



'Pathways' & factors in early gambling

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Gordon Moody Association – 17th January 2017

University of Lincoln / UEL

Overview

- A brief introduction to pathways and influences
- Key factors identified in the Gordon Moody data
- Treatment outcomes and pathway theory
- Summary and conclusions

'Pathways'

Routes to
Problem Gambling



Pathways model

(Blaszczynski & Nower, 2002)

Theoretical model for 3 distinct types of influence affecting the development of problematic gambling:

1. Behaviorally conditioned PG: early exposure to gambling, gambling in families
2. Emotionally vulnerable PG: affective/mood problems leading to self-soothing or distracting behaviours
3. Antisocial/impulsive PG: underlying (biological) predisposition to risk taking and poor impulse control

Applying pathways to GMA data

At the outset of the GMA work we were interested in applying this theoretical framework to the data set, for several important reasons

- To allow a better understanding of the routes into gambling, particularly earlier in life
- Further evaluate the utility of this model/theory
- Explore whether different pathways might influence practice and treatment outcomes

The dataset

- 28 questions, mapping on to the pathways model, were extracted from the measures used in GMA assessment
- Responses were explored using multinomial and stepwise logistic regression analyses

Learned behaviour

- Exposure to gambling in others

Mental health

- Low mood , toxic environments

Antisocial/Impulsive

- Risky and possibly criminal behaviour

Findings



9 significant factors

- (1) experience of violence during childhood
- (2) recollection of close family members gambling heavily during childhood
- (3) recollection of close family members drinking heavily during childhood
- (4) parental divorce or separation
- (5) committing a crime that was not reported to the police
- (6) whether type of gambling mattered
- (7) abuse of solvents
- (8) propensity toward verbal aggression
- (9) violent outbursts damaged their main relationship

Factors & Pathways

Learned behaviour

- (2) Family members gambled heavily

Mental health/Affect

- (1) Violence in childhood
- (3) Family drinking
- (4) Parents divorce

Antisocial/Impulsive

- (5) Unreported crime
- (6) Gambling type didn't matter
- (7) Solvent abuse
- (8) Verbally aggressive
- (9) Violent outbursts

Statistical analyses

	Age 13-15 (N=204)		Age < 13 (N=185)	
	% (n)	OR (CI)	% (n)	OR (CI)
Violence during childhood	26(204)	-	24(185)	.5*(.33-.77)
Close family members gambling heavily during childhood	27(178)	.52**(.36-.77)	25(169)	.53*(.36-.78)
Close family members drinking heavily during childhood	27(178)	-	25(167)	.63*(.43-.92)
Parental divorce/separation	27(178)	-	25(169)	.4**(.32-.7)
Committing a crime that was not reported to the police	27(202)	.57*(.4-.81)	24(182)	.6*(.41-.86)
Whether type of gambling mattered	27(178)	2***(1.37-2.91)	25(168)	1.85*(1.25-2.69)
Abuse of solvents	26(194)	-	24(173)	.56*(.37-.85)
Propensity toward verbal aggression	26(188)	.65*(.45-.95)	23(165)	.6*(.41-.89)
Whether violent outbursts damaged their main relationship	27(178)	.62*(.38-1)	25(167)	.4**(.25-.64)

Relationships with age

started gambling before age 13

Were more likely to have...

MENTAL HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT LINKED

- Witnessed violence in childhood
- Known a family member who drank heavily in childhood
- Experienced parental divorce/separation

○ Abused solvents

ANTISOCIAL/IMPULSIVE

All comparisons to age 16+ group significant at $p < 0.05$ or smaller

Relationships with age

started gambling aged 13-15

Were more likely to have...

LEARNED

- Family member who gambled heavily

- Indicated gambling type did not matter

- Committed an unreported crime

- Been verbally aggressive

- Had violent outbursts

ANTISOCIAL/IMPULSIVE

All comparisons to age 16+ group significant at $p < 0.05$ or smaller

Pathways & treatment outcomes

- Pathway theory and practice suggests treatment is more difficult for some gamblers (esp. impulsive types; Allami & Vitaro, 2015)
- However, GMA data showed no differences in treatment outcome when looking at the identified significant factors (see earlier)
- Possibly due to the highly individualised nature of the GMA approach

Summary

- A significant number of gamblers in the GMA treatment programme started their gambling careers as children and adolescents
- Pathway model factors were strongly associated with early gambling (esp. antisocial/impulsive)
- Gamblers who started gambling before age 13 were less likely to have had positive family environments
- Many of these factors cannot easily be separated away from one another

Thank you to GMA



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