



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS: Potawatomi Hotel & Casino

24th Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference

The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI
March 16th-17th, 2023
Pre-Conference on March 15th

CEU certifications will be applied for: Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists, Professional Counselors, Substance Abuse Counselors, and Clinical Supervisors through NAADAC, EACC, WAMFT, NASW, and IGCCB.

The program includes Ethics (4 hours) and Clinical Supervision (6 hours).

Visit our Website for more information:
<https://wi-problemgamblers.org/>

- ◆ Scholarships
- ◆ Sponsorships
- ◆ Exhibitors



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~ Youth Outreach ~

The WCPG has been providing educational programs to High School Students for over 7 years. It is a program we have seen grow as we continue to teach students about gambling disorders. We offer interactive in-class presentations designed to fit your class schedule as well as a video alternative if an in person presentation doesn't work for you. This video is a 34-minute video which will provide the viewer with basic education about Gambling Disorders. There are 3 video clips included in the video that will help encourage additional discussion about problem gambling disorders. To set up a time to receive the video link or to set up an in-class presentation, please fill out the speaker/video request form on our website www.wi-problemgamblers.org or call us at 920-437-8888. School presentations and video presentations are available at no cost.

Is it just for fun?: Learning why social casino gamers play and gamble The WAGER, Vol. 27(8)

Social casino games have become very popular during the past decade. Typically played on mobile devices, these online games are connected to social networking sites, allowing players to see their scores on leaderboards and share results with their friends. Social casino games resemble gambling activities like slot machines (aka electronic gambling machines [EGMs]), even including similar sounds and offering in-game purchases or microtransactions with rewards of virtual points. Because they are free to play and the player cannot win any real money from the outcome, social casino games are not currently considered gambling. However, people who play simulated gambling games, such as social casino gamers, might be more likely to experience gambling problems. This week, The WAGER reviews a study by Hyoun S. Kim and colleagues that investigated motives for playing social casino games and transitioning between social casino games and gambling.

What were the research questions?

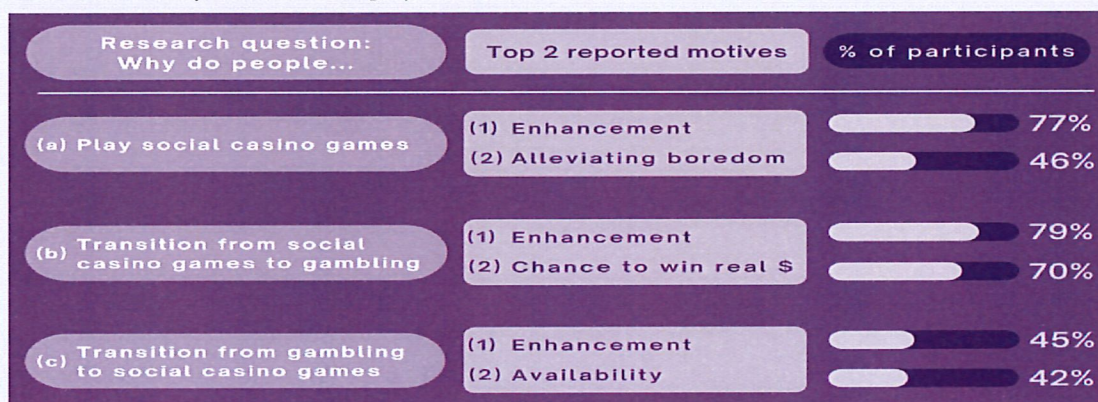
Why do people who gamble play social casino games? Why do people transition from social casino games to gambling? Why do people transition from gambling to social casino games?

What did the researchers do?

The researchers recruited 269 United States residents who both gambled and played social casino games. Through an online survey, participants provided their top three reasons for playing social casino games, transitioning to gambling after playing social casino games, and transitioning to social casino gaming after gambling. Participants also completed the Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI). The researchers conducted a thematic analysis of participant responses and identified key motives for each of the three research questions.

What did they find?

For all three research questions, the most frequently mentioned motive was playing for enhancement—in other words, to experience fun, entertainment, excitement, or thrill (see Figure). Participants also played social casino games to alleviate boredom (46%) and for social reasons (29%). Among participants who started with social casino games and transitioned to gambling, 70% reported the opportunity to win real money as a motive for doing so. Availability (42%) and affordability (31%) were common reasons for switching from gambling to social casino games. Gambling-harm minimization was another motive for playing social casino games, among all participants (17%) and among those who transitioned from gambling (28%). Motives for playing social casino games did not differ by PGSI score category.



Why do these findings matter?

Social casino games can be a potential precursor to gambling and gambling problems. A majority of participants reported that they began gambling as a way to win real money, which is concerning because social casino games have inflated payout rates that could give players a false perception of skill. Players should be informed that their odds of winning in social casino games do not necessarily reflect the odds of winning in gambling.

On the other hand, many participants reported playing social casino games to reduce the chance of gambling harm, as it can satisfy their urge to gamble without them risking any real money. Social casino games may be a potential harm reduction strategy to help people with gambling problems cut down on their gambling behavior, though more research is needed to determine its effectiveness and the harm that results from spending too much time on social casino gaming.

Every study has limitations. What are the limitations in this study?

Participants were limited to United States residents who both gambled and played social casino games, so the results might not be generalizable to people who live in other countries or to people who currently play social casino games but have not yet transitioned to gambling. Because this study was cross-sectional, we also cannot determine whether any of these motives actually *caused* changes in social casino gaming or gambling behavior.

For more information:

Do you think you or someone you know has a gambling problem? Visit the National Council on Problem Gambling for screening tools and resources.

Caitlyn Matykiewicz, MPH

ALL NEW! MEETS THE ICGC GUIDELINES!

**FROM GAMBLING TO GAMBLING DISORDER -
A CLINICAL PERSPECTIVE**

**Residence Inn Milwaukee North / Glendale
7003 North Port Washington Road
Glendale, Wisconsin**

**Thursday: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm - Friday: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
(1 hour lunch both days—on your own)**

Session 1—October 6-7, 2022—\$125

Session 3—January 12-13, 2023—\$125

Session 2—November 10-11, 2022—\$125

Session 4—February 9-10, 2023—\$125

Session 1 & 2 together at a discounted fee—\$175

Session 3 & 4 together at a discounted fee—\$175

All 4 sessions—Bundle and Save! - \$300

Continuing Education Units for 15 hours each phase has been applied for with the following: Association for Addiction Professionals (NAADAC), Employee Assistance Certification Commission (EACC), International Gambling Counselor Certification Board (IGCCB), Wisconsin Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (WAMFT) and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).



WCPG’s Upcoming Webinars

All Webinars are 10am -11:30am CDT

Trauma, Grief, and Forgiveness: The Path to Healing

Date: September 14, 2022

Presenter: Scott Webb

Even before the Covid pandemic, trauma was widely prevalent in our society. The collective trauma we are all experiencing now as the result of this pandemic has only exacerbated the issue. Moreover, trauma has negatively affected organizations taxing already stressed systems of care and practitioner wellness. This presentation will examine the many types of trauma and its prevalence in society. We will discuss how grief and the grieving process is a part of experiencing trauma. Finally, we will explore forgiveness and how having forgiveness for yourself and others is the path to healing and living a fuller life. Never before has this topic been more relevant and needed to serve each other and those depending on us for help.

Domestic Violence and Gambling, The Relationship , The Concerns

Date: October 12, 2022

Presenter: Pat Jirovetz

How are domestic violence and gambling related? The connection between gambling and non-physical abuse such as financial abuse.

Economic abuse – what it is, how current practices enable it, and raising awareness of it.

How do we improve awareness of the issue, develop screening tools and building skills?

**For more information on any WCPG training and to register online
please visit our website
(under the events tab): <https://wi-problemgamblers.org/>**