



LOTTERY TICKETS ARE NOT CHILD’S PLAY: GIVE RESPONSIBLY

December 15, 2022 – With the holidays quickly approaching, lottery tickets and scratch-offs seem like the perfect stocking stuffer or gift to throw in a card. They are small, fun, and have an element of surprise as everyone waits to reveal whether they have won money or not. District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) would like to remind residents that while these are common gifts across the United States, and might seem like innocent fun, giving lottery tickets and scratch-offs to kids can have serious unintended consequences.

Winning a scratch-off or on a lottery ticket can be a fun adult activity, but you know it is based on luck and winning isn’t likely to happen often. For a child, even winning a small amount of money can seem significant. For example, while winning a \$40 prize would be appreciated by an adult, that same prize can have a stronger impact on a young teen, tempting them to play again. Research has shown that the earlier children are given opportunities to gamble, the more likely they are to develop a gambling problem.

This year protect your children by reminding family members and friends that lottery tickets and scratch-offs are not appropriate gifts for your kids. Don’t forget to have a conversation about gambling with your kids as well. It’s never too early to talk to them about problem gambling and why it’s important for them to wait until they are older to make any decisions about gambling. Offer them other fun, safe and healthy activities to do instead of scratching lottery tickets and guessing lottery numbers.

For more information about problem gambling and how to get help for someone experiencing problems, please visit: <https://www.dhd10.org/men-women/problem-gambling/>.

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MEDIA CONTACT

Nicholas Eckhart
Public Information Officer
O: 616-500-0246
C: 575-405-9082
E: neckhart@dhd10.org



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