

Self Exclusion Experiences in Iowa and Missouri

Missouri's Voluntary Exclusion Program

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Missouri Model

- First comprehensive, state-sponsored self-banning program (in the U.S.)
- 1996
- Formal names:
 - *“Voluntary Exclusion Program”* or
 - *“List of Disassociated Persons”*

What is Self-Exclusion?

- A harm minimization strategy
- A barrier to gambling
- A safeguard against impulsivity
- A gateway to treatment and related services

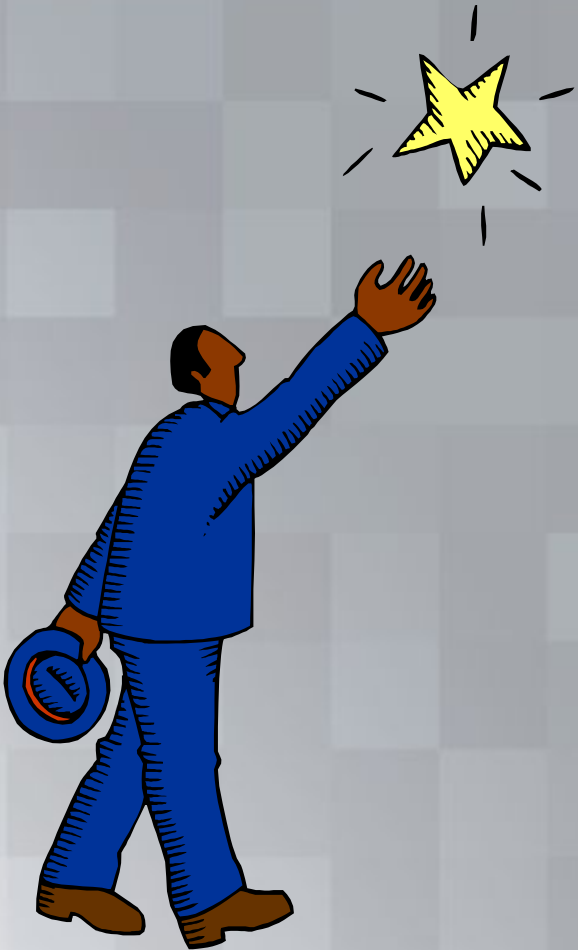
Principles of Self-Exclusion

- A proportion of individuals have problems controlling their gambling.
- Industry should assist in limiting negative impact of gambling.
- Individuals should accept responsibility for excessive gambling and take action to limit it.
- Self-exclusion is a barrier to access, not a form of treatment.

Missouri's SE Program

Initial Program

Goals of the Missouri Program



- Create a platform for the problem gambler to acknowledge problem and accept personal responsibility for it.
- Block from direct marketing by casinos.
- Establish pipeline to treatment.
- Provide effective deterrent to gambling.
- Formalize and document procedures to limit liability and establish an audit trail to monitor performance.

What It Is...

- A forum for the problem gambler to accept personal responsibility for their problem.
- A method to provide the gambler with some isolation from the temptations of gambling.
- A deterrent to destructive behavior.
 - *A “wake up call” during a lapse in recovery.*
 - *A reminder of the importance of treatment.*

What It Is Not...

- A panacea
- A substitute for treatment
- A promise to keep the gambler out of the casino
- A program for someone who occasionally gambles irresponsibly but is not:
 - *a chronic problem gambler; or*
 - *a pathological gambler.*

Application Process

- Right to private interview
- Instructions, rule & promotion of free counseling & GA
- Interview & Questionnaire
 - *Sobriety, coherence, coercion*
- Application and demographics
- Waiver/Release
- Power of attorney
- Application verification
 - *Interpreter (if necessary)*
- Photograph
- Provide treatment information and resource packet



Follow-up Issues



- **Letter assigning PIN**
 - *Handling third party interests*
- **Providing resources**
 - *Treatment*
 - *Support groups*
 - *Hotline & web sites.*
- **Trespass**
 - *Jackpots*
 - *Check cashing*
 - *Players club*
- **Database administration**

Disassociated Persons List

- Includes penalties for breaches (trespass, forfeiture of winnings)
- Waiver of liability (notification provision)
- Current enrollment $>10,500$

Database Enhancements

Now available in real-time format

Approved applications are available for verification and download immediately;

- *Class A Licensees can view only Approved and Deceased (approved) applications*
- *Cashiers and other relevant personnel can execute a query against the database at any time to verify whether an individual is a DAP (i.e. cashing checks, issuing a players card)*

Enforcement

Enforcement

Although the terms “self-exclusion” and “enforcement” seem contradictory, certain mechanisms should be in place.

- Jurisdictions must analyze/seek statutory authority to allow forfeiture of jackpots
- Regulators should require gaming operators to check against SE list anytime it is practical, and when patrons required to provide positive ID
- Self-excluders should report violations of their exclusion

Enforcement

- **Removal from all mailing lists and players clubs**
- **Committee supports arrest as an effective deterrent for many gamblers**
 - ~ **Jurisdictions should develop methods to direct repeat offenders into mandatory counseling**
- **Should be clear to the self-excluder that it is NOT the responsibility of the casino or the regulatory agency to prevent them from entering a gambling venue.**

Recent Self Exclusion Research

Missouri Data

Disordered Gambling in Missouri: Regional Differences in the Need for Treatment

- Phase I Report prepared for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
- Released August 26, 2004
- Authors:
 - *Howard J. Shaffer, Principal Investigator*
 - *Richard A. LaBrie*
 - *Gabriel Caro*
 - *Debi A. LaPlante*
 - *Sarah E. Nelson*

The Division on Addictions, Harvard Medical School
- **Objective:** determine the relative prevalence of gambling disorders in Missouri's counties and the greater Kansas City area through analysis of the Commission's DAP database

Disordered Gambling in Missouri

- Sample: participants in Missouri's DAP program between 1997 and 2003
- Missouri Disassociated Persons (DAPs) are younger than the state's adult population
 - 83% of the DAPs are between 24 and 54 years of age,
 - 57% of Missouri's adult population is in that age range.
- Males and females are equally represented among Missouri DAPs.
- Missouri's statewide rate of problem gambling mirrors the national estimates of approximately one-percent (1%) of the adult population demonstrates that the rate of self-excluders is a valid indicator of the prevalence of people experiencing gambling-related problems.

Disordered Gambling in Missouri

- **92% of all Missouri DAPs were from the Western Planning Region (Kansas City area) or the Eastern Planning Region (St. Louis area).**
- **Phenomenon of Adaptation and Exposure**
During Phase II, information is being obtained directly from a representative sample of the self-excluders about their experiences in the program.

Characteristics and Gender Differences Among Self Excluded Problem Gamblers: Missouri Data

- Pending publication
- Authors:
 - *Lia Nower, J.D., Ph.D.*
 - Assistant Professor of Social Work
 - University of Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri, USA
 - *Professor Alex Blaszczynski, Ph.D.*
 - Head, Department of Medical Psychology
 - University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
- **N=2670**
 - *participants in Missouri's DAP Program between 2001 and 2003*
 - *Female = 48.4 %*
 - *Male = 51.1 %*
 - *Age Range: 21 to 84 years*

Self-exclusion

- **Majority of participants exhibit criteria for pathological gambling**
- **Internationally, requirements, procedures, processes, and penalties are inconsistent across jurisdictions**
- **There have been few published empirical studies systematically evaluating the effectiveness of SE**
 - *Ladouceur, Jacques, Giroux, Ferland & Leblond (2000) study*
 - *O'Neil, M., Whetton, S., Dolman, B., Herbert, M., Giannopolous, V., O'Neil, D., & Wordley, J. (2003) study*

Methods

- Data collected by MGC on DAP application
- De-identified set from 2,670 program participants from Jan. 2001 – March 2003
- No measure of gambling severity (self-identified)

Data Categories

- Demographic characteristics
 - *Age at application*
 - *Household/personal income*
 - *Race*
 - *Employment status*
 - *Educational status*
 - *Marital status*

Data Categories

- Gambling behavior
 - *Years spent gambling*
 - *Age of gambling onset*
 - *Strategic (black jack, craps, sports betting) versus non-strategic (slots, lottery, video poker) and mixed forms*

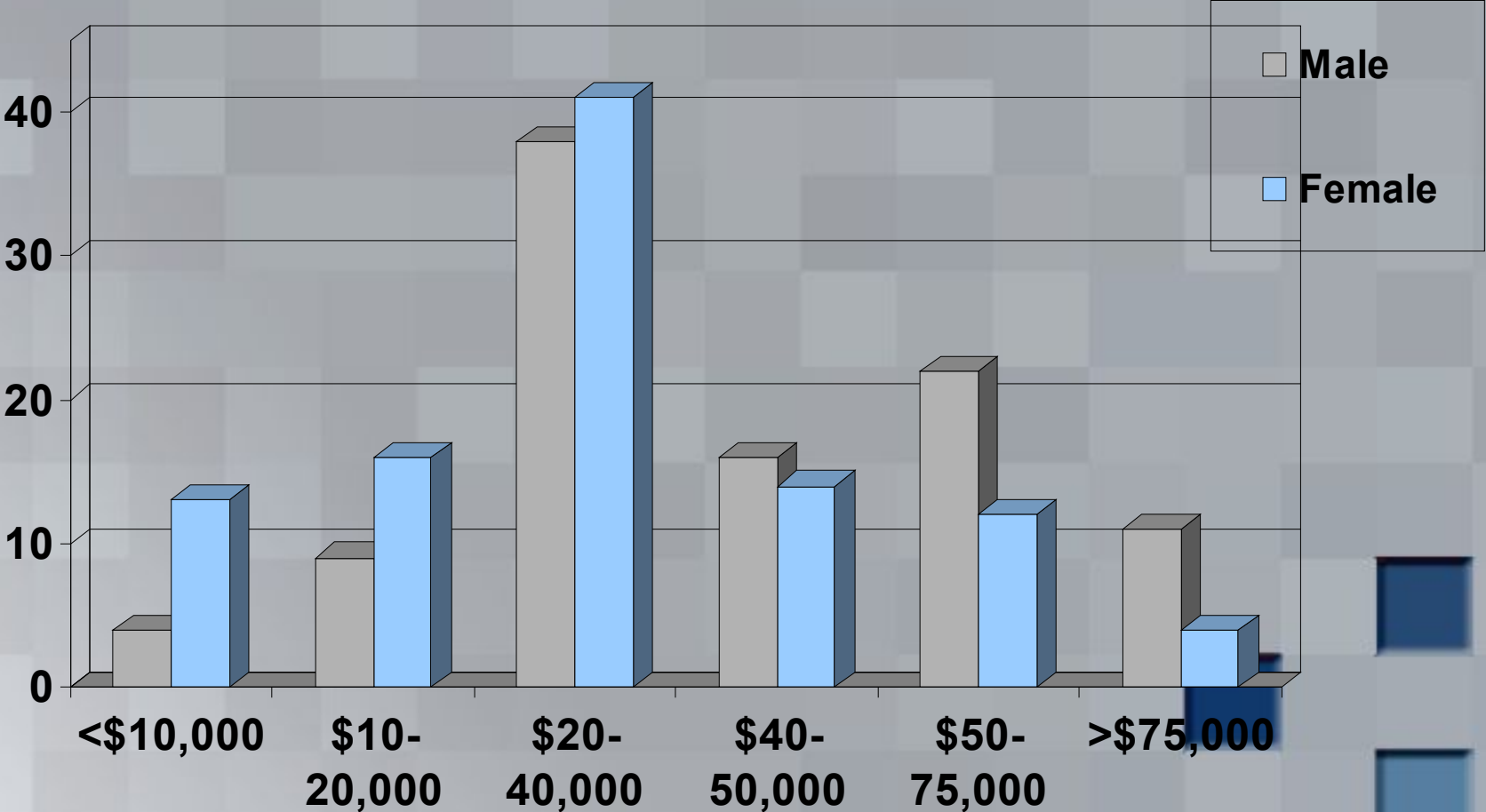
Data Categories

- Reasons for self-exclusion
- Referral source
- Self-help, counseling, bankruptcy services

Personal Income level

- Females (29% vs 13%) were over represented in the lowest two income brackets (<\$20,000/yr).
- Males (33% vs 16%) were over represented in the two highest income brackets (>\$50,000/yr).
- No significant differences in household income.

Personal Income Level by Gender (N= 1212)



Reasons for Self-Exclusion

		Males		Females
Gain control	1	49%	1	55%
Need help	2	27%	2	32%
Save marriage	3	23%	5	15%
Hit rock bottom	4	20%	3	21%
Advice of others	5	17%	4	16%
Save job	6	9%		
Prevent suicide	7	5%	6	7%
Referral by counselor			7	4%

Implications

- Telescoping effect for females
 - *Move quickly through stages*
 - *Need early aggressive interventions*
- Higher prevalence among African American females
 - *Need for more research, individualized treatments*

Missouri's SE Program

Re-envisioning SE in Missouri

Where Are We Going?



- Importance of research.
- Do we need property level exclusion lists?
- Need to examine liability issues.
- Can there be an exclusion program without free or subsidized treatment?

Pending Initiatives

- **Proposed revisions to Voluntary Exclusion Program – “Menu of options”**
- **Potential initiatives**
 - *Forfeit of DAP jackpots to Compulsive Gamblers Fund*
 - *Transfer long-term unclaimed jackpots to Compulsive Gamblers Fund*
- **Internal modifications to enhance DAP procedures**
- **“Balance In Life” Education Program**

MISSOURI ALLIANCE TO CURB PROBLEM GAMBLING

Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling

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