

VIRGINIA

STATE OF GAMBLING

Available Now:

Mobile Sports Betting



Rosie's Gaming



Lottery



Daily Fantasy Sports

Bingo



Historical Horse Racing

Live Racing

Online Horse Betting



vacpg.org



Virginia Council on Problem Gambling Mission

The Virginia Council on Problem Gambling (VACPG) aims to increase public awareness of problem gambling, ensure the widespread availability of treatment for problem gamblers and their families, and to encourage research and programs for prevention and education.

The VACPG is an affiliate of the National Council on Problem Gambling. Its representatives serve on the NCPG Board of Directors, the Affiliates Committee, and many other NCPG committees.

We maintain a neutral stance on gambling.

Citations:

*Helpline data from the Virginia Council on Problem Gambling (2020)
Provided by First Choice Services*

Coming Soon:
Casinos, Table Games



virginia council on problem gambling

VACPG

888.532.3500

ANNUAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

President:
Carolyn E. Hawley, Ph.D., CRC

Calendar Year 2020

Increased
accessibility to
multiple forms of
gambling increases
risk of harm

Last year, the Virginia Council on Problem Gambling received 1150 calls. Of those, 335 were Virginia residents seeking help with problem gambling. Other calls included help seekers from other states, those trying to reach the Virginia Lottery, a casino or mobile betting apps. All callers who completed intakes accepted resources, including self-help workbooks, support group information (available in person, online or via phone), counselor information/referrals, self-exclusion forms and instructions, and multiple other help and treatment options. All callers who allow follow-up calls are scheduled for routine contacts via phone, text or email after 48 hours, one week, one month and six months. In addition, helpline staff offer special follow-ups and crisis counseling/services when needed to provide optimal support.

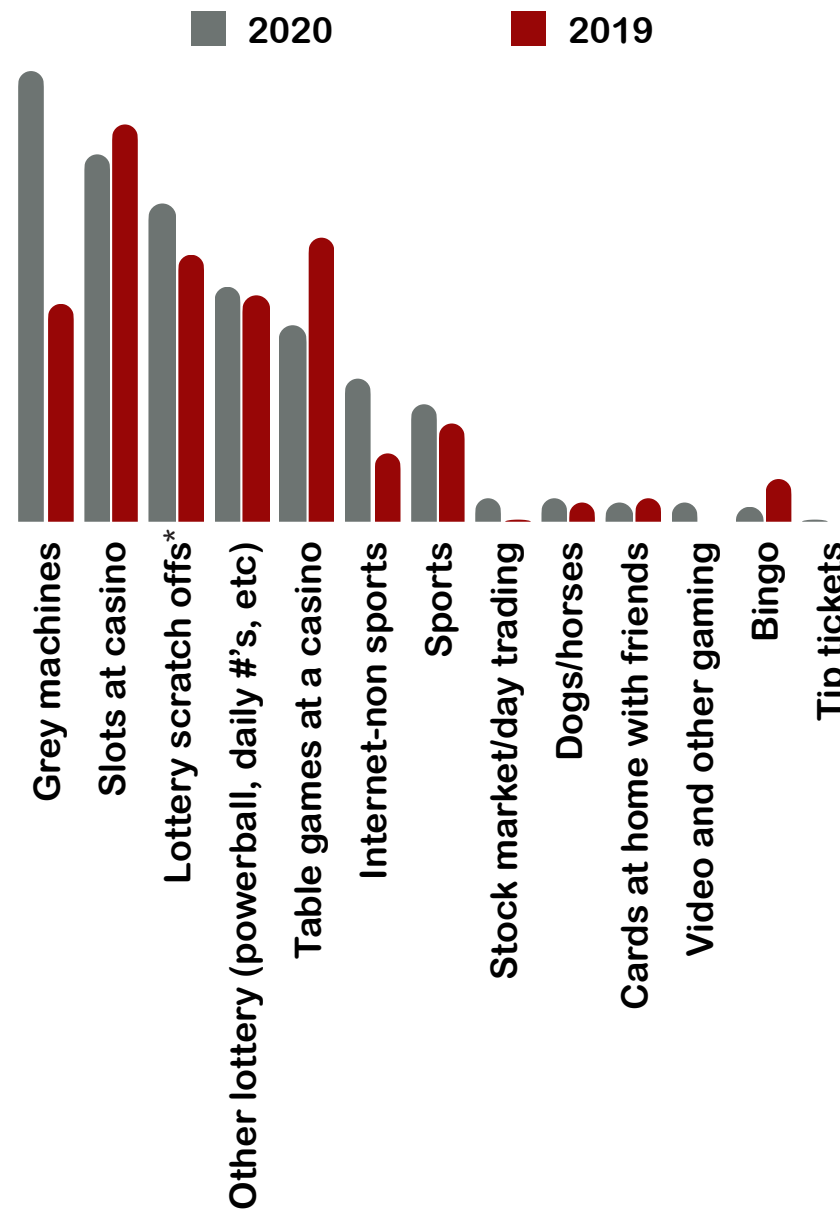
- The number of intakes has increased from last year, even with a decrease in call volume when there was limited gambling access at the beginning months of COVID-19.
- One hundred callers reported that stress related to COVID-19 was the reason for the increased gambling and resulting complications.
- There were significant increases in intakes related to video lottery/gray machines, day trading, and internet gambling-non sports. There was also an increase in intake calls for sports betting.

The number of trained counselors available to accept referrals has increased; however, lack of treatment funding still limits how many Virginians receive treatment. Callers rely on resources helpline staff share upon intake, when mailed/emailed and upon follow-up. Many of them access peer related support in-person and online. When COVID began and in-person meetings became less available, the VACPG helpline began offering a virtual Wellness Call to helpline callers. The call serves as a counselor led support group and provides needed support, fellowship and an extra recovery resource, especially with the increased challenges during the pandemic. It has been very well received by helpline callers and we plan to continue this service beyond COVID to continue to supplement what is available.

VACPG also offered a six hour training to clinicians in Virginia, "Gambling Disorder: Clinical Assessment & Treatment" with Heather Chapman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Case Western Reserve University; Deputy Director of the Veterans Addiction Recovery Center, Director of the Gambling Treatment Program, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center. It was originally scheduled in-person on April 25, 2020. However, due to the pandemic, it was rescheduled for August and held virtually August 11, 12 and 13 from 10am to 12pm via Zoom. Continuing education credits were offered through Virginia Commonwealth University. The training was sponsored by Virginia Lottery & VCU College of Health Professions, Department of Rehabilitation Counseling. 44 registered for the training.

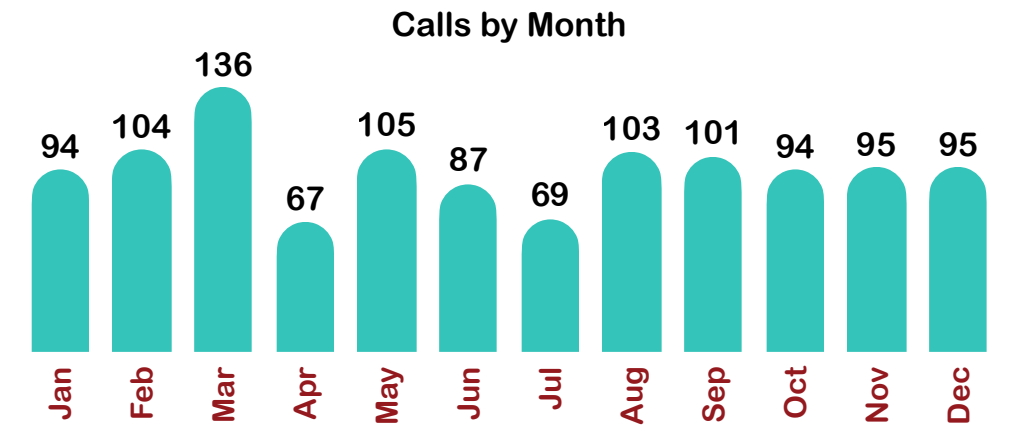
2020 Call Data Virginia Council on Problem Gambling

Type of Gambling

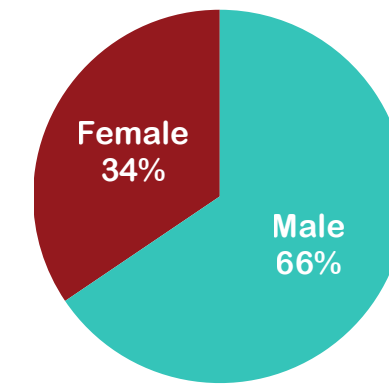


The primary way callers learned about the helpline was through the phone number on the back of lottery tickets, the Virginia Council on Problem Gambling website, the Virginia Lottery website, lottery retail locations, casinos, and online/website/social media.

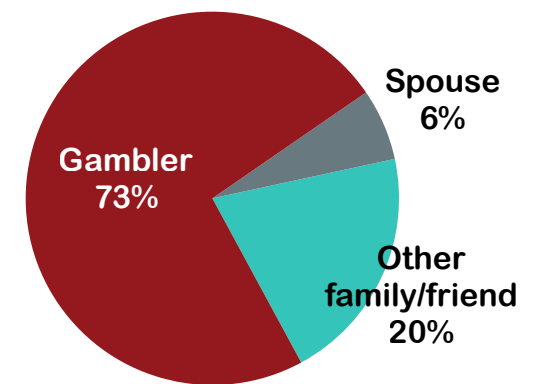
*lottery scratch offs also include available lottery available online



Gender of Caller



Caller is:



Financial problems experienced by callers, in order of most frequently cited:

Spent all extra money	211
Late on bills	110
Borrowed from friends/family	108
Spent savings	93
Credit card debt	76
Sold/pawned property	24
Stole money	21
Borrowed from a bank, loan company, credit union	12
Bad checks	6
Bankruptcy	4
Borrowed against house	4
Cashed in stocks, bonds, securities	4
Canceled insurance	1