



OSAM-O-GRAM

DATE: November 6, 2002
DATELINE: Ohio



Wright State University
The University of Akron

Substance Abuse and Compulsive Gambling (Part II): Findings of a Rapid Response Initiative

The OSAM Network conducted a rapid response investigation (January-June 2002) to provide the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) and the Ohio Lottery Commission (OLC) with information to help the agencies develop future directions for the expansion of prevention and treatment services related to compulsive gambling and substance abuse. Part II of this OSAM-O-Gram presents findings on gambling behaviors from respondents participating in a driver intervention program.

The South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS), a 36-item self-report questionnaire assessing problem gambling, was administered to participants of the Weekend Intervention Program, a state-certified driver intervention program based at Wright State University. Based on 199 responses from the SOGS, over 11% of these respondents reported participating weekly or more often in any state lottery game during their lifetime. Only 29% of the respondents reported *never* playing any state lottery game during their lifetime. Past year frequency of involvement in state lottery games was also assessed. Forty percent of respondents reported weekly participation in state lottery games. While slightly more than 14% reported monthly participation in state lottery games, only 1% reported daily participation in the past year.

Although the majority of respondents did not report a significant number of problematic gambling behaviors, almost one-fourth (23.8%) did report having *ever gambled more than they intended*. Over 11% of respondents reported *ever arguing with people they liked over how they handled money*, and 8.6% reported *ever feeling guilty about the way they gambled or what happens to them when they gamble*.

Based on criteria established by the authors of the SOGS, 22 respondents (5.1%) were classified as being *potential pathological gamblers*, and 26 respondents (6.0%) were classified as *probable pathological gamblers*.

Results of South Oaks Gambling Screen Administered at Weekend Intervention Program

	Respondents		
0	287	(66.4%)	
1	71	(16.4%)	
2	26	(6.0%)	
3	12	(2.8%)	Potential Pathological Gambler
4	10	(2.3%)	
5	15	(3.5%)	
6	2	(.5%)	Probable Pathological Gambler
7	5	(1.2%)	
8+	4	(.8%)	

OSAM-O-GRAMS report key findings of the Ohio Substance Abuse Monitoring (OSAM) Network. Informants located throughout the state use qualitative and quantitative data to provide semiannual monitoring of substance abuse trends. The OSAM Network is funded by the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services by contract to Wright State University and by subcontract to the University of Akron. This OSAM-O-GRAM is based on the January 2002 OSAM Network meeting.

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