
problem gambling: a public health & social service concern

Gambling is usually harmless entertainment for most people. But for some, it crosses the line.

- ⌘ More than 75,000 Oregon adults (2.7% of adults) meet the criteria for being current problem or pathological gamblers (Moore, 2006).
- ⌘ One in every 25 Oregon teens (4% of 13-17 year-olds) meet the criteria for being problem gamblers (Carlson & Moore, 1998).
- ⌘ Recent national estimates place the social-economic cost of problem gamblers at approximately \$3,000 each and \$11,000 for each pathological gambler– or an estimated cost in excess of \$361 million for Oregonians.

Problem Gambling: “Gambling behavior which causes disruptions in any major area of life: psychological, physical, social or vocational”

(National Council on Problem Gambling)

Pathological Gambling: “Persistent and recurrent maladaptive gambling behavior that disrupts personal, family or vocational pursuits” (APA, DSM-IV)

consequences of problem gambling | social service need

Consider of Oregonians in problem gambling treatment programs in 2007:

- ⌘ **Debt:** Problem gamblers reported an average of more than \$26,000 in gambling debts.
- ⌘ **Tobacco:** More than 7 in 10 problem gamblers say they also use tobacco.
- ⌘ **Drugs:** About one in 10 problem gamblers admit to having drug problems.
- ⌘ **Alcohol:** About three in 10 problem gamblers admit to having problems with alcohol.
- ⌘ **Crime:** About one in five said they committed crimes to get gambling money.
- ⌘ **Job:** About one in four said they experienced job-related problems.
- ⌘ **Family:** One in five reported their gambling cost them a marriage or significant relationship.
- ⌘ **Suicide ideation:** About one in 20 said they made a suicide attempt within six months to entering treatment.

Source: Moore, 2008 (in press)

youth connections

Youth gambling and other risky behaviors are connected.

Oregon Healthy Teens 8th and 11th grade surveys (DHS, 2007) showed that kids who gamble are:

- ⌘ Twice as likely to have **drunk beer, wine, or hard liquor** in the last 30 days.
- ⌘ Twice as likely to have had **sexual intercourse**.
- ⌘ Two to three times more likely to have been **involved in a physical fight** in the last year

Problem gambling is not typically identified easily – unless you ask the questions.

**Please know FREE help is available in Lane County, through the
Emergence Gambling Treatment Program [741.7107 / 1.877.MY.LIMIT].**