

## ARKANSAS GAMBLING ADDICTION FACT SHEET

The consequences of a gambling addiction—from bankruptcy, prison, job loss, divorce, depression and despair to a high rate of suicidal behavior—are felt by families, businesses and communities across Arkansas. Problem gambling prevention and treatment programs are the only responsible way for the state to minimize harm while maximizing revenue.

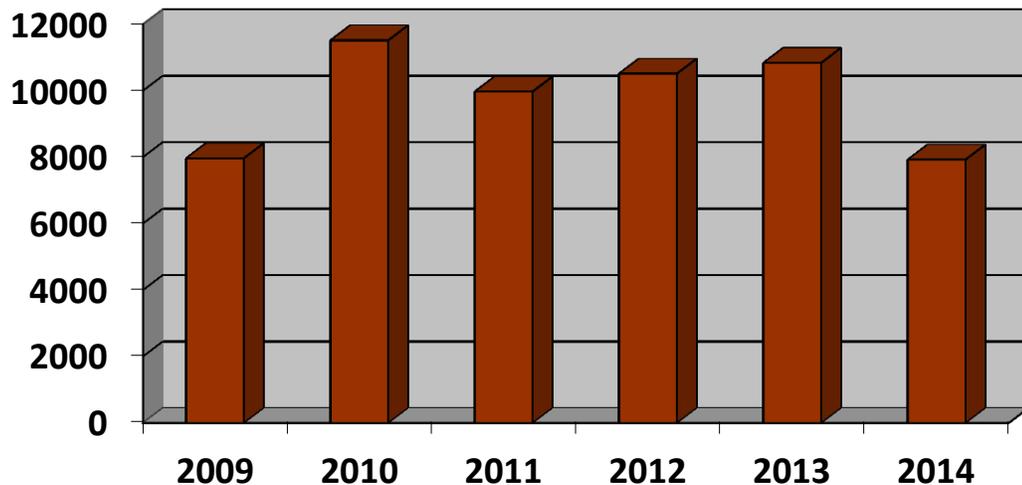
Lottery revenue since 2009: **\$2.1 BILLION**

Electronic Gaming Tax Revenue since 2007: **\$139 MILLION**

DHS spending to prevent and treat gambling problems since 2009: **\$1 MILLION**

When a state agency runs gambling it has an even higher **ethical and economic obligation to address problem gambling** as 2% or **48,000 Arkansas citizens are estimated to have gambling problems.**

### Total Helpline Calls from Arkansas 2009-2014



**A state that derives revenue from legalized gambling should dedicate some profits to reduce gambling-related harm, just like a portion of state revenue from alcohol and tobacco sales goes to curb drunk driving or prevent youth from buying cigarettes.**

***Every \$1 dollar in prevention and treatment saves at least \$5 in social costs.***

**Each seriously addicted gambler generates social costs of \$1,200 per year. 2014 social cost of gambling addiction in Arkansas: \$57.6 million**

**The National Council on Problem Gambling recommends 1% of gambling revenue is dedicated to prevention & treatment programs.**

## 2013 National Survey of Problem Gambling Services: Arkansas

In 2009, the State of Arkansas enacted legislation that designated how much monies from a General Fund were to be allocated and earmarked to address problem gambling and assigned the Arkansas Division of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) to administer that fund. In 2009 that amount was \$200,000, and at the time of this survey (SFY 2013) the dedicated problem gambling service budget remained \$200,000.

In SFY 2013, 100% of those funds were programmed toward a problem gambling helpline and treatment services. The DBHS also provided public awareness services.

In 2013, Arkansas ranked 35<sup>th</sup> out of the 50 U.S. states in terms of public funds plus unduplicated NCPG affiliate funds per capita invested in problem gambling services. The average per capita allocation of public funds for problem gambling services in the 39 states with publicly funded services was 32 cents; Arkansas' per capita public investment was 7 cents.

The DBHS contracts with the Louisiana Association of Compulsive Gambling to provide a problem gambling helpline for the state. The DBHS also contracts with community mental health centers to provide outpatient treatment services for problem gambling. In SFY 2012, ten gamblers and two significant others received state-funded outpatient counseling.

Contact NCPG Executive Director Keith Whyte (202.547.9204 or [keithw@ncpgambling.org](mailto:keithw@ncpgambling.org)) for additional information. NCPG is a 501c3 organization that is neutral on legalized gambling. NCPG is the national advocate for programs to assist problem gamblers and their families.

### Problem Gambling Prevalence



An estimated 2% of Arkansas adults (48,000 citizens) are believed to manifest a gambling disorder.

### Gaming in Arkansas



In 2012, Arkansas ranked 41<sup>st</sup> out of 50 states and the D.C. in combined lottery sales, commercial casino gaming revenues, and Indian gaming revenues with \$473 million reported.

In 2012, legalized gambling in Arkansas included 1,900 electronic gaming machines, a traditional state lottery, a racetrack casino, pari-mutuel wagering, and charitable gaming.