



Risk-taking is related to feeling deprived in comparison to other people

What this research is about

Social inequality is connected to many negative outcomes that involve taking risks. Some of these outcomes include teenage pregnancy, violence, and drug use. Most research has focused on inequality at the broader, societal level. Little is known about how it affects risk-taking at an individual level. People who earn less income and live in poor conditions may feel deprived compared to others. Thus, they may feel anger and resentment, and take risks to get what they desire. The researchers examined whether feeling deprived was related to risk-taking.

What the researcher did

The researchers recruited 328 participants from diverse sources in the community. The participants were asked about the degree to which they felt deprived when compared to other people. They were also asked about personality traits and attitudes that were related to risk-taking. They then played a few computer tasks to measure their risk-taking behaviours. In addition, they were asked about their gambling behaviours, antisocial behaviours, and if they had been arrested or charged for a crime before.

What the researcher found

The researchers found that participants who felt deprived were more likely to take risks and behave anti-socially. In terms of personality traits, they were more impulsive and had less self-control. They were quicker to feel restless and engage in risky activities. These participants favoured antisocial forms of risk-taking. They had more favourable attitudes toward risk-taking in ethical, gambling, and health/safety domains. But they were less favourable toward risk-taking in investment. Feeling deprived was not related to attitudes toward

What you need to know

The researchers examined whether feeling deprived in comparison to other people was related to risk-taking. They found that participants who felt deprived were more likely to take risks and behave anti-socially. These participants were more impulsive and had less self-control. They had more favourable attitudes toward antisocial forms of risk-taking. They favoured taking risks in ethical, gambling, and health/safety domains, but not in investment. They were more likely to choose smaller, immediate rewards over larger, later rewards. They were also more likely to have gambling problems, behave anti-socially, and have a criminal charge.

risk-taking in social and recreational domains. In terms of behaviours, they were more likely to choose smaller, immediate rewards over larger, later rewards. They were also more likely to have gambling problems, behave anti-socially, and have a criminal charge.

How you can use this research

Treatment and prevention providers may find this research useful in understanding how feeling deprived was related to risk-taking. The results showed that people who felt deprived were more likely to take risks and behave anti-socially. Thus, treatment and prevention providers should target factors that contribute to social inequality and their clients' feelings. Targeting the sources of inequality and addressing these feelings may help reduce risky behaviours, such as gambling.

About the Researcher

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Keywords

Risk, risk-taking, relative deprivation, personality, gambling, future discounting, crime, inequality

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