Rates of problem or probable pathological gambling were assessed in substance abusers seeking outpatient treatment in a publicly funded outpatient substance abuse treatment program. The South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS) was administered to 467 consecutive admissions at three different sites. Problem gamblers comprised 6.2 percent of the total (n = 29), and 4.5 percent scored as probable pathological gamblers (n = 21). These rates are two and one-half times greater than would be expected according to a recent state survey using the SOGS. Implications for assessment and treatment of problem gambling are discussed.

The coexistence of pathological gambling and substance abuse in treatment populations appears well established. A Veterans Administration hospital study found 39 percent met criteria for alcohol and/or drug abuse immediately prior to admission and 47 percent met criteria for lifetime prevalence (Ramirez, McCormick, Russo, & Taber, 1984). A study of 186 pathological gamblers in a private psychiatric hospital found 71 percent met criteria for lifetime prevalence of alcohol and/or substance abuse (Ciarrocchi & Richardson, 1989). Lesieur and colleagues (1986) found 9 percent pathological gamblers and 10 percent problem gamblers in a sample of 458 inpatients in an alcohol and drug treatment program. In a prison alcohol unit 18 out of 100...
prisoners were referred to Gamblers Anonymous (GA) for gambling related problems (Lesieur & Rosenthal, 1991).

In summary, the rates of co-addiction for substance abuse and pathological gamblers are considerably higher than expected in the general population. Conversely, the rates of pathological gambling found in substance abuse treatment populations are considerably higher than the 1-4 percent range generally found in regional probability surveys.

The present study extends the data base concerning co-addiction. It focuses on the prevalence of pathological gambling among outpatients in a multi-site outpatient substance abuse treatment population. This study employs the same assessment instrument used in a statewide prevalence investigation of pathological gambling. This permits comparison of the addiction treatment group with the general population.

**METHOD**

The study was conducted at Epoch Counseling Center located in Baltimore County, Maryland. This is a private, non-profit outpatient treatment program for substance abusers which receives funding through the state Drug Abuse Administration and county government. The program has three outpatient sites staffed by 18 counselors, the majority of whom are trained at the Masters level. In the most recent year for which statistics are available (1989) the center had 1,099 intake admissions with 958 white (87 percent) and 141 black (13 percent). Males outnumbered females approximately three to one. The age ranges for the entire outpatient population was as follows: 34 percent for ages 18-25; 56 percent for ages 26-40; and 10 percent over 41 years old.

The South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS) was administered at intake for all consecutive admissions at the three treatment sites during a six month period in 1989. A total of 467 questionnaires were collected with 300, 101, and 48 collected from each site. The SOGS is a 15 item self-report concerning gambling behavior developed by Lesieur and Blume (1987), and has been used to determine gambling problems among substance abusers (Lesieur & Heineman, 1988) as well as for community epidemiological surveys (Volberg & Banks, 1990; Volberg