

# MARYLAND CENTER OF EXCELLENCE ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

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## ***GAMBLING ADDICTS Bet Big on Super Bowl XLVII***

For further press information see [www.mdproblemgamblingpress.com](http://www.mdproblemgamblingpress.com)

Baltimore, MD—(**lead A**) As Marylander's gear up to watch the Super Bowl XLVII, many problem gamblers will be gearing up for the game too.

The Super Bowl is one of the biggest gambling events of the year. For problem gamblers who have placed bets throughout the regular season and playoffs, the Super Bowl is a last chance to make it big or recover some of their losses.

### **"PROBLEM GAMBLING IS AN ADDICTION-- We Can Help"**

For these sports problem gamblers and other gambling addicts, the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling (The Center) is launching a public awareness and education campaign. The multi-platform state funded campaign will draw attention to The Center's 24-hour help line (1-800-522-4700) and public awareness website <http://www.mdproblemgambling.com>.

The Center's stark message highlights the newest developments in the study of gambling and addiction. This year, the American Psychiatric Association will reclassify pathological gambling into the category of addictions. This revision reflects recent research that has revolutionized the understanding of how addictive gambling is for some people. Placing gambling into the addiction category with alcoholism and drug addiction will allow mental health professionals to bring more resources to bear on a client's care.

Problem gamblers often say they don't "feel addicted," but their behavior is often very similar to other addicts as they chase their next high. Problem gambling can not only lead to other addictions, such as alcohol/substance abuse, but also to emotional and physical illnesses as well as financial disaster and family devastation. It is estimated that the social cost of problem gambling is at least \$6 billion per year in the United States.

The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling is funded by the State of Maryland's Problem Gambling Fund through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and is housed at the University of Maryland School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry.

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