Accuracy of self-reported gambling frequency and outcomes: Comparisons with account data.

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Introduction / Issues <u>OR</u> Introduction and Aims: The ability to accurately recall past gambling behavior and outcomes is essential for making informed decisions about future gambling. In this study, we aimed to determine whether online gambling customers can accurately recall their recent gambling outcomes and betting frequency.

Method / Approach <u>OR</u> Design and Methods: An online survey was distributed to 40,000 customers of an Australian sports and race wagering website which asked participants to recall their past 30-day net outcome (i.e., total amount won or lost) and number of bets. We compared responses to these questions with participants' actual outcomes as provided by the online site.

Key Findings <u>OR</u> Results: Among the 514 participants who reported their net outcome, only 21 (4.09%) were accurate within a 10% margin of their actual outcome. Participants were most likely to underestimate their losses ($N = 333$, 64.79%). Of the 652 participants who reported their gambling frequency, 48 (7.36%) were accurate within a 10% margin of their actual frequency. Most participants underestimated their number of bets ($N = 454$, 69.63%).

Discussion and Conclusions: Online gamblers ability to recall their gambling outcomes and betting behaviour is poor.

Implications for Practice or Policy: The poor recall accuracy we observed suggests public health approaches to gambling harm minimization that assume people make informed decisions about their future bets based on past outcomes and available funds should be reconsidered.