

Dr Jeffrey Derevensky

Youth Problem Gambling: Past, Present and Future Trends

Once viewed as an activity primarily relegated to adults, gambling has become a popular activity among adolescents. There is a growing body of research and sufficient evidence that adolescents and young adults represent a high-risk population for gambling problems. Our current knowledge concerning youth gambling behaviors and concomitant risk and protective factors will be addressed. The changing face of gambling venues and games, technological advances in gaming, and its potential impact upon youth will be discussed.

Parental Attitudes toward Youth Gambling and Adolescent Risky Behaviours: The Results from a recent Canadian National Study

While a number of research studies with children and adolescents have inquired about parental perspectives and attitudes toward youth gambling, no large-scale study has directly addressed this issue with parents. The results of a recently completed large-scale national study examining parental attitudes toward youth gambling in Canada are reported. These findings clearly suggest a greater need to raise awareness amongst parents of the potential harms associated with excessive gambling among youth.

Adolescents' and Young Adults' Perceived Risks and Benefits of Gambling: How Important is this an Issue in the Prevention of Gambling Problems?

Based upon the literature of the perceived risks and benefits of alcohol and drug use, a scale for assessing the perceived risks and benefits of gambling was developed. This scale was then field tested on adolescents and young adults. The results of these findings will be presented and their implications for the treatment and prevention for youth with gambling problems will be discussed.

Problem Gambling in Adolescents: Results from a recent Examination of the *Pathways Model*

Alex Blaszczynski's and Lia Nower's *Pathways Model* for understanding and treating youth gamblers was recently empirically tested in a study among adolescents. This presentation will focus upon the results of this study, their clinical implications, and future research initiatives.

Internet Gambling Among Youth: Cause for Concern?

With over 2,000 Internet gambling sites currently operating internationally there is a growing concern about their potential impact upon problem and pathological gambling. This presentation will focus upon several empirical studies with adolescents and young adults concerning Internet gambling; its prevalence, attractiveness, perceived benefits, limitations and problems. Dr. Derevensky will seek to help answer the question-Is Internet gambling among youth a cause for concern?

Recent Developments in the Prevention of Youth Gambling Problems

As the number of youth actively engaged in gambling continues to rise there has become a greater need for the prevention of gambling-related problems. Based upon empirical research, the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High Risk Behaviors at McGill University has developed and tested a variety of prevention measures to help minimize potential problems. This presentation will focus upon the premise underlying each of their prevention initiatives. While some prevention initiatives are school-based aimed at children directly, others are aimed at parents. The Centre's newest developments will be discussed.