Youth gambling and gaming: Should we really be concerned and do we need more regulation?

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Child Psychology
Professor, Psychiatry

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www.youthgambling.com

Responsibility in Gaming Conference Brussels, October 2019

Definitional confusion & convergence between gambling and gaming

Derevensky & Griffiths (in press), Journal of Gambling Law

What's so different today?











Gambling & gaming has become normalized in our society



Chocolate poker chips for kids

Poker chips for adults

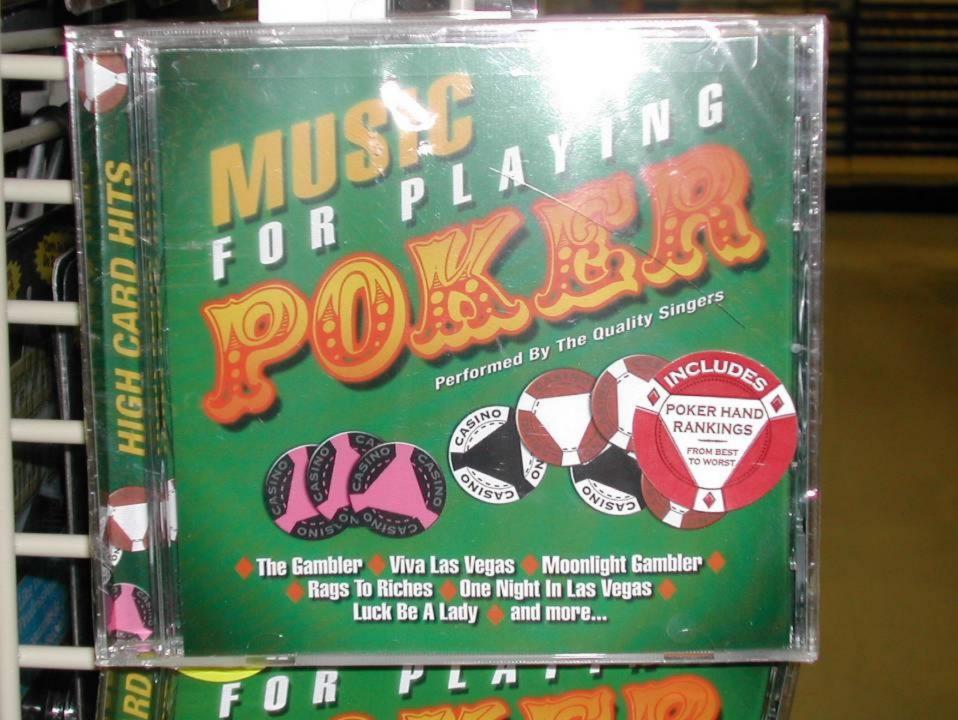
















ebay.com (Sept 2, 2019)

- gambling" 2,431,498 listings
- "poker" 189,506 listings
- "Gaming" 8,488,703 listings

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Pic-Chip-Photo

Comments about Pic-Chip-Photo...

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Visit the OH! Zone and Play a Second Chance to Win Between Oand \$2,500! (See back for details.)

If any one or more of YOUR NUMBERS match either of the WINNING NUMBERS, you win the prize shown below your matching number(s). Reveal a () symbol and win DOUBLE the prize shown automatically!











YOUR NUMBERS





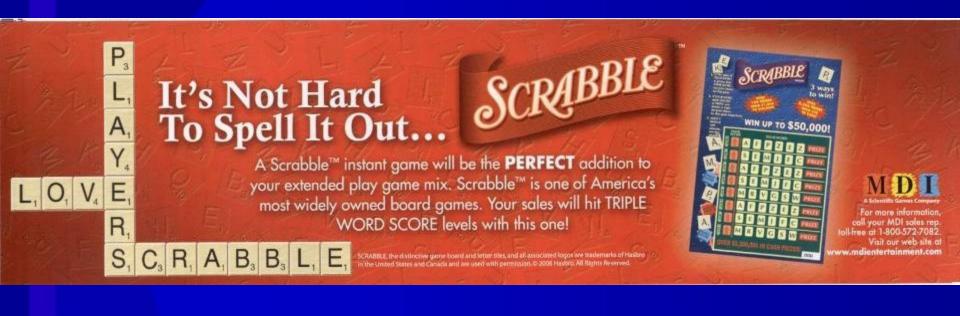






WIN UP TO 10 TIMES!





4 ...

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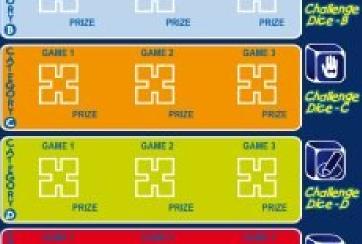
***** \$85,000

PICTIONARY.

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THE CHALLENGE DECE CAN DOUBLE YOUR PROZE WENNENGS (See back for Play instructions).







VOID IF REMOVED

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5							2
		7	2	6	9		
	4		5	8		7	

IT'S ALL IN THE NUMBERS

su do ku

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WINNING NUMBERS









YOUR NUMBERS





















WIN UP TO 10 TIMES!

TK1#

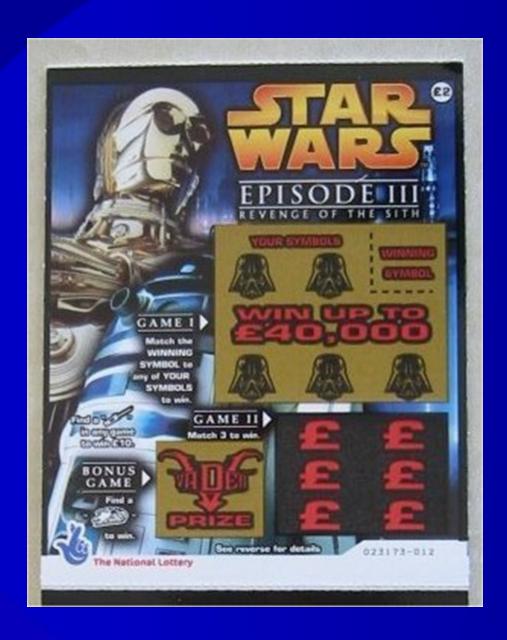
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Slots for kids

Slots for adults













Jonathan Duhamel, age 23, University dropout, winner World Series of Poker, 2010, \$8.944 million



Ryan Reiss, age 23, wins \$8.36 million in 2013 WSP recent college grad

"I've been dreaming about it a long time, ever since I was 14 and saw (Chris) Moneymaker win it."



Gambling Camp

COMING FROM LAS VEGAS TO VANCOUVER THE KIDS POKER TOUR

AS SEEN ON TV

TEACH KIDS THE CORRECT WAY TO PLAY TEXAS HOLD 'EM!

SUMMER 2006 - 2 DAYS - FOR KIDS AGED 10-14 AND 15-18

THE KIDS POKER TOUR WILL BE LED BY TOP INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS, IN A SAFE AND CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT. THE TOUR WILL CONSIST OF 1 1/2 DAYS OF TRAINING AND A 1/2 DAY TOURNAMENT. POSSIBLE INSTRUCTORS INCLUDE TOP RANKED PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS OUT OF LAS VEGAS.

KIDS WILL LEARN THE INTRICACIES OF THE GAME AND IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS:

- COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL INTERACTION
- GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP
- MATH AND NUMBER-RELATED SKILLS
- HOW TO PERFORM AFTER ADVERSITY
- DEVELOP ANALYTICAL THINKING AND STRATEGIES
- INSIGHT INTO PERSONAL LIMITS AND SELF-CONTROL
- UNDERSTAND RISK AND REWARD SCENARIOS
- KIDS WILL ALSO BE TAUGHT THE POTENTIAL PITFALLS OF GAMBLING AND IMPORTANT PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO PLAY OTHER TOP PLAYERS IN TORONTO, NEW YORK, CHICAGO, MIAMI, LAS VEGAS AND LOS ANGELES

NO MONEY TABLES!

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TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION AND RESERVE A SPOT IN THIS YEAR'S SLIMMER TOUR, PLEASE CALL 604.681.3850 OR E-MAIL INFO@KIDSPOKERTOUR.NET

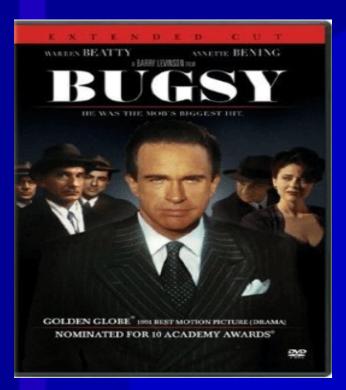
Safety 1st Jack Potty Training Seat

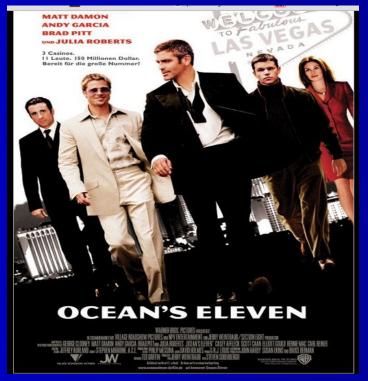


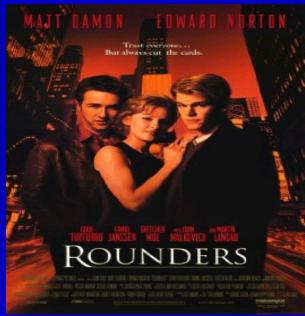
Gambling (gaming) has become glamorized

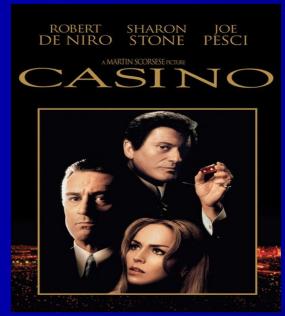


















Internet gambling





Can Youth Gambling be Dangerous??



Transactions from February 26 to March 25, 2009

Your	paymen	ts				
Trans date Mar 19	Post date Mar 23	Description TD CANADA TRUST	TORONTO			Amount(S
Total pay	yments					\$184.00
Your	interest					
Trans date Mar 25	Post date Mar 25	Description 25 REGULAR PURCHASES		Annual Inte	Amount(5	
Mar 25	Mar 25	CASH ADVANCES			11.50%	73.66
Total int	erest this pe	riod .				\$79.61
Your	new cha	arges and cred	its			
Trans date	Post date	Description		Spe	Amount(S	
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Mar 09	Mar 12	PSTARS.COM	DOUGLAS	100	Cash Advances and Balance Transfers	54.00
Mar 10	Mar 12	PSTARS 87.00 USD @ 1.319		9	Foreign Currency Transactions	114.79
Mar 10	Mar 13	PSTARS.COM	DOUGLAS	10	Cash Advances and Balance Transfers	40.00
Mar 10	Mar 13	PSTARS.COM 235.00 USD @ 1.32	DOUGLAS 4808511**	9	Foreign Currency Transactions	311.33
Mar 10	Mar 13	PSTARS.COM 28.00 USD @ 1.324	DOUGLAS 642857**	*	Foreign Currency Transactions	37.09
Mar 11	Mar 16	43.00 USD @ 1.313	sle of man 255814**	0	Foreign Currency Transactions	56.47
Mar 12	Mar 12	CASH ADVANCE FEI		8	Professional and Financial Services	5.00
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Mar 13	Mar 13	CASH ADVANCE FE		8	Professional and Financial Services	5.00
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	Mar 16	CASH ADVANCE FE		a	Professional and Financial Services	5.00
Mar 16		********************************				

^{**} Denotes transaction in foreign currency

Youth Involvement in Addictive Behaviors

Involvement in Potentially Addictive Behaviors

		Total use			Weekly use		
	Gr 7	Gr 9	Gr 11	Gr 7	Gr 9	Gr 11	
Alcohol	36.8%	62.2%	79.8%	7.4%	14.0%	20.2%	
Drugs	3.5%	13.4%	26.5%	2.7%	2.1%	9.0%	
Cigarettes	18.2%	34.5%	48.4%	7.0%	16.1%	31.4%	
Gambling	79.1%	78.9%	83.4%	30.4%	37.4%	37.1%	

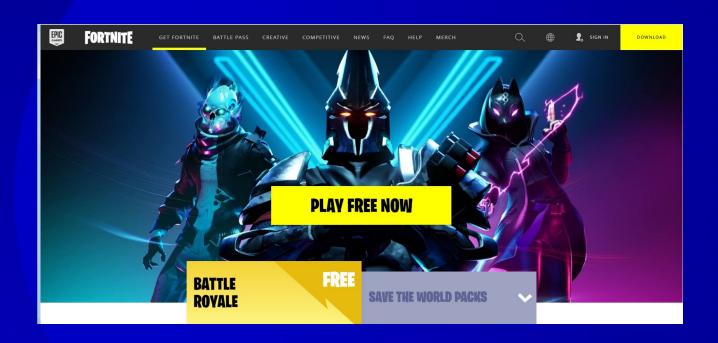
Our Current State of Knowledge

- Gambling is more popular amongst males than females
- Adolescent pathological gamblers are greater risktakers
- Adolescent prevalence rates of problem gambling are
 2-4 times that of adults
- Gambling has become a family activity
 - 40-68% of youth gamble with family members
 - 80-90% of parents report knowing their children gamble for money and do not object
 - 77% of adolescents reported their parents purchased lottery tickets for them

- Have poor general coping skills
- Report beginning gambling at earlier ages, approximately
 10 years of age
- Rapid movement from social gambler to problem gambler
- See both the benefits AND risks associated with excessive gambling
- Believe gambling to be a relatively benign activity:
 - 40% of participants believe that playing cards for money is harmless even when played at least once a week
 - 37% believe that teens should be allowed to use EGMs
- Few fear getting caught gambling
- Problem adolescent gamblers have more legal problems

- Most teens view gambling as a socially acceptable and enjoyable form of entertainment, significantly less harmful than alcohol, drugs or cigarettes
- Adolescents are easily influenced by advertisements

Games come in many genres and can be played on multiple platforms...









- Since the 1990s games have become more technologically sophisticated and increased in popularity
- Over 2 billion active gamers worldwide (Newzoo, 2017)
- 97% of teenage boys play videogames; 83% of teenage girls (Pew, 2018)
- Worldwide estimates suggest 1-10% of gamers at risk of addiction
- Gaming is one of the leading causes of college dropouts (HIcommission, 2014)
- 48% of student gamers report gaming keeps them from studying; 9% use gaming for that reason (Pew, 2003)
- Excessive gaming has become one of the leading causes of college dropouts

- Primarily 2 categories
 - ONLINE GAMING typically played simultaneously by players who communicate with each other in real time-cooperating or competing with one another
 - OFFLINE GAMING typically played alone; well defined start and end
- Games are easily accessible via smartphones, computers, tablets
- Online gamers spend more time, report having 'online' friends and report more satisfaction. Online gamers are more likely to be problematic
 - 70% of gamers prefer online games compared to offline games (De Prato et al., 2010)
- Gaming 30 hrs/week is a red flag; 70 hrs/week a real problem

- Gaming fulfills specific emotional/psychological needs: escape, social connection, advancement, certainty
- Games are intentionally designed to keep you hooked using behavioral psychology strategies
- Games are fully immersive and provide hyper-stimulation (dopamine)
- Gaming is a safe place to fail real world failures can be permanent
- Gaming is a community and culture relationships are meaningful (and may be their only relationships)
- Games are constantly changing to keep people involved

Gaming affects individuals of all ages

My name is Bob, I am a 32 year old male and I'm roughly playing 8-14 hours of fortnite a day. It has affected my social life, my marriage and my work. I'm getting 1-4 hours a night. When I play, an hour it seems like 10 mins and I'm unable to stop playing unless I get a win. This has been going on for 3 seasons.

I would really like to join the lawsuit, I'm severely depressed and need help.

Motivations for gaming

- Entertainment/recreation
- Competition
- Challenges & opportunities for achievement (selfesteem)
- Escapism/coping
- Fantasy and/or role playing
- Social interactions with others
- Relief of stress
- Passing time
- Relief from boredom





Gaming Disorder

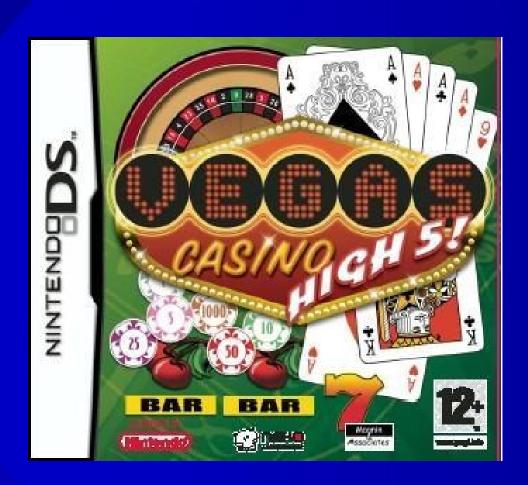
- The World Health Organization in its revision of ICD (11th edition) identified Gaming Disorder as a legitimate disorder.
- A pattern of gaming behaviour ("digital-gaming" or "video-gaming") characterized by impaired control over gaming, increasing priority given to gaming over other activities to the extent that gaming takes precedence over other interests and daily activities, and continuation or escalation of gaming despite the occurrence of negative consequences.
- For gaming disorder to be diagnosed, the behaviour pattern must be of sufficient severity to result in significant impairment in personal, family, social, educational, occupational or other important areas of functioning and would normally have been evident for at least 12 months.

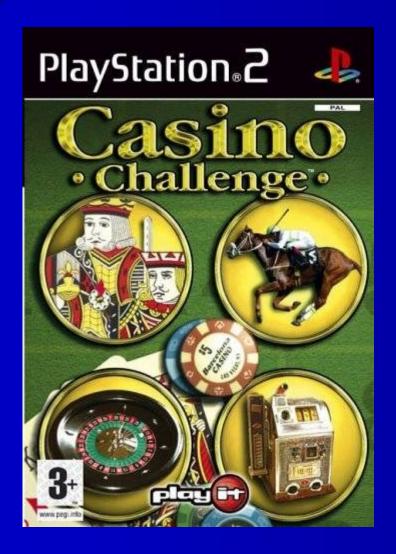
Gaming Disorder: Some Facts

- IGD and anxiety 92%
- IGD and depression 89%
- IGD and attention deficit hyperactivity disorders (ADHD) 85%
- IGD and social phobia and OCD 75%
 Gonzalelez-Bueso et al., 2018
 - Social media & gaming helps strengthen friendships, provides emotional support (Anderson & Jlang, 2018),
 - Gaming 30 hrs/week has been associated with a gaming disorder
 - While many games are free to begin, individuals can use micro-transactions to purchase items or open "Loot Boxes"

Convergence Between Gambling & Gaming

Gambling Video Games





Internet Gambling Without Money....Play for Fun

Practice Sites



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Social Casino Gaming Among Young People

- In the U.K., 10% of children age 11-16 played a social casino or practice game in past week (Parke et al., 2013)
- In Australia, 13% of children 12-17 played simulated casino games past year (32% during their lifetime) (King et al., 2014)

Social Casino Gaming Among Young People

- Gambling operators continue to expand into social casino gambling
- Morgan Stanley report on social gambling (Nov., 2012) suggests that social gambling offers the potential to "teach young people to gamble"
- Australian Government Review of the Interactive Gambling act (2012):

"The public policy argument for prohibiting access to such gaming simulations is that it potentially normalises gambling amongst children and may lead them to become problem gamblers in the future."

Loot Boxes



Loot box: a popular feature in video games

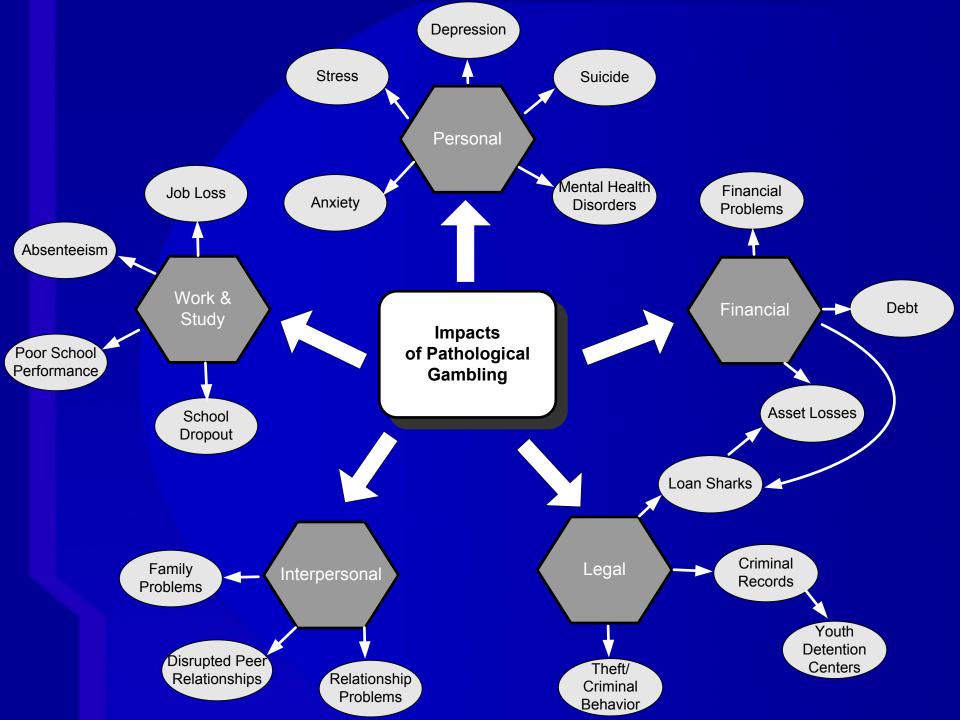
- A \$30 billion USD industry (Juniper Research, 2018)
- 78% of video gamers have bought loot boxes (Zendle & Cairns, 2019)

eSports



Consequences of Excessive Gambling & Gaming

- Short-term rewards that results in persistent behaviour despite knowledge of long-term adverse consequences
- The repetitive engagement in these behaviours interferes with functioning in other domains
- Many similarities with substance abuse and dependency
 - Natural histories that exhibit chronic, relapsing patterns with most individuals recovering on their own – "natural recovery"
 - Individuals often report a "craving" or "urge" to continue
 - These behaviours often result in a positive mood state or physiological arousal ("high")
 - Need for increased frequency, duration or intensity
 - Individuals go through a somewhat analogous state of withdrawal



Gambling/Gaming addiction does not exist in a vacuum



What about regulation?

- The gambling industry is highly regulated by multiple regulatory bodies.
- The gaming industry is self-regulated
- It's time for the gaming industry to learn from the gambling industry re: harm minimization (Griffiths & Pontes, 2019; Derevensky & Richard, 2019; Derevensky & Griffiths, in press).

What about regulation?

- A need for the development of effective prevention programs
- The need for more parent education and awareness