

Research has shown that 10% of Veterans utilizing Veterans Affairs (VA) treatment services were problem gamblers.

Veterans in treatment for PTSD may be as much as 60 times more likely to have a gambling problem than age-matched members of the general population.

Among veterans hospitalized on a VA inpatient psychiatric unit, 40% met criteria for problem gambling. 40% of veterans seeking treatment for gambling report a suicide attempt.

There is a strong link between gambling and alcohol consumption in the military.

It is estimated that 56,000 active duty US service members may have a gambling problem.

Active duty, dependents and veterans face significant barriers to treatment including -- lack of consistent screening or treatment; possible loss of security clearance or dishonorable discharge; confidentiality concerns when accessing services; stigma, shame and misunderstanding; and problem gambling is often accompanied by crimes with risk of courts martial.

This information provided by the National Council on Problem Gambling

Many calls to the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling's 24-Hour Helpline come from family members or friends who have discovered their loved one's gambling problem and question how they might help them.

If gambling is becoming a problem for you or someone you care about, help is available.

We Can Help
24-hours a day

1-800-426-2535

Chat: [wi-problemgamblers.org](https://www.wi-problemgamblers.org)

Text: 850-888-4673



The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. provides resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling.



The Military and Problem Gambling



WISCONSIN COUNCIL
ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

For those who serve...let us serve....

Active duty Military, Veterans and their families find gambling readily available to them wherever they live - stateside or overseas. For many who choose to gamble, the activity is a pleasant diversion from the day. For a small percentage, the potential for problem gambling is a reality with huge consequences.

The financial impact on the individual and the family can be devastating. The mental health risks can include stress, anxiety, depression, and PTSD. Problem gambling is an additional factor for Active Duty Military and Veterans.

The military expects them to do their job. The additional stress of the gambling problem can make this difficult if not impossible. Gambling problems can destroy their world: one bill, one marriage, one deal, one business, one relationship at a time.

The uniform and the unit of the individual serving in the military is to be respected at all times. When behaviors spiral out of control, it could be devastating to both.

If you think you are experiencing problems related to gambling, seek professional help before you do something damaging to your career, your family, your uniform and your unit.

Many problem gamblers are homeless, hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, Committed illegal acts or attempted suicide. They are not the only ones affected by their gambling problem. It affects families, friends and employers.

Problem Gambling and the Military

Problem gambling essential features include increasing preoccupation with gambling, a need to bet more money more frequently, restlessness or irritability when attempting to stop, “chasing” losses, and loss of control. In extreme cases, problem gambling can result in financial ruin, legal problems, loss of career, family or even suicide.

Risk factors for gambling problems include individuals who are male, young, prone to risk taking or sensation-seeking, using and abusing substances, experience stress, depression and PTSD – all factors known to be more likely among military personnel. Active duty military and veterans with gambling problems have a higher risk for gambling addiction than the general population, yet they are dramatically underserved. Problem gambling in the military is a serious health and policy issue that affects readiness.

