Problem Gambling Prevalence and Risk Factors among Older Adults

Nigel E. Turner
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Team members

- **Centre for Addiction and Mental Health**
  - Nigel Turner
  - Hayley Hamilton,
  - Mark van der Maas
  - Robert Mann
  - Anca Ialomiteanu

- **John McCready, Healthy Horizons, Canada**

- **Tracy Schrans, Focal Research, Canada**
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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No Risk (0)</th>
<th>Low Risk (1-2)</th>
<th>Moderate Risk (3-7)</th>
<th>High Risk (8+)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total sample</strong></td>
<td>40.9</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: CPGI Problem Gambling Levels (%) by Age and Sex
Table 2: Dollars spent on casino gambling in the past year by age group and sex

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