

# The relationship between gambling and current anti-social activities, and how perceived risk changes this relationship

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## Introduction

- 7.89% of college students gamble (Blinn-Pike 2006)
- Online gambling and sports gambling making gambling more accessible and appealing
- Compared to non-gambling students, gambling students are more likely to partake in anti-social activities
- College students may be at a higher risk of partaking in anti-social activities because they do not see themselves losing because of *Self-enhancement bias*, which is the tendency individuals have where they give over positive evaluations of themselves (Holliday 2013)
- College students may continue gambling even after they are aware they have a problem
- Holliday (2013) found that while criminals are aware of factors that may cause them to reoffend, they do not see them affecting them personally

## Hypothesis

1. Is there a statistical significance between gambling risk and current anti-social activities?
2. Does having Lower Than Normative perceived risk alter the relationship between gambling and current anti-social activities
3. Does having Similar To Normative perceived risk alter the relationship between gambling and current anti-social activities

## Methodology

### Participants

- 238 student participants (n=238)
- Mean average age was 21.4
- 45.9% were female
- The college levels are Seniors (33.3%), Juniors (26.5%), Sophomores (22.3%), Freshman (22.3%), and Graduate (1.7%)

### Gambling

- The gambling scale consisted of a series of questions that pertained to participants partaking in gambling. A sample item from this scale is “Betting a day’s income on the outcome of a sporting event”

### Current anti-social activities

- This scales relates to activities that a participant may have partaken in currently as a college student. A higher score on this scale shows that the participants partook in anti-social activities during their time as a college student. A sample item from this scale is “Times cheated on exam”

### Perceived Risk Inventory

- **Lower Than Normative** – less likely to partake in risky behavior than those who are at the base level of taking risks. A sample item from this scale is “My chances of doing crime are lower compared to other people my age”.
- **Similar To Normative/Low** - at the same level of partaking in risky behavior as those that partake in risky behavior. A sample item from this scale is “Given my past, my risk to offend is similar to the average person in the community”.

### Analytical Strategy

- Partial correlation is a correlation between two variables while controlling for another variable
- Partial correlations used to answer the hypothesis by showing the correlations between gambling risk and anti-social activities while taking out the overlapping correlation of perceived risk

## Results

Table 1

Correlations between all variables

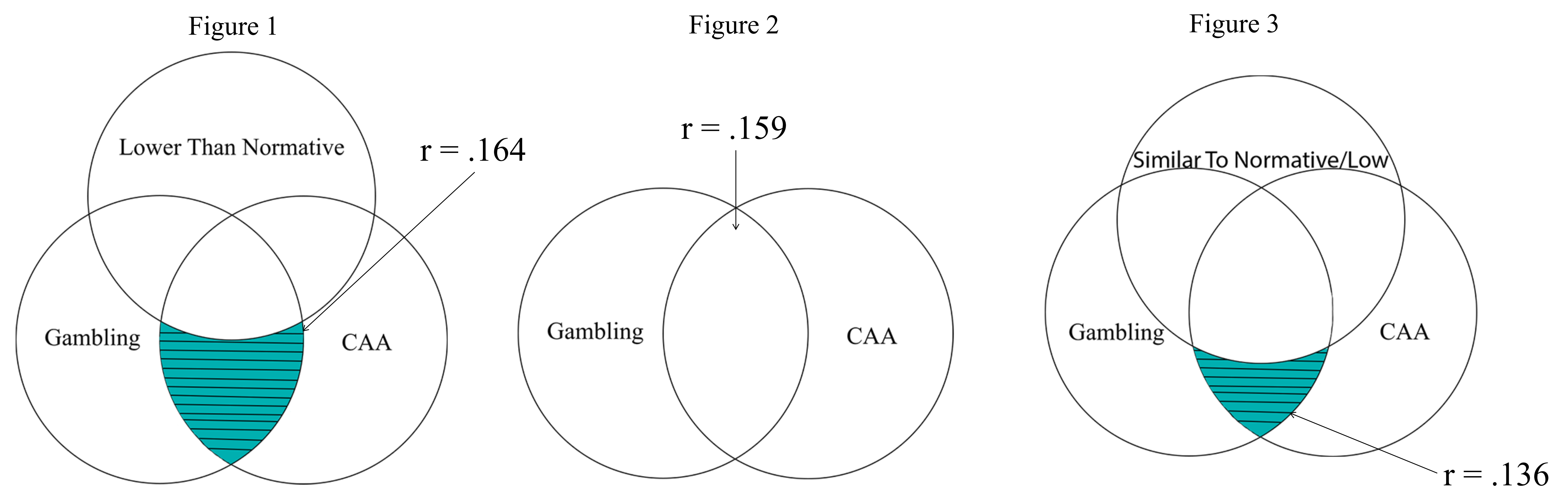
	1	2	3	4
1. Gambling	1			
2. Lower Than Normative	-.109	1		
3. Similar to Normative/Low	-.011	-.022	1	
4. Current anti-social activities	.159*	.126	-.156*	1

Note: \* p < .05

Table 2

Partial Correlations

	Controlled for Lower than Normative	Controlled for Similar to Normative/Low
Gambling and Current anti-social activities	.164	.136



- Table 1 showed that there is a strong correlation between gambling and current anti-social activities ( $r = .159^*$ ,  $p < 0.5$ ) and strong negative correlation between current anti-social activities and Similar To Normative/Low ( $r = -.156^*$ ,  $p < 0.5$ )
- Table 2 showed that while controlling for Lower Than Normative perceived risk the correlation between gambling and current anti-social activities rose ( $r = .164$ ) and when controlling for Similar To Normative/Low perceived risk the correlation between gambling and current anti-social activities declined ( $r = .136$ )
- Figure 1 shows the correlation between gambling and current anti-social activities while controlling for Lower Than Normative perceived risk ( $r = .164$ )
- Figure 2 shows the correlation between gambling and current anti-social activities ( $r = .159$ )
- Figure 3 showed the correlation between gambling and current anti-social activities while controlling for Similar To Normative/Low ( $r = .136$ )

## Conclusion

- From the results it can be concluded that when a student perceives that they are Lower Than Normative risk the relationship between gambling and anti-social activities is increased.
- Perceived risk of Lower Than Normative may represent a student minimizing the problem areas of gambling and anti-social activities

## Applications

- Students referred for either gambling or anti-social activities should have their perceived risk assessed
- This will help assess the severity of the gambling and anti-social activities

## References

- Blinn-Pike, L., Worthy, S. L., & Jonkman, J. N. (2007). Disordered gambling among college students: a meta-analytic synthesis. *Journal of gambling studies*, 23(2), 175–183. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-006-9036-2>
- Brooks Holliday, S., King, C., & Heilbrun, K. (2013). Offenders’ Perceptions of Risk Factors for Self and Others: Theoretical Importance and Some Empirical Data. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 40(9), 1044–1061. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093854813482308>

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