

A Hong Kong School-based Study: Impacts of Parental Gambling on Adolescent Gambling Behavior and Mental Health Status

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Research Aim

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- To examine the impact of parental gambling on adolescent gambling behavior and mental health status

Research Hypotheses

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1. Adolescents' gambling problem are associated with parental gambling
2. Participants with parental gambling problem will report high levels of depression, anxiety and stress symptoms

Method

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- Feb-April, 2012 (1,095 students)
- 11 high schools (2-4 classes of grade 7-11 students were selected from each school)
- 926 completed questionnaires (84.5% response)

Participants

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- 471 boys, 455 girls
- Age: 12-20 years (M=14.73, SD=1.68)

Measures

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- A SES Questionnaire
- A Gambling Behavior Questionnaire
- 14 question on impacts of parental gambling
- DSM-IV-MR-J (Fisher, 2000)
- Perceived Social Support-Family Inventory (Procidano & Heller, 1983)
- The Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Scales (DASS-21) developed by Lovibond & Lovibond, 1995

Gambling involvement in the past year

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- 431 (46.5%) participants reported gambling in the previous 12 months
- More boys (48.4%) gambled than girls did (44.6%)

Table 1. Forms of gambling

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	Total Sample (n= 926)	Boys (n=465)	Girls (n=448)	
Gambling forms/activities (in the past year)	%	%	%	χ^2
Social gambling (cards and mahjong)	33.0	33.9	33.6	0.01
Video games	28.2	32.3	23.9	7.91**
Mark Six lottery	14.2	14.7	13.6	0.23
Internet gambling	5.9	7.8	4.0	5.85*
Casino games	3.9	4.6	3.1	1.23
Soccer games	2.4	4.1	0.7	11.33**
Gambling on casino cruises	2.1	1.9	2.2	0.10
Horse racing	1.9	1.9	1.8	0.03

Table 2. Gambling participation and pathological gambling in the past year

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	Total sample		Boys		Girls		χ^2
	(n= 898)		(n =453)		(n=445)		
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
Non gamblers	495	55.5	243	53.6	252	56.6	0.81
Social/recreational gamblers	364	40.5	182	40.2	182	40.5	0.05
At-risk gamblers	31	3.5	21	4.6	10	2.2	3.84*
Pathological gamblers	8	0.9	7	1.5	1	0.2	4.43**

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

Table 3. Comparing gambling behavior between participants with and without parental problem gambling

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	Parental Problem Gambling		Total
	No	Yes	
DSM-IV-MR-J non-gamblers	469 96.5%	17 3.5%	486 100.0%
social gamblers	344 96.4%	13 3.6%	357 100.0%
problem gamblers	26 83.9%	5 16.1%	31 100.0%
pathological gamblers	7 87.5%	1 12.5%	8 100.0%
Total	846 95.9%	36 4.1%	882 100.0%

Parental Gambling

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- 43.4% and 23.7% reported that either their father or mother had gambled in the preceding year respectively
- 187 participants gambled with one of their parents
- 27% reported gambling with friends

Table 4. Perceived negative consequences of parental gambling (n=155)

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Items	Yes n (%)
Factor 1: Disrupted family relationship	
5. Gambling led to conflicts between parents	59 (38.1%)
2. Gambling affected your relationship with parents	53 (34.2%)
3. The gambling parent(s) spent less time with you (e.g. talking, playing, family gatherings)	51 (32.9%)
1. The gambling parent(s) spent less time at home	47 (30.3%)
4. The gambling parent(s) failed to fulfill his/her parental responsibilities	45 (29%)
8. The gambling parent(s) could not be trusted with money Issues	40 (25.8%)
7. Feeling insecure at home because of parental gambling problems	37 (23.9%)
6. The gambling parent begged for chances to change	31 (20%)

**Table 4. Perceived negative consequences of parental gambling
(n=155)**

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Items	Yes n (%)
Factor 2: Diminished need fulfillment	
14. Parental gambling affected by learning in school	22 (14.2%)
13. Parental gambling affected my social activities	17 (11%)
12. Parental gambling problem affect my basic need (such as food and clothing)	11(7.1%)

**Table 4. Perceived negative consequences of parental gambling
(n=155)**

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Items	Yes n (%)
Factor 3: Family financial difficulties	
10. Financial problems at home because of gambling	36 (23.2%)
11. The gambling parent(s) asked for money to pay debts	14 (9.0%)
9. Annoyance/harassment due to gambling debts	6 (3.9%)

Table 5. Comparing mean differences of psychosocial variables between adolescents with problematic gambling parents and those without

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	Adolescents with problematic gambling parents (n=153) Mean (SD)	Adolescents without problematic gambling parents (n=762) Mean (SD)	<i>t</i>
DASS- Depression	10.08 (8.91)	6.99 (8.84)	3.91
DASS- Stress	13.13 (9.06)	8.95 (9.36)	5.06***
DASS-Anxiety	9.57(7.32)	6.21 (7.32)	5.18***

***p < 0.001

Table 6. Pearson correlations among various psychosocial variables and the DSM-IV-MR-J total score

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Variables	DSM-IV-MR-J total score
Gender	-0.15**
Father gambling involvement	0.11**
Mother gambling involvement	0.15**
Gambling with peers	0.29**
Mother's problematic gambling	0.13**
Gamble with mother in the past year	0.15**
Gamble with father in the past year	0.16**
DASS-Stress	0.12**
DASS-Anxiety	0.14**
DASS-Depression	0.13**
Smoking in the past 12 months	0.25**
Use of alcohol in the past 12 months	0.21**

* p <.05, ** p <0.01, *** p <0.001

Discussion and Conclusion

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- The study filled a research gap
- This survey increases our understanding of children's perceptions of the harmful effects of parental excessive gambling

Discussion and Conclusion

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- Descriptive and correlational results confirm adolescents who reported parental excessive gambling were more likely to gamble and to develop gambling problems
- More susceptible to psychiatric impairment

Discussion and Conclusion

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- They need professional help to cope with family, school and mental health problems
- Children are rarely included in the treatment process in Hong Kong

Discussion and Conclusion

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- We need to improve parent education and children awareness
- School-based programs should target these at-risk adolescents whose parents gamble
- More children and family research is needed

END

Thank You!