

**Incidence of Childhood Trauma Among
Pathological Gamblers, Alcoholics and
Drug Addicts:**

**Implications For
Theory and Practice**

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The Data Source: Jacobs Neglect, Abandonment, and Abuse Protocol[©]

SECTION I

For all of the following questions please fill in marks like this: ● not like this: / × ✓

As a youth, were you ever the victim of **loss or abandonment**? (That is, before you were 18 years of age, you experienced loss of or abandonment by, one or both of your parents because of death, divorce, separation, flight, hospitalization, or incarceration.)

Yes ○
No ○

If you answered yes, please continue. If you answered no, please go to Section II.

5 Sections

10 Questions Per Section

Each Section Completed Only If Applicable—

The Data Source:

Jacobs Neglect, Abandonment, and Abuse Protocol[©]

**If Negative,
Directed To Next
Section**

**If Affirmative,
Queried About
Type of
Maltreatment**

If you answered yes, please continue. If you answered no, please go to Section II.

A. Indicate EACH of the following periods of your life when **loss or abandonment** occurred. Indicate all that apply:

- before I was 5 years old
- when I was 5 to 8 years old
- when I was 9 to 12 years old
- when I was 13 to 17 years old

B. On a scale of 1 to 7, how severe was the **loss or abandonment** you experienced as a youth? Indicate one.

- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦

Extremely

Moderate

Tolerable

1. When, and the setting
2. The severity, the perpetrator
3. Occurrence of dissociative reaction
4. Family members' reactions
5. Effects on subject's present life

The Data Source: Jacobs Neglect, Abandonment, and Abuse Protocol[®]

Queries the incidence of 5 types of trauma, beginning with an operational description for each:

1. Loss or Abandonment

2. Serious Neglect

3. Physical Abuse

4. Emotional Abuse

5. Sexual Abuse

As a youth, were you ever the victim of loss or abandonment? (That is, before you were 18 years of age, you experienced loss of or abandonment by, one or both of your parents because of death, divorce, separation, flight,

The Data Source: Jacobs Neglect, Abandonment, and Abuse Protocol[©]

Queries the incidence of 5 types of trauma, beginning with an operational description for each:

1. Loss or Abandonment

2. Serious Neglect

3. Physical Abuse

4. Emotional Abuse

5. Sexual Abuse

As a youth, were you ever the victim of serious neglect? (That is, before you were 18 years of age, parents or adults responsible for your care failed to provide what you consider to be minimally sufficient food, clothing, shelter form rain, cold or heat, necessary medical

The Data Source: Jacobs Neglect, Abandonment, and Abuse Protocol[©]

Queries the incidence of 5 types of trauma, beginning with an operational description for each:

1. Loss or Abandonment

2. Serious Neglect

3. Physical Abuse

4. Emotional Abuse

5. Sexual Abuse

As a youth, were you ever the victim of physical abuse? (That is, were you ever hit, bitten, burned, beaten with a belt or other object, kicked or thrown, so that you bled a lot, or suffered pain, broken bones, or long-lasting

The Data Source: Jacobs Neglect, Abandonment, and Abuse Protocol[©]

Queries the incidence of 5 types of trauma, beginning with an operational description for each:

1. Loss or Abandonment

2. Serious Neglect

3. Physical Abuse

4. Emotional Abuse

5. Sexual Abuse

As a youth, were you ever the victim of emotional abuse? (That is, you were repeatedly made to feel unwanted, worthless, unloved, inferior, and/or you were repeatedly told you were no good, or could do nothing right, and you were made to feel guilty or ashamed.)

The Data Source: Jacobs Neglect, Abandonment, and Abuse Protocol[©]

Queries the incidence of 5 types of trauma, beginning with an operational description for each:

1. Loss or Abandonment
2. Serious Neglect
3. Physical Abuse
4. Emotional Abuse
- 5. Sexual Abuse**

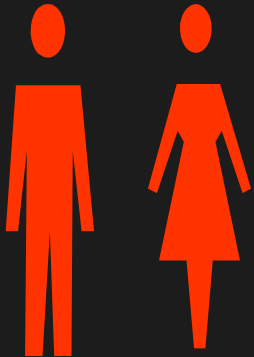
As a youth, were you ever the victim of sexual abuse? (That is, you were fondled, seduced or forcibly raped by an adult, or you were otherwise led by a person in a position of power or control to participate in, or observe, sexual activities involving genital, oral or masturbatory

The Subjects

4 different groups of addicts

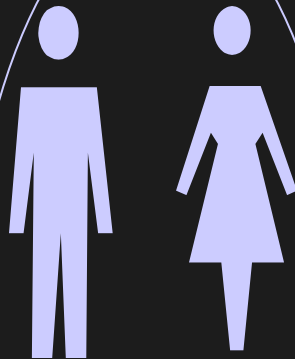
Recently admitted to residential or outpatient settings

1



**Adult male &
female
pathological
gamblers
N=44**

2



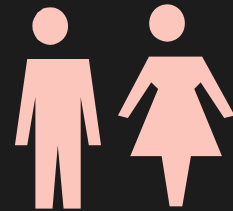
**Adult First
Nations
pathological
gamblers
N=17**

3



**Adult female
alcoholics and
drug addicts
N=16**

4



**Juvenile
male and
female
alcoholics
and drug
addicts
N=32**

Results

Reporting One or More Types of Abuse

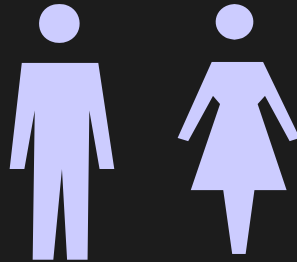
80%



Adult male & female pathological gamblers

**Total N=44:
Participating
N=35**

88%



Adult First Nations pathological gamblers

**Total N=17:
Participating
N= 15**

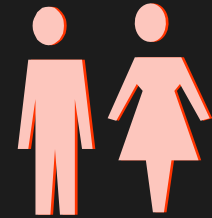
75%



Adult female alcoholics and drug addicts

**Total N=16:
Participating
N=12**

47%



Juvenile male and female alcoholics and drug addicts

**Total N=32:
Participating
N=15**

Incidence of Childhood Trauma Before Age 18, As Reported by Adult Pathological Gamblers In A Residential Setting.

Males=57%  (N=44)  Females=43%
 Median Age=51 years

Persons Affected 80%	Serious Neglect	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Multiple Types of Maltreatment
Total (N=35)	46%	54%	83%	46%	80%
Females (N=15)	40%	47%	87%	47%	80%
Males (N=20)	50	60	80	45	80

* Refusing to participate or denied maltreatment during childhood (N=9), Median Age 48 yrs.

Incidence of Childhood Trauma Reported By Patients At A Canadian Recovery Centre

Males: 51%
Median Age = 43 yr.



(N=35)*



Females: 49%
Median Age = 40 yr.

Pathol. Gamblers	Percent Reporting			Types Of Trauma * *			
	Child-Hood Trauma	Multiple Types of Trauma	Dissoc-iation During Trauma	Serious Neglect	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Sexual Trauma
Total	91%	56%	75%	38%	53%	81%	56%
Males (N=15)	83	33	61	22	33	67	33
Females (N=17)	100	71	76	47	65	82	71

*Three males (median age=42 years) denied all forms of childhood trauma or refused to participate

* *Based on JNAP scores

Incidence of Childhood Trauma Before 18 Yrs of Age, Reported By First Nations Pathological Gamblers.

Males=47%



(N=17)



Females=53%

Median Age = 37 years

Persons Affected 88%	Serious Neglect	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Multiple Types of Maltreatment
Total* (N=15)	73%	87%	67%	60%	93%
Females (N=8)	45%	88%	75%	75%	88%
Males (N=7)	86	86	57	43	100

**Subjects who refused to participate or denied maltreatment during childhood (N=2 Females) Median Age=54 Yrs.*

Incidence of Childhood Trauma Before 18 years, Reported By Adult Females Addicted to Alcohol & Drugs

Males=0%  (N=16)  Females=100%
Median Age=44 years

Persons Affected 75%	Serious Neglect	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Multiple Types of Maltreatment
Total* (N=12)	8%	50%	92%	58%	83%

**Subjects who refused to participate or denied maltreatment during childhood (N=4 Females) Median Age=40 Yrs.*

Incidence of Childhood Trauma Before 18 Yrs of Age, Reported By Juveniles Addicted To Alcohol & Drugs.

Males=67%



(N=32)



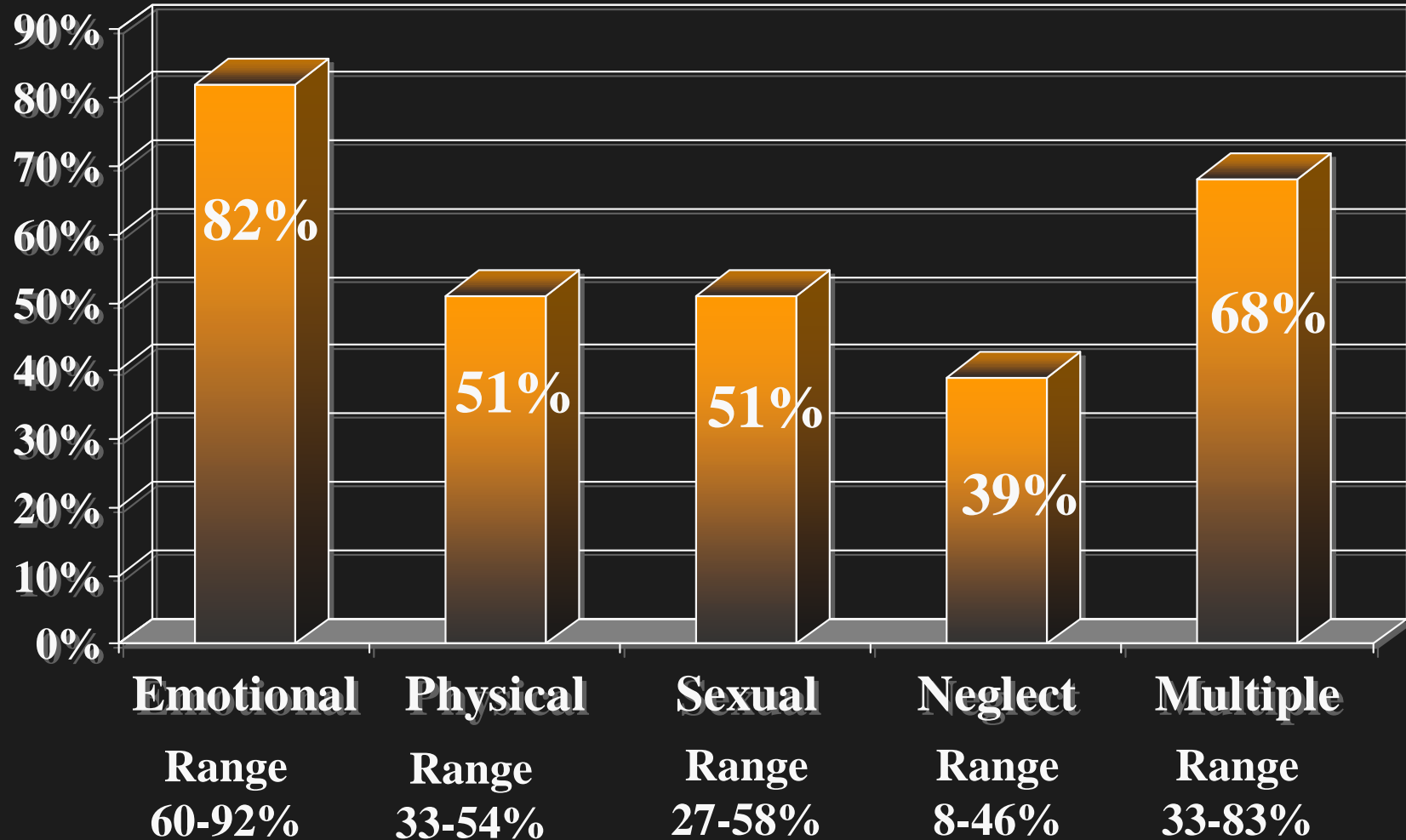
Females=33%

Median Age=16 years

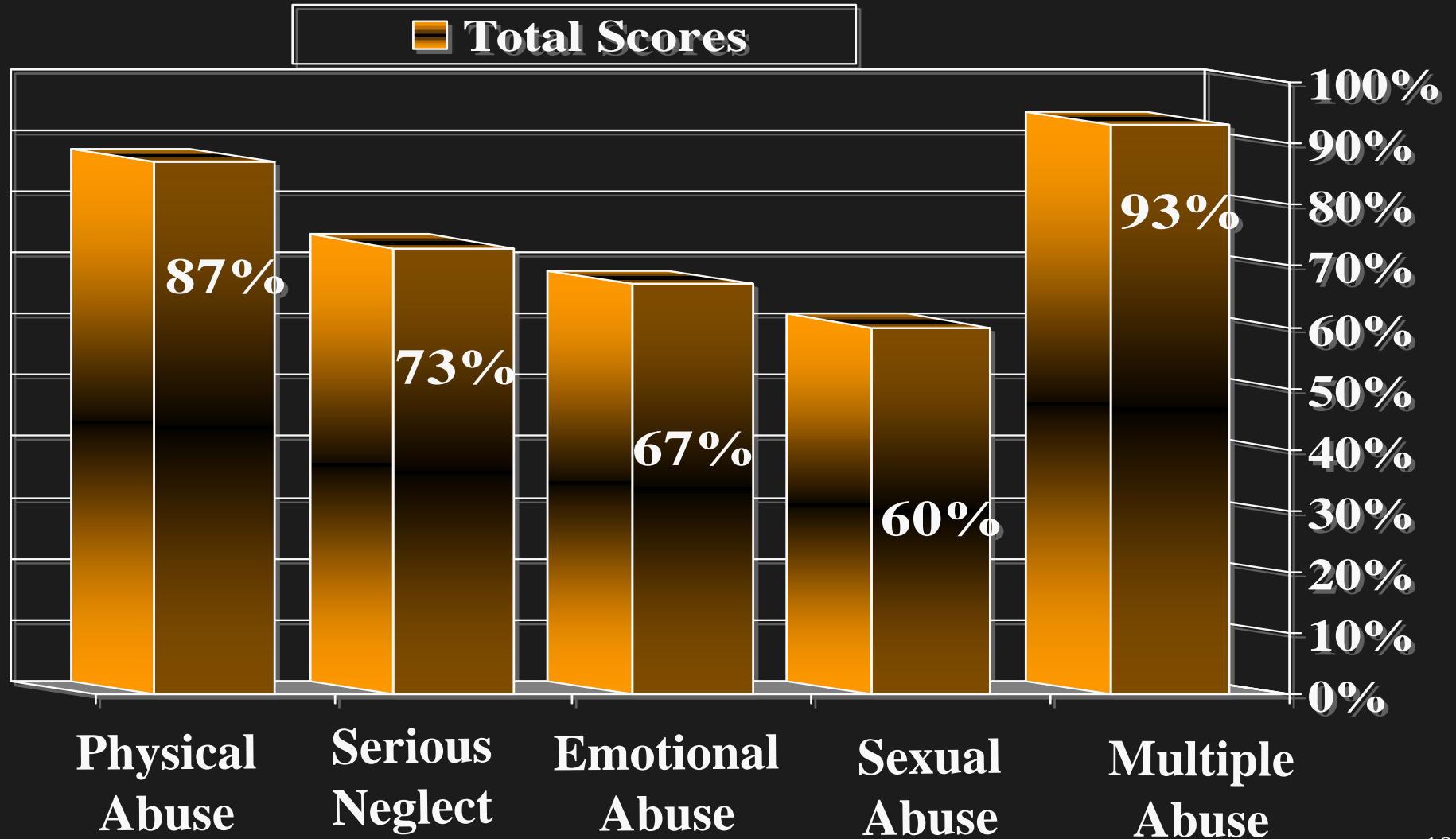
Persons Affected 47%	Serious Neglect	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Sexual Abuse	Multiple Types of Maltreatment
TOTAL* (N=15)	40%	33%	60%	27%	33%
Females (N=5)	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%
Males (N=10)	30	20	60	10	20

**Subjects who refused to participate or denied maltreatment during childhood (N=17) Median Age=16 Yrs.
Females = 53% Males = 49%*

Results: Incidence Of Abuse: Caucasian Addicts (N=97)



Results: Incidence Of Abuse: First Nations Pathological Gamblers (N=15)



Frequency Of Dissociative Reactions While Experiencing Childhood Trauma (N=144)

	Early Childhood Traumas Reported	Multiple Childhood Traumas Reported	Most Frequent Trauma Reported (Emotional)	Dissociated While Experiencing Trauma
Adult Caucasian Pathological Gamblers (N=44)	80%	80%	(Emotional) 83%	86%
Adult First Canadian Pathological Gamblers (N=35)	91	56	(Emotional) 81	75
Adult First Nations Pathological Gamblers (N=17)	88	93	(Physical) 87	100
Adult Female Substance Abusers (N=16)	75	83	(Emotional) 92	83
Juvenile Substance Abusers (N=32)	47	33	(Emotional) 60	67

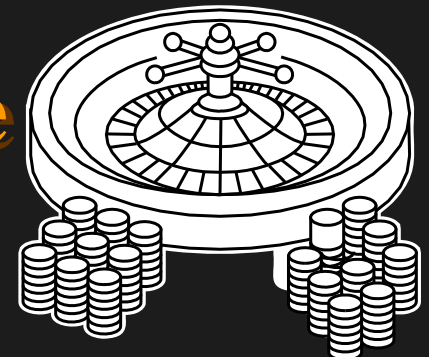
Dissociative Reactions Experienced When Indulging

Dissociative reactions reported “occasionally” to “all the time”*	TYPE OF INDULGENCE								
	WHEN GAMBLING			WHEN DRINKING			WHEN OVEREATING		
	Patho- logical Gamblers N=121	Normal Adults N=168	Normal Adoles- cents N=843	Alco- holics N=203	Normal Adults N=168	Normal Adoles- cents N=843	Over- eaters N=83	Normal Adults N=168	Normal Adoles- cents N=843
Trance	79%	5%	2%	62%	17%	29%	41%	5%	7%
Different Person	79	21	5	73	36	39	44	21	13
Outside Self	50	8	2	34	12	23	30	7	10
Blackout	38	4	1	73	15	21	14	4	2
MEDIAN DISSOCIATIVE SCORE	64	6	2	67	16	26	35	6	8

**Reactions reported “rarely” are not included above*

Dissociative Reactions While Gambling, Reported by Compulsive Gamblers and Normals

(N=1132)



Dissociative Reactions	Compulsive Gamblers N=121	Normative Sample	
		Adults N=168	Adolescents N=843
Trance	79%	5%	2%
Different Person	79	21	5
Outside Self	50	8	2
Blackout	38	4	1
Median	64%	6%	2%

Dissociative Reactions While Drinking, Reported by Alcoholics and Normals:



(N=1214)

Dissociative Reactions	Alcoholics N=203	Normative Sample	
		Adults N=168	Adolescents N=843
Trance	62%	17%	29%
Different Person	73	36	39
Outside Self	34	12	23
Blackout	73	15	21
Median	67%	16%	26%

Dissociative Reactions While Eating, Reported by Compulsive Overeaters and Normals:

(N=1094)



Dissociative Reactions	Over-eaters N=83	Normative Sample	
		Adults N=168	Adolescents N=843
Trance	41%	5%	7%
Different Person	44	21	13
Outside Self	30	7	10
Blackout	14	4	2
MEDIAN	35%	6%	8%

Conclusions

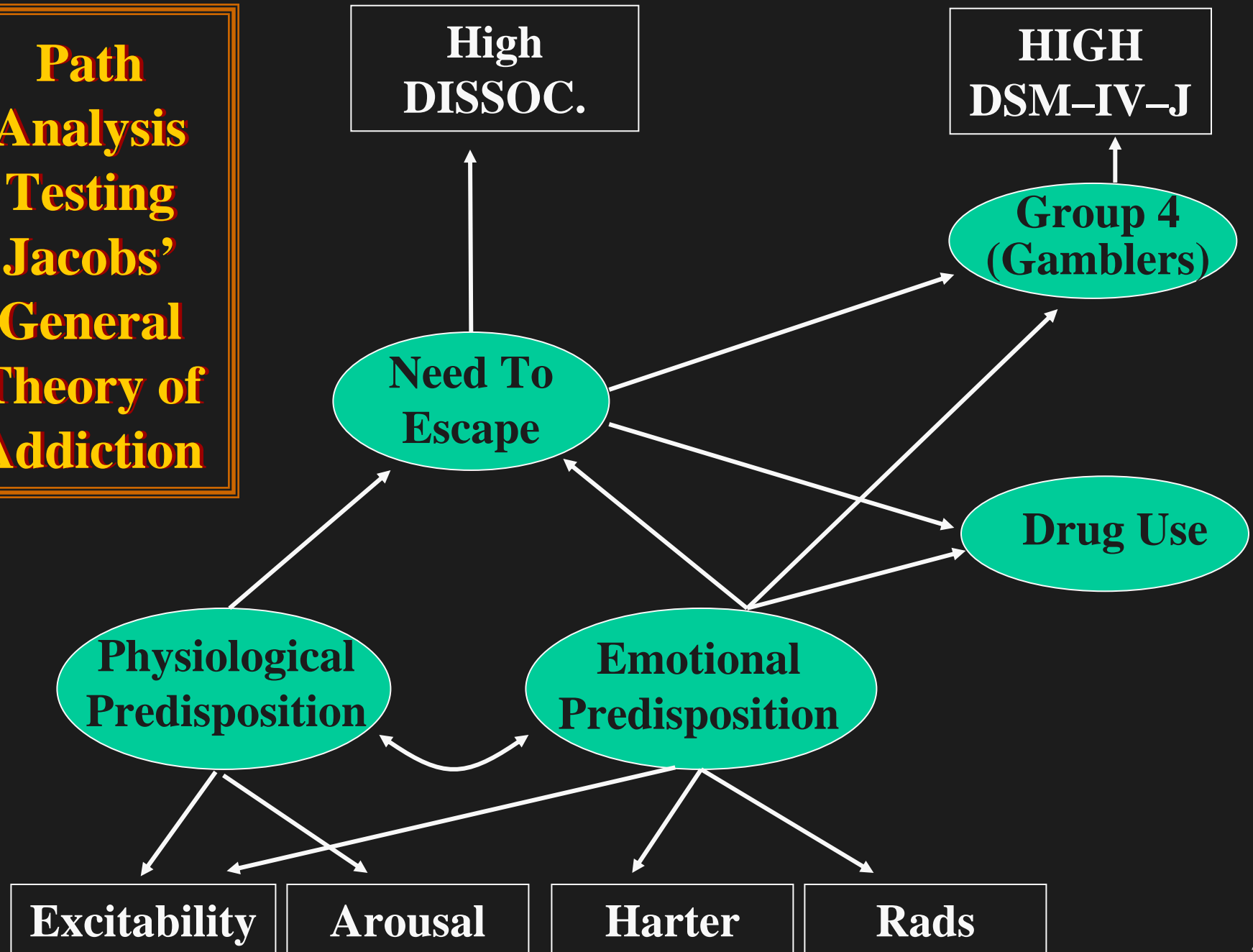
**Findings support The General Theory of Addictions
(Jacobs, 1986, 1989, 2001)***

–Common features across different classes of addicts:

- 1. High incidence of early childhood neglect and abuse**
- 2. High occurrence of dissociative reactions, while experiencing trauma(s)**
- 3. Present adult dissociators were early childhood dissociators, reacting to trauma(s)**
- 4. Higher levels of dissociative reactions among addicts than normals, while indulging**
- 5. Early childhood traumas are a risk factor for later addiction(s)**

***Jacobs, D.F. (1986). Journal of Gambling Behavior, 2(1),15-31**

**Path
Analysis
Testing
Jacobs'
General
Theory of
Addiction**



Results of Path Analysis

“Strong support for the applicability of Jacobs’ General Theory of Addictions for adolescent gamblers was obtained. Adolescent problem and pathological gamblers were found to have

- Exhibited evidence of abnormal physiological resting states**
- Showed evidence of greater emotional distress**
- Reported greater levels of dissociation, and**
- Reported higher rates of comorbidity with other addictive behavior**

More

Results of Path Analysis

“A Path Analysis testing a model adapted from the General Theory of Addictions was found to fit the data, providing impressive validation of the theory.

More

Results of Path Analysis

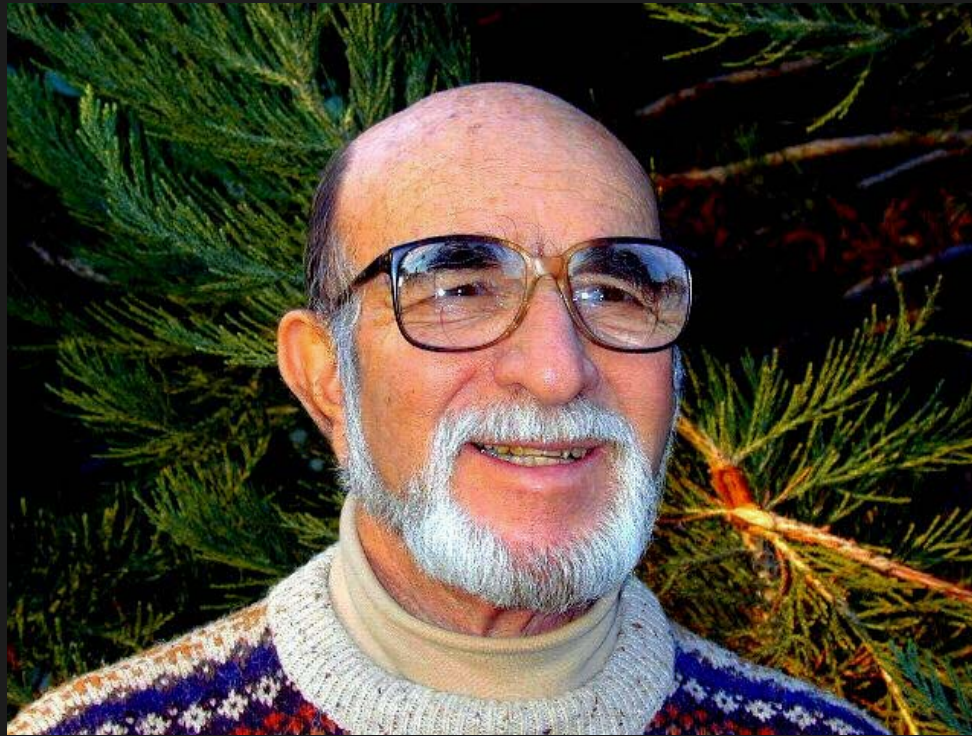
“The model tested shows a strong path from both the physiological and emotional predispositions, to a deliberate need to escape, to severity of gambling. Thus, gambling severity was empirically found to be caused by the need to escape, or dissociate, which is fueled by aversive physiological and emotional states. Gambling, therefore, according to the model and Jacobs’ theory, is a solution, or coping response, albeit a negative one, to aversive life conditions.”

Source: Gupta, D. and Deverensky, J.L. (1998). An Empirical Examination of Jacobs’ General Theory of Addictions, Journal of Gambling Studies Vol. 14(1), 17-49

Recommendations

Treatment personnel are urged:

- 1. To explore likelihood of childhood trauma**
- 2. To consider dynamic and cognitive behavioral interventions to mediate stresses engendered by such a history**
- 3. To acquire training for treating Chronic PTSD in addicts.**
- 4. To use the Jacobs Neglect, Abandonment, and Abuse Protocol® for additional clinical and research applications**



THANK YOU

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