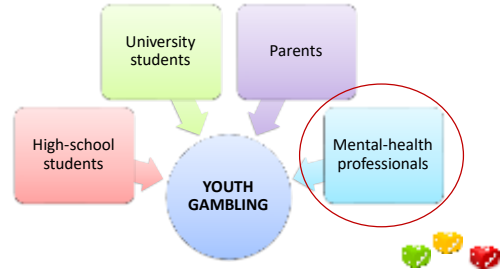


**COMPETENCIES FOR YOUTH PROBLEM GAMBLING
PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTIONS – MENTAL HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS’ PERSPECTIVE**

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Prof. Dora Dodig Hundrić, PhD
Sabina Mandić, MA
Department of Behavioral Disorders



Youth gambling in Croatia: 2010 - 2018



**NATIONAL YOUTH GAMBLING PREVALENCE STUDY
(N=2.702) - representative sample of adolescents**

- ⇒ **81.6%** gambled at least once in lifetime (lifetime prevalence)
- ⇒ **most frequent = sports betting**
 - ⇒ around **20%** high-school students regularly betting
 - ⇒ around **35%** male adolescents regularly betting

- ⇒ **CAGI - GPSS subscale results**
 - **12.9%** high severity of psychosocial consequences
 - 17.3% low to moderate
 - 69.8% no problems
- ❖ **Highest prevalence of 44 EU studies** (Calado, Alexandre, Griffiths, 2017)

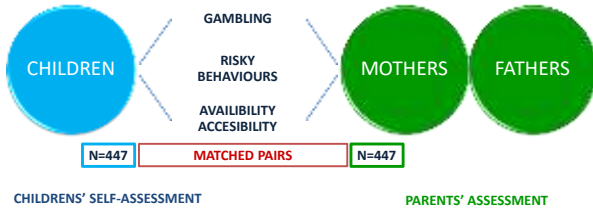


Ricijas, N., Dodig Hundric, D., Huic, A., Kranzelic, V. (2016): Youth gambling in Croatia - frequency of gambling and the occurrence of problem gambling, *Criminology & Social Integration*, 24(2), 48-72

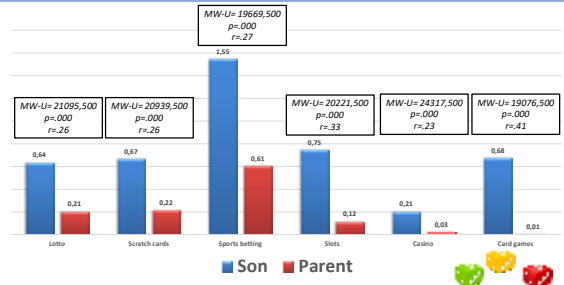


PARENTAL PERCEPTION OF YOUTH GAMBLING

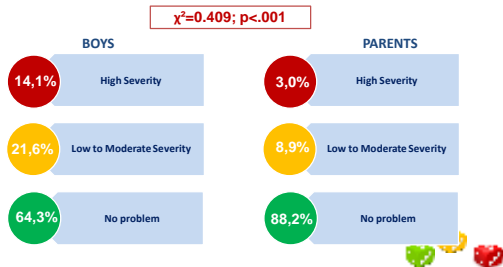
- Questionnaire adapted from McGill study (Derevensky et al.)
- Two largest Croatian Cities: Zagreb & Split



Parents' perspective: underestimating frequency - BOYS



Parents' perspective: underestimating problems - BOYS



Importance of youth mental health professionals

- mental health service provider perceptions of problems and knowledge of resources are among the largest determinants of service provision and referral (Stiffman et al. 2000, 2001)
- while mental health professionals are generally knowledgeable about and concerned with more visible risky and addictive adolescent behaviors, gambling problems among youth frequently go unidentified (Dickson and Derevensky 2006)

CANADIAN STUDY: N=649 mental health professionals

Temcheff, Derevensky, St-Pierre, Gupta, Martin (2014)

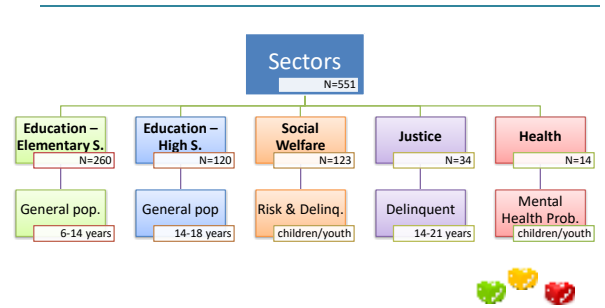
- youth problem gambling = perceived at the least serious adolescent risk behavior
- few reported feeling confident in their abilities to deal with youth with gambling problems
- many endorsed strong interest in receiving continuing education in the prevention, identification, and treatment of problem gambling

Mental Health Professionals Perception of Youth Gambling

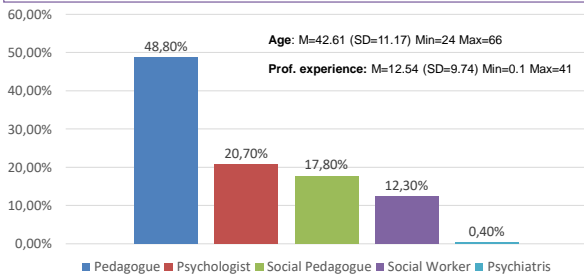
- **N=551** (male=9.4%; female=90.6%)
- On-line study - all 21 counties in the Republic of Croatia
- Conducted from March to May 2018
- Funded by University of Zagreb (no conflict of interest)
- Parallel/Modified with McGill study
 - Temcheff, Derevensky, St-Pierre, Gupta, Martin (2014)



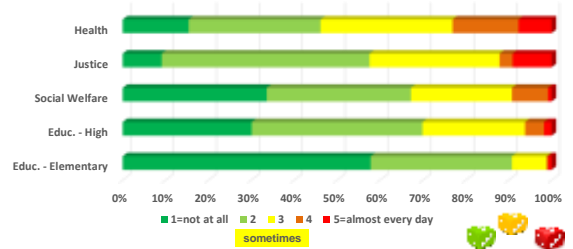
1. How often they encounter youth gambling problems?
2. How competent they feel for providing psychosocial interventions?
3. How important they perceive these competencies?



Profession



How often do you encounter children/youth gambling problems in your professional work?



Youth gambling problems in relation to other risk behaviors?

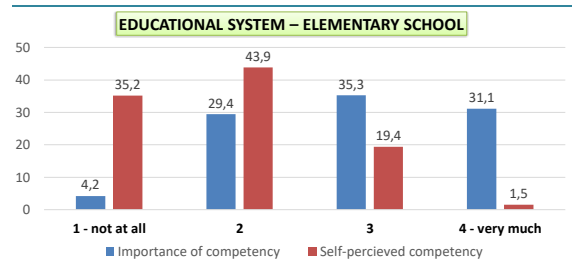
- **Check-list with 19 risk behaviors/mental health problems**
- How often they work with youth gambling problems compared to other risk behavior/mental health problem?
- **Series of Paired-sample T-test – separate by sector**
- Gambling < > =

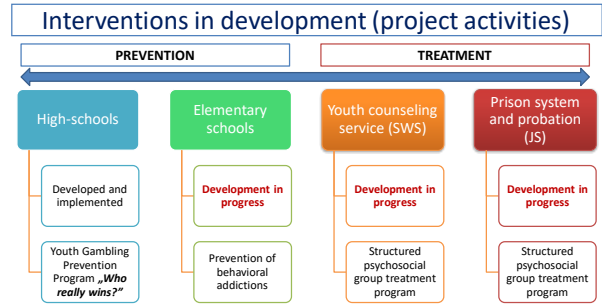
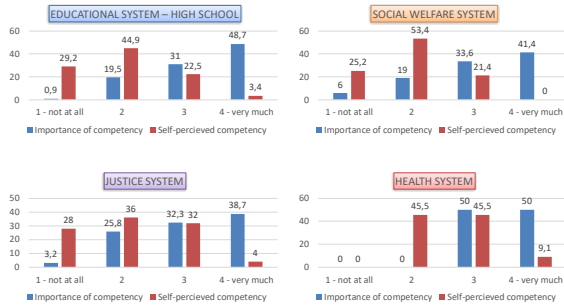


EDUCATIONAL - ELEMENTARY	EDUCATIONAL - HIGH	SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEM	JUSTICE SYSTEM	HEALTH SYSTEM
Alcohol	Alcohol	Alcohol	Alcohol	Alcohol
Cigarettes	Cigarettes	Cigarettes	Cigarettes	Cigarettes
Bullying	Drugs	Drugs	Drugs	Drugs
Neg. body image	Bullying	Bullying	Bullying	Delinquency
Depression	Neg. body image	Neg. body image	Delinquency	Academic problems
Internet addiction	Depression	Depression	Internet addiction	Depression
Academic problems	Internet addiction	Internet addiction	Academic problems	GAMBLING
ADHD	Academic problems	Academic problems	ADHD	Bullying
Specific learning disabilities	ADHD	ADHD	Internet risk behavior	Internet addiction
Eating disorder	Specific learning disabilities	Specific learning disabilities	Excessive video gaming	ADHD
Internet risk behavior	Internet risk behavior	Internet risk behavior	Oppositional disorder	Internet risk behavior
Excessive video gaming	Excessive video gaming	Excessive video gaming	Conduct disorder	Excessive video gaming
Sexual risk behavior	Oppositional disorder	Oppositional disorder	GAMBLING	Oppositional disorder
Oppositional disorder	Conduct disorder	Conduct disorder	Depression	Conduct disorder
Conduct disorder	GAMBLING	Sexual risk behavior	Neg. body image	Neg. body image
Delinquency	Eating disorder	Delinquency	Specific learning disabilities	Specific learning disabilities
GAMBLING	Sexual risk behavior	GAMBLING	Sexual risk behavior	Sexual risk behavior
Drugs	Delinquency	Eating disorder	Drinking & driving	Drinking & driving
Drinking & driving	Drinking & driving	Drinking & driving	Eating disorder	Eating disorder

(1) Importance of competencies
and (2) self-perceived competency
for working with gambling related problems

1 = not at all important / competent
4 = very important / competent





Conclusions and recommendations

- Youth gambling is **not perceived as the least present/frequent** risk behavior among adolescents by Croatian mental health professionals
- **Differences** across sectors/population of youth
- **Similar to Canadian results:**
 - Few feel competent at the moment to provide interventions
 - Strong will/need for these competencies
- Measuring educational/**training needs** of professional
- **Evidence-based strategy** for building **life-long learning** process of mental health professional
- **Modification of university curricula**
 - Example of the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences
 - **Obligatory courses:** gambling related topics - basic
 - **Optional course:** Gambling and other behavioral addictions



Thank you for your attention! 😊

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