



MCPG

Maryland Council on Problem Gambling

GAMBLING & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Domestic violence takes many forms: physical violence, sexual abuse, psychological and emotional abuse, social abuse, financial abuse, harassment and stalking
- 25-50% of spouses of compulsive gamblers have been abused (National Research Council, 1999)
- Survey of 144 spouses of compulsive gamblers found 50% were physically and verbally abused by spouse and 12% had attempted suicide (Bland, Newman, Orn & Stebelski, 1993)
- Emergency room study showed odds ratio of intimate partner violence increased 10.5 times when partner was problem gambler (Muelleman, Denotter, Wadman Tran & Anderson, 2002)
- For many women gambling venues are refuge from violence and gambling becomes a method of escape.
- Child neglect is a form of domestic violence. In Indiana 72 children were found abandoned in casino premises in 14 month period (Courier Journal, 7/18/2000)
- In Mississippi domestic violence centers reported 300% increase in requests for help after casinos opened (National Gambling Impact commission Study)
- Nebraska medical school study found problem gambling as much a risk for domestic violence as alcohol abuse (Jejkal, 2000)
- Family violence and addiction have several common features including loss of control, continuation despite adverse consequences, tolerance and withdrawal, involvement of the entire family, preoccupation or

obsession and defenses of denial, minimization and rationalization
(Muellerman, DenOtter, Wadman, Tran and Anderson, 2002)