

**Student and Parental Concerns about
Adolescent Gambling and other High Risk
Behaviours in Romania**



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INTRODUCTION

- Children and adolescents are at risk of developing problem and/or pathological gambling when experiencing games of luck in **early ages** (Gupta & Derevensky, 1998)
- 60% of Canadian parents underestimate risks associated with youth gambling (Campbell, Derevensky, Meerkamper & Cutajar, 2011)

MAIN IDEA

To measure:

- a. knowledge and
- b. attitudes

towards **gambling and other high risk activities**

among high school students and their parents.

PARTICIPANTS

- High school students - 14 to 19 years and
 - Their parents.
-
- 404/489 students (82.6%),
 - 626/872 their parents (71.7%).

MEASURE

Both surveys included:

- demographic data,
- attitudes towards high risk behaviors,
- 38 questions referring to **misconceptions, illusion of control, attitudes and cognitive errors** about gambling, **definition of gambling, and consequences of high risk behaviors.**
- attitudes/awareness regarding youth education and prevention for gambling and other risky behaviors.

PROCEDURE

- Access to schools and classes
- Informed consent from parents and students
- Participants were contacted directly in their high schools and their parents completed the surveys at home OR online on [surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com)
- Data analysis

Table 1. Socio-demographic Characteristics of Adolescents and their Parents (N=404, N=626).

Variable	Percentage	Variable	Percentage	
Gender		Gender		
Male	55.2%	Male	19.8%	
Female	44.8%	Female	80.2%	
Grade		Age		
9	26.5%	32-39	15.3%	
10	36.1%	40-49	73.2%	
11	18.3%	50-59	7.7%	
12	12.4%	>60	3.8%	
13	6.7%	Provenience		
Provenience		Rural	30.8%	
Rural	27.7%	Urban	69.2%	
Urban	72.3%			
	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
Age	14	19	16.51	1.23

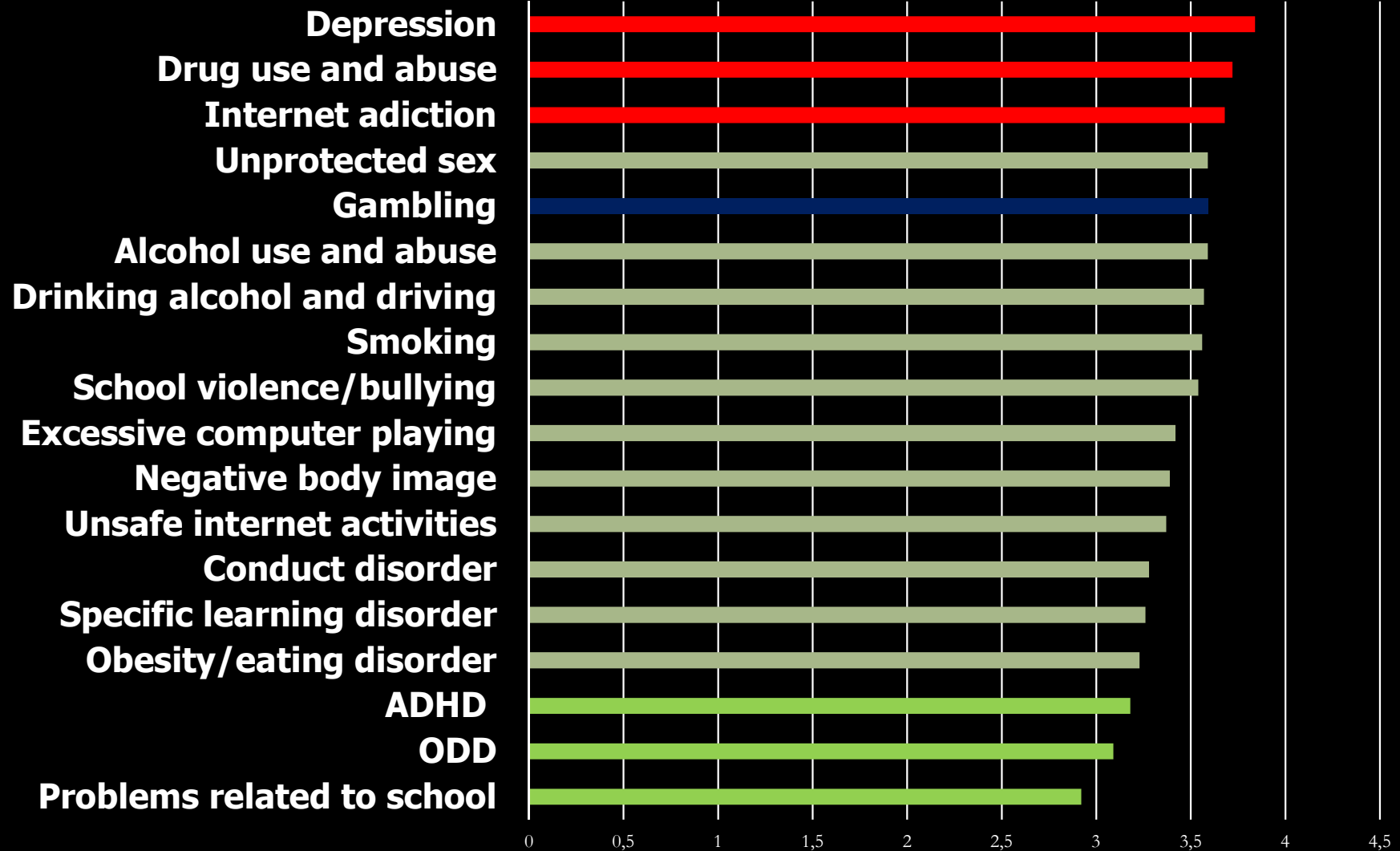
Knowledge, judgment and consequences STUDENTS

	N	Max	Mean	SD
Knowledge from education	404	15	6.60	5.43
Judgment and cognitions	404	15	6.83	5.55
Definition and consequences	404	8	2.62	2.29

Knowledge, judgment and consequences PARENTS

	N	Max	Mean	SD
Knowledge from education	626	15	9.69	5.12
Judgment and cognitions	626	15	10.46	4.37
Definition and consequences	626	8	3.73	2.13

HOW SEVERE ARE THE FOLLOWING AMONG NOWADAYS STUDENTS ACCORDING TO STUDENTS?



HOW SEVERE ARE THE FOLLOWING AMONG NOWADAYS STUDENTS ACCORDING TO PARENTS?



RELATIONSHIP STUDENTS – THEIR PARENTS

How is your relationship?	Students (N=404)	Parents (N=626)
Very bad	-	-
Bad	2.2%	-
Not good not bad	12.9%	7.7%
Good	36.9%	34.7
Very good	48%	57.7%

NEED FOR MORE INFORMATION/EDUCATION ABOUT HIGH RISK BEHAVIOURS

Do you need more info?	Students (N=404)	Parents (N=626)
No , I am not interested in these problems	93.3%	80.8%
No because I know what it is about	0.7%	8.7%
No because I do not have these problems	2.9%	3.1%
No, but I think others should know more about these problems	1.9%	5.8% !!!
Yes	1.2%	1.6%

NEED FOR MORE INFORMATION/EDUCATION ABOUT HIGH RISK BEHAVIOURS

How should you find more about high risk behaviours? (Multiple and open answers)	Students (N=404)	Parents (N=626)
Lectures (few hours)	19.6%	19.5%
Flyers with info	14.1%	1.3%
Lessons in school	34.9%	23.5%
From a specialist in the field	47.0%	20.6%
From a cured ex patient	51.7%	5.4%
From GPs	1.7%	7.8%
From psychiatrist/psychologist	27.7%	46.8%
From a Centre for treatment of these problems	10.4%	34.5%

PRACTICING RISKY BEHAVIOURS IN PRESENT

%	Not at all	Occasion ally	Freque ntly	Daily	
<i>Smoking</i>	<i>83.2</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>2.7</i>	Students (N=404)
<i>Drinking alcohol</i>	<i>63.1</i>	<i>34.2</i>	<i>2.7</i>		
<i>Drug use</i>	<i>97.3</i>	<i>2.7</i>	-	-	
<i>Gambling</i>	<i>82.9</i>	<i>16.3</i>	-	<i>0.7</i>	
<i>Internet gaming</i>	<i>61.4</i>	<i>18.6</i>	<i>11.4</i>	<i>8.7</i>	
Smoking	84.8	3.8	3.7	7.7	Parents (N=626)
Drinking alcohol	42.3	57.7	-	-	
Drug use	100	-	-	-	
Gambling	96.2	3.8	-	-	
Internet gaming	65.7	30.5	-	3.8	

AGE AT ONSET

Years	Students (N=404)		Parents (N=626)	
	N	%	N	%
Never	344	85.1	483	77.2
10	3	0.7	/	/
11	3	0.7	1	0.2
12	3	0.7	1	0.2
13	5	1.2	1	0.2
14	9	2.2	2	0.3
15	4	1.0	8	1.3
16	19	4.7	14	2.2
17	10	2.5	1	0.2
18	4	1.0	16	2.6
Above 19			99	15.7

STUDENTS PARENTS GAMBLING CORRELATIONS

		Students` Gambling	Parents` Gambling
Students` Gambling	Pearson Correlation	1	.903**
	N	404	404
Parents` Gambling	Pearson Correlation	.903**	1
	N	404	626

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

20 GA-RA, 20 GA, cut off points 7-11/20

CONCLUSIONS

- A lot of cognitive errors, misconceptions, illusion of control and bad attitudes. Lack of scientifically proven information and education about high risk behaviors
- Gambling activities considered not gambling !!!
- *“I do not gamble, I only bet online!”*
- *“If I gamble, my child can gamble too. If my parents gamble, I can gamble too.”*

LIMITATIONS

- Self reported survey methodology – less trustful information obtained.
- Selection biases (grades not available, students absent, not responding to all questions).
- Lack of involvement even if trying to motivate them by the tombola.
- Male parents less involved than female.

DISCUSSIONS

- Need for further investigations
- Need for educational programs for both students and their parents
- Students consider gambling not so dangerous as it can not be seen (Messerlian & all, 2007)

NOTE

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Thank you
for your
attention!



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