

Problem Gambling News and Events

VOLUME 19

JULY, 2010

Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling-888-ADMIT-IT(236-4848)

2009/2010 HelpLine Statistics

Warning Signs of Problem Gambling

- *Preoccupation with Gambling*
- *Risking Relationships*
- *Gambling to Escape*
- *Relying on Bailouts*
- *Increasing Bets to Sustain Thrill*
- *Concealing Activity*
- *Loss of Control*
- *Chasing Losses*
- *Illegal Activities*
- *Agitated when Stopping or Cutting Back*

Check these out!!!!

www.gamblinghelp.org

<http://gamblinghelp.org/forums/>

Books:

Personal Foul
 Tim Donaghy

Gambling in America
 Earl L. Grinols

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call 1-888-236-4848 for information and resources.

HELP STARTS HERE

Throughout fiscal year 2009/2010, the FCCG responded to over 4,900 Help and Information contacts. This is a 12% increase over last year and the statistics show more than ever that there is a major gambling problem in the state of Florida. The FCCG received calls from 60 of the 67 counties with the highest percentage coming from the south Florida area. The top reasons why people were seeking help were relationship problems and difficulty paying household bills. The primary gambling types most often cited were slot machines, cards and lottery games. Almost one third of the gamblers claimed to have lost \$90,000 or more and almost one quarter owed \$60,000 or more due to gambling. Approximately one third of the gamblers had committed illegal acts in order to finance their gambling such as fraud,

larceny and embezzlement. Data on the emotional problems experienced showed that over 80% of the gamblers felt anxiety or depression and 11% had suicidal ideations or previous attempts. Family conflict and neglect were prominent problems due to the gamblers behavior and even domestic violence was cited by 3%. The FCCG also saw the impact that Internet Sweepstakes cafes are having and the rapid onset of problems caused by these establishments. The FCCG referred gamblers and loved to resources that could assist them. If you or someone you know has a problem, call 1-888-ADMIT-IT for workbooks, resources and referrals that can help.



Stats from the HelpLine

- 61% of the gamblers were male
- 8% of the gamblers had a military background
- 64% cited casinos as primary location
- 67% of the gamblers owed money to credit cards
- 21% of the gamblers were unemployed or disabled
- 12% had enacted bankruptcy
- 37% had sold or pawned assets
- 18% had sought help before

Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling
 901 Douglas Avenue, Suite 200 Altamonte Springs, Florida 32714