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SPORTS BETTING

History & Prevalence

- Supreme Court decided *Murphy vs. NCAA* (2018) and struck down federal ban
- To date, 38 US states have legalized some form
- Approx. **\$23.1 billion** wagered on this year's Super Bowl (American Gaming Association)
- Approx. **\$2.72 billion** wagered on this year's March Madness (AGA)

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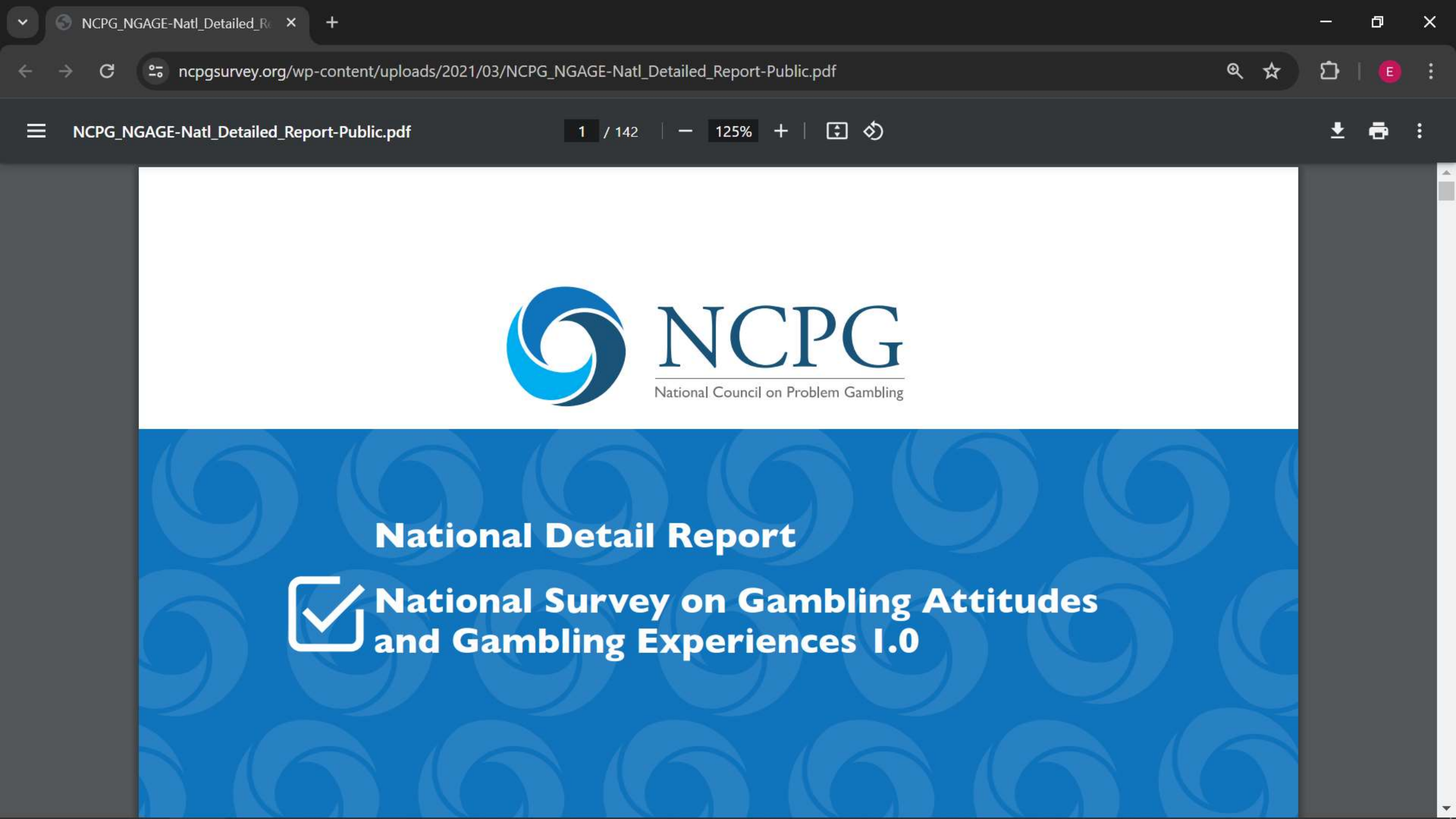
Unique Dangers

- National Council on Problem Gambling survey / study published in 2021

https://www.ncpgsurvey.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/NCPG_NGAGE-Natl_Detailed_Report-Public.pdf

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National Detail Report

National Survey on Gambling Attitudes and Gambling Experiences 1.0

5) **Most who gamble appear to do so without negative consequences.** While for methodological reasons the survey was not designed to assess the rate of gambling disorder, 70 percent of gamblers reported never experiencing any of the four risky gambling behaviors covered by the survey. However, 7 percent reported experiencing at least one of these behaviors “many times,” with most of these reporting only one frequent problematic behavior.

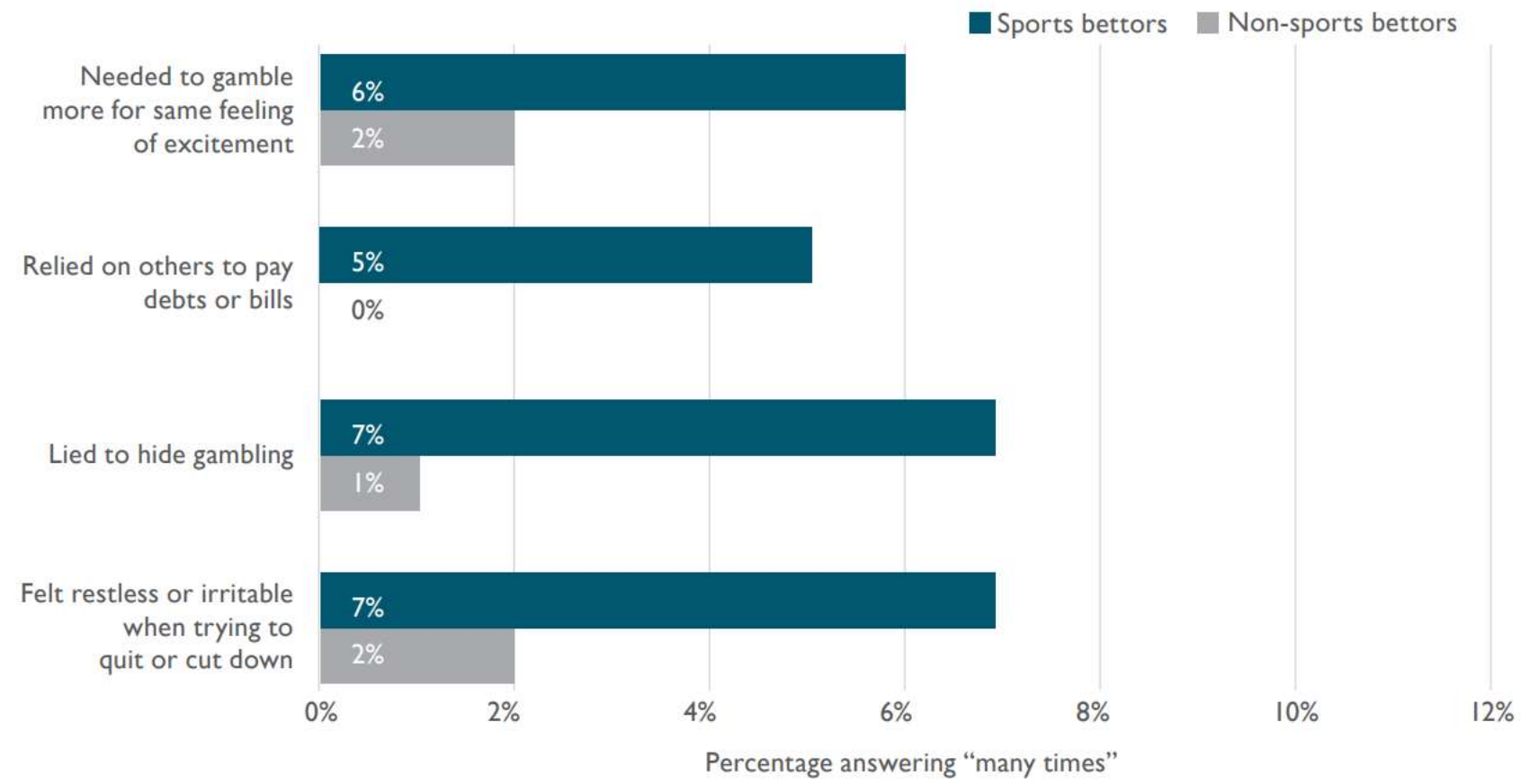
6) **Young adults appear to be at higher risk for gambling problems.** Half of those under 35 responded “yes” to at least one indicator of risky behavior. By contrast only 10 percent of gamblers over the age of 65 responded “yes” to at least one indicator.

7) **Sports bettors appear to be at particularly high risk.** They are three or more times as likely than those gamblers who did not bet on sports to report frequent risky behavior. Those betting weekly on sports are five or more times more likely to report frequent risky behavior. These disparities are even greater for those playing fantasy sports. We do not know, however, if sports betting results in risky behavior, or if those who are more prone to risky behavior are drawn to sports betting.

8) **A considerable number of gamblers do not understand the way gambling works,** with 16 percent believing that gambling is a good way to make money. Similar numbers believe that gambling more often will help them win more than they lose, or that their chances of winning get better after they’ve lost. These misconceptions are more common among those playing games with a skill component, such as sports betting or cards.

Figure 6E-10

Past year problematic gambling activity among sports bettors



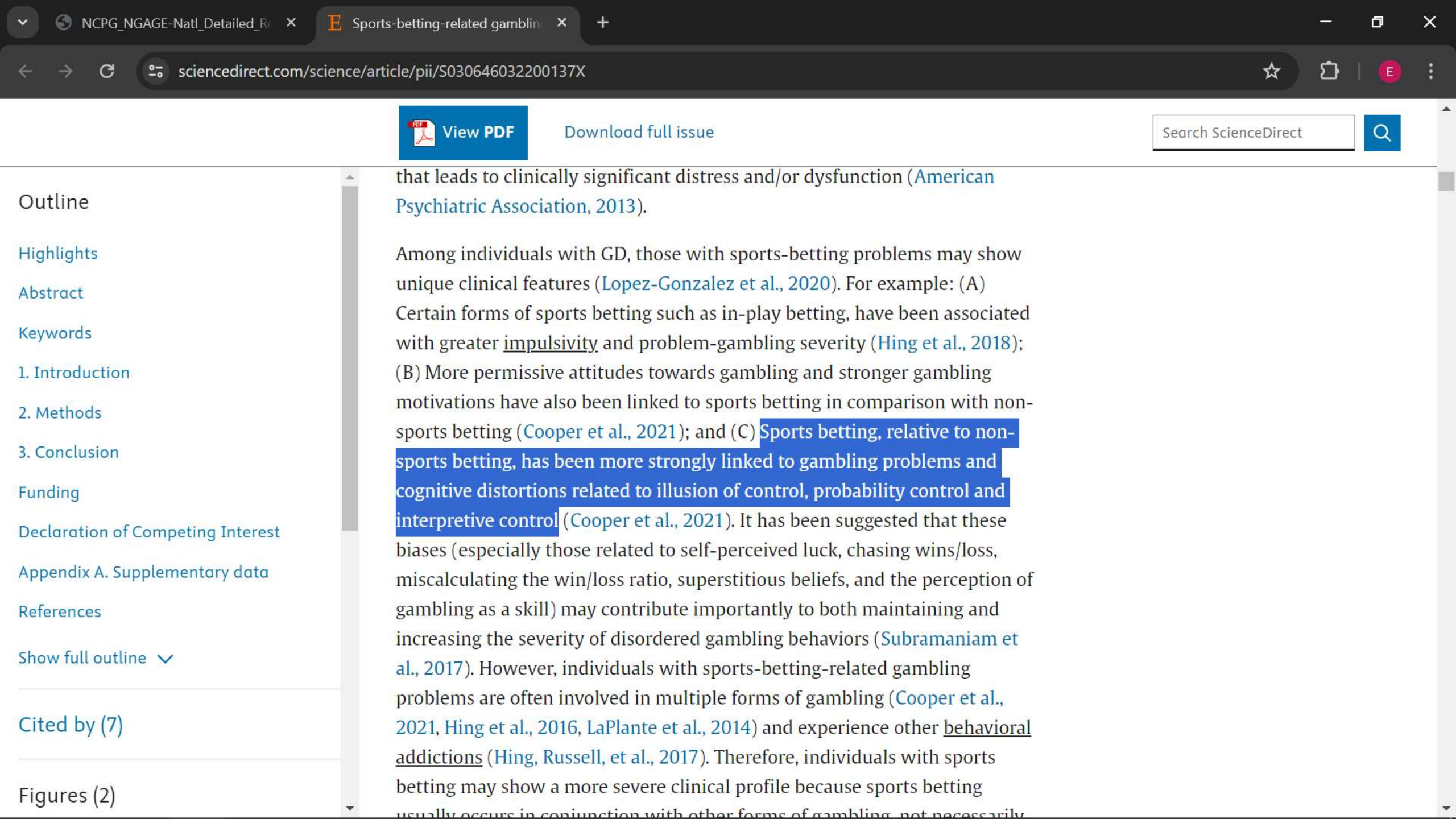
Unique Dangers

- Article in *Addictive Behaviors* – “Sports-betting-related gambling disorder: Clinical features and correlates of cognitive behavioral therapy outcomes” (October 2022)

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S030646032200137X>

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Outline

Highlights

Abstract

Keywords

1. Introduction

2. Methods

3. Conclusion

Funding

Declaration of Competing Interest

Appendix A. Supplementary data

References

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that leads to clinically significant distress and/or dysfunction ([American Psychiatric Association, 2013](#)).

Among individuals with GD, those with sports-betting problems may show unique clinical features ([Lopez-Gonzalez et al., 2020](#)). For example: (A) Certain forms of sports betting such as in-play betting, have been associated with greater impulsivity and problem-gambling severity ([Hing et al., 2018](#)); (B) More permissive attitudes towards gambling and stronger gambling motivations have also been linked to sports betting in comparison with non-sports betting ([Cooper et al., 2021](#)); and (C) **Sports betting, relative to non-sports betting, has been more strongly linked to gambling problems and cognitive distortions related to illusion of control, probability control and interpretive control** ([Cooper et al., 2021](#)). It has been suggested that these biases (especially those related to self-perceived luck, chasing wins/loss, miscalculating the win/loss ratio, superstitious beliefs, and the perception of gambling as a skill) may contribute importantly to both maintaining and increasing the severity of disordered gambling behaviors ([Subramaniam et al., 2017](#)). However, individuals with sports-betting-related gambling problems are often involved in multiple forms of gambling ([Cooper et al., 2021](#), [Hing et al., 2016](#), [LaPlante et al., 2014](#)) and experience other behavioral addictions ([Hing, Russell, et al., 2017](#)). Therefore, individuals with sports betting may show a more severe clinical profile because sports betting usually occurs in conjunction with other forms of gambling, not necessarily

Unique Dangers

- Sports betting “could be more problematic than other forms because it gives more illusion of **control**. Those who wager on sports tend to believe they have some insights which give them an advantage. The result is they’re less likely to acknowledge and take responsibility for their game-related problems.”

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/faqs-sports-betting/>

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Principles & Warnings

Use God-owned resources wisely and resourcefully

- Is it a wise use of our money? Is it prudent investment? (Prov. 27:23-27)
- Is this what a good, righteous steward would do? (Luke 16:10-13)

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Principles & Warnings

Do not let money rule your life

- What is the motivation behind gambling?
(Prov. 23:4-5)
- Is it guarding against “every form of greed”?
(Luke 12:13-23, 1 Tim. 6:9-11)

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Principles & Warnings

Do not become wasteful or lose control of your behavior

- Are you allowing something to “master” you?
(1 Cor. 6:12-13)
- Are you “redeeming the time”? (Eph. 5:15-16)
Being “sober-minded”? (1 Pet. 4:7)

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Principles & Warnings

Do not curse or dehumanize people made in God's image

- How do you view, treat, and speak to / of the people involved? (James 3:9)

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“Everything” Principles

Be wise and resourceful

Love God more than anything

Be mindful and in control of choices

Honor, and serve, all people

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