



Gambling, Substance Use and Mental Health Status among Regular Ecstasy Users and Injecting Drug Users

National Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) 2009

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Overview

- ❖ Why examine gambling patterns, substance use and mental health?
- ❖ Gamblers compared to non-gamblers
- ❖ Demographic characteristics
- ❖ Gambling Patterns
- ❖ Recent drug use patterns
- ❖ Mental Health
- ❖ Criminal Behaviour
- ❖ Discussion



Key Expert Comment

If they use a lot of speed then they tend to develop poker habits – they spend a lot of money at the pokies. Pokies and methamphetamine use go together way too well. It may be the flashing lights, pressing buttons, or because it's open late at night. You don't have to talk to anyone else, you're off your face. It may be a brain thing – satisfaction/ the barriers come down – it becomes a compulsive type of behaviour

Demographic Characteristics

	IDRS (N=769)		EDRS (N=649)	
	Gamblers	Non-gamblers	Gamblers	Non-gamblers
Mean age (range)	37.44 (19-61)	36.89 (18-63)	24.31 (16-54)	23.74 (16-47)
Males (%)	72	62	73	59
Identify as ATSI (%)	11	10	4	2
Heterosexual (%)	87	89	88	83
Median school completed (range)	10 (6-12)	10 (3-13)	12 (8-12)	12 (7-12)
Employed full time (%)	5	4	31	28
Unemployed (%)	82	79	16	20
Drug treatment (%)	45	58	2	3

Participants Gambling Patterns



	IDRS (N=769)	EDRS (N=649)
Gambled in last 30 days (%)	32	32
Usual Form of gambling (%):		
Poker Machines	75	54
Horse/dog racing	20	21
Casino	11	31
Other	14	29
Last form of gambling (%):		
Poker Machines	69	47
Horse/dog racing	13	11
Casino	6	20
Other	11	22
Median days gambled in last month (range)	3 (1-30)	2 (1-30)
Last time gambled (%):		
Under influence of alcohol	30	52
Continued to drink alcohol	86	87
Under the influence of illicit drugs	74	20
Mean amount spent (\$) (range)	\$158.78 (\$1 - \$6,000)	\$81,21 (10c - \$3,400)

Percentage of Gamblers by location



Location (%)	IDRS (N=769)	EDRS (N=649)
NSW	36	43
QLD	39	39
SA	41	34
NT	30	40
VIC	33	28
ACT	34	17
WA	9	24

* NT 76% SA 74% ACT 71% NSW 70% QLD 52%
VIC 25% WA 4%

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Poker Machine Use by location



Location (%)	IDRS (N=185)	EDRS (N=111)
NSW	83	70
SA	81	74
NT	70	76
ACT	68	71
QLD	77	52
VIC	79	25
WA	11	4

Levels of Gambling as Assessed by PGSI



	IDRS* (N=105)	EDRS (N=54)
Recreational	14	24
Low risk	11	20
Moderate Risk	28	30
Problematic	48	26

* Among those who had gambled 4 or more times in last month

Recent Drug Use Patterns

(% of users)	IDRS (N=769)		EDRS (N=649)	
	Gamblers	Non-gamblers	Gamblers	Non-gamblers
Tobacco	95	91	83	80
Alcohol	70	61	97	97
Cannabis	75	75	82	83
Methamphetamine	74	62	51	51
<i>Powder</i>	53	44	50	43
<i>Base</i>	29	22	17	15
<i>Crystal</i>	47	35	18	16
Heroin	70	71	8	15
Ecstasy	28	17	100	100
Cocaine	27	22	48	37
LSD	8	7	24	39



Ecstasy Use Patterns

	EDRS (N=649)	
	Gamblers	Non-gamblers
Median # days used ecstasy pills recently[^] (range)	15 (1-72)	12 (1-90)
Median # days used 'any' ecstasy recently (range)*	15 (4-72)	13 (3-90)
Used ecstasy weekly (%)	35	30
Used other drugs with ecstasy (%)	81	79
Used other drugs at comedown (%)	62	57
Binged for 48 hrs without sleep recently (%)	39	36
Median # times binged recently (range)	3 (1-36)	3 (1-48)

[^] Recently refers to in the six months prior to interview


* Includes pills, powder and capsule forms of ecstasy

Frequency of Recent Drug Use

Median # of days (range)	IDRS (N=769)		EDRS (N=649)	
	Gamblers	Non-gamblers	Gamblers	Non-gamblers
Heroin	72 (1-180)	72 (1-180)	8 (4-24)	24 (1-180)
Ecstasy	3 (1-100)	3 (1-100)	15 (1-72)	12 (1-90)
Methamphetamine	32 (1-180)	15 (1-180)	5 (1-180)	4 (1-180)
<i>Powder</i>	20 (1-180)	12 (1-180)	4 (1-180)	3 (1-180)
<i>Base</i>	12 (1-180)	10 (1-180)	3 (1-100)	2 (1-180)
<i>Crystal</i>	10 (1-180)	6 (1-180)	5 (1-48)	4 (1-180)
Cocaine	6 (1-180)	5 (1-180)	3 (1-180)	2 (1-40)
LSD	2 (1-7)	1 (1-48)	5 (1-180)	4 (1-48)
Cannabis	96 (1-180)	180 (1-180)	36 (1-180)	40 (1-180)
<i>Daily use (%)</i>	44	52	19	24
Alcohol	48	24	50 (1-180)	48 (1-180)
<i>Daily use (%)</i>	23	16	11	5

* Of those that had ever used

Psychological Distress Levels



(%)	IDRS (N=769)		EDRS (N=649)	
	Gamblers	Non- gamblers	Gamblers	Non- gamblers
Low	3	8	38	38
Moderate	19	27	38	36
High	27	27	18	18
Very high	51	38	5	8

Self-Reported Mental Health

(%)	IDRS (N=769)		EDRS (N=649)	
	Gamblers	Non-gamblers	Gamblers	Non-gamblers
Self-reported mental health issues* (%)	44	47	23	31
Depression (overall %)	31	31	16	20
<i>Of those with MH issue</i>	70	72	68	65
Anxiety (overall %)	16	18	8	14
<i>Of those with MH issue</i>	35	40	36	46
Attended a professional	63	75	53	46

Criminal Behaviour

(%)	IDRS (N=769)		EDRS (N=649)	
	Gamblers	Non-gamblers	Gamblers	Non-gamblers
Arrested in last 12-months	40	31	14	14
In last month:				
<i>Property crime</i>	27	20	16	17
<i>Dealing for cash profit</i>	41	23	34	29
<i>Fraud</i>	7	3	2	3
<i>Violent crime</i>	7	5	8	3
<i>Any crime</i>	53	38	43	41
Ever in prison	55	53	7	6



Thoughts

- > Need to further analyse the data
- > IDRS gamblers
- > More research required
- > Encourage screening for gambling
- > Develop short screening tool

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THE END or is it just the
beginning!!!