



New York Council on Problem Gambling

FACT SHEET: TALK TO KIDS

A GROWING CONCERN

- 39.5 percent of youth ages 12-17 have gambled over the past 12 months. *(Thirty percent of these youth state they began gambling at age 10 or younger!)*

YOUTH BRAINS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Children who gamble under the age of 24 are at a higher risk of developing a gambling problem because the parts of their brain, that help them think through their decisions and consequences, are still developing.
- What teens do early in life influences their brain's development into adulthood.

YOUTH PROBLEM GAMBLING WARNING SIGNS

- Change in personality or behavior
- Less involvement with usual activities
- Withdrawal from family or friends
- Unexplained absences from classes or school
- Dropping grades
- Unexplained debts, cash and/or new items
- Borrowing or stealing money
- Unusual amounts of time on the computer
- Unusual interest in teams and athletes
- Exaggerated display of money
- Bragging about gambling activities

WHAT CONSTITUTES YOUTH GAMBLING?

- Betting with friends on sports, games of skill and dares for money or possessions
- Raffles
- Lottery and scratch off tickets obtained illegally or received as a gift
- Poker and other card and dice games
- Gambling online, in video games, or on the outcome of video game matches.

YOUTH WHO GAMBLE ARE MORE LIKELY TO

- Get lower grades
- Use tobacco
- Drink alcohol and binge drink
- Experiment with marijuana
- Use illegal drugs
- Get into fights
- Have low self esteem
- Have mental health issues
- Attempt suicide
- Have behavioral problems
- Be involved in crime
- Get addicted quickly due to their still developing brain

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

Talk with your kids about gaming and gambling, even if they're as young as six years old.

Learn more at Talk2Kids.org