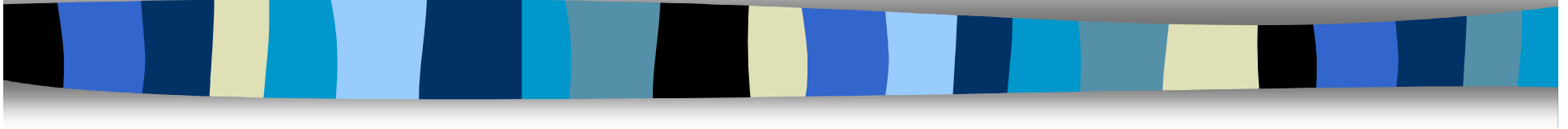


A Comparison of Problem Gambling Rates between College Athletes and Non-Athletes in the Southeastern Conference



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Four Incidents that Have Peaked Interest in this Area

- Art Schlichter and Pete Rose
- Boston College (1995)
- Arizona State point shaving (1997)
- Northwestern point shaving (1998)



Purpose of this Study

- Compare prevalence rates of pathological and problem gambling between college non-athletes and college athletes
- Gather data



Importance of this Study

- Pathological gambling rates higher among college students than general population
- Gambling rates higher in college athletes than non-athletes
- No previous studies to measure prevalence of pathological gambling among college athletes



Definition of Pathological and Problem Gambling

- Pathological gambling is persistent and recurrent maladaptive gambling behavior that compromises, disrupts, or damages personal, family and vocational pursuits
- Problem gambling is a more inclusive condition which includes all patterns of gambling behavior which may compromise, disrupts, or damages personal, family and vocational pursuits



Pathological Gambling Studies

- Kallick, Suits, Dielman, & Hybel (1979)
0.77% of American population
compulsive gamblers
- 1.4% to 2.8% of total American
population (Volberg, 1996)
- Volberg (1994) rates varied from 2.3%
in Mass. to 0.1% in Iowa



Student Gambling Studies

- Lesieur et al. (1991) reported rates of pathological gambling in college students 4-8 times higher than rates reported for adults
- Shaffer and Hall (1996) prevalence rates between 4.4% and 7.4%
- Ladouceur, Dube, & Bujold (1994) reported rates in Quebec to be 2.8%



Athlete Gambling Studies

- Weiss (1995) athletes more likely than non-athletes to exhibit maladaptive behaviors
- Cullen and Latessa (1996) 648 athlete respondents 25% gambled on sports
 - 4% admitted to gambling on events they were involved in
- Cross (1999) 72% of athletes gambled



Subjects

- 954 college students enrolled in Health and Safety Classes
- Attending SEC schools
- Approximately 100 subjects per school



Number of Athletes Participating Compared to Projected Number

- 8.7% (approximately 24,000) of SEC population athletes
- 13.5% (n=129) of sample athletes



Comparisons between Peterson's and the Current Study

Demograph	Peterson's (%)	Current Study	n=
Gender			928
• Men	49.3	35.0	325
• Women	51.7	65.0	603

Comparisons between Peterson's and the Current Study

Demograph	Peterson's (%)	Current Study	n=
Race			924
• White-non Hispanic	85.7	81.2	750
• Native American	0.7	0.2	2
• Asian	2.7	2.6	23
• Hispanic	2.1	2.7	25
• African American	8.8	12.4	115
• Other		0.8	8



Procedures

- Institutional Review Boards
- Mail out surveys to Universities
 - Surveys based on South Oaks Gambling Screen
- Contact person administers surveys
- Mail back to researcher
- Hand score



Limitations of Study

- Sample size of athletes
- Time frame of original SOGS



Athlete Gambling

- 129 athletes surveyed
- 81% (104) gambled
- 28% (30) gambled on athletic events
- Significant association between problem gambling and athletic status
 - Cramer's $V = 0.08$, $n = 953$, $p < 0.05$
- Mean SOGS = 1.01 (95% CI: 0.63-1.39)



Non-Athlete Gambling

- 825 non-athletes surveyed
- 81.3% (670) gambled
- Mean SOGS= 0.60 (95% CI: 0.50-0.70)



Summary of Athlete and Non-Athlete Rates of Pathological and Problem Gambling

Ath Stat	N	Patho %	n	Prob %	n
All	954	3.8	36	7.3	70
Athlete	129	6.2	8	12.4	16
Non-ath	824	3.4	28	6.6	54



Summary of Gambling Preferences

Type of gambling	Total (n= 775)	Non-ath (n= 671)	Athletes (n= 104)
• Bet on horses, dogs	21.3	21.5	19.2
• Play cards for money	50.1	48.2	62.5
• Bet on sports	28.5	28.7	27.5
• Play dice games	24.3	22.1	39.4
• Casino gambling	46.1	45.5	49.0
• Play numbers or bet lotteries	60.1	60.1	59.6



Summary of Gambling Preferences (cont.)

Type of gambling	Total (n= 775)	Non-Ath (n= 671)	Athletes (n= 104)
• Play bingo	29.2	29.1	28.8
• Play stock market	20.5	20.3	22.1
• Play slot or poker machines	60.1	59.9	61.5
• Play game of skill for money	44.0	40.7	64.4
• Play pull tabs or paper games	20.8	20.1	25.0
• Other forms of gambling	4.5	4.2	6.7



Frequency of Visits to the Casinos by Students who Gambled (%)

Number of Visits	Students (n= 271)	Nonathletes (n= 235)	Athletes (n= 36)
• Less than once a month	78.2	80.0	66.7
• About once a month	19.2	17.9	27.8
• About once a week	1.5	0.9	5.6
• 2 - 3 times per week	0.4	0.4	0.0
• 4 or more times per week	0.7	0.9	0.0



Amount of Money Spent on Gambling by Students (%)

Largest Amount Gambled in One Day	Overall (n=765)	Student (n= 659)	Athlete (n=106)
• \$1 or less	10.5	11.5	3.8
• \$2 to \$10	35.8	36.6	31.1
• \$11 to \$100	42.4	41.4	47.1
• \$101 to \$1000	10.2	9.3	16.0
• \$1001 to \$10,000	1.0	1.1	0.9
• More than \$10,000	0.1	0.0	0.9



Demographic Variables and Rates of Problem and Pathological Gambling

Demographic	N=	Problem %	Patho %
• All Subjects	954	7.3	3.8
• Athlete	129	12.4	6.2
• Nonathlete	824	6.6	3.4
• Male	325	15.1	7.7
• Female	603	2.7	1.3
• Male Athlete	69	17.4	11.6
• Female Athlete	53	5.7	0.0



Conclusions

- No difference between gambling rates of athletes and non-athletes
- Athletes had higher prevalence rate of problem gambling
- Competitive “spill over”
- Athletes prefer to gamble on games of skill



Conclusions (cont.)

- Both groups gamble small amounts of money



Implications of Study

- First step in analyzing gambling habits and problems of athletes
- Enrichment and education