

ANNOUNCEMENT

Responsible Gambling Trust provides funding to support a longitudinal study of problem gambling in late adolescence and early adulthood

London, September 20: The Responsible Gambling Trust (RGT) has funded the University of Bristol, acting through the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC), to research into gambling behaviour and problem gambling in the 16-25 year age group.

The aim of the study is to evaluate gambling behaviour and problem gambling at 25 years of age, among participants in ALSPAC, a population-based cohort study in the South West of England. Data from this new sweep will be combined with data on gambling of cohort participants which have previously been collected at 17 and 21 years of age, and information from these three gambling assessments of the same group of young people will allow the evaluation of the history of gambling behaviour, trajectories of development of gambling problems and implications of adolescent gambling to risks of gambling problems, mental health and maladjustment at age 25.

Marc Etches, Chief Executive of RGT said:

"We need to know more about how problem gambling evolves in young people so we can prevent gambling-related harm. There is little detailed research on the development of gambling behaviour during the phase between late adolescence and young adulthood, when problem gambling often begins. RGT previously funded ALSPAC to collect data when the cohort were 17 and 21 years of age and so we are very pleased to be able to fund the latest wave in this important longitudinal study."

Professor Alan Emond, ALSPAC said:

"ALSPAC is a unique dataset, investigating the health and behaviour of young people in the UK. It is the only study in the world with three measurements of gambling activity and attitudes to gambling, collected from the same individuals during the transition from adolescence to adulthood. The period of data capture (2010-2017) has also seen major changes in young people's access to gambling through the internet and the expansion of in-game betting, and the 25 year sweep will provide a fascinating insight into current young people's gambling behaviour. The results of the ALSPAC gambling study will be of importance to researchers and policy makers, and will inform efforts to reduce gambling-related harm in young people."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- The Responsible Gambling Trust is the leading charity in the UK committed to minimising gambling-related harm. As an independent national charity funded by donations from the gambling industry, the Responsible Gambling Trust funds education, prevention and treatment services and commissions research to broaden public understanding of gambling-related harm and inform public policy. The aim is to stop people getting into problems with their gambling, and ensure that those that do develop problems receive fast and effective treatment and support. Click here to find out more: <http://www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/>
- The Responsible Gambling Trust raises over £7 million each year in voluntary contributions from the gambling industry operating in Great Britain. This donation based system was proposed under the Gambling Act 2005 and is prescribed by the Gambling Commission in its Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice.
- The Responsible Gambling Trust's programme of treatment, education, harm prevention and research are guided by the National Responsible Gambling Strategy, which is defined by the independent Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB) and endorsed by the Gambling Commission. The RGSB, the Gambling Commission and RGT work together under the terms of an agreement in place since 2012: <http://www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/media/1216/statementofintent.pdf>.
- All RGT research is governed by its Research Committee of only those trustees who are independent of the gambling industry. Research is conducted under the terms of a 'Research Commissioning and Governance Procedure' agreed in 2016 by the RGSB, the Gambling Commission and RGT: <http://www.responsiblegamblingtrust.org.uk/media/1270/research-commissioning-and-governance-procedure-may-2016-final.pdf>.
- Further information about the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children can be found at www.bristol.ac.uk/alspac and media enquiries can be directed to Dara O'Hare in the ALSPAC press office on 0117 331 0077.