

Rapport de recherche

PROGRAMME ACTIONS CONCERTÉES

Le projet ENHJEU : Analyse contextuelle des jeux de hasard et d'argent chez les étudiants universitaires

PROMOTIONAL ARTICLE

Chercheur principal
Sylvia Kairouz, U. Concordia

Co-chercheure
Louise Nadeau, U. de Montréal

Établissement gestionnaire de la subvention
Université Concordia

Numéro du projet de recherche
2008-JA-124820

Titre de l'Action concertée
Impacts socioéconomiques des jeux de hasard et d'argent - Phase 2, 2e concours

Partenaire(s) de l'Action concertée

Soumis au
Fonds Québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture (FQRSC) et le Ministère de la Santé et des
Services sociaux (MSSS)

Young adults in universities are at higher risk for excessive gambling. It is estimated that almost 105,000 undergraduate students attend a university program on the Island of Montreal every year. In the midst of this cosmopolitan milieu, where opportunities for gambling are numerous, understanding patterns of gambling and associated problems is key for targeting preventive actions and services in a public health perspective. The objectives of this study were three-fold: 1) to describe typical gambling patterns of undergraduate students with detailed information on the social and physical settings where gambling occurs; 2) to examine individual and contextual predictors of problematic gambling patterns; and 3) to explore the reality of at high-risk students with concurrent gambling problems and substance misuse. The survey was conducted with 2,139 undergraduate students representing all universities on the island of Montreal (except one) and their affiliated schools. The main findings revealed that lottery and poker betting remain the most popular activities and spending is highest when betting on Internet, mostly on poker. Gambling with partners, mostly friends and family members, was associated with lower spending and debts. Overall, approximately 6.2% of students were estimated to be at moderate risk for problems or problem gamblers whereas 9% reported experiencing problems in at least one major life domain due to gambling. Problem gamblers reported greater spending and debt and were considered at higher risk for hazardous and harmful drinking, cannabis and other illicit drug use, and for experiencing psychological distress compared to social and at-risk gamblers. The findings indicate that various prevention actions are needed in the university milieu. Awareness campaigns should focus on risks associated with online poker especially with its increasing popularity among students. Still, environmental actions should also be privileged to control the availability and accessibility of gambling to students.