

Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling Helpline Report Q1 FY24











Summary Analysis

In Q1 FY24, there were 115 calls and 131 chats/texts to the helpline. Chats/texts exceed the number of calls in the months of August and September. The number of calls went down slightly over the quarter.

Caller Profile

As in previous quarters and years, the majority of calls came from gamblers (81.4% in Q1 FY24 and between 73% and 82% in FY23). In Q1 FY24, helpline callers were typically male (52.8%), Caucasian (37.3%) or African American (34.8%), aged 45-54 (18.6%), and living in Baltimore City (14.6%) or Prince George's county (20.1%). The majority of calls concerned casino-based gambling (56.5%) and their main reason for calling was to stop gambling (83.0%).

Jurisdiction: In Q1 FY24, most helpline calls came from Southern and Central Maryland (29.8% and 32.3% respectively). Prince George's county accounted for the highest number of calls (20.1%) closely followed by Baltimore city (14.6%) and Baltimore county (11.8%). These counties and regions also accounted for the largest number of calls in FY23.

Age: In Q1 FY24, the majority of callers were aged between 25 and 64 years (62.7%), with only 10.6% between 18 and 24 years and 5% over 65 years. There was an increase in callers 18-24 years old compared to Q4 FY23. There were no callers under the age of 18 but only a very small number of callers (~1%) during all FY23. There were 21.7% of callers who were unwilling to provide their age.

Gender: Callers continue to be predominantly male (52.8%).

Ethnicity: In Q1 FY24, most callers identified as Caucasian (37.3%) or African American (34.8%). In FY23, similar rates were reported in Q1 and Q2, and slightly higher rates of Caucasian (~40%) and lower rates of African American (~27%) were reported in Q3 and Q4. The rates in African Americans increased in Q1 FY24 compared to Q4 FY23.

Who is Calling: The vast majority of callers continue to be gamblers (81.4%) in Q1 FY24. Other family members accounted for 9.3% of all callers. This was similar to that of Q3 FY23. In Q1, Q2, and Q4 FY23 slightly more calls were from other family members (10-16%) and slightly fewer from gamblers (73-78%).

Intent: Trends in callers' intent were similar in Q1 FY24 to those of FY23.

- Stop Gambling: 83%
- Control Gambling: 8%
- Reduce Harm: 0%
- Unsure/Unwilling: 9%

Primary Gambling Problem:

As in FY23, casino-based gambling continues to be the most frequently reported gambling problem (56.5%) in Q1 FY24. Of those, 30.8% reported slots as their preferred casino game. Internet gambling was reported by 18.0% (6.2% of which was internet sports gambling) of callers. While 7.5% reported lottery and scratch-offs as the problem. Sports gambling at brick-and-mortar establishments was reported by 3.2% of callers.

Treatment Referrals

Peer Support: In Q1 FY24, 47.8% of callers were referred to peer support and 40.3% of those calls were warm transfers. In FY23, peer support referrals declined in each quarter from 55.2% in Q1 to 46.3% in Q4.

Internet Resources: 28.6% of callers were referred to internet resources in Q1 FY24. This is considerably higher than such referrals in FY23 which ranged from 12.6% in Q1 to 20.2% in Q3.

Gamblers Anonymous: Over half of all callers (52.8%) were referred to GA in Q1 FY24. This is considerably higher than such referrals in FY23, the highest of which was 43.0% in Q4.

Lottery Self-Exclusion: 28.0% of callers were referred to lottery self-exclusion in Q1 FY24. Similar rates were seen in FY23.

Treatment Providers: In Q1 FY24, 46.6% of callers were referred to a treatment provider. This referral rate is similar to that of Q1 FY23.

Maryland Coalition of Families: 6.8% of callers were referred to MCF. In FY23 Q1, 13.8% were referred to MCF, however this declined to between 3 and 7% in subsequent quarters.

Refused: In Q1 FY24, 19.3% of callers refused to be referred to any service. In FY23 this rate varied from a low of 10.3% in Q1 to a high of 18.8% in Q3.

Source of Helpline Information

In Q1 FY24, callers reported learning about the helpline from the following sources:

- Online: 47%
- Billboard/Brochure: 1%
- Casino/Lottery: 11%
- Friends/Family: 2%
- TV: 1%
- Radio: 0%
- Other: 2%
- Unwilling: 37%

Website Traffic

Web visits totaled 40,603 in Q1 FY24. The website with the most visits in Q1 FY24 was **www.helpmygamblingproblem.org** with 55.1% visits, closely followed by **www.mdproblemgambling.org** with 42.6% visits. Both **www.militarygamblesafe.org** and **www.asiangambling.org** received the fewest site visits with 1.5% and 0.8% visits, respectively. The distribution of visits across websites is similar to what was seen in Q2 FY23. In other quarters of FY23, ~85% of all visits were either to **www.helpmygamblingproblem.org** or **www.mdproblemgambling.org held**.