

Quarterly News & Updates

Spring | 2026

Welcome to the Division on Addiction's Spring Quarterly Newsletter!

Announcements



COMPUTERIZED ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL SYSTEM

Responsibility.org and the Division on Addiction have launched CARS Connect, a cloud-based version of CARS mental health screening tool. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Outreach Corner



Throughout June, The BASIS has been exploring the relationship between emerging

Upcoming Events



Kira Landauer will be presenting on the topic of “Best Practices in Screening & Assessment for Gambling Disorder” for students and staff at William James College on June 24th.

Dr. Sarah Nelson will be presenting a webinar on the topic of “CARS Connect – Mental Health and Substance Use Screening for Drunk and Impaired Drivers” for Responsibility.org on June 30th. Learn more and register [here](#).

Dr. Sarah Nelson will be presenting alongside Julie Seitz and Judge Kate Hoffman on the topic of “From Roadside to Courtroom: Mental Health and Impaired Driving” at the RISE26 conference, held from July 20th-23rd in Nashville. Learn more and register [here](#).

Dr. Heather Gray will be presenting on the topic of “Gambling and Suicide: Emerging Insights and Policy Implications” at the National

adults and addiction with science reviews and expert reviews featured each week. Read the introduction to our Special Series on Addiction Among Emerging Adults [here](#), and check out our [materials developed for emerging adults](#) navigating gambling opportunities.

Council on Problem Gambling conference, held from July 22nd-26th, also in Nashville. Learn more and register [here](#).

Did you know?



Metaverses (i.e., virtual-reality worlds) have emerged as a new type of social hub in recent years and have become a potential stage for alcohol marketing targeted to underage youth. But what alcohol marketing efforts exactly are being used in metaverses, and how are alcohol and drinking being represented? In one study, researchers explored twenty metaverses and analyzed the content of each to identify emerging common themes. They found that two of the twenty metaverses included alcohol marketing and promotion through features like non-player character bartenders, alcohol-related quests, purchasable NFTs that could be exchanged for alcohol in the real world, and virtual alcohol testing menus. Emerging key themes identified from these activities included immersive branding, immersive engagement, immersive commerce, and virtual drinking. These findings highlight the gamification of alcohol within metaverse alcohol marketing that may normalize and familiarize harmful drinking behaviors in the real world. Read more about this study at [The BASIS](#).

Research Spotlight



Multidimensional Loss Chasing among Online Gamblers: Assessing Optimized Thresholds for the Prediction of Gambling Harm

Loss chasing is a hallmark of Gambling Disorder, defined in a [diagnostic manual](#) as returning another day to get even after losing money gambling. Many of today's gambling opportunities, such as online sports betting, produce electronic records that might allow gambling operators to quantify players' gambling habits and [identify those in need of gambling interventions](#), such as cool-off periods. But in this context, what is the best way to measure loss chasing? To address this question, [Dr. Timothy](#)

[Edson and colleagues](#) analyzed separate samples of online sports bettors and daily fantasy sports (DFS) players, investigating loss chasing as a multidimensional concept—based on bet size, betting odds, and time between bets. They measured each indicator of loss chasing in three ways: (1) a binary (high/low) cutpoint determined through machine-learning processes and related methods (e.g., Receiving Operator Characteristic (ROC) curve analysis), (2) a binary cutpoint determined by the median value within the sample, and (3) the natural continuously-recorded measure. Then, they explored how well all of these measurements predicted subsequent mounting gambling losses, which was their proxy for overall gambling harm.

Among the sports betting sample, ROC-informed binary cutpoints on two dimensions of loss chasing—betting odds and bet size—were slightly more predictive of future mounting losses compared to cutpoints defined by median values. However, both of these measurements outperformed the natural continuous forms of betting odds and bet size, in terms of predictive value. None of the loss chasing metrics were predictive of subsequent mounting losses among the DFS sample. These findings suggest that if we were to design a system that predicts future gambling harms by monitoring a player’s tendency to chase losses, the best way to do so would be to measure loss chasing in multiple ways and use sophisticated analytic techniques to identify players who respond to gambling losses by increasing their bet sizes and betting odds, more so than their peers.

Dr. Edson says, “I think one of the more interesting findings from this study was that loss chasing effects were more apparent for online sports bettors than for DFS players. We can only speculate at this point, but part of this could be due to the large amount of skill and careful planning that is required for DFS compared to sports betting. I think one of the major facilitators of loss chasing is impulsivity, or the ability to place snap bets once new information hits you. This is much easier to do in traditional sports betting environments than with DFS. It means we might need to take a more nuanced approach to understanding things like loss chasing, which is still currently considered a universal trait to all different types of gambling.”

Our Latest Publications

LaPlante, D. A. & Gray, H. M. (2026). Detecting Gambling-Related Problems — An Opportunity to Reduce Suicidality. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 394 (22), 2180-2182. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMp2517679>

Request full-text copies by emailing info@divisiononaddiction.org

[Browse our research library here.](#)

Our Latest Research Snapshots

LaPlante, D. A., Nelson, S. E., Odegaard, S. S., LaBrie, R. A., Shaffer, H. J. (2008). [Substance and psychiatric disorders among men and women repeat driving under the influence offenders who accept a treatment-sentencing option.](#)

Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, 69(2), 209-217. DOI:
[10.15288/jsad.2008.69.209](https://doi.org/10.15288/jsad.2008.69.209)

Nelson, S. E., Shoov, E., LaBrie, R. A., Shaffer, H. J. (2019). [Externalizing and self-medicating: Heterogeneity among repeat DUI offenders](#). *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 194, 88-96. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2018.09.017>

Nelson, S. E., LaRaja, A., Juviler, J., & Williams, P. M. (2021). [Evaluating the Computerized Assessment and Referral System \(CARS\) screener: Sensitivity and specificity as a screening tool for mental health disorders among DUI offenders](#). *Substance Use & Misuse*, 56(12), 1785–1796. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2021.1954024>

[Browse our research snapshots here.](#)

www.divisiononaddiction.org | www.basionline.org
www.thetransparencyproject.org | www.divisiononaddictioncourses.org



CHA Division on Addiction | 350 Main Street Suite 630 | Malden, MA 02148 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!