



Kids suffer most during economic recession

By Jessica McBride, M.A. - International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors

According to a recent report by CBS News, more than 80% of U.S. teenagers are concerned about the current economy. Although kids may not necessarily know how define a recession, or how the economy works exactly, they are beginning to realize that they

will not be getting new clothes or the trendy consumer items so intensively marketed to their demographic, such as iPods, high-priced running shoes and video games.

It is predicted that 3 million children and adolescents in the U.S. will fall into poverty as a result of the current recession (First Focus, 2009). While similar statistics are not available for Canada, it is

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In this Issue

Gambling and corporate sponsorships in college sports	3
Gambling on youth: Technically not youth gambling	4
Talkin' about poker: Straight talk for parents and their players	5
New NFL guidelines allow team logos on lottery tickets	7
Internet-initiated victimization of teenaged girls and associated risk factors	8
Tobacco products and youth: Appeal and access	9
A record-breaking effort to raise awareness about problem gambling	10
2008 Durand Jacobs award goes to Jenny Horch	11
Recent publications and presentations	12
News from the Centre	13
Upcoming events	13

Children are aware of what is going on in our economy, even if they cannot always put their finger on it. They may intuitively pick up on their parents' anxiety and in turn worry about the recession and its impact on their family. Many may experience a sense of loss for the items and experiences their families may no longer be able to afford. Older teens may worry whether or not they will have to get jobs to contribute to the family budget. While for some children and teens their fears will never materialise, for many children the recession will have serious consequences. For these youth, the recession does not just mean fewer luxury items, in many cases it means their families will not be able to afford the things they really need, like rent and groceries.

expected the trend will be similar. Empirical evidence examining the effect of recessions on children's mental health shows adverse outcomes. Following a severe economic depression, a study of children aged 4-18 in Finland's foster system showed that, overall, the already high level of psychosocial problems had increased by the end of the decade. Among girls, externalising scores had increased significantly, with a tendency for more aggressiveness, delinquent behaviour, and attention problems. Among boys, the externalising scores had already been high in the beginning of the study, and remained at the same level throughout the study period.

First Focus, a children's advocacy organisation in Washington, D.C., conducted a study of

Continued on page 2 »»»

children who lived through two U.S. recessions (i.e., '73-'75 and '80-'82). Three categories of children were compared: those who stayed out of poverty before, during, and after the recession; those who fell into poverty during the recession but were not living in poverty before; and those who were living in poverty before the recession began and remained there. The children who were always in poverty showed the poorest outcomes twenty years after the recession ended. However, as adults, the children who

stance use/abuse, early sexual behaviour, criminal activity, and suicide.

These are all indicators that parental and family resiliency may mediate the effects of poverty. However, a parental dilemma is how much to tell kids about financial difficulties without scaring them. Some parents feel they must watch what they say in front of their children in order to prevent excess worry. They feel that talking to their children about financial troubles will add, rather than reduce, stress in the

Economic downturns can be used to teach budgeting and saving for coveted items. According to a recent New York Times article (April 23, 2009), teen spending is down 14 percent. The economic crisis means a shift away from brands that are now too expensive and less money is being spent on clothes overall. The recent recession, seen as being caused by greed and corruption, has sent the rather remarkable message that consumption does not necessarily lead to happiness and that designer labels are not actually the key to self-esteem.

For more information on discussing the recession with children:

www.ehow.com/how_2187283_explain-economic-recession-kids.html

www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24206048

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"Teens bring economic stress to school," (May 19, 2009). CBS News www.cbsnews.com/stories/

[2009/05/19/business/childofrecession/main5026081.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/05/19/business/childofrecession/main5026081.shtml)

Dashiff, C., DiMicco, W., Myers, B., & Sheppard, K. (2009). Poverty and adolescent mental health. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing*, 22, 23-32.

First Focus. (May, 2009). Turning point: The long term effects of recession-induced child poverty. Downloaded May 25, 2009 from <http://www.firstfocus.net/Download/TurningPoint.pdf>. ♦

These are all indicators that parental and family resiliency may mediate the effects of poverty.

fell into poverty (relative to those who avoided poverty), lived in households with lower overall income, earned less, achieved lower levels of education, were less likely to be gainfully employed over their lifetimes, and were more likely to be in poor health. The results suggest there are serious long-term negative effects of even a short experience of recession-induced child poverty.

The research on the effects of child poverty shows clear and consistent results worldwide. Research reports that poverty has direct, negative, and long-term effects on adolescent mental health, quality of life, and social adjustment (Dashiff, DiMicco, Myers, & Sheppard, 2009). Exposure to poverty increases adolescents' risks for depression, sub-

stance use/abuse, early sexual behaviour, criminal activity, and suicide. In fact, it is better to prepare children by being up front about financial issues. Young people are very intuitive about messages around them, and without guidance can misinterpret their meaning. It is crucial to talk to them about the current difficulties. Parents can talk to kids about their fears, but also about skills to combat the recession as well as being able to budget when they leave home. Conversations should be age-appropriate and should not overwhelm children. Parents can also emphasise resilience and survival techniques by relating positive stories about how family members coped with past depressions. Recessions are cyclical; explaining the family's financial situation and giving kids responsibility early on can promote confidence and understanding of financial cycles.

Gambling and corporate sponsorships in college sports: Is the NCAA easing up on its gambling stance?

By Colin Campbell, B.Sc. – International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors

As every fan knows, sports have long been a venue for companies to advertise their products and services. Companies have developed inventive ways to get their name mentioned in the same breath as the local sports team, be it as the official car dealership, bank, or clothing store. One advertising trend teams are capitalizing on is selling the naming rights of their arena or stadium. It is increasingly rare to find a professional sports facility in North America that does not have a corporate name attached to it, and it's not hard to see why. Bell Canada will pay the Montreal Canadiens as much as \$64 million over a twenty year period for the naming rights to the NHL's largest arena, which is the richest arena naming rights deal in Canada. The largest current stadium naming rights deal in North America is the \$400 million, twenty-year deal between the New York Mets and Citibank, and the naming rights for the new Dallas Cowboy stadium, slated to open in September of 2009, is expected to exceed that \$400 million figure.

Professional teams are not the only ones taking advantage of companies to pay for the naming rights to athletic facilities. College athletic departments in the United States are also starting to sell the naming rights to their arenas and stadiums, with examples such as the University of Connecticut's Comcast Center, Texas Tech's Jones AT&T Stadium, and San Diego's Jenny Craig Pavilion. San Diego State University (SDSU) also

recently sold the naming rights to their basketball arena, with the Cox Arena to be called the Viejas Arena as of this July. The name Viejas come from the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay First Nations People, who also own and operate a casino on its reservation 35 kilometres from the arena.

This change in name is seen by many as a thinly veiled attempt by the Viejas tribe to promote their casino, and in effect promote gambling at NCAA sporting events. The naming rights deal does prevent the Viejas from putting any mention of their casino or gambling in the arena, however most people living in the area already associate the name "Viejas" with the casino and the tribe will benefit from name recognition. In addition, the Viejas casino does not have a sports book, thus bets cannot be placed on SDSU's teams at the Viejas casino.

Surprisingly, the NCAA does not seem to have a problem with SDSU's proposed name change. Despite being strongly opposed to gambling on college athletics, especially by the athletes themselves, the NCAA is allowing the name change to go ahead. A statement from an NCAA spokesperson to the San Diego Union-Tribune stated that "it is up to each member college and university to determine which advertising partners are a fit for their individual mission" (Soto, 2009).

In addition to allowing SDSU to change the name of its basketball arena, the NCAA has also allowed other schools to advertise gambling more explicitly. Five schools in the Pacific-10 Conference – Arizona, Arizona State, Oregon, Oregon State and Washington State – all allow casino ads on stadium and arena signage, and even in game programs. New Mexico University even completed a \$2.5 million deal that makes Route 66 Casino Hotel (which is operated by the Laguna Pueblo Native American Tribe and also does not have a sports book) its "exclusive gambling sponsor." The NCAA itself doesn't accept advertising from organizations or companies primarily involved in gambling, but it appears to be taking a hands-off approach, leaving the decision of whether or not to allow gambling advertisements at games to each school's discretion (Weinberg & Berkowitz, 2009).

So far, the NCAA has been strict in preventing its members from advertising gambling organizations who are involved in sports betting, thus preventing potential conflicts of interest and limiting the possibility of points shaving schemes or throwing games. However, the direct and indirect promotion of non-sports gambling activities on campuses is worrisome, as young adults are a group at risk of developing gambling problems. Studies conducted across North America have found that 5-9% of university-

Continued on page 4 »»»

aged men and 1-2% of university-aged women meet the DSM-IV criteria for pathological gambling, which among men is much higher than rates in the general population that are closer to 1% of individuals (Engwall, Hunter & Steinberg, 2004; Stinchfield, Hanson & Olson, 2006).

Although it appears that the NCAA is still concerned about the effect that gambling has on the integrity of its games, it does not appear to be very concerned with the effect that gambling

may have on its students, as it is standing by while universities turn to gambling to raise funds. With the current global economic downturn affecting the ability of universities to meet their funding commitments, it is likely that more and more athletic departments will turn to corporate sponsors, including those associated with gambling, in order to generate money.

Engwall, D., Hunter, R., and Steinberg, M. (2004). Gambling and other risk behaviors on university campuses. *Journal of American College Health*, 52, 245-255.

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Stinchfield, R., Hanson, W.E., and Olson, D.H. (2006). Problem and pathological gambling among college students. *New Directions for Student Services*, 113, 63-72.

Weinberg, S., and Berkowitz, S. (2009). NCAA, colleges pushing the envelope with sports marketing. *USA Today*. Retrieved May 9, 2009 from http://www.usatoday.com/sports/college/2009-04-01-marketing-cover_N.htm. ♦

Gambling on youth: Technically not youth gambling

Even though spelling isn't necessarily an athletic endeavour, the Scripps National Spelling Bee has been a televised event for over a decade; ESPN airs the preliminaries and semi-finals, and ABC airs the finals in a primetime spot. Over the course of two days at the end of May, 293 young spellers from around the United States and abroad congregated in Washington, D.C., to match spelling wits and compete in a long-anticipated face-off. Sounds like some healthy competition.

The festive nature of this competition among youth, however, takes an unexpected turn when you learn that there is money riding on these kids. The private online gaming company BetUS offers an assortment of betting opportunities associated with the spelling bee. You can put money on whether the winner will wear glasses, whether any of the contestants will faint or vomit, whether the winner will be an only child, and whether a boy or girl is more likely to win.

On one hand, it's impressive that people have taken the time to calculate the odds for the eleven different categories associated with this year's bee. On the other, it's further evidence that in today's online gaming world, you can bet on just about anything. Though betting was closed on the day that the preliminaries were broadcast, a helpful Bet-US customer service agent suggested placing a bet

on another "entertainment" item on their sports books. You can wager on the number of hot dogs that will be eaten by the winner of Nathan's Hot Dog Eating contest (under or above 62.5 hot dogs is the latest option), and you can bet whether or not Keifer Sutherland will be arrested again in 2009.

Bodog is another online gaming website - operated by the Morris Mohawk Gaming Group in Kahnawake, Quebec, though wagering is blocked to Canadians - at which bettors can risk money on these so-called "entertainment futures." At this site, you can bet on various events, from whether Sonia Sotomayor will be confirmed as the next Supreme Court Justice of the United States to which latest American Idol star will have the highest debuting album on the Billboard Top 200.

While youth are clearly barred from placing these bets, it seems a bit odd to be wagering on the outcome of a youth-based competition, especially one that - at first glance - seems so wholesome. But with odds strongly against a contestant vomiting, Bet-US customers might have to make their money on a surer bet.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/sports/chi-national-spelling-bee-bets-may27,0,2322830.story>

<http://www.onlinecasinoadvisory.com/casino-news/online/online-casinos-take-spelling-bee-wagers-42838.htm> ♦

Talkin' About Poker: Straight Talk for Parents and their Players, by Loren Ackerman and Chris Ackerman

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: High Powered Publishing; 1 edition (January 20, 2006)

Reviewed by Will Shead, Ph.D. – International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors

The beginning of the so-called “poker boom” can be traced back to 2003 when a young accountant from Tennessee named Chris Moneymaker won \$2.5 million at the World Series of Poker. With his serendipitous moniker, his equally improbable story of qualifying for the tournament via a \$40 satellite game on an Internet poker site, and countless reruns of his victory shown on ESPN, Moneymaker

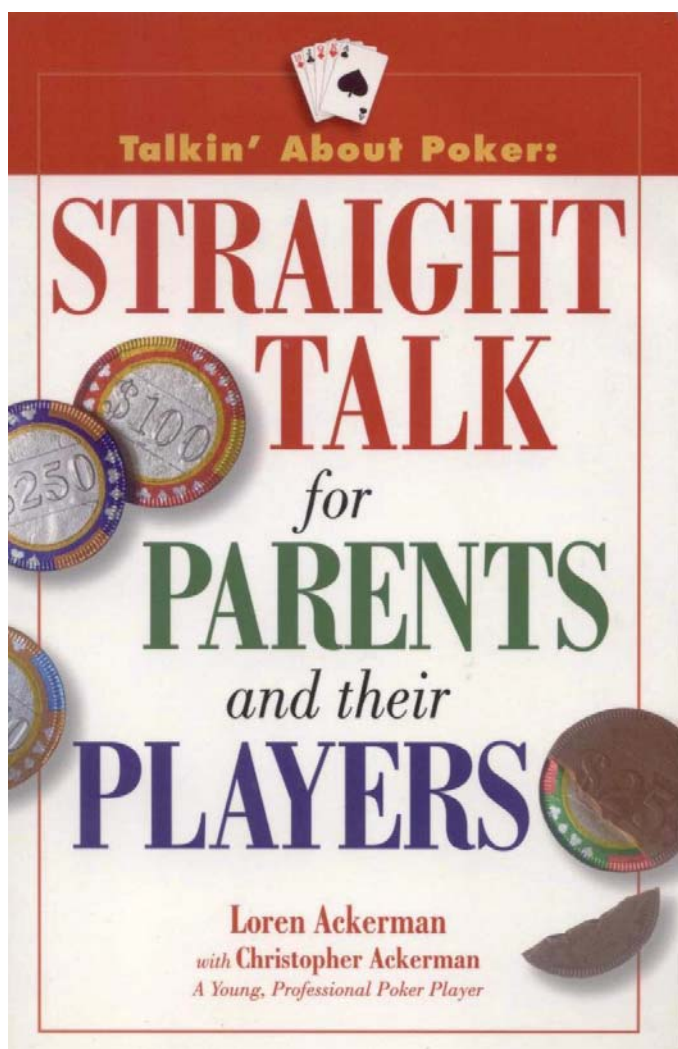
quickly became the poster boy for poker. Millions were suddenly turned onto the game with dreams of ascending to similar riches and fame. Included among these new poker players were young people – many not even legally old enough to play in brick-and-mortar casinos. What was once a game played primarily in smoky backrooms among grizzled veterans, poker became mainstream and was

rapidly infiltrated by a new breed of young hotshots who often honed their skills playing online before graduating to the real-life felt.

Talkin' About Poker: Straight Talk for Parents and their Players addresses the rise in popularity of poker among young people. It is specifically aimed at parents to help educate them about poker and to talk to their children about this popular game. The authors should be commended for a very unique

concept – the book alternates between sections written by Loren Ackerman, a gifted education teacher, and her son, Chris Ackerman, a young professional poker player. Loren's chapters addressing questions such as “Is it legal for my child to play poker?” and “Can my child become addicted to poker playing?” are interspersed with “Straight Talk” segments in which Chris provides frank discussions of his experiences as a professional poker player. The chapter “Poker: Sport or Addiction” is a particularly useful reference for parents to learn about warning signs of a gambling problem and resources for seeking help.

Despite the interesting concept, the book fails in its execution in several respects. Starting with the title of the book, the use of an apostrophe in the word “Talkin'” is silly and patronizing, suggesting the only way parents can connect with their children is to engage in dumb-down conversation filled with colloquialisms. The scope is also a bit too ambitious (and perhaps, overpriced at \$14.95 USD on Amazon.com) for such a short book. Although listed at 112 pages, the book is relatively unsubstantial with sparse text and a 9-page appendix of blank pages for parents to make “journal entries” – which is wishful, if



Continued on page 6 >>>>

not misguided, thinking. The entire book should not take more than an hour to read. This may be viewed as an advantage in that parents may be more likely to pick up a book they can read in a single sitting. The disadvantage is that it does not go into much depth and completely ignores many issues relevant to youth gambling.

He paints a picture in which his parents were initially concerned with his interest in poker but became supportive after he won this vast sum. In reality, such an achievement is extremely rare.

The “Straight Talk” segments by Chris Ackerman are insightful, but should be viewed more as fascinating autobiographical material than prototypical experiences of young poker players. In the opening segment, he describes his journey from beginning player to finishing fourth in a major televised poker tournament for which he won \$226,000. He paints a picture in which his parents were initially concerned with his interest in poker but became supportive after he won this vast sum. In reality, such an achievement is extremely rare, so his ultimate validation for pursuing poker is an isolated example. Unfortunately, this may be lost on some parents who will read his story and think that it is representative of a typical young person’s pursuit of becoming a professional poker player. Perhaps they will compare it to a child aspiring to become a pro

athlete. While the odds of becoming a successful pro in sport and poker are similarly slim, the main difference is that children who strive to become excellent athletes risk little besides becoming healthier, more goal-driven individuals, while children who want to become pro poker players risk losing vast amounts of money and time better devoted to educational pursuits. That’s

an important distinguishing factor not addressed in Chris’ segments. It would be more informative to include the perspective of a young poker player who has endured more typical struggles involved in trying to make it as a pro poker player.

Overall, the book achieves its goal of educating parents about poker and youth. Perhaps the most valuable aspect of the book

is that it should allow parents to feel more comfortable talking to their children about poker. Parents should gain enough knowledge about poker from the opening two chapters to avoid seeming clueless about the game to their children. It’s akin to becoming informed about illicit drugs before talking to children about them (e.g., you would lose a lot of credibility asking your child about “reefers” when that’s not a contemporary term). They should also glean valuable information about the warning signs of problem gambling and how to help their children if they suspect there is a problem.

Talkin’ About Poker is recommended for parents who are concerned about their children’s involvement in poker and who are unknowledgeable about the game. It should serve as a useful starting point for opening up communication between parents and children. However, parents should be cautioned that Chris’ story is the exception, not the rule, and the unique characteristics of each parent-child relationship need to be considered when broaching the subject of poker. ♦



New NFL guidelines allow team logos on lottery tickets

By Amy Taylor, B.A. – International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors



Fans of National Football League teams will soon be able to purchase one more item bearing their favourite teams' logos; a recent agreement between lottery officials and the NFL has made it possible for team insignia to appear on state scratch lottery tickets. The New England Patriots have already signed a deal with the Massachusetts State Lottery that will have their logo on a scratch card by the beginning of the 2009 season.

News of this change in NFL guidelines has left many people confused. Traditionally, the league has implemented a strict no-gambling policy, though it is suspected that the franchise has been forced to look for new revenue sources due to the current economic climate, even if it means bending their own rules.

This new agreement is questionable given the current legal action taken by the NFL against the State Lottery of Delaware over the recent addition of sports betting in their lottery. The NFL clearly distinguishes between wagering on the outcome of a game and playing the lottery, but could this endorse-

ment for one type of gambling be due to the fact that the organization is able to profit from the sale of scratch cards?

among their parents (10%). Additionally, a recent report compiled by the NCAA found that sports betting placed second after Texas Hold'Em Poker as the

With such a high number of adolescents and young adults engaging in sports wagering, the NFL should have considered to whom these lottery tickets would appeal, and the related consequences.

While the NFL may be looking for new methods to increase revenues, they are sidestepping their responsibility to their fans. Franchise officials insist that sports betting affects the integrity of the game, but this new deal with state lotteries affects the integrity of the organization. Given the number of young sports fans, selling lottery tickets as collector's items is highly irresponsible, and might incite kids to purchase tickets as additions to their collection of sports paraphernalia.

A 2008 report prepared for the Oregon Department of Human Services investigating the relationship between parental and adolescent gambling attitudes discovered that wagering on sports was more common among youth (20%) than

greatest risk for gambling problems among college students. With such a high number of adolescents and young adults engaging in sports wagering, the NFL should have considered to whom these lottery tickets would appeal, and the related consequences.

Given that many people are no longer spending the hundreds of dollars per ticket it takes to fill a stadium, it appears that NFL franchises are supplementing their income with new lottery corporation affiliations. Other teams are following in the Patriots' steps; the San Diego Chargers and the Cincinnati Bengals said that they have no plans to partner up with their state lottery. Let's hope that others follow in their lead.



Internet-initiated victimization of teenaged girls and associated risk factors

By Margot Nossal, B.A. – International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors

While we can do just about anything on the information super-highway these days, the Internet is still a relatively unexplored academic frontier. It is a great tool for those who know how to use it, but for those who are still learning – in particular impressionable youth – the Internet appears to pose potential risks. A recent study published out of

through which an adolescent interacts with other computer users. This study aimed to look at the female respondents' choice of avatar, and how that choice corresponded to risk of victimization. While parental supervision during computer use was identified as a protective factor against Internet-initiated victimization, it was found that more

counters, these adolescents may be at greater risk for victimization through the avenue of online sexual encounters.

According to the study, over half of adolescents use social networking sites, and this is why education about the potential dangers online is of utmost importance, especially to those at risk. The development of the self during adolescence now also includes the development of an online persona; not just limited to an anonymous avatar, teenagers should also be taught the importance of paying attention to how they portray themselves online, from the pictures they post on social networking sites to what they write on online forums. Given the recent development of these tools, it is also a relatively new area of study. Educators, parents, and adolescents should inform themselves of the risks and negative repercussions of using the technological developments springing up around them.

References:

Noll, J., Shenk, C., Barnes, J., & Putnam, F. (2009) Childhood Abuse, Avatar Choices, and Other Risk Factors Associated With Internet-Initiated Victimization of Adolescent Girls. *Pediatrics*, 123(6), 1078-1083. ♦

It was found that more provocative avatar choices, including clothing and personal expression, were more likely to garner online sexual advances.

the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine aimed to look at the Internet-initiated victimization of female adolescents, and identify related risk factors.

In the first study of its kind to quantify avatar choices in a laboratory setting and relate them to adolescent risk-taking behaviours, it was found that one independent risk factor for victimization was the adolescent's use of a provocative avatar. An avatar is a computer user's (often graphical) representation of themselves, or of their chosen online persona, which for adolescents is often an exaggerated or embellished version of themselves. It is created as a medium

provocative avatar choices, including clothing and personal expression, were more likely to garner online sexual advances.

The other significant independent risk factor associated with the threat of Internet-initiated victimization was confirmed childhood abuse; female adolescent respondents with a history of abuse (whether physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect) reported higher incidences of both online sexual advances and off-line, in-person encounters with people they met over the Internet (i.e. on a social networking site, chat rooms, etc.) Though the history of abuse might not be directly related to offline en-

Tobacco products and youth: Appeal and access

Compiled by Margot Nossal, B.A. – International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors

It's probably not much of a stretch to assume that your average Bay Street banker or Parliament Hill bigwig is nipping out in between meetings to smoke a Juicy Double Blunt or Piña Colada cigarillo. These products, along with numerous other tobacco goods, are advertised and available across Canada – and our government would like to do something about it.

Minister of Health and Conservative MP for Nunavut Leona Aglukkaq has proposed some concrete steps towards protecting vulnerable and impressionable youth, who might otherwise be enticed to smoke an appealing cigarillo or tasty blunt (a sheet or tube of tobacco). These steps include prohibiting the addition of fruit flavours and other additives that give tobacco products a candy-like taste, with the exception of menthol, which has long been used as a cigarette flavour additive. As well, she proposes that all tobacco products, including cigarillos, be sold in packages of at least 20, just like cigarettes. Currently, some tobacco companies package cigarillos individually or in “kiddie packs” of five, and these are often sold at corner stores where youth have easy access.

Even though smoking rates among youth in Canada have been decreasing over the past decade, youth still remain a high-risk population for tobacco use initiation, as most smokers begin using tobacco in their adolescence. And though most adolescents (72%) get their tobacco products from social sources (i.e. from friends, asking someone to buy for them), focused concern still needs to be paid to the marketing strategies used by tobacco companies. Are individually-wrapped and candy-flavoured cigarillos really meant for those who can legally buy tobacco products?

Representatives from health associations around the country, including the Canadian Cancer Society, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, and the Canadian Lung Association, have all applauded the move in Parliament to make changes to the current Tobacco Act. According to the latest Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey, the highest rate of regular smokers is found among people aged 20-24, of whom more than 28% smoke.

Are individually-wrapped and candy-flavoured cigarillos really meant for those who can legally buy tobacco products?

Actual youth access to tobacco products is a related concern, and one that also needs to be considered when trying to prevent youth consumption of the substance. While the government can work to create laws that make these products less appealing to youth and restrict their availability, there exists another line along which extra attention should be paid: the front lines where youth obtain cigarettes and cigarillos, from tobacco retailers.

Over the past two years, the Centre has been involved in a project testing retailer compliance around the greater Montreal area. Though the study at our centre focuses on youth's ability to purchase lottery and alcohol products in real-life situations, the ideology of assessing youth access to restricted products is similar.

Working on a much larger scale, researchers in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Massachusetts Medical School recently released a

study entitled “Enforcement of underage sales laws as a predictor of daily smoking among adolescents: A national study.” Sampling over 16,000 adolescents from 36 different states, this study concluded that a higher rate of merchant compliance with tobacco laws was correlated with a lower rate of smoking among youth. They concluded that a 20.8% reduction in the odds of smoking among 10th graders in 2003 was attributed to the observed improvement in merchant compli-

ance between 1997 and 2003, while a 47% reduction in the odds of daily smoking could be attributed to price increases over this period. The study also reported that because of an increased scarcity of cigarettes in social circles, both regular and occasional adolescent smokers are affected when retailers in an adolescent's area do not comply with an attempt to purchase tobacco products.

The Minister of Health is surely taking important steps to reduce tobacco's appeal to youth, but as this recent study shows, an enforcement of existing laws will also help in reinforcing the message to youth that smoking is just not a smart idea.

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/tobac-tabac/research-recherche/stat/_survey-sondage_2006-2007/result-eng.php

DiFranza, J., Savageau, J., Fletcher, K. (2009). Enforcement of underage sales laws as a predictor of daily smoking among adolescents: A national study. *BMC Public Health*, 9(107). ♦

A record-breaking effort to raise awareness about problem gambling

By Margot Nossal, B.A. – International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors

Alastair Galpin has licked the most stamps in a minute, grown the longest individual chest hair, and blown out the most candles in one breath. But this past April, the New Zealand man broke a new world record by conducting the most radio interviews while living in a cage suspended 18 metres above the ground for 20 days. His record breaking, however, isn't just for the sake of breaking records; Galpin's most recent endeavour was all in the name of raising awareness about problem gambling in New Zealand, and hopefully around the world.

According to Graeme Ramsey, Chief Executive of the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand,

the organization Galpin was promoting throughout his cage-stay, New Zealanders lose more than \$2 billion per year to gambling, over half of which is through pokie machines (electronic poker machines). The Foundation provides counselling and support to gamblers and their families, as well as education initiatives in community groups, businesses, and schools. Active throughout all of New Zealand, the Foundation works to empower communities by providing them with the tools and resources to educate their citizens about problem gambling, and to minimize the harm it causes.

Even though Galpin's decision to support the Problem Gambling Foundation was

random – he found the organization's number in the phonebook and rang them up – he believes that as his success rate for breaking records increases, so does the exposure to whichever cause he supports. Having been turned down by other organizations, Galpin was glad that the Problem Gambling Foundation recognized his efforts as a forward-thinking, proactive method to raise awareness about an important issue in New Zealand society.

Galpin was originally inspired by the efforts of a rally driver he saw in Kenya, and decided that combining his affinity for breaking records and the promotion of worthy causes was a good match. Since 2004, he has been working with charities around the world, breaking records and linking the efforts to specific causes. Some of Galpin's other record-breaking activities have supported various organizations, including Southern Stars, a New Zealand organization that aids a host of local children's charities, as well as conservation-linked world record to spread awareness about environmental destruction in Africa. ♦



2008 Durand Jacobs Award goes to Jenny Horch

The International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors is pleased to announce Jenny Horch as the winner of the 2007/2008 Durand Jacobs Award. Her paper, which was co-authored with David C. Hodgins, was entitled "Public Stigma of Disordered Gambling: Social Distance, Dangerousness, and Familiarity." This paper has been published in the *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, 27(5) in 2008. Ms. Horch's research was supported in part by a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Jenny Horch completed her B.A. Honours in Psychology at the University of Winnipeg and began graduate work at the University of Calgary in 2005. She is currently completing her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology under the supervision of Dr. David Hodgins. Her graduate work has explored the impact of stigma on problem gambling. Her M.Sc. thesis determined that problem gambling does appear to be a stigmatized condition. Her disserta-

tion aims to explore the link between stigma and reduced treatment-seeking by considering the impact of self-stigma on individuals with a gambling problem.

The Durand Jacobs Award recognizes outstanding work related to the psychology of addictive behaviours, and is dedicated to Dr. Durand Jacobs' lifelong efforts to help mentor students in this field. We were pleased to receive a record number of high quality submissions this year, and our thanks go out to all who entered a paper in this year's competition.

Ms. Horch will receive a plaque commemorating the award, as well as a cash award generously provided by Dr. Durand Jacobs and family. We congratulate Ms. Horch on her accomplishment and wish her the best in completing her graduate studies.

Abstract

Disordered gambling stigma was examined. University students (117 male, 132 female) rated vignettes describing males with five health conditions (schizophrenia, alcohol dependence, disordered gambling, cancer, and a no diagnosis control with subclinical problems) on a measure of attitudinal social distance. A mixed ANOVA revealed that, in keeping with hypotheses, disordered gambling was more stigmatized than the cancer and control conditions. Interactions suggested that stigma may be influenced by context (i.e., order of vignette appearance) and participant characteristics (i.e., sex and ethnicity), although follow-up analyses revealed this was not the case for disordered gambling. Perceived dangerousness attributions and familiarity (previous experience with a disordered gambler) were also examined. As predicted, perceived dangerousness was positively correlated with social distance scores. Familiarity ratings were unrelated to social distance.

Horch, J, Hodgins, D.C. (2008) Public stigma and gambling: Social distance, dangerousness, and familiarity. *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, 27(5): 505-528. ◆



Jenny Horch

Recent publications and presentations

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Magoon, M., Gupta, R., & Derevensky, J. (in press). Gambling among youth in detention centers. *Journal for Juvenile Justice and Detention Services*.

Lussier, I., Derevensky, J., & Gupta, R. (2009). Youth gambling behaviors: An international perspective. In A. Browne-Miller (Ed.), *The Praeger International Collection on Addictions. Volume IV. Behavioral Addictions from Concept to Compulsion*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 259-280.

Lussier, I., Derevensky, J., & Gupta, R. (2009). Youth gambling prevention and resilience education: A harm reduction approach. In A. Browne-Miller (Ed.), *The Praeger International Collection on Addictions. Volume IV. Behavioral Addictions from Concept to Compulsion*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 339-350.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Derevensky, J. (2009). What can we look forward to in research over the next five years: Research in an ever changing industry. Invited paper to be presented at the Discovery 2009 conference on problem gambling, Responsible Gambling Council (Ontario), Niagara Falls, April.

Derevensky, J. (2009). Youth gambling: Our current knowledge. Invited address to be presented at the Second International Symposium on Pathological Gambling and Other Impulse Control Disorders - Adolescence, Family & Society. Sponsored by the National Association on Pathological Gambling and Other Impulse Control

Disorders (ANJOTI, Brazil), Sao Paulo, Brazil, May.

Derevensky, J. (2009). Youth gambling: The lure of the Internet. Invited address to be presented at the Second International Symposium on Pathological Gambling and Other Impulse Control Disorders - Adolescence, Family & Society. Sponsored by the National Association on Pathological Gambling and Other Impulse Control Disorders (ANJOTI, Brazil), Sao Paulo, Brazil, May.

Derevensky, J. (2009). Preventing youth gambling and risk related behaviors: Lessons learned. Invited address to be presented at the Second International Symposium on Pathological Gambling and Other Impulse Control Disorders - Adolescence, Family & Society. Sponsored by the National Association on Pathological Gambling and Other Impulse Control Disorders (ANJOTI, Brazil), Sao Paulo, Brazil, May.

Faregh, Neda. (2009). Youth gambling problems: Our current research findings. Address to child psychologists at a Staff Development Meeting, Montreal Children's Hospital, Montreal, May.

Campbell, C.A., Derevensky, J., Meerkamper, E., & Cutajar, J. (2009). Parents' perceptions of adolescent gambling behaviour. Poster presented at the annual Canadian Psychological Association conference, Montreal, June.

McBride, J. & Derevensky, J. (2009). Internet Gambling Among University Students. Poster Presented at the Canadian Psychological Association Annual Convention, Montreal, June.

Derevensky, J. (2009). Wave 4 - the rapid expansion of worldwide gambling: New research initiatives and strategies for the future. Keynote address to be presented at the National Council on Problem Gambling annual conference, Indianapolis, June.

Derevensky, J., Paskus, T., Newman-Baker, R., & Petr, T. (2009). Gambling among college athletes: A national study. Paper to be presented at the National Council on Problem Gambling annual conference, Indianapolis, June.

Derevensky, Campbell, C., Meerkamper, E., & Cutajar, J. (2009). Parental attitudes toward youth gambling: Results from a national Canadian study. Paper to be presented at the National Council on Problem Gambling annual conference, Indianapolis, June.

Derevensky, J., Meerkamper, E., Cutajar, J., & Campbell, C. (2009). Parents' perception of adolescent gambling behaviour. Poster to be presented at the Canadian Psychological Association annual conference, Montreal, June.



News from the Centre...

Media Toolkit Series coming soon!

We've been hard at work developing our new Media Toolkit reference series about youth gambling problems, designed for frontline professionals in various fields. The first unit will be aimed at physicians and allied health professionals likely to come into contact with youth experiencing gambling problems. The accompanying DVD will feature our independently produced video segments, with information on gambling problems, co-morbidity, diagnosis, treatment options and more, featuring interviews with some of North America's top experts in this area. The accompanying CD-ROM will have selections of PDF versions of seminal papers for instant perusal. Future editions in this series will be designed for lawyers, judges and legal system professionals, followed by a unit for mental health professionals.

Check out our trailer for this new product, due out this fall, by clicking on the banner at www.youthgambling.com.

2009 Master's Thesis Award

Please help us to congratulate Renée St-Pierre, recent recipient of the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) 2009 Master's Thesis Award. This prestigious award was established to acknowledge the superior research contribution of graduate-level scholars in the field of prob-

lem gambling. Renée was invited to present a paper based on this thesis, entitled "Retailer compliance with youth access statutes and regulatory policies for lottery products and alcohol: Evaluating the role of gender and vendor age," at the 23rd National Conference on Problem Gambling in Indianapolis, IN. We are very proud of Renée and wish her continued success with her studies.

Wedding News



Doctoral student Renée St-Pierre and Roberto Turchetta were married on the afternoon of May 23rd, 2009 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. The small ceremony took place on the veranda of the Grand Victorian Bed and Breakfast, followed by a reception in the adjoining vineyard. We wish them many years of health and happiness together.

25th wedding anniversary

Our Centre administrative assistant, Arlene Doheny and her husband Tom Dickie celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this May by renewing their vows at St. Thomas More Church in Verdun, where they were originally married. We wish them a hearty congratulations and best wishes for many more wonderful years together. ♦

Upcoming Events

- **23rd National Conference on Problem Gambling Prevention, Treatment, Responsible Gaming, Research and Recovery**
June 25 - 27, 2009 - Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
- **2009 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse**
August 12 - 14, 2009 - St. Louis, Missouri, USA
- **Gambling and Addictions Symposium 2009**
September 3 - 4, 2009 - Montréal, Quebec, Canada
- **Gambling, Gender and Society International Research Conference**
September 24, 2009 - Helsinki, Finland
- **27th Annual Statewide Conference on Compulsive Gambling**
September 25, 2009 - Princeton, New Jersey, USA
- **Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation's Responsible Gambling Conference 2009**
October 5 - 6, 2009 - Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- **NCRG Conference on Gambling and Addiction**
November 15 - 17, 2009 - Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
- **National Association for Gambling Studies 19th Annual Conference**
November 18 - 20, 2009 - Canberra, ACT, Australia

YGI Newsletter

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