

THE FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF PROBLEM GAMBLING

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Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling

HOW MUCH ARE YOU WILLING TO WAGER?

As the old saying goes, “This town wasn’t built on winners”, and that is something problem gamblers forget more often than those who gamble socially. Social gambling can be a fun activity, with no negative impacts for most individuals. However, for those that suffer from a gambling addiction, the financial impacts faced can be devastating, often occurring in a very short time period and taking years to recover from. These negative financial effects are not only felt by the gambler, but also their family, friends, employers, and other members of the community as well.

According to *Time Magazine*, the total debt for Americans in 2016 was **\$935.6 billion**. Additionally, the average American between the ages of 18 and 65 has \$4,717 in credit card debt.

The month of April is Financial Literacy month in the United States and is dedicated to teaching Americans how to establish and maintain healthy financial habits.

According to data collected by the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling’s (FCCG) **888-ADMIT-IT** helpline, in 2015-2016, the average amount of lifetime gambling losses per individual was **\$168,052**, and the average gambling debt was **\$49,281**, with more than half of this debt being owed to credit cards.

The good news is the FCCG has supports in place that can help.

Through the **888-ADMIT-IT** Helpline, the FCCG provides treatment for compulsive gamblers and their loved ones as well as many other programs and resources. We offer financial guidance in regaining control of your finances using our budget tool as well as a debt consolidation program and Gamblers Anonymous’ “Pressure Relief Group Meetings”, all of which provide additional supports and financial planning.



The FCCG wants to make sure that you gamble responsibly and set time and money limits when gambling to help keep it a fun and social activity.

We provide a multitude of resources through our multilingual, confidential, 24/7 Helpline—**888-ADMIT-IT** for anyone impacted by a gambling problem.

Free counseling, peer supports, financial and legal assistance, self-help workbooks, budget assistance and much more are just a phone call, text, or chat away...

[HELP STARTS HERE](#)

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call

[888-ADMIT-IT](#)

For Professionals working with members of the military, the Combat: Gambling Addiction toolkit is available to download at the following link:

<http://www.gamblinghelp.org/resources/toolkits>

You may also be interested in information on our free online training module for certification as a Compulsive Gambling Counselor. Contact us now for more information!

Contact us today for assistance!

- ◆ **1-888-ADMIT-IT**
- ◆ **Live Chat at www.gamblinghelp.org**
- ◆ **Text to [321-978-0555](tel:321-978-0555)**
- ◆ **Email to fccg@gamblinghelp.org**

The Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling—[888-ADMIT-IT](#)

Instilling Hope and Providing Help for Those Impacted by a Gambling Addiction