Backgrounder

Canadian Adolescent Gambling Inventory

What is the Canadian Adolescent Gambling Inventory (CAGI)?

The CAGI is a survey comprised of 24 questions—developed for use with teenagers 13–17 years old—through which risky and problematic gambling behaviours can be identified and assessed.

The CAGI was developed by the same organizations involved in the development of the Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI) in 2001. The CPGI is now widely used around the world as a primary instrument for assessing problem gambling in adults.

What is the purpose of the CAGI?

The CAGI was developed to provide provincial and territorial authorities with a way to assess how prevalent adolescent gambling is within their region. By providing all jurisdictions with a common tool to collect information, data from across the country can be compiled to provide a reliable and accurate picture of the prevalence of adolescent gambling in Canada.

In addition to probing how common gambling is with teenagers, the CAGI is designed to look at the full spectrum of risks and harms (e.g., psychological and social) associated with gambling in the general youth population.

The data assembled using the CAGI survey can be used jurisdictionally and nationally to inform the development of treatment, prevention and intervention programs; inform policy making; and guide future research.

Why was the CAGI needed?

Until now, data on the prevalence and harms associated with adolescent gambling have been gathered using instruments designed for adults and adapted for youth populations. As a result, the data collected presented large variances across studies and was considered unreliable. In other words, we do not currently have a reliable picture of how prevalent gambling is with Canadian teenagers and the types of harms associated with gambling.

Because the CAGI was developed specifically for youth, it provides researchers with the opportunity to collect data that will produce reliable comparisons across different jurisdictions tested. Ultimately, the CAGI will increase the reliability of the collected data and provide an accurate picture of the issues associated with gambling in adolescents across the entire country.

What does the CAGI measure?

The CAGI includes measures in five areas:

- Types of gambling activities
- Frequency of participation for each gambling activity
- Time spent on each gambling activity
- Total money spent gambling
- 24 items related to gambling consequences and severity

The 24 items provide five different scores. The first four are related to consequences of gambling and loss of control over gambling; the fifth score includes factors from the first four as well as other items to provide a global severity score with three levels as follows:

- No problem ('green light' cases)
- Low-to-moderate severity ('yellow light' cases)
- High severity ('red light' cases)

The CAGI represents significant progress in the assessment of gambling among adolescents. It moves beyond a single, simple scale to the measurement of more complex, multiple themes/domains related to gambling risk and harm.

How was the CAGI developed and tested?

The CAGI tool was developed in three phases. In phase one, the research team created the instrument based on an extensive review of the literature and consultation with clinicians, experts and youth. In phase two, the survey was tested with 2,400 students in secondary schools in Manitoba and Quebec. In phase three, the survey was further tested against high-risk youth populations to improve the way in which answers are measured and classified.

What are the next steps?

The CAGI will be shared with researchers, clinicians and governments. These stakeholders will be encouraged to use the tool as soon as possible to conduct research on adolescent gambling and determine its prevalence.

Who developed the CAGI?

The Interprovincial Consortium on Gambling Research developed the CAGI instrument. Researchers include:

- Dr. Jamie Wiebe, Factz Research Inc.
- Dr. Joël Tremblay, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
- Dr. Harold Wynne, Wynne Resources
- Dr. Randy Stinchfield, University of Minnesota Medical School

How was the CAGI funded and overseen?

Funding partners and members of the consortium that made the CAGI possible are:

- Alberta Gaming Research Institute
- Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse
- Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch of British Columbia
- Manitoba Gaming Control Commission
- Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux du Québec
- Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation
- Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre

CAGI Instrument (V1.09 - July 2010)
http://www.ccsa.ca/2010%20CCSA%20Documents/CAGI_Survey_Instrument_e.pdf