

**Indiana Council on Problem Gambling**  
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Problem gambling brochures and cards are available from the Indiana Council, in quantity, without cost upon request.

**Join the Indiana Council**  
**Individual Membership of the ICPG (\$50)**  
**Joint Individual Membership of the ICPG & National Council on Problem Gambling (\$85) (NCPG Membership is \$75. Joint membership saves \$40)**  
**Sponsor (Businesses with up to 10 employees) (\$125)**  
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**Indiana Council on Problem Gambling membership supports efforts to address problem gambling issues in Indiana and is tax deductible. The ICPG is a Federal 501(c) (3) not for profit organization 35-1999551.**

**Problem Gambling Information on the Web**

In "Googling" the Internet for information on problem gambling, I found that there are 4,980,000 places to go. The Indiana Council web site was number 29 as I worked my way through the first fifty or so sites, much better than I hoped. Obviously there is a great deal of information readily available to all of us now on the web.

One of the barriers to helping problem gamblers in Indiana is the lack of Gamblers Anonymous meetings around the State. I believed that there had to be a number of problem gambling chat room groups on the web but I did not where to find them. I found that there are seven such groups at AOL. These can be found by going to [groups@aol.com](mailto:groups@aol.com) and using problem gambling as the key word search. Three of these are **GA Support Groups** but only two of these appear to be active. Other chat room topics are: **Talk About Gambling Problems** (two) one of which has 57 members, **Banned for Life Support Group** with 7 members and **Compulsive Gambling** with 69 members.

Another web site that exists to support problem gamblers can be found at:

[www.gamblingtherapy.org/forum](http://www.gamblingtherapy.org/forum). Hopefully, these will be of help to those who read this newsletter. I am sure there are many more such sites. Please let the Indiana Council know of any web sites that you think would be of use to others involved with the issue of problem gambling and the Council will pass on the information.

Harvard University's Division on Addictions is a great source of information about addictions on the web. Each week, new information about addiction is available to you at: [www.basisonline.org](http://www.basisonline.org) without cost. This information includes: science reviews, self-help tools, education programs and other addiction resources. There are five online science reviews at this site, one of which is published each week. These are:

- The Wager: The Worldwide Addiction Gambling Education Report*
- The Dram: The Drinking Report for Addictive Medicine*
- Ashes: Addiction Smoking Health Education Service*
- Stash: Science Threads on Addiction, Substance Use, and Health Addiction and the Humanities*

**Who Calls the Indiana PG Help Line?**

**Based on the intake data available at the ICPG web site for the July 2002- June 2006 period:**

- 76.1% were the gambler**
- 47.8% were males and 52.2% were females**
- 52.7% were married or living with someone**
- 47.3% were living by themselves**
- 68.3% were Caucasian**
- 21.6% were African American**
- 1.4% were Hispanic**
- 46.1% were between the ages of 36 and 55**
- More data available at the ICPG web site.**

**ICPG NEWSLETTER**



The Indiana Council is pleased to announce that our revised and enhanced web site is now in place. We believe that the web site now better serves those seeking help for a gambling problem for themselves, a family member or a friend as well as those researching the issue of problem gambling in Indiana. The Council thanks the Hoosier Lottery and Argosy Casino & Hotel for their financial support which made the new web site possible. Please check it out and let us know what you think and share any ideas that you have to further enhance the web site.

Thanks,  
 Jerry Long, Executive Director  
 ICPG

**2006 Indiana/Kentucky Problem Gambling Conference**

The third annual Indiana/Kentucky Problem Gambling Conference was held at Jeffersonville on September 20-22. Nearly one hundred individuals from six States attended the conference. Evaluations completed by the attendees were very positive and are being used to improve the conference for 2007.

Thanks go to the Indiana Division of Mental Health & Addiction and the Kentucky Division of Mental Health & Substance Abuse for their continued support of this conference. The increased financial support from

IDMHA this year allowed us to have nationally known speakers as well as regional experts on problem gambling.

This year's three day format, which allowed for travel will be retained as this received very positive comments on the evaluations. We plan on adding workshops that will be attractive to additional groups that will benefit from the information available at this event. We also hope to involve additional States in this conference as a cost effective way of increasing problem gambling

knowledge and expertise in their States.

Planning for the 2007 conference which will be held at French Lick on September 19-21 at the new French Lick Springs Resort & Spa, are underway. We hope to have 150 attendees in 2007. Please plan to join us.

If you have an idea for a topic or speaker for the 2007 conference, please let the Indiana Council know by calling us at 1 (866) 699-4274 or emailing us at:

[jllong@indianaproblemgambling.org](mailto:jllong@indianaproblemgambling.org)

**State Funded Problem Gambling Training in FY07**

The Division of Mental Health & Addiction will again provide a series of training events designed to increase the number of credentialed problem gambling counselors in Indiana. There will be four two day training events that will be held in the Indiana Government Center South Conference Center at 402 West Washington Street in downtown Indianapolis.

All of the training events will begin at 8:30 AM and end at 5 PM. The dates and room numbers are:

- Phase 1/2 January 16 -17 Conf. Rm. 19
- Phase 3/4 March 6-7 Conf. Rm. 1 & 2
- Phase 5/6 April 3-4 Conf. Rm. 1 & 2
- Phase 7/8 May 3-4 Conf. Rm. 20

Joanna Franklin will teach the first three workshops and Deborah Haskins will teach the fourth workshop.

Monthly clinical supervisory calls have resumed. Please contact Mary Lay at: [mary.lay@fssa.in.gov](mailto:mary.lay@fssa.in.gov) for information about the supervisory calls and registration for the workshops.

There is no charge for those working with Indiana problem gamblers. There is a \$25 registration fee for all others.

**Indiana Council on Problem Gambling Mission Statement**

*The Indiana Council on Problem Gambling strives to generate awareness, promote education, and be an advocate for quality treatment of problem gamblers in the State of Indiana.*

**Argosy Responsible Gaming Program**

Mark Mason, Director of Security

At the Argosy Casino in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, responsible gaming is more than a popular catch phrase echoed in a manual. All phases of responsible gaming make up the fabric which forms the structure of the gaming property. All new employees hear of their responsible gaming duties and requirements in the new employee orientation.

As a Penn National Gaming, Inc. property, the General Manager chairs the Responsible Gaming Committee. Vice President and General Manager Larry Kinser serves in this position and ensures that this committee meets at least quarterly but more frequently if necessary. The responsible gaming committee is composed of one or more representatives of the following departments: Human Resources, Security, Surveillance, Marketing, Table Games, Electronic Games, Cage and Credit and Compliance. At each meeting all phases of the responsible gaming puzzle are reviewed. Argosy looks at responsible gaming as having five main components which are problem gambling, underage gambling, responsible alcohol service, responsible marketing and advertising, and unattended minors in the gaming facilities.

However, to focus on one aspect in the responsible gaming arena, we routinely deal with patrons who may have a problem with their gaming patterns. We take these matters very seriously and are quick to have our security staff, other managers or supervisors provide these patrons with various brochures and referrals when they ask or mention that they may need assistance. One path the patron may choose to follow is one of the ban programs available to them. On any given day we deal with at least four types of banned patrons at the casino, two of which are state programs to which we respond. These programs are the Indiana Gaming Commission's VEP program and the Indiana Gaming Commission's State Eviction List. If a patron banned via one of these state programs is found in the casino, any and all winnings he or she receives are forfeited and placed into a safekeeping account for later delivery to the State of Indiana.

At the responsible gaming committee meetings, processes are reviewed with respect to these two programs to ensure that compliance deadlines and mandates are met. At Argosy, if a patron emerges from the VEP program after completing his or her designated term of agreement he or she is then also denied access to the Argosy casino and hotel from that point forward.

Argosy has two local property ban programs. Both of these programs preclude a patron from entering the entire property that includes the hotel and associated restaurants. The patron is banned for life. First is the Argosy Self-Ban Program. With this program a patron may choose to ban himself or herself from the Argosy casino. This type of ban would not prohibit the patron from visiting one of the other 10 casinos in Indiana.

The second type of local ban is a "for cause" ban where a patron is banned from the casino for actions taken while on our property which are deemed to be unacceptable. As an example, if a patron were to be physically combative with another patron or employee he or she might face this type of ban. When an individual is banned due to an Argosy ban, he or she is notified that the ban is for life and that if he or she should attempt to return and is found in the casino, he or she will forfeit any winnings, chips or TITO tickets in his or her possession to an account that will be donated to a responsible gaming entity of the casino's choice. Currently, that charity is the Indiana Council on Problem Gambling.

All employees at the Argosy Casino take their responsibilities seriously in order to ensure responsible gaming on the part of all of our patrons. It is one of the first topics discussed in new employee orientation. The state and local ban programs are just one facet of the over all comprehensive program that Argosy feels is their responsibility to its employees and to its patrons. Gaming responsibly is one sure way the patrons may have an enjoyable experience while at Argosy.

**From the Indiana Prevention Resource Center**

In the spring of 2006, gambling questions were included for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year on the survey of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use by Indiana Children and Adolescents administered by the Indiana Prevention Resource Center at Indiana University. Students in grades 6-11 answered questions related to drug use, perceived harm of drug use, school safety and violence and gambling behaviors. Information from the survey helps guide the state and local communities in planning priorities for addressing substance use issues.

Youth in 2006 report engaging in fewer gambling behaviors than in 2005. The table below lists the rate for any gambling behavior by reported by Indiana adolescents.

Any Gambling Behavior by Indiana Adolescents (percentages)

Grade	2005	2006	Change
6	36.3	35.4	-0.9
7	40.7	39.1	-1.6*
8	47.4	45.3	-2.1*
9	47.5	45.3	-2.2*
10	48.0	45.2	-2.8*
11	47.1	45.1	-2.0*
12	55.1	55.0	-0.1

\*Statistically significant changes between 2005 and 2006. (p<.05)

Students were also asked if they have ever felt bad about the amount they bet or if they would like to stop betting but didn't think they could; for both of these questions a smaller percentage of youth answered yes to these questions.

While the data are showing a decrease in the overall gambling behaviors among Indiana youth, the issue of youth gambling remains one for program planners and policy makers to address. With a national estimate of 3-4% of the population being problem gamblers and with those who report problems with gambling indicating that they began gambling in their teen years, addressing this issue in the same manner as we address issue of alcohol or tobacco---preventing use at an early age and reducing problem behaviors, future problems with gambling may be

prevented.

To view the full Survey of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use by Indiana Children and Adolescents visit:

<http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/survey/atod/2006/index.html>. For more information on the Indiana Problem Gambling Prevention Initiative contact the Indiana Prevention Resource Center at 812-855-1237.

The Indiana Problem Gambling Prevention announces the addition of a staff member, Jennifer Kelley, MPH, CHES, CPP. Jennifer has served as Research Associate and Community Prevention Specialist, for the Indiana Prevention Resource Center for the Past two years, overseeing the implementation of evidenced based substance abuse prevention programs around the State as part of the DMHA funded after school- program.

Jennifer will be assisting with the DMHA training counselor events, web site development and promoting problem gambling awareness.

Jennifer can be reached at: [jenkell@indiana.edu](mailto:jenkell@indiana.edu)

**Legislative Update**

In October President Bush signed legislation that effectively made online gambling illegal in that it prohibits those placing bets via their computers from using credit cards, checks and electronic money transfers. The effectiveness of this legislation is questioned by many. There are nearly 2000 gambling sites on the Internet and Americans had spent more than \$6 billion a year on online gambling.

US House Bill 6009 which proposes that \$200,000 be spent each year from 2007-2011 on increasing public awareness of problem gambling and research on this issue remains alive. While this is a very small amount of dollars it is encouraging that this issue is now being discussed in Washington by the Congress. The National Council on Problem Gambling at its affiliates have been very instrumental in seeking this legislation.

There has been much discussion as to the future of the illegal but plentiful video gaming machines that exist around our State, legalization or elimination through enforcement of existing law. Look for this issue as well as allowing pull tabs at the two horse tracks to be discussed during the coming legislation session.