



Youth Gambling Related Problems and Perception of Parental Behaviour

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INTRODUCTION

Current studies conducted in Croatia continuously confirm high involvement in different types of gambling activities among youth and adults. This can be explained by the gambling market growth and high accessibility and availability of both land-based and on-line gambling in Croatia.

National prevalence study on youth gambling in Croatia (Ricijaš, Dodig Hundrić, Huić and Kranželić, 2016.) shows that the lifetime prevalence of gambling among Croatian high-school students is 72,9%. The most prevalent games of chance are sports betting and lottery games, with sports betting being the most frequent one. As much as 12,9% adolescents have already developed serious adverse gambling related consequences. Boys have significantly higher problem gambling rates than girls, while the effects of differences regarding the type of school and grade/age are relatively low.

Risk factors for engaging in gambling activities, as well as for developing gambling related problems are numerous - from individual characteristics to different social influences. Previous studies confirm different socio-ecological influences on the prevalence of youth gambling/gambling related problems, with family factors being one of them. Griffiths (2002) differs direct and indirect family influences. Direct family influence is related to gambling behaviour of family members and their attitudes towards gambling, while indirect refers to different types of parental behaviour. Vachon et al. (2004) showed parental gambling and gambling problems (especially fathers'), low level of parental monitoring, and higher level of inadequate disciplinary practices to be associated with more youth gambling problems.

AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to explore perception of family and parental behaviour between youth that developed adverse gambling related psychosocial consequences and those who haven't.

Parental behaviour is measured through:

- parental styles,
- parental gambling (perceived by the child).

Adverse psychosocial consequences related to gambling are operationalized as a cumulative measure of different psychological, emotional, social and financial consequences developed as a result of gambling.

SAMPLE

Study was conducted with N=1.061 high-school students in Croatia, living in two largest cities: Zagreb and Split.

This convenient sample consisted of students from different types of high-school programs (gymnasium and vocational programs).

Gender	59,6% males	40,4% females
Age	Min. 14	Max. 20
	M=16,18	SD=1,2

INSTRUMENTS

Questionnaire consisted of the following instruments:

1. Canadian Adolescent Gambling Inventory - General Problem Severity Subscale

Wiebe, Tremblay, Wynne i Stinchfield (2010)

Categorizes adolescents into 3 groups:

- "green light" - No gambling-related problems
- "yellow light" - Low to moderate severity of gambling-related problems
- "red light" - High severity of gambling-related problems

2. Parental Behaviour Questionnaire (URP-29)

Kuterovac Jagodić, Keresteš i Brković (2007)

Measures 7 types of parental behaviour:

- Warmth
- Autonomy granting
- Parental Knowledge
- Inductive Reasoning
- Intrusiveness
- Punishment
- Permissiveness

3. Quality of Family Interactions Scale (KOBI)

Vulić-Prtorić (2002)

4. Questions about parents' gambling.

PROCEDURE AND RESEARCH ETHICS

The study was conducted in 2016. The students filled in the questionnaire in groups, in their own classrooms. The survey was *pen and paper* based, and took approximately 45 minutes to complete. All the participants were verbally informed about the basic aim of the research, their participation was anonymous and voluntary, and they could withdraw from this study at any point during data collection. The study was conducted in accordance with the Ethical Code of Research Involving Children (Ajduković and Kolesarić, 2003), and was approved by the Ethical Board of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences of the University of Zagreb.

RESULTS

Fun.	Eig.	% var.	Cum.var.	Can.cor.
1	,166	91,6%	91,6%	,377
2	,015	8,4%	100,0%	,122
Test of F.	Wilks' L.	χ^2	df	sig.
1 - 2	,845	130,73	34	,000
2	,985	11,72	16	,763

	green	yellow	red
Group Centroids	-,212	,349	1,019

	C	S
Mother - knowledge	-,589	-,850
Father's gambling behaviour	,505	,424
Mother - Intrusiveness	,372	,332
Mother's gambling behaviour	,359	,181
Father - Intrusiveness	,269	,081
Mother - Warmth	-,255	,054
Father - Punishment	,244	,111
Mother - Autonomy	-,241	-,093
Mother - Punishment	,234	,063
Family - general perception	,020	,559
Father - Warmth	-,152	-,258
Father - Inductive reasoning	,095	,077
Father - Autonomy	-,111	-,153
Mother - Inductive reasoning	,012	,187
Father - knowledge	-,206	,303
Mother - Permissiveness	,001	,065
Father - Permissiveness	-,097	-,132

C = pooled within-groups correlations between discriminating variables and standardized canonical discriminant functions
S = standardized canonical discriminant function coefficients

CONCLUSION

Results of this study are in line with previous research in this field i.e. both direct and indirect family influences on the development of adverse gambling related psychosocial consequences among adolescents were confirmed.

Results indicate that adolescents who have developed serious gambling-related problems report about their father's and mother's gambling (direct influence), as well as more intrusive mother's parental behaviour. There are also tendencies towards father's intrusiveness and more punitive behaviour from both parents.

Mother's knowledge seems to be the most influential protective factor since adolescents with no gambling related problems report about high levels of mother's knowledge which is operationalized as positive monitoring of youth behaviour.

Mother's warmth and autonomy also show tendencies for being protective factors in this area. Results are important for creating both preventive and treatment interventions with the aim of sensitizing parents about their influence on children, as well as for building and improving their parental skills in order to establish more positive influences in childrens' upbringing.