



# Dispell the **MYTHS** About Problem Gambling Among **Teens**

**Myth:** Teenagers don't have problems with gambling.

**Fact:** 4-8% of teens experience problem gambling. One in 25 teens likely has a serious gambling problem.

**Myth:** Gambling is a harmless form of entertainment.

**Fact:** While many people gamble once in awhile for fun, gambling can become problematic. Some become obsessed with gambling and can't think about anything else.

**Myth:** If you are a good video player, you will be a good VLT (video lottery terminal) player.

**Fact:** A video game requires skill, the more you play the better you become. A VLT machine just like any other game of chance does not require skill – results are in no way influenced by you.

**Myth:** When you know the rules of a game (i.e. blackjack), you increase your chances of winning.

**Fact:** Knowing rules of a game can help you make decisions while playing but it won't increase your chances of winning. The fact that you win or lose depends on mostly on the cards you are dealt, as well as the cards the other players are dealt.

**Myth:** It doesn't matter if you lose, eventually if you keep playing, you will win your money back.

**Fact:** The more you play the more you lose. The odds are always stacked against you, that's why casinos and the gambling industry make so much money.

**Myth:** If you keep track of previous results, you can figure out what the next results will be.

**Fact:** Each play is an entirely new random event and has absolutely nothing to do with the previous play.

*Learn more about how problem gambling may be affecting you, your teen and your family. For further 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](http://www.nydas.org).*



**Call (585) 426-8000 to learn more.**

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