

INCREASING THE ODDS FOR SAFETY AND RESPECT

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The *Increasing the Odds for Safety and Respect* project has been applying a gendered lens to its work to raise awareness of the link between family violence and gambling.

It has been working within the family violence and problem gambling sectors to improve responses to clients and enhance risk assessment tools, skills and referral processes. This is covered in the diagram below.



“FAMILY VIOLENCE IS THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO OCCUR IN FAMILIES THAT EXPERIENCE PROBLEM GAMBLING THAN THOSE WITH NO GAMBLING ISSUES.”

Dawling, N.A., Ewin, C., Youssef, G.J., Thomas, S.A., & Jackson, A.C. Problem gambling and family violence: Findings from a population representative community study. Manuscript in preparation.

Applying a Gendered Approach to the Link between Family Violence and Problem Gambling

A Non-Gendered Approach	A Gendered Approach	Examples of a Gendered Approach
Use of non-sex disaggregated data in gambling research and policy.	Use of sex-disaggregated and gender sensitive data collection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researching women's and men's different experiences of harm, e.g. men's use of sexual exploitation to pay debts. Understanding women's use of gaming venues as a response to social isolation or as an artificially safe space to visit when there is violence in the home.
Use of non-gender sensitive research scales and tools such as the Conflict Tactics Scale.	Undertaking research which recognises that family violence is gendered, with women experiencing higher levels of injury, fear and victimisation than men.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring patterns of coercive control in relationships rather than classifying participants based on single incidences of violence.
Using non-gendered measurements of harm from gambling.	Understanding that harm from gambling impacts women differently to men due to their different life experiences, including women's caregiving roles and lower income earning capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using qualitative research methodologies that recognise the impact of gender inequity on women, e.g. that family violence is the major cause of women's and children's homelessness.
The development of gambling related health promotion models and policies that don't take women's and men's differential biological and social vulnerability to health risks into account.	Recognition of gender as an important determinant of health outcomes and health service usage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledging that intimate partner violence is responsible for more preventable ill-health and premature death in Victorian women under the age of 45 than any other of the well-known risk factors, including high blood pressure, obesity and smoking.
Development of training courses and materials for the problem gambling sector that does not include family violence as a co-morbid issue.	Recognising that different responses are needed for men and women who present for counselling, including the need to prioritise women's safety and to understand how to work safely with men who use violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training for practitioners to recognise and respond to men's use of violence, e.g. how not to collude with men who use violence.

Project publications and resources are available from: <http://www.whin.org.au/projects/increasing-the-odds-of-safety-and-respect.html>