



PROBLEM GAMBLING STATISTICS FOR FLORIDA

Based on data from 3,270 help calls to the HelpLine for 2007/2008*

- The most common reason for contacting the HelpLine was relationship problems (27%), followed by overextended debt (19%).
- Males made up 64% of the gamblers.
- For 12%, gambling started before the legal age of 18.
- The primary problems cited were slot machines (46%), cards (26%) and lottery games (15%).
- Females favor slots over lottery 73% to 16% while males favor cards over slots 38% to 30%.
- The average income of the gambler was \$47,165, the average amount lost was \$61,023 and the average debt due to gambling is just over \$60,000.
- Credit cards were cited by 69% as a main source of gambling debt.
- Other financial problems that were stated were; difficulty paying household bills (76%), gambling away savings, equity or retirement (60%) and pawning or selling assets (31%).
- Illegal acts to fund gambling or pay off debts due to gambling had been committed by 30% of the gamblers (fraud, embezzlement, larceny/theft and other)
- While 64% of the gamblers held full time jobs, 21% who contacted were unemployed, disabled or collecting workers compensation.
- One out of five stated also having problems with alcohol or substance abuse.
- The gambler had come from a family with a history of gambling problems 30% of the time and alcohol or substance abuse 24% of the time.
- Help had been sought before by 21% of the gamblers.
- The FCCG offers supportive intervention, resources and confidential referrals to persons who contact the HelpLine in need of assistance with a gambling problem.

*All of the callers did not respond to all questions asked during contact