RESEARCH QUESTIONS
What factors comprise the Problem Gambling Index (CPGI) and is the CPGI associated with past-year DSM-IV disorders?

PURPOSE
The CPGI is a new scale that proposes to measure different levels of problem gambling within the general population. The goal of the current research was to evaluate the factor structure of the CPGI using an exploratory factor analytic approach with a sample of 36,984 Canadians. Also, the study evaluated the associations the CPGI has with select past-year DSM-IV disorders and compared the results to those from previous studies.

PARTICIPANTS
The Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS 1.2) is a large, nationally representative sample of randomly selected participants from 10 Canadian provinces (n = 36,984). A subsample of 742 participants from this original sample was used for the analyses of this study; these participants were classified as having moderate-to-high risk gambling problems.

PROCEDURE
Statistical analyses were performed on the data to determine which factors comprise the CPGI and how CPGI performance is associated with psychopathology and mental health behaviours.

MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES
The CPGI was used to assess the prevalence of past-year problem gambling. The CPGI consists of nine items (including two from the DSM-IV and two from the SOGS) that assess the following behavioural domains: gambling involvement, problem gambling behaviour, negative effects/consequences, and environmental correlates. The CPGI was also designed to differentiate multiple levels of gamblers.

RESEARCH SYNOPSIS

and the World Mental Health-Composite International Diagnostic Interview (WMH-CIDI) were used to assess past-year prevalence of mental disorders and mental health problems. The CCHS 1.2 assessed past-year substance-related disorders and suicide attempts and ideation.

KEY RESULTS
CPGI factor structure: Statistical analyses indicated that the CPGI fits a unifactorial model; that is, all questions seem to measure problem gambling. Analyses also indicated that the CPGI is accurate and is highly consistent. Associations with past-year DSM-IV disorders and mental health behaviours: As severity of gambling problems increased on the CPGI, there was a significantly greater risk of developing a past-year DSM-IV disorder or mental health problem. Significant associations were found for: suicide attempts, mania, suicide ideation, social phobia, major depression, and alcohol interference.

LIMITATIONS
It is unclear whether the subset chosen from the original survey sample was representative of the entire general population. Also, the study focused only on individuals at moderate-to-high risk of developing gambling problems.

CONCLUSIONS
Results from this study demonstrated that the CPGI is an accurate and consistent measure of problem gambling. Also, when using the CPGI, individuals in the general population at moderate-to-high-risk of developing problem gambling were associated with various past-year psychopathologies and mental health behaviours.

KEYWORDS: problem gambling, Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI), comorbidity mental health

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