



**WISCONSIN COUNCIL
ON PROBLEM GAMBLING**

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS: Potawatomi Hotel & Casino

The WAGER, Vol. 25(10) - The overlap between skin betting, other gambling activities, and problem gambling in children

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, kids are spending more and more time in front of screens, including playing video games. Caregivers might be wary of prolonged screen time and sedentary behavior. Should they also be worried about new gambling-like features embedded in some video games? The WAGER reviews an article by Heather Wardle that looked at the convergence of skin gambling in video games and participation in other gambling activities and whether these gambling activities are associated with being at risk for problem gambling. Skins are graphic or audio downloads that can change the appearance of an item in a video game, and players can use skins as tokens to bet or gamble with during the game.

What was the research question? Are children who engage in skin gambling in video games more likely to engage in other forms of gambling, and how does participation in these gambling activities relate to being an at-risk or problem gambler?

What did the researchers do? Researchers conducted a secondary data analysis of the 2017 Youth Gambling Survey, which collected information from a random sample of 2,881 children between the ages of 11 and 16 years old in England and Wales. The children reported skin betting behavior, other gambling behaviors, and provided sociodemographic information. Children were categorized into one of four groups based on their past-month behavior: those who had bet with skins and gambled on other activities, those who had only bet with skins, those who had only gambled on other activities, and those who had not participated in either activity. Wardle tested whether certain types of gambling were associated with skins gambling and if skins gambling was associated with problem or at-risk gambling once other forms of gambling were taken into account.

What did they find? Overall, 7% of kids reported that they gambled with skins in the past month, and 16% reported that they engaged in other forms of gambling in the past month. In fact, betting with skins was the second most common form of gambling reported. Boys were more likely than girls to engage in any gambling, including skin betting, and the likelihood of reporting skin betting and other gambling increased with age. Of the children who reported betting on skins, 39% also reported engaging in other gambling activities. Kids who engaged in skin betting and other gambling activities had higher rates of at-risk/problem gambling than kids who engaged only in other kinds of gambling (see Figure). However, when all of the kids' demographic and gambling characteristics were considered in combination, skin betting was not associated with increased risk for at-risk gambling.

Why do these findings matter? It is important to understand how children's engagement in skin gambling while playing video games may lead to other gambling activities. These findings can be used to create problem gambling screenings and prevention training that target children who report skin gambling and another form of gambling. This would hopefully prevent further development of problem gambling and identify children who may already be an at-risk or problem gambler. In addition, game developers should consider putting age labels or warnings for parents to understand what their children are being exposed to when they play these games for hours on end.

Every study has limitations. What are the limitations of this study? Children were only asked about six main forms of gambling and were asked to indicate activities they engaged in just within the past month. For these two reasons, the prevalence rates of gambling activities

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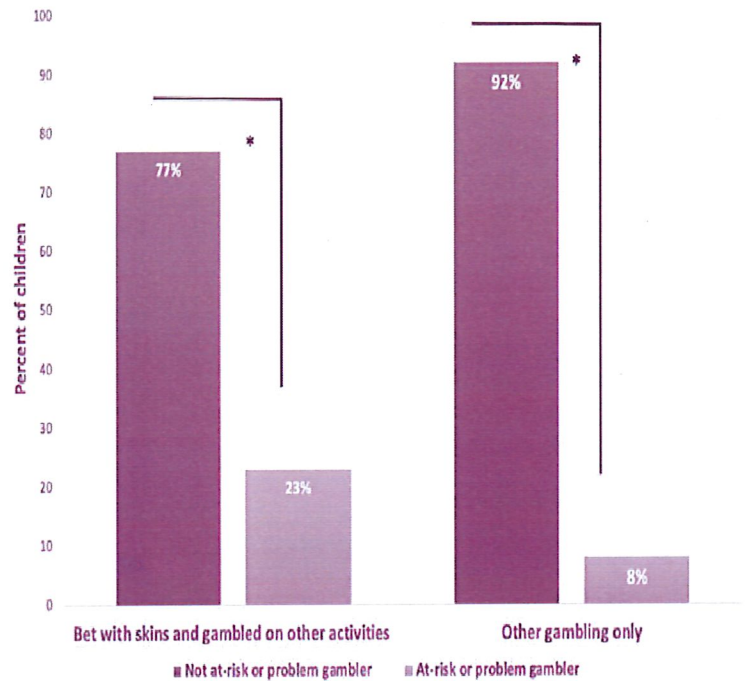
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may be underestimates of the true prevalence if you were to look at more gambling activities and over a longer time frame. A cross-sectional study design also limited the researcher's ability to assess whether skin betting resulted in other forms of gambling or vice versa.

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. For additional resources, including gambling and self-help tools, please feel free to visit The BASIS Addiction Resources page.

-- Alessandra Grossman

*Taken from The BASIS, a product of the Division on Addiction, Cambridge Health Alliance, a Harvard Medical School teaching hospital.



WCPG Gambling Disorder Phase 1-4 Training Offerings

For more information about this training program call: 1-920-437-8888.

Email: conference@wi-problemgamblers.org or go to our website: wi-problemgamblers.org

◆NEW TRAINING DATES◆

Training Times:

Thursday: 8:00am to 5:00pm

Friday: 8:00am to 4:00pm (1 hour lunch on both days)

DATE	TRAINING	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	TRAINING LOCATION
April 15-16, 2021	Phase 1	April 5, 2021	Four Points by Sheraton Milwaukee North Shore 8900 N Kildeer Court Milwaukee, WI 53209
May 13-14, 2021	Phase 2	May 3, 2021	
June 17-18, 2021	Phase 3	June 7, 2021	
July 15-16, 2021	Phase 4	July 5, 2021	

Following completion of the Phase 1 & 2 thirty hour training and education program, counselors will be ready to assess, screen and evaluate for gambling problems among their caseloads and among those who present for care. Following completion of the 60 hour training and education program, counselors will be prepared to work with families and significant others, special populations, present salient patient education topics to clients and families, prepare court reports, assist with complete asset protection plans and use an array of clinical strategies focusing on impulse control and self-regulation interventions in the treatment of gambling problems, etc.

TOTAL COST	Phases taken separately	Phase 1 & Phase 2	Phase 3 & Phase 4	All 4 Phase Trainings
	\$125 each	\$175	\$175	\$300

Name	Title		
Address	City/State/Zip		COUNTY
Organization	E-Mail		
Phone	Fax		

We Can Help: 1-800-GAMBLE-5

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Help, Hope, and Harmony Through Awareness, Education, and Prevention

The WCPG conference has been rescheduled.

The new dates are September 16-17, 2021, with a preconference on September 15, 2021.

Please check our website for any updated information.

- Our Twenty-Second Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference originally scheduled for March 11-12, 2021, with pre-conference on March 10 has been rescheduled for September 16-17, 2021, with pre-conference on September 15 at the Milwaukee Marriott West in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and will bring together national and state experts in the compulsive gambling addiction field.
- The Milwaukee Marriott West will have a limited number of rooms available on a first-come/first-served basis. Please call 877-651-7666 for reservations at a conference rate of \$119.00 plus tax per night. Conference cut-off date will be updated on the website.
- Our Annual Conference offers up to 20 CEUs. Ethics and Clinical Supervision CEUs are also available.
- Exhibit space is available for the 2021 Conference.
- This year we will NOT be mailing out the conference brochures. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call or email. We will have the conference brochure available on our website & postcards will be sent.



**Online Scholarship and Exhibit
Applications are available.
See our website for details.
www.wi-problemgamblers.org**



WHAT'S NEW

*Please Take a Peak at our New Website
Same Address With A Totally New Look
~ Find updated Resources ~ check out our Events Page ~*

~ wi-problemgamblers.org ~

Call for Presenters 2021!

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. will be hosting its
22nd Annual Statewide Compulsive Gambling Awareness Conference.

The Conference will take place September 16th and 17th, 2021, at the
Milwaukee Marriott West in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Additionally, a pre-conference will be held on September 15th, 2021.

YOU CAN SUBMIT A PROPOSAL ONLINE AT WWW.WI-PROBLEMGAMBLERS.ORG
OR CONTACT THE WCPG.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING, INC.

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FAX: (920)437-8995

EMAIL: CONFERENCE@WI-PROBLEMGAMBLERS.ORG

Deadline to submit Proposal is April 2, 2021

Winter 2020 Newsletter

For help: Call: 1-800-GAMBLE-5 (1-800-426-2535)

Text: 1-850-888-HOPE (1-850-888-4673)

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Newsletter now available via email....

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on Problem Gambling
1-800-Gamble-5
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View this newsletter
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- WCPG Annual Conference
- New Website

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT: The WCPG is currently accepting volunteers. Anyone interested in donating their time and skills to the organization by helping with administrative projects is encouraged to contact us at (920)437-8888.

RESOURCE LIBRARY: The WCPG has both books and videos in our lending library. Materials can be loaned out on a two week basis. These materials can also be mailed to you. For more information, call Alta at (920) 437-8888 or e-mail her at: conference@wi-problemgamblers.org

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. provides resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling.

Our goals are to:

- Promote public education and awareness of gambling disorders.
- Maintain a toll-free statewide Helpline where people with gambling disorders and their families can call for immediate and continuing assistance in dealing with the addiction.
- Advocate quality assistance for all individuals affected by gambling disorders.
- Identify "high risk" individuals and groups with gambling disorders and provide prevention activities and information.
- Provide expert training to professional counselors in the treatment of gambling disorders.
- Compile and maintain a database of statistical information concerning gambling disorders in Wisconsin.