



# The New ProblemGambling.ca Online Tools: Increasing Access to Help

By Michael Weyman, MSW, RSW

Education Specialist, Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario (PGIO), Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Toronto, Ontario.

Only a small percentage of people with gambling problems seek help from treatment centres (Cunningham, 2005; Monaghan & Blaszczynski, 2009). People can be inhibited from seeking treatment by a number of factors. Some are psychological, such as shame and secrecy, while others are circumstantial, such as geographic or physical barriers (Monaghan & Blaszczynski, 2009). Removing barriers to access would potentially increase the rate at which people seek treatment for prob-

lem gambling. This goal is a driving force behind the development of electronic tools at the Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario (PGIO). The PGIO is a publicly funded treatment, research and knowledge transfer group at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto, Ontario.

The PGIO, through its ProblemGambling.ca website, has recently launched a suite of online self-help tools. The Online Gambling Help Tools provide a new option in the continuum of care for people with gambling problems and their family and friends. One population predicted to respond favourably to online options is youth, given their high use of online technology (Monaghan & Blaszczynski, 2009).

To reduce barriers, the Online Gambling Help Tools are free, anonymous and accessible any time of day. They are also self-directed, which means people can use the tools whenever it is convenient and can use any combination of the tools they choose. There are no requirements to use the tools in a particular order.

Being anonymous, the tools allow those concerned about their gambling, as well as family and friends, to seek help without identifying themselves. The PGIO became aware that anonymity was critical for many users of the tools while conducting user experience testing. Considerable thought was put into how to maximize anonymity and to communicate the anonymity feature to potential users. To this end, the registration system emphasizes privacy and anonymity. No identifying information is collected. Although a person using the tools needs to verify an email address during the registration process, they are encouraged to create and use an anonymous email address for the site. A limited amount of demographic information is collected for research purposes, but most is optional. Furthermore, the online tools feature encryption technology, which further protects the anonymity of the user.

Because the tools are both self-directed and anonymous, CAMH clinical staff do not review user entries. Nor do staff members make contact with people based

## In this Issue

The Research Clinic on Gambling Disorders – a new clinic in Denmark .....	4
Prevention, Prevention, Prevention. . .	6
U.S. National Problem Gambling Awareness Week .....	7
Centre Fundraising Campaign in Full Swing .....	7
Youth Gambling: From Research to Practice .....	8
Monitoring the Future Findings ..	8
News from the Centre .....	9
Recent publications and presentations. ....	10
Upcoming events .....	11

Continued on page 2 »»»

on their registration or use of the tools. The only way a health-care professional could review a person's entries is if that person voluntarily showed this material to them.

ProblemGambling.ca's Online Gambling Help Tools include four self-help components. First, there is the Gambling Quiz. This interactive and web-friendly tool comprises the nine questions of the Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI) (Ferris & Wynne, 2001). The tool interactively leads a person question by question through the PGSI. After completing the quiz, a person is presented with a brief report that objectively and nonjudgmentally describes their level of problem gambling risk. The person is also offered options for further help in case they decide to act on the feedback. One option provided is the remaining suite of online tools.

Second, there is a tool titled Self-Help for Those Who Gamble, which is a set of interactive worksheets for people concerned about their own gambling. The worksheets are a mix of introspective, informational and treatment exercises. A person's entries are saved for later review or further completion. The tool is completely self-initiated and self-directed. Although it is designed as self-help, it can also be used as an adjunct or follow-up to treatment by a problem gambling counsellor or an allied professional, such as a primary care worker.

The Self-Help for Those Who Gamble tool was developed in consultation with David Hodgins,

clinical psychologist and head of the Department of Psychology at the University of Calgary. Content for the tool was based upon Hodgins and Makarchuk's research-validated, self-help workbook, *Becoming a Winner: Defeating Problem Gambling, A Gambling Self-Help Manual* (2000). Significant time and effort was invested to preserve the clinical objectives of this workbook in this adaptation for the web. The PGIO also undertook a detailed and comprehensive updating of the content. This included integrating CAMH's clinical expertise, adapting the exercises to create user-friendly web activities and doing thorough end-user testing.

The third tool, called Self-Help for Family and Friends, is a set of web-based worksheets for people affected by, or concerned about, someone else's gambling. The tool was developed in recognition of the hardship a gambling problem can frequently cause family, friends and others close to the person with a gambling problem. The tool helps people learn about problem gambling and develop new skills to deal with the difficulties caused by the problem. It is designed to provide assistance even if the person with the gambling problem is unwilling to change their gambling behaviour.

The tool was built on established family support resources for problem gambling and other addictions. One resource was Makarchuk and Hodgins' (2001) family self-help manual, *Helping the Problem Gambler, Helping Yourself: A Self-Help Approach for Family Members*. Another foun-

dition was the family addictions support manual *Families CARE*, written for CAMH by Bubbra et al. (2008). The tool also calls upon the research-validated work of O'Grady and Skinner (2007), published in CAMH's *A Family Guide to Concurrent Disorders*. In addition, it incorporates the extensive clinical expertise at the PGIO.

The fourth self-help tool on ProblemGambling.ca is an interactive monitoring diary, titled Monitor Your Gambling & Urges (MYGU). This diary tool is designed to help people with gambling problems increase their understanding of their urges to gamble by tracking them over time. It leads them through a systematic process of identifying precipitators of their urges to gamble and the consequences of either gambling or resisting urges. In addition, if the person continues to gamble, the tool tracks their wins and losses over time.

When a person makes an entry in the MYGU tool, they are presented with common options to make the tool easier and faster to complete; however, they are also given an opportunity to customize the tool for their own use. If the pre-populated options are not applicable, a person can input their own unique values. Once entered, these unique values remain in the tool for future entries.

The MYGU tool also includes several summary reports that illustrate useful aspects of a person's entries. Three examples of the 12 reports that MYGU can produce are:

- the types of triggers, along with the frequency count of each type
- the consequences of gambling
- the amount won or lost.

All the reports can be constrained to different times, such as past month, past three months and past year.

The MYGU tool has also been developed as a mobile app, which allows people to track their urges from a mobile device, such as a smart phone. When a user logs into the app on their mobile device, their data is synchronized with their Online Gambling Help Tools account on ProblemGambling.ca. This synchronization enables users to use the web and mobile version of MYGU interchangeably. Functionality and content of the web and mobile versions are similar. An Apple iPhone version of the mobile MYGU app is in the late stages of development and will be released free of charge in the Apple iTunes Store in the near future. The mobile app is also being built for other platforms, such as Google Android and RIM BlackBerry.

The PGIO is preparing to launch another tool—an anonymous peer support discussion board. The board's purpose is to function as an online forum where people can gain support in using the rest of the online tools. It will serve both people with gambling problems and those affected by them. Health educators will moderate the board, monitoring discussions and answering queries. The PGIO is aiming to launch the discussion board within the next few months.

The Online Gambling Help Tools are in their first release. The PGIO is aware that the tools will likely be revised and improved over time based on user feedback and scientific research. As part of this effort, we are encouraging user feedback. People who use the tools can fill out a feedback form by clicking on a link found in the footer of every page of the website. In addition, the Canadian Institute of Health Research has accepted a proposal from David Hodgins and CAMH for a three-year controlled research study of parts of the Online Gambling Help Tools. In particular, this research will focus on the Gambling Quiz, the Self-Help for Those Who Gamble and the MYGU tools.

The ProblemGambling.ca Online Gambling Help Tools reduce key barriers to help, such as fears of exposure or practical difficulties in connecting with formal treatment. They also provide help in a location people are increasingly frequenting when they have concerns about their health—the Internet. Consequently, the tools represent a significant step in increasing access to problem gambling help. This type of access may be especially beneficial for certain populations, such as youth or people gambling online. Increased access is critical given that so many people are not seeking help for gambling problems.

#### References:

Bubbra, S., Himes, A., Kelly, C., Shenfeld, J., Sloss, C. & Tait, L. (2008). *Families CARE: Helping families cope and relate effectively. Facilitator's Manual*. Toronto: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Cunningham, J.A. (2005, Aug 1). Little use of treatment among problem gamblers. [Letter to the Editor]. *Psychiatric Services*, 56 (8), 1024–1025.

Ferris, J., & Wynne, H. (2001). *The Canadian problem gambling index: Final report*. Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse. Available: [www.ccsa.ca/2003%20and%20earlier%20CCSA%20Documents/ccsa-008805-2001.pdf](http://www.ccsa.ca/2003%20and%20earlier%20CCSA%20Documents/ccsa-008805-2001.pdf). Accessed February 29, 2012.

Hodgins, D. & Makarchuk, K. (2000). *Becoming a Winner: Defeating Problem Gambling, A Gambling Self-Help Manual*. Calgary: University of Calgary.

Makarchuk, K. & Hodgins, D.C. (2001). *Helping the problem gambler. Helping yourself: A self-help approach for family members*. Calgary: University of Calgary.

Monaghan, S. & Blaszczyński, A. (2009). *Internet-based interventions for the treatment of problem gambling*. Report prepared for the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Toronto, Canada. Available: [www.problemgambling.ca/en/documents/internetinterventionforproblemgamblingcamh2009\\_final.pdf](http://www.problemgambling.ca/en/documents/internetinterventionforproblemgamblingcamh2009_final.pdf). Accessed February 29, 2012.

O'Grady, C.P. & Skinner, W.J.W. (2007). *A Family Guide to Concurrent Disorders*. Toronto: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. ♦



# The Research Clinic on Gambling Disorders – a new clinic in Denmark

By Jakob Linnet, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Research Clinic on Gambling Disorders, Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark

The Research Clinic on Gambling Disorders (RCGD) is the first university clinic in Denmark which offers an integrated approach to research, treatment and prevention of problem gambling. Located at the Head and Neuro Center at Aarhus University Hospital, the clinic integrates a diverse range of research topics, from the neurobiology of pathological gambling to preventing problem gambling among youth and adolescents.

RCGD is headed by Dr. Jakob Linnet who has more than 10 years of experience with research and treatment of pathological gambling. The clinic has a strong emphasis on international collaborations including: work with the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University on preventing problem gambling in youth and adolescents in Denmark; the treatment of pathological gambling for adults using the Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment model developed by Robert Ladouceur and Stella LaChance at Laval University; and collaborations with Harvard Medical School's Division on Addiction regarding cognitive biases in poker.

## Prevention of Problem Gambling in Youth and Adolescents

The first Danish study on problem gambling in youth and adolescents was carried out in 2006. The study was a pilot project investigating problem gambling among 10th grade students in Aarhus, Denmark. Three hundred eighty-one 10th grade students from the Aarhus municipality participated in the study. The study revealed that gambling was a widespread and socially accepted activity among students. More than 63% of students reported having gambled, with 4.6% gambling on a daily basis. Overall, 7.6% of students showed signs of problem or pathological gambling, while an additional 10.8% were at risk for developing gambling-related problems. In other words, almost one in five 10th grade students suffered from problem gambling or were at risk of developing a gambling problem. This initial research suggests that problem gambling is an important but overlooked issue among our youth.

By collaborating with the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University, the Research Clinic on Gambling Disorders is work-

ing to determine the risk factors associated with problem gambling in youth and adolescents in Denmark. The collaboration combines prevention materials developed by the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors and information on risk-factors such as school absences to determine the social consequences of problem gambling in youth and adolescents.

## Pathological Gambling Treatment in Adults

The Research Clinic on Gambling Disorders offers treatment of pathological gambling in adults using the Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment model developed by Robert Ladouceur and Stella Lachance. The model consists of six elements: (1) clinical assessment and diagnosis; (2) processing of treatment motivation; (3) behavioral intervention; (4) cognitive interventions; (5) relapse prevention, and (6) treatment evaluation and follow-up.

These basic elements give patients a thorough introduction and understanding of the basic behavioral and cognitive mechanisms of pathological gambling including cognitive biases indicative of pathological gambling. RCGD has extended the model to include an

---

Continued on page 5 »»»

understanding of the interaction between neurobiological mechanisms and behavioral and cognitive disturbances in pathological gambling, with special emphasis on dopaminergic mechanisms in gambling and addiction.

Since RCGD is located at the University hospital, physicians can easily refer patients to the clinic through the Danish health care system. This offers a unique opportunity for physicians to help their patients, and to ensure that the pathological gambling treatment is followed up at the primary care level. Referred patients are carefully assessed for a variety of common co-morbidities. Preliminary numbers from RCGD show that 47% of all patients suffer from one or more current comorbid diagnosis or other sub-clinical symptoms, while 40% have past history of co-morbidity. Only 13% of patients have no diagnosis other than pathological gambling. These numbers substantiate the need for parallel or follow-up treatment at the primary care level.

### **Cognitive Bias in Poker**

Poker players represent one of the largest groups of treatment-seeking pathological gamblers at the Research Clinic on Gambling Disorders. As such, online poker represents an important area in the study of pathological gambling at our center. Cognitive bias in poker differs from cognitive bias in games of chance (such as slot machines) which do not have

the same element of misunderstanding of probability. Poker players often do not exhibit the same degree of belief in "luck", "illusions of control" (the belief that the results can be controlled or manipulated) or the "gambler's fallacy" (the belief that the probability of winning is greater after a series of losses). To date, it has been difficult to demonstrate cognitive bias among poker players, and there has been a lack of clinical tools for the treatment of cognitive bias in poker.

The Research Clinic on Gambling Disorders has developed a poker task to investigate cognitive biases in poker. Based on data from the task, a cognitive bias model has been developed, which can distinguish gambling behavior among poker players with and without a pathological gambling disorder. The poker task uses a "Texas Hold'em" setup imitating an online gaming environment, where participants play against an imaginary opponent.

The first study of the poker task showed that inexperienced poker players, when compared to experienced players, had greater estimation biases (were more inaccurate in their assessment of probability) and had greater decision biases (played more hands with low winning probability). Based on these behavioral patterns, it was possible to establish a statistical model which predicted 100% accuracy in distinguishing between experienced and inexperienced poker players.

A second study including poker players with a pathological gambling disorder revealed that poker players with a pathological gambling disorder had a larger margin of error in assessing the winning probability and played too many hands with low winning probability compared to experienced poker players without a pathological gambling disorder. Based on their behavior, it was possible to establish a statistical model which showed 100% accuracy in distinguishing between experienced poker players and poker players suffering from a pathological gambling disorder. However, the model had limitations in distinguishing between poker players with a pathological gambling disorder and inexperienced poker players.

The Research Clinic on Gambling Disorders is currently working on improving the cognitive bias model in collaboration with the Harvard Medical School's Division on Addiction.

While the Research Clinic on Gambling Disorders was officially opened on January 5th 2012, treatment of pathological gambling began in May, 2011 and the first research project under RCGD started in October, 2010. More Information about RCGD can be found at [www.fkfl.dk](http://www.fkfl.dk) or by contacting Dr. Jakob Linnet at [fkf@rm.dk](mailto:fkf@rm.dk). ♦

# Prevention, Prevention, Prevention

The YGI team was very busy in the month of March participating in a number of prevention initiatives and preparing for events in April.

## Drug Addiction Prevention Days



Event Organizers Officers Bellucci and Jubinville with YGI Volunteer Claudia Benvenuto at the Drug Addiction Prevention Days

This two and half day event is organized annually by the Montreal Urban Police (SPVM) as an outreach to schools. This event, aimed at children aged 11-12 years of age in grade 6, is intended to raise awareness about different risky adolescent behaviors. Grade 6 is the last year of elementary school in the province of Quebec. The objective of the event is to educate these children about adolescent risky behaviors before they start the transitional first year of high school in Grade 7.

Participant presenters in the event included: The Montreal Urban Police (SPVM), Urgences Sante (Montreal's paramedic ambulance responders), CN Rail Police (Canada's national railway), the Quebec Lung Association, Think

First (head trauma awareness programme), community YMCA organization, dieticians and our Centre. Each participant organization had an enclosed booth and hosted an interactive activity for the children. The children were divided into groups of 10-15 and each group circulated through the booths every 9 minutes. During the course of the event, over 520 children participated in the round-robin booth style format. For the event, the YGI team used our Teen Gambling game. During play, in our booth, the children were divided into 2 teams and competed to answer gambling-related questions in categories such as Fact vs. Myth, Everyone Knows That, Against All Odds and Wild Card. We received tremendously positive feedback from organizers, teachers and children attending the event who commented that our game format was innovative, interactive and highly engaging.



YGI Teen Gambling Game at the Drug Prevention Days Event

## Partners in Prevention

Partners in Prevention is a collaborative partnership between the Lester B. Pearson School Board of Montreal (the largest English-language school board in Quebec) and Portage Adolescent Residential

Rehabilitation Center (substance abuse rehabilitation center), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Montreal Urban Police (SPVM), community YMCA, and the International Centre for Youth Gambling. Annually, the Partners host a two night event aimed at Grade 6 students and their parents to promote healthy choices in an attempt to minimize adolescent risky behaviours. For the 2012 event, the Partners departed from the previous event format that involved a play, performed by a Quebec-based theatre company, and elected to support an initiative by the Portage Adolescent Residential Rehabilitation Program in Beaconsfield, Quebec. Portage residents wrote and performed poems, songs and short scenes. The central themes involved believing in oneself, making good decisions and understanding that help is available. Following the performance, members of the Partners in Prevention committee held a guided question/answer period for parents and students. Kiosks manned by affiliate partners were also available for parents and children to visit. Partners with kiosks included the Montreal Urban Police (SPVM), Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), community YMCA, Portage (substance abuse rehabilitation center) and our Centre. Our team met with parents and students, answering questions and providing information about youth gambling rates, signs/symptoms of gambling problems, as well as our research and prevention initiatives. ♦



# U.S. National Problem Gambling Awareness Week



The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) launched their 10th annual National Problem Gambling Awareness Week (NPGAW) campaign, a public outreach initiative, during the week of March 4-10, 2012. This campaign aims to educate the general public and health care professionals about the warning signs of problem gambling and raise awareness about the treatment options that are available both locally and nationally.

The campaign aims for participation from key sectors including: government bodies, treatment and healthcare providers, the gambling industry and any other interested parties. The NCPG invites participants in the week-long campaign to initiate at least one educational activity during the week. The 2012 campaign received widespread media viewing. Participants in the 2012 campaign included State problem gambling and compulsive gambling councils, State governments, casinos, lottery organizations, as well as counselling and treatment centers. The NPGAW website offers a variety of free tools, suggested activities and a great deal of material including:

- Fast two-question diagnostic screen for healthcare providers
- Free TV Public Service Announcement (PSA) for the gaming industry
- Sample proclamations for state, tribal, county and city governments
- Fact sheets concerning youth, senior, and Internet gambling
- Highlights of the 2012 campaign included:
  - Northstar Problem Gambling Alliance (Minnesota) developing a brochure for employees working in various community venues that sponsor charitable gambling.
  - The Wheeler Clinic (Connecticut) creating a recovery wall at the State Legislative Office building. The artwork was designed by women who have been incarcerated at the York Correctional Facility in Niantic, Connecticut resulting from gambling-related crimes.

For more information about National Problem Gambling Awareness Week, please visit [www.npgaw.org](http://www.npgaw.org). ◆

## Centre Fundraising Campaign in Full Swing

The Centre's ongoing fundraising campaign continues to grow with the support of corporate and private sponsors. Due to restricted government infrastructure funding, we have initiated a fundraising campaign to help us maintain our ability to develop and deploy empirically-based prevention and harm-minimization programs. The Centre is housed on McGill University's main campus in the heart of Montreal, Canada. McGill University is a public university and recognized charitable organization.

Donations can be made to:

The International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors  
McGill University  
3724 McTavish Street  
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1Y2

Official letters of contributions and tax receipts will be forwarded

# Problem Gambling Webinar-

## Youth Gambling: From Research to Practice

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) - Office of Problem Gambling Treatment and Prevention is sponsoring a webinar titled Youth Gambling: From Research to Practice presented by Dr. Rina Gupta.

### Date

Friday, June 15, 2012 from 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., central time

### Course Description

An in-depth 90 minute session covering the topic of youth gambling. Research spanning

the last decade as well as the most recent trends and findings will be discussed. The implications for prevention and treatment will also be presented.

### Objectives

- To provide a deeper understanding of the issues and theory related to underage gambling.
- To develop a working knowledge of youth gambling prevention objectives and practices.

- To provide knowledge about the different components critical to the treatment of youth experiencing a gambling problem.

### Who Should Attend

Mental health professionals, researchers, health care professionals, educators, prevention specialists and treatment providers interested in youth gambling issues.

### For More Information

<https://www.trainingresources.org/Default.aspx> ◆

---

## *Monitoring the Future Findings*

The results of the 2011 “Monitoring the Future” survey sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse were released in February 2012. The survey sample included over 46,000 American students in grades 8, 10 and 12. Key findings include:

### Marijuana

- Marijuana use among teens in the 10th and 12th grades continues to rise as it has done for the past three years and daily marijuana use increased in all three grades.
- Perceived risk concerning marijuana use is declining as it has been for the last five years.
- Roughly one in fifteen high school seniors is a current daily or near daily marijuana user.

### Ecstasy

- Perceived risk and disapproval of use has been declining for several years.
- As a result, ecstasy use now seems to be rebounding mostly with older teens.

### Alcohol - Including Binge Drinking

- Reached historically low levels in 2011 in all three grades studied.

### Cigarettes

- There was a decline in teen smoking in all grades studied.
- Perceived risk and disapproval rose in all three grades.

### Declining Use of Other Drugs

- Several other drugs showed signs of decreased use including: inhalants, cocaine powder, crack cocaine, Vicodin, Adderall, sedatives, tranquilizers and cough and cold remedies.

### Drugs Use Holding Steady

- Use of the following drugs remained relatively stable: LSD, salvia, OxyContin, amphetamines, methamphetamine, Ketamine, and Rohypnol.

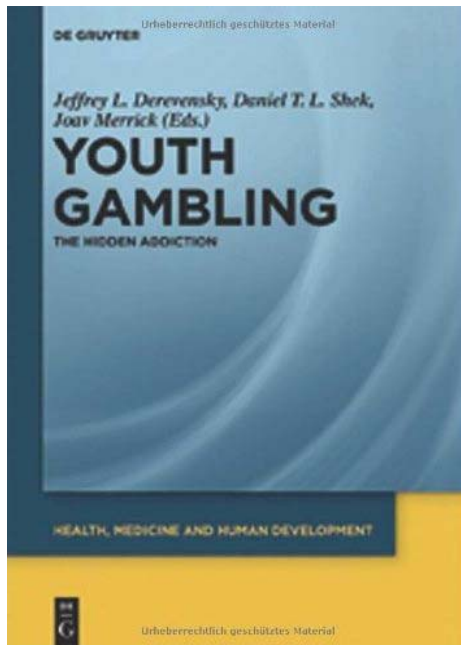
Reference:

Johnston, L., O'Mally, P., Bachman, J., & Schulenberg, J. (2012). Monitoring the future - National results on adolescent drug use report - Overview of key findings 2011. University of Michigan Institute for Social Research. ◆



# News from the Centre...

## Centre Collaborates on Newly Published Book



In October 2011, the Centre's newest collaborative book *Youth Gambling: The Hidden Addiction* was released. With chapters authored by leading experts in the field, this comprehensive anthology contains the latest research on the etiology, prevalence, assessment, treatment and prevention of gambling disorders in youth. This book is an invaluable resource for researchers, clinicians, treatment providers, and policy makers. As evidence mounts that youth gambling represents a potentially serious public policy and health issue, there is an ever increasing need for research, prevention and education in this

field. In addition to significantly contributing to our knowledge about youth gambling, this book also addresses emerging technological advancements associated with gambling and possible related concerns.

### **Youth Gambling: The Hidden Addiction**

*Ed. By: Jeffrey L Derevensky, Daniel T. L. Shek, and Joav Merrick*

*Hardcover: 265 pages*

*Publisher: Walter De Gruyter Inc (October 31, 2011)*

*ISBN-10: 3110255200*

## New International Collaborations

### *Research Clinic on Gambling Disorders in Denmark*

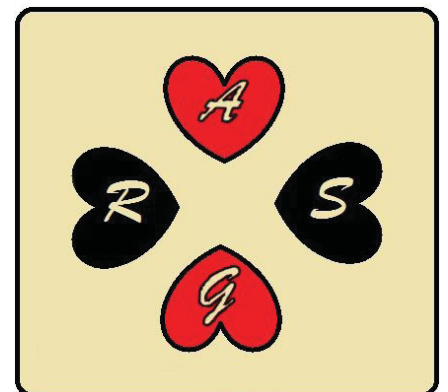
A new collaborative partnership between our Centre and the Research Clinic on Gambling Disorders (RCGD) in Denmark has been formed to determine the risk factors associated with youth problem gambling in Denmark. The collaboration involves the use of prevention materials developed by the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors and information on risk-factors to determine the social consequences of problem gambling in youth and adolescents. This beneficial partnership will further advance our understanding of youth gambling

and other adolescent risk-taking behaviors. More information about the Research Clinic of Gambling Disorders can be found at [www.fkfl.dk](http://www.fkfl.dk).

### *Romanian Association for the Study of Gambling*

The Centre has recently partnered with psychologist Izabela Ramona Todirita and Associate Professor Viorel Lupu of the Romanian Association for the Study of Gambling (RASG) to launch a study assessing Romanian teachers' perceptions of adolescent risk-taking behaviours including gambling-related issues. This online study mirrors one our Centre conducted in 2010-11 involving Canadian teachers in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario. By replicating the study in Romania, we

hope to acquire comparative data enabling us to understand some international trends in teacher perceptions regarding adolescent risk-taking behaviours. These findings will enable us to develop more effective prevention programs and products. We look forward to a productive partnership with the RASG. For more information about the Romanian Association for the Study of Gambling refer to [www.rasgcluj.org](http://www.rasgcluj.org). ♦



# Recent publications and presentations

## REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Campbell, C., Derevensky, J., Meerkamper, E. & Cutajar, J. (in press). The influence of cultural background on parental perceptions of adolescent gambling behaviour: A Canadian study. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addictions*.

King, D., Delfabbro, P., Derevensky, J., & Griffiths, M. (in press). Australian classification of video games featuring gambling content: Risks of simulated gambling for youth. *International Gambling Studies*.

Shead, N.W., Derevensky, J., & Paskus, T. (in press). Trends in gambling behavior among college student-athletes: A comparison of 2004 and 2008 NCAA survey data. *Journal of Gambling Issues*.

Storr, C., Lee, G., Derevensky, J., Ialongo, N. & Martins, S. (in press). Gambling and adverse life events among urban adolescents. *Journal of Gambling Studies*.

Shead, N.W., Derevensky, J., Gupta, R., & Fong, T. (2012). Characteristics of Internet gamblers among a sample of students at a large, public University in southwestern United States. *Journal of College Student Development*, 53(1), 133-148

## RESEARCH REPORTS

Derevensky, J., St-Pierre, R., Temcheff, C. & Gupta, R. (2012). *Teacher Awareness, Beliefs, and Attitudes Regarding Adolescent Gambling and Problem Gambling Prevention*. Report prepared for the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Center, Ontario, 60 pp.

Gupta, R. & Derevensky, J. (2012). *Preventing Gambling Problems Among College Students: A Literature Review*. Report prepared for Mise sur toi, Montreal, 50 pp.

Derevensky, J., Gupta, R., & Martin, I. (2012). *Evaluation of a Treatment Program for Problem Gambling Offered to the Quebec Adolescent Population (Évaluation de l'impact d'un programme de traitement des problèmes de jeu offert à la population adolescente québécoise)*. Report prepared for the Fonds de recherche en santé du Québec (FRSQ), Québec, 28 pp.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

Derevensky, J. (in press). Youth gambling: An important social policy and public health issue. In J. O'Dea (Ed.), *Contemporary issues and controversies in youth health education, sport, and physical education*. NY: Nova Science Publishers.

Griffiths, M., Derevensky, J. & Parke, J. (in press). Online gambling among youth: Cause for concern? In R. Williams, R. Wood & J. Parke (Eds.), *Handbook of Internet gambling*. U.K.: Routledge.

Temcheff, C., Bowden-Jones, H., & Derevensky, J. (in press). Addictions. *Encyclopedia of quality of life research*. NY: Springer Publishing.

Temcheff, C., St-Pierre, R. & Derevensky, J. (in press). Gambling among teens, college students and young adults. In D. Richards, A. Blaszczynski & L. Nower (Eds.), *Handbook of pathological gambling*. NY: Wiley-Blackwell.

## BOOKS

Derevensky, J. (in press). *Teen gambling: Understanding a growing epidemic*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishing.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Derevensky, J. (2011). Youth gambling: Past, present and future. Public health coalition building experiences with the North American Think Tanks on youth gambling. Invited address presented at the Lincy E-health Summit, Brookings Institute West, University of Las Vegas, November.

Derevensky, J. (2012). The impact of childhood maltreatment on youth gambling problems. Invited address presented at the Austrian Lottery Gambling Summit, Vienna, March. ♦

# Upcoming Events

- **Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling's 5th Annual Western Regional Conference on Problem Gambling**  
April 25-28, 2012 - Vancouver, Washington, USA
- **9th Annual Minnesota Problem Gambling Conference**  
April 30-May 1, 2012 - Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA.
- **New York Council on Problem Gambling 2012 Annual Problem Gambling Conference**  
May 9-12, 2012 - Albany, New York, USA
- **9th Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling & Substance Abuse**  
June 6-8, 2012 - Kansas City, Missouri, USA
- **Youth Gambling: From Research to Practice (Webinar) with Dr. Rina Gupta Sponsored by the Iowa Department of Public Health - Office of Problem Gambling Treatment and Prevention**  
Register online at <http://www.trainingresources.org/>  
June 15, 2012 (12:00-1:30 p.m. Central Time) - Online
- **26th National Conference on Problem Gambling**  
July 13-14, 2012 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
- **9th European Conference on Gambling Studies and Policy Issues**  
September 18-22, 2012 - Loutraki, Greece ◆

## Annual Holiday Campaign Planning Underway

Preparations for the 2012 Holiday Campaign are well underway. The annual Holiday Campaign, a collaborative initiative of the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University and the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), highlights the risks of giving lottery tickets and scratch cards as holiday gifts to minors.

Support for the campaign by North American and international lottery corporations has grown incrementally every year since the program inception. In 2011, a record number of lottery corporations participated in the campaign which is also endorsed by NASPL's Responsible Gaming Subcommittee. We look forward to even greater support for the 2012 campaign!

Stayed tuned for more news about the campaign. ◆

## YGI Newsletter

**A Quarterly Publication by the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors**

**Editor:** Lynette Gilbeau

**Layout editor:** Lei Chen

**Design:** Ozalid Graphik

3724, McTavish Street,  
Montréal, Québec,  
Canada H3A 1Y2

Phone: 514-398-1391 ❖ Fax: 514-398-3401

[ygi@youthgambling.com](mailto:ygi@youthgambling.com)

[www.youthgambling.com](http://www.youthgambling.com) ◆