



ATTITUDES TOWARDS YOUTH GAMBLING AMONG PARENTS: IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION & PREVENTION

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Background

- Extensive body of international evidence on the role of parents in introducing children to gambling & normalizing these activities in family environment
- Only a few studies have examined **interplay** btw parents & youth in predicting youth gambling participation, problems
 - All completed in Canadian provinces
- Focus has been on impact of parental gambling & parenting practices on adolescent behavior



Vachon et al. (2004)

- Explored links btw parental gambling, parenting practices & adolescent gambling
- Structural Equation Modeling (LISREL)
 - Analysis controlled for SES, gender, impulsivity-hyperactivity
- Adolescent gambling **frequency** related to parental gambling frequency & problem severity
- Only father's problem **severity** linked to adolescent gambling problems
- Low parental **monitoring** associated with higher adolescent gambling frequency
- Inadequate **disciplinary practices** associated with higher adolescent gambling problems

Vachon, Vitaro, Wanner & Tremblay,
2004



Dane et al. (2004)

- Examined aspects of parenting style in relation to youth problem gambling, controlling for adolescent temperament
- Parental gambling activities were linked to adolescent problem gambling (effect stronger for fathers than mothers)
- Maternal **monitoring** protected against problem gambling only when risk taking was low; paternal monitoring protected against problem gambling only when negative affect was low
- Protective benefits of parental monitoring diminish as **temperamental** risk levels increase
- Parent-child relationship plays important role in protecting against problem gambling but effects are **mediated** by adolescent temperament

Dane, McPhee, Root &
Derevensky, 2004



Dane et al., 2008

- Examined role that parents play in preventing development of youth problem gambling
- 2 assessments of mothers, fathers, youth (10-21) using pathways model as organizing construct
 - Blaszczynski & Nower, 2002
- **Pathway 1** (behavioral) - authoritative parenting appears to be protective factor in relation to peer influences (esp. peer antisocial behavior)
- **Pathway 2** (emotional) – depressed youth were granted lower psychological autonomy by mothers which increased odds of emerging or persistent problem gambling
- **Pathway 3** (impulsivist) – mothers of well-regulated youth granted more autonomy & had better knowledge of activities which reduced odds of emerging or persistent problem gambling

Dane, Lawrance, Derevensky,
McPhee & Panetta, 2008



Oregon Study: Methods

- 1,555 youth aged 12-17 interviewed by telephone
- Requirement to obtain informed consent from both parent/guardian & youth provided opportunity to obtain additional info from parent
- **Parents** asked about past-year gambling, attitudes toward youth gambling, demographics
- **Youth** asked about gambling involvement, problem gambling, attitudes toward gambling, demographics
- Dyadic analysis
 - Takes into account challenge to assumption of independence
 - Assesses amount of agreement that occurs “over and above” what would be expected if there were no within-HH correlation (**Kappa & intra-class correlation**)

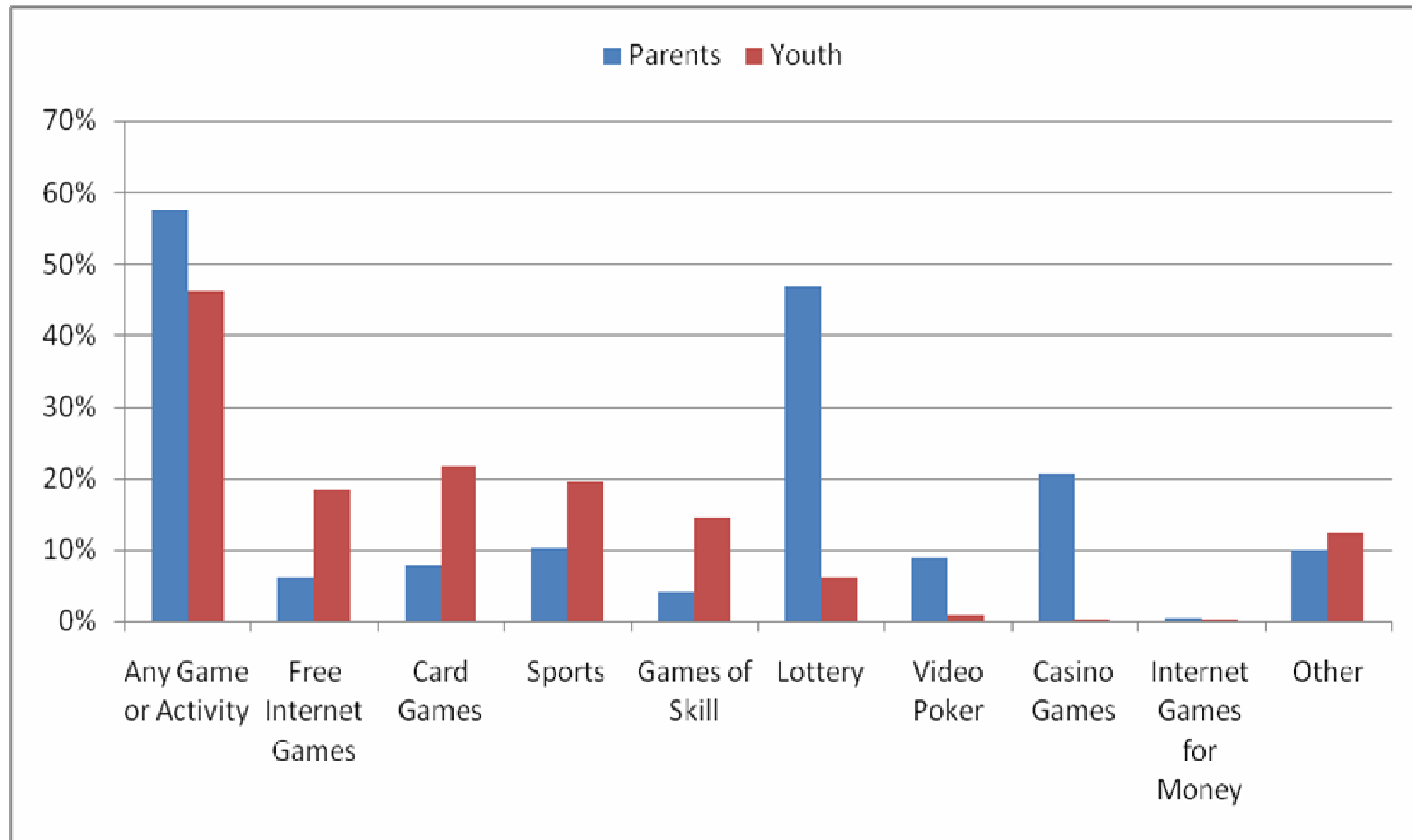
Sample of Youth

		Achieved Sample %	Weighted Sample %
Gender	Teen Female	49.1	49.5
	Teen Male	50.9	50.5
Age	12	10.6	12.3
	13	16.5	20.0
	14	17.3	16.5
	15	20.5	18.9
	16	17.8	16.5
	17	17.4	15.8
	Average Parent Age	47.06	46.80
Race	Any Minority	8.2	8.5
	African American	1.0	1.1
	Asian	2.5	2.3
	Native American	1.1	1.1
	Other	2.2	2.4

Sample of Parents

		2006 Adult Survey % (1554)	Parent Sample % (1555)
Gender	Male	47.4	30.3
	Female	52.6	69.7
Average Parent Age		46.8	50.4
Race	White	92.3	94.6
	Non-White	7.7	5.4
Marital Status	Married	58.9	90.3
	Widowed	8.9	1.4
	Divorced	14.7	7.8
	Never Married	15.6	0.6
Education	Less than HS	4.1	0.8
	HS Graduate	28.1	17.4
	Some College	39.0	32.0
	College Graduate	14.3	27.8
	Graduate Study	14.5	19.9
Employment	Full-time	47.5	56.5
	Part-time	9.8	20.4
	Keeping House	10.2	18.9

Comparing Parent & Youth Gambling



Parent & Youth Gambling Interactions

Child Gambles ¹		Parent Gambles		
		No %	Yes %	
		50.2 49.8	28.1 71.9	
Child Frequency of Gambling ²		Parent Frequency of Gambling		
		Less than Monthly %	Monthly %	Weekly or Daily %
		74.3 20.2 5.6	66.9 25.3 7.9	72.2 20.5 7.4
		Less than Monthly Monthly Weekly or Daily		
Child Number of Gambling Activities ³		Parent Number of Gambling Activities		
		None %	1 %	2 or more %
		50.2 24.8 25.0	35.2 23.2 41.6	21.7 23.5 54.9
		None 1 2 or more		
Notes: Cells are weighted column percentages. 1: Chi-Square df = 1, p < 0.00; 2: Chi-Square df = 4, p = ns; 3: Chi-Square df = 4, p < 0.00.				



Correlations / Parent & Youth Gambling

	ICC	KAPPA
Lifetime Gambling ¹	0.29	0.23
Total Number of Activities		
Population ²	0.26	0.08
Gamblers Only ³	0.06	-0.10
Frequency of Gambling ⁴	0.03	0.00
Notes: 1: ICC $p < 0.00$, KAPPA $p < 0.000$; 2: KAPPA $p < 0.000$; 3: KAPPA $p = 1.00$, 4: KAPPA $p < 0.05$.		

Attitudes About Youth Gambling

	Parent Agreement	Adolescent Agreement
Gambling can become a problem for young people.	97.4	93.7
A child who has a parent with a gambling problem is more likely to develop a gambling problem.	91.4	89.4
Youth who gamble might also commit illegal acts to finance their gambling activities.	89.8	81.3
The State of takes adequate measures to make sure that gambling activities are not accessible to minors.	65.4	80.7
The majority of youth who gamble also use alcohol and drugs.	68.6	73.5
The popularity of gambling these days is having a bad effect on young people.	80.0	70.1
Youth who bet money or things of value on games of chance have problems at school.	69.5	62.7
Kids are gambling at school.	72.3	33.2
Betting money or other things of value on games of chance is a harmless, recreational family activity.	20.1	27.3
Gambling is a good way to keep youth away from alcohol and drugs.	2.0	9.5
Girls gamble more than boys.	7.3	6.6

Reverse-coded statements	Gamblers/ Non- Gamblers OR	Youth / Adults OR
1. Betting money or other things of value on games of chance is a harmless, recreational family activity.	2.65	1.47
2. Gambling is a good way to keep youth away from alcohol and drugs.	1.95	5.27
3. Gambling cannot become a problem for young people.	1.07	2.51
4. Youth who bet money or things of value on games of chance don't have problems at school.	1.83	1.36
5. The minority of youth who gamble also use alcohol and drugs.	1.79	1.23
6. Youth who gamble generally do not also commit illegal acts to finance their gambling activities.	1.87	2.08
7. The popularity of gambling these days is not having a bad effect on young people.	2.65	1.67



Youth Gambling Prevention

- Youth prevention programs have been developed primarily in Canada, Australia & New Zealand
- Generally school-based curricula aimed at 12-17 year olds
- Other efforts include poster contests, screenplay contests, media campaigns to raise awareness
- Recent emergence of teen-oriented websites that address gambling & problem gambling
- Majority of these efforts are “universal” rather than “targeted”
- Little known about their effectiveness



Conclusions

- Efforts are needed to increase recognition of youth gambling & risks among parents, teachers, counselors & others working with youth
- Efforts are needed to increase understanding of associations btw youth gambling & other risky behaviors
- Parents who gamble need to be educated about the increased risk of gambling problems for their children
- Once youth are gambling, peer influences should be addressed in school-based curricula



Conclusions

- Strategies are needed that combine programs across school, family, community
- Include range of activities
 - Informing youth, parents, educators
 - Improving life & social skills
 - Offering alternative activities
 - Problem identification & referral
 - Adaptable over time as conditions change
- Evaluation is necessary to identify effective approaches



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