Is online gambling on state regulated websites safer?

An analysis of the first national survey on online gambling

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Plan

- Introduction: legal framework of gambling in France, a regulation strategy
- Current situation about gambling practices in France
  - Off line gambling
  - On line gambling
- Is gambling on regulated websites safer?
- Conclusion

A new strategy: regulation vs. prohibition

The 12th of May 2010 France "opened the online gambling market to competition" in three areas: sports betting, horse course betting and poker

The new law:

- entrusted the regulation of this market to an independent administrative authority, ARJEL, which grants approvals to operators and controls their activity
- Set up an expert public centre, ODJ, in order to assess situation surrounding gambling practices in France

Legal situation before 2010

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Gambling legal framework in France **before 2010**

	Casinos (Tables games, Slot machines)	Casinos: Poker	Lotteries	Sports betting	Horse racing
Offline	Authorization/ Concession		FDJ (Française des jeux)	FDJ (Française des jeux)	PMU (Pari mutuel urbain)
Online			FDJ (Française des jeux)		

= State monopolies
= Private operators
= Prohibited (except for some FDJ and PMU games)

Legal situation since 2010

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Gambling legal framework in France **after 2010**

	Casinos (Tables games, Slot machines)	Casinos: Poker	Lotteries	Sports betting	Horse racing
Offline	Authorization/ Concession		FDJ (Française des jeux)	FDJ (Française des jeux)	PMU (Pari mutuel urbain)
Online	~~Licensed operators~~	Licensed operators	FDJ (Française des jeux)	Licensed operators	Licensed operators

= State monopolies
= Private operators
= ~~Prohibited~~

ARJEL Regulatory authority for online gambling

An independent administrative authority

The missions of ARJEL are to:

- **issue approvals and ensure compliance by operators**
- **protect the vulnerable and fight against addiction**
- **ensure the safety and fairness of gambling operations**
- **fight against illegal sites**
- **fight against fraud and money laundering**

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ODJ the Monitoring Centre for Gambling

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An expert public body

part of the Gambling consultative committee, that provides advice to the public authorities

The mission of the ODJ is:

- **to provide decision-makers and professionals of the sector, as well as the public, with factual, objective, reliable information in the area of gambling.**

National gambling prevalence survey 2010

A set of gambling related questions included in a regular national health survey (“Baromètre Santé”, INPES)

- Telephone survey
- Random sample of the French population,
- using CATI
- October 2009 - June 2010
- N = 25,034 people aged 18-75 years

Prevalence of gambling in France

Prevalence of gambling in France

From all French citizens between 18 and 75 years of age, the proportion of those who, during the previous 12 months:	in %
gambled at least once	47,8
gambled at least 52 times	10,9
gambled and spent at least 500 euros	4,7
gambled at least 52 times and/or gambled and spent at least 500 euros (active gamblers)	12,2

Source: Health Barometer 2010, gambling module, INPES/OFDT

Prevalence of problem gambling in France

Prevalence of "problem" gambling in the French population of 18-75 years (in %)

CPGI categories	Prevalence in %	95% CI
From the whole population		
Moderate-risk gamblers	0,9	[0,78-0,94]
Excessive gambler	0,4	[0,38-0,50]

Source: Health Barometer 2010, gambling module, INPES/OFDT

Online gambling prevalence surveys 2012

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- ✓ 2 coordinated survey on online gambling in 2012:
  - **A representative survey which aimed to estimate the prevalence of online gambling by the French (1)**
  - **A descriptive survey of the practices of online gamblers and associated problems (2)**
- ✓ comparable to the first national prevalence survey carried out in 2010 **(3)**

(1) Online gambling prevalence survey 2012

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2 questions included in a regular monthly survey ("Monitoring the web practices", Médiamétrie)

- Telephone survey
- Random sample of the French population,
- using CATI
- September-November 2012
- N = 2761 people over 18

(2) Online gambling prevalence survey 2012

Based on "Web Users Panel" (« Le Carré des Médias », Médiamétrie)

- Database: 830 000 Web users
- Sample of Internet users selected according to quotas that come from the results of the last "Monitoring the web practices, Médiamétrie" survey, by: sex, age, socio-professional category and region.
- Response rate to all emails sent and opened was approximately 40%.
- Final sample was weighted according the initial quotas: sex, age, socio-professional category and region.
- Time survey: November-December 2012
- Age: 18-75
- Final sample: **4,042 Internet users stated having gambled on the Internet on the last 12 months**

(3) Online gambling prevalence survey 2012 Measures

- ✓Regulatory status of gambling sites
  - **Three proxy measures**
  - **A composite indicator**
    - those who gambled exclusively on licensed sites",
    - and "those who gambled partly or totally on unlicensed sites".
- ✓Gambling-related problems
  - **gambling-related impacts on lifestyle behaviours**
    - Sleep disturbance
    - Unhealthy eating
  - **Substance use behaviours**
    - Related changes in alcohol, tobacco and/or illicit drug use
  - **PGSI: Problem Gambling Severity Index**

How many people gamble online?

Prevalence of online gambling in France in 2012

French population (aged 18 and over)	Estimate	95% Confidence intervals	
		Lower	Higher
Prevalence in the last 12 months	**3,7%**	2,9%	4,5%

Source : enquête Prévalence-e-Jeu 2012 ; ODJ - N=2761

Who is gambling online?

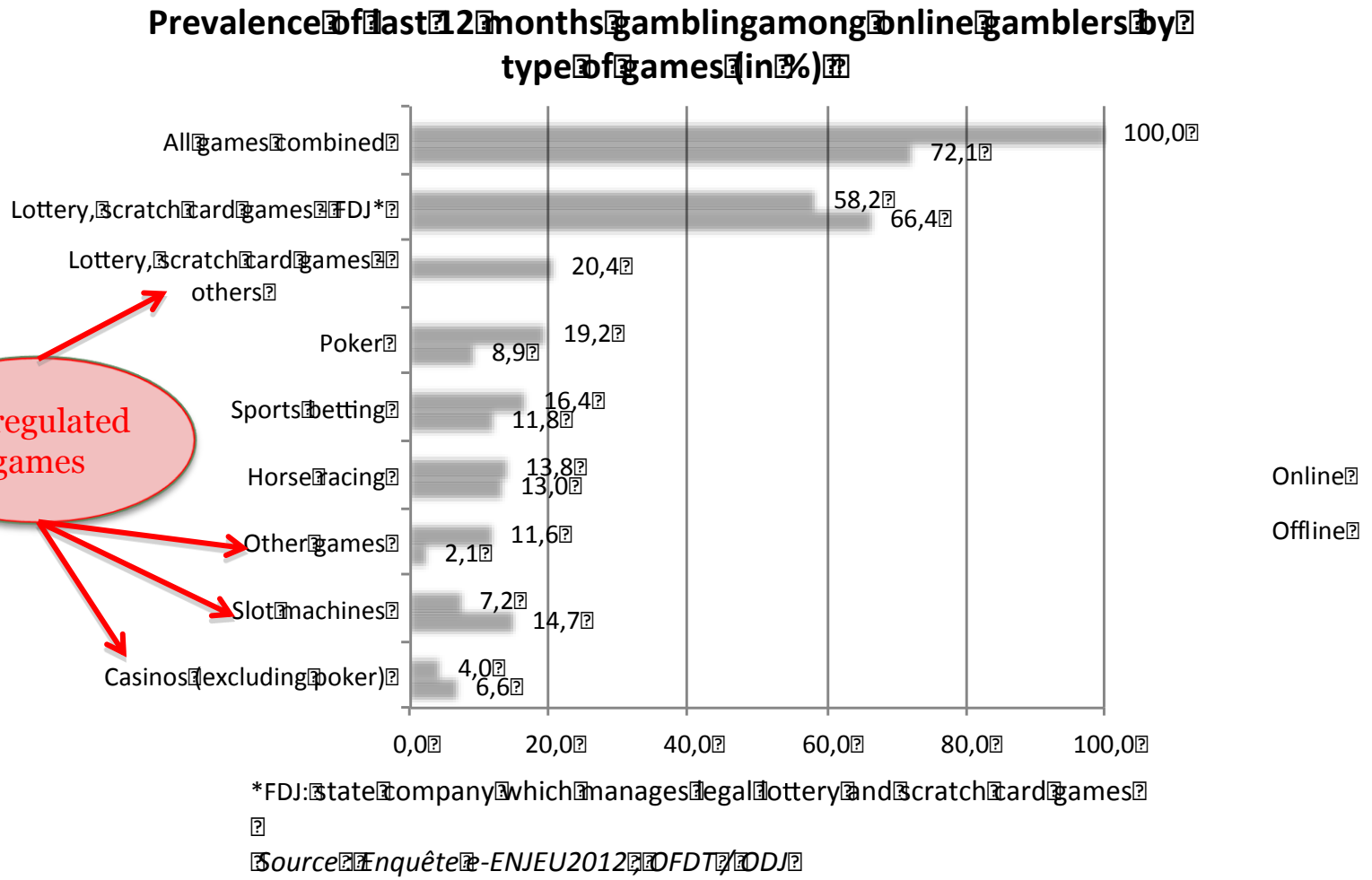
Comparison of Online and Offline Gamblers on Major Sociodemographic caracteristics

per cent	Online gamblers 2012 (N= 4 042)	Offline gamblers 2010 (N= 11 655)	General population data 2012
Sex			
Men	57,2	52,3	49,0
Women	42,8	47,7	51,0
Age			
18-24	12,0	11,0	12,1
25-34	26,1	20,4	17,6
35-49	35,0	34,2	29,1
50-64	21,0	26,0	27,8
65-75	5,8	8,4	13,4
Education			
Did not complete Baccalaureate	22,2	42,4	59,7
Completed Baccalaureate	24,9	19,0	15,9
Completed Post-Baccalaureate diploma	53,0	38,7	24,5
Socioprofessional category *			
Low SPC	23,8	41,8	31,1
High SPC	52,5	31,7	25,9
Inactive	23,8	26,5	43,1

*Low SPC = employee, labourer, farmer; high SPC = manager, mid-level professor and higher, artisan,

source : Enquête e-ENJEU2012, OFDT/ODJ ; Baromètre santé 2010, INPES/OFDT ; INSEE

Which kind of activities are they playing ?



What are the online gambling patterns?

Comparison of Online and Offline Gamblers on gambling patterns

Percent	Online gamblers (n = 4,042)	Offline gamblers (n = 11,577)
Frequency/Spending		
gambled ≥ 52 times in the past 12months	45,0	22,8
spent ≥ 500 € in the past 12months	27,1	9,8
Serious gamblers*	50,8	25,5
Gambling activities (among serious gamblers)		
Lottery, scratch card games	64,5	89,6
Poker	19,2	8,0
Sports betting	16,4	8,8
Horse racing	13,8	23,2
Slot machines	7,2	17,7
Casinos (excluding poker)	4,0	4,6
Problematic gambling**		
Moderate-risk gamblers	10,4	1,9
Problem gamblers	6,6	0,9

* having gambled 52 times or more and/or having spent at least 500 € in the past 12 months

** PGSI = 3-7 ; PGSI ≥ 8

source : Enquête e-ENJEU2012, OFDT/ODJ ; Baromètre santé 2010, INPES/OFDT ; INSEE

Toward assessment of the 2010 gambling law

Key questions

1. **Do people gamble on regulated websites?**

2. **Practices on the regulated supply are they safer?**

Do people gamble on regulated supply?

Distribution of gamblers according to the regulated status of websites they use

in %	All gamblers (N=4042)	Regulated field (2010 law) Poker (n=335)*	Sport/Horse Bet (n=317)*
only regulated websites	54%	53%	70%
only unregulated websites	19%	23%	6%
both	27%	24%	24%

source : Enquête e-ENJEU2012; DFDT/ODJ

** : exclusifs gamblers*

Who gambles on regulated supply? (1)

Demographic characteristics	Gambled on Regulated sites only (N=2170.4)	Unregul. sites (n=1871.6)	odds of gambling only on regulated sites	
	%	%	OR[1]	OR 95% CI
Gender				
Men	62,1	37,9	ref.	ref.
Women	42,4	57,6	0.45*	0.4-0.51
Age				
18-24	35,1	64,9	0.51*	0.41-0.64
25-34	51,5	48,5	ref.	ref.
35-49	57	43,0	1.25*	1.07-1.47
50-64	58,5	41,5	1.33*	1.11-1.59
65-75	64,5	35,5	1.71*	1.28-2.29

[1] Significant odds ratio (OR): *p<=.05, **p<=.01, ***p<=.001

source : e-ENJEU2012 Survey, OFDT/ODJ

Who gambles on regulated supply? (2)

Demographic characteristics	Gambled on Regulated sites only (N=2170.4)	Gambled on Unregul. sites (n=1871.6)	odds of gambling only on regulated sites	
	%	%	OR[1]	OR 95% CI
Education				
Did not complete Baccalaureate	49	51,0	0.69*	0.59-0.80
Completed Baccalaureate	48,2	51,8	0.67*	0.57-0.78
Completed Post-Baccalaureate	58,3	41,8	ref.	ref.
Socioprofessional category (SPC)				
Low SPC	59,7	40,4	1.28*	1.10-1.50
High SPC	53,5	46,5	ref.	ref.
Not active on labor market	48,1	51,9	0.81*	0.69-0.94
Financial situation				
"Comfortable"	57,4	42,6	ref.	ref.
"Just enough"	53,6	46,4	0.86*	0.75-0.99
"Difficult"	44,6	55,4	0.60*	0.51-0.71

[1] Significant odds ratio (OR): *p<=.05, **p<=.01, ***p<=.001

source : e-ENJEU2012 Survey, OFDT/ODJ

Practices on the regulated supply are they safer? (1)

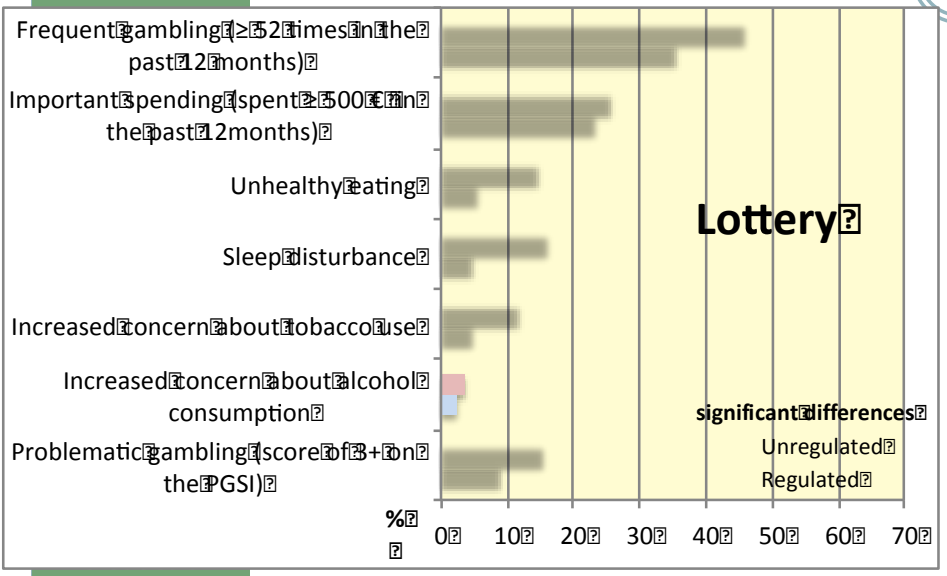
Gambling patterns of individuals who participated to a regulated online gambling activity* according to the regulatory status of gambling sites (N=3,230).

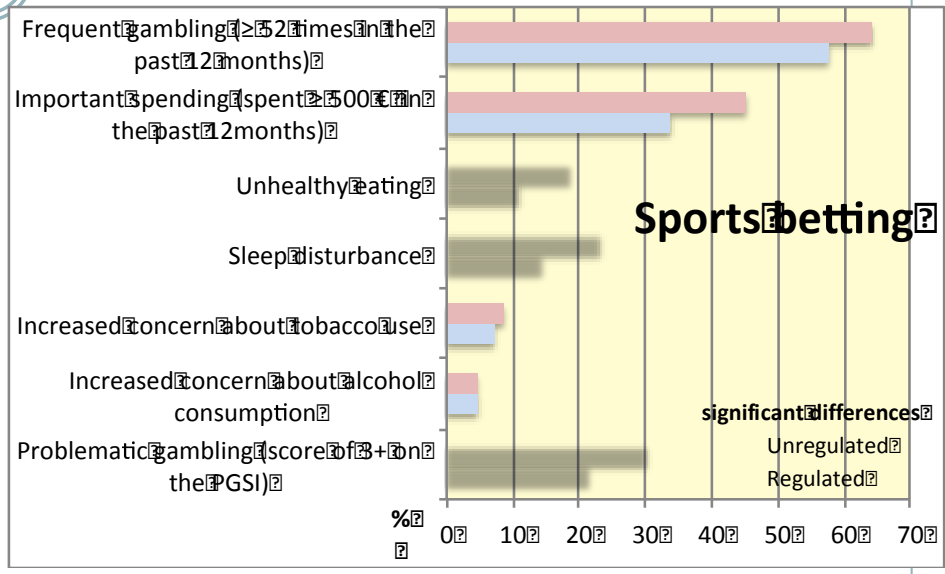
	Overall (N=3,230)		
	Regulated sites only %	Unregulated sites %	OR[1]
Steady involvement in gambling			
Frequent gambling (≥ 52 times in the past 12 months)	41,4	47,6	0.69***
Important spending (pent ≥ 500 € in the past 12months)	25,2	26,8	0.65***
Problematic gambling (score of 3+ on the PGSI)	12,1	17,3	0.67***
Associated Consequences			
Lifestyle behaviours			
Sleep disturbance	9,7	20,1	0.47***
Unhealthy eating	9,1	17,9	0.51***
Interpersonal problems (arguments. conflicts)	2	1,6	1,2
Substance use behaviours			
Increased concern about alcohol consumption	3	3,5	1,09
Increased concern about tobacco use	6,3	12,2	0.69*
Increased concern about cannabis use	1,3	2,2	0,94
Increased concern about use of illicit drugs (excluding cannabis)	1,1	1,2	1,32

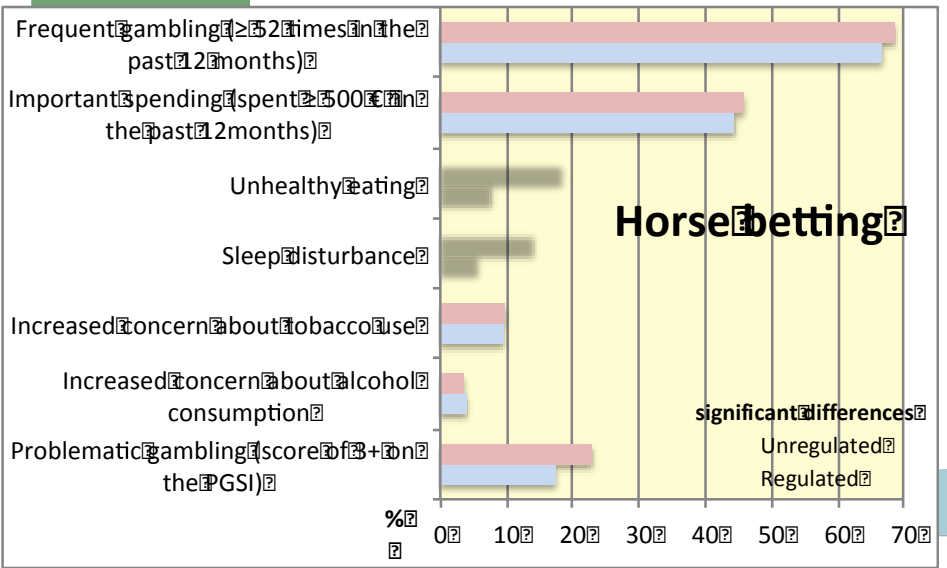
[1] Significant odds ratio (OR) adjusted for age and sex: *p<=.05, ** p<=.01, ***p<=.001

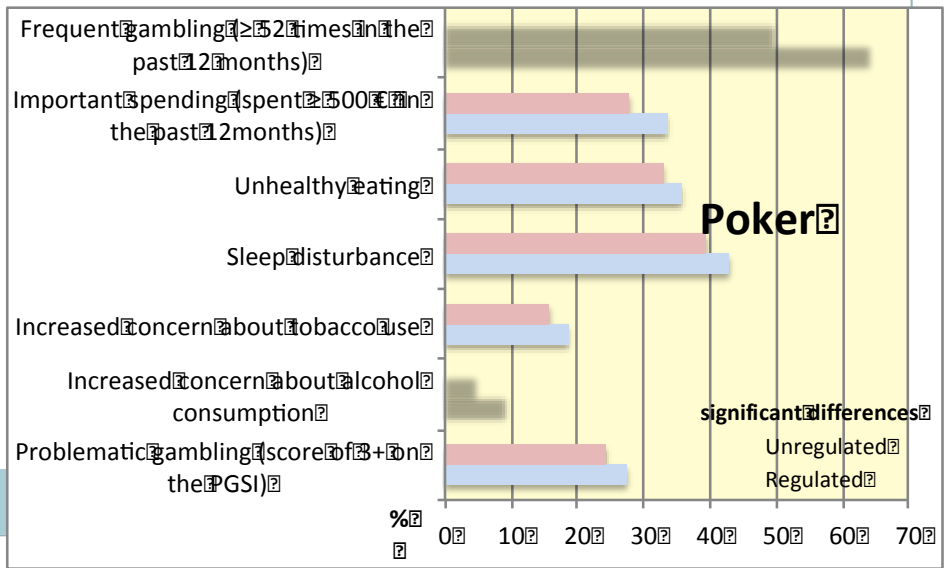
*regulated activities: lotteries, poker, horse racing and sports betting

Practices on the regulated supply are they safer? (2)









Conclusions (1)

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- ✓Online gambling: 7 % of the French gamblers
- ✓A young, male, educated, well-integrated population
- ✓More intensive and more problematic practices than offline gambling
- ✓Mostly, but not entirely, regulated gambling
- ✓A demand for slot machines or other online casino games
- ✓Some evidence that gambling on regulated supply is safer

Conclusions (2)

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These observations should lead to:

✓Developing prevention measures that are appropriate for certain, specific online gambling populations

✓Opening a regulated supply for casino games ??

✓monitoring of online gambling trends and the prevalence of problem gambling through regular, targeted surveys;

- ✓ 2 key indicators: % problematic gamblers, % activity on regulated supply
- ✓ the protective effect of the regulation of gambling activities?

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