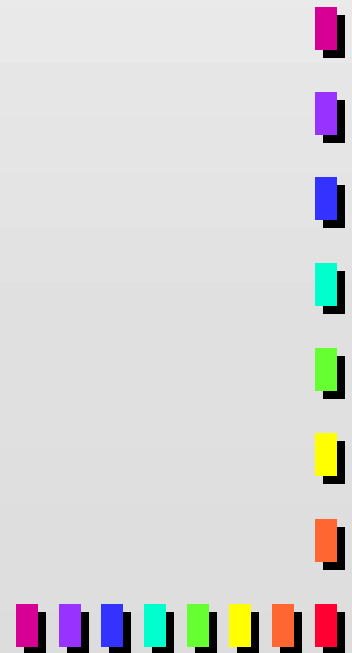


Trauma & Gambling Problems: Antecedent or Consequence?

- Thomas E. Broffman, LICSW, LCDP, LCDS, CEAP
- Doctoral Candidate, Boston College, Graduate School of Social Work
- Vice-President, Rhode Island Council on Problem Gambling



Introduction: Review of the Trauma & Depression Literature

- Resnick et al (1993)
 - 69% women had 1 traumatic event
 - 27% women victims of sexual assault
 - 1 of 4 women in US (12 M)
 - 13% women rape victims
 - 32% rape victims meet PTSD criteria
- McLean & Woody (1998)
 - “Dual abuse” sexual abuse & physical abuse more common among women
 - 60% depressed women childhood history of sexual abuse
 - Depression related to major losses through adulthood
 - Women’s response to depression more likely to ruminate



Review of the Addiction & Gambling Literature

- Jacobs (1988) Addiction is defined as a dependent state acquired overtime by a predisposed person in an attempt to relieve a chronic stress condition
 - 2 interacting sets predispose persons to addictions
 - Abnormal physiologic resting state, either hypertensive or hypotensive
 - Childhood experiences that have produced deep sense of personal inadequacy and rejection
 - 3 stages of addiction – discovery, resistance to change & exhaustion
- Taber, McCormick & Ramirez (1988) greater hx.life trauma; diversion, narrowing of attention, excitement & stimulation alleviate negative mood
- Jacobs (1987) & Rosenthal (1993) gambling used to escape painful inner experiences & indulge in dissociative states (admired & in control)
- McCormick (1994) PG experience stress &/or negative inner states; possess deficient & maladaptive coping styles
- Volberg (1994) 1/3 PGs are women but little research on gender differences

PTSD Symptoms:

- Recurrent, intrusive, distressing recollections of the event
- Nightmares
- Flashbacks
- Intense stress at events resembling the traumatic event
- Persistent avoidance of stimuli associated with the event
- Sleeping problems
- Hypervigilance
- Exaggerated startle response
- Difficulty concentrating
- Detachment or estrangement
- Restricted range of affect
- Foreshortened sense of the future
- Inability to recall an important aspect of the trauma



Core Issues for Trauma

Survivors:

- Use of denial or disassociation to deal with problems
- Strong need to be in control
- Tendency to be overly sensitive & take things too personal
- Difficulty trusting others
- Distorted sense of responsibility (either overly responsible or irresponsible)
- Trouble being appropriately assertive & dealing with anger
- Unusual thinking & behavior (unstable mood; shutting down)
- Tendency to re-enact or repeat self-defeating behavior
- Sexual & somatic problems
- Alienation from self & others
- Hypersensitivity



Research Questions:

- What is the relationship between family of origin life problems and gambling problems?
- What is the relationship between conjugal family life problems and gambling problems?
- What is the relationship between a lifetime history of trauma and gambling problems?
- What is the relationship between life losses and gambling problems?



Hypotheses:

- Higher levels family of origin life problems will be associated with higher levels of gambling disorders among females.
- Higher levels conjugal family life problems will be associated with higher levels of gambling disorders among females.
- Higher levels of trauma will be associated with higher levels of gambling disorders among females.
- Higher levels of recent life losses will be associated with higher levels of gambling disorders.
- Higher levels of depression will be associated with higher levels of trauma among problem gamblers.



Case Control Study Design:



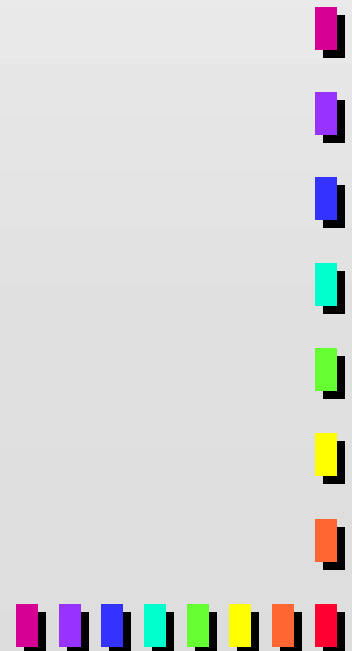
Methodology:

- Non-random sample 100 gamblers in treatment
 - 50 men and 50 women
- Non-random 100 gamblers in community (matched sample race/ethnicity, income & age)
 - 50 men and 50 women



Methodology:

- Design/Data Collection Procedure
 - 164 item questionnaire
 - includes 5 sub-scales
- utilize NODS as measure of gambling disorder
 - 17 items life time
 - 17 items past year
 - *Treatment cohort*
 - 5 or more (met DSM-IV diagnostic Criteria Pathological Gambling)
 - 3 or 4 problem gambler
 - *Community cohort*
 - 1 or 2 social gambler
 - 0 non-gambler



Methodology:

■ 5 Instruments:

■ AUDIT

- Alcohol Use Disorders Inventory Test (10 items)

■ DAST

- Drug Abuse Screening Test (28 items)

■ NODS

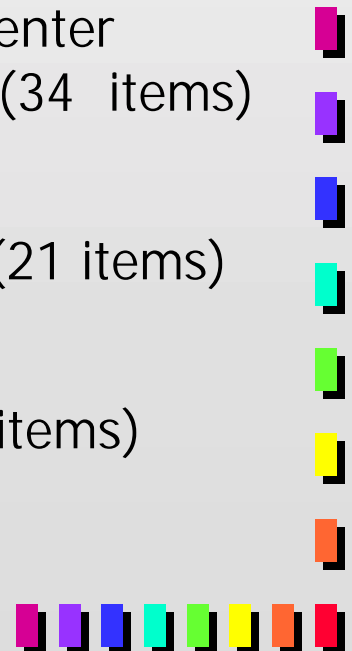
- National Opinion Research Center Gambling Diagnostic Screen (34 items)

■ BDI

- Beck Depression Inventory (21 items)

■ BAI

- Beck Anxiety Inventory (21 items)

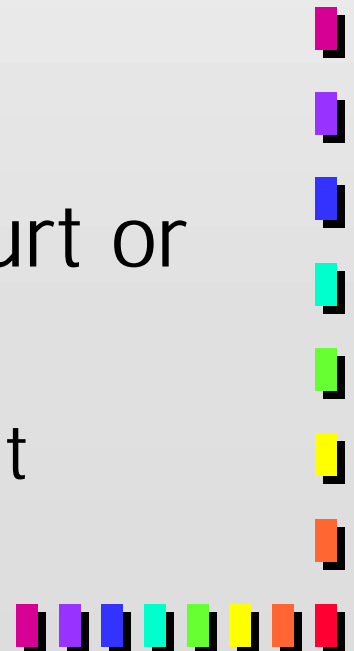


Instrument Scoring:



Additional Measures:

- Family of Origin Index
 - 8 types of life problems
- Conjugal Family Index
 - 8 types of life problems
- Loss index
 - Loss within past 7 years
 - 14 types of losses
- PTSD index
 - 12 types of trauma
- Physical or Sexually Hurt or Molested
 - Time of traumatic event



Demographic Characteristics of the Sample:



Results: Gambling Preferences:

Treatment	Female	Male	Total
Slots	43%	22%	65%
Lottery Scratch	26%	28%	54%
Blackjack	16%	24%	40%
Community	Female	Male	Total
Lottery Scratch	34%	27%	61%
Slots	32%	28%	60%
Daily Number	26%	21%	47%



Results: Gambling Problems:

■ Treatment Cohort

	Female	Male	Total
Slots	43%	21%	64%
Lottery Scratch	18%	22%	40%
Blackjack	13%	26%	39%



Results: BDI, BAI, DAST, & AUDIT Scores:



Results: Losses



Results: Family Origin & Conjugal Family:



Results: PTSD & Abuse/Molested



Discussion:

■ Implications

- Theoretical (etiology ,models of addiction, & treatment)
- Practice (assessing co-occurring disorders; relapse prevention; at risk groups; see gambling as a primary disorder & not a symptom of an underlying disorder))
- Policy (more research on trauma & gambling; co-occurring disorders; more integrated behavioral treatment)

■ Limitations of the Study

- Berkson Bias
- Non-random sample
- Small numbers

■ Directions for Future Research



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- Newport Grand Jai Alai

