Inbjudan till halvtidskontroll

Doktorand:
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Titel:
Gambling disorder: prevalence, sociodemographics and co-occurring psychiatric problems in at-risk populations

Tid och plats:
Fredagen den 5 oktober, kl 13.00.
Beroendecentrum Triangeln, Södra Förstadsg 35, plan 4, Malmö.

Opponenter vid halvtidskontrollen:
Clara Hellner, adjungerad professor, Karolinska institutet
Stefan Borg, docent, Karolinska institutet

Huvudhandledare:
Anders Håkansson, professor

Biträdande handledare:
Helena Hansson, med dr
Jonas Berge, med dr

Alla välkomna!
Abstrakt för avhandlingen

Background. Gambling disorder is a severe condition, known to harm individuals, families and communities. Problematic gambling is associated with elevated risks of suicide, other psychiatric morbidity and violence – both physical and psychological. About 2 % of the Swedish population have gambling problems, and this proportion remains the same, despite the fact that gambling in general seems to decrease. These conditions illustrate the need of more knowledge about vulnerable groups and preventive actions.

Method. Here I present five studies, on four selected populations: male violent offenders, patients diagnosed with gambling disorder in specialized health care, online gamblers and clients seeking social services treatment. The focus is on prevalence of gambling disorder and psychiatric comorbidity, and related social problems.

Preliminary results. As expected, the prevalence of gambling disorder in convicted offenders was high, 16 %. Several substance abuse diagnoses and worse schooling results were significantly more common in the gambling disorder group. Failure to complete elementary and middle school in expected time, and cocaine abuse, were significantly associated with gambling disorder in a logistic regression analysis. The comprehensive national registry study has shown extensive psychiatric comorbidity, especially among women, in patients who received gambling disorder diagnoses in specialized health care. In the same population, prescription of psychiatric drugs was generally high, increasing after gambling disorder diagnoses and significantly higher for women, according to generalized estimations equation models.

Importance. Gambling disorder is both a medical and political issue. This thesis may contribute to a better understanding of the complex connections between gambling disorder and related psychiatric and social problems. Our results show where some of the most severely affected problem gamblers can be found, and what characterizes them, and could contribute to some of the first steps towards effective prevention and treatment.

Published work
