

International Gambling Studies >

Volume 13, 2013 - [Issue 1](#)

2,247

Views

60

CrossRef citations to date

4

Altmetric

Articles

Impact of problem gambling on financial, emotional and social well-being of Singaporean families

Mathew Mathews  & Rachel Volberg

Pages 127-140 | Received 24 May 2012, Accepted 13 Sep 2012, Published online: 31 Oct 2012

 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1080/14459795.2012.731422>

Sample our
Sports and Leisure
Journals



>> [Sign in here](#) to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

 Full Article

 Figures & data

 References

 Citations

 Metrics

 Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

Share

Abstract

Problem gambling has a profound impact on family members. While this has been previously documented, this paper reports on the first study to consider the extent of this impact in Asian societies where the family continues to be a very important basis for social organization. This study, based on in-depth interviews with 50 Singaporeans with a family member who is a problem or pathological gambler, examines how their financial, emotional and social well-being is impinged upon by gambling. The enormous losses of savings, property and lifestyle, the emotional tensions based on constant harassment from moneylenders, the threats of suicide by the gambler and the distancing of social networks place family members of problem gamblers in a vulnerable state. The qualitative data in this paper fleshes out the lived experience of family members and reveals the extent to which the family is mobilized in Asian

societies to cope with problem gambling. While the impact of problem gambling on families is similar across societies, routine mobilization of the extended family and the greater role of public shame and embarrassment in dictating Asian families' responses underscore the need for specialized services in these societies to assist family members to better cope with the financial, emotional and social strains caused by problem gambling.

Keywords:

families gambling Asian

Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge the generous funding of the Ministry of Community, Youth and Sports, Singapore, towards completing this research.

Related Research Data

[Parents of young gamblers](#)

Source: Journal of Gambling Studies

[Linked Lives: Adult Children's Experiences of Late Onset Parental Gambling Problems](#)

Source: International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction

[Chinese and English Probabilistic Thinking and Risk Taking in Gambling](#)

Source: Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology

[Children of Gamblers Anonymous members](#)

Source: Journal of Gambling Behavior

[Problem Gambling and its Impact on Families: A Literature Review](#)

Source: International Gambling Studies

[Social cost of pathological gambling](#)

Source: Journal of Gambling Studies

[Parents of male compulsive gamblers: Clinical issues/treatment approaches](#)

Source: Journal of Gambling Studies

[Asian Values, Authoritarianism and Capitalism in Singapore](#)

Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
60

[Problem Gambling and its Impact on Families: A Literature Review >](#)

Ruth Grant Kalischuk et al.
International Gambling Studies
Published online: 17 Feb 2007

[How gambling harms the wellbeing of family and others: a review >](#)

Catherine Tulloch et al.
International Gambling Studies
Published online: 22 Nov 2021

[Problem Gambling and Families: A Systematic Review >](#)

Toula Kourgiantakis MSW RMFT et al.
Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions
Published online: 13 Nov 2013

[View more >](#)

Information for

[Authors](#)

[R&D professionals](#)

[Editors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Societies](#)

Opportunities

[Reprints and e-prints](#)

[Advertising solutions](#)

[Accelerated publication](#)

[Corporate access solutions](#)

Open access

[Overview](#)

[Open journals](#)

[Open Select](#)

[Dove Medical Press](#)

[F1000Research](#)

Help and information

[Help and contact](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[All journals](#)

[Books](#)

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up



Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited [Privacy policy](#)

[Cookies](#) [Terms & conditions](#) [Accessibility](#)

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG



Taylor & Francis
by informa