

Adolescents and young adults seeking help for gambling problems in Stockholm – Who are they?

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Background

Several socio demographic factors and comorbid psychiatric disorders have been associated to an increased risk of developing gambling problems among adults

...but we know very little about adolescents and young adults seeking help for gambling problems

Background

In 2006 the Swedish Public Health Institute started a collaboration with FORUM, Research Centre for adolescents' psychosocial health at Maria Ungdom and Karolinska Institutet,

to learn more about adolescents and young adults with gambling problems.

The Purpose of this presentation

is to describe gambling habits, psychiatric comorbidity and socio-demographic conditions among young individuals seeking help for gambling problems.

Method

Clients have been assessed via the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM axis I Disorders (SCID-I) to establish pathological gambling and comorbid psychiatric disorders.

Results since the project started in April 2007

- Totally 39 young individuals have been assessed, 38 had gambling problems.
- 33 males, age 16-24, $m=19,5$
- 5 females, age 20-24, $m=22,4$

They were Gambling on

	<u>Tot</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Internet poker:	24	22	2
Slot machines:	15	12	2
Sport & Horse Betting:	9	9	0
Internet Casino:	3	3	0
Live Poker :	3	3	0
Casino "live":	2	2	0

... some were gambling solely on

	<u>Tot</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Internet poker:	13	11	2
Slot machines:	10	7	3

socio-demographic conditions

	<u>Tot</u>	ex:(<u>Netpoker</u>	<u>Machines</u>)
Swedish:	28	12	4
Immigrants:	10	1	6
Students:	19	8	5
Working:	9	3	2
Unemployed:	9	3	2
Sick leave:	1	0	1

Severity of gambling

	<u>Tot</u>	<u>ex(Netpoker Machine)</u>	
Pathological Gambling:	28	8	8
Problem Gambling:	10	5	2
Age of onset:	18,2	18,4	18,3
Problem duration:	1,6	1,0	2,5
Gambling debts:			
5.000-150.000 SEK:	11	5	3

Current substance abuse

	<u>Tot</u>	<u>ex(Netpoker</u>	<u>Machines)</u>
Alcohol:	1	0	0
Cannabis:	6	1	5
Cocaine:	0	0	0
Ecstasy:	0	0	0

Lifetime substance abuse/dependence

	<u>Tot</u>	ex(<u>Netpoker</u>	<u>Machines</u>)
Alcohol	2	0	1
Cannabis	8	1	5
Cocaine	1	0	0
Ecstasy	2	0	1

Lifetime psychiatric comorbidity

	Tot	ex(<u>NetPoker</u>	<u>Machines</u>)
Depression:	9	3	4
Anxiety:	8	2	6
ADD:	1	1	0
ADHD:	3	1	2

Current psychiatric comorbidity

	<u>Tot</u>	ex(<u>NetPoker</u>	<u>Machines</u>)
Depression:	7	2	3
Anxiety:	8	2	6
ADD:	1	1	0
ADHD:	3	1	2

Summary and Trends

- Most gamblers where men, 87%
- Internet Poker most common, 63%
(Solely gambling on Internet Poker, 34%)
- Slotmachines 2nd most common, 39%
(Solely gambling on Slot machines 26%)
- Swedish students were overrepresented gambling on Internet Poker
- Immigrants were overrepresentet gambling on Slot machines

Summary and Trends

Most of the help seeking young individuals were Pathological gamblers, 74 %

Average problem duration for help seeking individuals gambling on

- Internet Poker: 1,0 year
- Slotmachines: 2,5 years

Summary and Trends

- Lifetime substance abuse/dependence all types of gambling: 24%
(Solely gambling on Internet Poker: 8%)
(Solely gambling on Slotmachines: 50%)
- Lifetime psychiatric comorbidity all types of gambling: 45%
(Solely gambling on Internet Poker: 38%)
(Solely gambling on Slotmachines: 80%)