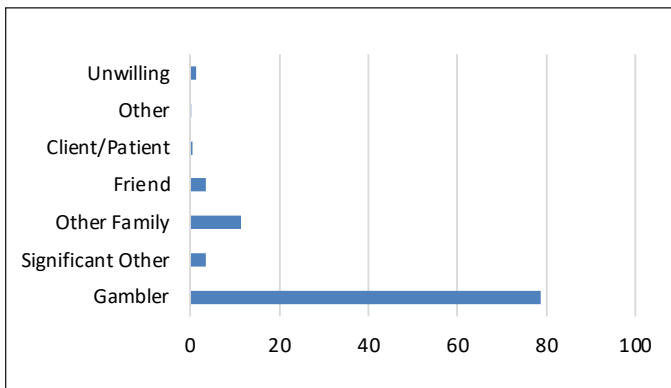


Figure 7: Person Who is Calling by Percentage

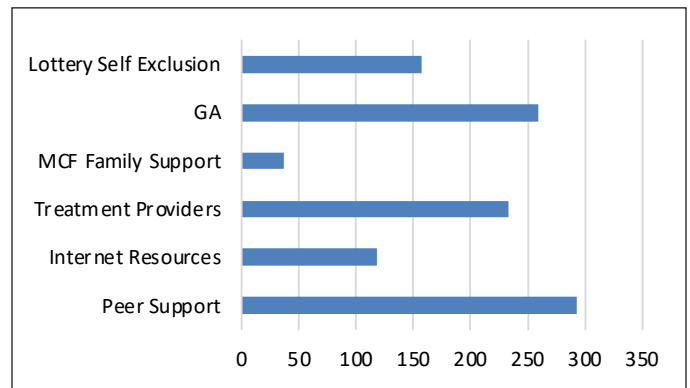


Figure 8: Number of Helpline Caller Referrals

Peer Recovery Support

In FY23, The Center maintained its Problem Gambling Peer Recovery Support Program with a total of five Peer Specialists, all of whom are certified through the Maryland Addiction and Behavioral Health Professional Certification Board (MABPCB). The Center’s Peers have lived experience in recovery and are well-trained in assisting those seeking help with gambling behavior. With their experience, the Peers assisted 285 new clients, connecting them to resources to limit, control, or stop their gambling behavior. In addition, the Peers conducted 189 presentations to recovery/community groups and participated in 120 community events, interacting with 10,422 Maryland residents.

HELP SEEKERS SERVED

Peers received referrals to individuals seeking support for their gambling problems from the Center’s Helpline, community behavioral health providers, or private practitioners. In FY23, a total of 285 new clients were referred to the Center for peer support throughout the year, with a total of 631 individuals classified as active status.

New clients received referrals to treatment and other needed resources, many receiving multiple referrals: 84% (n=240) were referred to “no cost treatment” providers, with 36% (n=86) making appointments for treatment.

Referral data also tracked other referrals such as: (GA) (84%), Maryland Lottery Voluntary Exclusion Program (VEP) (66%), Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) (16%), financial services (40%), and legal services (10%). (See Figure 9)

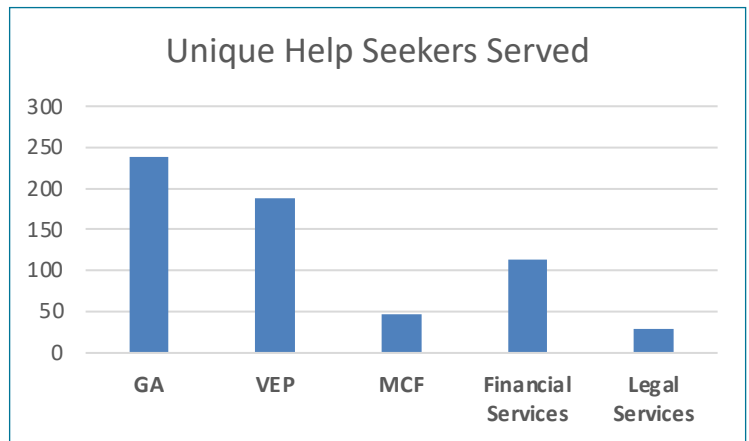
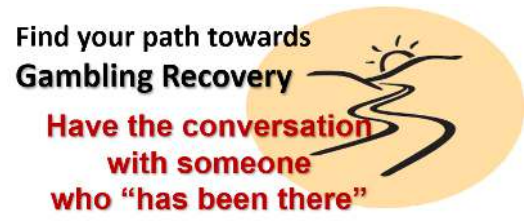


Figure 9: Unique Help Seekers Served

PEER AGENCY/COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In FY23, Peers provided outreach to 142 new agencies and organizations across Maryland to: provide awareness of the Center and its resources; connect with existing certified peer recovery specialists located within their treatment delivery system; offer assistance within their client base and community; and provide resources for those clients identified as having a gambling disorder.

A significant aspect of Peer outreach is collaborating with substance use and mental health organizations to present their personal stories of gambling addiction and recovery, as well as to assist them with incorporating gambling addiction, its risks, and the resources available into their current practices. The Peers conducted 189 presentations to recovery/community groups and participated in 120 community events, interacting with 10,422 Maryland residents.



COLLABORATION WITH THE MARYLAND COALITION OF FAMILIES (MCF)

The Center continued its partnership with the Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) to ensure support for the family members who are faced with the negative consequences created by a gambler’s out-of-control gambling behavior. In FY23, a total of 84 help seekers were referred to MCF for family support, with 37 (44%) referrals directed from the Maryland Helpline. The remaining 47 (56%) were direct referrals from the Center Peers as they worked collaboratively on a one-on-one basis with the MCF liaison to provide support to family members.



Training and Education

Outreach through clinical training and education programs across the state continues to be an important initiative for the Center. These programs build the capacity to prevent, address, and treat problem gambling/gambling disorder among mental health and substance use treatment, social services, and prevention organizations. In FY23, 3,446 total participants attended, in-person or virtually, one or more of the 39 clinical training and educational programs conducted by the Center.

ANNUAL MARYLAND CONFERENCE ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

This annual statewide learning forum brings together national and local experts in the field of problem gambling, as well as Maryland state and local policy makers, community leaders, behavioral health providers, and other health professionals. The Center hosted its 10th Anniversary Maryland Conference on Problem Gambling, entitled “Building on Past Successes as We Face New Challenges” on Friday, June 16, 2023. There were close to 400 attendees. The all-day conference offered live plenary sessions from 19 national and local speakers. These sessions included: Veterans and Problem Gambling, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice; Sports Betting Panel; and a Peers Panel. The Conference also included an exhibit hall, poster session, and a bookstore.

AGENCY, REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE TRAININGS AND PRESENTATIONS

The Center offered a total of 39 virtual general awareness and clinical problem gambling training programs and presentations in FY23 reaching over 3,446 clinicians, health professionals, preventionists and peer support specialists across all Maryland regions. The Center also conducted two separate 12-hour, four-day basic and advanced virtual problem gambling clinical workshops, with a total attendance of 416 Maryland clinicians.

Targeted outreach to over 646 programs and private practitioners was conducted by the Center to determine their problem gambling needs. A total of 189 presentations as requested by agencies were given to 2825 participants.

DISORDERED GAMBLING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

A total of 4 clinicians from the Center’s Provider Referral Directory engaged in the Disordered Gambling Fellowship Program which came to a close in FY23. These clinicians conducted a total of seven virtual in-service presentations to behavioral health organizations. These four clinicians are now a part of the Center’s training staff.

FAITH-BASED TRAINING

In collaboration with the Center, the Maryland Council on Problem Gambling (MCPG) conducts faith-based training to lay ministers, clergy, providers, and community advocates to educate and provide help to Maryland residents who may be struggling with a gambling problem. Since 2017, MCPG has trained over 380 faith and spiritual community stakeholders in problem gambling and spiritual outreach.

In FY23, 24 virtual training modules were conducted by MCPG to support the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board’s (IGCCB) Certification for Clergy and Lay Supporters. These programs were held virtually instructing 7 total participants. Naomi C. Durand-Kabasela, MA, LCPC, ICGC-I presented “Gambling Trends: Strategies to Help” to 10 viewers during November 2022. Another webinar was held during Problem Gambling Awareness Month 2023 in which Victor Ortiz, MSW, LADC-I, CADC-II was the presenter. Mr. Ortiz presented on the topic “Addressing Health Disparities and Building Equity for Priority Populations. MCPG was able to send the recording of these presentations to faith and spiritual partners, community stakeholders, and behavioral health providers to support their gambling wellness, mental health education and advocacy.

TRAINING FOR FAMILY SUPPORT, MARYLAND COALITION OF FAMILIES (MCF)

The Center and MCF collaborated to provide problem gambling peer support for families (MCF Peers) and individuals (the Center Peers). To that end, the Center provides ongoing problem gambling training for MCF staff to increase their understanding of how problem gambling affects families and their capability of providing support when needed. In FY23, MCF staff participated in 24 of the webinar trainings already being provided by the Center.

ONLINE TRAINING

The Center's two-part, on-demand training program, Integrating Problem Gambling into Substance Abuse Disorder and Mental Health Treatment, Part One and Two, hosted on mdproblemgambling.com, are designed for staff at any level within behavioral health departments/organizations.

These on-demand programs further expand the commitment to integrate gambling counseling within existing behavioral health programs. At the end of FY23, 10 unique individuals completed these on-demand training programs. A total of 850 individuals have completed on-demand training since these programs launched in FY16.

CASE CONSULTATION CALLS

The Center continues to provide Case Consultation Calls four times a month to enhance the skills and competence of treatment providers to address the needs of clients with gambling problems and provide additional supervision support for international gambling counseling accreditation requirements. In FY23, 34 case consultation calls were made with 253 total participants.

Prevention

The Center's prevention efforts work collaboratively with community organizations and the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to educate and implement underage and problem gambling prevention strategies. In FY23, this effort was supported by the Center through special population grants to community organizations to promote problem gambling awareness and prevention. A total of 10 grants were awarded, producing 63 completed projects, reaching 51,325 people with 38,916 awareness materials distributed. In addition, the Center began a prevention grant program for HBCUs in FY23. The HBCU grant program provided 3 grants, completed 8 projects, and reached 989 people with 2,670 awareness materials distributed. Also, data analyses and compilation summaries for the Underage and Problem Gambling Prevention Needs Assessment were completed. The Center's Prevention staff conducted 39 presentations reaching 2,777 people.

SPECIAL POPULATION GRANTS

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Maryland

In FY2023, the Center collaborated with NAMI, a national non-profit organization with the mission of raising awareness and providing support to those affected by mental illness. During the fiscal year, NAMI distributed the Center's materials at 20 in-person events reaching 800 people. NAMI posted the Center's messaging in their e-newsletters, reaching approximately 30,000 people. Messaging on problem gambling prevention was posted on social media during Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM) and throughout the year. Maryland residents attending NAMI workshops across the State also received problem gambling information. The Center hosted an exhibit at the NAMI Conference, reaching over 100 people. In addition, one of the Center's peer recovery support specialists was a panelist for the NAMI sponsored radio segment on mental health on 92 Q, reaching over 3,000 viewers on Facebook. NAMI also collaborated with Alston for Athletes, the Hidden Opponent, and the Center to secure a National Council on Problem Gambling agility grant to provide Smart Choices for Athletes to educate student athletes on problem gambling and mental health.



Maryland Association of Prevention Professionals and Advocates (MAPPA)

In FY2023, the Center continued a collaborative grant agreement with MAPPA, the Maryland Association of Prevention Professionals and Advocates, a statewide organization promoting the field of prevention by assisting with certification of prevention professionals, providing forums and networking events for the prevention community, and hosting an annual conference. MAPPA is open to all state prevention coordinators but focuses on substance misuse prevention.



The Center provided a grant to MAPPA to increase the integration of problem gambling prevention with substance misuse prevention programming statewide. In FY23, the Center staff presented at the Statewide MAPPA Conference to 75 prevention professionals. The Prevention Manager was co-leader for quarterly MAPPA Gatherings, reaching 125 prevention professionals. MAPPA distributed 4,685 materials during PGAM and throughout the fiscal year.

My Life Foundation

The Center continued a collaboration with My Life Foundation during FY23. My Life Foundation provides services to the Asian American communities in health and wellness, advocates for reducing health disparities, and promotes culturally sensitive education and awareness of mental health. In FY2023, My Life Foundation provided problem gambling prevention within their health and wellness classes to 100 people. Information on problem gambling prevention was included on the My Life Foundation website and through social media accounts. The Center's materials were translated to Korean and distributed to the public through health fairs and other public events. My Life co-presented on the Center's Asian American Heritage Month webinar. The youth portion of the grant provided education conducted by youth for youth, including the design and distribution of a youth brochure.



Sheppard Pratt

Sheppard Pratt's mission is to improve the quality of life of individuals and families by compassionately serving their mental health, addiction, special education, and community support needs. For the first time, in FY 2023, the Center provided a grant to Sheppard Pratt to integrate problem gambling prevention into their existing programs, reaching over 9,672 Maryland clinicians and community members. Over 219 clinicians attended problem gambling training and 700 clients were screened for disordered gambling. PGAM and training information was sent to 9,672 people through Sheppard Pratt's Pulse Communication Platform. Printed materials were displayed in waiting rooms and at school programs.



Towson University, Northeast Student Advisory Board

Towson University, Northeast allows students in the Northeastern part of Maryland to complete their four-year degrees close to home after graduating with a two-year degree at the community college. The Student Advisory Board is a student leadership group that provides student activities and guidance. The Student Advisory Board received a problem gambling prevention grant in FY23 implementing strategies including problem gambling prevention education in new student orientation, displaying materials at school events, including information in the school newsletter, providing materials in Spanish, posting messages on digital screens, posting flyers in the bathrooms, and sending emails. The Student Advisory Board also reached senior citizens through an educational program at the University. Students reached at least 400 people through in-person strategies and 700 through electronic strategies.



Joy Overflow International Ministries, Inc.

Joy Overflow International Ministries, Inc. provides faith-based services and mental health and substance misuse treatment and prevention services in Eastern Baltimore County. Joy Overflow implemented problem gambling prevention strategies reaching 250 people through social media, promotion of PGAM, display of materials at community events, and problem gambling screening.



University of Maryland Extension Service, Central Region

The Maryland Extension Services provide financial literacy programming to Maryland residents. The Extension Services in the Central Region co-presented a webinar on cryptocurrency attended by 11 people.



University of Maryland Extension Service, Eastern Shore Region

The Extension Services Eastern Shore Region created problem gambling prevention display boards in English and Spanish that rotated to public locations during the fiscal year, reaching at least 1,500 community members. The Extension Service reached out to other local organizations to help with problem gambling prevention and promoted PGAM. Problem gambling prevention information was integrated into financial literacy classes reaching at least 3,441 people.



Asian American Center of Frederick

The Asian American Center of Frederick's mission is to help all immigrants and minorities become independent, successful, and contributing members of society. Staff and volunteers were trained on problem gambling prevention and resources for help in preparation for delivering programming. The Asian American Center of Frederick integrated problem gambling prevention strategies into school and community programming, directly reaching 322 people.



Berlin Prevention Works Coalition

The Berlin Prevention Works Coalition reduces substance use among youth in Worcester County. Through school and community events, the Berlin Prevention Works Coalition reached over 1,000 youth and family members with problem gambling prevention education, materials, and resources for help. In addition, Center staff presented at a coalition meeting reaching 10 community leaders. Berlin Prevention Works Coalition posted problem gambling prevention messaging during PGAM and throughout the Spring of 2023.

Harvesting Hope and Family Wellness

Harvesting Hope provides behavioral health, support services, and resources to the community for youth and families to improve life goals. Staff and volunteers were trained on problem gambling prevention and screening. Harvesting Hope provided the Center's materials at community events and screened 25 people for gambling disorder.



Synergy Family Services

Synergy Family Services is a dynamic outpatient mental health center providing strength-based, culturally proficient services to enhance social, emotional, behavioral health, and wellness of individuals and families. As a new grantee in FY 2023, Synergy Family Services translated Center materials from English to Spanish, posted problem gambling information on the website, reached 582 people through social media, and screened 139 clients for a gambling disorder. Synergy also displayed problem gambling materials at four school system events.



University of Maryland, Baltimore, School of Medicine, National Center for School Mental Health (NCSMH)

In FY2023, the National Center for School Mental Health (NCSMH) updated the Maryland Smart Choices problem gambling prevention curriculum for middle and high school students to include mental health coping strategies and updated gambling examples. In addition, sample language was developed to assist schools in adopting a school gambling policy and suggestions for consequences for students caught gambling at school.



HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCUs)

University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)

With only a few months to implement strategies in FY23, UMES disseminated printed materials on campus as well as posted on social media. 400 students were reached at school events, some during PGAM.



Morgan State University

With limited time, the Morgan State University Counseling Center was able to get problem gambling prevention strategies started on campus during FY23. Four staff from the Counseling Center attended the Center's annual conference and participated in on-line Center trainings. Problem gambling prevention materials were placed in the counseling center waiting room. In addition, problem gambling was discussed at two community events with materials distributed, reaching over 400 students.



Bowie State University

With limited time, Bowie State made connections on campus to promote problem gambling prevention. Bowie State hosted a problem gambling webinar for counseling students with 30 students in attendance. Bowie State hosted a student forum on problem gambling with 20 students and 2 faculty members present. Problem gambling was also discussed at another campus event. One counseling student is very interested in the field of problem gambling counseling and is seeking to research the topic and take more training.



OTHER PREVENTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Public Health Associate (PHA) completed all data collection for the Underage and Problem Gambling Prevention Needs Assessment and has completed a compilation draft document.
- Presented during two workshops at the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) Conference in Boston in July 2022.
- Established quarterly meetings with the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency's Champions Team to discuss underage and responsible gambling policies and strategies.
- Established a verbal agreement from Coppin State University to accept a problem gambling prevention grant in FY 2024.
- Collaborated with the Maryland Alliance on Responsible Gambling (MARG) to create a small gambling help information card and a sports betting informational flyer.
- Collaborated with NAMI Maryland, Alston for Athletes, and the Hidden Opponent to submit and receive a prevention agility grant from NCPG for Smart Choices for Athletes to provide education on mental health and problem gambling to student athletes.

Public Policy

The Center, in collaboration with the Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy (LRC) and the Public Health Law Clinic at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law (law school), actively scanned public policy issues arising in Maryland around responsible and problem gambling. The Center engaged partners, decision makers, and stakeholders across the state to align gambling laws and policies with the promotion of healthy and informed choices for all adult gamblers.

MARYLAND GAMBLING INITIATIVES

The Center continued to monitor proposed gambling legislation in Maryland during the Maryland Legislative Session. The Center tracked a total of 26 bills that referenced gambling within the House and Senate, provided written and oral testimony in Annapolis, created and updated a real-time legislative tracking document to a listserv of over 300 registrants, and held bi-weekly calls to discuss prominent public health legislation. Of special note was SB595/HB668 which required the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission to charge video lottery operation licensees an annual fee of \$500 per table game to go to the Problem Gambling Fund as well as 1% of sports wagering proceeds. The bill would have given the Problem Gambling Fund a significant boost to help support Marylanders suffering gambling related harm as sports wagering continues to expand. The Center continues to track and monitor all potential gambling legislation to ensure that responsible gambling practices are adhered to and potential harms from gambling are minimized and addressed.

PARTICIPATION IN POLICY FORUMS

The Center participates and presents in a variety of policy forums with organizations such as the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency, the Maryland Department of Health Behavioral Health Administration, Maryland Alliance for Responsible Gambling, National Council on Problem Gambling, American Public Health Association, Network for Public Health Law, and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-Maryland. The Center presented in these forums on a variety of topics including sports betting, problem gambling legal and policy levers, and a high-level overview of what is problem gambling and Maryland's unique approach to prevention and treatment at the Center.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE MONITORING

The Center monitored legislation across the country, primarily related to sports betting, as has been a national focus since the Supreme Court of the United States ruling in *Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association*. The Center has been actively participating in the notice and rulemaking process for Maryland's own sports betting regulations and been reviewing other states and other countries to help inform evidence-based recommendations for responsible sports betting in Maryland. While sports betting is still a primary public policy focus of the Center, conversations around bringing iGaming and iLottery to Maryland have begun and the Center is anticipating these issues becoming more prominent in the coming years and legislation being introduced as early as 2024.



Research

In fiscal year FY23, the Research Program on Gambling (RPG) in collaboration with the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling. The Center continued to advance its research agenda with a focus on the identification and prevention of problem gambling behavior and attendant consequences for public health. The following report are highlights of the program's achievements over the past year.

PREVALENCE STUDY OF MARYLAND GAMBLERS

The Research Program on Problem Gambling (RPG) is responsible for reporting the prevalence of problem gambling in the state of Maryland bi-annually. The data was collected in 2022 and the final report was sent to the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) by June 30, 2023. On November 15, 2022, RPG presented confidential preliminary data to the Center for guidance on prevention and treatment of problem gamblers in the state of Maryland. In addition, this data was also used to guide public awareness needs going forward.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

RPG completed a report on how Maryland compares to the rest of the 50 states on problem gambling rates, and which states conduct prevalence studies. A second project looked at medical issues that problem gamblers tend to experience. Both of these reports were presented as research posters at the Center's 10th Anniversary Maryland Conference on Problem Gambling on June 16, 2023. Also, RPG concluded The Prevention and Etiology of Gambling in the US (PEGASUS) Study, a prospective cohort study designed to identify the risk and protective factors for the development of gambling disorder in a cohort of community-dwelling adults in the state of Maryland. Results from this five-year study of over 1000 Marylanders have been used to distinguish future gamblers from those living with gambling disorder, provide critical information to support the expansion or refinement of treatment and support services for current disordered gamblers while providing evidence-based strategies to minimize the risk of progressing to disordered gambling. Two sub studies of the PEGASUS cohort were focused on fantasy sports and on-line sports betting. During FY23 RPG statisticians pulled data from questions in the PEGASUS and Prevalence studies to set up the specific aims of a report about on-line sports betting in anticipation of the legalization of sports betting in Maryland effective November 2022. Data were harmonized to ensure that each source uses the same wording to validate that data sources could be combined statistically. Once legalization took effect RPG began providing monthly graphs to BHA and the Center about the utilization of help seeking gamblers who specifically participate in on-line sports gambling and fantasy sports.

EVALUATION OF HELPLINE SERVICES

During this fiscal year RPG received data quarterly from MDCEPG Helpline services. These data were analyzed and a report on meeting benchmarks was submitted quarterly to BHA and MDCEPG. During FY23 all benchmarks were met in three quarters. In quarter three, benchmark A (referrals to helpline callers) fell short, and RPG met with CEPC to discuss remediation. By quarter four, the benchmark was being met. In addition, RPG provides a separate report about the demographics of people who contact the helpline. Pie charts and analysis were provided to BHA and MDCEPG quarterly.

Evaluation: With the legalization of sports betting in Maryland, tracking the MDCEPG Helpline services should remain a high priority. Continuing to monitor the demographics of help seekers can also facilitate identification of at-risk groups.

EVALUATION OF PEER SUPPORT SERVICES

RPG continues to work closely with the Center to update and modify the data captured in REDCap related to peer specialists, their work habits, training, and outreach services. RPG provided reports that are run randomly to give a snapshot of each peer's activities for closer supervision if needed. RPG reports quarterly on the meeting of benchmarks. All benchmarks were met in FY23. Additionally, peers are trained annually on suicide prevention and RPG set up pre and posttest assessments in REDCap to demonstrate competence. In FY23 all peers successfully passed the posttests.

Evaluation: Continued tracking of Peer support services will monitor progress towards meeting the annual benchmark for assistance to help seekers. Routine monitoring of Peer support services also allows for the detection of trends in help request volume and/or outreach services.

EVALUATION OF FAMILY PEER SUPPORT SERVICES (MCF)

Continued tracking of Peer support services will monitor progress towards meeting the annual benchmark for assistance to help seekers. Routine monitoring of Peer support services also allows for the detection of trends in help request volume and/or outreach services.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC AND/OR LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

RPG continues to provide the Center with data to address the numerous requests by radio, newspapers, and magazines about sports betting and other gambling topics. RPG conducted analysis of existing data to provide to the Center so that they could accurately respond to these public requests.

Future Directions

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Update current public awareness materials and begin translation of materials.
- Maintain QR codes as a link to video and web media to reduce distribution costs.
- Work with G3 Group Inc. to update and redesign the help seeker site.
- Redesign the annual report to illustrate key accomplishments and reduce repetition.
- Modify the current Military site militarygamblesafe.org, into a “First Responders” support and information site for Paramedics – Fire – Police – Military – 911 operators.

TREATMENT AND INTERVENTION SERVICES

- Continue to outreach behavioral health agencies, organizations, and private practitioners to encourage participation in the Maryland Problem Gambling Reimbursement Program, as a means to serve individuals and/or concerned others struggling with problems related to gambling in the state of Maryland.
- Expand the Center’s ability to provide didactic and clinical assistance to behavioral health agencies, organizations, and private practitioners throughout Maryland.
- Increase the inclusion of evidenced-based screening and assessment for gambling as part of regular treatment practice by distributing a comprehensive clinical Screening Guide for behavioral health providers and medical professionals.
- Continue the Center’s collaboration with the Maryland Alliance for Responsible Gambling (MARG) and work jointly on the Voluntary Exclusion Program of the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA).

PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT

- Continue outreach efforts to behavioral health agencies, organizations, and private practitioners as a means of expanding utilization of the Center’s Certified Peer Recovery Specialists to help individuals limit, control, or stop their gambling.
- Continue the partnership with the Maryland Coalition of Families (MCF) Peer Specialist to ensure support for the family members who are faced with the negative consequences created by a gambler’s out-of-control gambling behavior.
- Continue to grow client-centered peer-driven presentations in partnership with behavioral health agencies, organizations, and private practitioners throughout Maryland.
- Continue to strengthen and build collaborations with behavioral health agencies, organizations, and private practitioners across the state, so as to expand the resources available to Maryland residents impacted by gambling addiction.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- Continue to target outreach and training opportunities to private practitioners, behavioral health agencies, organizations, and preventionists.
- Continue to broaden training topics across awareness, prevention, treatment, and recovery.
- Provide additional Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to certified providers on behalf of accredited licensing bodies, such as MABPCB and IGCCB.

PREVENTION

- Finalize the Underage and Problem Gambling Prevention needs assessment and promote use as a data base for prevention strategies in Maryland.
- Develop a comprehensive problem gambling prevention strategic plan.
- Continue to provide prevention grants and collaborate with HBCUs.
- Continue to implement and expand special population problem gambling prevention grants to minority populations and other populations at risk for problem gambling.
- Continue to implement and expand youth grants in Maryland with a focus on expanding to college-age young adults and geographic areas that show higher risk of underage and problem gambling as indicated through the data.

PUBLIC POLICY

- Further involvement with the Maryland Alliance on Responsible Gambling with Center presentations at meetings throughout the year and further collaboration in Lottery and casino responsible gambling programming.
- Continue to communicate with a broader community of stakeholders including legal organizations, public health organizations, and the Maryland Judiciary to build awareness of problem gambling as a mental health issue.
- Enhance relationships with legislators, as appropriate, and continue electronic and in-person policy discussions to proactively share information and concerns with Maryland state and local legislators.

RESEARCH

- Continue collaborative efforts and the expansion of the research agenda on problem gambling to include, but not limited to: prevention initiatives; identification and surveillance; evaluation of public policy; ongoing impact assessment of expanded legalized gambling; and identification of vulnerable populations.



Affiliates

PUBLIC AWARENESS

G3Group Agency, LLC

Anita Schott
CEO

John E. Pusey
Director, Development & Hosting

Tammy Vinson Schott
Project Manager

Maryland Council on Problem Gambling (MCPG)

Deborah G. Haskins, PhD, LCPC, ACS, MAC, ICGC II
President

Tineka Rice, LCSW-C, CCGSO
Vice President

Dr. Shandra Parks, MSW, CCGSO
Secretary

Tamala Law, MBA
Treasurer

Brina Olunkwa, BA
Administrative Assistant

POLICY

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Maryland (NCADD-MD)

Nancy Rosen-Cohen, PhD
Executive Director

Susan Pompa
Associate Director

Ann T. Ciekot
Partner, Public Policy Partners

Tiffinee Scott
Outreach & Community Organizer

Cathy Gray
Office Manager

University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

Kathleen Hoke, JD
*Law School Professor
Director, Network for Public Health Law,
Eastern Region
Director, Legal Resource Center for
Public Health Policy*

Blair Inniss, JD, MA
*Government Affairs Manager,
The Center Staff Attorney, Legal
Resource Center*

PREVENTION

University of Maryland School of Medicine National Center for School Mental Health, School Mental Health Program

Nancy Lever, PhD
Executive Director

Kelly Willis, LCSW-C
Associate Director

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Maryland Department of Health (MDH)

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Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA)

Maryland Association of Prevention Professionals & Advocates (MAPPA)

My Life Foundation, Inc.

National Alliance on Mental Illness-Maryland (NAMI-Maryland)

National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG)

Optum Maryland (Optum)

Towson University, Northeast Student Advisory Board



UNIVERSITY
of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Maryland Center of Excellence on **PROBLEM GAMBLING**

250 W. Pratt Street, Suite #1050
Baltimore, MD 21201
667-214-2120

- www.helpmygamblingproblem.org
- www.mdproblemgambling.com

MARYLAND HELPLINE: 1-800-GAMBLER