

Questions Asked During Live Webinar Broadcast on September 12, 2018



Understanding Gambling Disorder: New Research Trends

Presenter: Christine Reilly

You stated that older adult who gamble are healthier. What about those with anxiety, stress and other personality problems? Are these not contributive factors to gambling problems?

A: I did not mean to imply that older adults are immune to gambling problems. The research picture is mixed with some studies finding a high rate of problems while others found that older adults are no more at risk than the general adult population. More research is needed!

Gambling can be used as ineffective coping skills in case of loss of love ones and loneliness, even though money may be part of the factor. What therapy would be most effective to resistance Gamblers and have tried medicated assistance therapy?

A: It appears that Motivational Interviewing is a good option for addressing resistance to change.

Are there any US researchers who are currently looking at subclinical problem gambling, controlled gambling, or unassisted recovery?

A: Not that I'm aware of. Very difficult to do that type of research. Wendy Slutske of the University of Missouri has documented controlled gambling by gamblers in recovery in Australia.

Do veterans in college have a higher or lower gambling problem along with their comorbidity?

A: We know that veterans have a higher rate of problems but do not know about the subgroup that is in college.

FYI: Roger Anton at Minneapolis VA center would have some impressions and may give ideas with regards to research on veterans and military gaming.

How do you suggest we start a Gambling Anonymous program in a college setting?

A: Contact Gamblersanonymous.org for information about setting up a group.

It appears that many public human service agencies do not take addictive gambling (and the toll it takes) seriously enough, given the concerted focus on addiction to alcohol and/or other drugs. How can these agencies be persuaded to place more of an emphasis on this epidemic (given the growth of state-licensed and Native American gambling options as well as state-sponsored and advertised gambling (state lotteries))?

A: Treatment centers need to realize that because of the high rate of comorbidity there are likely a percentage of clients already in treatment for substance use disorder who also have a gambling problem. It is important to screen clients for gambling. This way you can offer them treatment that takes into account the gambling problem.

Do you know how many states have a fund to pay for treatment for gambling disorder as we do in Minnesota?

A: No but other states such as Iowa do subsidize treatment.

Eric Geissinger, is the author “Gamer Nation - The Rise of Modern Gaming and the Compulsion to Play Again.” He ties "video gaming", board games, eSports, etc. into the Gambling Disorder. It is not about the money as it is about the time lost and relationships damaged. Any research to validate these claims?

A: Internet gaming disorder, recently recognized by the WHO, shares many attributes with gambling disorder. The time spent and relationships damaged are certainly adverse consequences. But the currency of gambling is money and adverse financial consequences are usually the most devastating.

In states like NC that have added the lottery, is data being collected about those seek help for problem gambling?

A: I’m not aware of research on the lottery in North Carolina.

Is there such a thing called “binge gambling” where the person has no desire to gamble daily, however, when they are at the casino they gamble/play until all their money has been depleted? If so, are you aware of any research relating to this?

A: Yes, that would be an example of episodic gambling as outlined in the DSM-5.

Does gender make a difference with regards to vulnerability towards a gambling disorder?

A: Men tend to predominate in the disordered gambling population but women, whose gambling has been increasing in recent years, are catching up.