



# PRAIRIE RIDGE

## PREVENTION SERVICES

“CLEAN MIND; CLEAN BODY; CLEAN SPIRIT; DRUG FREE”

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## Newsletter

Vol. 6 Issue 3  
March 2011

### Iowa Proposes to Legalize and Regulate Internet Gambling

Currently, in Iowa internet casinos and other types of online gambling are **not regulated** and **not legal**. Online gambling is considered to be untaxed in the United States. However, gaming advocates say states can legally regulate wagering that takes place exclusively within that state’s borders. Senate File 458 is cited as the “Internet Poker Consumer Protection and Revenue Generation Act of 2011.” The bill would allow Iowa casinos to operate affiliated website under highly controlled guidelines.

Internet gambling revenue for offshore companies was estimated to be \$5.4 billion in 2009 from players in the United States and \$25.8 billion from players worldwide. According to Iowa lawmakers’ preliminary projections in 2010, online poker would bring an additional \$11.5 million a year in revenue into the state treasury.

Gambling can take many forms, regardless of whether a person gambles money at a licensed and regulated casino or does so illegally online, gambling has the potential to be high risk. Internet gambling especially offers up a host of risks. A topic of concern that is being brought up at the state level is that internet gambling takes place in an uncontrolled environment, where minors and those with gambling addictions are particularly susceptible. It is most important to remember that when considering legalization of internet gambling that problem gambling, just like problematic substance use, is proportional to availability.



If you know if anyone that needs help  
call 1-800 BETS OFF

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### Numbers, Numbers, Numbers!!!

- The average customer spends \$108.00 when visiting a casino
- There are approximately 833,000 slot machines operating in the United States
- 59 percent of Americans consider the slot machine to be there favorite casino game
- Often, a single slot machine game must be approved by regulatory bodies in more than 200 different gaming jurisdictions.
- 2,250 regulators oversee the gaming industry, ensuring the slot machines operate correctly.
- The first slot machine was called the Liberty Bell, invented by Charles Fey in 1899.
- According to an ESPN survey, about 118 million Americans gambled on sports in some manner in 2008.
- Number of Statewide Adult Problem Gambling Population in Iowa – **46,000** people
- Number of Statewide Adult Pathological Gambling Population in Iowa – **23,000** people

Newsletter is funded through the:  
Iowa Department of Public Health



## Why they lock up cigarettes...

Editorial by Jay Pedelty, CPS

Every once in awhile, I have a thought that is so (caution: judgmental, insensitive word about to be used) stupid that I actually have to laugh out loud at myself. Yesterday I had one of those thoughts (in my own defense, it had been hours since the last one) when I was waiting in the express lane at the grocery store. I looked at the cigarettes locked behind the Plexiglas doors, also behind the counter, and then at the pallet load of Vodka directly adjacent to the front door. I was immediately exasperated by the apparent respect accorded the risks associated with cigarettes, as compared to the cavalier treatment of the alcohol, as if it carried no more risk than so much bottled water. I only got more upset as I stood there and thought about the \$616 dollars that the harm associated with alcohol costs every man, woman and child in the United States, as compared to a paltry \$457 per person cost of tobacco harm. Yet it's the cigarettes that are getting locked up?!

On my way back to work, I made a mental inventory of all the places that tobacco products were sold and concluded that sure enough, the tobacco products are either out of reach of the customers, locked up or both. However, alcohol is not only the most available consumer commodity in the nation, but its physical availability puts the "convenience" in convenience store. I felt like Sir Isaac Newton must have felt when the apple fell on his head. I was on to something here, but I wasn't sure what. When I got home I told my wife of my discovery, she gave me a look reserved exclusively for pets that have just done something that is so ridiculous you wished you had videoed it.

"I'm pretty sure the only reason they lock up the cigarettes is because they cost so much now that they get stolen if they're not locked up or out of reach" she said. The truth of her observation was like a slap in the face. It wasn't respect for the harm caused by nicotine addiction; it was simple self preservation on the part of cigarette retailers. How could I have missed that? Progress in reducing problematic substance use won't come from getting individuals to acknowledge their vulnerability to the affects of alcohol and other drugs (respect), but rather by helping individuals to see how much other people's substance use is costing them.

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## Upcoming Events

**May 14, 2011 Youth Diversion Program** at Prairie Ridge, Mason City. *The program will be from 8:30-5:30 p.m. Saturday.*

For more information please contact the Prairie Ridge Mason City Office 1-866-429-2391.

**May 14 & 16, 2011 Adolescent Prime for Life** at Prairie Ridge, Mason City. *The program will be from 8:30-5:30 p.m. Saturday & Monday 4:00-8:00 p.m.*

For more information please contact the Prairie Ridge Mason City Office 1-866-429-2391.

*For more information about any of the events, please contact us by phone or e-mail as shown below*

## Sports related problem gambling- Who is at risk?

Sports' gambling is becoming more invasive in today's society and is reaching younger audiences. The 2010 National Annenberg Survey of Youth showed that sports' betting is the most popular form of gambling among youth ages 14 - 22.

Nearly a quarter of adolescent males bet on sports in an average month. According to the NCAA, 92% of male college athletes reported that they started gambling [on sports or any other gambling] in high school or earlier. Many students are first introduced to wagering on sports by completing an NCAA tournament bracket or buying a Super Bowl square, suggesting these forms of gambling may serve as a gateway to more expensive and dangerous forms of betting, according to a study conducted by Tim Otteman of *US News & World Report*. The NCAA estimates that 1 in 10 Americans will complete a tournament bracket, and CNBC estimates that \$6-12 billion is wagered on March Madness.

While betting on a tournament or football game does not automatically cause a problem or put someone on the path towards addiction, its popularity does create the need for education and encouraging responsible gambling practices. Much of the recent research shows a higher interest, and thereby higher risk, to males and youth.

According to the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University, boys develop more gambling problems than girls because they are more competitive and enjoy feeling important when they win. Also, boys are more susceptible to develop gambling problems than girls because they participate in gambling activities that are more problematic, such as sports betting. They believe that because they know all the teams and the players, they have a good chance of winning their bet.

Many teenagers have developed a gambling problem due to their participation in betting on sports events. Athletes are at a high risk for sports gambling for many reasons including unreasonable expectation of winning, competitive personalities, need for action and excitement, ability to play through pain and perception of social norms. Some other risk factors of problem gambling in general include being an athlete, belief in one's own skill, racial and ethnic minorities are at a higher risk of developing a gambling addiction, easy access to money, and having a family history of addiction.

Source: [www.NPGAW.org](http://www.NPGAW.org) Sports Gambling Campaign, 2011