

Excessive gaming associated with poor sleep hygiene and increased sleepiness

June 8 2009



Computer/console gamers who play for more than seven hours a week and who identify their gaming as an addiction sleep less during the weekdays and experience greater sleepiness than casual or non-gamers, according to new research.

Results of the study indicate that excessive gamers have significantly poorer [sleep hygiene](#) and sleep less on weekdays than other gamers; a significant positive correlation was found between the hours of [game](#) play and sleepiness. Gamers who reported that their gaming interfered with sleep slept for 1.6 hours less than other gamers, while those who

claimed to be addicted to gaming slept one hour less on weekdays.

According to principal investigator Amanda Woolems, at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock, AR., previous research has shown that excessive gamers spend less time in bed, have longer sleep latency and shorter REM latency.

"Our statistics revealed that those who admitted addiction scored higher on the Epworth Sleepiness Scale (sleepiness)," said Woolems. "It surprised us, however, that of the people who admitted being addicted to gaming, only about a third of them recognized an interference with their sleep."

The study examined data from 137 students recruited from the university who were enrolled in introductory psychology courses. Participants' mean age was 22 years and a majority of the sample was women (86). Gamers were classified as casual or excessive (those who spend more than seven hours a week using the internet and playing computer games), based on a demographic questionnaire and [sleepiness](#) was assessed subjectively through questionnaires. Of the total sample, 10.81 percent reported that gaming interfered with their sleep and 12.6 identified themselves as being addicted to gaming.

Authors of the study suggest that maladaptive sleep hygiene found among excessive gamers is a target for intervention to promote improved sleep.

The AASM recommends that adults get eight hours of sleep per night and that adolescents get nine hours. Tips to improve sleep hygiene are available at <http://www.sleepeducation.com/Hygiene.aspx>

Those who suspect that they might be suffering from a sleep disorder are encouraged to consult with their primary care physician or a sleep

specialist at a sleep center accredited by the AASM.

Source: American Academy of Sleep Medicine ([news](#) : [web](#))

Citation: Excessive gaming associated with poor sleep hygiene and increased sleepiness (2009, June 8) retrieved 26 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2009-06-excessive-gaming-poor-hygiene-sleepiness.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.