

## Daily and season-long fantasy sports participation and gambling-related problems among a sample of college students at three universities

Playing fantasy sports, which is associated with gambling problems among college students, has traditionally occurred over an entire sports season.

The recent growth of daily fantasy sports (DFS) allows players to participate in multiple contests over shorter periods of time within one sports season, increasing potential financial involvement, and making DFS a novel but risky medium for the development of addiction.

### The Study

Surveyed a sample of **941 college students** to examine associations between **fantasy sports participation** and:



Past-year gambling



Gambling frequency



Gambling Disorder (GD) symptoms



Compared groups of students by:



#### Fantasy sports status

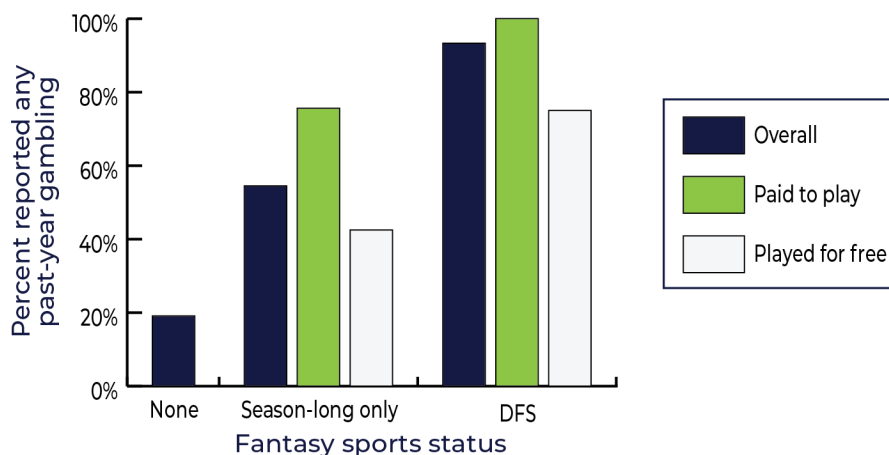
- None
- Season-long only
- DFS

#### Financial involvement in fantasy sports

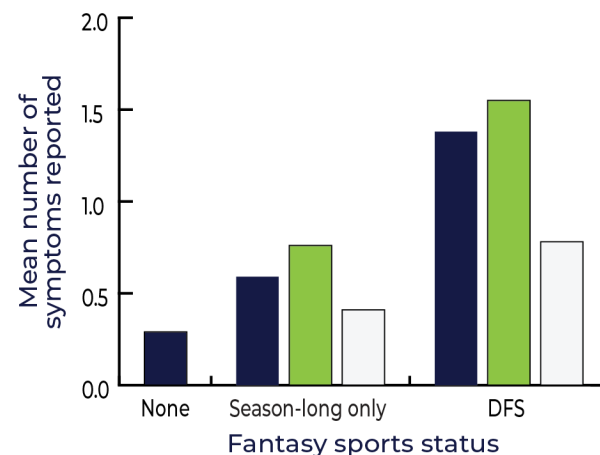
- Paid to play (i.e., entry fee, deposit)
- Played for free

### Key Findings

Past-year gambling



GD symptoms



Engagement with fantasy sports and paying to play were associated with **greater likelihood and higher frequency of gambling.**



DFS players reported **more GD symptoms** than non-DFS players.

“Gambling” was not defined in the survey. The gambling and gambling problems students reported might have been associated with their fantasy sports play or might have been associated with other forms of gambling.

### Key Takeaways

College students who play fantasy sports are more likely to have gambled in the past year, to have gambled frequently, and to have experienced gambling-related problems.

**Mental health professionals should consider college students’ participation in fantasy sports play when screening and providing treatment for gambling problems.**

DFS players are especially at risk for developing gambling problems.

**DFS providers should promote gambling-related help, including gambling helplines and self-help materials, on their websites.**