

Gambling Addiction and the Implications for Treatment in Custody

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Overview

PG in Prison Populations

Role of Gambling in Prison

Implications of Re-Categorization for Corrections

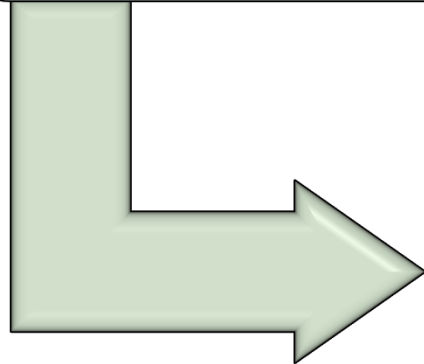
McEvoy & Spirgen (2012)

“Inmate gambling is a common, perhaps a *normative*, aspect of prison life”

Shift in Nomenclature

**Problem
Gambling**

- Impulse Control Disorder NOS



**Gambling
Disorder**

- Behavioural Addiction

Implications for Corrections

1) Is there a gambling addiction?



2) Is it relevant to their criminal behaviour?



3) How can it be managed to reduce risk of recidivism?

Gambling and Crime Relationship

Gambling-Related Offending is Not Common in the General Population (Abbott et al., 2005)

Gambling-Related Offending Appears within More Severe Cases of Pathological Gambling

Common Cause Explanation

Patterns of Gambling in Prison

Problem Gamblers in Prison

Williams et al. (2005)

27 Prevalence Studies in AU, UK, NZ, US

Pathological Gambling ~ 33%

Gambling *in* Prison

Prohibited (CCRA in Canada) (Beauregard & Brochu, 2013)

Lower than on outside (Abbott & McKenna, 2005; Abbott et al., 2005; Williams et al.,)

COs Unlikely to recognize or intervene (Beauregard & Brochu, 2013)

Types of Gambling in Prison

Betting on anything

Card Games

Organized Sports Betting Less Common

Betting Drink, Food, Push-Ups, Favours, or \$

Positive Aspects of Gambling in Prison

Leisure, Boredom (Beauregard & Brochu, 2013)

Regain Control of Choice (Beauregard & Brochu, 2013)

Networking and Protection (Williams & Hinton, 2006)

Risks of Gambling in Prison

Violence? (Plecas, 2013)

Threats Yes, Physical is Rare (Beauregard & Brochu, 2013; Turner et al., 2012; Williams & Hinton, 2006)

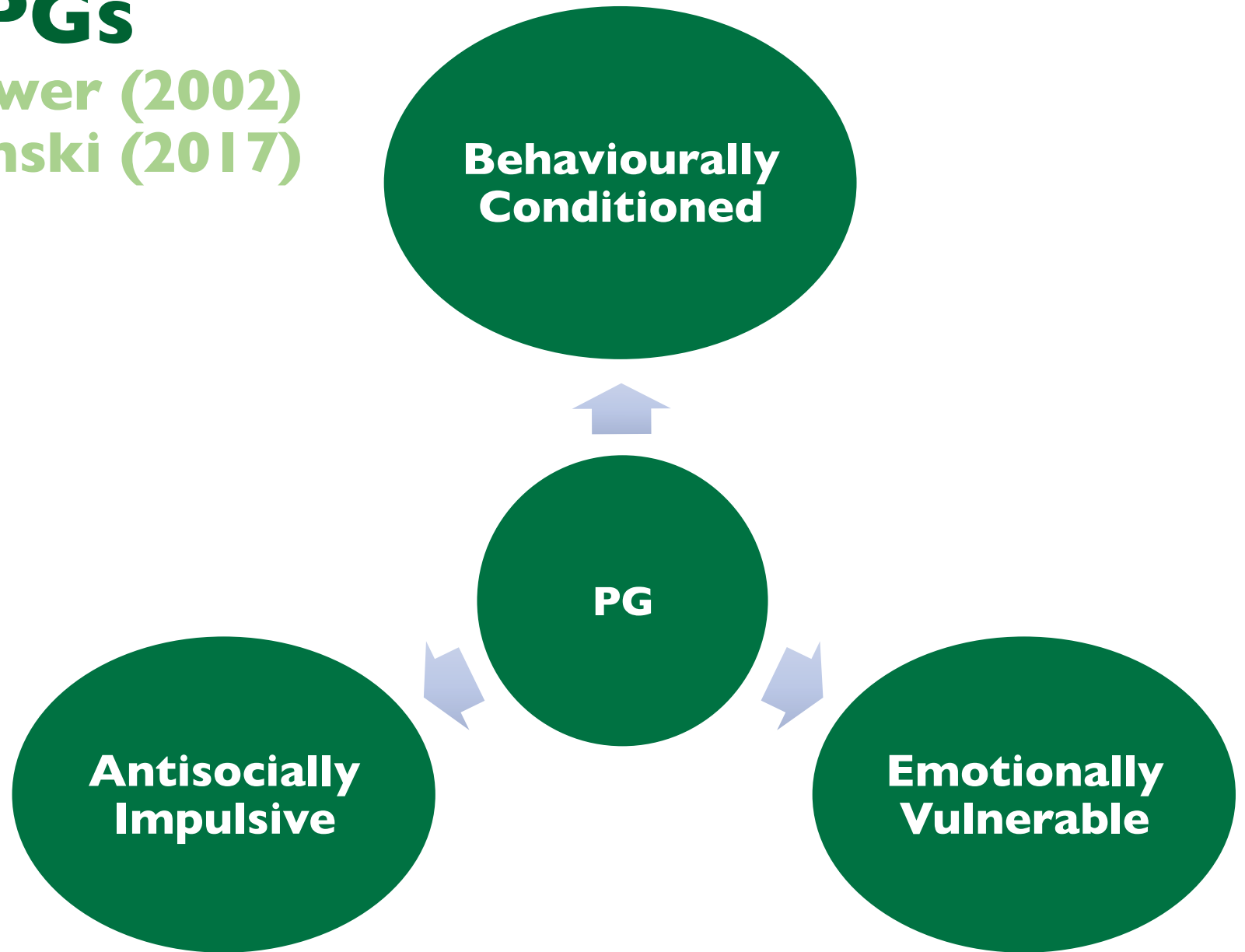
Debt → Segregation and/or Transfer

Re-Triggering / Perpetuating the Addiction?

Subtypes of PGs

Blaszczynski & Nower (2002)

Nower & Blaszczynski (2017)



Discussion

Present a case study to your group

- **Which pathway describes them?**
- **How might the pathway model provide insight for treatment or other interventions?**

Which pathway will be most prevalent in prison samples?

Adverse Childhood Experiences

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=95ovIJ3dsNk>

Lotzin et al. (2018), Poole et al. (2017)

~80% have at least One ACE

Higher # ACEs, Higher Levels Pathological Gambling

Treatment in Custody

Captive Audience

High Rates of PG

Low Rates of Recognition and Help-Seeking

Identifying Triggers for Gambling

Head off urges to gamble with prosocial substitutions

Inventory of Gambling Situations (CAMH)

Fan et al. (2017) Subscales relate to PG Screen

IGS Subscales

**Urges and
Temptations***

**Social
Pressure**

**Pleasant
Emotions**

**Negative
Emotions***

**Confidence in
Skills**

**Winning and
Chasing***

**Conflict with
Others***

**Worried
about Debt***

**Testing
Personal
Control**

**Need for
Excitement**

Relapse Prevention

Cycle of Addiction – Most will Relapse

Identify and Replace Triggers

Contingency Management

Workbooks

Relapse Prevention Workbooks

169 Pathological Gamblers

Mailed One or More Workbooks

Urges, High Risk, Managing \$, Leisure Activities

Goal Attainment and Abstinence



Discussion Questions

Should PG be assessed at intake?

- Which tools seem most useful for this?

Should access to PG services/treatment be offered?

- Given the high rates of PG in custody, should this not be part of a standard of care?
- Does the transition to an addictive disorder change anything?

Should gambling in custody be stopped?

- Or, how would you otherwise minimize the impact on PGs?

Should COs be trained to recognize problem gambling?

How can PG be factored into case management?

- What can be done to reduce recidivism?

Recommendations

Gambling Screen at Intake (*PGSI*)

Provide Regular GA Sessions and PG Tx Access

Assess Relationship of PG to Crime

Assess Triggers for Gambling (*IGS*)

Assess Gambling Subtype (*GPQ*)

Case Management to Reduce Recidivism

Offer Alternative Activities/Programs

Relevant Tools

ACES

PGSI Screen

**Gambling
Pathways
Questionnaire**

IGS

DSM Diagnosis

Copies of the tools are available many places online. Here are some sample links (not endorsed by the presenter):

- ACE Questionnaire -
<https://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/Finding%20Your%20ACE%20Score.pdf>
- PGSI -
<https://learn.problemgambling.ca/PDF%20library/assessment-pgsi-en.pdf>
- Gambling Pathways Questionnaire -
https://socialwork.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/gpq_final_instrument.pdf
- Inventory of Gambling Situations -
https://learn.problemgambling.ca/PDF%20library/IGSUserGuide_2009.pdf



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