



Gambling Awareness and Problem Gambling Interventions in UK Prisons

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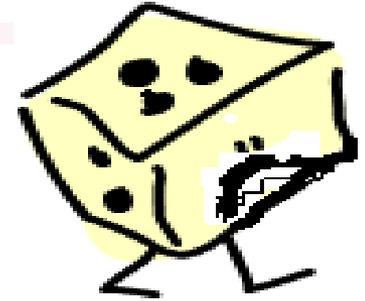
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Foundations



Can we evidence...

- prevalence of problem gambling in criminal justice populations in the UK?
- a link to crime?
- interventions that work?
- resilience and turning points for intervention?

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Pilot Prevalence - Comparison between BGPS National data from (Wardle et al 2007) and Prison pilot data

Gambling Behaviour	Prison (201 Male)	National N=4333	Z= Sig at 95%	Prison (222 Female)	National N= 4636	Z= Sig at 95%
Abstinent	43.3%	29%	4.25	60.4%	35%	7.695
Non-Problem Gambler	9.5%	61.1%	14.53	10.8%	60.8%	14.712
Low Risk	19.4%	6.8%	6.6	10.8%	3.5%	5.534
Medium Risk	17.4%	2.1%	12.902	12.2%	0.6%	15.973
Problem Gambler	10.4%	1.0%	11.024	5.9%	0.1	13.998

TVRGC Prevalence – Interim Findings (N=948)

Gambling Category	Prison (792 Male)	National N=4333	Z= Sig at 95%	Prison (156 Female)	National N= 4636	Z= Sig at 95%
Abstinent	39%	29%	5.618	58%	35%	5.896
Non-Problem Gambler	24%	61%	19.257	18%	61%	10.765
Low Risk	14%	7%	6.646	10%	3%	4.866
Medium Risk	10%	2%	11.698	8%	0.6%	9.956
Problem Gambler	14%	1%	19.691	6%	0.1	13.431

[Clear Evidence of Prevalence]

- ¼ Male prisoners in England and Scotland
- 14% of female prisoners in England
- Significantly higher than the general population

[A link to crime?]

- 7.3% of men but less than 1% of women considered their current offence was linked to gambling
- 11% of men linked gambling to past offending (22% of those who gambled did so) as did 12% of female gamblers
- 46 % of male and 37% of female prisoners thought gambling caused problems for fellow prisoners

Some ways prisoners think their offence was linked to gambling

- Sex industry links
- Gambled with life in general
- Stole money to pay gambling debts
- Used money obtained through crime gamble
- Sold drugs to generate money to gamble
- Gambled to generate money to alleviate personal deficit caused by offending behaviour
- Fighting & arguing over gambling
- Robbing a betting shop

Global Comparisons

- A review of 8 studies since 2000 found a mean rate of 25% of incarcerated populations exhibit some vulnerability to gambling problems;
- Inmates who do gamble tend to do so regularly, and problem and pathological gamblers are disproportionately represented among this group (Williams et al, 2005).
- BUT the prevalence of gambling within prison populations appears lower than in the general population.
- So how is it that in this vulnerable population some prisoners appear to be resilient to gambling problems?

PILOT MODEL

Complete prevalence questionnaire (N=500)

Group 1: Volunteer for treatment (eligible) – Short interview to ensure informed consent and screen (N=20)

Enters programme – seen 6 times

Exit interview and screen

Screen at 6 month follow up (telephone interview)

Group 2: Volunteer for treatment (not eligible as too close to release) – Short interview to ensure informed consent and administer screen (control N=10)

Screen at 6 month follow up (telephone interview)

Group 3: Volunteer for treatment (eligible but insufficient places) – Short interview to ensure informed consent and screen (N=20).

Screen and Enter programme – seen 6 times

Exit interview and screen

Screen at 6 month follow up (telephone interview)

PRISON A

Complete prevalence questionnaire (N=250 **N=201**)

Group 1: Volunteer for treatment (eligible) – Short interview to ensure informed consent and screen (N=10 **N=8**)

Enters programme – seen 6 (**3**) times

Exit interview and screen (**N=8**)

Screen at 6 month follow up (telephone interview) (**N=4**)

Group 2/3: Volunteer for treatment (both ineligible and eligible but insufficient places) – Short interview to ensure informed consent and screen (N=20 **N=7**).

Screen (**N=7**)

Did not enter programme

[Outcome Themes]

- Raised awareness (particularly re pre-occupation)
- Group discussions with peers highly valued;
- Programme coach was central rather than workbook;
- Participants wanted to identify alternative ways to occupy their time upon their release.

What single important behaviour change do you think you will make as a result of attending?

- ***M6. Just by changing my pattern of the day and doing constructive things.***
- ***M7. Saying 'no' to gambling...***
- ***M2. Finding better things to do with my time when I am released.***

[Challenges]

- Maintaining motivation
- Integrating with other accredited interventions
- Prison regime
- Resettlement and follow up

TVRGC Research Programme

- Now doing 36 month screening and tracking in 6 prisons England and Scotland
- In-depth interviews at 3 time points to obtain narratives on lifestyles, adversities, resilience and critical points
- Longitudinal tracking on Police National Computer

[Looking at Resilience]

- Adapted CYRM from International Resilience Project with Michael Ungar
- Free narrative component focusing on the 4 aspects (individual, relationships, community and context)

Looking at potential connections

- Drug use
- Alcohol use
- Physical and mental health
- Criminal careers/pathways
- How all of this connects to points of intervention – what can help and when?

Some early resilience findings from pilot

- Female offender resilience scores do not differ significantly between each resilience category (individual, relationship, community and cultural).
- Female problem/pathological gamblers have a significantly lower ($p=0.05$) overall average resilience score.

[Gender difference...]

- But even though males have higher problem gambling rates they are not yet showing lower resilience scores in the problem gambling group

**Prevalence questionnaire in 6 prisons
(N=1200)**

**Group 1:
Moderate/severe
problem gamblers
– 9 in each prison**

**Group 2: Non
problem/low risk
gamblers – 9 in
each prison**

**Group 3:
Abstainers – 9
in each prison**

First interview pre-release: 1 – 2 months after questionnaire completion. In-depth (approx 1 hour) gathering personal history, gambling career data

Second interview: 6-8 months later in community. In depth (approx 1 hour) probing gambling careers and resilience factors since leaving prison

Third interview: 6-8 months later in community. In depth (approx 1 hour) continuing to probe gambling careers and resilience factors since leaving prison

**Tracking
crime
careers of
all on
PNC**

