

Fantasy sports, real money: Exploration of the relationship between fantasy sports participation and gambling- related problems

Fantasy sports participation has increased dramatically in popularity with the advent of daily fantasy sports.

This is one of the first studies to examine the relationship between fantasy sports participation and gambling problems among college students.

The Study

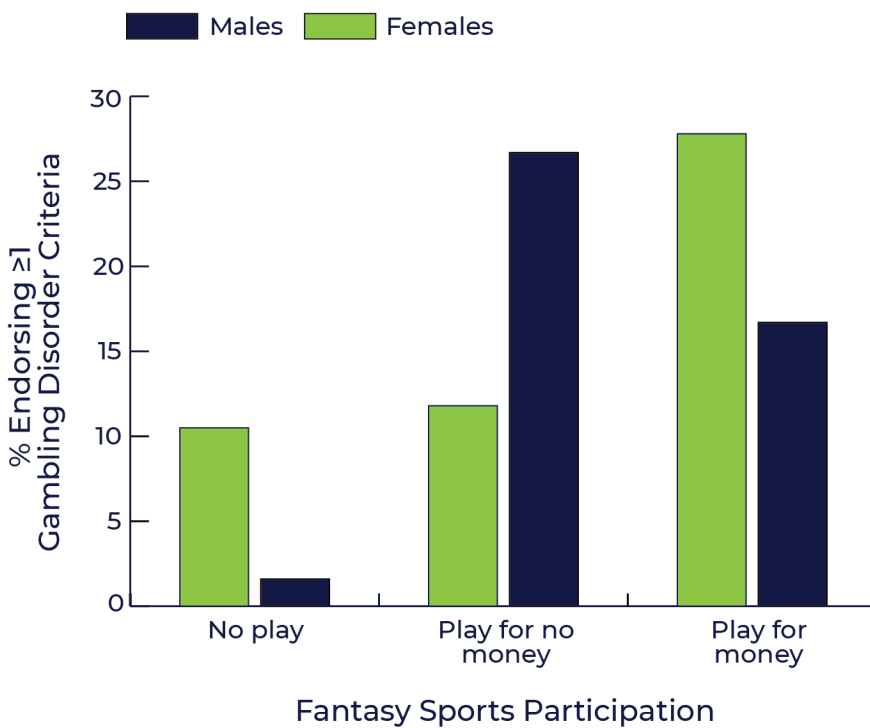


Assessed fantasy sports participation and gambling-related problems among a **sample of 1,556 undergraduate students** in 2012 using an online health survey.



Examined the interaction between **gender** and **fantasy sports participation** (no play, play for no money, play for money) in predicting one or more criteria for Gambling Disorder.

Key Findings



Males were much more likely than females to play fantasy sports at all (**28% vs. 2%**) and to play fantasy sports for money (**13% vs. 1%**).



Males were also more likely to experience gambling problems than females (**13% vs. 2% endorsing 1+ criteria of Gambling Disorder**).



Both **male and female** students who played fantasy sports were more likely to **experience gambling problems** than other students. For **male students**, this effect was accounted for by those who **played for money**.

Key Takeaways

Gambling and playing fantasy sports or daily fantasy sports with entry fees share many of the same characteristics, and consequently also share many of the same risks and potential harms.

College health professionals should be aware that fantasy sports participation is prevalent among college students and might be indicative of other gambling behavior or gambling-related problems in this population.