

Problem Gambling Prevalence and Risk Factors among Older Adults

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Research Goals

- To measure the extent of gambling and gambling problems amongst older adults (aged 55 +).
- To determine if they are at risk for problem gambling.
- To determine if different risk factors are important for older adults (aged 55 +) compared to other age groups.

INTRODUCTION

- With wider accessibility of gambling, it is important to monitor levels of gambling-related problems, and potential high-risk groups
- One group that has been suggested to be at high risk is older adults (aged 55 +)
- The majority of Ontario older adults, like other adults, participate in gambling

ISSUES

- Financial concerns
 - Savings for retirement may be accessible
 - Limited ability to replenish savings
- Increased free time
- Loneliness
- Dealing with loss & traumatic life events

Method

- Intercept study at electronic slot machine venues in central and southwestern Ontario
- Fieldwork conducted by Focal Research
- Data collected between July and September, 2013
- Stratified random sampling procedures
- 2103 individuals participated
- Survey /interview administered using a tablet
- Average of 20 minutes to complete

Multivariate Logistic Regression Analyses

- Demographic Factors (see also Table 1):
- *Sex* – OR = 1.73 – Males more likely to be problem gamblers
- *Age* - OR = .74 – Older gamblers less likely to be problem gamblers
- *Employed* - OR = 2.78 Individuals who are employed are more likely to be problem gamblers

Table 1: CPGI Problem Gambling Levels (%) by Age and Sex

	<i>No Risk (0)</i>	<i>Low Risk (1-2)</i>	<i>Moderate Risk (3-7)</i>	<i>High Risk (8+)</i>
<i>Total sample</i>	40.9	30.3	21.2	7.6
<i>Age</i>	***			
<i>55-64</i>	34.2	27.2	28.5	10.2
<i>65-74</i>	45.9	29.0	18.0	7.1
<i>75+</i>	42.5	35.6	17.1	4.8
<i>Sex</i>	NS			
<i>Male</i>	41.6	27.9	22.9	7.5
<i>Female</i>	40.2	32.5	19.6	7.7

Table 2: Dollars spent on casino gambling in the past year by age group and sex

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>	<i>Maximum</i>
<i>55-64</i>	7,215	2,400	208,000
<i>65-74</i>	8,573	2,400	480,000
<i>75+</i>	6,960	3,000	120,000
<i>Sex</i>			
<i>Male</i>	8,443	3,000	208,000
<i>Female</i>	6,921	2,400	480,000

DISCUSSION

- Studied a representative sample of older casino patrons
- Gambling among older adults has been the subject of concern in recent years
- Several respondents reported spending more than \$100,000 in the past year in casinos