

Brief Chronology of Problem Gambling Awareness, Services, and Developments in California

1950-1980

1957 – Gamblers Anonymous started in Los Angeles.

1960 – Gam Anon founded.

1963 – New Hampshire state lottery, begins the “third wave” of legalized gambling.

1972 – First inpatient treatment program for gamblers, started by Robert Custer at Brecksville (Ohio) Veterans Administration.

1972 - National Council on Compulsive Gambling (later the National Council on Problem Gambling) started by Monsignor Joseph Dunne, Irving Sacher, and Robert Custer. Today there are 35 state affiliates.

1974 – First International Conference on Gambling and Risk Taking, organized by Bill Eadington, University-Nevada, Reno.

1976 – Commission on the Review of the National Policy Toward Gambling. At the time of its final report, there were only 13 state lotteries, two states with off-track wagering, and no casinos outside of Nevada. Nevertheless, Commission concluded: “Gambling is inevitable...practiced or endorsed by a substantial majority of Americans.” They observe that increases in legal gambling create new gamblers and ultimately larger numbers of problem and pathological gamblers.

1978 – First public recognition of compulsive gambling as a social problem for which the state held some responsibility. Maryland House Bill 1311 stated: “Maryland with its extensive legalized gambling has an obligation to provide a program of treatment for those persons who become addicted to gambling to the extent that it seriously disrupts lives and families.” Maryland funds a treatment center for compulsive gamblers at Johns Hopkins.

1980 – Pathological (compulsive) gambling first recognized as a mental disorder by its inclusion in the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-III).

1981-1990

1984 – California state lottery approved, after being placed on the ballot by initiative and enacted by constitutional amendment.

1985 – First National Conference on Problem Gambling, sponsored by NCPG, held in New York.

1985 – First certification board for gambling counselors established in New Jersey.

1985 – *Journal of Gambling Behavior* (later the *Journal of Gambling Studies*) edited by Henry Lesieur. To stimulate research, develop researchers, legitimize gambling research. Most addiction journals not accepting gambling articles.

1986 – California Council on Compulsive Gambling (later the California Council on Problem Gambling) started by Richard Rosenthal, Nelson Rose, Durand Jacobs. Dedicated to prevention, public education, promotion of cost-accessible treatment, and research.

1987 – US Supreme Court rules on California v Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. Regulation of Gaming on Indian lands is the province of the tribes.

1988 – Indian Gaming Regulatory Act created the framework for tribal governments to engage in gaming as a way to promote economic development and self-sufficiency. California Nations Indian Gaming Association (CNIGA) founded.

1989 – Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming established at University of Nevada-Reno.

1990 – California prevalence study finds lifetime prevalence of 1.2 %, meaning approx. 240,000 lifetime pathological gamblers and an additional 577,000 problem gamblers in the state. At the time of the study there were no Native American casinos, no video poker or slot machines, no internet gambling. Conducted by Rachel Volberg, the study was part of a five state, NIH funded prevalence study. It was only the second time gambling research had been federally funded.

1990 - First inpatient gambling treatment program west of the Mississippi started by Richard Rosenthal at CPC Westwood, in Los Angeles. Program successfully treats gamblers until 1993, when the hospital falls victim to managed care, closes.

1991 - 1999

1991 – Assembly Bill 163 falls a few votes short of needed two-thirds majority that would have amended the State Lottery Act, to provide 1/8 of 1 percent of annual revenues for maintenance of a problem gambling help line, public education, training, assistance programs for gamblers and their families, and research on adolescents and other high risk groups.

1994 – DSM-IV published, with new criteria for pathological gambling written by Lesieur and Rosenthal.

1994 – American Medical Association adopts resolution encouraging physicians to advise their patients of the addictive potential of gambling, encourages states to contribute a percentage of gaming revenues for education, prevention, and treatment of pathological gambling, and seeks warning labels on lottery tickets and warning signs at lottery outlets.

1995 – First Internet gambling site.

1996 – California the sixth largest gambling state, behind Nevada, New Jersey, Mississippi, Illinois, and Louisiana. But the only one not to have casino gambling. Predominant form of legal gambling in California is card clubs, followed by horse racing and the lottery.

1996 – National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) : A non-profit created by the American Gaming Association to fund problem gambling research and programs

1996 – Responsible Gaming Resource Guide, edited by Marvin Steinberg and Carl Braunlich.

1996-1999 - National Gambling Impact Study Commission (NGISC) Perhaps more important than the findings are the focus on problem and pathological gambling. The bar is raised for gambling research.

1998 – Chinese Community Task Force on Problem Gambling
To develop and implement culturally competent, community based strategies to address problem gambling in the Chinese community.

1999 – *Pathological Gambling: A Critical Review* Created for the NGISC by the National Research Council, Committee on the Social and Economic Impact of Pathological Gambling. The most extensive review of the literature on gambling to date.

1999 – 58 tribal governments sign compacts with the state of California.

2000 - Present

2000 – Passage of proposition 1A Established by constitutional amendment the legal authority for Indian gaming on tribal lands.

2000 – Association of State Problem Gambling Services Administrators (APGSA).

2003 – UCLA Gambling Studies Program, co-directed by Richard Rosenthal and Timothy Fong

2003 – Assembly Bill 673 amends the Welfare and Institutions Code to fund an Office of Problem and Pathological Gambling within the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs.

2003 – CNIGA sponsors the first Responsible Gambling Awareness Week, in collaboration with the California Council on Problem Gambling.

2008 – 22nd Annual National Conference on Problem Gambling, co-sponsored by CCPG and held in Long Beach, June 26-28

2009 – Trainings for gambling treatment providers, first step in providing statewide treatment for problem gamblers