

An Examination of Gambling Behavior and Obsessive-Compulsive Symptom Dimensions

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Abstract

Gambling Disorder (GD) and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) appear to share numerous similarities across respective, theoretical models and along DSM-V criteria. Studies that have examined such relationships between OCD & gambling addiction, to our knowledge, have been limited to viewing OCD as a unidimensional construct. Given the current conceptualizations of OCD existing as a multidimensional construct, having numerous prominent replicable Obsessive-Compulsive (OC) symptom dimensions, further research is needed to gain a more specific understanding. Accordingly, this study sought to obtain data on OCD conceptualized as a non-unidimensional construct with Problematic Gambling Behavior (PGB), depression, stress, and anxiety. Data was obtained from seventy-nine undergraduate participants. Participants were assigned to one of two groups, PGB or non-PGB, based on scores from a rapid gambling screener. Data was analyzed using scores from, three self-reported measures assessing, depression, anxiety, stress with OC symptom dimensions along four common categorizations, with gambling behavior (DASS, DOCS & NODS-CLiP). Findings indicated no statistically significant differences between the gambling groupings mean scores along all four DOCS OC symptom dimensions. Furthermore, no statistically significant correlations were found between PGB along all four DOCS OC symptom dimensions. Finally, findings indicated using DASS sub-scales no statistically significant differences, between gambling groupings along, stress, anxiety and depression. However, because of limitations within this study, further research is needed.