2019-03

Alberta Gambling Research Institute Conference 2019: Blurred Lines in Gambling Research

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Alberta Gambling Research Institute

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conference proceedings

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

I have received research funding and/or honoraria from the following organizations:

Alberta Gambling Research Institute; Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research; Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre; Unibet London Ltd; Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation; U.K. Gambling Commission; British Columbia Ministry of Public Safety; Massachusetts Gaming Commission; Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research; Alberta Alcohol & Drug Abuse Commission; Calgary Health Region; Stiftelsen Nordiska Sällskapet för Upplysning om Spelberoende; Public Health Agency of Sweden; Gambling Research Exchange Ontario; National Association for Gambling Studies (Australia); Responsible Gambling Trust (U.K.); University of Neuchatel (Switzerland); Svenska Spel; National Gambling Control Commission (S.Korea); and the Czech Ministry of Health
CO-INVESTIGATORS

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Garry J. Smith, Ph.D., University of Alberta
Rhys M.G. Stevens, M.L.I.S., University of Lethbridge
• Comprehensive national investigations of gambling have been conducted in many countries, but not Canada.

• The present 3-year project addresses this deficit with the aid of a large multi-disciplinary, multi-university, AGRI-based team of researchers combined with co-funding from the Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research, Gambling Research Exchange Ontario, and the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse and Addiction.
10 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehensive documentation of legal and regulatory framework for gambling in each province, types of legal gambling provided, gambling revenue and its distribution, harm minimization strategies, and historical rates of gambling and problem gambling.

• Important background information for the report
• Builds upon Canadian Gambling Digest
  http://www.cprg.ca/
10 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

2. Current Canadian and provincial prevalence rates of gambling and problem gambling

- First national prevalence estimates since 2002
- Ability to examine for inter-provincial differences
- First time that rates of illegal gambling will be assessed
10 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3. Current Canadian and provincial rates of online gambling, regulatory capture of online gambling in each province, use of digital currencies, and a profile of Canadian online gamblers

• Significant variation between provinces in legal availability, length of legal availability, and types available
10 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

4. Current attitudes toward gambling and knowledge about gambling in Canada as a function of province, demographic characteristics, and stakeholder group

• Never been assessed on a national level by academic researchers
10 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

5. Current validated data to inform Canadian Low Risk Gambling Guidelines

- Analogous to Low Risk Alcohol Guidelines
- Spearheaded by Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse and Addiction
6. An understanding of indigenous gambling and problem gambling in Canada

- Prevalence rates
- Attitudes
- Commercial provision of gambling
10 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

7. To create a comprehensive profile of Canadian problem gamblers
   - Demographic profile; treatment utilization
   - Never been comprehensively assessed on a national basis
10 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

8. To understand the etiology of problem gambling and problem gambling remission

• 2 year cohort with much larger sample of At-Risk + Problem Gamblers \((n = 2,872)\)
• Comprehensive assessment of known etiological factors, including genetic relatedness
  • 2,710 with a DSM-5 mental disorder
• Comprehensive investigation of role of treatment in remission
10 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

9. To understand the role of legal gambling provision and harm minimization initiatives as predictors of concurrent Canadian and provincial rates of problem gambling and gambling-related harm

• Inter-provincial variability in types of legal gambling provided and harm minimization allows for examination of their relative importance
10 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

10. To evaluate the one-year impact of cannabis legalization on gambling behaviour and gambling-related harm in Canada

- Evaluated by changes in Baseline (Aug/Sep 2018) to Follow-Up (Aug/Sep 2019) behaviour in sample of 10,198
METHOD

1. CCHS Statistics Canada Survey

- New *Gambling Module* included in the Jul – Dec 2018 Canadian Community Health Survey
  - \( N = 28,000; 64\% + \) response rate (largest national prevalence study of gambling even undertaken worldwide)
  - Past year gambling participation using abbreviated *Gambling Participation Instrument*
  - Past year problem gambling using *Problem Gambling Severity Index*
  - Comorbidities and demographics from CCHS
METHOD

2. Online Panel Surveys

- *Baseline Online Panel Survey* administered to 10,198 Canadian online panelists in Aug – Oct 2018
  - Stratified by region (1420 per province/region)
  - Restricted to people who gamble 1/month or more
  - Demographics, substance use and mental health comorbidities, personality, gambling (attitudes, behaviour, motivation, context, social exposure, fallacies, responsible gambling, family hx, past year gambling, problem gambling and gambling-related harm)

- *Follow-Up Online Panel Survey* re-administered to original cohort in Aug – Oct 2019
METHOD

3. Supplemental Investigations

a. Key Informant Survey of Major Provincial Stakeholders
   • Regulators, provincial operators, casino owners, tx providers

b. Key Informant Interviews of Indigenous Leaders

a. Problem Gamblers in Treatment Survey
   • 500 from treatment agencies across Canada

b. Casino Patron Surveys
   • 1,500 from casinos in AB, BC, SK, ON, QU, NS
## METHOD

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<tr>
<th>Research Objective</th>
<th>Data Sources</th>
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<td><strong>1</strong> Comprehensive Background Documentation of Gambling in Canada</td>
<td>Online Research</td>
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<td><strong>2</strong> Canadian &amp; Provincial Prevalence Rates of Gambling (legal &amp; illegal), specific types of gambling, and problem gambling</td>
<td>CCHS Statistics Canada Survey, Baseline Online Panel Survey</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong> Online Gambling (prevalence, regulatory capture, harm, profile of online gamblers)</td>
<td>Baseline Online Panel Survey, CCHS Statistics Canada Survey</td>
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<td><strong>4</strong> Current Gambling Attitudes &amp; Knowledge</td>
<td>Baseline Online Panel Survey, Key Informant Surveys of Provincial Stakeholders</td>
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<td><strong>5</strong> Low Risk Gambling Limits</td>
<td>Baseline &amp; Follow-Up Online Panel Surveys, CCHS Statistics Canada Survey</td>
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<td>6 Indigenous Gambling</td>
<td>CCHS Statistics Canada Survey (n \sim 1,000)</td>
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<td>Baseline Online Panel Survey (n = 589)</td>
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<td>Key Informant Interviews of Indigenous Leaders</td>
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<td>7 Profile of Canadian Problem Gamblers</td>
<td>CCHS Statistics Canada Survey (n \sim 420)</td>
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<td>Baseline Online Panel Survey (n = 1,350)</td>
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<td>Problem Gamblers in Treatment Survey (n = 500)</td>
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<td>8 Etiology of Problem Gambling and Problem Gambling Remission</td>
<td>Baseline &amp; Follow-Up Online Panel Surveys</td>
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<td>10 Impact of Cannabis Legalization</td>
<td>Baseline &amp; Follow-Up Online Panel Surveys</td>
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# TIMELINES AND STATUS

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<tr>
<td>May 2018</td>
<td>Project Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul – Dec 2018</td>
<td>CCHS Statistics Canada Survey Administered</td>
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<td>Aug – Oct 2018</td>
<td>Baseline Online Panel Administered</td>
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<td>Apr – May 2019</td>
<td>Key Informant Surveys of Provincial Stakeholders</td>
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<td>Summer 2019</td>
<td>Indigenous Key Informant Interviews</td>
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<td>Summer 2019</td>
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<td>Aug – Oct 2019</td>
<td>Follow-Up Online Panel Survey</td>
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<td>2020 - 2021</td>
<td>Data Analysis and Report Writing</td>
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<td>Early 2022</td>
<td>Data given to Gambling Research Exchange Ontario for public access to other researchers.</td>
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

HTTPS://WWW.UCALGARY.CA/RESEARCH/NATIONAL-GAMBLING-STUDY/