

FY 2007 Compulsive Gambling Report

The following activities were undertaken in fiscal year 2007 to address compulsive gambling.

Helpline – The toll-free Gambling Help-line (800-270-7117) was continued in FY07. The purpose of the toll-free number is to provide an assessment and to make referral services. The toll-free number was publicized in newspapers, literature, on MDCH website, and on the backside of lottery tickets.

During FY07, the help-line received 37,241 calls, 1171 callers were referred to treatment and 894 were referred to Gamblers Anonymous or Gamanon (for those concerned about friends/family members with gambling problems). Approximately, 11,590 calls were for lottery ticket information. The remaining calls were wrong numbers, hang-ups and requests for general information.

Treatment – A statewide network of approximately 50 license clinicians, who have both the experience and special training in treating pathological gamblers and their families, were available to provide counseling services. These clinicians provided individual and group treatment. During FY07, a total of 441 individuals were admitted to treatment.

Prevention – Requests for gambling literature totaled 172 and there were 8 requests to borrow gambling videos.

Speakers Bureau – This initiative provided information on problem gambling and treatment resources to 546 people. Problem gambling screening and referral services were held on nine university campuses in recognition of Problem Gambling Awareness Week.

Education – As a part of the Michigan Model for Comprehensive School Health, a middle and high school gambling curriculum was implemented in 23 school districts. The curriculum focuses on identifying what gambling behaviors to avoid and those negative gambling messages that encourage youth to gamble. A total of 6,930 students participated in the gambling curriculum.

Advertising – There were 110,485 media spots (radio and television) targeted to problem gamblers, family and friends. The Gamble Responsibly website received 34,941 hits.