The Relationship Between Working in Same and Opposite Gender-Dominated Industries and Gambling Dependency in Men and Women

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INTRODUCTION

- 4 to 6 million Americans are classified as problem gamblers, and 1% are classified as having a gambling disorder (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2021).
- This diagnosis is characterized by a lack of control over gambling habits, resulting in a myriad of negative behavioral, financial, legal, and health consequences to the gambler's life (Moriera et al., 2023).
- Gambling problems have been well established around the world as more common in men than in women (Calado & Griffiths, 2016). Men are about 2 times more likely than women to develop a gambling addiction, with young boys and men being particularly vulnerable to developing the disorder (Sohn, 2023).
- In the last 10 years female gambling rates have gone up significantly, a phenomenon referred to as the "feminization" of gambling (Håkansson & Widinghoff, 2020). A Polish study found that regardless of gender, those in stereotypically male careers exhibited increased financial risk-taking (Sekścińska, 2023).
- While it is known that men are more likely to exhibit gambling dependency in the US, an association has not yet been established between American men and women's gambling dependence and whether they occupy a male or female-associated role in their work life.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Are women in male-dominated industries (MDIs) more likely than women in female-dominated industries (FDIs) to display gambling dependency? Are men?
- How does gambling dependency level for women in MDIs compare to that of men in MDIs (and vice versa)?

METHODS

Sample

- Respondents (n=24,634) included only those working in gender-dominated industries (65% or more workers of one gender).
- Male-dominated industries: Agriculture, Mining, Construction, Transportation, Communications and Other Public Utilities, Business and Repair Service, Armed Services
- Female-dominated industries: Finance, Insurance and Real Estate, Personal Services, Professional and Related Services, Homemaker
- Respondents were drawn from the first wave of the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC), a nationally representative sample of non-institutionalized, American adult civilians aged 18 and older.

Measures

- Two gambling dependence variables were created: Shortening Time Spent Between Gambling Sessions, and Issues with Quitting.
- Both were measured with two yes or no questions, and responses were summed to create categorical variables with outcomes ranging from 0 to 2 (0="no" to both questions, 1="yes" to one question, 2="yes" to both questions).
- Gambling dependence variables were turned into binary variables in order to do logistic regressions (0="no" to both questions, 1="yes" to one or both questions).
- Time-related questions: "Ever find that you had to gamble again as soon as possible after winning in order to win more?", "Ever find that you had to gamble again as possible as possible after losing in order to win back losses?").
- Issues quitting questions: "More than once try to quit or cut down on gambling, but couldn't do it?" and "Ever become restless, irritable, or anxious when trying to stop/cut down on gambling?".

RESULTS

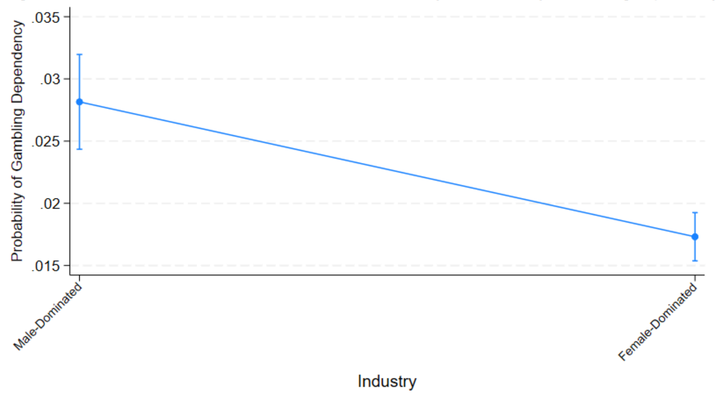
Univariate

- 72% of participants were in FDIs, 59% were female
- 19% males in FDIs, 22% males in MDIs, 52% females in FDIs, 7% females in MDIs
- 2.5% of participants displayed gambling dependency symptoms

Bivariate

- Chi-square analysis showed **both measures of gambling dependency** (Shortening Time Between Gambling Sessions: $X^2=27.06$, $p<0.0001$, Issues Quitting: $X^2=13.16$, $p<0.0001$) **significantly associated with industry gender domination**.
- Logistic regression showed that industry (OR 0.60, CI 0.50-0.73) significantly associated with gambling dependency. **The odds of those working in FDIs displaying gambling dependency behavior is 40% less than for those working in MDIs**.

Figure 1: The Association between Gender Domination of Industry and Probability of Gambling Dependency



Multivariate

- Multiple logistic regression reveals that when including sex as a third variable, industry gender domination is **no longer significantly associated with either gambling dependency variable** (Shortening Time Between Gambling Sessions: p=0.735, Issues Quitting: p=0.365), but sex is signficantly associated with both gambling dependency variables ($p<0.0001$).

DISCUSSION

- Male-dominated industries are associated with increased levels of gambling dependency
- However, this association was shown to be no longer true when accounting for sex. This means that sex is a confounding variable, and therefore a better predictor of gambling dependency symptoms than industry.
- Further research is needed to determine the underlying mechanisms driving the relationship between sex and gambling dependency. Potential factors include biological, psychological, or social differences that influence coping strategies and risk-taking behavior.
- Future studies should explore additional work-related variables, such as stress levels, workplace discrimination, and access to mental health resources, to better understand the pathways linking industry and gambling behaviors.

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