

NC Study Comparing Gambling Behavior & Risk



Based on SOGI Data



Purpose of Study:

Most gambling prevalence studies do not ask about sexual orientation and/or gender identity, leaving a hole in understanding whether people who identify as LGBTQ+ have similar, lower, or higher risk for gambling-related harms. Given the vast amount of research indicating higher risk for substance use among LGBTQIA+ identities, this study attempts to understand whether there is a larger need for resources to this community through a comparative sample based on SOGI data in North Carolina.

Terms

SO: Sexual orientation

Het: Heterosexual

LGB+: sexual minority

GI: Gender identity

GAAB: Gender Assigned at birth

AMAB: Assigned male at birth

AFAB: Assigned female at birth

Cisgender/Cis: Identify with the gender assigned at birth

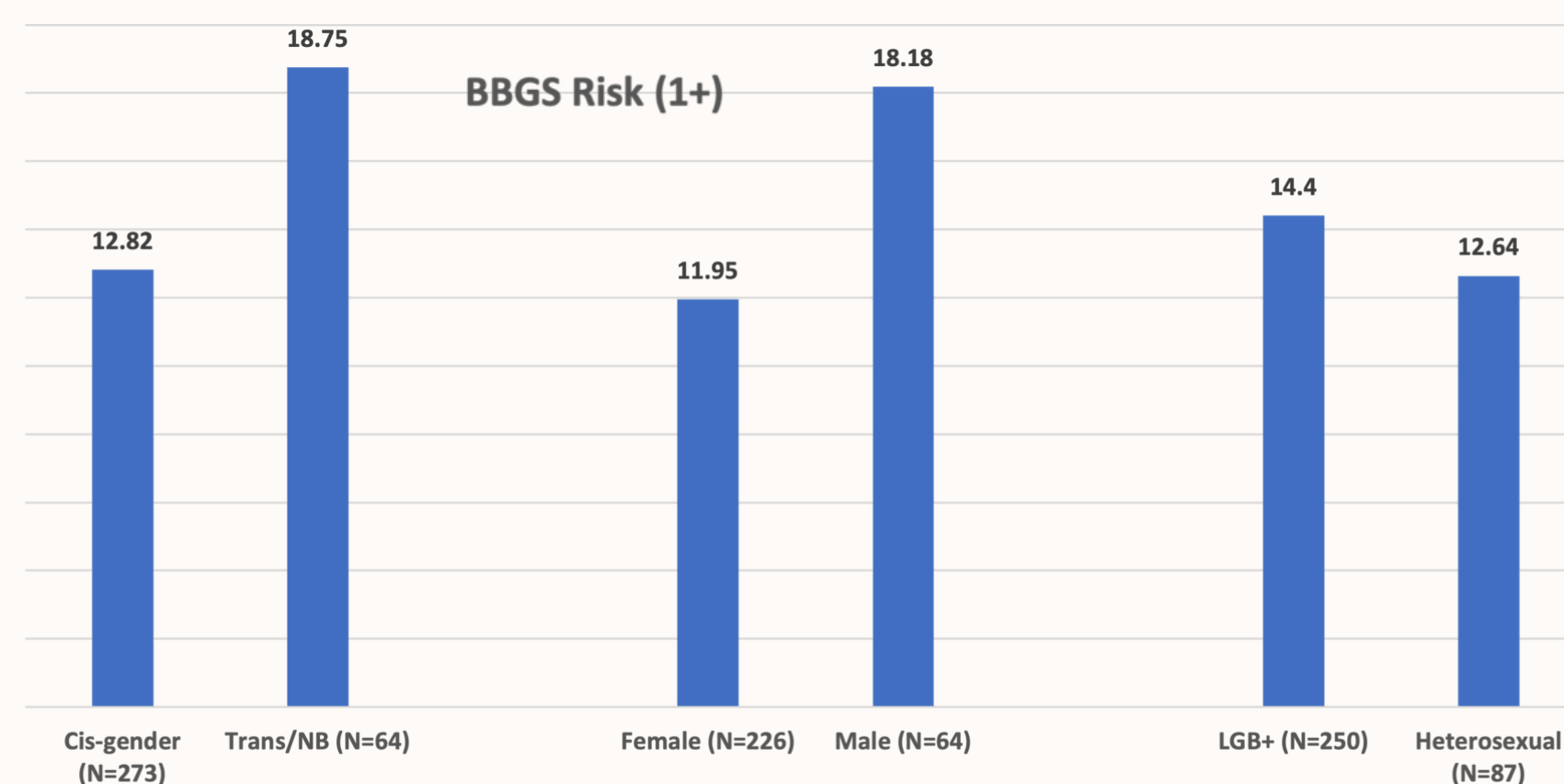
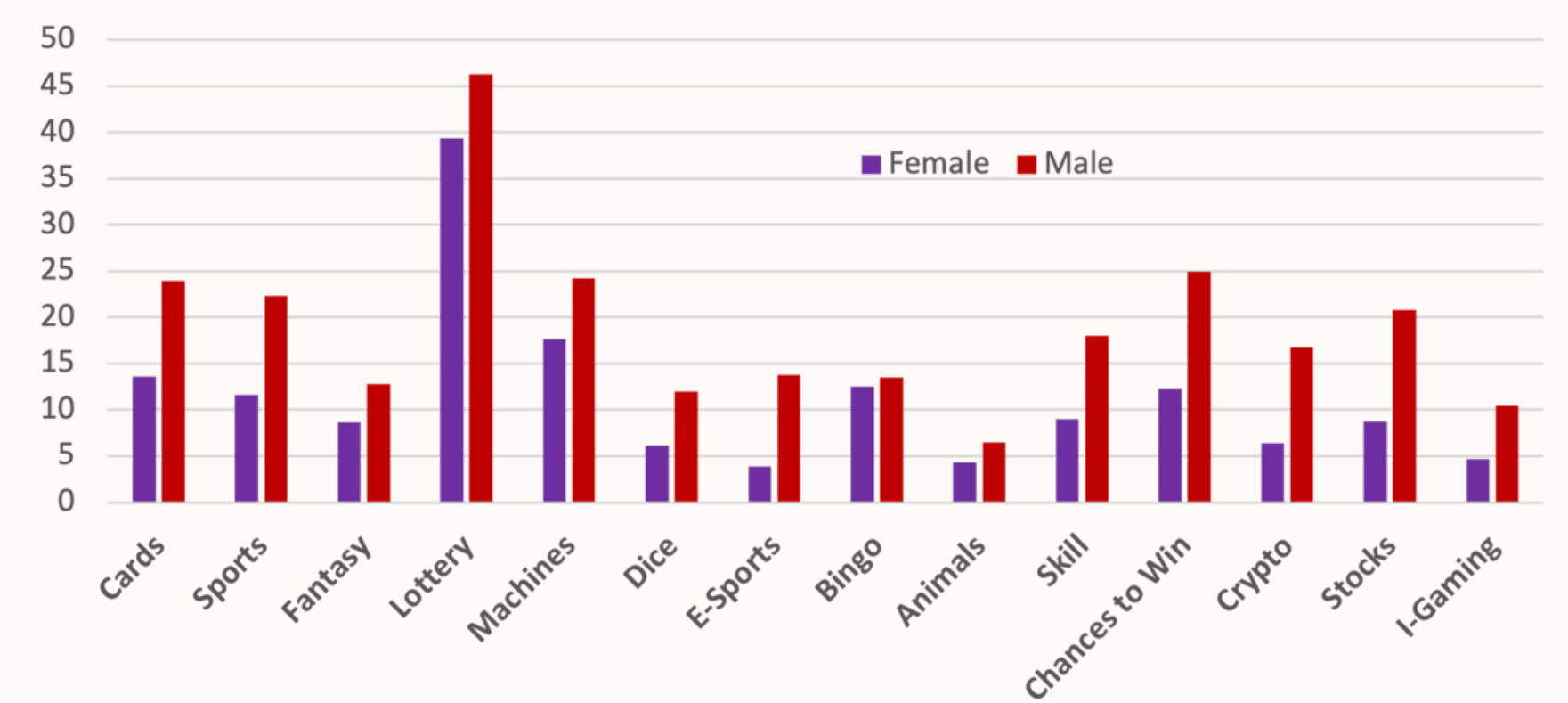
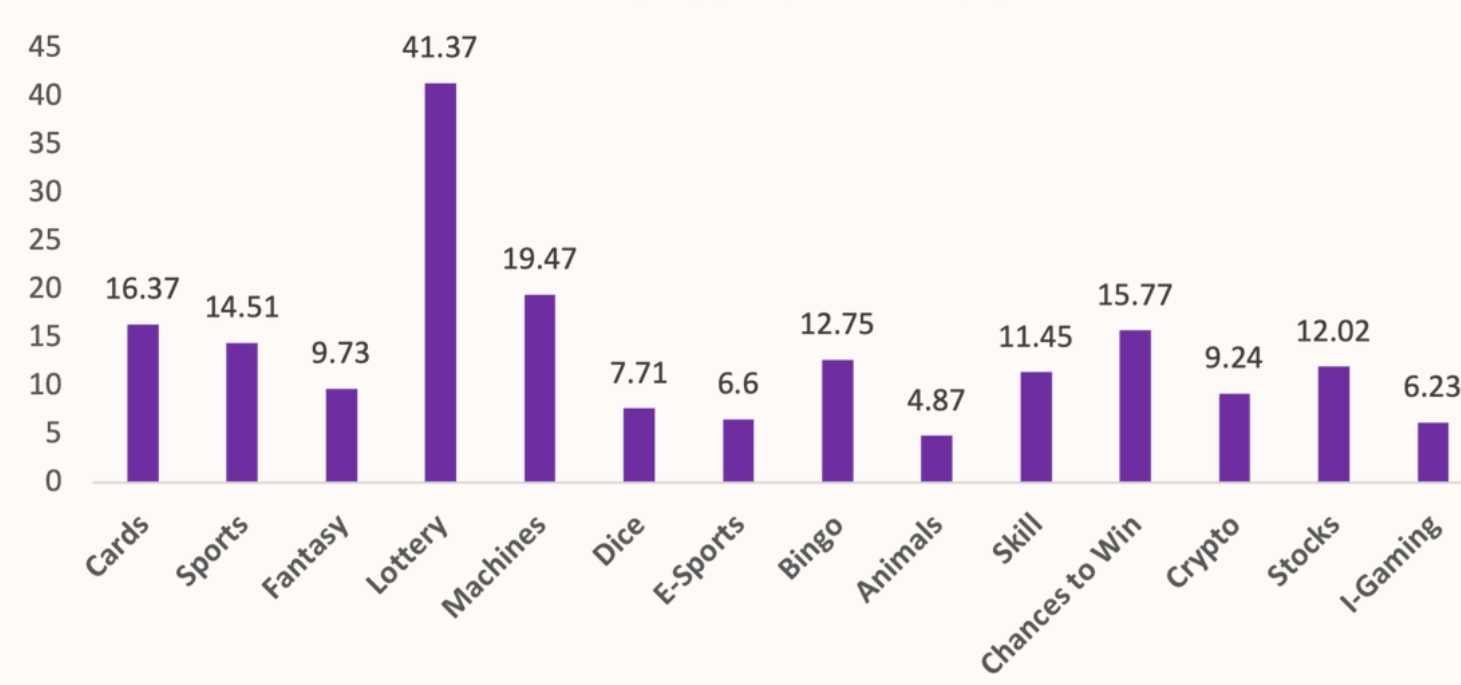
Trans/NB: Identify with a different gender than assigned at birth

Methodology: All data was collected in 2024 (after sports wagering became legally available in NC) at NC pride festivals (Asheville, Charlotte, Greenville, & Wake Forest). Participants were asked to take a survey which included questions related to gambling behavior & risk, pathways to gambling & comorbidities, as well as demographics in exchange for a gift card. Anyone 18+ was permitted to participate regardless of identity. Gambling frequency, as well as risk based on the Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen (BBGS), were only answered by participants who self-reported gambling in the past year. Analysis primarily utilizes Chi-Square tests due to categorical data. Analysis includes gambling behavior and risk based on (1) the whole sample, (2) gender identity, (3) sexual orientation (binary & categorical), and (4) SOGI analysis within AGAB.

Prevalence, Gambling Type & Risk:

- Most common types of gambling were **lottery, machines/slots, cards, & chances to win in video games/loot boxes**
 - Individuals gambled on all assessed types, including **i-gaming** [currently not legal] likely from unregulated offshore casino sites
 - 18-20 year old participants gambled on all types including those they are underage to engage in legally**
- BBGS (risk) is not statistically significant** when comparing SO (binary or categorical), GAAB, nor GI (binary or GAAB), although Trans/NB have a higher risk than Cis and LGB+ has a higher risk than Het
- Regardless of SOGI, **those AMAB gambled on every type more than those AFAB** (AMAB=76.79%; AFAB = 60.24%)

Prevalence by Type (N=1019) gambled



Gambling Type & Frequency Prevalence Based on SOGI

Gender Identity (GI):

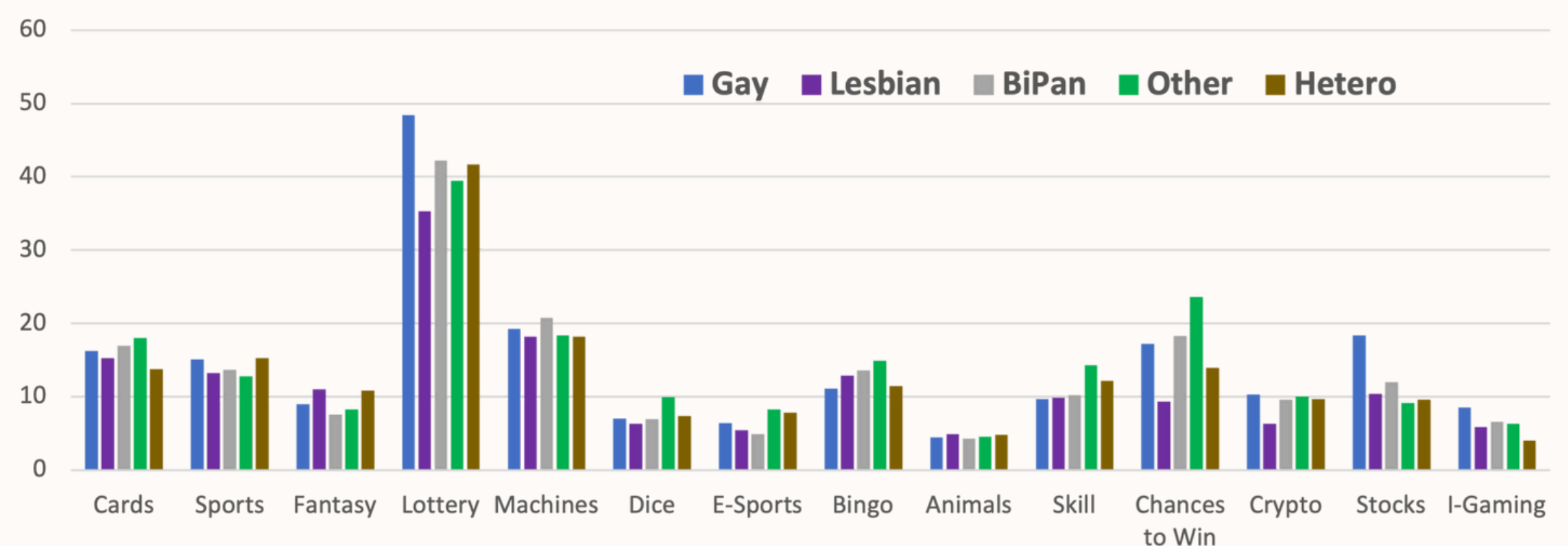
- While cis individuals were more likely to gamble monthly or more (cis=33.7%; trans=22.77%), **overall gambling in the past year was similar** (cis=65.48%; trans=62.38%)
- Without considering GAAB, cis individuals were more likely to wager on every type of gambling, except **trans individuals were ~2x as likely to wager on chances to win in video games** (cis=13.17%; trans=26.57%)
 - Cis individuals were significantly more likely to gamble on sports, fantasy sports, lottery, & crypto
- When considering only those AMAB, GI is no longer significant for prevalence of each type of gambling, as well as overall with **76-77% of all participants AMAB gambling in the past year** (cis n=238; trans n=42)
- There is a **significant difference in gambling behavior for those AFAB**, where cis were significantly more likely to gamble on sports, fantasy sports, and overall, & trans/nb were more likely to gamble on chances to win in video games (cis n= 578; trans/nb n=159)

Sexual Orientation (SO):

- LGB+ identity is not significant for prevalence of types of gambling (when not comparing SO categories nor GAAB)
- For AMAB, SO becomes significant for fantasy sports, e-sports, & skill games, with het men having higher prevalence & frequency on all three types (LGB+ n=213; Het n=83)
- There is no statistical difference in gambling behavior based on SO for AFAB
- LGB+ categorized identity is significant for two emerging types of gambling (chances to win in video games & cryptocurrency)
- Regardless of GAAB, participants identifying as gay generally showed the highest prevalence, while those identifying as lesbian showed the lowest prevalence

Discussion & Conclusion:

- SOGI is not as important as GAAB where those AMAB gamble more frequently & cis men gamble more than trans/nb AMAB
- Within SO, individuals who are gay gamble more often and lesbians gamble the least (*these results differ from prior studies and needs to be further explored*)
- BBGS analysis did not indicate increased risk based on SOGI, however about **3.5% of the sample self-identify as having a gambling problem, nearly 14% of those that indicated they gambled suffer from at least one gambling-related harm with those AMAB at ~18% and AFAB at ~12% (indicating a high prevalence rate for needing further assessment for Gambling Disorder)**



Funded in part by:



Senior Research Team:

Dr. Michelle L. Malkin (PI) - GRPI Director
Dr. Michele Stacey (Co-PI) - GRPI Affiliated Faculty

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Hope Bishop, Latasha Cobb, Morgan Greene, Josh Hampton,
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