



Calls to Problem Gambling Helpline

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SPOKESPERSON: *Available for comment*

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(Green Bay, WI) – During 2023, the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling received 15,520 calls to its 24 hour Helpline, 76 Chats, 23 Text, and 10,771 hits to their website.

WCPG is a statewide organization with a mission to provides resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling.

Blozinski says, “While the total number of calls is important, it really only tells part of the story. There are other significant numbers in our annual Helpline Report that show how devastating a gambling addiction can be.” The calls in 2023 included:

- A woman called from Milwaukee County. Her husband left her, and she is about to lose the house. She has had thoughts of suicide.
- A man called from Eau Claire County. He has been gambling for 10 years. He has taken out a second mortgage on the house and has maxed out all his credit cards.
- A man from Madison called. He has gambled all his life. He switched addictions from drugs to gambling and steals to support his habit.
- A daughter called regarding her mother. Mother has maxed out 7 credit cards and is talking about suicide.
- A man from Milwaukee called. He has lost over a million dollars – has lost his business, his home, and his family.

Because of confidentiality, the Helpline report statistics are based on callers who are willing to share such information. Monthly calls to the Helpline in 2023 ranged from a low of 1,047 in June to a high of 1,475 in January and December. Among the other numbers in the Helpline report:

- 21 callers reported thoughts of suicide or suicide attempts

- 16 callers reported having to file for bankruptcy as a result of their gambling problems
- Average debt of callers is \$70,931

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5, Text at 1-850-888-Hope or Live Chat through the WCPG website at www.wi-problemgamblers.org.

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*The **Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling** is funded by a public awareness grant from the State of Wisconsin and additional funding from donors, including Wisconsin Native American Tribes. The Council operates a 24-hour Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 1-850-888-HOPE Textline, and Chat available on www.wi-problemgamblers.org, distributes informational brochures, organizes an annual statewide conference, makes presentations on problem gambling and conducts training sessions for treatment providers interested in the special requirements for working with compulsive gamblers and their families.*

For more information, visit the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](http://www.wisconsin-council-on-problem-gambling.org) website, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/wcpgambling>