



April 2019

Meet the Ugliest Symptoms of Gambling Addiction

Child Abuse

Did you know that for every case of gambling addiction, an average of eight to ten other people are negatively affected, including family members, friends, co-workers, and others? Unfortunately, children of all ages are no exception.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Traumatic events during childhood – which the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control calls "Adverse Childhood Experiences" or ACEs – lead to a number of complications in adulthood, ranging from substance abuse to poor physical and mental health to an increase in risky behaviors. ACEs include abuse, neglect, and household challenges, such as divorce and crime.¹

According to 2017-2018 FCCG HelpLine data, family conflict was reported by a stunning 79% of callers and family neglect was a factor for 67%. Those struggling with problem gambling are twice as likely to have their marriage end in divorce due to finances – 26% of 888-ADMIT-IT callers reported being subject to divorce due to gambling addiction. Children under the age of 18 were present in 34% of gambler households contacting the HelpLine.



Family Neglect

Providing for a family is challenging enough under normal circumstances. But when problem gambling is involved, the situation is often dire.

For those closest to the gambler, the family, the impact of gambling addiction is real and often severe. Mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters often suffer from physical, emotional, and psychological abuse, all the way down to the deprivation of basic needs like food, water, and shelter.

Considering that approximately 65% of couples argue about money on a regular basis² and 35% of callers to Florida's Problem Gambling HelpLine reported committing illegal acts to fund their gambling, the parallels are easy to see. In fact, relationship problems were the number one reason cited by 2017-2018 callers for reaching out for help with a gambling addiction.

Resources You Should Know

It is understandable how people suffering from situations involving family neglect, domestic violence, and child abuse may feel hopeless. But those of us looking in from the outside have a responsibility to communicate what we know about the help and resources that are available.

The Florida Abuse Hotline for suspected child abuse and neglect of children and adults can be reached at 1-800-96-ABUSE (22873). Florida's Domestic Violence Hotline can be reached at 1-800-500-1119. Both of these services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you know of a child or adult who is in immediate danger, call 911.

If gambling addiction is involved, the root of the problem needs to be addressed as well. For anyone you know, including yourself, who is suffering from the effects of gambling addiction, help is available 24/7/365 by calling Florida's Problem Gambling HelpLine at 1-888-ADMIT-IT (236-4848).

GET CONNECTED

Florida's Problem Gambling HelpLine

888-ADMIT-IT

321-978-0555

gamblinghelp.org



References:

1. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention. "About the CDC-Kaiser ACE Study." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2 Apr. 2019, www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/cestudy/about.html.
2. Pinola, Melanie. "How to Stop Fighting About Money with Your Significant Other." Lifestacker, Lifestacker, 13 Mar. 2014, lifestacker.com/how-to-stop-fighting-about-money-with-your-significant-1543085460.