



Department of Mental Health
Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction



SFY 2014-15 Budget

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Prevention and Treatment for Problem Gambling

Problem: In 2012, ODADAS, in contract with Kent State University, conducted a household telephone survey of 3,600 Ohioans to determine prevalence of problem/pathological gambling in Ohio. Survey findings estimated that the prevalence of at-risk and problem gambling in Ohio is 2.8 percent in total, or about 250,000 individuals aged 18 and older. The at-risk group of Ohioans, prime for prevention and responsible gambling education, is about 220,000 individuals. According to the survey, of the at-risk group, a majority are male and more likely to be between the ages of 18-24 years old; in some areas of the state more African-American males tend to be at-risk.

Solution: Ohio has accomplished advanced planning for the growth of problem gambling and will use research, science-based strategies and effective services for the prevention of gambling disorders and appropriate treatment for those with a diagnosed pathological gambling condition.

Ohio's comprehensive plan for community prevention is rooted in public health science and modern communication tools to bring effective messaging to both a general and targeted audience. The plan for effective treatment options began with pilot sites more than a decade ago, and will now be expanded so that every Ohioan has access to care.

Impact of the Executive Budget: The Gambling and Addictions Fund dollars are 2 percent of the tax revenue received from casino gambling in the state of Ohio. The fund was created as a result of the state constitutional amendment passed by voters in 2009, and the appropriation is based on estimated casino receipts and is subject to variation. As of February 2013, Ohio has not seen a full quarter of revenue resulting from all four casinos being operational.

Background: Since 2001, ODADAS has received \$335,000 annually from the Ohio Lottery Commission to use for professional development of problem gambling treatment counselors, an annual problem gambling conference, and to support six treatment sites in the counties of Athens, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, and Mahoning.

The passage of a constitutional amendment in 2009 that allowed casinos to be built and operated in Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland and Toledo also included language that "two percent of the tax on gross casino revenue shall be distributed to a state problem gambling and addictions fund which shall be used for the treatment of problem gambling and substance abuse, and related research." Since summer of 2012, ODADAS has received approximately \$2.1 million from this new fund. Those funds will be allocated to the community through Ohio's Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards and will also support prevention, research and professional development at the state level.

Accomplishment: In the spring of 2012, a new organization was announced to ensure that messaging to prevent problem gambling and services to treat problem/pathological gambling would be in place. That group is called Ohio for Responsible Gambling, and it includes ODADAS and the state Commissions for Casino Control, Lottery and Racing. Resources and a 24-hour Helpline have been developed. For assistance, Ohioans can call **1-800-589-9966** or visit www.ORG.ohio.gov.