



Get the **FACTS** About Problem Gambling

Gambling today is more accessible, more accepted and more glamorized through television and print media. Seemingly inconsequential choices made by young people may have dramatic consequences for the future. Problem gambling, often known as the hidden addiction, can cause difficulties in one's social, emotional and financial life.

Gambling defined....

- To stake or to risk money or anything of value on a chance based outcome
- Any activity involving risk

What are the facts?

- 14% of youth in New York, ages 13-17, are at risk for developing problems due to gambling
- 44% of youth with a gambling problem report that they started gambling with a parent or another family member
- One in five compulsive gamblers have attempted suicide
- Teens are at greater risk than the general population for developing a gambling problem due to their vulnerability to a variety of social influences.

What are some of the risk factors for youth?

- Favorable attitudes towards gambling by parents or other significant adults
- Having friends who gamble
- Starting to gamble at an early age
- Community availability and attitudes that minimize the risks of problem gambling and are favorable toward gambling
- Family history of a gambling problem

Warning signs that might indicate a problem....

- Gambling as a way to escape frustrations
- Displaying unexplained large amounts of money and/or new possessions
- Stealing money from parents/friends to gamble or relying on others to get out of debt
- Spending more and more time on gambling related activities on the Internet, checking sports scores/odds, etc.
- Time spent gambling interrupts and replaces previously enjoyed activities
- Continues to gamble despite consequences

Learn more about how problem gambling may be affecting you, your teen and your family. For more information or to schedule an educational presentation for your community or school group call NCADD-RA at (585) 426-8000 or visit our website at www.nydas.org.



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