

Gambling Harms and Desire for Treatment: Evidence from Two Surveys in Massachusetts

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Agenda

- Background
- Gambling harms in MA
 - Questions about harms
- Desire for treatment among those experiencing gambling problems
 - Questions
- Where to find more information

Background

- Population surveys of gambling behavior carried out in MA in 2013/2014
 - Baseline General Population Survey
 - Baseline Online Panel Survey
- New analyses combine surveys to create sample sufficient to examine two important issues:
 - Gambling harms among different demographic groups
 - Desire for treatment among individuals experiencing gambling problems
- Goal: highlight differences across major demographic groups in MA

Comparing the Surveys

- Two surveys of adult residents (18+) of MA conducted prior to opening of casinos
- Combining samples has advantages and disadvantages
 - Main advantage – larger sample size
 - Main disadvantage – combined sample not clearly representative
- Have not weighted results to the MA adult population
- Full methodological details available in BGPS, BOPS reports

	BGPS	BOPS
Dates	Sept 2013 – May 2014	Oct 2013 – Mar 2014
Sampling frame	Address-based	Opt-in panel
Final sample size	9,578	5,046
Survey modalities	Online, SAQ, phone	Online

		Baseline General Population Survey (BGPS) (N = 9,578)		Baseline Online Panel Survey (BOPS) (N = 5,046)	
		%	95% CI	%	95% CI
Gender	Male	39.7	(38.8, 40.7)	47.1	(45.7, 48.5)
	Female	59.1	(58.1, 60.1)	52.9	(51.5, 54.3)
	Missing	1.1	(0.9, 1.4)	0.0	NA
Age	18 - 34	14.1	(13.4, 14.8)	28.2	(27.0, 29.5)
	35 - 64	51.0	(50.0, 52.0)	53.1	(51.7, 54.4)
	65+	30.0	(29.1, 30.9)	18.7	(17.6, 19.8)
	Missing	4.9	(4.5, 5.4)	0.0	NA
Ethnicity	Hispanic	5.0	(4.6, 5.5)	5.2	(4.6, 5.9)
	Black	3.8	(3.5, 4.2)	4.1	(3.6, 4.7)
	White	83.0	(82.3, 83.8)	85.2	(84.2, 86.1)
	Asian	3.8	(3.4, 4.2)	3.9	(3.4, 4.5)
	Other or missing	4.3	(3.9, 4.7)	1.6	(1.3, 2.0)
Education	High School or less	18.0	(17.2, 18.7)	22.6	(21.5, 23.8)
	Some college or BA	52.2	(51.2, 53.2)	61.6	(60.3, 62.9)
	Graduate degree	27.9	(27.0, 28.8)	15.2	(14.3, 16.3)
	Missing	1.9	(1.7, 2.2)	0.5	(0.4, 0.8)
Annual Household Income	Less than \$15,000	8.8	(8.3, 9.4)	9.0	(8.3, 9.9)
	\$15,000 - <\$30,000	10.8	(10.2, 11.4)	13.7	(12.8, 14.7)
	\$30,000 - <\$50,000	13.9	(13.2, 14.6)	17.6	(16.5, 18.6)
	\$50,000 - <\$100,000	25.9	(25.0, 26.8)	30.7	(29.4, 32.0)
	\$100,000 - <\$150,000	14.3	(13.6, 15.0)	12.6	(11.7, 13.5)
	\$150,000 or more	11.8	(11.2, 12.5)	5.4	(4.8, 6.0)
	Missing	14.5	(13.8, 15.2)	11.1	(10.2, 12.0)



GAMBLING HARMS IN MASSACHUSETTS

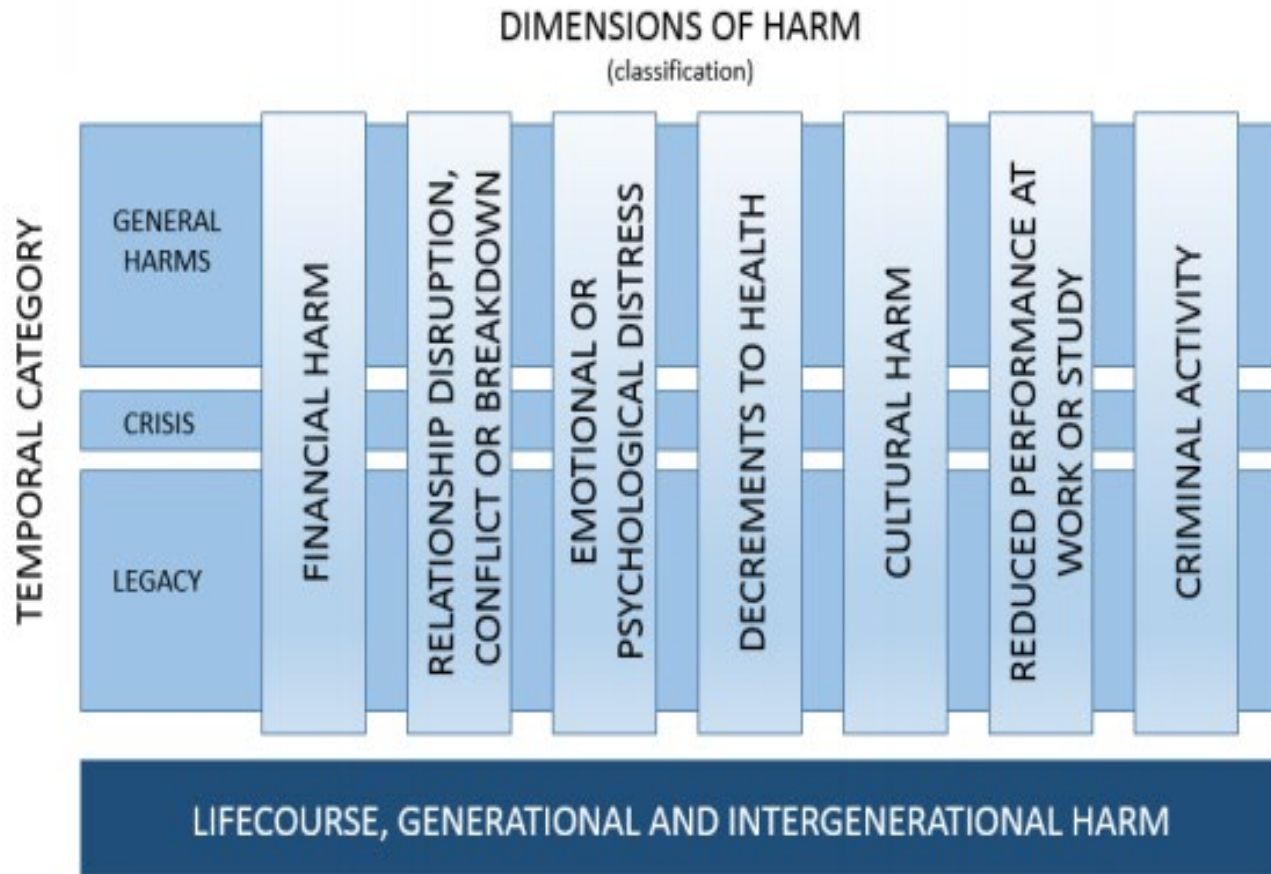
Defining Gambling Harm

- Gambling harms overlap with but are not limited to people experiencing gambling problems
 - Many more people harmed by gambling than reflected in PG prevalence rates
- Two definitions have been proposed
 - Both are consistent with population health frameworks
 - Both distinguish gambling behavior from experience of harms
 - Both expand focus beyond individual gamblers to include family members, communities

GREO Conceptual Framework of Harmful Gambling



VRGF Conceptual Framework of Gambling Harm



Measuring Gambling Harms

- Researchers have tried to measure aggregate impacts of gambling on communities
 - Many have used the CPGI
 - Gambling Harms Checklist fielded in Australia, New Zealand, Finland
 - Short Gambling Harm Screen is a subset of items from the Checklist

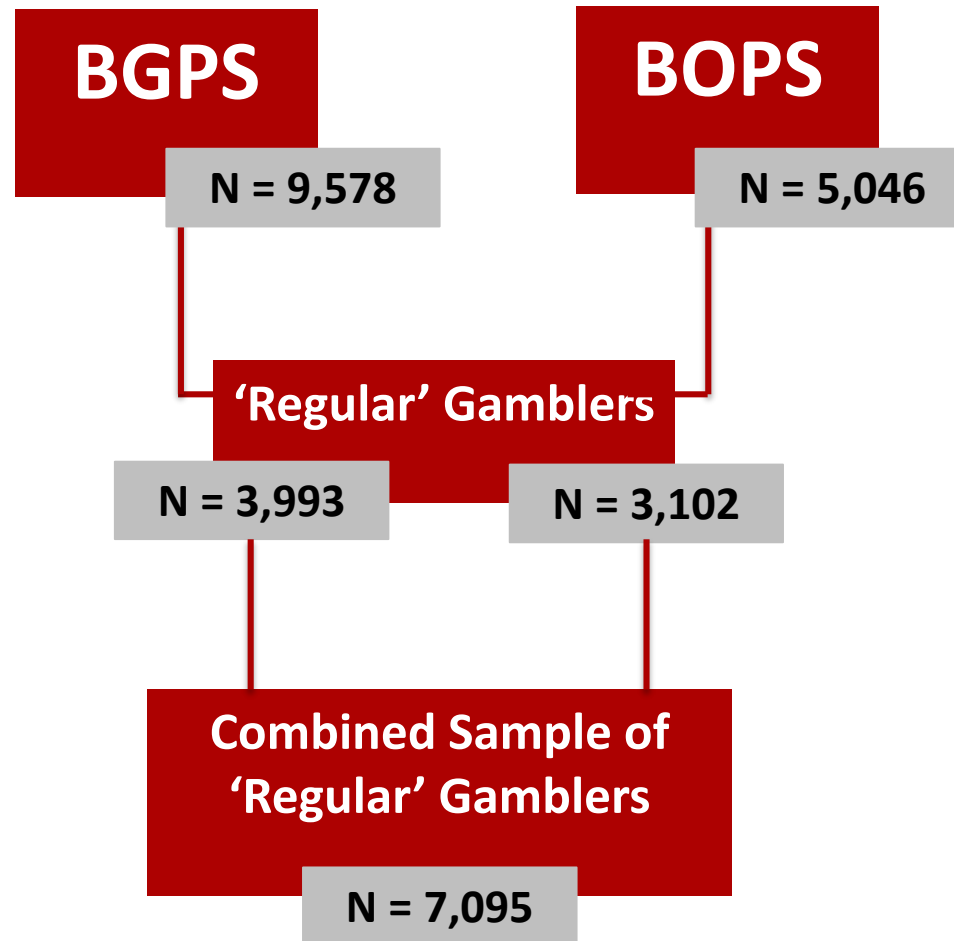
Problem & Pathological Gambling Measure (PPGM)

- PPGM is a 14-item assessment w/questions organized into 3 sections
 - Impaired Control
 - Problems/Harms
 - Other
- Utilizes 12-month timeframe
- Requires attribution of specific harms to gambling
- Field tested & refined using clinical & general population samples

PPGM Gambling Harms

- Gambling harms assessed in BGPS & BOPS
 - Financial problems due to gambling
 - Family/relationship problems due to gambling
 - Physical health problems due to gambling
 - Mental health problems due to gambling
 - Work or school problems due to gambling
 - Participation in illegal activities due to gambling

Analytic Approach



		BGPS-BOPS (N=7,095)		
		N	%	SE
Gender	Male	3,651	51.5	(50.3, 52.6)
	Female	3,408	48.0	(46.9, 49.2)
	Missing	36	0.5	(0.4, 0.7)
Age	18 - <30	892	12.6	(11.8, 13.4)
	31 - <50	2,123	29.9	(28.9, 31.0)
	51 - <65	2,175	30.7	(29.6, 31.7)
	65+	1,736	24.5	(23.5, 25.5)
	Missing	169	2.4	(2.1, 2.8)
Ethnicity	Hispanic	395	5.6	(5.1, 6.1)
	White	5,956	83.9	(83.1, 84.8)
	Black	298	4.2	(3.8, 4.7)
	Asian	219	3.1	(2.7, 3.5)
	Some other race	77	1.1	(0.9, 1.4)
	Missing	150	2.1	(1.8, 2.5)
Education	High school or less	1,707	24.1	(23.1, 25.1)
	Some college or BA	4,094	57.7	(56.6, 58.8)
	Graduate school	1,186	16.7	(15.9, 17.6)
	Missing	108	1.5	(1.3, 1.8)
Income	Less than \$15,000	672	9.5	(8.8, 10.2)
	\$15,000 - <\$30,000	881	12.4	(11.7, 13.2)
	\$30,000 - <\$50,000	1,157	16.3	(15.5, 17.2)
	\$50,000 - <\$100,000	2,072	29.2	(28.2, 30.3)
	\$100,000 - <\$150,000	960	13.5	(12.8, 14.3)
	\$150,000 or more	556	7.8	(7.2, 8.5)
	Missing	797	11.2	(10.5, 12.0)
# Children in Household	0	4,835	68.1	(67.1, 69.2)
	1	907	12.8	(12.0, 13.6)
	2	715	10.1	(9.4, 10.8)
	3+	313	4.4	(4.0, 4.9)
	Missing	325	4.6	(4.1, 5.1)

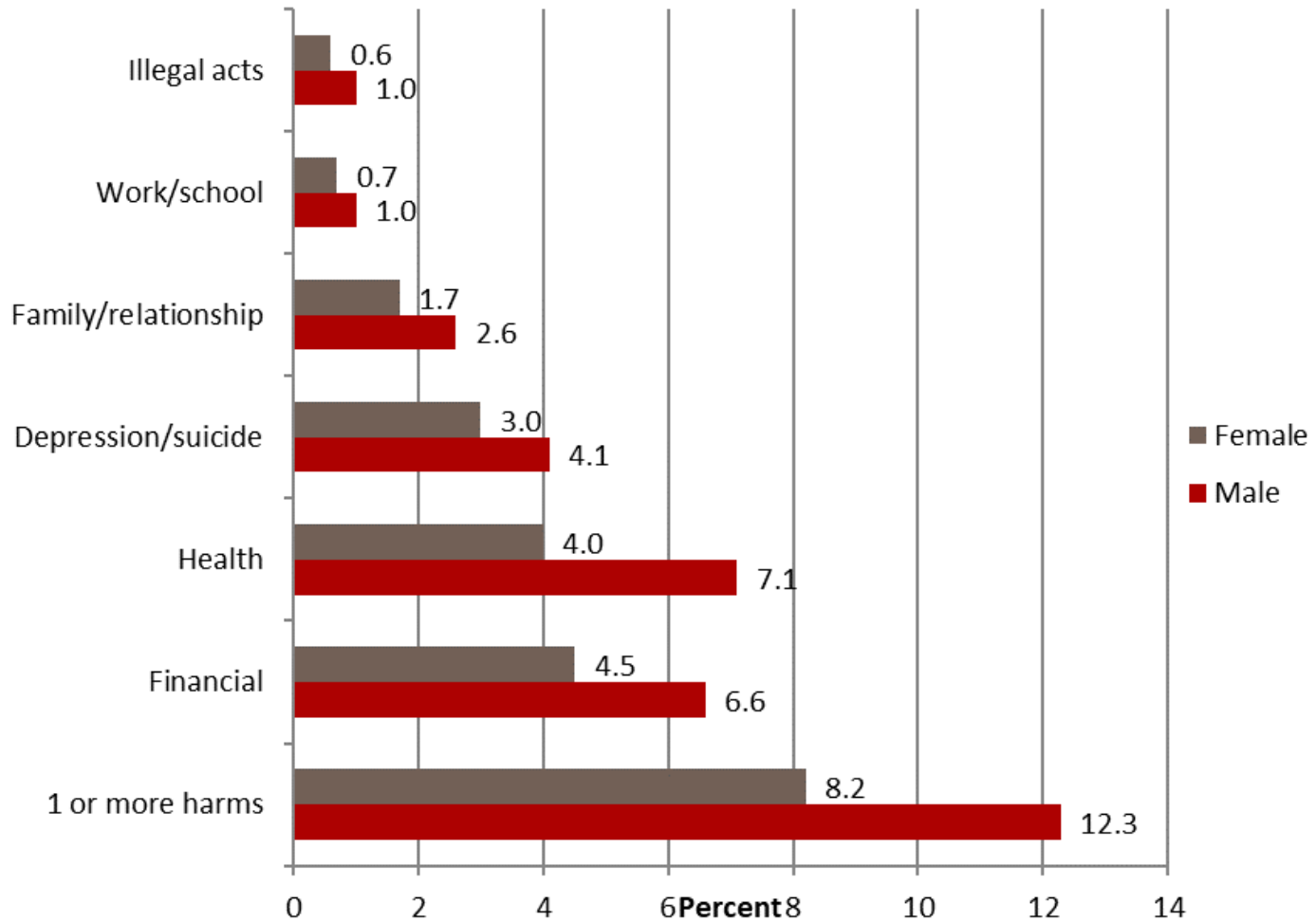


Harm Category	Survey Question	Gambling Harm	N	%	95% CI
Financial	GP6a	Financial problems because of gambling	396	5.6	(5.1, 6.1)
	GP6b	Filed for bankruptcy because of gambling	38	0.6	(0.4, 0.8)
Health	GP7a	Health or stress problems because of gambling	397	5.6	(5.1, 6.2)
	GP7b	Gambling-related health problems resulting in seeking medical or psychological help	85	1.2	(1.0, 1.5)
Mental Health	GP10a	Significant guilt, anxiety, or depression because of gambling	253	3.6	(3.2, 4.0)
	GP10b	Suicidal thoughts because of gambling	27	0.4	(0.3, 0.6)
	GP10c	Attempted suicide because of gambling	15	0.2	(0.1, 0.4)
Family/ Relationship	GP11a	Relationship problems because of gambling	111	1.6	(1.3, 1.9)
	GP11b	Domestic violence because of gambling	44	0.6	(0.5, 0.8)
	GP11c	Separation or divorce because of gambling	25	0.4	(0.2, 0.5)
	GP12a	Neglect of children or family because of gambling	57	0.8	(0.6, 1.0)
	GP12b	Child welfare services involved because of gambling	22	0.3	(0.2, 0.5)
Work/ School	GP13a	Work or school problems because of gambling	58	0.8	(0.6, 1.1)
	GP13c	Lost job or quit school due to gambling	24	0.3	(0.2, 0.5)
	GP13d	Received public assistance or welfare payments because of gambling	18	0.3	(0.2, 0.4)
Illegal Acts	GP14a	Commission of illegal acts because of gambling	62	0.9	(0.7, 1.1)
	GP14c	Arrested because of gambling	22	0.3	(0.2, 0.5)
	GP14d	Convicted of offense because of gambling	12	0.2	(0.1, 0.3)
	GP14g	Incarcerated because of gambling	10	0.1	(0.1, 0.3)
Endorsed one or more harms			701	10.4	(9.7, 11.1)

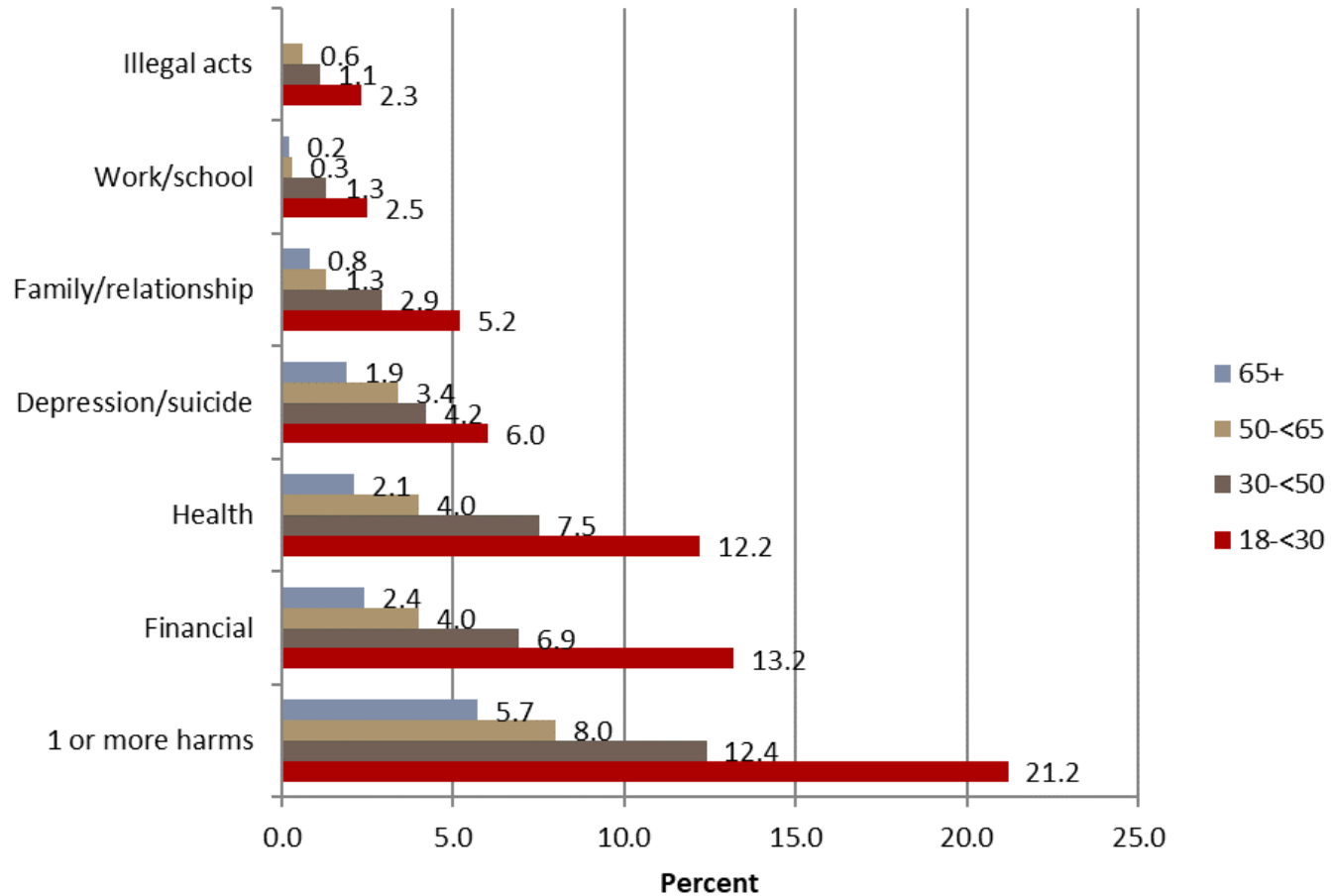
Overall Findings

- Financial problems & health problems were the most common harms reported by regular gamblers in MA
- Work/school & illegal acts were the least common harms
- High rates of harms among males, young adults, Blacks & Hispanics
- Higher rates of harms among regular gamblers with children in the household

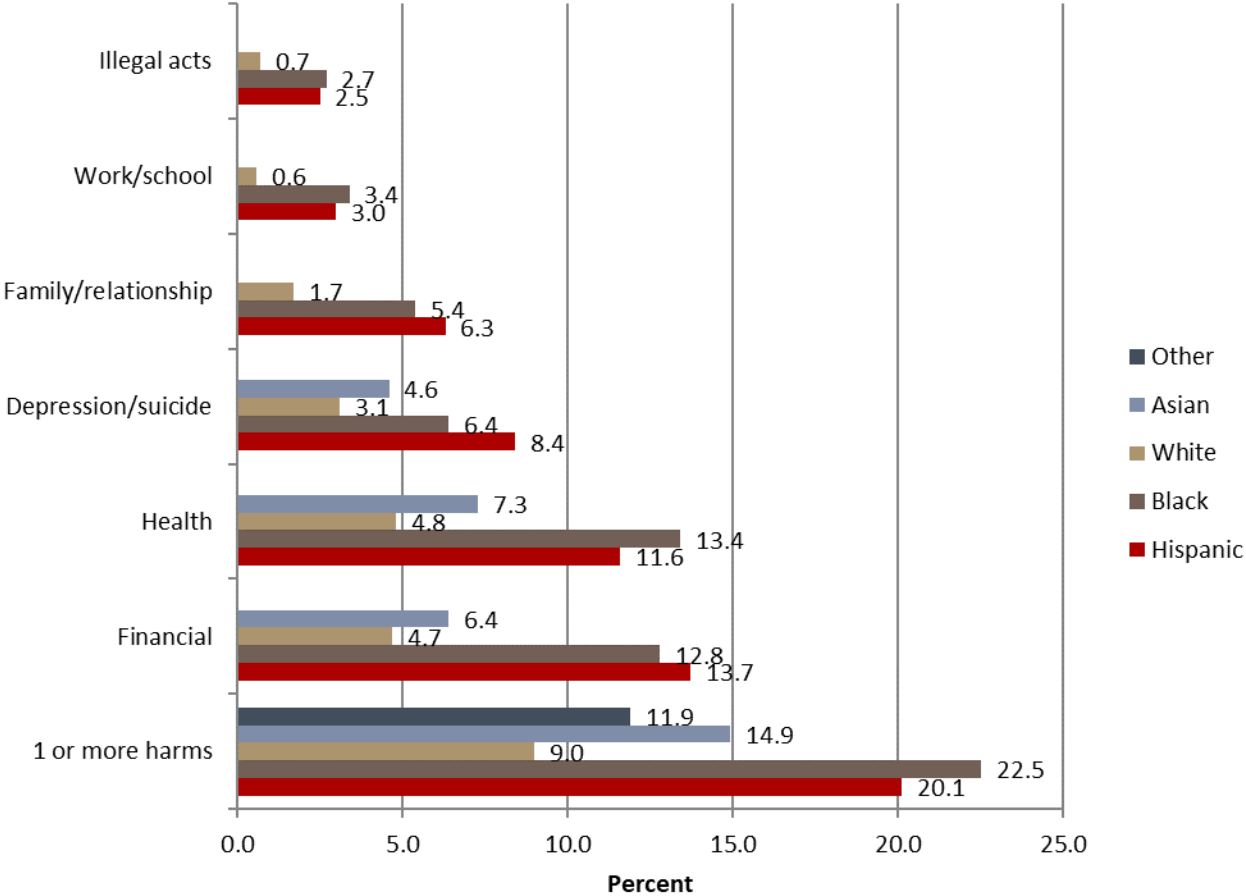
Gambling Harms by Gender



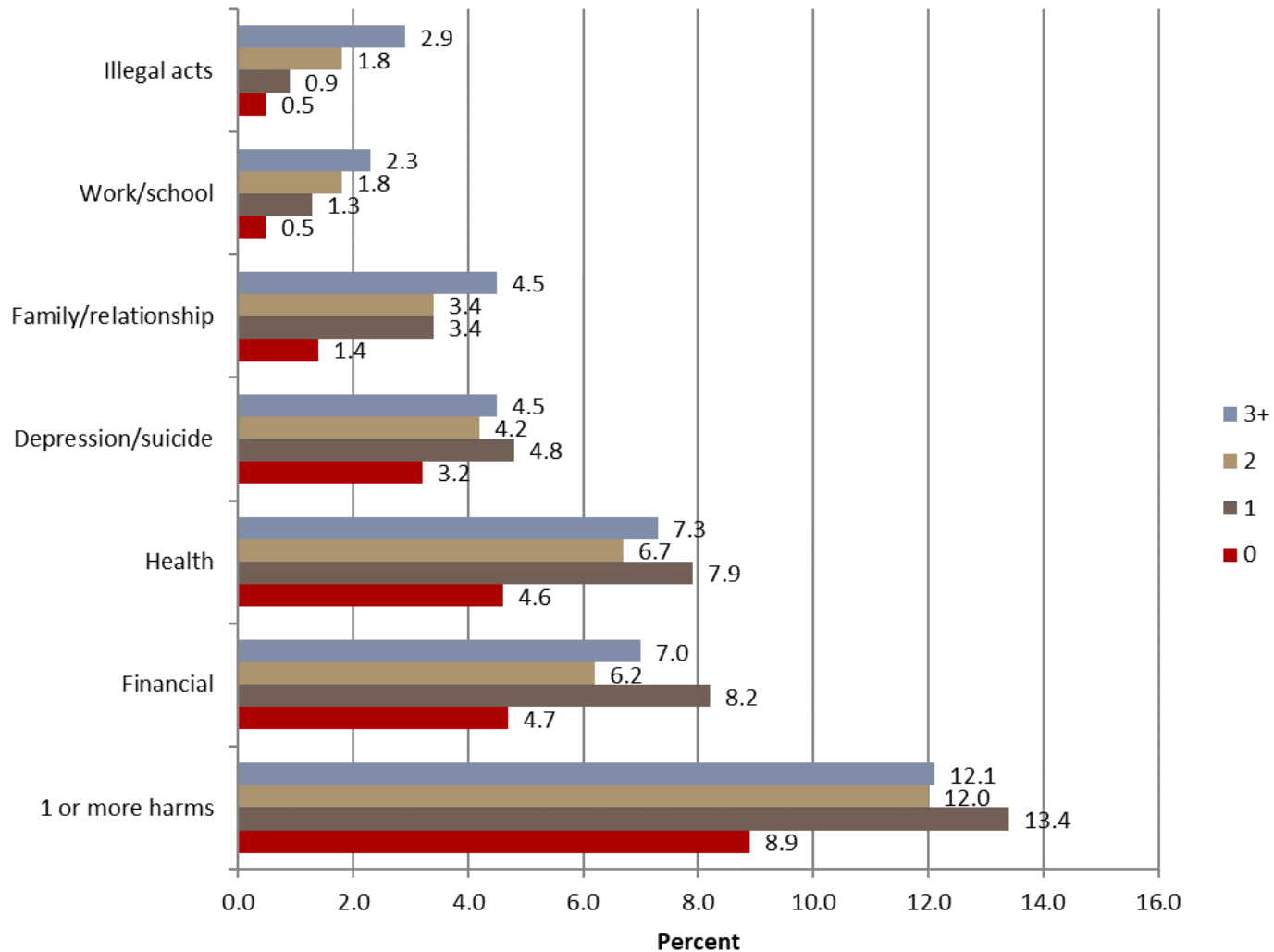
Gambling Harms by Age



Gambling Harms by Race/Ethnicity



Gambling Harms by # Children in HH



Implications for Prevention & Treatment

- Focus prevention efforts on males, young adults, Blacks & Hispanics
 - Educate community organizations, faith-based organizations (esp. in Black, Hispanic communities)
 - Provide tools to financial counselors, health professionals to screen for gambling harm among clients
 - Raise awareness of gambling harms among high school/college counseling staffs
- Higher rates of harms among regular gamblers with children in the household
 - Raise awareness & improve screening among professionals working with families as well as community organizations concerned with child welfare

QUESTIONS ABOUT HARMS?

DESIRE FOR GAMBLING TREATMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS

Desire for Treatment

- Internationally, only a minority of individuals experiencing gambling problems access specialist treatment services
- Primary barriers to help-seeking are ‘person-centered’
 - Shame, denial, preference to resolve problems without outside assistance
- ‘Service-centered’ barriers are also important
 - Lack of availability, lack of awareness of where/when to seek treatment
- Goal: understand differences between people experiencing gambling problems in MA
 - Compare those who want treatment to those who do not

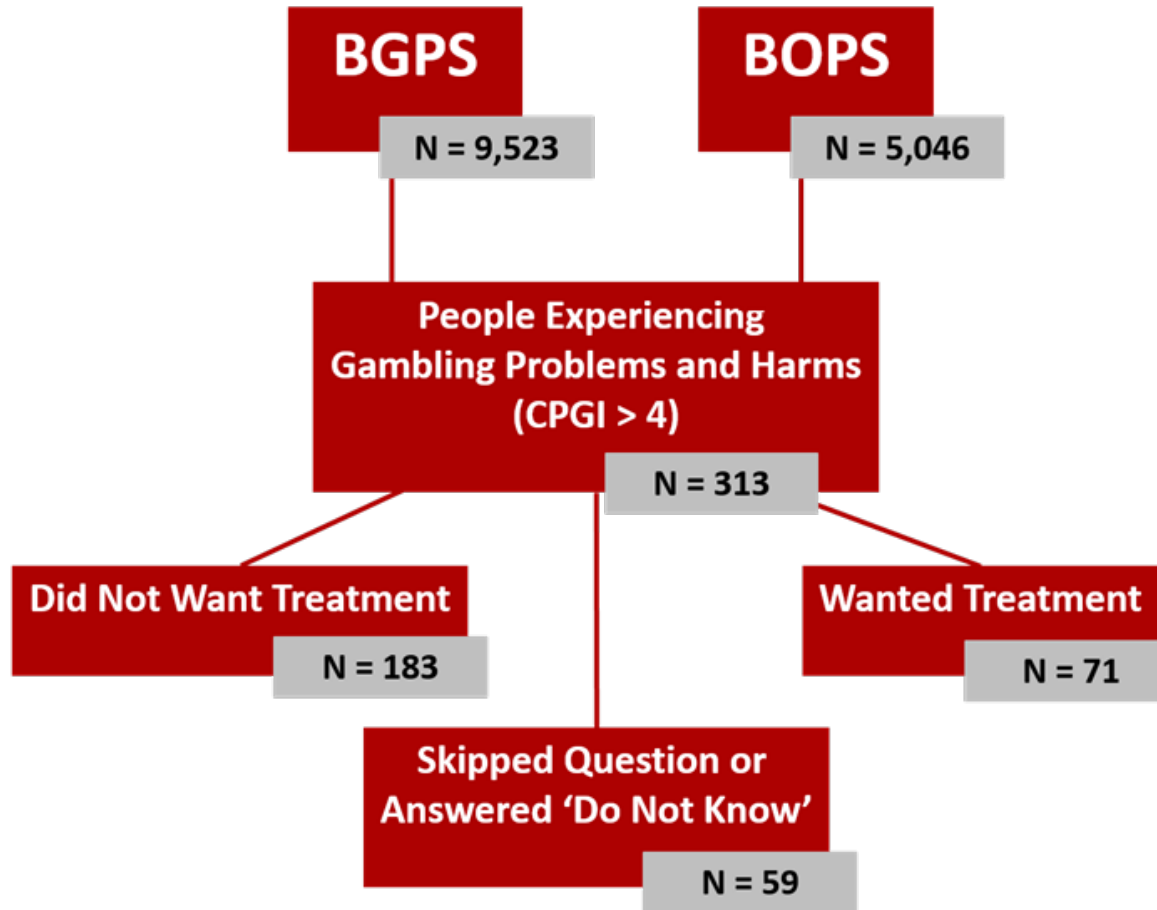
Questions About PG Services

- All survey participants were asked about awareness of PG prevention measures
 - Media campaigns
 - Community programs
- Participants identified as experiencing gambling problems were also asked about:
 - Desire for treatment
 - Sought treatment

Awareness of Services

	Not Experiencing Gambling Problems (N = 14,569)	Experiencing Gambling Problems (N = 446)
Heard or seen any media campaigns to prevent PG	42.6	53.1
Awareness of programs to prevent PG at school, work or in community	13.9	33.4

Analytic Approach



Variables Included in Multivariate Model

- 35 variables analyzed for univariate significance
 - Demographic
 - Health-related
 - Gambling-related
- Univariate cutoff was <0.05
- 13 variables included in logistic regression model
 - Variables predictive of wanting treatment among those experiencing gambling problems

Results

Characteristics Predicting Wanting Treatment Listed in Order of Importance

Experiencing more severe gambling problems (as determined by PPGM total score)

Having better self-reported health status

Being Hispanic

Implications

- Direct media campaigns & prevention messaging to those more likely to want treatment for a gambling problem
- Target outreach efforts toward people who are experiencing more severe gambling harm or those who are in better health overall
- Provide specific interventions & treatment services for Hispanics experiencing gambling problems

QUESTIONS?

For More Information

- Volberg, R.A., Evans, V., Zorn, M., Williams, R.J. (2020). *Gambling Harms in Massachusetts: Evidence from the BGPS and BOPS*. Amherst, MA: School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- Evans, V., Zorn, M., Volberg, R.A. (2020). *Treatment Desire Among People Experiencing Gambling Problems in Massachusetts*. Amherst, MA: School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- Available at www.umass.edu/seigma/reports