

# Correlates and problem gambling

The Canadian Problem Gambling Index provides information about issues co-related to at-risk and problem gambling behaviour. Correlates help us to build a profile that may assist in better identifying those at risk of developing gambling problems.

## Faulty cognition

Cognitive deficiencies may play a role in the development of some gambling problems. The *Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2001* found that many in the problem gambling group (33%) believe they will win after losing many times in a row. Many also believe they can use a system or strategy to win (44%).

## Remembering an early win or early loss

There is increasing recall across gambling groups of early wins and losses. The recall of an early win or loss is more predominant in the problem gambling group, with the majority of the group recalling an early win (71%). Fifty-eight percent recall an early loss when gambling.

## Family history of alcohol, drug and gambling problems

Family history is an important environmental factor in considering the risk of developing problems with gambling. There is a significant number of people in the problem gambling group (55%) who identify an immediate family member with alcohol or illegal drug problems. In addition, 44% identify a family member with gambling problems, compared to 9% of the non-problem gambling group.

## Using alcohol or drugs while gambling

The *Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2001* shows that over 50% of the moderate risk gambling and problem gambling groups gamble under the influence of alcohol. Of concern is that 20% of the moderate risk group and 26% of the problem gambling group feel they have a problem with alcohol.

## Urge to drink, use drugs or gamble

In all cases, it is the problem gambling group which most strongly identifies the urge to drink, use drugs or gamble in response to a painful event in their lives.

All risk groups identified more strongly the urge to drink alcohol: 35% of the low risk group, 41% of the moderate risk group and 47% of the problem gambling group identified the urge to drink alcohol in response to a painful event, compared to 21% of the non-problem gambling group.

The urge to gamble, however, was markedly different in the problem gambling group compared to other groups. Forty percent of the problem gambling group identified the urge to gamble in the event of something painful happening; in comparison, none of the non-problem gambling group identified the urge to gamble in similar circumstances.

## Stress and depression

Twenty-nine percent of the problem gambling group in the *Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2001* indicated that they have been under a doctor's care for stress. This compares to 10% of the non-problem gambling group. Fifty-one percent of the problem gambling group report feeling seriously depressed, compared to 11% of the non-problem gambling group.

Source:

Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2001

