

**Pathological gambling –
Responsible gaming:
A contradiction?**

**DISCOVERY 2009
Ontario – Canada
April - 2009**

Responsible Gaming

- Responsible gaming – shared responsibility
Assumed by governments, municipal lotteries and gaming sector companies to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects potentially caused by uncontrolled gaming.

Preventing use from turning into abuse

- Responsible gaming is implemented by players who play in a controlled manner (in terms of time, frequency and amount of money) while achieving the goal of having fun and being entertained.

Playing in a responsible manner is

- Playing for amusement and not as a means of obtaining money
- Avoiding using money set aside to cover daily expenses
- Playing in company, for the fun of it
- Avoiding borrowing money in order to play
- Not attempting to recover what was lost, and accepting the loss as the cost of the entertainment
- Setting a time limit for the gaming activity
- Knowing that the risk increases in line with the loss

Pathological Gambling

A misadapted and persistent gaming behavior that may disrupt and destroy personal and family objectives



1980 → DSM IV Pathological gambling as a disruptive, persistent and recurrent gaming behavior

Impulse-control disorder (Ref. I)

Games of Chance in Latin America



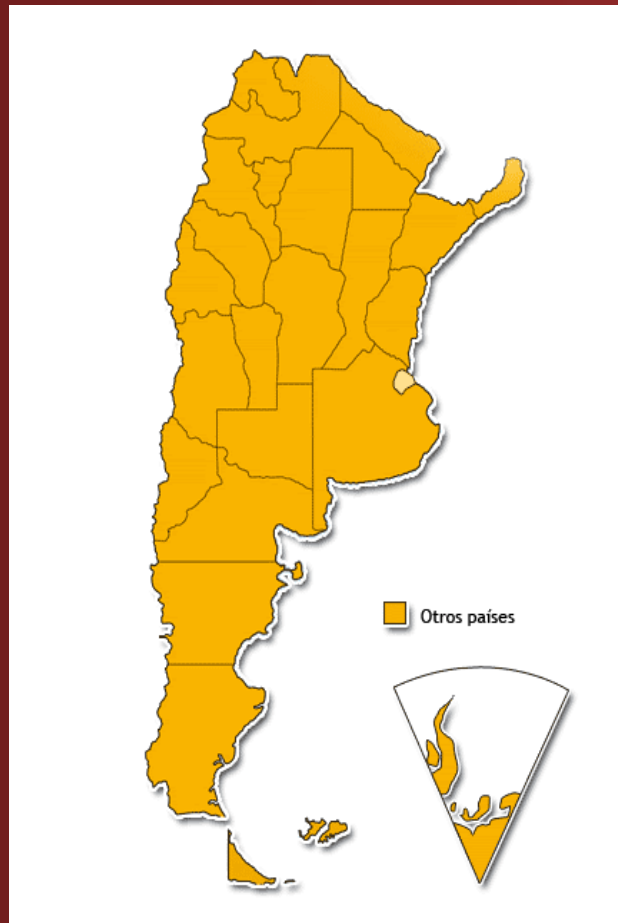
Venezuela 900 million euros

Argentina 650 million euros

Uruguay 500 million euros

**Chile 190 million euros
(Ref.: II)**

Games of Chance in Argentina



Ref.: III

In the 1990's there was a surge in gambling entities

There are more than 200 establishments (casinos and bingo houses) in Argentina (Ref:IV)

1944 Legislation was enacted

Gambling law:

- Increased access to and consumption of gambling
- Resulted in a decrease in illegal gambling
- Opened the way for the treatment of pathological gambling and the promotion of responsible gaming

The growth of the industry and the increase in revenue should be accompanied by greater responsibility on the part of operators and regulatory authorities dealing with activities inherent to the gaming sector.

What is IJACBA?

- **Instituto de Juegos de Apuestas del Gobierno la Ciudad de Buenos Aires (Gambling Regulatory Authority of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires)**
- **Set up in 2002**
- **Decentralized entity, with technical and administrative autonomy**
- **Mission: To organize, manage, regulate, operate and control gambling activities and games of chance within the City of Buenos Aires**
- **2005: Creation of the Pathological Gambling Information, Training, Prevention and Investigation Division in order to take preventive action in relation to Compulsive Gambling**

www.institutodejuegos.gov.ar

Actions

- **Implementation of a 0800 (toll-free) information line**
- **Creation of an assistance network (Public Hospitals in the City of Buenos Aires and NGOs)**
- **Launch of advertising campaigns on prevention (outdoor advertising, radio and TV)**
- **Training programs on prevention and symptoms of compulsive gambling**
- **Creation of "game libraries" (healthy gaming)**
- **Research projects**

Actions

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graph TD; A[Actions] --> B[Work – Raising awareness]; A --> C[Prevention - Treatment]; B --- D[RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING]; C --- E[PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING];
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Work – Raising awareness

Prevention - Treatment

**RESPONSIBLE
GAMBLING**

**PATHOLOGICAL
GAMBLING**

Treating gambling addiction means

- Considering it a disorder
- Providing specialized entities for the treatment of pathological gambling
- Providing guidance to family and friends on the treatment of the pathology

Showing commitment to responsible gaming means

- Promoting prevention (information) campaigns
- Providing training to health care professionals and introducing them to the problem
- Providing regulatory frameworks (legalized gambling enables enhanced control over pathological gambling)
- Offering effective self-exclusion programs
- Offering printed material in gaming rooms with toll-free assistance lines
- Providing training to employees working within the sector for them to be able to detect compulsive gamblers (Ref V)

**If you play,
play safe**

Thank you!

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Reference

- Ref. I DSM IV – Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (American Psychiatric Association)
- Ref II: <http://sistemasdecasino.com/cifras-de-la-apuesta-promedio-de-los-sudamericanos-en-juegos>
- Ref. III: maraton.leer.org/img/mapa_argentina.png
- Ref. IV: www.sitiosargentina.com.ar
- Ref. V: Marcela González : “Phathological Gambling – Responsible Gaming: A contradiction? I Seminar on Responsible Gaming - Instituto de Juegos de Apuestas – GCBA- Argentina – November 2008