

Before the Diagnosis: An Upstream Approach to Problem Gambling

Objectives

1. Participants will gain an understanding of prevention activities through the Institute of Medicine's Continuum of Care Model.
2. Participants will be able to define gambling and problem gambling.
3. Participants will be able to name two problem gambling prevention initiatives or resources.



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Program Description

Gambling has grown exponentially over the decades in Ohio through expanded options and access. While individuals once had to travel to Las Vegas or Atlantic City, gambling is now easily accessible within Ohio's borders. With greater physical and virtual access, there are increased concerns about multiple types of impacts from this expansion; problem gambling prevention can help mitigate some of the impacts of addiction for individuals and communities.

When treatment professionals understand the risks for and warning signs of gambling disorder, they are better equipped to support referrals for their clients. Collaboration between the prevention and treatment fields builds access to care through prevention screening of at-risk individuals who can then be referred to treatment professionals for formal assessment and diagnosis. Prevention can increase early intervention as well as building community safeguards to support well-being.

This presentation is designed to give participants an introduction into the behavioral health prevention field. Attendees will develop an understanding of gambling as well as gambling-specific resources. Today's information is developed for behavioral health treatment professionals who want to learn more about the prevention field or problem gambling. It is also for prevention specialists who are new to the problem gambling prevention field.

Speaker Bio

Stefanie Stoops, MA, OCPS is the Gambling Prevention Specialist Team Lead at Signature Health. Since entering the prevention field in 2022, Stefanie has had experience in substance use, gambling, and suicide prevention having worked with both youth and adult communities. Her experience in education began with two years of teaching English in Japan to middle school students followed by several years of substitute teaching in central Ohio K-12 schools. Stefanie's focus is on engaging individuals in safe, honest conversations surrounding substance use, mental health, and gambling. She has a passion for effective, sustainable community change and has an academic background in international community development.

Eligible for 1 CEU from the Ohio Chemical Dependency Professionals Board (OCDPB)