



Karolinska
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C.A.N THE SWEDISH COUNCIL FOR
INFORMATION ON ALCOHOL
AND OTHER DRUGS

Concerned Significant Others (CSO) from gambling

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EASG, September 2024

Funding: Swedish Gambling Independent Research Fund

Declaration of interest: none

Background

Concerned significant other from gambling

A broad concept: from worried to harms (financial insecurities, health problems, psychological difficulties, or deteriorating relationships)

A broad “network”: from family ties, close friend to someone close or a colleague

Differs from alcohol, smoking, illicit drugs -> difficult to see harms from stranger or unknown person (drink and driving, violence, etc)

Major difficulty: is it the CSO position which causes the outcome, or are the outcomes prior to the position?

Overall, there is a high degree of harm for CSOs to individuals that gamble (Irie & Kengo, 2022)

Background

Previous research have mainly focused on clinical samples ->

-narrow definition of CSOs, mainly partners.

+better characteristics of the gambler

In general population studies the rate of CSOs varies from 2% -> 19%.

The large variance -> methodological differences, the definitions of others as family ties or “someone”

To our knowledge, only one previous Swedish general population study (Svensson et. al. 2013).

About 18% report CSO of gambling (previous or current)

Finland (Salonen et al. 2014)

About 19%, CSO of gambling (previous or current?)

Aim

The general aim is to increase the knowledge of CSOs of gamblers to better understand and prevent.

Research question:

Does the CSO differ from the general populations in terms of physical and psychological health, and health detrimental living habits (gambling, alcohol, and smoking) as compared to non-CSOs?

Data and methods

Data: The Habits and Consequences survey (Karolinska Institute and CAN).

A random sample of 27 000 persons living in Sweden in the age group 17-84.

Collected in mars 2021

Response rate 37%, analytical sample = 9819

Decisive questions:

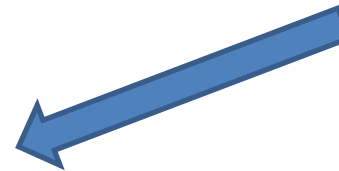
CSO status determined by the following question: *Are there people in your life or around you, which you consider gamble too much where money is involved, during the last 12 months?*

Gambling measured with Problem Gambling Severity Index (Ferris & Wynne, 2001)

Results: descriptive of data sample

(weighted)

Sex	N	%
Males	4842	49,5
Females	4950	50,5
Age		
17-29	1945	19,8
30-49	3293	33,5
50-64	2294	23,4
65-84	2286	23,3
Education		
Basic (9 y)	1447	14,9
High School	3560	36,6
University	4707	48,5
Country of birth		
Sweden	8376	85,4
Nordic	224	2,3
Europe	414	4,2
Outside Europe	784	8



Results: Health and health behavior

(total sample weighted)

General Health	N	%	
Good/very good	7781	79,7	
Alcohol			
Drinkers past 12 moths	8234	84,5	← More or less same level according to other sources:
HED (1 moth or more often)	2327	24,1	← Public Health Agency of Sweden and the Swedish Monitoring study
Smoking			
Daily smokers	483	5	←
Gambling			
Gambled past 12 month	6235	64,1	
PGSI (score)			
Non-problem gambler	5514	93,2	} A bit high according to Public Health Agency of Sweden LR gamblers= 3% MR gamblers= 0,8% P gamblers= 0,5%
Low-risk gambler	287	4,9	
Moderate-risk gambler	90	1,5	
Problem gambler	27	0,5	

CSOs from Gambling vs Alcohol

(total sample weighted)

Concerned significant other

	n	%
Gambling	532	5,5
Alcohol	2506	26,1

CSOs from Gambling vs general population %

	CSOs gambling	General Population	Sig
Gambled past 12 months	70,3	63,7	**
PGSI (score)			
Non-problem gambler	87,9	96,2	***
Low-risk gambler	7,1	2,5	
Moderate-risk gambler	2,8	1,1	
Problem gambler	2,2	0,2	
Alcohol			
Alc consumers past 12	85,2	84,7	ns
HED (1 a month or more often)	35,1	23,4	***
Smoking (daily)	7,3	4,8	**
Health			
General Health (good/v. good)	77,2	80	ns
Physical health (good/v. good)	65,5	71,8	**
Psychol. health (good/v. good)	70,8	78,9	**

Association between (RR) gambling, alcohol, smoking, health and CSOs.

Adjusted for: gender, educations, income, country of birth

	RR	CI
Gambling		
Last year gambling	1,44	1.16-1.80
PGSI		
LR gamblers	2,40	1,64-3,52
MR gamblers	1,60	0.82-3.11
P Gamblers	5,49	3.10-9.91
Alcohol		
Last year alcohol use	1.07	0.80-1.44
HED	1,62	1.33-1.98
Smoking		
Smoking (daily)	1,65	1.16-2.34
Health		
Good general health	0,70	0.56-0.87
Good mental well-being	0,74	0.60-0.91
Good physical well-being	0,68	0.56-0.83

Main findings

- About 5 % in the general Swedish population report to be CSO of gambling -> less than CSO of alcohol (26%)
- CSO of gambling are:
 - more involved in gambling themselves
 - more inclined to HED of alcohol
 - report lower health (general, mental and physical)
 - decreases with age

...as compared to the general population

Surprisingly, no gender differences as opposed to help-lines.

Limitations

An overall low response rate!

The presence of self-report bias!

Associations not causal associations!

Conclusion/Discussion

Treatment and prevention needs to be made available for CSOs to gamblers

These interventions need to target alcohol use and increase general health

Increased awareness in social services and healthcare

Thank you!

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