

Youth Gambling and Substance Use: Navigating the Digital Minefield

Understanding and Addressing the Digital Age Risks Dan Tailman, LISW, CADC, CFMHE Executive Director, Acceptance Recovery Counseling 2024 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse

Introduction to gambling and problem gambling

- Biopsychosocial model
- Introduction to the DSM-5 criteria for Gambling Disorder
- Polygenic nature of gambling disorders
- Link to family history as a risk factor for gambling and substance use disorders

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Why people gamble- youth focus

- Exploration of motivations behind youth gambling
- Impact of thrill-seeking and risk-taking on youth gambling and substance use

Discussion of peer influence



The Digital Arena: social media and the dark web

- How social media apps mimic gambling environments and foster risky behaviors
- The role of the dark web in providing anonymous access to substances
- Impact of digital platforms on increasing accessibility and anonymity for youth

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The dark web and substance use risks



Resources and support

Toward a safer digital environment for youth

- Potential for regulatory measures
- Strategies for safer digital environments and responsible technology use
- Future challenges and opportunities
 relating to gambling and substance use







The intersection of Gambling and Substance Use

- Link between digital gambling and substance use among youth
 Neurobiological similarities in the reward pathways for gambling and substance use
 Co-occurrence of these behaviors and their implications

Understanding the neuroscience behind youth gambling



- Neuroimaging studies showing gambling's effect on the brain's reward system
- Similarities to substance use in terms of brain activity and pleasure pathways
- Implications of these findings for treatment and intervention

The impact of social media on gambling behavior

- · In-depth analysis of how social media influences gambling behaviors
- Strategies for mitigating negative impacts of social media
- · Educational initiatives aimed at responsible social media use



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Psychological triggers in gambling and substance use

- Common triggers such as stress, anxiety, and depression
- · Exacerbated by adolescence- jealousy, belonging
- Mechanisms through which these psychological states promote risky behaviors
- Strategies for managing these triggers in therapeutic settings



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Addressing co-occurring disorders in youth

Treatment considerations for youth with co occurring disorders such as $\ensuremath{\mathsf{ADHD}}$

Complexities introduced by these co-

Best practices for integrated treatment

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Strategies for Intervention and Prevention

- Effective community and family-based interventions
- Importance of early detection and tailored education programs
- Role of technology in aiding prevention and treatment strategies





Role of family in gambling and substance use behaviors

- Impact of family dynamics on the development of gambling and substance use
- · Family-based intervention strategies and their importance
- Case examples of successful family interventions

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Innovative therapeutic approaches for youth

- Emerging therapies such as gamification and virtual reality
- Addressing trauma with EMDR, yoga, meditation
- Effectiveness of innovative approaches in engaging youth

Building effective family engagement in adolescent therapy

- · Importance of a family involvement
- Strategies to engage parents
- Creating a secure base



The role of schools and educational Institutions

- Schools as pivotal environments for prevention and early intervention
- · Educational policies that can support or hinder effective interventions
- Successful school-based programs and their outcomes



- 1. Juan
- 2. Clara
- 3. Thomas
- Examples of successful recovery stories and the factors that contributed to success
- Role of personalized treatment plans and continuity of care
- Lessons learned from these cases that can inform future practice

Case studies of successful recovery from gambling and substance use

Legal and ethical considerations in the second seco

Future research directions in gambling and substance use



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- Summary
- Call to action
- Questions
- Dan Taliman, LISW, CADC, CFMHE Executive Director, Acceptance Recovery Counseling 2024 Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse dan@acceptancerecoverycounseling.com