Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Helpline Data Report

YTD – 2020

As of September

Monthly Summary						
Month	**Intake (Problem Gambling Related)**	**Casino (Info Seeking Only)**	**Lottery (Info Seeking Only)**	**Wrong# / Hangup**	**Other**	**Total**
January	103	345	195	308	31	982
February	108	361	124	281	23	897
March	69	406	131	245	13	864
April	22	207	153	175	10	567
May	51	305	191	188	7	742
June	78	516	147	237	24	1002
July	84	537	169	299	24	1113
August	133	437	134	344	17	1065
September	148	482	163	379	27	1199
October						
November						
December						
TOTAL	796	3596	1407	2456	176	8431

Figure 1

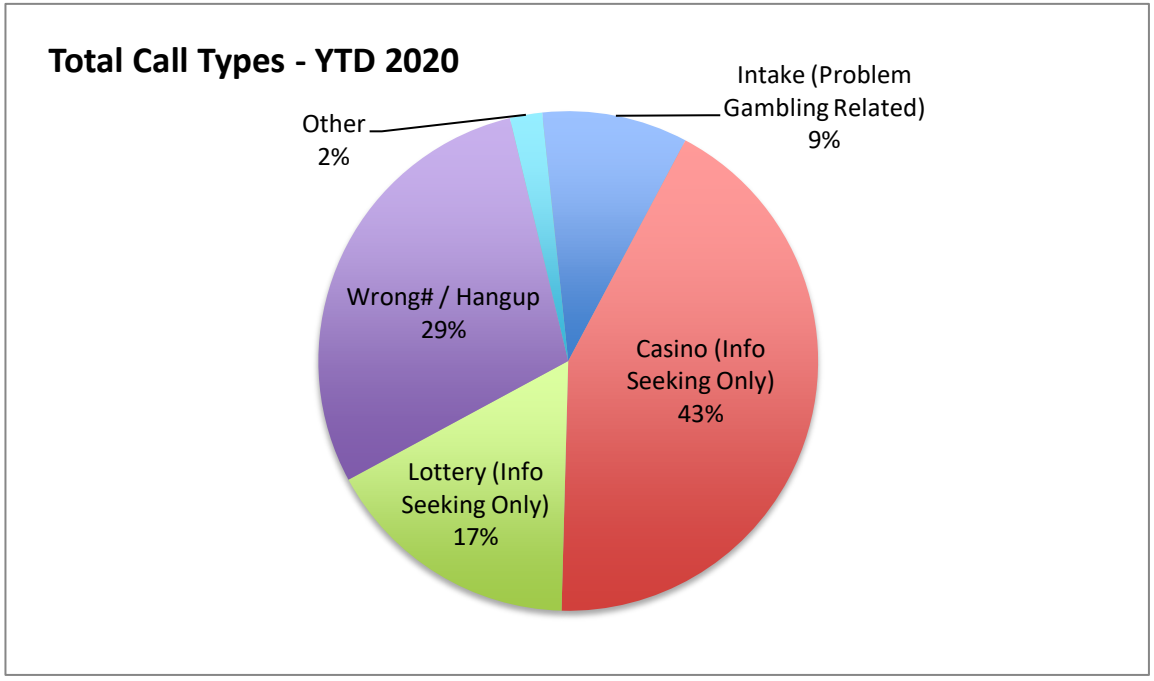


Figure 2

Every call that is made to the Helpline Center is tracked and noted by type (fig. 2). A majority of calls received are typically information inquiries (last night's lottery drawing, room reservations, etc.). *The calls received by the HelpLine Center labeled "Lottery" and "Casino" are from individuals seeking general information specific to those activities, not seeking help for a gambling problem as a result of participating in them.*

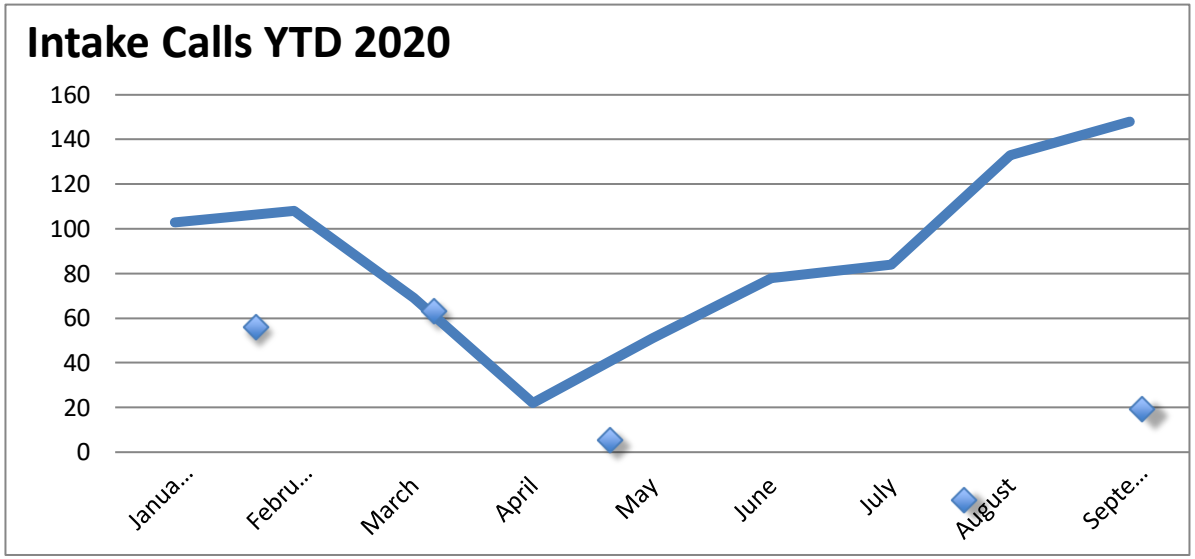
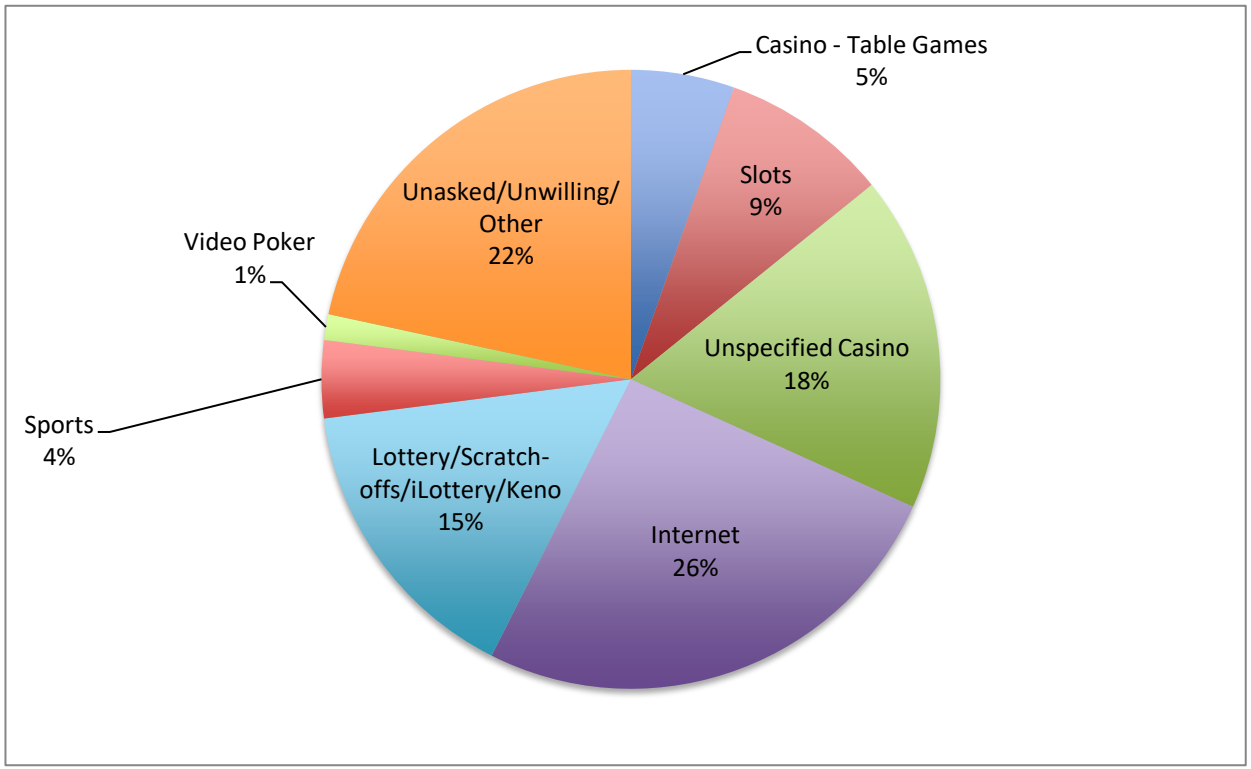


Figure 3

Intake calls represent the calls made by individuals who are suffering from a problem gambling issue, have relapsed, or who know someone with a gambling problem. Callers are provided resources, such as Gamblers Anonymous (GA) meeting information and/or trained counselor contact information. **For the month of September 2020, the total number of intake calls was 148 (fig. 3).**

The Council has received 16 chat/text requests for help in September 2020. This is in addition to the 148 phone calls requesting help in September.



One of the primary pieces of information collected from our Helpline Specialists during intake calls is the most problematic form of gambling that a caller, or subject, is engaging in. Internet gambling was the activity named during the majority of calls in September 2020 (fig. 4). This is likely related to the restrictions impacting in-person access to gaming venues due to COVID-19.

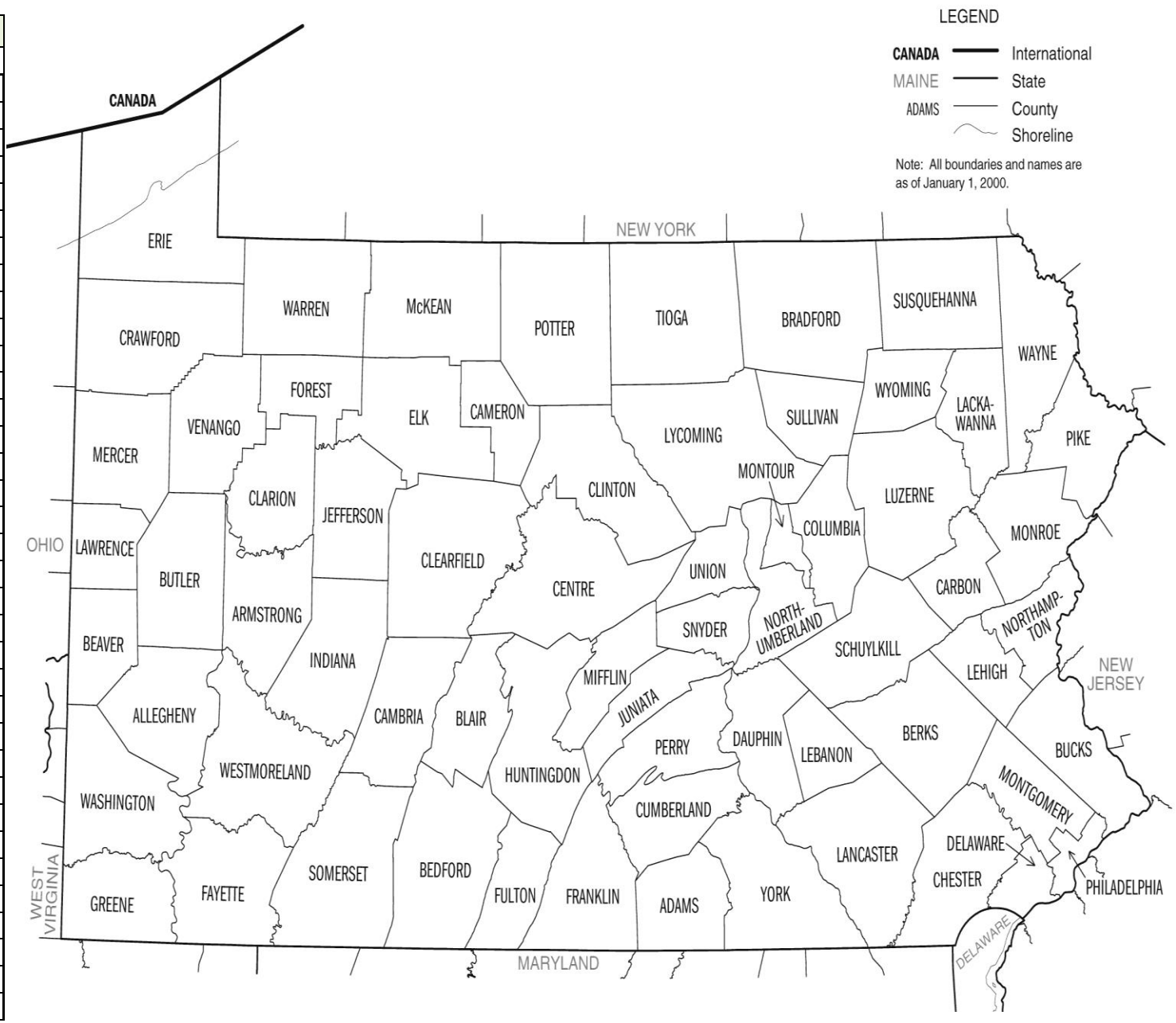
Figure 4

Pennsylvania Helpline for Compulsive Gamblers

This month, Allegheny and Philadelphia counties accounted for about 34% intake calls. In September 2020, the Helpline saw Lehigh, Montgomery and Erie Counties make up an additional 16% of intake calls.

Calls by County – September 2020		
	County	**Calls**
1	Philadelphia	33
2	Allegheny	17
3	Lehigh	9
4	Montgomery	9
5	Erie	5
6	Dauphin	4
7	Delaware	4
8	Lackawanna	4
9	Northampton	4
10	Bucks	3
11	Chester	3
12	Luzerne	3
13	Beaver	2
14	Blair	2
15	Butler	2
16	Cambria	2
17	Lancaster	2
18	Schuylkill	2
19	Washington	2
20	Berks	1
21	Carbon	1
22	Clinton	1
23	Columbia	1
24	Crawford	1
25	Cumberland	1
26	Greene	1
27	Indiana	1
28	Lawrence	1
29	Lycoming	1
30	Monroe	1
31	Venango	1
32	Westmoreland	1
33	Wyoming	1
34	York	1

Counties not listed received no calls. Additional calls received from out of state and callers unwilling to disclose their location



Pennsylvania Fiscal Year (PFY20-21)

	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Totals
Intakes	84	133	148										365
Hang-ups	266	253	271										790
***Casino (Info)**	537	437	482										1456
***Lottery (Info)**	169	134	163										466
Wrong#	33	91	108										232
Other	24	17	27										68
Totals	1113	1065	1199										3377

**denotes calls about non-compulsive gambling related topics - info seeking only*

Additional Helpline Details – 2020

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
Suicide		**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Call**	**Calls**	**CALLS**
	Present	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0				2
	No	103	107	68	22	51	78	83	130	146				788
	Past	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	2				6

National studies have shown remarkably high rates of suicide ideation and attempt rates by problem gamblers - inquiring about a callers' current state is always a priority. In September 2020, no callers presented a risk of harm to themself or others.

Callers Subject		**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**CALLS**
	Family	8	12	3	1	4	7	7	8	10				60
	Friend	2	2	3	4	2	1	3	6	5				28
	Self	85	85	57	16	41	62	65	107	118				636
	Spouse	6	9	5	1	4	5	8	9	13				60
	Unwilling/Other	2	0	1	0	0	3	1	3	2				12

Callers Subject represents the person who the caller was seeking help for. Typically, the caller is the one experiencing the issue. However, there are several instances of friends and/or family members who call seeking assistance.

Pennsylvania Helpline for Compulsive Gamblers

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
Caller's Gender		**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**CALLS**
	Female	27	29	13	4	12	23	23	47	45				223
	Male	75	79	56	18	39	54	60	86	103				570
	Unwilling	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0				3

On average in 2019, the percentage ratio of female to male callers/subjects was 33% to 67%. 2020 shows that approximately 28% of helpline calls are regarding female gamblers.

Ethnicity of Caller		**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**CALLS**
	African American	13	14	6	4	4	7	8	12	16				84
	Asian American	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2				9
	Caucasian	74	80	54	12	42	65	66	82	89				564
	Hispanic	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	3	1				12
	Other	2	4	2	1	1	0	2	3	5				20
	Unwilling	11	10	5	3	3	4	5	31	35				107

While studies have shown that Caucasian males gamble the most overall, it has been found that African-American males gamble most frequently and, unfortunately, develop problems at a very high rate. This disorder can impact people of all backgrounds, yet for some cultures, outreach for help is very limited.

Language Line		**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**CALLS**
	Callers passed along	0	0	0	1-SP	0	0	0	1- SP	0				2

The Helpline utilizes a Language Line service which quickly connects callers to assistance in over 60 available languages. There were no language line requests in September 2020.

Pennsylvania Helpline for Compulsive Gamblers

Precipitating Event		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
		Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	CALLS
	Financial Problems	67	78	42	9	39	48	47	67	81				478
	Marital Problems	16	17	7	2	9	19	16	16	14				116
	Family Problems	17	24	12	4	10	12	16	29	24				148
	Job Problems	5	6	4	1	2	2	0	2	3				25
	Mental Health Problems	3	5	3	0	6	12	4	7	16				56
	Physical Health Problems	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0				2
	Legal Problems	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	3	3				13
	Other Problems	24	9	20	12	10	23	24	48	42				212

Precipitating events represent primary issues that prompted the caller to contact the Helpline. Callers may answer 'yes' to more than one of the listed categories.

Most Problematic Gambling		Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	CALLS
	*Casino - Table Games	8	8	7	2	1	5	7	19	8				65
	Slots	28	44	18	2	6	13	14	24	13				162
	**Unspecified Casino	14	13	11	1	7	8	19	15	26				114
	Internet	15	4	15	6	23	21	24	40	38				186
	Lottery/ Scratch-offs/iLottery/Keno	12	12	7	2	6	14	3	10	23				89
	Races	1	1	0	0	0	1	4	2	0				9
	***Cards/Dice/etc. – NonCasino	1	4	2	1	1	1	2	0	0				12
	****Sports	4	6	1	0	1	4	3	4	6				29
	*****Poker/Video Poker	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2				9
	Video Gaming Terminals (VGTs)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
	Airport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
	Unasked/Unwilling/Other	17	16	7	8	6	11	6	18	32				121

Most Problematic Gambling reflects the gambling activity that the caller/subject has the most difficult time controlling.
*Casino-Table Games – all casino table games excluding Poker
**Unspecified Casino – caller indicated that 'casino gambling' is the most problematic activity, but did not specify which games
***Cards/Dice/etc. – NonCasino – Any unregulated card game, dice game or other type of game
****Sports – unspecified sports (legal/illegal), football, basketball, fantasy sports, etc.
*****Poker/Video Poker – Casino Poker games (live and video)

Pennsylvania Helpline for Compulsive Gamblers

Age Group of Gambler's		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
		Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	CALLS
	13 – 17	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0				1
	18 – 24	8	8	6	3	6	4	5	10	11				61
	25 – 34	21	25	14	2	11	21	22	32	27				175
	35 – 44	15	13	9	2	10	13	11	21	27				121
	45 – 54	12	19	6	4	5	9	12	22	24				113
	55 - 64	17	18	11	2	6	13	8	16	17				108
	65+	7	9	7	1	3	5	6	9	12				59
	Unknown/Unwilling	23	16	16	7	10	13	20	23	30				158

The largest amount of calls in September 2020 came from the 25-34 year old and the 34-44 year old age groups with 18% of calls each, with 45-54 year olds accounting for approximately 16%.

Other Problems Identified		Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	TOTAL
	Alcoholism	5	7	5	0	5	9	10	5	8				54
	Drug Abuse	6	4	2	1	2	5	2	9	6				37
	Depression	10	14	6	2	10	18	9	23	21				113
	Eating Disorder	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	0				6
	Overspending	28	30	17	2	16	17	11	11	11				143
	Sexual Addiction	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	1	1				11

Co-occurring disorders often occur with problem gamblers. Gathering this information is vital in determining treatment paths. Callers may answer 'yes' to more than one category.

Pennsylvania Helpline for Compulsive Gamblers

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
Marital Status		**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**CALLS**
	Cohabitating	2	12	4	2	3	2	2	2	3				32
	Divorced	4	7	3	0	5	3	6	7	9				44
	Married	29	25	14	3	17	30	30	38	46				232
	Separated	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	1	3				9
	Single	34	36	24	7	13	24	24	35	50				247
	Unasked/unwilling	33	24	21	10	12	15	21	44	36				216
	Widowed	0	4	3	0	0	1	1	6	1				16

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
How Caller Heard of Helpline		**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**CALLS**
	Billboard	1	3	2	2	0	2	2	0	1				13
	Brochure	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2				3
	Casino / Casino Card	25	23	11	3	4	6	13	16	12				113
	PGCB / Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1				1
	Crisis Line / Therapy	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0				4
	Family / Friend	3	6	2	0	2	1	3	4	1				22
	Internet	47	53	25	6	24	44	36	58	72				365
	Lottery	7	2	3	2	4	0	3	1	8				30
	Newspaper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
	Other	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	2				6
	Phonebook / Operator	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				1
	TV	2	2	2	2	0	3	2	4	1				18
	Radio	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	2	2				9
	Unwilling	14	18	21	7	14	20	23	48	46				211

Promotion of the Helpline service as a resource for those suffering from gambling problems is vital. By advertising the helpline number throughout the state and online, it is made clear that help is available.

Pennsylvania Helpline for Compulsive Gamblers

Number Called		JAN Calls	FEB Calls	MAR Calls	APR Calls	MAY Calls	JUN Calls	JUL Calls	AUG Calls	SEP Calls	OCT Calls	NOV Calls	DEC Calls	YTD CALLS
	800-848-1880	16	7	10	0	3	4	4	14	26				84
	800-GAMBLER	56	59	26	13	30	45	41	57	64				391
	877-565-2112	1	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	3				13
	National Helpline	15	21	13	1	2	8	14	23	22				119
	Other/Unknown	15	19	20	8	15	20	23	36	33				189
	***(Lottery Prompt)*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0

Suggested Referrals		JAN Calls	FEB Calls	MAR Calls	APR Calls	MAY Calls	JUN Calls	JUL Calls	AUG Calls	SEP Calls	OCT Calls	NOV Calls	DEC Calls	YTD CALLS
	CCCS	2	3	2	0	1	1	3	13	8				33
	GA	54	67	33	12	16	34	37	61	49				363
	Gam Anon	7	12	3	2	3	4	14	10	7				62
	Helpline Materials	5	1	5	3	1	3	2	6	6				32
	Internet Resources	25	39	18	3	15	21	29	33	45				228
	PA Council / PGCB	12	67	39	14	19	41	45	51	90				378
	Refused/Unable to Give/Other	25	17	15	4	11	18	24	33	11				158
	Self Exclusion	20	21	16	2	9	18	23	52	118				279
	Treatment	72	83	77	13	21	67	77	121	94				625

Intake calls often result in the dissemination of referrals – most often these are in the form of treatment options or Gamblers Anonymous meetings.

Chat/Text Requests		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
	Chat Requests	20	15	9	11	12	16	19	23	36				161
	Text Requests	14	9	7	3	6	5	10	11	15				80
	INTAKES	**9**	**10**	**9**	**9**	**9**	**15**	**13**	**15**	**16**				**105**

Another resource for help in Pennsylvania is the chat/text line accessible via the CCGP website (www.pacouncil.com). A total of 51 chat and text messages were received in September 2020. Of these, 16 were from individuals looking for help with a gambling problem.