



Sexting behaviours among teens: Dating and romance in the digital age?

By Renee St. Pierre, M.A. – International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors

In recent years, the practice of adolescent and young adult “sexting”, which involves sending sexually explicit or obscene photographs, images or messages to each other using information and communication technologies (e.g., text messages, email, instant messages [IMs], social networking sites), has garnered considerable public attention in the United States and other countries. Indeed, several publicized cases of adolescent

sexting practices have moved this issue to the forefront, and have sparked significant debate between adolescents, parents, educators, and policy makers (Jaishankar, 2009). For example, in 2009, one 15-year-old Pennsylvania high school student faced possible criminal charges for possession and distribution of child pornography after she was discovered with a semi-nude photograph of herself on her mobile telephone (Hamill, 2009). Another case involved an 18-year-old Cincinnati high-school student who committed suicide in 2008 after her ex-boyfriend circulated a nude photo she had sexted to him while they were dating to other students at her school (Hastings, 2009). While these cases are considered sensational examples that do not represent the norm, they nevertheless draw attention to the role of digital devices in the sexual lives of adolescents and young adults, and to the serious implications of youth sexting behaviours.

Sexting and teens: The latest fad in adolescent sexual behaviour?

Over the past decade, adolescent use of information and communication technology has

increased exponentially, with close to two-thirds of adolescents 12 – 17 years of age in the United States reporting having used the Internet on a daily basis, 58% having sent text messages or IMs to friends through social networking websites, and 38% having shared self-created content (e.g., pictures, videos, stories) on the Internet (Lenhart, Purcell, Smith, & Zickuhr, 2010). Adolescent use of information and communication technology, however, has not been limited to the Internet and social networking sites; in 2009, 75% of adolescents 12 – 17 years of age were reported to own a mobile telephone and two-thirds were found to have used text messaging on their mobile devices.

As teen use of technology continues to perpetuate, it is not surprising that an identifiable proportion of adolescents have participated in sexting behaviours. However, estimates of youth sexting behaviour have been found to vary considerably in the small body of extant literature. A study commissioned by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy and *CosmoGirl.com* (2009) found that from their sample of

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653 adolescents (13 – 19 years), one-fifth of them reported having electronically sent/posted online nude or semi-nude photographs or videos of themselves, and 39% of them reported having sent/posted sexually suggestive text messages, IMs, or emails. Conversely, a survey of 800 teens (12 – 17 years) conducted by Lenhart (2009) found slightly lower rates, with only 4% of teens who owned a mobile telephone having exchanged sexually suggestive semi-nude or nude images with others via text message. Further, in a content analysis of 500 publically available MySpace social networking profiles, Moreno, Parks, Zimmerman, Brito, and Christakis (2009) found that close to one-fourth of 18-year olds had displayed sexually suggestive material on their profiles, with 3.6% of the profiles containing self-disclosures of sexual activity. While discrepancies in prevalence estimates of adolescents sexting behaviour can be attributed to sampling, operationalization, and methodological differences, the results nevertheless suggest that sexting is a growing trend among youth, with one-twentieth to one-fourth of teens having participated in this type of sexual behaviour at one time in their lives.

Some of the principle reasons that adolescents report participating in sexting behaviours include: 1) initiation of sexual activity between romantic partners (i.e., boyfriend or girlfriend); 2) sexual experimentation prior to engaging in actual sexual intercourse; and 3) enhancement of current sexual relationships

(Lenhart, 2009). However, research also indicates that a sizeable proportion of teens (50% of females and 20% of males) feel pressure from actual or potential romantic partners to engage in sexting (National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, 2009), which can have important repercussions in healthy adolescent identity development.

Harms and implications of adolescent sexting behaviour

While the act of adolescents taking sexually explicit pictures of themselves is not a new phenomenon, the ease with which teens can share sexual content with their peers is of particular concern for parents, educators, mental health professionals, and legislator alike. For one, sexual content can potentially be transmitted to or shared with others without the knowledge or consent of the original creator of the message (a phenomenon termed “cyberbullying”), and this can result in minor psychological distress to more severe psychosocial and emotional problems for the victims. Research suggests that in response to their victimization experiences, teens can experience feelings of humiliation or embarrassment from discovery by unintended recipients, lowered self-esteem, as well as symptoms of depression, social anxiety, and suicidality (Tokunaga, 2010). Also, given that the majority of online activity leaves a “digital footprint” and that posted material is frequently difficult to remove, the sharing of inappropriate or obscene message, pictures or videos electronically can put adoles-

cents’ reputations, current and future relationships, prospective employment opportunities and post-secondary school admission in jeopardy (Brown, Keller, & Stern, 2009; O’Keeffe, Clarke-Pearson, & Council on Communications and Media, 2011).

A further concern about adolescents’ posting or sending sexual content to peers is the possibility of police arrest and criminal prosecution. In a number of U.S. and other international jurisdictions, dissemination of nude or semi-nude photos involving minors is an act considered to meet their legal definition of child pornography, and prosecutors have occasionally taken advantage of existing child pornography legislation to enforce strict penalties for youth sexting (Jaishankar, 2009). The implications for potential conviction of sexting activities under jurisdictional child pornography laws are very serious, including jail time, permanent criminal records, and sex-offender registration for a minimum of 10 years (Manzo, 2009). For example, in a widely publicized case, an 18-year-old Florida adolescent, Phillip Alpert, plead guilty to state child pornography charges after transmitting nude photographs, sent by his girlfriend when the two were romantically involved, to nearly 100 of the girl’s friends and relatives. Alpert’s felony conviction for child pornography, however, carried serious consequences for the adolescent. Firstly, he was placed on probation for five years and is required to remain on the sex offender registry list for a

period of 25 years. Moreover, Alpert's sex offender status has prevented him from being able to attend college, to live with his father because of the proximity of his father's residence to a school, and to find prospective employment (Richards & Calvert, 2009).

How is the issue of adolescent sexting being addressed?

The serious implications for this type of adolescent behaviour have sparked increased public interest in devising policies and programs to tackle the issue. Several scholars, educators, and law enforcement officials have advocated using education, parental and school disciplinary procedures, and mobile telephone control policies in the prevention of sexting behaviour among youth (Jolicoeur & Zedlewski, 2010). In the United States, a growing number of educational institutions are incorporating proactive texting and sexting policies into their student handbooks, instructing students on prospective disciplinary actions (e.g., suspension, expulsion) for sending or receiving disruptive or obscene content electronically (Manzor, 2009). Additionally, in other jurisdictions such as Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom, governments are giving greater attention to the establishment and distribution of educational programs that inform adolescents about the potential harms and consequences of sexting, and teach them responsible use of social networking and other digital media (Jolicoeur & Zedlewski, 2010). Further, a small number of state legislatures have introduced bills to decriminalize or reduce penalties for sexting be-

tween sexually involved minors, particularly since minors are not legally prohibited from actual sexual behaviour with each other and child pornography laws were drafted for adult offenders who acquire or distribute photos of children with the intent to exploit them (Ferguson, 2011; Manzor, 2009). Nevertheless, research on adolescent sexting behaviours and policy development for adolescent sexting prevention is still in its infancy, and future work on this issue is therefore needed.

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Recent Developments in US Internet Gambling Legislation

By Keith Whyte, Executive Director, National Council on Problem Gambling in Washington, DC

For the 10th year in a row, legislation to legalize Internet gambling has been introduced in the US Congress. The two main bills, HR 1174 and HR 2366, have significant differences in the type and regulation of permitted Internet gambling. However, both bills contain some basic responsible gaming/problem gambling provisions (though crucially, the actual regulations will be left to the oversight authority to write). In general, licensees would be required to provide information on odds and problem gambling. Self-exclusion programs are also mandatory, but it is unclear if they would be internet-site specific or linked with existing terrestrial programs.

However, unfortunately neither bill contains any dedicated funding for problem gambling prevention, education, treatment, enforcement or research. It seems inconceivable that Internet gambling would be legalized without dedicating a portion of this new revenue to reduce the social costs of gambling addiction. Indeed, part of the reason funding is not included has to do with complicated jurisdictional divides between the Congressional committees responsible for oversight and those responsible for tax policy. But another reason is the lack of leadership on responsible gaming issues from Internet gaming proponents. I believe it is both poor policy and politics.

Research shows gamblers who spend significant amounts of time and money online, while relatively rare, are more likely to meet problem gambling criteria. While the cause and effect is more difficult to untangle, it is clear that some who play online have serious problems. These problems can only be effectively addressed by a combination of responsible gaming regulations and health and prevention services.

Yet proponents seem not to realize that most states do not have comprehensive problem gambling programs, and some states still fail to have appropriate services. The current patchwork system is drastically underfunded and clearly unable to meet current needs, let alone any increases in the rate or se-

verity of gambling problems that could accompany legalization of Internet gambling. This is a major social policy issue as it is impossible for government to maximize the economic benefits from gambling without minimizing the known social costs. The current bills fail to offer significant measures to address this issue.

If the goal of Internet gambling supporters is to get Congress to pass a bill, they have to consider the long-term political ramifications. A vote to legalize Internet gambling is much riskier without the political cover of funding robust prevention and treatment programs. Polls show more than 75% of Americans believe when government legalizes gambling they have an obligation to use a portion of proceeds to prevent problems. Internet gambling proponents have nothing to lose by pushing for aggressive, world-class problem gambling funding, even if it comes from their pockets. The \$50 million minimum set by NCPG seems a small price to pay for access to a market estimated to bring in \$4-40 billion.

Overall, I believe our message is being heard, at least by legislators. At the November 18th hearing, Rep. Butterfield, the highest ranking Democrat on the subcommittee, said:

“That is why it is so important to address potential consumer consequences in any legislation we consider. With estimated revenues in the billions we must set aside a portion of that to reduce the social cost of problem gambling. In our previous hearing on this topic, I was particularly struck by Mr. Keith Whyte’s testimony. Mr. Whyte indicated that 6 to 8 million adults and one half million teens meet the criteria for gambling addiction, with ethnic minorities more likely to become addicted. He also estimated that the annual social costs of gambling-related addition at 7 billion dollars, resulting from increases in crime, divorce, bankruptcy and other things.

An ounce of protection is worth a pound of cure and any legislation must include, must include, sufficient funds to carry out education, treatment and research services related to problem gambling.”

At the same hearing, Rep. Frank, lead sponsor of one Internet gambling bill, provided a written statement that included the following text:

“But I do believe that we should ensure that self-exclusion protocols, gambling limits, and other anti-compulsive measures are required—which can be done even more effectively online than in the brick and mortar world. Moreover, I am a co-sponsor of HR 2334, Congressman Wolf and Moran’s bill to establish and implement programs for the prevention, treatment and research of pathological and other prob-

lem gambling. I have been a cosponsor of this legislation for several Congresses—including its predecessor bill proposed by my former Massachusetts colleague Marty Meehan. I also believe that this legislation should be made a part of any eventual package, and that its work should be funded out of a part of the revenue stream that is garnered from the tax provisions.”

The prospects for Internet gambling legalization bills are murky, especially in a Presidential election year. While a serious plan to fund problem gambling programs might not be enough to win a close vote, it can’t hurt.

Keith Whyte is Executive Director of the National Council on Problem Gambling in Washington, DC. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily represent the view of the NCPG Board of Directors. ♦

NEWS BRIEFS

Pennsylvania Lawmakers Approve Bills

Lawmakers in Pennsylvania have approved two bills (H.B. 120 and H.B. 121) that would make it a misdemeanor to leave children unattended in vehicles while parents or guardians gamble. The bills were approved December 5, 2011 by the House of Representatives and now will go to the Senate. These bills are in response to numerous incidents involving children being left unattended in vehicles while parents or guardians gambled for long periods without checking on their children.

Under these bills, it would be prohibited to leave any child under the age of 14 unattended in a vehicle on property owned, leased or controlled by a licensed gambling organization. Gambling organizations failing to report such violations would be subject to fines up to \$300,000.

Casinos Fined for Underage Gambling

Over the last six months, a number of casinos along the East coast from Atlantic City to Pennsylvania have been fined for lack of enforcement of underage gambling regulations. In Atlantic City in August a 14 year old was intercepted by Division of Gaming Enforcement investigators while playing the slots at the Tropicana Casino and Resort. In Pennsylvania, the Rivers Casino was fined \$150,000 for more than a dozen incidents of underage gambling and improperly connected slots. The Hollywood Casino in East Hanover Township was fined \$40,000 for the discovery of a 20 year old playing table games and slots. “Our most important responsibility is to protect the public by ensuring that casinos are adhering to the law and regulations,” said Gaming Control Board Chairman Greg Fajt. To help stem the tide of underage gambling

at the Hollywood Casino, the casino has launched an incentive program for security staff. For every 100 days the casino goes without any underage players, each security staff member gets \$100.

Nun Gets Three Years and Community Service

A Catholic nun, Sister Marie Thornton (known as Sister Susie), who lost \$1 million playing slot machines was sentenced to three years of probation and 2000 hours of community service. Sister Thornton, while serving as Vice President of Finance at Iona College in New York State, embezzled the money to fuel her gambling addiction. The gambling and ensuing embezzlement occurred over a ten year period from 1999-2009. The situation only came to light when federal authorities investigated \$1 million missing in the school’s tax filing. ♦

Into the Muck

- How Poker Changed My Life, by Joe Turbessi

Paperback: 194 pages

Publisher: Joe Turbessi (2010)

Reviewed by Lynette Gilbeau, B.Ed., International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors

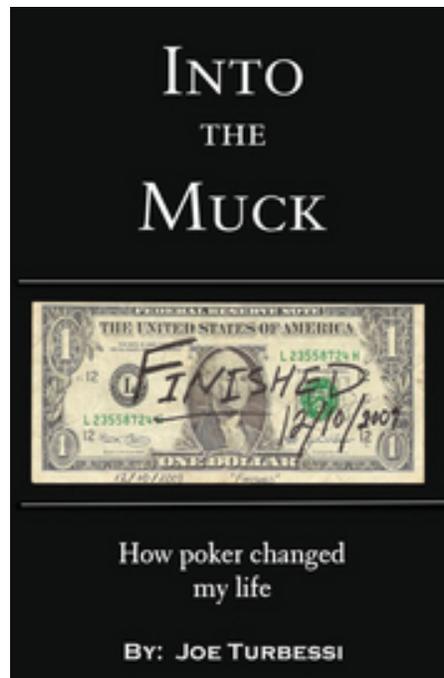
Into the Muck is the autobiographical account of the descent of a young man, Joe Turbessi, into the depths of a gambling addiction. The term "Into the Muck" refers to the pile of discarded cards into which poker players throw their folded hands and is a metaphoric parallel for his gambling addiction and its effect on his life—a life thrown away or gone awry in the quest to strike it rich playing cards. Turbessi admits to being lured by the lifestyle – the unstructured time, late nights, the notoriety, and the dreams of riches that being a poker star promised.

Turbessi, an aspiring author and screenplay writer, is the son of hard working middle class parents. In his early childhood, his grandfather, a man with whom Turbessi shared a very special and much valued relationship, taught him to play poker for nickels and dimes. During Turbessi's early college days, he played in poker tournaments, engaged in increasing amounts of online poker and began travelling more and more frequently to nearby casinos spending long hours at the poker tables. His life revolved around the ritu-

als associated with his gambling. Working as a waiter to acquire gambling funds, fast food junkets, online poker playing followed by late night and sometimes harrowing drives to a casino and a bleary-eyed return back home often after being awake for more than twenty-four hours. He developed friendships with gambling associates and became consumed with the rush and excitement of the lifestyle and the promise of the play. He frequently believed he was a smarter and better player than the others and he would one day achieve "the big win."

Turbessi effectively describes the downward spiral of his twenty-something years while weaving in important and interesting personal details about his early life and relationships with his grandfather and immediate family. The descriptions of his motivation and need to gamble are particularly poignant and powerful. One does truly get the sense of his mounting loss of control and the ensuing desperation in chasing his losses.

Into the Muck is a fast and enjoyable read providing good food for thought for those that think they can become the next big poker phenomenon. Through Turbessi's honest accounts, the dark side of gambling is exposed and the reality of what can happen when gambling takes over one's life is clearly depicted. His story provides a stark contrast to the enticing, glitzy, glamorous and fast-paced lifestyle associated with the world of gambling. As he says, anyone can gamble but the negative consequences associated with excessive gambling need to be made clearer to both parents and children. For more information about the book visit www.intothemuck.com. ♦



Centre Projects

New Collaborative Research Team

The Centre is pleased to announce the development of a new collaborative research team comprised of Dr. Michael Wohl of Carleton University and the Centre's Drs. Rina Gupta and Jeffrey Derevensky. The purpose of this inter-provincial collaboration is to bring together two areas of expertise in the development of much needed gambling prevention materials for youth. Dr. Wohl's work in the promotion of responsible gambling (e.g., pop-up messages and education-based animation) is fundamental to the team's objectives. Drs. Derevensky and Gupta bring significant expertise on prevention of gambling issues in youth. Together, this team aims to establish prevention goals and objectives pertinent to youth, and, as a first step, develop a detailed research and dissemination plan

to assess online gambling among youth. The team's overarching research program is the development of harm minimization strategies through the promotion of responsible gambling practices among young people.

Team Grant Awards

This emerging team was recently awarded the following OPGRC grants:

- National and International Engagement Grant to prioritize a program of research addressing online gambling.
- Research Seed Grant to conduct focus groups of college-age students looking at the role of social media platforms and their role in gambling initiation and maintenance. This seed grant will help articulate further areas in need of exploration and we anticipate submitting to OPGRC for a Stan-

dard Award in Year 1. The goal is to eventually develop a state of the art empirically driven prevention tool for college students.

Literature Review

The Centre has been awarded funding by Mise Sur Toi to perform an extensive literature review concerning current and previously implemented initiatives for addictive behaviors aimed at college aged students. This is the initial phase of a larger prevention project addressing this population.

Bureau of Drug and Alcohol of Pennsylvania (BDAP)

The centre is collaborating in a multi-year project with the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol of Pennsylvania (BDAP) to provide youth gambling prevention materials and evaluation measures to organizations within the state of Pennsylvania. ◆

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

Risk within reason: New web resource links teen risky behaviours with technology

The world is a risky place – it's one of the first lessons parents learn. Even from the earliest days, parents are bombarded with information about the potential risks associated with everything from bottle-feeding to the chemicals found in plastic toys for kids.

As children grow up, the potential risks increase exponentially. Kids may be tempted to smoke cigarettes, do drugs, gamble online or have unprotected sex. They may also be a victim of cyberbullying or be exposed to influences online that offer information and triggers for dysfunctional coping behaviours like bulimia or cutting. With every stage in their development, kids will have to make decisions about whether or not to engage in risky behaviour.

Former Youth Gambling Centre researcher Alissa Sklar, Ph.D. saw a need to help parents, educators and mental health professionals make sense of the constantly changing stream of information about risky behaviours. Her website, www.risk-within-reason.com features a regularly updated blog about how to guide kids through childhood and adolescence and links to workshops for parents, teachers and students.

RiskWithinReason addresses the powerful convergence of risky activities and information technologies like the Internet

and cellphone use. The combination serves to exacerbate and intensify the problems. No party goes by without pictures posted online of kids drinking too much, passing out or using drugs. This information serves as both a powerful information tool about teen culture and a means of expression. Neither parents nor teachers are equipped to handle this – there's no real best practices to draw from.

Sklar maintains that a certain amount of risk is normal. Without it, we would never have put a man on the moon or attempted heart transplant surgery. Ba-

bies take risks when they learn to walk, teens as they take on increasing levels of independence. As she wrote in her first post, "We need to take chances to learn about the world and about ourselves." The challenge is to do so thoughtfully, picking and choosing the kinds of risk, assessing the degree of danger and possible consequences.

Sklar tackles a wide range of topics, with a focus on risks common in the preteen and teen years. Besides looking at activities many parents worry about (alcohol, drugs, sex), Sklar talks about issues related to social media sites, online gam-

riskwithinreason

Helping parents, educators and teens make sense of technology and high-risk behaviours

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[← Synthetic drugs and kids – what parents need to know](#)

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Teaching control to build resilience (OR what we've learned from marshmallows)

Posted on November 14, 2011 | [Leave a comment](#)

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If you placed a marshmallow on a plate and put it in front of your child, with the promise that they will get a second marshmallow if they can wait 15 minutes before eating it, what do you think they would do? Turns out their response to this challenge may well be able to predict their future SAT scores, likelihood of finishing a university degree and even how competent they will be as adults.

A late 1960s study at Stanford by Walter Mischel used this exact scenario to see how well 4-6-year-olds were able to delay gratification. Footage taken of the children when the researcher left the room offers a poignant window into the complex mind of children: about a third of the kids ate the marshmallow right

RISK(WITHIN)REASON – ALISSA SKLAR, PH.D.

BRING RISK(WITHIN)REASON TO YOUR SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION!

Click the [workshop](#) tab to see descriptions of the informative, entertaining and practical seminars for parents, educators and teens.

Email info@risk-within-reason.com for more information.

"What a crucial conversation, and what a talented speaker! Dr. Alissa Sklar's presentation to Akiva School's parent body was full of clear, relevant, down-to-earth facts presented in a highly engaging manner. No jargon, no scare tactics – just solid information and excellent advice. A no-risk program for parents."
-Frances (Cooki) Levy, Head of The Akiva School ("The Power of Positive Parenting: Preventing Risky Behaviors for All Ages")

"Alissa is the consummate professional and speaks with great authority. We hope she will be one of our future speakers at many future workshops."
Kelly Wilton, editor and co-publisher of Montreal Families Magazine

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bling and texting. The blog will help adults gain the knowledge they need to facilitate how teens use these technologies.

As an online resource about technology and risk issues, the RiskWithinReason blog entries are relevant, interesting, accessibly written and often humorous and entertaining, with links to full research reports and additional materials for those who wish to learn more. In addition to regular postings about different issues, readers will also find links to related articles presented along with brief commentaries about what makes them interesting or relevant.

In her popular, highly engaging workshops for parents, teachers and students, Sklar blends

information with detailed practical tips and strategies. For example, parents get suggestions on the basic rules for allowing a tween/ teen to get their first social media account: parents must have passwords, new friends outside of their grade must be approved, and kids need to regularly review their “home feeds” with mom or dad. In her teacher workshops, Sklar offers turnkey lesson plans designed to integrate key elements of digital citizenship into other areas of the curriculum.

Sklar draws on her personal and professional experiences. In addition to being a mother of three tween girls, she has a Ph.D. in communication and cultural studies and has taught

and done research on youth, media and adolescent high-risk issues. She is also an award-winning writer on parenting issues.

“We hear new stories every day about the ways kids are communicating online,” explains Sklar, “and parents and teachers are not always equipped to deal with this. Sometimes we just haven’t come up with rules yet to address the things teens are doing. RiskWithinReason is all about charting the information that’s out there and offering specific strategies for helping our children navigate an increasingly complex world.”

For more information, visit www.risk-within-reason.com. ♦

Upcoming Events

- **4th International Gambling Conference, Auckland**
February 22-24, 2012 - Auckland, New Zealand
- **Responsible Gambling Council’s 2012 Discovery Conference**
April 2-4, 2012 - Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- **International Gambling Studies (IGS) Peer Review Workshop**
April 11, 2012 - Banff, Alberta, Canada
- **Canadian Consortium for Gambling Research (CCGR): Gambling and Problem Gambling Research with Indigenous Populations Pre-Conference Workshop**
April 12, 2012 - Banff, Alberta, Canada
- **Alberta Gaming Research Institute’s 11th Annual Conference**
April 12-14, 2012 - Banff, Alberta, Canada
- **Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling’s 5th Annual Western Regional Conference on Problem Gambling**
April 25 - 28, 2012 - Vancouver, Washington, USA
- **9th Annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling & Substance Abuse**
June 6 - 8, 2012 - Kansas City, Missouri, USA
- **Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling’s 26th National Conference**
July 13 - 14, 2012 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
- **9th European Conference on Gambling Studies and Policy Issues - From Fantasies and Feelings to Facts in the Future**
18 - 21 September 2012 - Club Hotel Loutraki, Loutraki, Greece ♦

Recent publications and presentations

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Faregh, N., & Derevensky, J. (2011). Gambling behavior among adolescents with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity disorder. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 27, 243-256.

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Temcheff, C., Derevensky, J., & Paskus, T. (2011). Pathological and disordered gambling: A comparison of the DSM-IV and DSM-V criteria. *International Gambling Studies*, 11, 213-220.

Temcheff, C., St-Pierre, R., & Derevensky, J. (2011). Youth gambling and delinquency: Legislative and social policy implications. *Gambling Law Review and Economics*, 15, (9), 539-552.

PRESENTATIONS

Derevensky, J., Felsher, J., & Gupta, R. (2011). The impact of childhood maltreatment on youth gambling problems. Paper presented at the Nova Scotia Responsible Gambling conference, Halifax, October.

Gupta, R. & Derevensky, J. (2011). Toward a definition and assessment of binge gambling. Paper presented at the Nova Scotia Responsible Gambling conference, Halifax, October

BOOKS

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

Derevensky, J., Shek, D., & Merrick, J. (Eds.) (2011). *Youth gambling problems: The hidden addiction*. Berlin: De Gruyter.

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Holiday Campaign 2011

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's inception. Again this year, we are delighted to announce that a record number of lottery corporations have participated in the 2011 campaign which is also endorsed by NASPL's Responsible Gaming Subcommittee. The final list of participant lottery corporations for the 2011 campaign is : AB Svenska Spel (Sweden), Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, Arizona Lottery, Arkansas Scholarship Lottery, Atlantic Lottery, Austrian Lotteries, British Columbia Lottery Corporation, California Lottery, Colorado Lottery, Connecticut Lottery Corporation, DC Lottery, Hoosier (Indiana) Lottery, Jogos Santa Casa (Portugal), Kentucky Lottery Corporation, Loto-Québec, LOTTO Saxony-Anhalt (Germany), Manitoba Lotteries, Maryland Lottery, Minnesota State Lottery, Missouri Lottery, North Carolina Education Lottery, Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation, Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation, Oregon Lottery, Rhode Island Lottery, Saskatchewan Lotteries, South Dakota Lottery, Texas Lottery, Virginia Lottery and West Virginia Lottery.

The campaign momentum is growing annually. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the lottery corporations who have collaborated with us this year and look forward to even greater support for next year's initiative! ♦

LOTTERIES ARE NOT CHILD'S PLAY

The International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University and the National Council on Problem Gambling are partnering with lotteries across North America and around the world in an annual publicity campaign encouraging parents not to give lottery products to children and teens for the holidays

www.ncpgambling.org/holiday

The following lottery corporations have joined the 2011 campaign which is sponsored by the Minnesota State Lottery and endorsed by NASPL's Responsible Gaming Subcommittee

Participants include: AB Svenska Spel (Sweden) • Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission • Arizona Lottery • Arkansas Scholarship Lottery • Atlantic Lottery • Austrian Lotteries • British Columbia Lottery Corporation • California Lottery • Colorado Lottery • Connecticut Lottery Corporation • Hoosier (Indiana) Lottery • Jogos Santa Casa (Portugal) • Kentucky Lottery Corporation • Loto-Québec • LOTTO Saxony-Anhalt (Germany) • Manitoba Lotteries • Maryland Lottery • Minnesota State Lottery • Missouri Lottery • North Carolina Education Lottery • Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation • Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation • Oregon Lottery • Rhode Island Lottery • Saskatchewan Lotteries • South Dakota Lottery • Texas Lottery • Virginia Lottery • West Virginia Lottery

Give Responsibly this Holiday Season

DON'T PURCHASE Lottery Tickets AS GIFTS FOR UNDERAGE CHILDREN

Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays



Our entire team wishes
you all a very happy
holiday season and all
the best in 2012!



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