Research Snapshot

CHA Division on Addiction
Cambridge Health Alliance
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL TEACHING HOSPITAL

Gambling researchers' use and views of open science principles and practices: a brief report

Open science principles and practices are designed to enhance the quality, transparency, and replicability of scientific research.

Scientists across disciplines have begun to implement open science practices, but previous studies show that awareness and use of such practices often is low.

This study was the first to empirically investigate knowledge and use of open science practices in gambling studies research.

The Study

Surveyed a convenience sample of **86 gambling research stakeholders** on their experiences with open science and related practices

Analyzed responses to better understand:

- **Awareness and use** of open science practices
- **Potential concerns** related to open science
- **Views** regarding importance of research replicability

Replicability refers to successfully repeating the results from one study across one or more other studies.

Key Findings

44% of respondents reported some or extensive experience with open science principles, generally

Open science practice	Respondents with some or regular experience in their own research	Top selected concern about engaging in practice
Study pre-registration	31%	Need to look at data before deciding how to best analyze it (34%)
Open materials/code	33%	Issues related to intellectual property (37%)
Open data	48%	Issues related to privacy (45%)
Pre-print archiving	16%	Might add noise to the literature (38%)

51% of respondents suggested that replicability is relevant for all gambling studies

Key Takeaways

There is a lack of awareness and use of open science practices among gambling research stakeholders.

Open science education, on all topics, should be more widespread among aspiring and established researchers alike.

Most respondents thought that replication is important for all gambling studies, but there has not yet been a comprehensive examination of the replicability of research findings in this field.

More replication work – including conceptual and direct replication of published gambling studies – is needed to understand the validity of the published literature.

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