



Are We Gambling With The Youth In Our Society?

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Introduction

As technology continues to grow people of all ages are able to access the Internet from nearly anywhere. With easier access to the Internet more people are also able to access to forms of gambling, even before they are old enough.

Gambling is also being promoted more than ever through media, parents, and videogames. According to social learning theory this will result in our children displaying gambling habits from an early age and later in life as they observe others gambling and learn to behave in the same way with an even greater frequency.

According to previous studies gambling habits have been correlated with deviant behaviors such as drug abuse, unemployment, skipping school, and can lead to further dependency on gambling later in life. In order to keep gambling and deviant behaviors from increasing research on how technology is affecting these behaviors is increasingly important. In this study we analyze such trends and discuss what implications our findings have on our society. It is important to analyze such trends early so that precautions can be taken and any problems or issues can be dealt with before they become out of hand.



Method

My target population was the youth in our society

My study was carried out through an online survey

The survey asked participants questions regarding

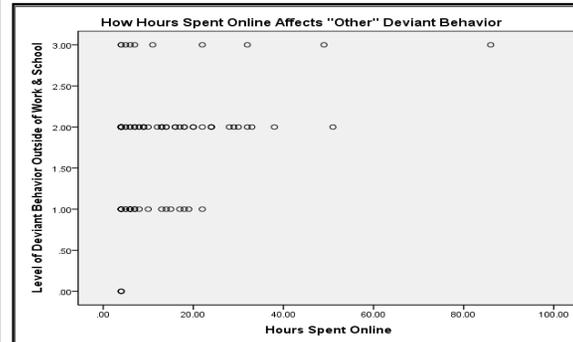
- Their age
- The number of electronic devices they own and use
- Number of hours they spend online each week
- Socially negative behaviors at work, school, and other aspects of their life

Study was completed by 97 participants

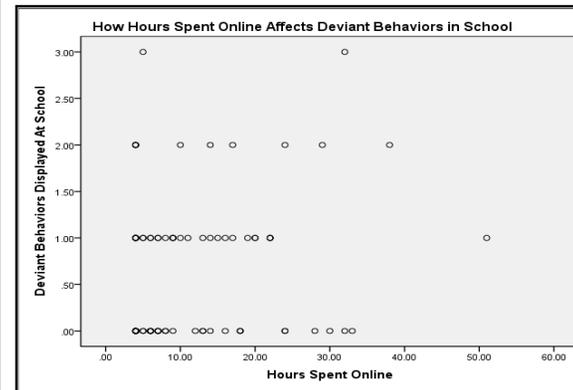
The Participants ranged in age from 18 to 83

Hypothesis & Results

•More hours online will result in more deviant behaviors



Time Online & Deviant Behavior Outside of Work & School
($r=.002$, $n=97$, $p=.002$)



Time Online & Deviant Behavior at School
($r=.206$, $n=91$, $p=.05$)

•Younger Populations will display more deviant behavior

Correlation between Age and behavior was not significant

•More electronic devices with access to the Internet will result in more deviant behavior

Correlation between # of devices & behavior was not significant

Discussion

According to the results of this study none of my only my hypothesis on number of hours was correct. This means that the number of hours that one spends online do effect how likely they are to display deviant behavior at some point in their life. The age of participants and the number of devices that they own, however, do not impact this at all according to the results.

This is a good sign! Despite evidence showing how technology could negatively impact our society, this study shows that at least at this point in time we have been able to keep it from negatively impacting us as a society. Instead, this study shows that overall we are relatively unaffected by our access to the Internet and all that it has to offer us. It is still important that we keep an eye on any trends in the future to ensure that this remains the case. For now, though, we can enjoy the great amount of technology that we have that is able to connect us all over the world as long as we continue to use it for the right purposes and as long as we do not spend too much time online.



Future Studies

Because research has only just begun on the subject it is important that future studies be carried out. Such studies should involve a younger age group, should focus on different types of gambling to find their individual effect, and should survey the same sample population later in life to see any trends that have formed since the initial study.

Acknowledgments

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