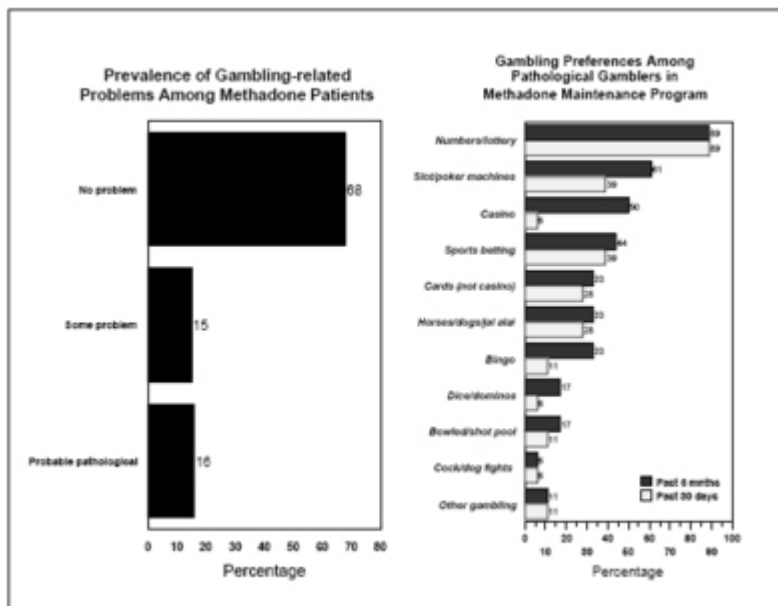


The WAGER, Vol. 1(6) - Pathological gambling among methadone patients

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Research suggests that substance-abusing populations have higher rates of problem and pathological gambling than the general adult population. A recent study examined the gambling behavior of a random sample (n = 117) of respondents enrolled in a large methadone maintenance treatment program. The study found that methadone patients had higher rates of problem (15%) and probable pathological (16%) gambling than the general adult population. Although this study was based on a small sample from a single treatment program, other studies of substance-abusing patients provide support for these findings. For example, previous studies have found pathological gambling rates of 9% among patients seeking substance abuse treatment (Lesieur, Blume & Zoppa, 1986), 11% among patients with a secondary diagnosis of substance abuse (Lesieur & Blume, 1990), and 14% among young substance abusers in a therapeutic community program (Lesieur & Heinemann, 1988).



Sources:

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