



[Home](#) » [News](#) » [Substance Abuse News](#) » Adolescent Gambling Linked to Conduct Disorders

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By RICK NAUERT PHD *Senior News Editor*
Reviewed by John M. Grohol, Psy.D. on October 26, 2009

New research has determined that one in 10 adolescent boys have symptoms of conduct disorder, as well as a problem gambling.

Scientists from the University at Buffalo's Research Institute on Addictions (RIA) found as the number of conduct disorder symptoms increase, the number of problem gambling symptoms increase in step.

Interestingly, female adolescents exhibit conduct disorder (four percent) and risky or problem gambling (two percent) to a much lesser degree.

Symptoms of conduct disorder are defined as a number of chronic behavior problems in childhood and adolescence.

These behaviors include lying, stealing, vandalism, impulsivity, substance abuse, verbal and physical aggression, cruelty to pets or people and repetitive behavior that violates the rights of others or social norms.

"Youth without symptoms of conduct disorder have a five percent rate of risky or problem gambling," according to John W. Welte, PhD, lead author of the RIA report.

"Youth with symptoms of conduct disorder have a 23 percent rate of risky or problem gambling."

In a study of 2,274 youth between the ages of 14 and 21, Welte and colleagues reported that the extent to which problem gambling and conduct disorder occurred at the same time was much stronger among younger (14-to-15 year-old) adolescents.

For the 14-to-15 age-range, the odds of being a risky or problem gambler increased by a remarkable 80 percent with each additional conduct-disorder symptom during the past year, the study showed.

As the age of the adolescents increased, this effect weakened. For the 20-to-21-year-olds, the researchers found no discernible relationship between conduct disorder and risky problem gambling.

The study was published in the October 2009 issue of the *Journal of Adolescent Health*.

Source: [University of Buffalo](#)