



The Fact Is...

(Sources: 2012 Student Wellness Survey; Oregon Health Authority's FY 2011-2012 Problem Gambling Fact Sheet)

Problem/Pathological Gambling

- ✓ An addiction to gambling is very similar, both physically and psychologically, to an addiction to a substance.
- ✓ It is estimated that there are 81,000 adult Oregonians who are problem or pathological gamblers. Each problem or pathological gambler affects anywhere from six to twelve other people.
- ✓ Of those that received publicly funded treatment in Oregon in 2012, the average reported gambling debt was over \$26,000. Reported debt ranged from \$100 to \$1.2 million.
- ✓ In the year prior to enrolling in treatment, 47% in treatment reported relationship problems, 16% reported problems at work, and 11% reported filing for bankruptcy.
- ✓ 76% of gamblers enrolled in treatment in Oregon reported that their preferred gambling location was a video lottery retailer.
- ✓ 5% of Washington County 8th graders who reported gambling also reported that they had lied about their betting/gambling.
- ✓ Research indicates that youth who gamble also tend to participate in other high risk behaviors such as drinking alcohol and using drugs.
- ✓ Of those in treatment for disordered gambling, 27% reported thoughts of suicide.
- ✓ In Oregon, one must be 18 years old to legally play traditional lottery games, participate in charitable gaming, or participate in pari-mutuel betting (i.e. bet at the horse track)
- ✓ 31% of Washington County 11th graders reported gambling in the past 30 days. The same is true for 36% of 8th graders and 30% of 6th graders.
- ✓ Only 35% of Washington County 11th graders report that their parents have talked with them about the risks associated with gambling (68% of parents have talked with them about drug use).
- ✓ If gambling has become a problem, treatment in Washington County is free, confidential and effective. Call LifeWorks Northwest, for treatment services, at **503/645-9010**.
- ✓ If you would like additional referral information, educational materials, or an on-site presentation, contact Washington County's Problem Gambling Outreach Program at, **503/846-4903**.

