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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Alert - July 18, 2022



Problem gaming leading to aggression, school refusal and self-harm

Tens of thousands of Australian teenagers are gaming at pathological levels, which in extreme cases is leading to prolonged school refusal, threats of self-harm and aggression towards family members.

A new study has found those most vulnerable to developing internet gaming disorder (IGD) not only struggled with their impulses but also felt unsupported or disconnected from their families and disempowered in their outside environment. The Macquarie University researchers also looked at case studies, such as the 13-year-old who missed almost a year's worth of school, waking up at midnight to game without his parents' knowledge, and the primary school-aged students displaying gaming-related aggression.

However, the researchers also said the behavioural addiction could be addressed by targeting the students' risk factors, such as building students' confidence and tackling the relationship issues leading to their social isolation. [Read](#)

10M+ adults have tried to get help for gambling addiction, study shows

A **new study finds** more than 10 million adults have tried to get help for addiction to gambling – globally, around one in every 400 – and the problem has become a worldwide public health concern. The research in the scientific journal “Addiction” looked at dozens of studies over the past decade. Findings show that when it comes to moderate-risk gamblers, one in 25 reach out for help. But among those who have a gambling problem, one in five seek help.

So how do you know when gambling becomes more than a game? “When it stops being fun, when you’re needing to increase the amount of money you’re spending to gamble, when you’re lying about your gambling, if you’re hiding your gambling, if you’re unable to quit and you’ve made attempts to quit,” said Amanda Winters, North Carolina Problem Gambling administrator. In the U.S., the National Council on Problem Gambling estimates 2 million adults have a gambling addiction. And another 4 to 6 million are considered to have mild or moderate gambling problems. Approximately 85 percent of adults have gambled at least once in their lives, 60 percent in the past year. [Read](#)

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