

# IMPACT

## MEASURING THE IMPACT

Prior to the establishment of the NCRG, the field of gambling research was undeveloped and lacked a substantial number of peer-reviewed studies on gambling disorders. From its beginning, the NCRG was committed to reversing this trend, becoming the first serious funding source for research on gambling disorders. The organization introduced into the field a commitment to rigorous scientific standards, including an insistence that all research be peer-reviewed. As a result of this commitment, NCRG-funded studies have led to the publication of more than 170 scholarly articles in highly competitive, peer-reviewed scientific journals.

By bringing the issue to the forefront, the NCRG paved the way for government institutions to make investments in research on gambling disorders. In 1998, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) began offering grants in the field, and NCRG-funded grants have helped researchers leverage millions of federal dollars for continued research on gambling.

The NCRG also has emphasized innovation, resulting in a number of advances in the field including:

- First reliable estimates of how many people have a gambling disorder
- First longitudinal study of the health risks of casino employees
- First significant evidence for a genetic component of gambling disorders
- First large clinical trial of the drug naltrexone for treating disordered gamblers; success of pilot led to \$464,000 NIH grant
- First national study of gambling and gambling policies on college campuses
- New model for understanding addiction as a syndrome
- New instruments for measuring, screening and diagnosing pathological gambling and treatment outcomes
- New model for measuring the impact of new gaming venues on communities

Overall, the NCRG has significantly raised the quality of research on gambling disorders by insisting on the highest standards and encouraging new ways of thinking about gambling disorders.

# EDUCATION

## EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Through a variety of programs and activities, the NCRG strives to:

- Raise public awareness of gambling disorders and responsible gaming
- Provide meaningful, research-based education for health care providers and the gaming industry
- Promote a lively exchange of ideas within the field of gambling research
- Develop practical applications for research findings

Below is a brief description of some of the many education and awareness initiatives conducted by the NCRG, which is an approved continuing education provider of NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals, and several other agencies. A full explanation of all of the NCRG's initiatives can be found at [www.ncrg.org](http://www.ncrg.org).

**Annual Conference** – The NCRG's Conference on Gambling and Addiction is the only event of its kind in the U.S. that allows gaming industry leaders, treatment providers, clinicians, researchers and policymakers from around the world to engage in dialogue focused on developing more effective responsible gaming programs and solutions for better managing the consequences of disordered gambling.

**CollegeGambling.org** – The first site of its kind, CollegeGambling.org brings together the latest research and best practices in the field of addiction awareness and prevention in order to provide a substantive and versatile resource that will help schools and their students address gambling on campus.

**EMERGE (Executive, Management & Employee Responsible Gaming Education)** – EMERGE is an online, science-based employee education program created by Harvard Medical School faculty, funded mainly by the NCRG. It is the only program of its kind offering customizable responsible gaming training for every level of gaming industry employee.

**Gambling Disorders 360°** – Gambling Disorders 360° is the blog for the NCRG that explores the latest news, issues and research relating to gambling disorders and responsible gaming. It is also a forum to share knowledge and best practices.

**Increasing the Odds: A Series Dedicated to Understanding Gambling Disorders** – The NCRG's monograph series translates cutting-edge, peer-reviewed research for a non-academic audience.

**Responsible Gaming Quarterly (RGQ)** – RGQ is a joint publication developed and issued by the NCRG and the AGA highlighting initiatives throughout the industry, government, academia and the treatment community to address gambling disorders and promote responsible gaming.

**Talking with Children about Gambling** – Talking with Children about Gambling is a research-based guide designed to help parents and mentors discuss this subject with children, deter children from gambling, and recognize possible warning signs of problem gambling and other risky behaviors.

**Webinar Series** – The NCRG's free Webinar Series provides year-round educational opportunities designed to help individuals better understand and address critical issues related to gambling disorders and responsible gaming — without having to leave their home or office. These online sessions feature some of the leading experts in the field.

# RESEARCH

## FUNDING RESEARCH

The NCRG's research program is directed by an independent Scientific Advisory Board of leading experts. All research grants, both long-term and project-based, are reviewed by independent peer review panels of distinguished scientists in the field to ensure that only the highest quality research is funded.

**Project Grants** – The NCRG operates a competitive Project Grants program to support high-quality scientific research on gambling disorders. The NCRG's Project Grants program is designed to increase the number of researchers working in the field, encourage new investigators to explore gambling disorders and foster multidisciplinary collaboration. The program also is intended to increase the number of gambling studies disseminated through high-impact conferences and peer-reviewed journals and developed into larger projects with support from the National Institutes of Health and other major funders.

**NCRG Centers of Excellence** – The NCRG has observed that competitive and substantial, multiyear research grants are the most effective vehicles for producing seminal research on gambling disorders. To make such grants more widely available, the NCRG created the NCRG Centers of Excellence in Gambling Research in 2009. Based at top-tier research institutions across the country, the NCRG Centers of Excellence employ a long-term, institutional approach to conducting innovative and multidisciplinary research and education programs. Currently, NCRG Centers of Excellence are located at the University of Minnesota and Yale University.

Since the NCRG was created in 1996, it has been committed to funding independent research that will someday identify the risk factors for gambling disorders and determine methods for not only treating the disorder but preventing it, much like physicians can identify risk from cardiovascular disease long before a heart attack.

Significant progress has been made toward the understanding of gambling disorders, and this area of research is more robust and respected than ever before. The generous support of some of the world's leading gaming companies and individuals has made these accomplishments possible. However, continued research is still critical to the advancement of scientific breakthroughs that will aid in developing tools for prevention, treatment and education.

**TO LEARN MORE:**  
**National Center for Responsible Gaming**  
[www.ncrg.org](http://www.ncrg.org)  
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NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING

Advancing Research, Education  
and Awareness



## ABOUT THE NCRG

The National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG) is the only national organization exclusively devoted to public education and funding research that will help increase understanding of pathological and youth gambling and find effective methods of treatment for the disorder.

Founded in 1996 as a separate 501(c)3 charitable organization, the NCRG's mission is to help individuals and families affected by gambling disorders by supporting the finest peer-reviewed, scientific research into pathological and youth gambling; encouraging the application of new research findings to improve prevention, diagnostic, intervention and treatment strategies; and advancing public education about gambling disorders and responsible gaming.

More than \$22 million has been committed to the NCRG through contributions from the casino gaming industry, equipment manufacturers, vendors, related organizations and individuals. Since its founding, the NCRG has mandated stringent firewalls to separate the gaming industry's contributions from the research it funds.