The relationship between gambling and domestic violence against women

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FAST FACTS
Impacts of family &
domestic violence in Australia

Source: Australian Institute for Health & Welfare, 2018
## Australian community sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PGSI category</th>
<th>FV victimisation</th>
<th>FV perpetration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-problem</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-risk</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate-risk/problem</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Clients of gambling help services in Australia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FV victimisation</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FV perpetration</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Dowling & Merkouris, 2018)
Some gaps in knowledge
Deep understanding of the complex relationships between gambling and DFV

- Perpetrator has gambling problem
- Anger & frustration over own gambling losses
- Violent to family member

- Victim has gambling problem
- Perpetrator angry over victim’s gambling + related stressors
- Violent to family member

- Victim of past or current DFV
- Gambles to cope or escape to a “safe space”
- Experiences gambling problem/harm

- Perpetrator has gambling problem
- Needs money for gambling, financial stress due to gambling
- Economic abuse of family member
Other gaps in knowledge

- Gendered analysis:
  - DFV highly gendered: women more likely to be victims; different extent, severity, intentions, motivations and impacts; coercive control, power through fear.
  - gambling and problem gambling are highly gendered.
  - gambling as a reinforcing factor interacting with gendered drivers to increase DFV.

- Qualitative research:
  - limitations of quantitative measures e.g. HITS, CTS
  - patterns vs incidences
  - instrumental vs expressive violence

- Economic abuse:
  - when another person manipulates your decision-making, or controls your access to money or other property without your consent.
  - central role of money in gambling.
Current study

Funding: ANROWS.

Aim: to investigate the nature of the relationship between gambling and DFV against women, including the role of gambling in economic abuse and the use of gambling venues as “safe spaces” for women experiencing violence.

Method: Situational analysis

Interviews:

- Key Informants (38 participants)
- Women experiencing
  - DV linked to a male partner’s gambling
  - DV linked to their own gambling
  - Economic abuse due to male partner’s gambling
  - Using gambling venues to cope with or escape from DV
- Men who have engaged in a behavioural change program for DV towards a female partner, related to either their own or partner’s gambling.
Project team

- CQUUniversity
- QLD Ctr for Domestic & Family Violence Research
- Australian Institute of Family Studies
- Relationships Australia: ACT, NSW, QLD, and SA
- Crossroads Family Violence Service (VIC)
- Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service (QLD)
- Women's Health in the North (VIC)
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