

GEORGE WARREN BROWN SCHOOL
of Social Work

Problem Gambling and Substance Use Among Missouri Youth: A Call for Prevention

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Washington University in St. Louis

Disclosures

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Earlier Version:
National Council on Problem Gambling – 2007
(poster)

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Background

- The National Research Council reports that **52%-89% of youth have gambled** in the past year.
- Estimates of problem gambling (PG) and pathological gambling disorder (PGD) vary due to methodological differences, but are **about three times the adult rate**.
- **Youth are vulnerable for PG/PGD ... Due to their: developmental stage** → ineffective decision-making **increased risk** of co-occurring substance use and mood disorders

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Aims

To provide epidemiologic data on:
gambling, problem gambling (PG) and pathological gambling disorder (PGD) collected for the first time among a **household sample of Missouri youth**

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To describe prevalence rates in the **context of:** within-state variation, socio-demographics, and co-occurring substance use and depression

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KC-MO-GAM STUDY

<p>Missouri Listed Phone Numbers (N=1,636,472)</p> <p># age-eligible households (14-25) (n=109,469)</p> <p>Random selection (n=4000) CATI & RDD Methodology</p> <p>Eligibility Screen: ages 14-25 (Using next birthday method) Informed Consent</p>	<p>Final Disposition</p> <p>NOT ATTEMPTED (n=1407)</p> <p>INCOMPLETE (n=2242) Refused (n=149) Parental refusal (n=68) Minor child refusal (n=35) Incomplete (n=288) Age Ineligible household (n=856) Quota full (n=84) Eligibility Undetermined (n=501) Other (n=261)</p> <p>COMPLETED INTERVIEWS (n=351)</p>	<p>Assessments</p> <p>DSM-IV Gambling Behavior & Disorder (C-GAM[®])</p> <p>Substance Use (CAS & GAM-DA) & Problems (CRAAFT)</p> <p>Distress (CES-D)</p> <p>Demographics SES measure</p> <p>Locator</p>
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Statistical Methods

Prevalence: Estimate of presence of behavior or disorder (either lifetime or current timeframe)

Conditional Prevalence: Prevalence estimate conditional upon a predetermined behavior or characteristic (e.g. among gamblers only)

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Statistical Methods

Study Design Weighting: Accounts for # of different telephone lines in household

Statistical Post-stratification Weighting: accounts for the under-representation of 18-25 year old in sample

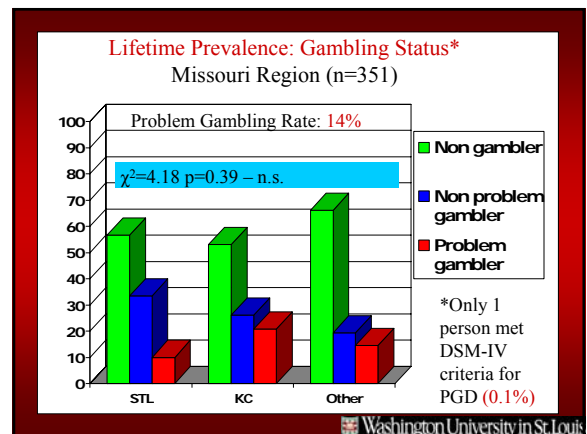
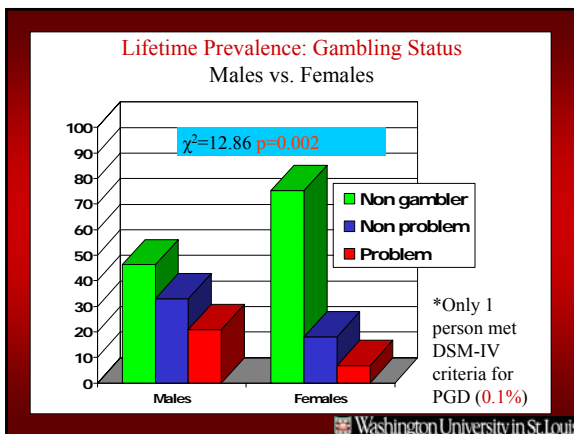
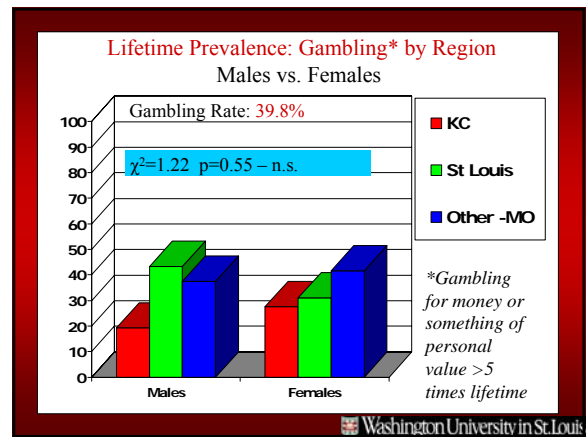
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Socio-demographics (n=351)

Mean Age (SD); Range=14-25; Median=17	Mean=19.17 (SE=0.31)
Female Gender	48.3%
Race/Ethnicity	%
Caucasian	81.6%
African American	13.5%
Other	4.9%
Living with parents/guardians	81.3%
College or Higher Education	36.9%
Poverty/Asset Indicators	
Public assistance	8.8%
Food stamps	12.2%
Free lunch program	14.1%
Home ownership (parents)	90.1%

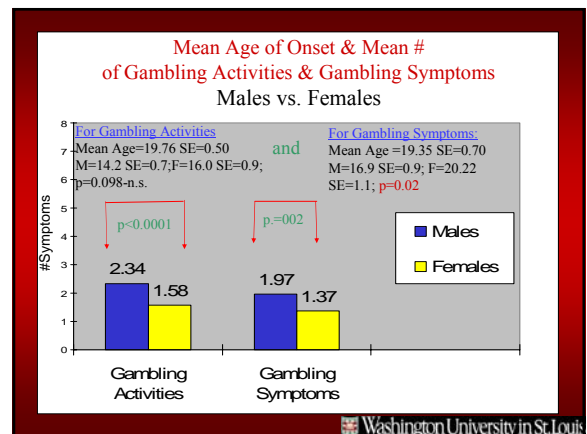
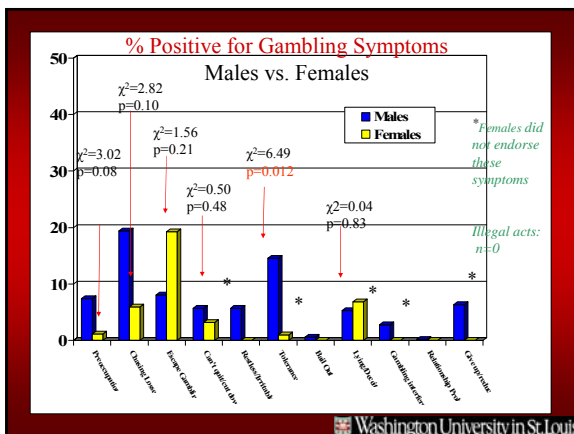
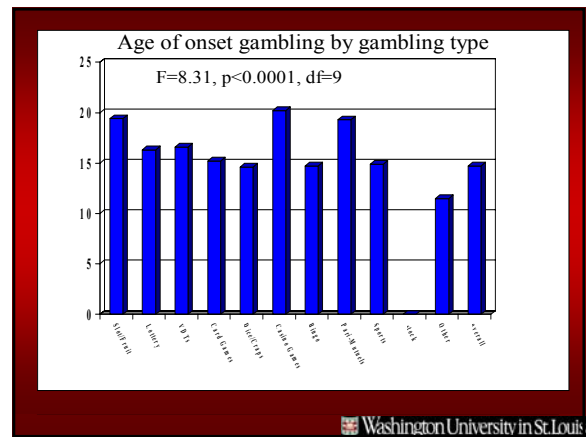
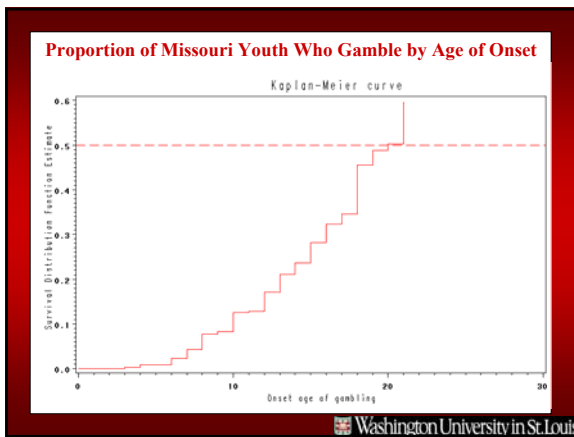
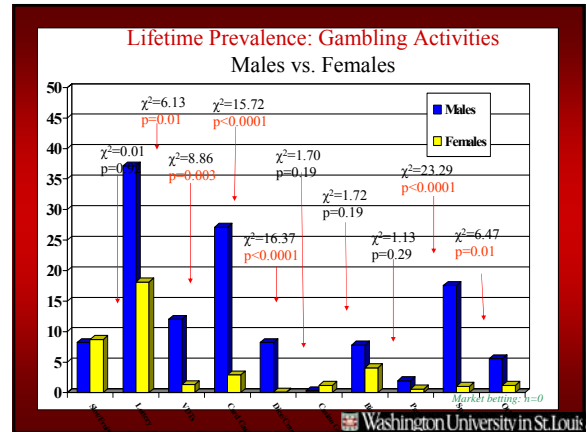
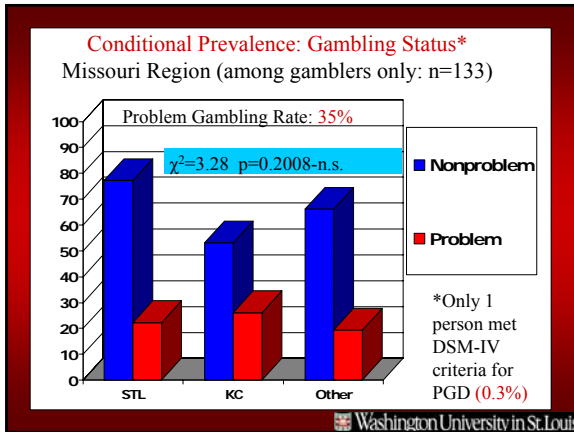
* % are result of post-stratification

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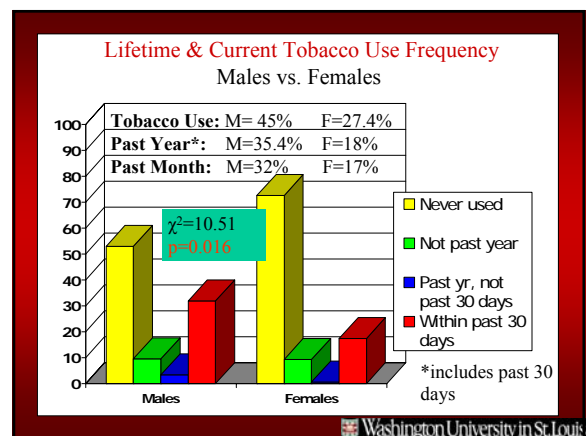
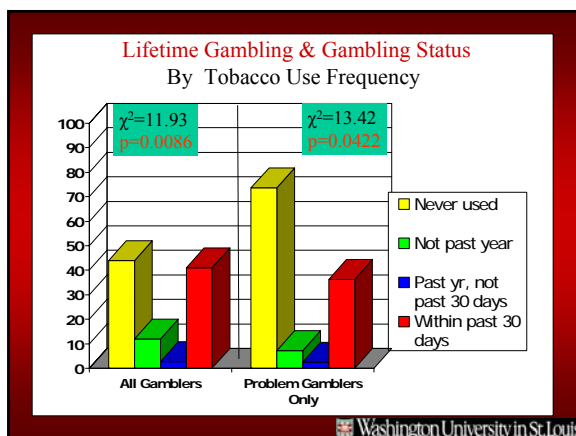
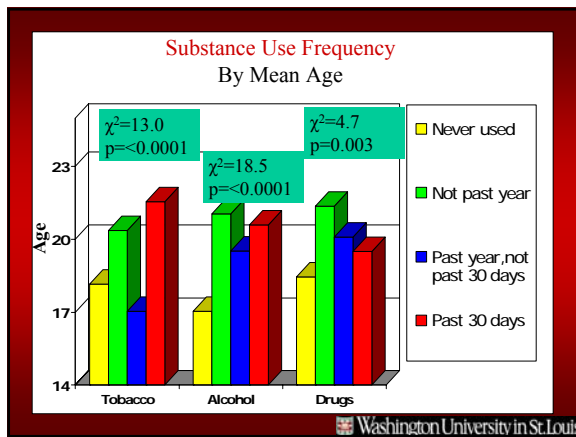
Gambling, Substance Use, Clinical Distress

	by Demographics					
	Age (n=350)		Region (n=351)		Race (white/non) (n=351)	
	F	p	X ²	p	X ²	p
Ever gambled	2.4	0.12	1.6	0.44	0.7	0.40
Gambling status	1.3	0.27	4.2	0.38	0.8	0.67
Tobacco Use	13.0	<0.0001	4.3	0.64	9.5	0.0095**
Alcohol Use	18.5	<0.0001	13.3	0.04	13.6	<0.0001
Drug Use	4.7	0.003	16.3	0.01	17.7	0.004
Depression	0.8	0.37*	0.7	0.70	1.1	0.29

*Clinical Distress by age (n=318) ** Past 30 days combined with past year due to empty cell

Gambling, Substance Use, Clinical Distress

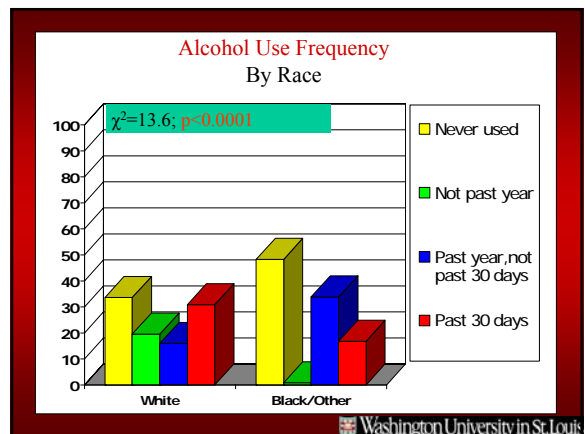
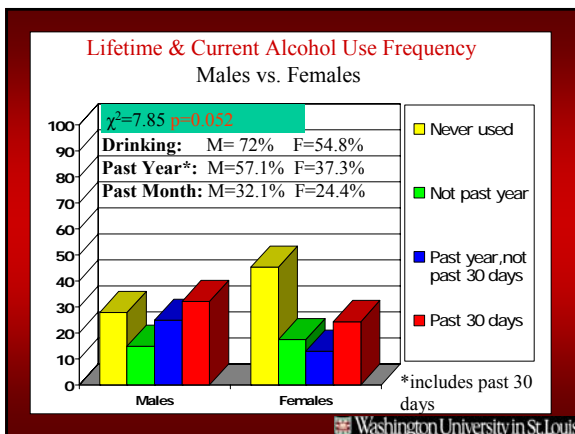
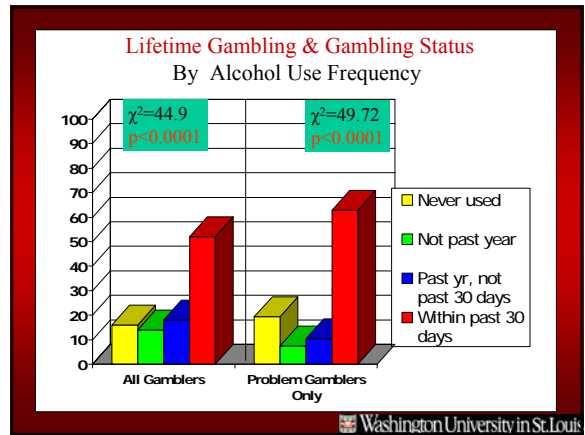
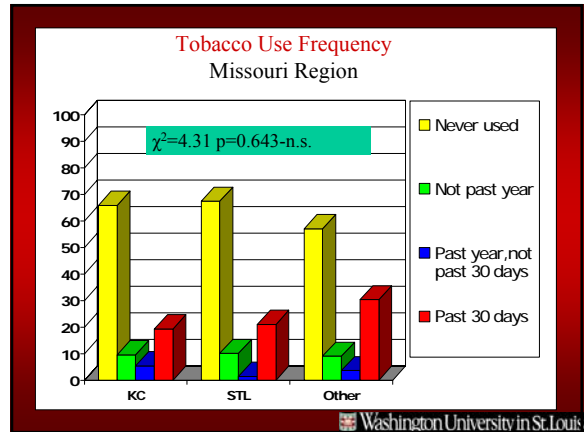
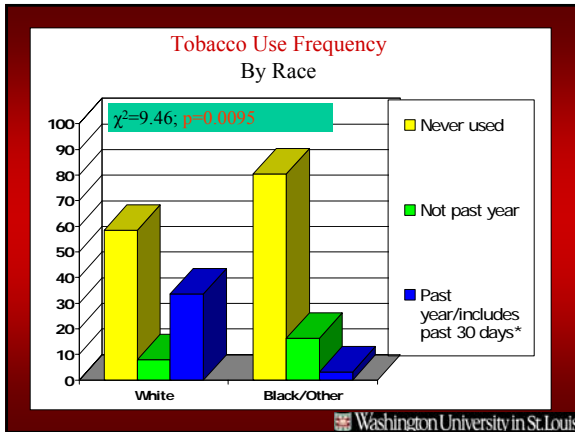
	by Poverty Indicators							
	Public Assistance (n=325)		Food Stamps (n=342)		Free Lunch (n=345)		Home Ownership (n=348)	
	X ²	p	X ²	p	X ²	p	X ²	p
Ever gambled	0.1	0.71	0.33	0.56	1.8	0.18	0.8	0.37
Gambling status	0.1	0.93	0.56	0.76	2.1	0.35	2.4	0.30
Tobacco Use	1.3	0.25	3.16	0.08	2.4	0.49	0.6	0.90
Alcohol Use	15.6	0.0017	8.45	0.04	2.7	0.45	0.9	0.83
Drug Use	0.9	0.83	1.86	0.60	25.4	<0.0001	0.7	0.88
Depression	3.3	0.07	3.23	0.07	3.2	0.08	0.5	0.49



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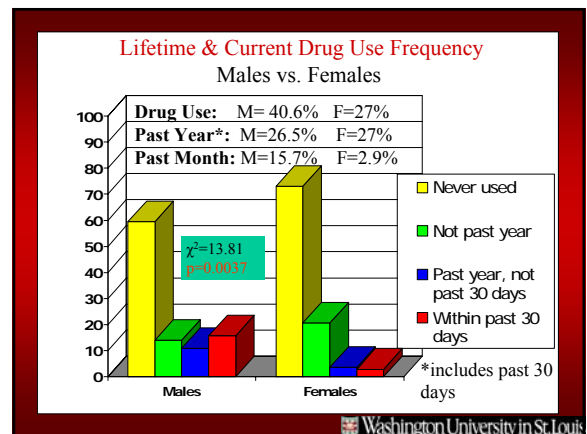
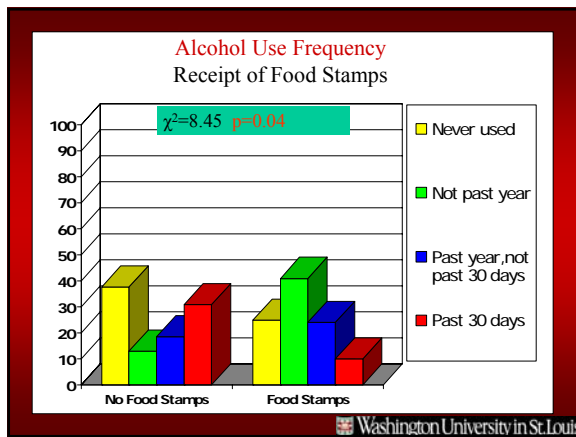
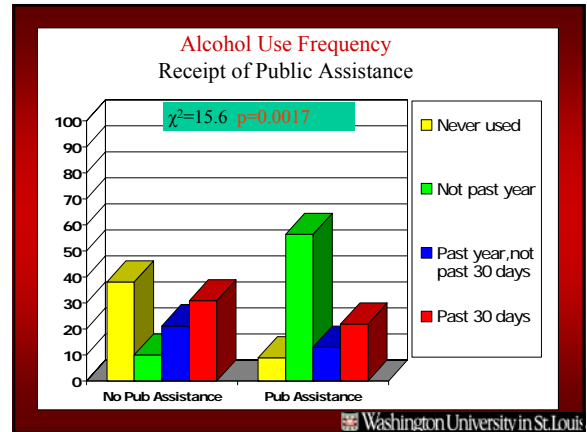
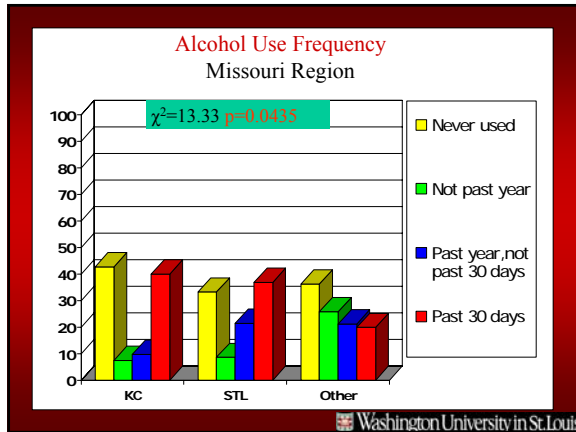
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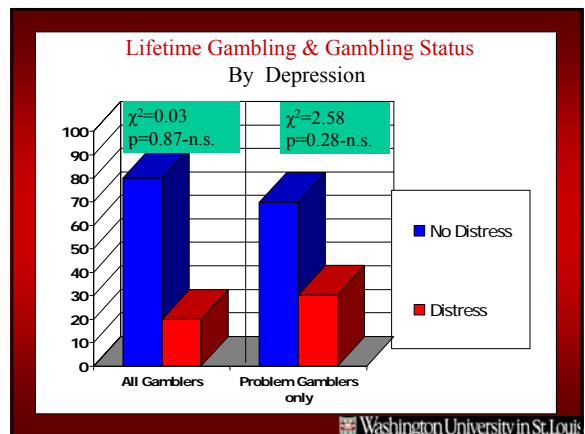
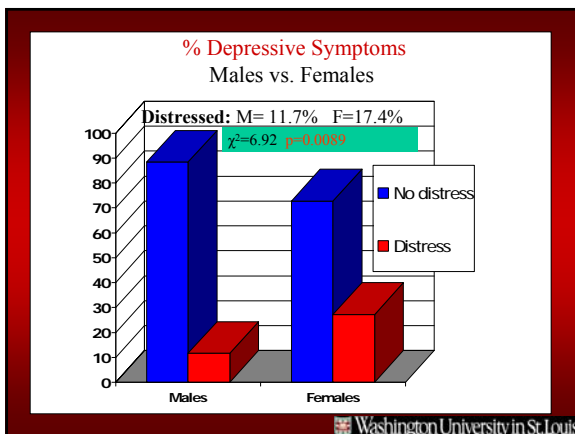
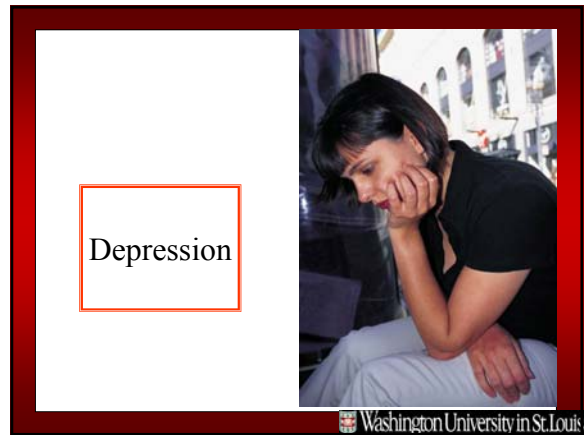
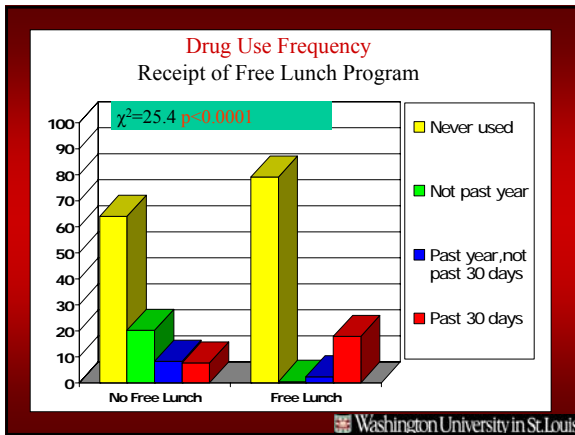
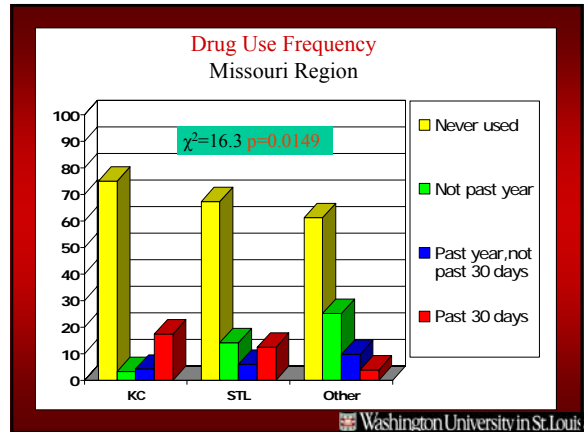
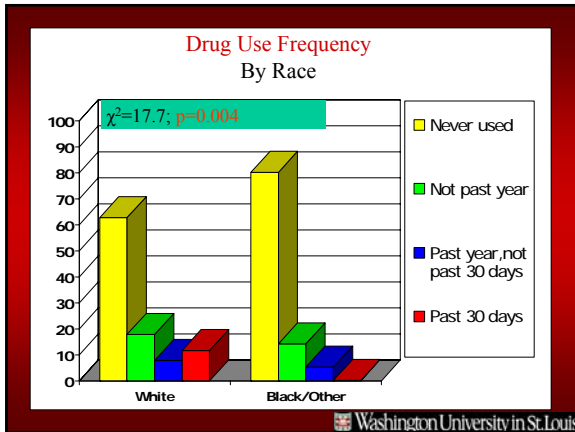


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Summary:

*Missouri's First Household Study of Youth 14-25 year olds
(n=351)*

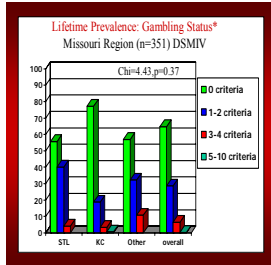
- **Nearly 40% youth have gambled >5X lifetime**
- **Mean Age of onset: 11.6 (personal skill games); Most games = age 15 ; Casino games: age 19-20**
- **By age 20, 50% of Missouri youth would have placed a bet or gambled >5X**



TOO YOUNG TO GAMBLE?
DON'T BET ON IT.

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Summary: Disordered Gambling



At-risk = 28.6%
Problem = 6.4%
Disorder = 0.2%

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Summary (cont'd):

Males (vs. Females):
Gambled more, Greater variety of games,
More gambling problems, Earlier onset of symptoms
~ *No regional, age, race, or poverty indicator differences in these rates ~*

Youth gambling & Problem gambling related to frequency of:
Smoking, Drinking, Drug Use
~ *But not clinical distress ~*

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Implications

Clinical:

- Gambling behavior may be an indicator of other risky behaviors (e.g. substance use)
- Early screening & prevention/intervention for gambling warranted especially among males

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Implications

Research:

- Disentangling gambling & co-occurring substances
- Assessing protective factors for underage gambling
- Longitudinal study of these youths through period of risk

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