Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania, Inc.

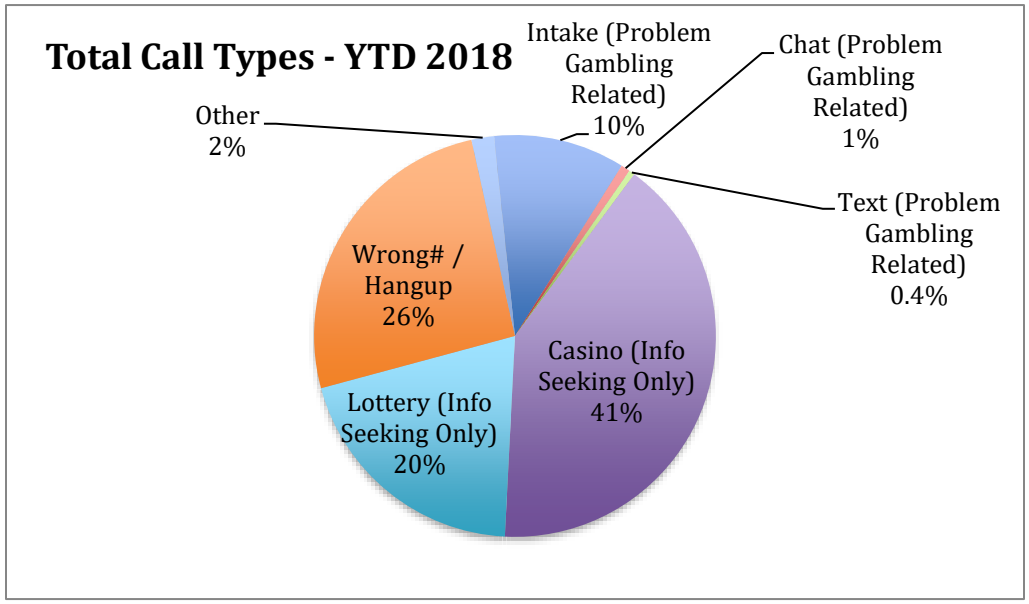
Helpline Data Report

YTD – 2018

As of October

Monthly Summary								
Month	Intake (Problem Gambling Related)	Chat (Problem Gambling Related)	Text (Problem Gambling Related)	Casino (Info Seeking Only)	Lottery (Info Seeking Only)	Wrong# / Hangup	Other	Total
January	97	8	5	401	213	262	17	1003
February	87	4	1	317	147	236	30	822
March	98	7	9	379	159	279	15	946
April	99	3	5	345	157	213	19	841
May	101	7	0	417	185	236	19	965
June	103	5	4	474	186	267	19	1058
July	114	6	3	458	193	263	14	1051
August	100	7	5	460	174	203	12	961
September	100	13	7	338	165	226	18	867
October	116	10	6	314	340	281	11	1078
November								
December								
TOTAL	1015	70	45	3903	1919	2466	174	9592

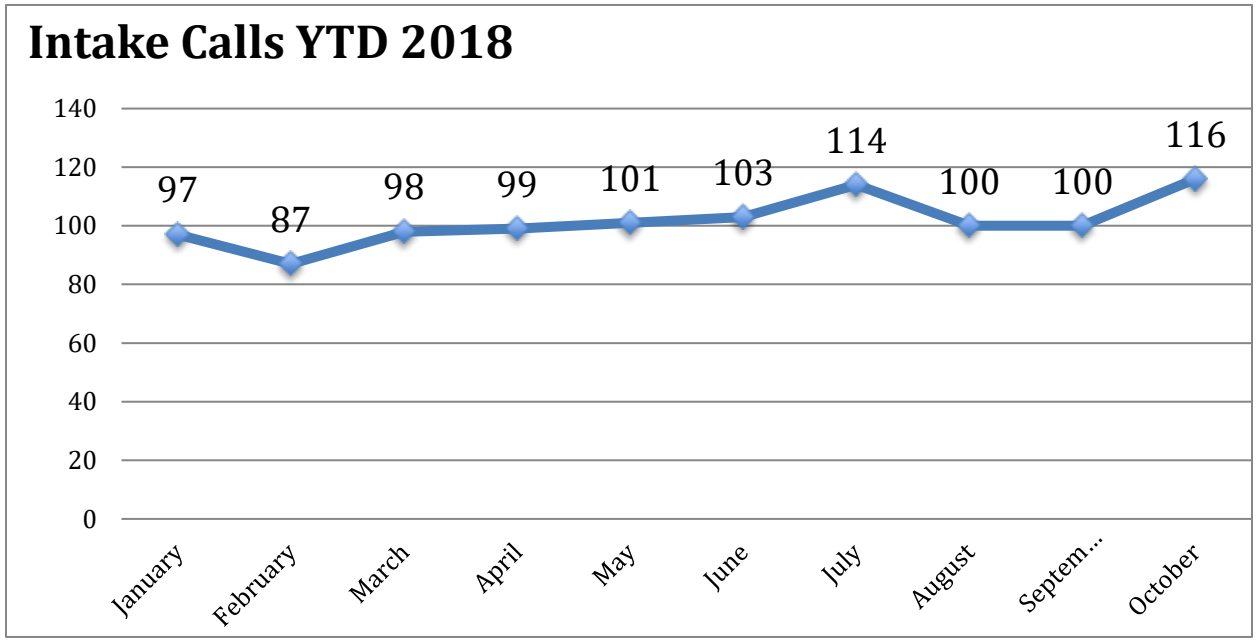
Figure 1



Every call that is made to the Helpline Center is tracked and noted by type (fig. 2). A majority of calls received are information inquiries (last night's lottery drawing, room reservations, etc.).

October 2018 saw an increase in intake calls, with 100 in September and 116 in October. *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.*

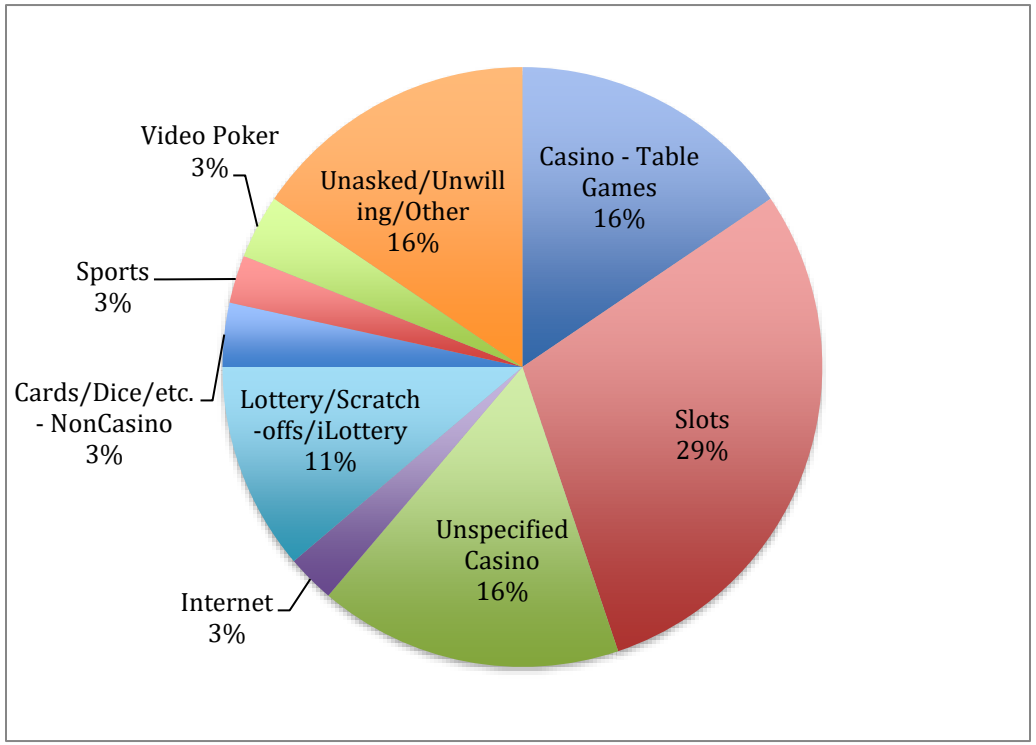
Figure 2



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 October 2018, the total number of intake calls was 116 (fig. 3).**

The Council has received 115 chat and text requests for help to date in 2018. This is in addition to the 1015 phone calls requesting help so far in 2018.

Figure 3



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. Slots and other casino based games were the activity named during the majority of calls in October 2018 (fig. 4). This may be related to high visibility of the Helpline number throughout each of the 12 casinos that currently operate in Pennsylvania.

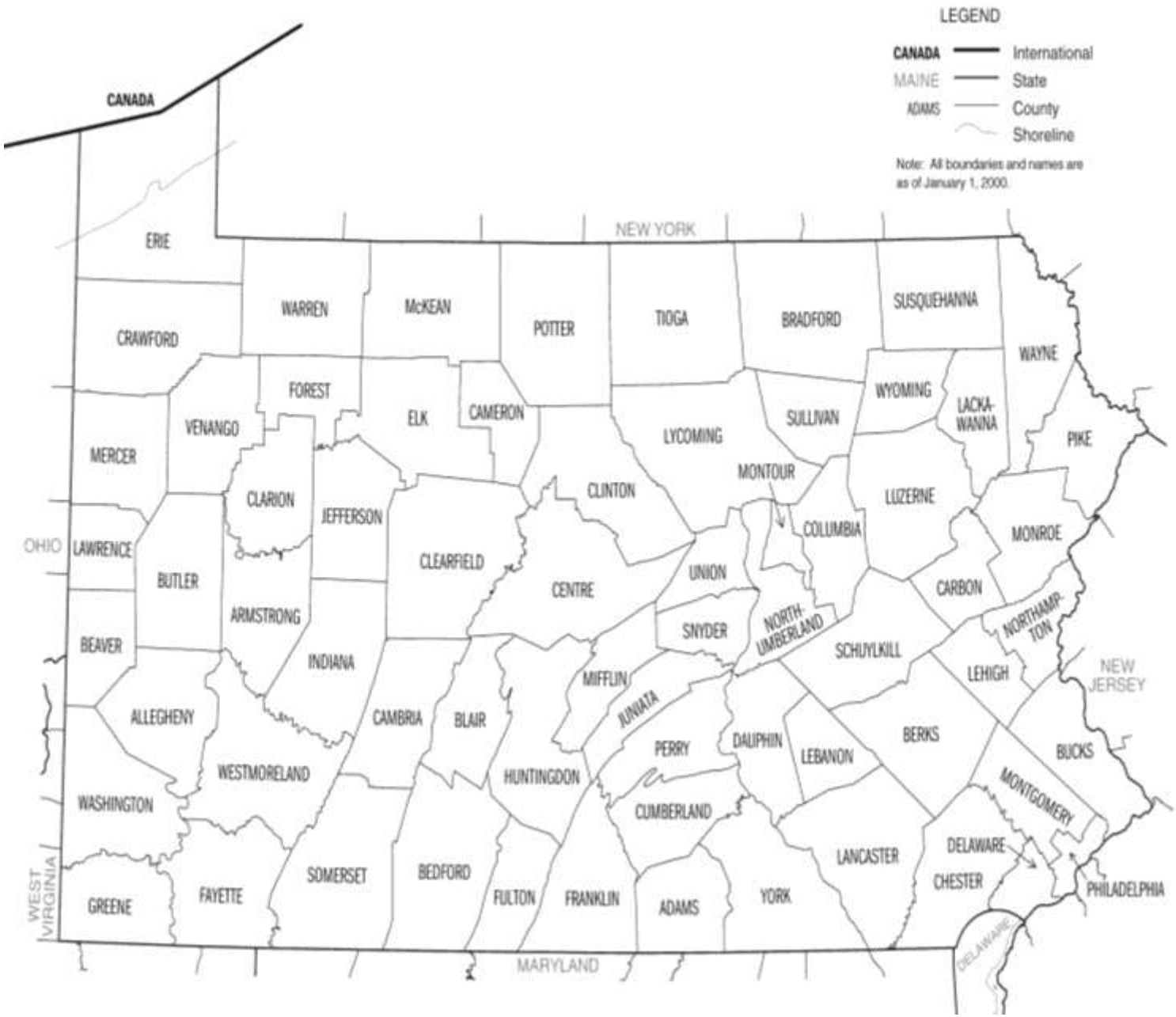
Figure 4

Pennsylvania Helpline for Compulsive Gamblers

This month, Philadelphia and Allegheny counties accounted for 29% of intake calls. In October 2018, the Helpline saw Lackawanna, Montgomery, and Westmoreland counties make up an additional 16% of intake calls.

Calls by County – October 2018		
	County	**Calls**
1	Philadelphia	19
2	Allegheny	15
3	Lackawanna	8
4	Montgomery	6
5	Westmoreland	5
6	Bucks	4
7	Beaver	3
8	Chester	3
9	Dauphin	3
10	Delaware	3
11	Erie	3
12	Washington	3
13	York	3
14	Adams	2
15	Blair	2
16	Lehigh	2
17	Luzerne	2
18	Monroe	2
19	Northampton	2
20	Butler	1
21	Cambria	1
22	Centre	1
23	Clarion	1
24	Cumberland	1
25	Fayette	1
26	Jefferson	1
27	Lawrence	1
28	Lebanon	1
29	Northumberland	1
30	Union	1
31	Wayne	1

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



Pennsylvania Fiscal Year (PFY17-18)

	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Totals
Intakes	114	100	100	116									430
Chat	6	7	13	10									36
Text	3	5	7	6									21
Hang-ups	220	175	197	227									819
***Casino (Info)**	458	460	338	314									1570
***Lottery (Info)**	193	174	165	340									872
Wrong#	43	28	29	54									154
Other	14	12	18	11									55
Totals	1051	961	867	1078									3957

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

Additional Helpline Details – 2018

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
Suicide		**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**CALLS**
	Present	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			2
	No	96	86	98	99	101	102	114	100	100	114			1010
	Past	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1			3

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 October 2018, one caller 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	10	11	17	11	15	12	12	5			113
	Friend	7	2	5	3	2	2	7	6	0	4			38
	Self	79	67	75	74	77	82	82	79	78	100			793
	Spouse	3	5	6	9	2	7	9	2	8	4			55
	Unwilling/Other	0	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	2	3			16

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	30	33	39	37	34	27	43	45	37	42			367
	Male	67	53	59	62	67	76	71	55	63	74			647
	Unwilling	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			1

On average in 2017, the percentage ratio of female to male callers/subjects was 43% to 57%. 2018 shows that approximately 36% 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	21	16	14	9	21	8	11	6	17	17			140
	Asian American	3	2	2	0	2	0	0	3	1	3			16
	Caucasian	69	63	76	84	71	93	96	83	77	88			800
	Hispanic	2	2	1	2	2	0	3	5	4	5			26
	Other	1	2	1	2	4	1	0	0	1	0			12
	Unwilling	1	2	4	2	1	1	4	3	0	3			21

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	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			4

The Helpline utilizes a Language Line service which quickly connects callers to assistance in over 60 available languages. There was one Spanish language line request in October 2018.

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	81	72	73	73	69	78	80	67	73	90			756
	Marital Problems	11	12	6	16	9	10	12	10	12	11			109
	Family Problems	19	20	14	15	22	16	21	19	16	16			178
	Job Problems	2	0	2	4	3	2	3	1	2	1			20
	Mental Health Problems	0	4	2	5	7	5	5	0	5	1			34
	Physical Health Problems	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	9			12
	Legal Problems	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	1	4	2			23
	Other Problems	14	12	20	20	19	21	27	24	18	18			193

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		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
	*Casino - Table Games	17	15	12	17	19	10	14	7	17	18			146
	Slots	32	34	33	30	33	29	44	26	33	34			328
	**Unspecified Casino	13	9	15	15	13	15	19	18	12	19			148
	Internet	0	0	2	2	1	3	0	4	2	3			17
	Lottery/Scratch-offs/iLottery	12	12	18	14	15	19	13	20	11	13			147
	Races	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0			3
	***Cards/Dice/etc. – NonCasino	5	4	1	2	3	3	2	2	3	4			29
	****Sports	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	0	3	3			17
	*****Poker/Video Poker	2	2	1	3	1	2	1	2	3	4			21
	Video Gaming Terminals (VGTs)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
	Airport	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
	Unasked/Unwilling/Other	13	10	13	14	14	20	20	21	16	18			159

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	1	0			2
	18 – 24	2	4	7	9	6	1	4	2	4	5			44
	25 – 34	20	12	18	12	9	24	16	8	16	18			153
	35 – 44	11	17	16	16	26	12	21	21	13	16			169
	45 – 54	22	17	11	15	12	15	11	17	17	19			156
	55 - 64	12	11	10	18	12	10	20	13	16	20			142
	65+	9	13	7	6	12	15	18	12	12	14			118
	Unknown/Unwilling	21	13	29	22	24	26	24	27	21	24			231

The largest amount of calls in October 2018 came from the 55-64 year old age group (17%), with the 25-34 year old age group and 45-54 year old age groups seeing the second largest number of calls (15% and 16% respectively).

Other Problems Identified		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
		Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	Calls	TOTAL
	Alcoholism	5	6	4	8	5	6	16	6	4	4			64
	Drug Abuse	6	3	8	7	4	2	5	4	6	1			46
	Depression	12	14	12	20	9	9	12	9	8	8			113
	Eating Disorder	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0			2
	Overspending	12	5	4	11	10	5	11	10	13	17			98
	Sexual Addiction	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0			4

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	5	3	4	6	5	3	5	3	4	7			45
	Divorced	4	5	3	6	9	6	8	7	1	11			60
	Married	30	30	26	30	22	26	30	22	29	29			274
	Separated	0	2	1	0	5	1	2	0	4	3			18
	Single	28	25	31	30	29	33	35	20	28	23			282
	Unasked/unwilling	28	17	31	22	25	33	30	41	29	35			291
	Widowed	2	5	2	5	6	1	4	7	5	8			45

How Caller Heard of Helpline		**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**Calls**	**CALLS**
	Billboard	7	3	1	4	3	4	4	4	3	4			37
	Brochure	3	6	0	5	2	3	4	4	7	2			36
	Casino / Casino Card	31	32	31	28	28	26	32	23	36	29			296
	PGCB / Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
	Crisis Line / Therapy	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	2			10
	Family / Friend	2	0	2	2	4	3	6	3	3	4			29
	Internet	31	27	33	32	33	36	35	25	26	30			308
	Lottery	5	7	6	7	9	7	7	14	7	12			81
	Newspaper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
	Other	4	2	5	2	1	4	3	4	1	0			26
	Phonebook / Operator	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	2			6
	TV	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	3	2	1			17
	Radio	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	1			8
	Unwilling	9	9	17	16	16	16	19	18	12	29			161

Promotion of the Helpline service as a resource for those suffering from gambling problems is vital. By advertising the number at gambling establishments and on gambling materials, 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	12	7	13	18	13	14	22	16	22	33			170
	800-GAMBLER	54	50	49	54	58	53	49	43	51	37			498
	877-565-2112	5	2	6	6	6	3	5	5	5	7			50
	National Helpline	19	19	12	9	12	17	21	15	10	16			150
	Other/Unknown	7	9	18	12	12	16	17	21	12	23			147
	***(Lottery Prompt)*	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	2			8

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	1	2	4	1	0	3	2	0	5			20
	GA	63	59	57	58	72	61	78	69	69	81			667
	Gam Anon	16	11	20	12	13	15	18	11	12	11			139
	Helpline Materials	9	10	12	12	11	10	14	14	7	8			107
	Internet Resources	43	34	33	40	30	32	40	28	35	36			351
	PA Council / PGCB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
	Refused/Unable to Give/Other	18	16	26	13	35	26	24	23	12	24			217
	Self Exclusion	26	23	24	26	16	18	27	12	21	19			212
	Treatment	66	66	59	57	60	64	68	67	65	74			646

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	8	4	7	3	7	5	6	7	13	10			70
	Text Requests	5	1	9	5	0	4	3	5	7	6			45

In November 2015, the Council on Compulsive Gambling implemented a 'chatline' and 'text for help' option into the existing Helpline Services. Like the Helpline, the chatline and text options are available 24/7 and provide an additional level of anonymity for those who may not be ready to physically verbalize the issues they are experiencing. Since the program began, we have seen continued use of these services and are pleased to offer another available resource for individuals seeking assistance.