

The Gambling Impact Survey Summary

More than 100 people completed the survey, with over 92% of them being men. Over 30% of the respondents had been impacted by a close family member with a gambling problem in the last 12 months, whilst the rest had been involved with someone outside the family in the last 12 months who gambled.

Of those with a close family member who gambled, over 70% experienced anger, confusion, anxiety and financial difficulty, while 60% said that they sometimes encountered physical stress, depression and loneliness and over half said that they felt ashamed, scared and betrayed.

Interestingly when you realise that the respondents were mainly men, 50% of those with close family members who gambled, said that they had suffered emotional abuse from the gambler and nearly half of these said it developed into physical abuse.

The survey revealed that family breakup is a key impact of gambling and over 50% of those with a gambler in the family experience family break-up, almost half of which ended in divorce.

Over 90% of all respondent believed that there should be a 9:00pm watershed on gambling advertising on TV.

Can gambling really be classified as an entertainment?

THE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Knowing someone with a gambling problem: the results of an online survey

The analysis of the Gambling Impact Survey were produced by Professor Jim Orford of Birmingham University.

Respondents of the Survey

Anyone who was the spouse, relative or friend of a problem gambler was invited to take part.

There were 105 respondents: 97 male, 8 female

Ages:

18-24 – 2

25-34 – 6

35-44 – 22

45-54 – 33

55-64 – 29

64 or over – 13

9 made it clear in comments after particular questions or at the end that they did not know anyone with a gambling problem, so they have been excluded from the analysis.

32 said they know a close family member with a gambling problem in the last 12 months.

22 said they know either a friend (10) or a work colleague or someone at school or college (10) or a more distant relative (2) with a gambling problem in the last 12 months .

42 said they know someone else with a gambling problem in the last 12 months .

The results for the last of those two groups were very similar, so they have been combined into one group of others.

Experiences as a result of that person's gambling

The table below shows the percentages of the two groups who reported each experience 'sometimes' or 'often' (and in brackets just the percentages reporting each experience 'often'). The 14 experiences are ordered from those with highest scores to those with the lowest for the Knows a close family member group.

	Know a close family member N=32 Experienced at least sometimes (often)	Others N=64 Experienced at least sometimes (often)
Anxious	78.1 (65.6)	17.2 (9.4)
Angry	84.4 (46.9)	26.6 (4.7)
Confused	78.1 (43.8)	20.3 (7.8)
Financial difficulties	71.9 (53.1)	6.3 (4.7)
Physical stress	65.6 (46.9)	0.0 (4.7)
Depressed	68.7 (31.3)	6.3 (3.1)
Burnt out	65.6 (37.5)	0.0 (7.8)
Scared	53.1 (43.8)	4.7 (1.6)
Lonely	62.5 (40.6)	4.7 (1.6)
Betrayed	56.2 (28.1)	9.4 (7.8)
Ashamed	53.1 (18.8)	4.7 (1.6)
Hassled for money	46.9 (28.1)	12.5 (4.7)
Emotional abuse	50.0 (18.8)	1.6 (0.0)
Physical abuse	21.9 (6.3)	0.0 (0.0)

Adding up each person's scores for those 14 items (each item scored: often 3; sometimes 2; occasionally 1; never 0) produces the following results:

Those who know a close family member (N=32): mean score 24.3, standard deviation 10.7, range 1-38, median 27

Others (N=64): mean score 5.4, standard deviation 6.3, range 0-30, median 2/3

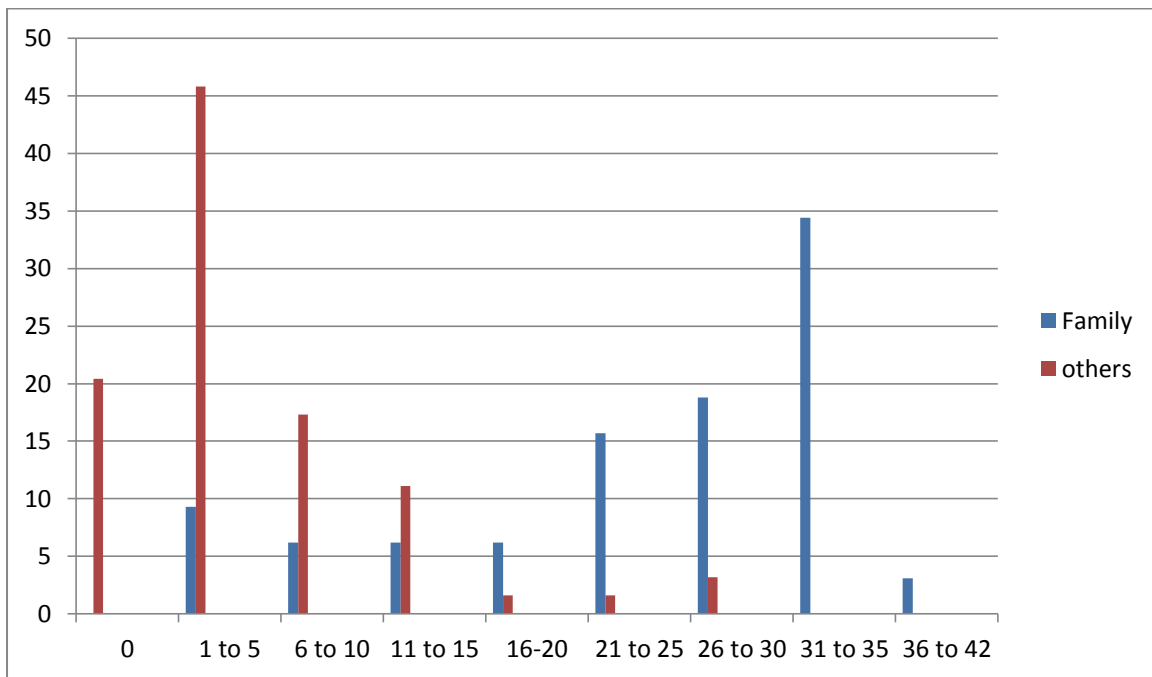
Other results:

Family break-up. Those who know a close family member - 18 (56.3%); Others - 5 (7.8%)

Divorce. Those who know a close family member - 8 (25.0%); Others -3 (4.7%)

In favour of a 9 pm watershed for TV gambling advertising. Those who know a close family member - 29 (90.6%); Others - 62 (96.9%)

The chart below shows the distribution of those total scores for the two groups: Those who know a close family member (Family); and Others.



The X-Axis represents the total scored, which would be 42 if all the questions were answered as "Often", while the Y-Axis is the total number of respondents in that group.