



Association Between Employment and Gambling Disorder

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BACKGROUND

- Relatively little research has been conducted to examine the relationship between employment and gambling behavior.
- Problem gambling is estimated to cost the U.S. economy \$5 billion per year in direct costs from job loss and unemployment benefits.¹
- There are significant additional indirect costs related to increased absenteeism, reduced productivity, employee theft and fraud, errors in judgment, among others.²

OBJECTIVE

- To examine the relationship between employment status and gambling behavior.

METHODS

- Participants (n=1090) were enrolled in the PEGASUS (Prevention and Etiology of Gambling and Substance Use in the US) study, an ongoing longitudinal study of gambling behavior in Maryland.
- Demographic information was collected via self-administered questionnaire.
- Gambling behavior was assessed using the Alcohol Use Disorder and Associated Disabilities Interview Schedule (AUDADIS-IV)
- Participants who identified as transgender were not included in the final analysis (n =2) and listwise deletion was used to correct for missing data. The final analytic dataset included 1056 participants

SAMPLE

Table 1. Demographics

	Range	Mean (SD)
Age	18-78 years	43.4 (14)
	Total	Percent
Gender	1086	
Female		51.8
Male		48.2
Race	1083	
White		41.8
African-American		47.9
American Indian/Alaska Native		0.5
Asian		4.6
Other or Mixed Race		5.2
Employment Status	1076	
Employed		50.7
Unemployed		25.3
Non-Working		24
Disordered Gambling Status	1087	
Disordered Gambler		37.8

RESULTS

- In bivariate analyses, gambling disorder was significantly associated with:
 - Employment status (p <.001)
 - Race (p < .001)
 - Age (p = .006)
- Disordered gamblers were older than individuals who did not exhibit disordered gambling behavior gamblers (M = 46.63 ± 12.4 years and 41.4 ± 14.7 years, respectively, p < .001).
- The association between gender and disordered gambling status was not significant.

RESULTS

Table 2. Adjusted Odds Ratios of ever having problem gambling disorder

Variable	Odds Ratio	95% CI	P Value
Age	1.02	1.00-1.03	.006
Gender			
Female	1		
Male	[Reference]		-
Female	0.76	0.57-1.01	.06
Race			
White	1		
African American	5.27	3.84-7.23	<.001
American Indian/Alaska native	2.06	0.32-13.15	.443
Asian	1.02	0.41-2.56	.963
Other/Mixed	3.87	2.07-7.23	<.001
Employment Status			
Employed	1		
Unemployed	2.14	1.54-2.99	<.001
Non-working	0.6	0.41-0.88	.009



RESULTS

- African Americans were 5.27 (95% CI: 3.84-7.23) times more likely to have a gambling disorder, controlling for age and employment status.
- For each year of a participant’s age, the odds of lifetime gambling disorder increased by 1.5% (95% CI: 1.00-1.03).
- Being unemployed was associated with 2.14 (95% CI: 1.54-2.99) times higher odds of ever having a gambling disorder compared to the odds of ever having a gambling disorder for someone who is employed.
- Non-working participants were significantly less likely to have ever had a gambling disorder (OR 0.60, 95% CI: 0.41-0.88)

CONCLUSIONS

1. Employment status correlates significantly with problem gambling disorder, even after controlling for other factors.
2. Results suggest gambling disorder disproportionately affects the unemployed and African-Americans.
3. Our preliminary findings suggest a need for outreach programs on problem gambling to concentrate on unemployed persons.

REFERENCES

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