

Problem gambling is a legitimate brain disorder.

Neuroimaging studies consistently show similar associations with problem gambling in brain regions also linked to drug and alcohol problems. The American Psychiatric Association now classifies problem gambling as an addictive disorder.



Anyone can develop a gambling problem.

This disorder does not discriminate. Just bring up the topic of gambling in a conversation and often someone will say they know a loved one, friend, or colleague who has a gambling problem.

Telling people “just don’t gamble” doesn’t cure an addiction.

Problem gambling jeopardizes a person’s relationships, reputation, financial security and mental health. Problem gamblers need information, treatment and support resources to help them stop gambling and return to a healthy way of living.

6% of Nevadans suffer from a gambling problem.

This is more than twice the national average yet we have significantly fewer resources than other states. Increased public awareness and education are desperately needed to provide better access to treatment and alleviate the stigma associated with gambling disorder.



The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), considered the bible of psychiatry, classifies gambling problems as an addiction in the same section as drug and alcohol problems.

The DSM-5 has evolved from decades of scientific research and clinical expertise of psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapists and other health care professionals.

So, why is Nevada not leading the country in problem gambling research and awareness when gaming is our primary economic driver?

We need to do more.