



WELCOME TO

WHEN ENTERTAINMENT
BECOMES ADDICTION:
UNDERSTANDING MODERN
GAMBLING/GAMING

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Welcome

Training Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Identify gaming/gambling
- Discuss the prevalence of gaming/gambling
- Recognize the impact on individuals, their family, and the community
- Learn of Louisiana based resources to address problem gambling in the areas of primary prevention, treatment, and crisis services.





Our Mission

The Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing assistance through treatment and helpline services to individuals and families who may be affected by problem gambling, substance use or suicide. We neither advocate for nor oppose gambling but promote education, prevention and treatment for those in need of our services.

Brief History

LACG was established in 1996 with the specific purpose to provide education, treatment and resources to people with gambling problems. We have since added additional services to help people with substance use and suicide concerns.

In 1999, we opened the Center of Recovery (CORE), providing free residential treatment for adults in Louisiana with gambling addictions.

While working with the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana Gaming Control Board and the Gaming Industry, we decided to launch the first Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline for the state on 1/1/2000. We celebrated 25 years for the Louisiana Problem Gamblers Helpline in 2025.



What is Prevention?

Which answer do you most agree with?

- Stopping something before it starts.
- Reducing the amount of harm that results from a specific behavior.
- Ensuring people have enough information to make healthy decisions.
- Putting policies in place that keep people from harming themselves.
- Reducing the public's exposure to potential harm.



GAMBLING DEFINED

Gambling is defined as risking something of value, usually money, on the outcome of an event decided at least partially by chance.

Content Warning / Viewer Discretion Advised

This presentation is intended for educational and informational purposes and examines topics related to gambling and gaming. Some slides, images, audio, and video clips may contain:

- References to gambling and gambling-related behaviors
- Simulated or depictions of violence
- Strong or offensive language
- Potentially triggering content for individuals affected by gambling addiction or related experiences.

We know that the materials presented, and additional content can be triggering. Please know that self-care is encouraged. If you need to take a break, feel free to do so.

Viewer discretion is advised. The inclusion of this material is solely for discussion, analysis, and educational purposes and should not be interpreted as an endorsement, encouragement, or promotion of gambling, violence, or inappropriate language.

If you find any of this content distressing or triggering, you are encouraged to step away from the presentation.



Generations

Perspectives

Silent	Baby Boomers	Gen x	Millennials	Gen Z	Gen Alpha
1928-1945	1946-1964	1965-1980	1981-1996	1997-2012	2013-2024
					
Age: 80 - 98	Age: 61 - 79	Age: 45 - 60	Age: 44 - 29	Age: 13 - 28	Age: 1 - 12

Silent: Believe in sacrifice and that it's a privilege to work.

Baby Boomers: Shaped by resilience, achiever mentality and commitment.

Generation X: The do-it-yourself generation that values autonomy.

Generation Y/Millennials: Raised with messages of individuality and achievement.

Generation Z: Favors job satisfaction, global mindset, and innovation.

Generation Alpha: The current generation.



Manifestations of Culture

Means the visible, tangible, and behavioral expressions of a society's deeply held beliefs, values and norms including:

- Dress
- Greetings
- Family Structure/Relationships
- Games
- Customs
- Social Roles
- Rituals
- Music
- Traditions
- Food
- Beliefs (Religion, Politics, etc.)
- Traditions
- Values
- Parenting Style (with your children)
- Use of and Comfort with Technology





PEW-KNIGHT
INITIATIVE

***How do young adults
get their news?***

GAMING



What is Gaming?

According to Britannica², online gaming involves playing electronic games over a computer network, especially the Internet.

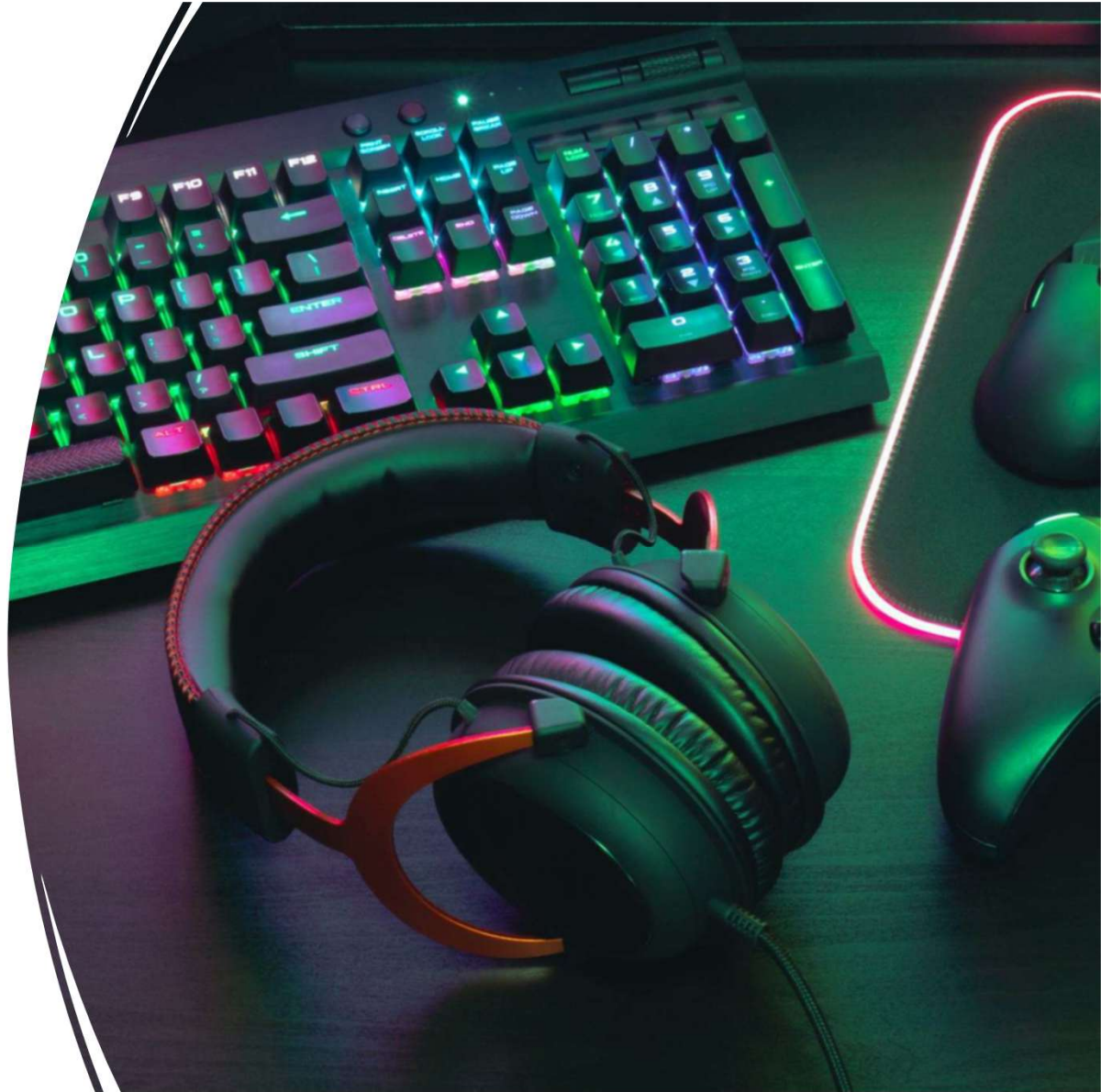
Social interaction often overshadows the game content itself. Many online games function on a subscription basis, with companies offering downloadable content to keep players interested.



What is a Gaming Disorder?

World Health Organization

Is defined by the 11th Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11), as a pattern of gaming behavior involving loss of control, prioritizing gaming over other interest and daily activities, and continuing to game despite negative consequences.





CHILDREN AND GAMBLING ADDICTION



CHILDREN
GAMBLING DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE THIS



IT LOOKS LIKE THIS

LACG
LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION
on COMPULSIVE GAMBLING

Addiction is a Brain Disease

Parts of the Brain: The Frontal Cortex

In an addict, the frontal cortex isn't working properly;

The front portion of your brain that controls planning, complex problem-solving, personality and processing potential consequences.

Individuals with problematic gaming behavior may have differences in their prefrontal cortex functioning, causing them to struggle more when making decisions about immediate rewards vs. later rewards and the consequences.



Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that drives motivation, craving, and the pursuit of reward in a child's developing brain. While natural activities like play and social connection release steady levels, high-stimulation activities like video games and social media can trigger massive dopamine surges, often leading to screen-time meltdowns.

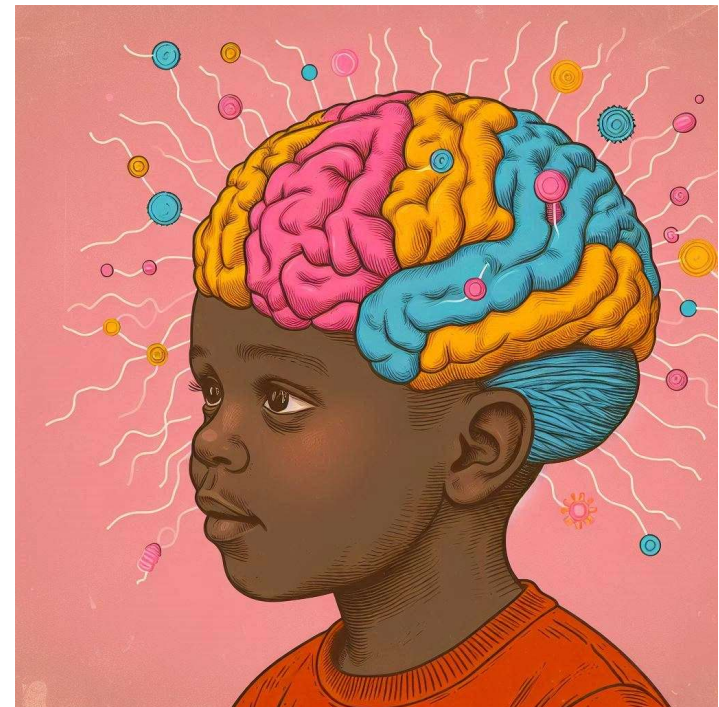
Because children's brains are still developing, they have a less mature prefrontal cortex, meaning they struggle more with:

- Self-control and
- Emotional regulation when high-intensity dopamine loops are involved.

Understanding this "dopamine loop" is vital for parents looking to navigate challenges around:

- Tech habits
- Focus, and
- Overall well-being.

CHILDREN'S BRAIN AND GAMING ADDICTION





PREFRONTAL CORTEX

When Gaming May Be Becoming a Concern: Look Beyond How Much Focus on Impact



Warning Signs Parents May Notice

- ❑ Secretive phone or computer use
- ❑ Sudden interest in odd, predictions, or betting discussions
- ❑ Mood swings tied to wins or losses
- ❑ Borrowing money or unexplained spending
- ❑ Obsession with sports, politics, or online predictions





Adult Role Models: Mobile Children

- Parents are the strongest role models that children have. Their behaviors are imitated by their children when young. Parents can teach disciplined use of devices by:
 - -Only using their devices away from their children.
 - -Setting a half hour limit for family members and everyone stops together.
 - -Creating a nonsense word that a child can use when he/she feels that the parent is too engaged in a device.





VIDEO HAVE
COMMERCIAL
ADS WITH
ADULT CONTENT

A young boy is shown from the chest up, holding a video game controller with both hands. He is looking down at the controller with a focused expression. The background is dark and blue-toned, featuring silhouettes of soldiers in combat gear, some holding rifles, suggesting a video game environment. The overall lighting is dim, with a bright blue light source at the bottom center, possibly from the game screen.

60
MINUTES

GAMING **ADDICTION**



ENTERING CASINO-LAND
VIEWER DISCRESSION ADVISED



WHY MONITOR CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES?



DAVE AND BUSTERS

ADULT GAMBLING

Gambling

Gambling and gaming are forms of entertainment that combine risk, reward, chance, and decision-making for adults over 21.

For many people, they provide **fun, excitement, and the thrill of uncertainty.**

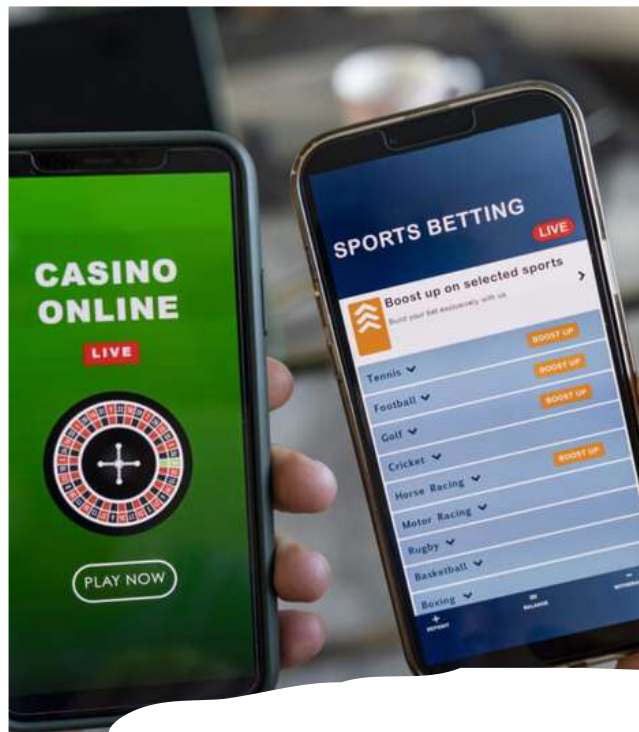
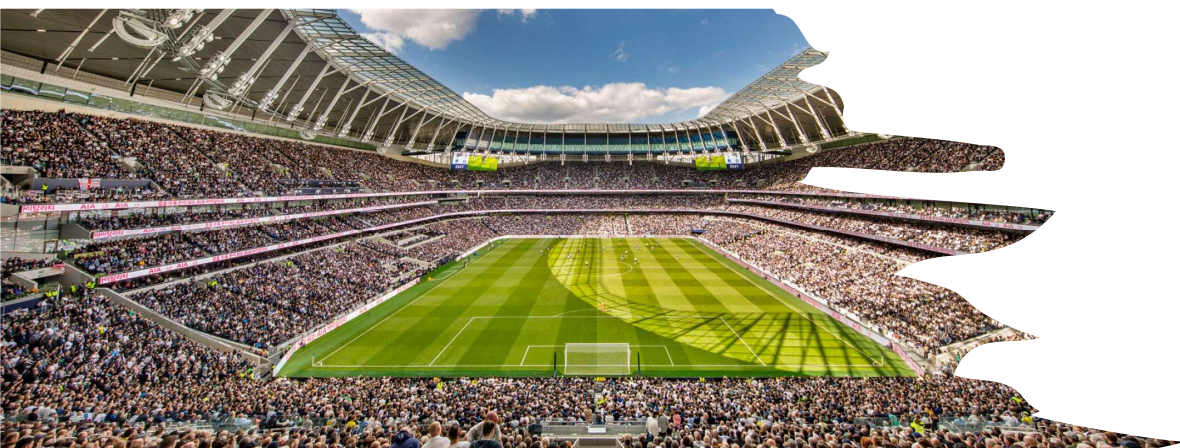
While some individuals may develop gambling-related problems, **most people participate responsibly for enjoyment and recreation, not addiction.**

Strategy, skill, and understanding probabilities can also play a role in many games.





Gambling doesn't look like this anymore.



It looks like this

ALGORITHM

An **algorithm** is a step-by-step set of instructions or rules that a computer follows to solve a problem, analyze information, or make decisions automatically.

How Casinos Use Algorithms

Track player behavior by recording how often people play, how long they play, and which games they choose.

Personalize promotions by offering rewards, bonuses, or free play based on a player's gambling habits.

Detect unusual activity by identifying patterns that may indicate fraud, cheating, or suspicious transactions.

Support responsible gambling by recognizing behaviors that may suggest risky gambling and triggering responsible gambling tools or alerts.

```
lue) { console.log(`Setting ${property}`);  
return true; } }; const data = new Proxy({  
Handler); data.author = "John Doe"; data.lo  
${this.name}, Version: ${this.version}, Au  
ync function fetchData(url) { try { let res  
ow new Error("Network response was not ok")  
rn data; } catch (error) { console.error("F  
    { let num = 1; while (true) { yield  
        document.getElementById("generat  
ument.getElementById("number").textContent  
    ElementById("calculate").addEventListener  
"calculate", payload: 10 }); }); class Ad  
this.fibonacci(n - 1) + this.fibonacci(n  
(base, exp); } static factorial(n) { } }  
    ("click", () => { document  
cci(10): ${AdvancedMath.fibonacci(10)}`;
```

WHAT IS SPORTS BETTING?

Sports betting is a form of gambling where you wager money on the outcome of a sporting event or specific statistics within that event.

If your prediction is correct, you win money based on the odds; if incorrect, you lose your stake.



Total Amount of Money Wagered in U.S.

2018: \$6.6 billion	2022: \$93.7 billion
2019: \$13 billion	2023: \$121 billion
2020: \$21.4 billion	2024: \$148 billion
2021: \$57.5 billion	2025: \$165 billion

Since the legalization of sports gambling, the amount of money wagered has exploded.

A **VIP (Very Important Player)** is a customer who is identified by a casino or sports betting company as one of its most valuable or active players based on factors such as how often they play, how much they wager, or their overall level of activity.

FANDUEL/DRAFTKINGS
use VIP benefits that:

VIP & (HOST)

Targets High Spenders-
focus on users who deposit
and lose large amounts of
money.

Incentives and Perks-
Reward members with
betting credits, bonuses,
luxury gifts, and event
tickets.



What Are Prediction Markets?

- ❖ Platforms where people predict future events using money or credits
- ❖ Users buy YES or NO shares on outcomes
- ❖ Common topics include elections, sports, weather, economics, and entertainment
- ❖ Some platforms resemble investing, while others feel similar to gambling





Prediction Markets vs Traditional Gambling

- Both involve risk, uncertainty, and reward
- Both can trigger excitement and emotional highs/lows
- Prediction markets are often framed as ‘forecasting’ or ‘investing’
- People may view them as safer or smarter than gambling





WARNING



Mental Health & Financial Concerns

Sports betting presents severe public health and economic risks, primarily driven by the easy access to online betting apps.

Key concerns include:

Chronic stress, anxiety and emotional dependency

Chasing losses after losing money

Disrupted sleep or school performance

Suicidal ideation

Potential financial problems at an early age

Increased risk for future gambling addiction



A Mental Health Professional Tried to Quit Gambling

CASE STUDY:

- A 41-year-old board-certified psychiatrist.
- Occasionally visited a casino, budgeting \$100 for food, drinks, and games.



LACG

Take the gamble out of your future. Through funding and support provided by the LADH and NWLA Human Services District (NLHSD), Louisiana residents can get **free** support. Gamban, and GamFin, provide confidential guidance, gambling-blocking tools, and financial counseling.



<https://www.helpforgambling.org/the-next-step>



1-877-770-STOP

www.HelpForGambling.org

CALL, CHAT OR TEXT 24-HR

THE NEXT STEP



Book Now!

1-877-770-STOP (7867)
WWW.HELPFORGAMBLING.ORG

HEAL



Talk, text, or chat with a trained specialist. Get confidential support, someone to talk to, when you need at no cost.

LACG

BLOCK



You can easily block access to gambling websites and apps on all of your devices for free if you live in Louisiana.

GAMBAN

BUDGET



You can get personalized help with your gambling related debt – Free financial Counseling to Louisiana Residents. Regain control and plan for a brighter financial future!

GAMFIN

Thank you

Together we can
help youth make
informed and
healthy choices



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Q & A

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SPORTS BETTING LOSS

NOW THEY ARE FURIOUS

SPORTS BETTING