



North Carolina Problem Gambling Program
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Stacked Deck Grant Information

What to Know

- Gambling is legal in every state except Utah and Hawaii and has become a \$100 billion industry.
- Ninety-three percent of youth have access to the internet and 700,000 young adults gamble online monthly.
- The highest rate of problem gamblers are in their teens and twenties.
- Youth with gambling problems are more likely to use tobacco, drink heavily and use drugs.
- Athletes are at a high risk for sports gambling because of their competitive personalities.

Defining Problem Gambling

Gambling disorder includes all gambling behavior patterns that compromise, disrupt or damage personal, family or vocational pursuits. The essential features are 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, loss of career and family or even suicide.

The NC Problem Gambling Program

The North Carolina Problem Gambling Program (NCPGP) was established to provide and support effective problem gambling prevention, education, outreach and treatment programs throughout the state.

Stacked Deck Curriculum and Grant Information

Stacked Deck is the only evidence-based program that has been found to be effective in preventing and reducing the risk of problem gambling among teens. Offered in six sessions, the program is aimed at changing gambling-related attitudes, knowledge, beliefs and practices. It also seeks to improve decision-making and problem-solving. The Stacked Deck curriculum is interactive, including activities such as role-playing and discussion of case scenarios involving gambling and substance abuse.

Grants up to \$5,000 are available for middle schools, high schools and at-risk community-based programs to implement Stacked Deck. Educators are trained, provided technical support and given all of the materials needed to implement the program.

In 2017, a total of 2,569 students completed the curriculum. Analysis conducted on the matched sample of middle school and high school students pre and post-tests yielded gambling is a very serious problem among North Carolina youth, the prevalence estimates for weekly gambling and problem gambling are much higher than those of North Carolina adults and the Stacked Deck program led to changes in attitude and in knowledge and beliefs about gambling.

Learn about Stacked Deck at Summer School

Full scholarships for educators (tuition and room and board) are being offered for the Stacked Deck track at the North Carolina Foundation for Alcohol and Drug Studies (NCFADS) summer school held in Wilmington, North Carolina from August 5 – August 9, 2019. Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) are offered.

Contact Alison Drain at alison.drain@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-800-8482 for more information.



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