Gambling and Interpersonal Violence

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Background

- Marital dissatisfaction, reduced family stability, worsening of intimate relationships, family dysfunction

- **Intimate partner violence (IPV)**
  *Dowling et al., (2014)- 38% and 37%

- Stress related to gambling problems may manifest within the home/interpersonal relationships

- Victims may use gambling as a coping mechanism.
Background

- Limited nationally representative samples (Afifi et al., 2010; Bland et al., 1993; Liao, 2008)
- None in UK and few consider role of mental disorders & other multimorbidities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem Gambling Treatment Services</td>
<td>Korman et al., (2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Raylu &amp; Oei, (2009)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Echebura et al., (2011)</td>
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<td>Mothers Postpartum</td>
<td>Bland et al., (1993)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPV Perpetrators</td>
<td>Brasefield et al., (2012)</td>
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<td>Emergency Room</td>
<td>Muelleman et al., (2002)</td>
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</table>
Gambling and IPV

In a nationally representative sample: UK
Aims

1. Examine the relationship between gambling problems and the perpetration of violence; using a weapon, fighting while intoxicated, injuries sustained, IPV (spouse and child violence)

2. Determine if mental disorders and impulsivity account for some of the variance

3. Determine if alcohol and drug dependence account for some of the variance across a spectrum of gambling problems.
Method

- **Sample:** 3025 men (18-64) England, Wales and Scotland
  - Mean age = 32.16 years (SD = 12.48 years)

- **Sampling:**
  Geo-demographically representative quota sampling
  - Census data & ACORN Type
  - Self report questionnaire
  - £5 incentive.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measures</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Problem/ pathological gambling** | South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS)  
0 - 2 = non problem gambler  
3 - 4 = problem gambler  
5+ = probable pathological gambler |
| **Violence** | Been in a physical fight, assaulted or deliberately hit anyone in the past 5 years?”  
Victims, location, weapon use, intoxication, frequency of violent incidents |
| **Alcohol use disorders** | Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)  
Score of 20+ = alcohol dependence |
| **Drug use** | Drug Use Disorders Identification Test (DUDIT)  
Score of ≥ 25 = drug-related addiction |
| **Lifetime mental illness and impulsivity** | Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Personality Disorders Screening Questionnaire (SCID-II) |
Results: prevalence

- 2418 men (79.9%) gambling activity

Men who gamble:
- 85.9% non-problem gamblers
- 6.0% problem gamblers
- 8.1% possible pathological gamblers
Gambling and Violence

- Fight last 5 years
- Used a weapon
- Fighting while intoxicated

- Non-Gambler
- Non-Problem Gambler
- Problem Gambler
- Probable Pathological Gambler

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-Gambler</th>
<th>Non-Problem Gambler</th>
<th>Problem Gambler</th>
<th>Probable Pathological Gambler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fight last 5 years</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>45.8%</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used a weapon</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting while intoxicated</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td>43.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gambling and Injuries/Victims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injury/victim</th>
<th>Non-Gambler</th>
<th>Non-Problem Gambler</th>
<th>Problem Gambler</th>
<th>Probable Pathological Gambler</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Injury Sustained</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>22.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim Injured</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit partner</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit child</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
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## Independent associations between gambling and violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non Gambler (N=607)</th>
<th>Non-Problem Gambler (N=2077) (SOGS 1-2)</th>
<th>Problem Gambler (N=144) (SOGS 3-4)</th>
<th>Pathological Gambler (Probable) (N=197) (SOGS 5+)</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% (n)</td>
<td><strong>AOR</strong></td>
<td>% (n)</td>
<td><strong>AOR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Fight last 5 years</td>
<td>19.1 (116)</td>
<td><strong>1.74</strong>*</td>
<td>45.8 (66)</td>
<td><strong>3.09</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used a weapon</td>
<td>5.8 (35)</td>
<td><strong>1.62</strong>*</td>
<td>18.1 (26)</td>
<td><strong>4.93</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting while Intoxicated</td>
<td>8.2 (50)</td>
<td><strong>2.00</strong></td>
<td>25.7 (37)</td>
<td><strong>2.11</strong>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR): adjusted for age, marital status, education, income, area, and ethnicity.

*P ≤ 0.05; **P ≤ 0.01; ***P ≤ 0.001
## Independent associations between gambling and injury/victim

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<td>% (n)</td>
<td>% (n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury sustained</td>
<td>7.6 (46)</td>
<td>10.5 (219)</td>
<td>22.9 (33)</td>
<td>22.3 (44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>2.37*</td>
<td>1.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim injured</td>
<td>7.7 (47)</td>
<td>13.8 (286)</td>
<td>21.5 (31)</td>
<td>28.9 (57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit partner</td>
<td>0.8 (5)</td>
<td>1.6 (33)</td>
<td>4.1 (6)</td>
<td>9.1 (18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit child</td>
<td>1.6 (10)</td>
<td>2.6 (53)</td>
<td>6.3 (9)</td>
<td>9.6 (19)</td>
</tr>
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Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR): adjusted for age, marital status, education, income, area, and ethnicity.

*P≤ 0.05; ** P≤ 0.01; *** P≤ 0.001
Pathological Gambling, Alcohol Dependence and Violence

- Not pathological gambler, not problem drinker
- Pathological gambler, not problem drinker
- Not pathological gambler, problem drinker
- Pathological gambler and problem drinker

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Violence</th>
<th>Not pathological gambler, not problem drinker</th>
<th>Pathological gambler, not problem drinker</th>
<th>Not pathological gambler, problem drinker</th>
<th>Pathological gambler and problem drinker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fights last 5 years</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit partner</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>19.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hit child</td>
<td>61.3</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used a weapon</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Pathological Gambling plus adjustments

- Fights last 5 years
- Used a weapon
- Fighting while intoxicated
- Victim injured
- Hit partner
- Hit child

Odds ratio

- Demographics
- Mental illness
- Alcohol addiction
- Impulsivity
- Drug addiction
Findings

• Confirmed strong links between problematic gambling and violent behaviours

• **Strain and tension** associated with the harms of problem gambling can lead to stress and antagonism that is directed towards others.
Gambling and IPV

In a nationally representative sample: USA
Background & aims

• Limited nationally representative samples. Men only: (Roberts et al., 2016)

• National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC); large and representative U.S. survey conducted in 2000-01 (wave 1) and 2004-05 (wave 2)

• Prospectively examined the link between problem gambling and future incidents of IPV.
Method

- **Sample:** 25,631
  - Males (n=11,782)
  - Females (n=13,843)

- **Measures:**
  - **Gambling:** Alcohol Use Disorder and Associated Disability Interview Schedule-DSM-IV Version (AUDADIS-IV)
  - **IPV victimisation and perpetration:** Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS), Form R.
Prevalence of Interpersonal Violence Perpetration and Gambling Symptoms

- **0 Symptoms**: Males (4.1%), Females (6.9%)
- **At Risk Gambling (1-2 Symptoms)**: Males (5.2%), Females (8.1%)
- **Problem Gambling (3+ Symptoms)**: Males (11.5%), Females (18.7%)
Prevalence of Interpersonal Violence Victimisation and Gambling Symptoms

- **0 Symptoms**
  - Males: 5.7%
  - Females: 5.4%

- **At Risk Gambling (1-2 Symptoms)**
  - Males: 8.8%
  - Females: 8.3%

- **Problem Gambling (3+ Symptoms)**
  - Males: 15.7%
  - Females: 10.2%
Findings

• Confirmed interpersonal implications of gambling problems in men and women
• Women constitute the largest victim group
• IPV may be a consequence of gambling problems
• People may use gambling as a coping mechanism.
Intimate Partner Violence in Treatment Seeking Problem Gamblers

Amanda Roberts 1,2, Stephen Sharman 1, Jason Landon 3, Sean Cowlishaw 4,5, Raegan Murphy 4,6, Stephanie Mieleck 6, Henrietta Bowden-Jones 6,7

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Abstract

The co-occurrence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and gambling disorder is an emerging area of research but no studies, as yet, have examined these within a gambling treatment-seeking population from the UK. In a sample of 204 patients, the study utilised routine clinical data and the Jaffee-Inventario for assessing Partner Violence (J-IPV) to determine the prevalence of IPV perpetration and victimisation. 20.1% of participants reported any IPV in the past year, 12.3% reported perpetration and 14.1% reported victimisation in the past year. Clinical scores were greater among patients disclosing IPV, higher anxiety and depression scores and higher gambling severity among those reporting IPV perpetration. There is need for enhanced vigilance and first-line responses to IPV in problem gambling treatment services. There is also a need for professional support for the clinicians working with these clients.

Keywords: Gambling - Disordered gambling - Intimacy violence - Mental health - Treatment

Introduction

Significant numbers of gamblers encounter related problems across personal, family and vocational domains, with approximately 7.3% of adults in Great Britain reporting at least some problematic gambling annually, with a 0.7% characterised as problem gamblers (Windle et al., 2011).

individuals with gambling problems experience substantial difficulties in relationships (Cowlishaw et al., 2016; Dowling et al., 2009; Hodgins et al., 2007). These include occurrences of intimate partner violence (IPV) (e.g. Dowling et al., 2018; Kormann et al., 2000; Roberts et al., 2016; 2018; Suomi et al., 2013; 2018), which can refer to physical or sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression (including economic tec...
Conclusion

• Problem Gambling treatment services need to undertake routine screening for alcohol, violence, IPV and traumatic life events.
Thank you!

- Professor Henrietta Bowden-Jones: UCL, University of Oxford, UK
- Dr Stephen Sharman: Kings College London, UK
- Dr Raegan Murphy: University College Cork, Ireland
- Prof John Turner: University of East London, UK
- Dr Jason Landon: AUT, New Zealand
- Dr Sean Cowlishaw: University of Melbourne, Australia
- Dr Jahn Hakes: U.S. Census Bureau, Maryland, USA
- Professor Jeremy Coid: Queen Mary University, UK
- Dr Aino Suomi: The Australian Catholic University, Australia

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