

Problem Gambling

Nearly 56 percent of Louisiana adults report participating in some form of gaming at least once in the past year, and the vast majority of them do so responsibly as a form of entertainment. However, in any given year 1.4 percent meet the criteria for pathological gambling, and another 1.7 percent have a less significant but still serious problem known as problem gambling.

Problem Gambling by Region*

	<u>% Problem Gamblers</u>	<u>% Pathological Gamblers</u>
MHSD (Greater New Orleans)	1.3	2.5
CAHSD (Greater Baton Rouge)	2.5	1.3
Region 3 (Houma/Bayou Region)	1.7	0.8
Region 4 (Acadiana/Lafayette)	2.5	0.4
Region 5 (Lake Charles Region) Lake Charles	0.4	2.5
Region 6 (Alexandria/Central LA)	0.8	1.3
Region 7 (Shreveport)	2.9	0.8
Region 8 (Monroe Region)	2.5	0.8
FPHSA (Northshore area)	0.4	1.7
JPHSA (Jefferson Parish)	1.7	2.1
STATEWIDE	1.7	1.4

* Louisiana Department of Health and Hospital's Office of Addictive Disorders 2008 Louisiana Study of Problem Gambling

Like other addictions, the problem gambler has little power over his or her urge to gamble, which can result in psychological, financial, emotional, marital and legal problems for the gambler and his or her family. As a result, gambling is no longer fun — it's no longer a game. Problem gambling is not a bad habit or a moral weakness. It is a serious condition that can be treated. The good news is that hope and help are available. In fact, Louisiana is the only state to offer all of the following forms of confidential problem gambling treatment, most of which are state-funded: inpatient, outpatient, private counseling and 12-step meetings.

The Louisiana Lottery Corporation supports the work of the Department of Health and Hospitals-Office of Behavioral Health and the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling by printing the problem gambling helpline number, 1-877-770-7867, on all tickets, advertising, news releases and sales materials; promoting National Problem Gambling Awareness Week in March; and conducting "play responsibly" public service campaigns. In addition, \$500,000 of the Lottery's annual proceeds transferred to the state is earmarked for problem gambling programs. The Lottery also provides resources on problem gambling and responsible play on a special section of its website, www.louisianalottery.com, and provides "responsible play" literature in its play centers located in Lottery retailers throughout the state.

Tips for Playing Responsibly

The Louisiana Lottery Corporation is committed to the enrichment of our state and encourages responsible participation by everyone who enjoys its games. Here are tips for responsible play:

- Gamble only for fun.
- Think of the money you spend as the cost of your entertainment.
- Set a dollar limit and stick to it.
- Set a time limit and stick to it.
- Accept not winning as part of the game.
- Don't borrow money to gamble.
- Don't let gambling interfere with family, friends or work.
- Don't gamble to win back losses.
- Don't use gambling as a way to cope with emotional or physical pain.
- Know the warning signs of problem gambling.



555 Laurel Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Communications
225-297-2209

louisianalottery.com
facebook.com/louisianalottery
twitter.com/LALottery

