

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 a 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

What should happen at a gambling disorder screening?

- Complete a brief gambling disorder screen, such as the Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen (BBGS, bit.ly/bbgs-e-screen).
- 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 877-770-STOP.
- Share the helpline, referral and self-help information with the client as appropriate.

Ready to get started?

- Get familiar with problem gambling screening tools such as the BBGS.
- Learn more about problem gambling and gambling disorder using the resources below.
- Search your area for treatment providers, Gamblers Anonymous ([Gam-Anon](http://Gam-Anon.org), gamblersanonymous.org/ga/locations) groups and your local human services agency (ldh.la.gov/directory).



Resources

- Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline / Louisiana Association on Problem Gambling: helpforgambling.org
- Louisiana Department of Health (LDH): Problem Gambling: GamblingSignsLA.org
- Screening for Gambling Disorder: mdproblemgambling.com/gambling-disorder-screening-2023
- Gambling Disorder Screening Day: A Guide for Screeners: divisiononaddiction.org/outreach-resources/gdsd/toolkit/guide-for-screeners