

Association Between Illicit Adderall Use, Gambling and Substance Use Among College Students

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Introduction

- Addictive gambling habits are associated with financial and relationship problems and a number of mental health struggles including anxiety and depression (Fong TW. 2005)
- While illicit Adderall use has been found to improve attention skills it has also been found to be associated with a number of neurocognitive effects including a degrade in problem solving skills, confidence and social interaction (Weyandt et al. 2018)
- Substance use is associated with a wide range of physical and mental health issues including lung or heart disease, cancer, anxiety and depression (Hildebrandt et al. 2021)
- The misuse of stimulant medications, including Adderall, by college students is a growing concern that has been shown to be positively associated with a wide range of demographic and psychosocial factors, including gambling and substance use (Cole et al. 2020)
- Studies have shown that on average, nearly 75% of college students have gambled in the past year (Caldeira et al. 2017)
- Multiple studies have demonstrated that gambling habits is positively correlated with a wide range of substance use and illicit Adderall use (Grant et al. 2019)

Hypothesis

We hypothesize that illicit Adderall use, gambling habits and substance use are all positively correlated with one another among college students.

Methods

- Data collected through an anonymous Google Form question survey
- Survey was shared through multiple social media platforms and Binghamton University outreach events
- All participants were at least 18 years of age and confidentiality was ensured
- All data was analyzed through Pearson's Correlation Coefficient in SPSS Version 28.0

Results

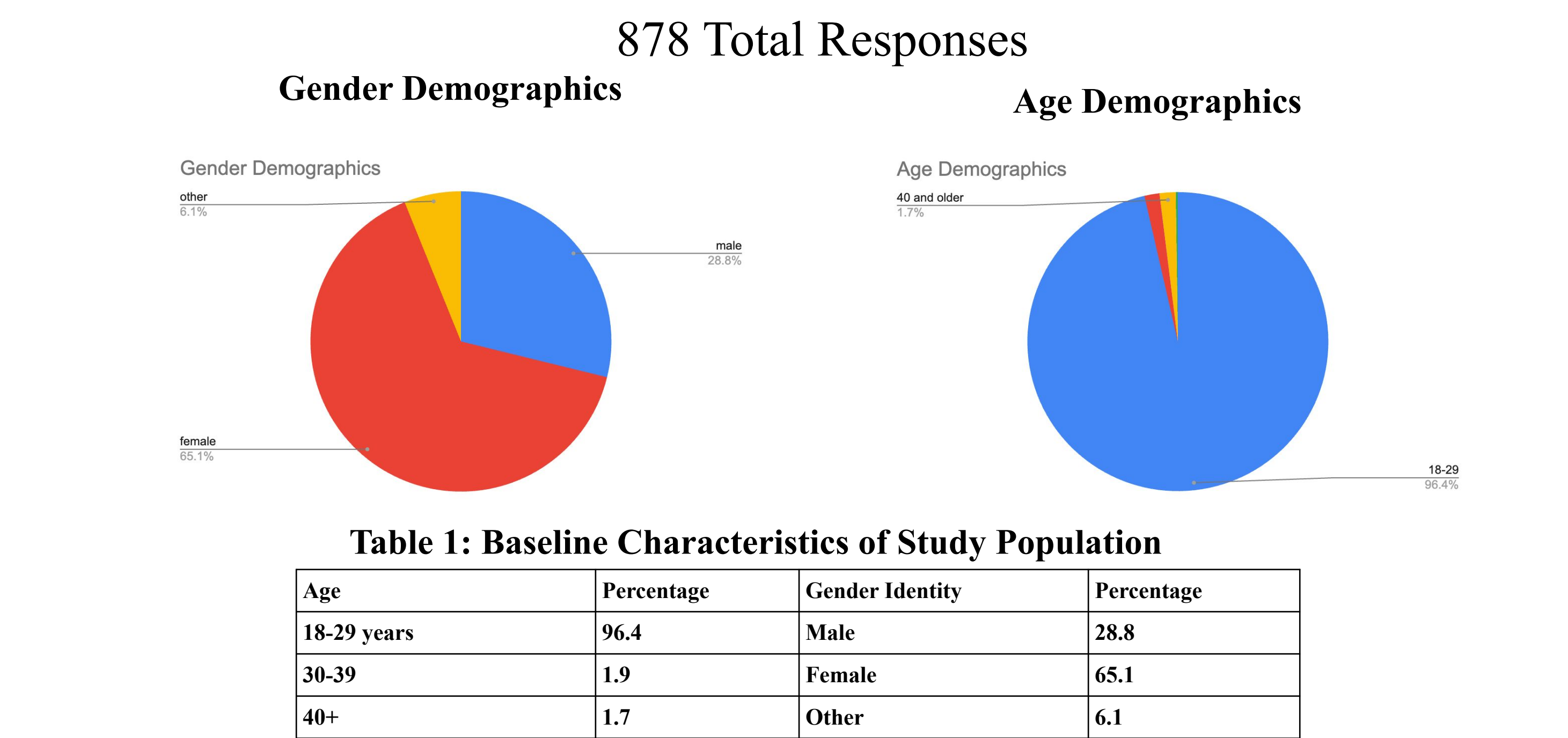


Table 2: Association Between Illicit Adderall Use and Gambling

	How frequently have you used non-prescribed ADHD medications?
Have you become restless, irritable or anxious when trying to stop/cut down on gambling?	0.204**
Have you tried to keep your friends or family from knowing how much you gambled?	0.262**
Have you ever had such financial trouble as a result of gambling that you had to get help with living expenses?	0.208**

p<0.01 = **

Table 3: Association Between Illicit Adderall Use and Substance Use

	How frequently have you used non-prescribed ADHD medications?
In the last month, how many alcoholic drinks have you had?	0.169*
In the last month, how often did you consume ecstasy?	0.225**
In the last month, how often did you consume hallucinogens?	0.152*
In the last month, how often did you consumer opiates	0.380**
In the last month how often did you consume cocaine?	0.254**

p<0.05 = * p<0.01 = **

Tables 4, 5, & 6: Association Between Gambling and Substance Use

	Have you tried to keep your family or friends from knowing how much you gambled?
In the last month, how many alcoholic drinks have you had?	0.103**
In the last month, how often did you consume cannabis?	0.098**
In the last month, how often did you consume ecstasy?	0.235**
In the last month how often did you consume hallucinogens?	0.086*
In the last month, how often did you consume amphetamines?	0.110**
In the last month, how often did you consume sedatives?	0.101**
In the last month, how often did you consume opiates?	0.129**
In the last month, how often did you consume cocaine?	0.168**

p<0.05 = * p<0.01 = **

	Have you ever had such financial trouble as a result of gambling that you had to get help with living expenses?
In the last month, how many alcoholic drinks have you had?	0.127**
In the last month, how often did you consume cannabis?	0.082*
In the last month, how often did you consume ecstasy?	0.480**
In the last month how often did you consume hallucinogens?	0.266**
In the last month, how often did you consume amphetamines?	0.296**
In the last month, how often did you consume sedatives?	0.106**
In the last month, how often did you consume opiates?	0.322**
In the last month, how often did you consume cocaine?	0.307**

p<0.05 = * p<0.01 = **

	Have you become restless, irritable or anxious when trying to stop/cut down on gambling?
In the last month, how many alcoholic drinks have you had?	0.117**
In the last month, how often did you consume cannabis?	0.160**
In the last month, how often did you consume ecstasy?	0.220**
In the last month how often did you consume hallucinogens?	0.144**
In the last month, how often did you consume amphetamines?	0.107**
In the last month, how often did you consume opiates?	0.194**
In the last month, how often did you consume cocaine?	0.216**

p<0.01 = **

Discussion and Conclusion

- This study was designed to examine the correlation between illicit Adderall use, gambling and substance use
- Results show a significant positive correlation between various unhealthy gambling behaviors and illicit Adderall use
- Illicit Adderall use was also seen to be positively correlated with the use of multiple substances including alcohol, ecstasy, hallucinogens, opiates and cocaine
- Keeping your friends or family from knowing how much you gambled was found to be significantly positively correlated with alcohol, cannabis, ecstasy, hallucinogen, amphetamine, sedative, opiate, and cocaine use
- Becoming restless, irritable or anxious when trying to stop/cut down on gambling was found to be positively associated with alcohol, cannabis, ecstasy, hallucinogens, amphetamines, opiates and cocaine use
- Having financial troubles as a result of gambling habits was found to be positively associated with alcohol, cannabis, ecstasy, hallucinogen, amphetamine, sedative, opiate, and cocaine use
- The results of this study indicate the potential link between illicit Adderall use, gambling, and substance use, as well as the potential dangers involved with engaging in these addictive behaviors

Future Work and Limitations

- Future work should focus on exploring the relationship between illicit Adderall use, gambling and substance use and the mental and physical health effects of engaging in these addictive behaviors concurrently
- Potential sources of error include self reported data and a relatively low sample size which potentially skewed the results

References

