



Problem Gambling in Kansas

For most adults, gambling is a source of entertainment, a chance to socialize with others in a fun, safe and exciting atmosphere – and perhaps, to win some money. For some, gambling can become problematic.

A 1999 National Prevalence Study revealed that .9% of the adult population, which would be approximately 18,614 Kansans, are pathological gamblers.

Mitigating the harm caused by problem gambling can be accomplished by understanding problem gambling issues and knowing how to access help.

Gambling activities may include the following:

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|--------------------|----------------|
| Bingo | Keno |
| Casinos | Lottery |
| Commodities Market | Sports Betting |
| Dog/Horse Races | Stock Market |
| Internet Gambling | Sweepstakes |

The National Council on Problem Gambling defines problem gambling as:

***“...gambling behavior which causes disruptions in any major area of life – psychological, physical, social or vocational.*”**

Do You or Someone You Know Have A Gambling Problem?

1. Have you ever felt the need to bet more and more money?
2. Have you ever had to lie to people important to you about how much you gamble?

An answer of “yes” to either or both of these questions may indicate a problem with gambling.

Information for this Fact Sheet provided by the Kansas Responsible Gambling Alliance ~ a partnership of Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission, Kansas Lottery, Kansas Department of Corrections, Kansas Coalition on Problem Gambling, Boot Hill Casino and Resort and Kansas Community Representatives.

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(data derived from the Kansas Problem Gambling Helpline 2001-2010)

Of the individuals that called the Kansas Helpline:

- 3700 calls for help
- 63 of those callers were suicidal
- 14,000 opportunistic calls (those who may have been inquiring but were hesitant to ask for help)
- 52% were male
- 48% were female
- 48% were 26-54 years old
- 68% were inquiring about help for themselves
- 37% and 13% indicated casino slots and casino cards as their gambling choice
- 48% were referred to Gamblers Anonymous, and
- 18% were referred to a service provider

Problem Gambling Warning Signs

1. A preoccupation with gambling.
2. Talking only about wins, not losses.
3. Gambling is a way of escape from problems.
4. Hiding losses from family members.
5. Borrowing money in order to gamble.
6. Gambling results in withdrawal from family and friends.
7. Stopping or cutting back seems impossible.

Getting Help

If you suspect that you or someone you know is a problem gambler, call the Kansas Problem Gambling Help Line. A specially trained counselor will answer your call. Information is provided at no cost.

The call is toll-free and confidential.

Gambling problem?

Getting Help is your Best Bet.

800.522.4700 ksgamblinghelp.com