

The lucky number is...

By Bob Sales
Globe Staff

David Hughes' number is 461.

As an employee of the Massachusetts Lottery Commission, he is prohibited from playing it in the Game. But as the commission's manager of systems and programs, he is in the perfect position to monitor it.

The number, which corresponds to

During the Game's 22-month existence, the illegal numbers pool has switched its payoff from the racetrack parimutuel pool to the legal number. In that period, no winning number has ever been repeated, although the same four digits have won a second time in different sequence. Hughes, the expert, doesn't expect to see duplicate winners until about half of the 10,000 possibilities have been exhausted.