

LIGHTS ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

CRIME & VIOLENCE

Problem or compulsive gambling is often referred to as the hidden disease. Unlike alcoholism or drug addiction, the signs are not physical in nature. However, problem gambling manifests itself in a number of other different ways. The signs are there. Are you seeing them?

As gambling takes over and one no longer has control, it often begins to seep into areas of a person's life. Compulsive gambling can often lead to acts of desperation, such as crime and violence.

For help with a gambling problem or more information, call the 24-hour HelpLine, **888-ADMIT-IT**, or visit lightsonproblemgambling.com.

888-ADMIT-IT

Shining the light on problem gambling.

888-ADMIT-IT 888-

Impact of Gambling on Crime

- Nearly 30% of callers to the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling HelpLine report committing a crime due to gambling.
- The most common criminal offenses that compulsive gamblers commit include theft, tax evasion, forgery, fraud, armed robbery, extortion, sale of drugs, misappropriation of funds, burglary, prostitution, illegal gambling operations, writing bad checks, fencing stolen goods and embezzlement.
- Studies show that amongst problem and pathological gamblers, the crime rate is as high as 50-67%.
- About 1/3 of both problem and compulsive gamblers have been arrested at some point in their lives, while 10% of problem gamblers and 23% of pathological gamblers have been incarcerated.
- Here in Florida, FCCG prevalence studies have documented that adult problem and pathological gamblers are almost four times as likely to have been arrested as non-problem gamblers, and adolescents are also exhibiting illegal behavior related to their gambling.
- A FCCG study of youth within the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice system found that 17% of adolescents, ages 11-20, attributed their imprisonment in the juvenile justice facility to gambling (Lieberman and Cuadrado, 2002).
- Problem and pathological gamblers in the U.S. cost society approximately \$5 billion per year and an additional \$40 billion in lifetime costs for productivity reductions, social services and creditor losses.