

# ***Problem Gambling: A National Problem***

## ***A Problem for Nebraska***

*Problem Gambling is gambling that causes mental, emotional, social and/or financial harm to a person, family, and/or group (work environment, school environment, community).*

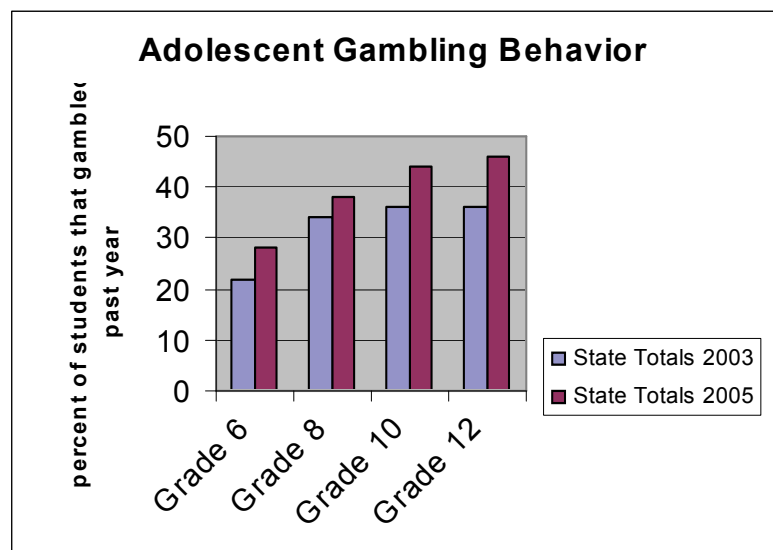
***When gambling is a problem for some, it becomes a problem for all.***

- Recent national estimates place the social-economic cost of each problem gamblers at approximately **\$3,222** and **\$11,304** for each *pathological* gambler.<sup>1, 6</sup>
- 3% of adults (42,267) in Nebraska experience gambling problems each year.  
**Estimated annual cost over \$200 million dollars.**<sup>2</sup>
- Gamblers Anonymous (GA) studies report that approximately 50% of the participants stole to gamble and over 33% had been arrested<sup>3</sup>. **Based on reported consumers served in 2005, this implies that annually more than **11,000 Nebraskans** commit crimes related to gambling.**<sup>4</sup>

### ***What this means for ADOLESCENTS:***

Based on long-term trends, data suggest **66%** of underage youth have gambled illegally for money.<sup>5</sup>

**11%** of Nebraska students reported an increase in gambling activities between 2003 and 2005<sup>4</sup>



Have you ever gambled for longer than you intended?

Have you ever borrowed money to gamble?

Have you ever felt remorseful after gambling?

Have you ever lied about how much you gambled?

Have you ever bet more than you intended?

**If you've answered yes to any of these questions, you may have a gambling problem.**

**Help is available.**

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the 24/7:

**Nebraska Problem Gambling Helpline: 1-800-522-4700**

1. Grinols, E. (2004) Gambling in America: Costs and Benefits. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, United Kingdom.  
 2. Average based on 2002 & 2004 Annual Reports Published by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and recent statistics reported by Nebraska providers.  
 3. Thompson, W., Gazel, R., Rickman, D. (1996). The social cost of gambling in Wisconsin. Wisconsin Policy Research Institute Report, 9, 144.  
 4. DRAFT Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results for 2005, Nebraska 2005 Gambling Comparison Profile Report. March 2006.  
 5. Hardoon, K & Derevensky, J. (2002) Child and Adolescent Gambling Behavior: Current Knowledge. *Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry*. McGill University, Canada.  
 6. Pathological gambler defined from the DSM-IV for 312.31. APA, 1994. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition. Washington, D.C.