Gambling Education and Prevention Needs  
Assessment for Juveniles in Residential Detention Centers  
of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice  

Executive Summary  
Prepared for the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling  
by  
Louis Lieberman, Ph. D.  
Professor Emeritus of Sociology  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, C.U.N.Y.  
and  
Mary Cuadrado, Ph. D.  
Assistant Professor of Criminology  
University of South Florida at Sarasota  

November 2002  

The purpose of this study is to provide data to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice in order to help in the decision process of whether to initiate a gambling education and prevention program in their residential facilities.  

Five hundred and sixty-nine youths at 13 sites from Low, Moderate, High and Maximum risk levels were surveyed with an instrument measuring the extent of gambling involvement prior to placement in a DJJ Facility. The sample was statistically representative of the residential facilities on risk level and sex. The instrument consisted of a modification of the SOGS-RA gambling screen as well as additional items more attuned to the DJJ population. The main findings are:  

- There were 467 males (82.1%) and 102 females (17.9%)  
- The ages ranged from 11 to 20, with a mean of 15.8 years and a median of 16.0  
- The majority were Protestant (52%) followed by “No Religion” (26%) and Catholic (15%)  
- Blacks comprised 40 percent of the sample followed by Whites (37%) and Hispanics (12%). “All Others” added up to 11 percent
Of the total sample, 91.0 percent indicated that they had gambled in at least one type of gambling during their lifetime

Seventy-five percent of the entire sample gambled in at least one type during the 12 months prior to entering the residence

The four most popular gambling activities for “last 12 months” were: personal skill sports [pool, basketball, bowling, etc.](56%), cards (51%), sports teams (48%), and dice (50%)

Twenty-three percent of the youths who ever gambled, cited that they gambled on 10 or more types during the last year

Eleven percent of the youths who gambled during the last year engaged in ten or more separate types of gambling on a weekly basis

Eighty-four percent of those who gambled during the last year cited at least one negative consequence from a list in the SOGS-RA screening instrument

Seventeen percent of those who gambled last year said that their being in a DJJ facility was connected to gambling

Nine percent said that they had been arrested or detained at least once because of gambling

Twenty-nine percent of the youths who gambled last year scored positive on the Acute Gambling Problems Index (created to supplement the SOGS-RA for the special needs of an adjudicated population)

Forty six percent of those who gambled last year scored 4 or more on the SOGS-RA gambling screen which would classify them as “problem” or “pathological” gamblers

Fifty one percent of those who gambled last year (or 42 % of the total sample) scored High, i.e., were found to have a need for gambling intervention on some level, according to the combined SOGS-RA — AGPI index