

Problem Gambling: Screening for Gambling Disorder

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



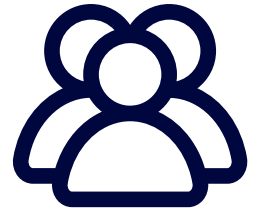
Why screen for gambling disorder?

- Gambling (even at moderate levels) may have an adverse impact on health and treatment outcomes.
- Gambling problems and many cases of gambling disorder often go undetected, in part due to limited assessment.
- Screening, although not a diagnosis, helps to identify individuals who should seek further assessment for potential gambling-related problems.
- Individuals with substance use and mental health disorders are at higher risk for having a gambling problem.
- Problem gambling/gambling disorder can lead to financial, emotional, social, occupational and physical harms.
- Many individuals experiencing gambling harms might already be seeking services for substance use or mental health concerns.
- 36-50% of people who received treatment for gambling disorder had a history of suicidal ideation.



Who should screen?

- Addiction service providers
- Mental health service providers
- Physicians (e.g., primary care and emergency medicine)
- Gerontologists
- Pediatricians
- Educators
- Youth community leaders
- Employee assistance programs
- Veterans groups
- Corrections officers and probation officers



Ready to get started?

- Get familiar with problem gambling screening tools such as the Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen (BBGS, <https://bit.ly/bbgs-e-screen>).
- Learn more about problem gambling and gambling disorder using the resources below.
- Search your area for treatment providers, Gamblers Anonymous (Gam-Anon, <https://gamblersanonymous.org/ga/locations>) groups and your local human services agency (<https://ldh.la.gov/lge-map>).

What should happen at a gambling disorder screening?

- Complete a brief gambling disorder screen, such as the BBGS.
- If the screen is negative, inform of the results and offer resources and information.
- If the screen is positive, discuss the results and refer for further assessment and/or take steps to connect to proper resources including a referral to the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline 1-877-770-STOP (7867). Share the helpline, referral and self-help information with the client as appropriate.



Resources

- **Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline / Louisiana Association on Problem Gambling:** <https://helpforgambling.org>
- **Louisiana Department of Health (LDH): Problem Gambling:** <https://ldh.la.gov/problemgambling>
- **Screening for Gambling Disorder:** <https://www.mdproblemgambling.com/gambling-disorder-screening-2023>
- **Gambling Disorder Screening Day: A Guide for Screeners:** <https://www.divisiononaddiction.org/outreach-resources/gdssd/toolkit/guide-for-screeners>