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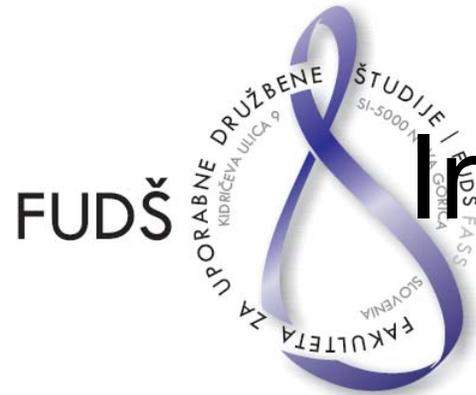
What are the risk factors of gambling addiction?

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Issues
Nova Gorica**

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Introduction

- Literature review to determine what are the risk factors of gambling addiction
- Any powerful experience in which people can lose themselves can become the object of an addiction (Peele 2001)
- With an overview of the literature we can see four distinct groups of risk factors: individual, social, biological (genetic), environmental. Such classification was determined with combination of two overviews by Welte et. al. (2006) and Blaszczynski & Nower (2002)
- For the reasons of limited time for presentation not all of the risk factors detected in academic literature will be presented



Individual risk factors

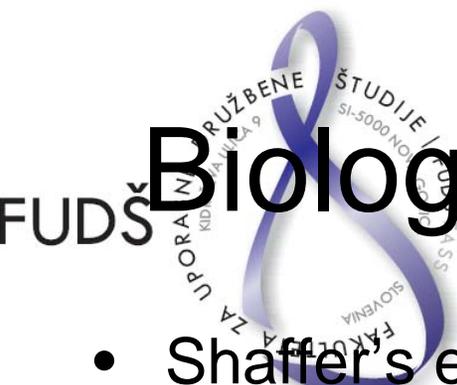
- Excitement (Peele 2001; Blaszczynski 2000; Stanton 2005; Griffiths 1993)
- Sensation seeking proved not to be related to pathological gambling (Stanton 2005; Blaszczynski et al. 1986; Dickerson et al. 1987; Coventry & Constable 1999)
- Powerful events (Peele 2001; Suissa 2006; Stanton 2005)
- Chasing gambling loses (Toce-Gerstein et al. 2003; Coventry & Brown 1993; Dickerson et al. 1987; Corless & Dickerson 1989; Griffiths 1993)
- Influence of arousal (Moodie & Finnigan 2005; Coventry & Brown 1993; Ladouceur et al. 2003; Sharpe et al. 1995)
- Anxiety (Xuan 2005; Petry & Oncken 2002 in co-occurrence with smoking habit; Burtontont et al 2003)
- Impact of depression (Hills et al. 2001; Corless & Dickerson (1989))

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Social risk factors

- Cultural attitudes (Potenza 2006)
- Social acceptedness of behaviours that can influence behavioural engagement. With gambling this social acceptedness and availability has occurred recently (Potenza 2006; Potenza 2001, Clarke et.al 2006; Skinner et al. 2004; Shaffer et. al 1999)
- Peer reinforcement (Clarke et al. 2006)
- In terms of young gamblers: low parental supervision and deviant friends (Vitaro et al. 2001; Vachon et al. 2004)
- In terms of employees in casinos: influence of co-workers and social isolation due to influence of shift work (Hing & Breen 2007)
- Suissa (2006) states that value of individualism results in the fragmentation of social ties



Biological (genetic) risk factors

- Shaffer's et al (2004) model of addiction under the name of personal vulnerabilities
- Slutske et al (2000) pathological gambling shares a common genetic vulnerability with alcohol dependence (Goudriaan et al. 2006)
- Familial influence (inherence factor) (Eisen Nong Lin et al. 1998; Gelernter 2004; Petry 2006)
- Several studies were conducted to clear the role of neurotransmitters, but they gave different results.
 - Dopamine (Koob 1992; Petry 2006)
 - Serotonin (Oreland et. al. 1998; Petry 2006)
 - Norepinephrine (NE) (Petry 2006)

Environmental risk factors

- Factors that influence to people through their eyes and ears
- Location of the gambling venue (University of Canterbury 2008)
- Structural characteristics: near miss, sound effects, light effects, colour effects, event frequencies, paying out intervals, psychology of familiarity, and the role of features like the bonus and the 'secret' functions (Parke & Griffiths 2006; Moodie & Finnigan 2005)
- Hing & Breen (2007) report that staff who works in gaming venues appear an at-risk group for problem gambling and that this risk stems from a variety of factors relating to working in a gambling environment
- In terms of youth gambling: technologically advanced forms of gambling may be highly appealing to adolescents (Griffiths & Wood 2000)

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Conclusions

- Many times different risk factors co-exist in sense that they cannot be put straightforward into only one group but rather in two.
- Blaszczynski & Nower (2002) developed a pathways model of problem and pathological gambling where they demonstrate gambling as heterogeneous and multidimensional disorder which is the result of a »complex interaction of genetic, biological, psychological and environmental factors« (p. 495).

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Thank you for your attention!

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