

Slecicka, P., Gruene, B., Braun, B., Bühringer, G. & Kraus, L. (2015, May). *Young men gambling: the role of family*. Presentation, 18th Conference of the European Association of Substance Abuse Research, Bangor, Wales.

Background and aim: While gambling is a pleasurable free time activity for most individuals, some struggle with severe financial and psychosocial problems caused by gambling disorder (GD; overview: Bühringer et al., 2013). Young male adults are considered a risk group for the development of GD (e.g. Hayer, 2012; Meerkerk & Mheen, 2013). Knowledge of risk factors is of key importance for the development of preventive measures. Thus, the aim of the current study is to investigate factors associated with extensive, problem and disordered gambling among young male adults. **Methods:** 2.675 males aged 18-25 years from Munich, Germany participated in an online study on leisure time activities. Within this sample, individuals, who gamble frequently (n=175) were participated in a follow-up survey. Investigated factors included perceived social support, coping strategies, emotional self-control, gambling activities and symptoms of GD. **Results:** 7,4% of the participants gambled at least once a week, 5,0% fulfilled one or more and 1,2% five or more diagnostic criteria of GD. The results indicate a link between proactive coping, active self-control of emotions and problems with gambling. Furthermore, results indicate an association between GD and an experience of a “big win” at the beginning of gambling participation. No statistically significant association between GD and migration background or perceived social support was noticed. **Conclusion:** The results suggest that gambling problems might be a result of lack of other strategies to cope with negative emotions. Both, the statistically significant and non-significant results will be discussed.