

FACTS ABOUT FEMALES AND GAMBLING

Did you know?

- Women are just as likely as men to gamble at casinos and play the lottery—this is a significant increase in participation over the past two decades. Women remain generally more likely to play bingo and slot machines (Nower, L. & Blaszczynski, A. 2006), though less likely to gamble at the track, on sports, on cards or illegal gambling. (Volberg, R. 2001)
- Women problem gamblers generally start gambling later in life than men and progress to pathological gambling more quickly (Nower, L. & Blaszczynski, A. 2006)(Tavares, H., Zilberman, M.L., Beites, F.J., & Gentil, V. 2001); however, girls who are impulsive or sensation seeking are as likely as boys to begin gambling in adolescence (Nower, L., Derevensky, J., & Gupta, R. 2004).
- Adolescent girls who gamble are about four times more likely than boys who gamble to experience symptoms of depression. (Desai RA, Maciejewski PK, Pantaloni MV, Potenza MN 2005)
- Female pathological gamblers wager more often in response to gambling cues and advertisements than male pathological gamblers. (Weiss, L., & Petry, N. 2008)
- Women are equally represented in treatment, which is a significant change in the past decade as previously men were overrepresented in treatment. (Petry, N. 2005)
- Problem gambling is more heavily stigmatized for women than for men because of gender role stereotypes. (Volberg, R. & Wray, M. 2007)
- Problem gambling is more prevalent in minority communities, and African American, Hispanic and Native American women may be particularly



vulnerable because of the role that some forms of gambling (i.e. bingo) plays in the social life of these communities. (Alegria, A.A., Petry, N.M., Hasin, D.S., Liu, S.M., Grant, B.F., & Blanco, C. 2009) (Westermeyer, J., et al. 2005)

- There is a stronger association in women problem and at-risk gamblers with the following psychiatric disorders:
 - Nicotine dependence
 - Major depression
 - Dysthymia
 - Panic disorder
 - Generalized anxiety disorder
 - Social phobia (Desai, R. & Potenza, M. 2007)

Problem gambling help is confidential and it works, call:

**The Council on Compulsive Gambling of PA Helpline at
1-800-GAMBLER or 1-800-848-1880**

Don't wait for the problem to get worse!



Adapted from SAMHSA Advisory Committee for Women's Services.