Country of Birth by Poker Machine Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test show a significant association between country of birth and poker machine gambling category (X^2 = 25.9; df = 11; $p \leq .007$), as shown in Table 6. Higher proportions of poker machine players than non-players were born in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, South-East Asia, Eastern Europe and Western Europe, with nearly one-fifth (19.8%) of poker machine players born in these countries, compared to 17.1% of non-players. Conversely, lower proportions of poker machine players were born in Australia, other Asian countries or the Middle East.

Country of Father's Birth by Poker Machine Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between country of father's birth and poker machine gambling category (X^2 = 29.8; df = 11; $p \leq .002$), as shown in Table 6. Higher proportions of poker machine players than non-players have fathers born in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, South-East Asia, Eastern Europe and Western Europe. About one-third (33.9%) of poker machine players were born in these countries, compared to 29.2% of non-players. Conversely, lower proportions of poker machine players have fathers born in Australia, other Asian countries, North America, South America or the Middle East.

Country of Mother's Birth by Poker Machine Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between country of mother's birth and poker machine gambling category (X^2 = 28.9; df = 11; $p \leq .002$), as shown in Table 6. Higher proportions of poker machine players than non-players have mothers born in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, South-East Asia, Eastern Europe and Western Europe, with about one-third (30.8%) of poker machine players born in these countries, compared to 25.1% of non-players. Conversely, lower proportions of poker machine players have mothers born in Australia, other Asian countries or the Middle East.

Main Language Spoken at Home by Poker Machine Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is no significant association between main language spoken at home other than English and poker machine gambling category.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Descent by Poker Machine Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is no significant association between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent and poker machine gambling category.

5.3 Club Patronage of Club Members by Poker Machine Gambling Category

Table 7 presents a cross-tabulation of poker machine gambling category (poker machine gamblers and non-poker machine gamblers) by number of club memberships, frequency of club patronage and company the respondent usually goes to a club with.

Table 7
Club Patronage of Poker Machine and Non-Poker Machine Gamblers

Patronage	Poker Machine Players N=1879	Non-Poker Machine Players N=1121	Total Club Members N=3000
	%	%	%
No. of Club Memberships:***			
1	46.0	54.9	49.3
2	31.2	27.7	29.9
3	14.4	11.9	13.5
4	4.6	3.4	4.1
5 or more	3.8	2.2	3.0
Frequency of Club Patronage:***			
Nearly every day	5.1	3.2	4.4
A couple of times a week	20.0	10.3	16.4
Once a week	23.4	17.8	21.3
Once a fortnight	12.9	12.0	12.6
Once a month	17.7	15.6	16.9
Once every 3 months	11.5	17.2	13.6
Less than once every 3 months	9.4	23.8	14.8
Usually Go to Club With:			
Alone	13.0	12.5	12.8
Spouse	37.4	35.9	36.8
Other family members	13.5	16.7	14.7
Friends	30.2	29.1	29.8
Work colleagues	3.2	3.4	3.3
Other	2.6	2.2	2.4

*** significant at $p \leq .001$ ** significant at $p \leq .01$ * significant at $p \leq .05$

Number of Club Memberships by Poker Machine Gambling Category

The chi-square test indicates that the number of club memberships and poker machine gambling category are significantly related ($X^2 = 37.8$; df = 11; $p \leq .001$), as shown in Table 7. Higher proportions of poker machine players (54%) than non-players (45.1%) belong to more than one club. About one-third (31.2%) of poker machine players belong to two clubs and 14.4% belong to three clubs, with smaller proportions belonging to more than three clubs. In contrast, about one-quarter (27.7%) of non-players belong to two clubs and 11.9% belong to three clubs.

Frequency of Club Patronage by Poker Machine Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test show a significant association between the frequency of club patronage and poker machine gambling category ($X^2 = 173.4$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$), as shown in Table 7. Higher proportions of poker machine players (79.9%) than non-players (58.9%) patronise a club at least once a month. Conversely, 23.8% of non-players patronise a club less often than once every few months, compared to 9.4% of players. About one-quarter (25.1%) of poker machine players patronise a club at least a couple of times a week, another quarter (23.4%) do so weekly, 12.9% do so fortnightly and 17.7% visit a club monthly.

Company Usually Attend Club With by Poker Machine Gambling Category

The chi-square test shows no significant association between who the respondent usually goes to a club with and poker machine gambling category, as shown in Table 7.

Table 8 presents a cross-tabulation of poker machine gambling category (poker machine gamblers and non-poker machine gamblers) by frequency of participation in non-gambling club activities, comprising meals, drinks, entertainment, raffles, outdoor and indoor sport, and meetings.

Table 8
Non-Gambling Club Activities of Poker Machine and Non-Poker Machine Gamblers

Activity	Poker Machine Players N=1879	Non-Poker Machine Players N=1121	Total Club Members N=3000
	%	%	%
Meals:***			
Nearly every day	0.9	0.7	0.8
A couple of times a week	6.7	4.6	5.9
Once a week	16.2	11.5	14.4
Once a fortnight	13.1	11.1	12.3
Once a month	22.6	17.2	20.6
Once every few months	23.4	32.2	26.7
Hardly at all/never	17.2	22.7	19.2
Drinks:***			
Nearly every day	2.9	2.6	2.8
A couple of times a week	15.0	7.9	12.3
Once a week	20.4	13.0	17.7
Once a fortnight	11.2	9.8	10.7
Once a month	16.3	13.2	15.1
Once every few months	15.7	23.7	18.7
Hardly at all/never	18.5	29.6	22.6
Entertainment:***			
Nearly every day	-	-	0.2
A couple of times a week	2.9	2.0	2.6
Once a week	6.6	6.0	6.4
Once a fortnight	6.1	3.8	5.2
Once a month	11.3	9.4	10.6
Once every few months	17.3	13.9	16.0
Hardly at all/never	55.6	64.4	58.9

Table 8 (cont'd)
Non-Gambling Club Activities of Poker Machine and Non-Poker Machine Gamblers

Raffles:* **			
Nearly every day	0.6	-	0.5
A couple of times a week	6.9	3.7	5.7
Once a week	13.5	7.9	11.4
Once a fortnight	6.9	2.5	5.3
Once a month	12.0	6.2	9.9
Once every few months	14.3	10.1	12.7
Hardly at all/never	45.8	69.2	54.5
Outdoor Sport:*			
Nearly every day	0.4	0.5	0.5
A couple of times a week	3.4	4.4	3.7
Once a week	6.8	5.3	6.2
Once a fortnight	2.4	1.3	2.0
Once a month	4.1	3.1	3.7
Once every few months	4.5	3.6	4.1
Hardly at all/never	78.4	81.8	79.7
Indoor Sport:* **			
Nearly every day	0.6	-	0.5
A couple of times a week	2.5	1.2	2.0
Once a week	5.3	3.6	4.7
Once a fortnight	3.2	2.1	2.8
Once a month	5.9	2.8	4.7
Once every few months	6.8	5.4	6.3
Hardly at all/never	75.5	84.7	78.9
Meetings:			
Nearly every day	-	-	-
A couple of times a week	-	0.5	0.3
Once a week	1.0	1.1	1.0
Once a fortnight	1.6	1.6	1.6
Once a month	6.1	4.7	5.6
Once every few months	5.2	4.5	4.9
Hardly at all/never	85.8	87.4	86.4

*** significant at $p \leq .001$ ** significant at $p \leq .01$ * significant at $p \leq .05$

Frequency of Club Meals by Poker Machine Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between frequency of eating meals at a club and poker machine gambling category ($X^2 = 59.9$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$), as shown in Table 8. Higher proportions of poker machine players (59.5%) than non-players (45.1%) eat meals at a club at least monthly. Conversely, 22.7% of non-players hardly or never eat meals at a club compared to 17.2% of players. About one-quarter (23.8%) of poker machine players eat meals at a club at least weekly, a further 13.1% do so fortnightly, and 22.6% do so monthly.

Frequency of Club Drinks by Poker Machine Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between frequency of drinking at a club and poker machine gambling category ($X^2 = 118.7$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$), as shown in Table 8. Higher proportions of poker machine players (65.8%) than non-players (46.5%) drink at a club at least monthly. Conversely, 29.6% of non-players hardly or never

drink at a club compared to 18.5% of players. Nearly two-fifths (38.3%) of poker machine players drink at a club at least weekly, a further 11.2% do so fortnightly, and 16.3% do so monthly.

Frequency of Club Entertainment by Poker Machine Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between frequency of attendance at club entertainment and poker machine gambling category ($X^2 = 28.8$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$), as shown in Table 8. Higher proportions of poker machine players (44.4%) than non-players (35.5%) attend club entertainment at least once every few months. Conversely, 64.4% of non-players hardly or never attend club entertainment compared to 55.6% of players. About one-tenth (9.7%) of poker machine players attend club entertainment at least weekly, a further 6.1% do so fortnightly, and 11.3% do so monthly.

Frequency of Club Raffles by Poker Machine Gambling Category

A significant association is demonstrated by the chi-square test between frequency of participation in club raffles and poker machine gambling category ($X^2 = 165.6$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$), as shown in Table 8. While raffles are officially a form of gambling, it was included in the survey as a club activity as many people consider buying raffle tickets as a donation to the charity or association holding the raffle, rather than a form of gambling. Higher proportions of poker machine players (54.2%) than non-players (30.8%) participate in club raffles at least once every few months. Conversely, 69.2% of non-players hardly or never participate in raffles at a club compared to 45.8% of players. About one-fifth (21%%) of poker machine players participate in club raffles at least weekly, a further 6.9% do so fortnightly, and 12% do so monthly.

Frequency of Club Outdoor Sport by Poker Machine Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between frequency of participation in outdoor sport at a club and poker machine gambling category ($X^2 = 13.1$; df = 6; $p \leq .041$), as shown in Table 8. Lower proportions of poker machine players (3.8%) than non-players (4.9%) play outdoor sport at a club at least a couple of time a week. Higher proportions of poker machine players (17.8%) than non-players (13.3%) play outdoor sport at a club between once a week and once every few months. About one-tenth (10.6%) of poker machine players play outdoor sport at a club at least weekly, a further 2.4% do so fortnightly, and 4.1% do so monthly.

Frequency of Club Indoor Sport by Poker Machine Gambling Category

The chi-square test shows that there is a significant association between frequency of participation in indoor sport at a club and poker machine gambling category ($X^2 = 40.9$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$), as shown in Table 8. Higher proportions of poker machine players (23.7%) than non-players (15.1%) play indoor sport at a club at least once every few months. Conversely, 84.7% of non-players hardly or never play indoor sport at a club compared to 75.5% of players. About one-twelfth (8.4%) of poker machine players play indoor sport at a club at least weekly, a further 3.2% do so fortnightly, and 5.9% do so monthly.

Frequency of Attending Club Meetings by Poker Machine Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is no significant association between frequency of attending meetings at a club and poker machine gambling category.

5.4 Leisure Preferences of Club Members by Poker Machine Gambling Category

Table 9 shows the most preferred leisure activities of poker machine gamblers and non-poker machine gamblers, where results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between leisure preferences and poker machine gambling category ($X^2 = 64.5$; df = 13; $p \leq .001$).

Higher proportions of poker machine players than non-players prefer socialising, going to watch sporting events, drinking, shopping and gambling. Conversely, lower proportions of poker machine players than non-players prefer outdoor or indoor sport or exercise, hobbies/arts/crafts, holiday travel/pleasure driving, relaxing at home, visiting entertainment and dining out.

Table 9
Leisure Preferences of Poker Machine and Non-Poker Machine Gamblers

Preferred Leisure Activities	Poker Machine Players N=1879	Non-Poker Machine Players N=1121	Total Club Members N=3000
	%		
Outdoor sport or exercise	22.9	25.2	23.8
Relaxing at home	15.8	16.6	16.1
Holiday travel/pleasure driving	14.3	15.5	14.7
Socialising	8.7	6.4	7.9
Dining out	6.6	7.5	6.9
Hobbies/arts/crafts	5.9	8.5	6.8
Visiting entertainment	5.5	5.9	5.7
Going to watch sporting events	5.5	4.2	5.0
Gambling	4.3	0.4	2.8
Indoor sport or exercise	4.0	4.6	4.3
Shopping	3.6	3.1	3.4
Drinking	2.8	1.6	2.4

*** Differences between groups significant at $p \leq .001$

Section Six

Characteristics of All Gamblers Amongst Club Members

This section presents the survey results for the 2,430 club members who gamble in some way (81% of the entire sample), that is, on any of the 13 forms of gambling examined. Their gambling activities are firstly described, including their preferences and participation rates. This is followed by an examination of the current prevalence of problem gambling in this sub-sample and the types of gambling-related problems experienced by the respondents in the last six months. The sub-sample is then divided into problem and non-problem gamblers and differences identified in their socio-demographic characteristics, club patronage, participation in club-based activities, leisure preferences and gambling activities.

6.1 Gambling Activities of All Gamblers

Tables 10 to 13 show the gambling preferences and participation rates for various types of gambling for all 2,430 gamblers in the sample.

Gambling Preferences

As shown in Table 10, the majority of gamblers (50.9%) nominated Lotto-type games as their favourite form of gambling, while about one-fifth (19.9%) prefer club poker machines and about one-tenth (9.2%) prefer betting at the TAB. Only about one-twentieth of the sub-sample prefer club keno (5.7%), on-course betting (4.7%), bingo (4.1%) or casino table games 3.6%), while very small minorities prefer hotel gaming machines, private gambling, casino poker machines and casino keno.

Table 10
Favourite Gambling Activities Amongst All Gamblers
N=2430

Gambling Activity	1st Preference	2nd Preference	3rd Preference
	%	%	%
Lotto/instant lottery/lottery/pools	50.9	13.4	9.0
Club poker Machines	19.9	25.2	13.4
TAB betting	9.2	10.8	8.3
Club keno	5.7	14.6	9.9
On-course betting	4.7	5.1	3.3
Bingo	4.1	4.4	3.0
Casino table games	3.6	2.7	3.0
Hotel gaming machines	0.7	1.1	1.3
Private gambling	0.6	0.7	1.3
Casino poker machines	0.3	1.5	1.9
Casino keno	-	0.2	0.3
Don't know	-	1.0	2.4
No other preference		19.2	42.9

Frequency of Club-Based Gambling

Table 11 shows the frequency of participation in club-based gambling amongst the sub-sample of 2,430 gamblers.

- *Club Poker Machines.* Nearly one quarter of the sample (23.3% or 566 people) are regular poker machine players who play the machines at least once a week. Of these, about half play more frequently, with 210 people playing a couple of times a week and 28 people playing daily. At the other extreme, about one-third of the sub-sample (34.9% or 847 people) hardly or never play club poker machines. However, this represents the second lowest "non-participation" rate for all types of gambling examined in this study after Lotto-type games.

- *Club Keno.* Participation in club keno is much less frequent than for poker machines, with over half the sub-sample (56.5% or 1,372 people) hardly or never playing. Regular (at least weekly) club keno players comprise only about one-tenth (11% or 265 people) of the sub-sample

- *Club TAB.* Even larger proportions of the sub-sample (79.7% or 1,937 people) hardly or never bet at a club TAB, with only about one-twelfth (8.2% or 197 people) being regular (at least weekly) bettors.

- *Club Bingo.* This was the least popular type of club-based gambling, with over four-fifths (85.5% or 2,077 people) hardly or never participating. Only about one in 15 people (6.8% or 166 people) are regular (at least weekly) club bingo players.

Table 11
Frequency of Participation in Different Types of Club Gambling Amongst All Gamblers
N=2430

Frequency	Poker Machines	Keno	TAB	Bingo
	%	%	%	%
Nearly every day	1.2	0.5	0.4	0.5
Couple of times a week	8.6	2.8	2.2	2.0
Once a week	13.5	7.7	5.6	4.3
Once a fortnight	9.8	6.3	2.6	1.2
Once a month	15.8	11.5	4.4	2.5
Once every few months	16.3	14.8	5.1	4.0
Hardly at all/never	34.9	56.5	79.7	85.5

Frequency of Casino-Based Gambling

Table 12 shows the frequency of participation in casino-based gambling amongst the sub-sample of 2,430 gamblers.

- *Casino Poker Machines.* Very few people in the sub-sample play casino poker machines, with only 19 people (0.7%) being regular players (at least weekly) and the vast majority (91.6% or 2,226 people) hardly or never playing them.

- *Casino Table Games.* A similar pattern can be observed for frequency of gambling on casino table games, where very few people (0.6% or 16 people) are regular (at least weekly) players, and the vast majority (90.2% or 2,191 people) hardly or never play.

- *Casino Keno.* Even less people (0.1% or 8 people) are regular (at least weekly) keno players at a casino, with the vast majority (97.6% or 2,371 people) hardly or never playing.

Table 12
Frequency of Participation in Different Types of Casino Gambling Amongst All Gamblers N=2430

Frequency	Poker Machines %	Table Games %	Keno %
Nearly every day	-	-	-
Couple of times a week	0.2	0.3	-
Once a week	0.5	0.3	0.1
Once a fortnight	0.5	0.5	0.2
Once a month	1.6	1.9	0.5
Once every few months	5.6	6.8	1.5
Hardly at all/never	91.6	90.2	97.6

Frequency of Other Gambling

Table 13 shows the frequency of participation in other types of gambling (not based at a club or casino) amongst the sub-sample of 2,430 gamblers.

- *Lotto/Instant Lottery/Lottery/Pools.* Most people (61.9% or 1,503 people) are regular (at least weekly) players of Lotto-type games, with only one-sixth of people (16.3% or 397 people) hardly or never playing.

- *Non-Club Bingo.* In contrast, very few people (1.4% or 34 people) are regular (at least weekly) participants in bingo outside of a club, with most people (96.4% or 2,342) hardly or never playing.

- *Non-Club TAB.* After Lotto-type games, TAB betting outside a club appears to be the main form of competition for club-based gambling, with about one-eighth of people (12.2% or 294 people) being regular (at least weekly) bettors. However, nearly three-quarters (72.1% or 1,752 people) hardly or never bet at a TAB away from a club, although non-club TABs were patronised more frequently than club-based TABs overall.

- *On-Course Betting.* Only one in 50 (2.1% or 51 people) of the sub-sample are regular (at least weekly) on-course punters, with over four-fifths (83.7% or 2,035 people) hardly or never betting on-track.

- *Hotel Gaming Machines.* At the time of the survey, NSW hotels only operated Approved Amusement Devices and not club-type poker machines. Only one in 50 people (2.2% or 52 people) are regular (at least weekly) players of hotel gaming machines, while nearly nine-tenths (89.1% or 2,166 people) hardly or never play them.

- *Private Gambling.* Very few people (1.0% or 26 people) gamble regularly (at least weekly) on private games, with the vast majority (92.3% or 2,243 people) hardly or never participating in non-commercial forms of gambling.

Table 13
Frequency of Participation in Different Types of Non-Club or Casino Gambling Amongst All Gamblers
N=2430

Frequency	Lotto-Type Games	Non-Club Bingo	Non-Club TAB	On-Course Betting	Hotel Gaming Machines	Private Gambling
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Nearly every day	1.7	-	0.9	-	-	-
Couple of times/week	19.5	0.3	3.5	0.5	0.7	0.3
Once a week	40.7	1.1	7.8	1.6	1.4	0.7
Once a fortnight	6.7	0.5	3.9	1.6	1.2	0.7
Once a month	7.7	0.6	4.4	3.5	3.1	1.9
Every few months	7.2	1.2	7.5	9.1	4.4	4.0
Hardly at all/never	16.3	96.4	72.1	83.7	89.1	92.3

6.2 Prevalence of Problem Gambling

This section focuses on the current prevalence rate of problem gambling amongst the club members surveyed, using the SOGS instrument (Lesieur & Blume, 1987). Table 14 shows the distribution of their scores on the SOGS, while Table 15 shows the numbers and proportions of the sample who can be classified as non-problem and probable problem gamblers, using a cut-off score of 5 on the SOGS.

From Tables 14 and 15, it is evident that 3.7% (or 110 people) of the 3,000 club members surveyed can be classified as probable problem gamblers. That is, about one in 27 of the club members is a probable problem gambler.

The 110 people who scored 5 or higher on the SOGS represent 4.5% of the 2,430 gamblers amongst the club members surveyed. That is, of all gamblers surveyed, about one in 22 can be classified as a probable problem gambler.

Table 14
Distribution of SOGS Scores Amongst All Club Members
N=3000

SOGS Score	No.	%	Cum. %
0	2207	73.6	73.6
1	400	13.3	86.9
2	156	5.2	92.1
3	73	2.4	94.5
4	54	1.8	96.3
5	38	1.3	97.6
6	26	0.9	98.5
7	10	0.3	98.8
8	10	0.3	99.1
9	9	0.3	99.4
10	7	0.2	99.6
11	2	0.1	99.7
12	3	0.1	99.8
13	3	0.1	99.9
14	1	0.0	100.0
15	1	0.0	100.0
Total	3000	100.0	100.0

Table 15
Categories of SOGS Scores Amongst All Club Members and All Gamblers

Category	All Club Members N=3000		All Gamblers N=2430	
	No.	%	No.	%
SOGS < 5	2890	96.3	2320	95.5
SOGS 5 +	110	3.7	110	4.5
Total	3000	100.0	2430	100.0

6.3 Gambling-Related Problems

This section focuses on the types of gambling-related problems experienced by some of the 2,430 gamblers amongst club members, as identified by the items in the SOGS instrument.

Table 16 presents a cross-tabulation of "yes" responses to the items in the SOGS instrument by problem gambling category (non-problem and probable problem gamblers), as well as the frequency of "yes" responses amongst the sample of 3,000 club members and the sub-sample of 2,430 gamblers.

- For probable problem gamblers, the most common gambling-related problems experienced by over half of them were gambling more than intended (90.9%), feeling guilty about gambling (85.5%), chasing losses (68.2%), concern that they may have a gambling problem (64.5%), criticism from others about their gambling (63.6%) and feeling unable to stop gambling (60%). For at least a quarter of problem gamblers, gambling had caused arguments with significant others (42.7%), they had lied about gambling losses (34.5%), borrowed household money for gambling (31.8%), borrowed gambling money from their spouse (28.2%), used credit cards to finance their gambling (25.5%), hidden signs of gambling from significant others (24.5%) and borrowed gambling money from relatives (24.5%). Smaller proportions had lost work or study time due to gambling (16.4%), had not paid gambling-related debts (9.1%) or borrowed gambling money from other sources (2.7% to 15.5%).

- For non-problem gamblers, some gambling-related problems were still evident, with at least one type of problem experienced by about one in seven people. The most common problems were gambling more than intended (14.9%), feeling guilty about gambling (6%), chasing losses (5.8%), criticism from others about their gambling (3.6%) lying about gambling losses (2.8%) and feeling unable to stop gambling (1.8%). Other gambling-related problems were experienced by 1% or less of non-problem gamblers.

- In terms of all 3,000 club members, about one in every six persons has experienced at least one type of gambling-related problem in the last six months.

- In terms of all 2,430 gamblers, about one in five has experienced at least one type of gambling-related problem in the last six months.

Table 16
Comparison of "Yes" Responses to SOGS Items Between Problem and Non-Problem Gamblers Amongst All Club Members

SOGS Item	SOGS <5 N=2890 %	SOGS 5+ N=110 %	All Gamblers N=2430 %	All Club Members N=3000 %
After losing at gambling during the last 6 months, have you usually gone back another day to win back money lost?	5.8	68.2	10.1	8.2
During the last 6 months, have you ever claimed to be winning money at gambling but weren't really? In fact you lost?	2.8	34.5	4.9	4.0
Do you feel you have had a problem with gambling in the last 6 months?	0.9	64.5	4.0	3.3
Did you ever gamble more than you intended to in the last 6 months?	14.9	90.9	21.9	17.7
Have people criticised your gambling in the last 6 months?	3.6	63.6	7.2	5.8
During the last 6 months, have you ever felt guilty about the way you gamble or what happens when you gamble?	6.0	85.5	11.0	8.9
During the last 6 months, have you ever felt like you would like to stop gambling, but didn't think you could?	1.8	60.0	4.8	3.9
During the last 6 months, have you ever hidden betting slips, lottery tickets, gambling money or other signs of gambling from family/friends?	0.8	24.5	2.0	1.6
During the last 6 months, has your gambling ever caused arguments about money with family or friends?	1.0	42.7	3.1	2.5
During the last 6 months, have you ever borrowed from someone and not paid them back as a result of gambling?	-	9.1	0.5	0.4
During the last 6 months, have you ever lost time from work or study due to gambling?	0.2	16.4	1.0	0.8
During the last 6 months, have you ever borrowed money to gamble or to pay gambling debts from:				
household money	0.4	31.8	1.9	1.6
your spouse	0.3	28.2	1.6	1.3
other relatives or in-laws	0.3	24.5	1.5	1.2
banks, loan companies, or credit unions	-	15.5	0.7	0.6
credit cards	0.4	25.5	1.7	1.4
loan sharks	-	-	-	-
cashed in stocks, bonds, or other securities	-	-	0.2	-
the sale of personal or family property	-	4.5	0.2	0.2
borrowings on your cheque account (passed bad cheques)	-	6.4	0.4	0.3

6.4 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Problem and Non-Problem Gamblers

This section provides a comparison of socio-demographic characteristics between non-problem and probable problem gamblers amongst the 2,430 gamblers in the sample of club members. Rather than provide a comparison between probable problem gamblers and non-problem gamblers amongst the entire 3,000 club members, a comparison between the 110 probable problem gamblers and the 2,320 people who gamble, but experience limited gambling-related problems, was deemed more useful in order to identify the factors which are associated with those gamblers who lose control of their gambling.

Cross-tabulation and chi-square tests have been used to identify statistically significant relationships between the dependent variable, problem gambling category (non-problem and probable problem gamblers) and each of the independent variables (each of the socio-demographic characteristics).

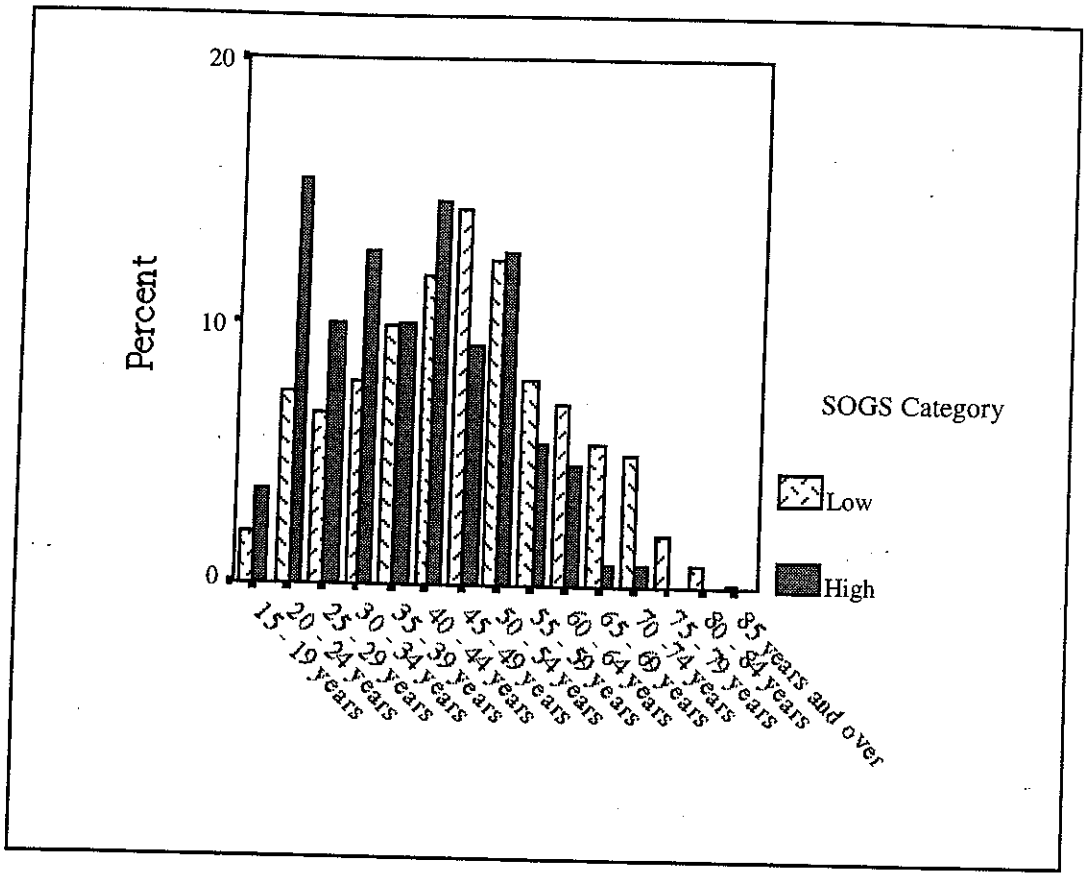
Sex by Problem Gambling Category

5.1% of males (72 people) and 3.8% of females (38 people) amongst the sub-sample of 2,430 gamblers were classified as probable problem gamblers using the SOGS instrument with a cut-off score of 5. However, results of the chi-square test indicate that sex and problem gambling category are not significantly related.

Age by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test shows a significant association between age group and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 31.3$; df = 15; $p \leq .008$). From Figure 2, it is evident that much higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers are in the 15-34 and 40-44 year old age groups, with slightly higher proportions in the 35-39 and 50-54 year old age groups. In total, nearly four-fifths (79%) of problem gamblers but only just over half (57.5%) of the non-problem gamblers fall within these age groups. Conversely, lower proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers are in the 45-49, and 55 years and older age groups.

Figure 2
Age by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



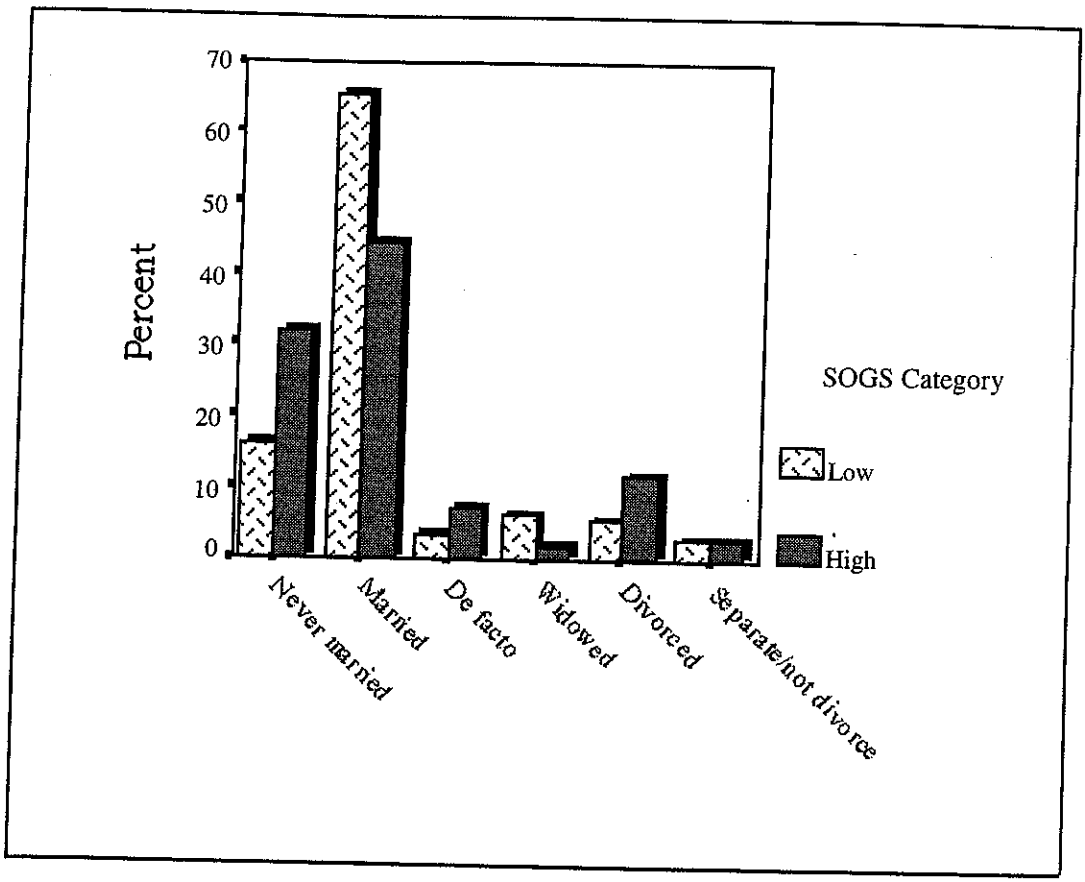
Education by Problem Gambling Category

There is no significant association between highest educational qualification attained and problem gambling category, as shown by the chi-square test.

Marital Status by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between marital status and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 37.8$; df = 6; $p \leq .001$). Figure 3 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers are in the never married, de facto and divorced categories. These groups represent over half (51.8%) of the problem gamblers but only one-quarter (25.1%) of the non-problem gamblers. Conversely, lower proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers are married or widowed.

Figure 3
Marital Status by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



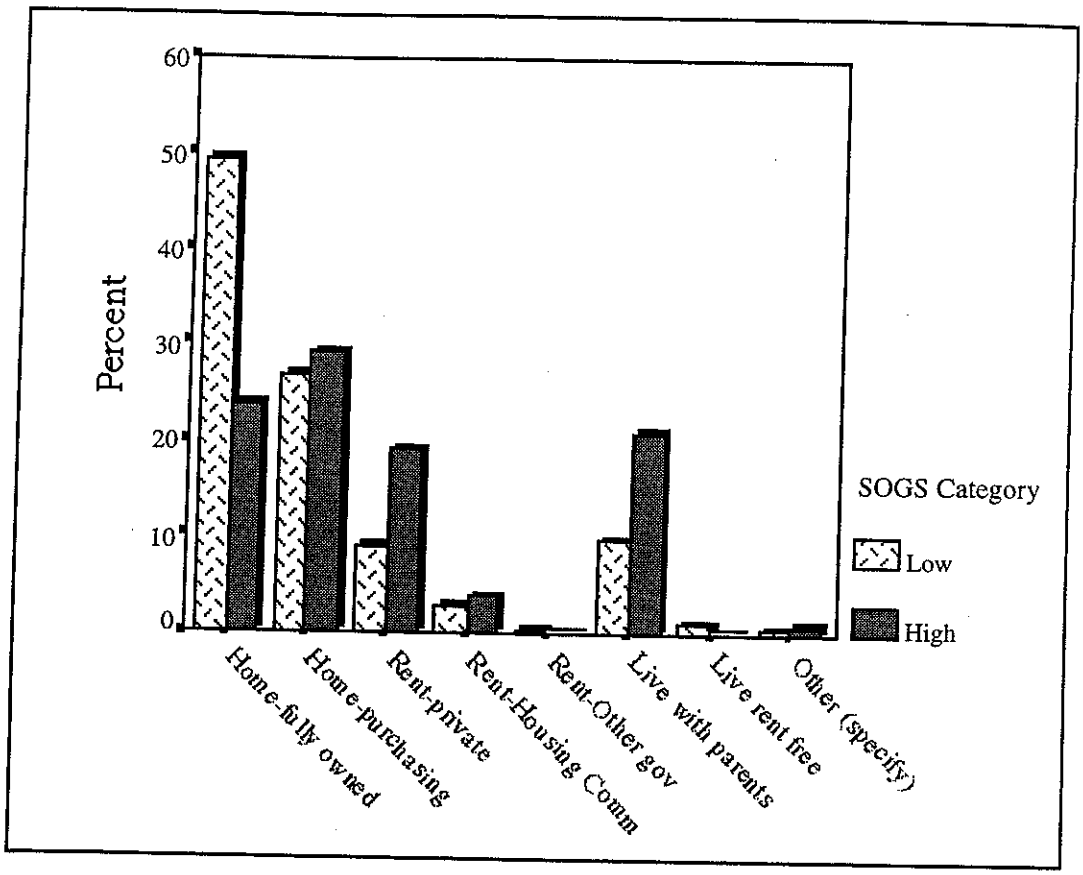
Dependent Children by Problem Gambling Category

There is no statistically significant association between the number and ages of dependent children and problem gambling category.

Housing Status by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between housing status and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 45.7$; df = 8; $p \leq .001$). From Figure 4, it is evident that higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers are purchasing or renting their home from a private landlord or the Housing Commission or are living with parents. These groups represent three-quarters (72.7%) of problem gamblers, but only half (48%) of the non-problem gamblers. Conversely, much lower proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers fully own their own homes.

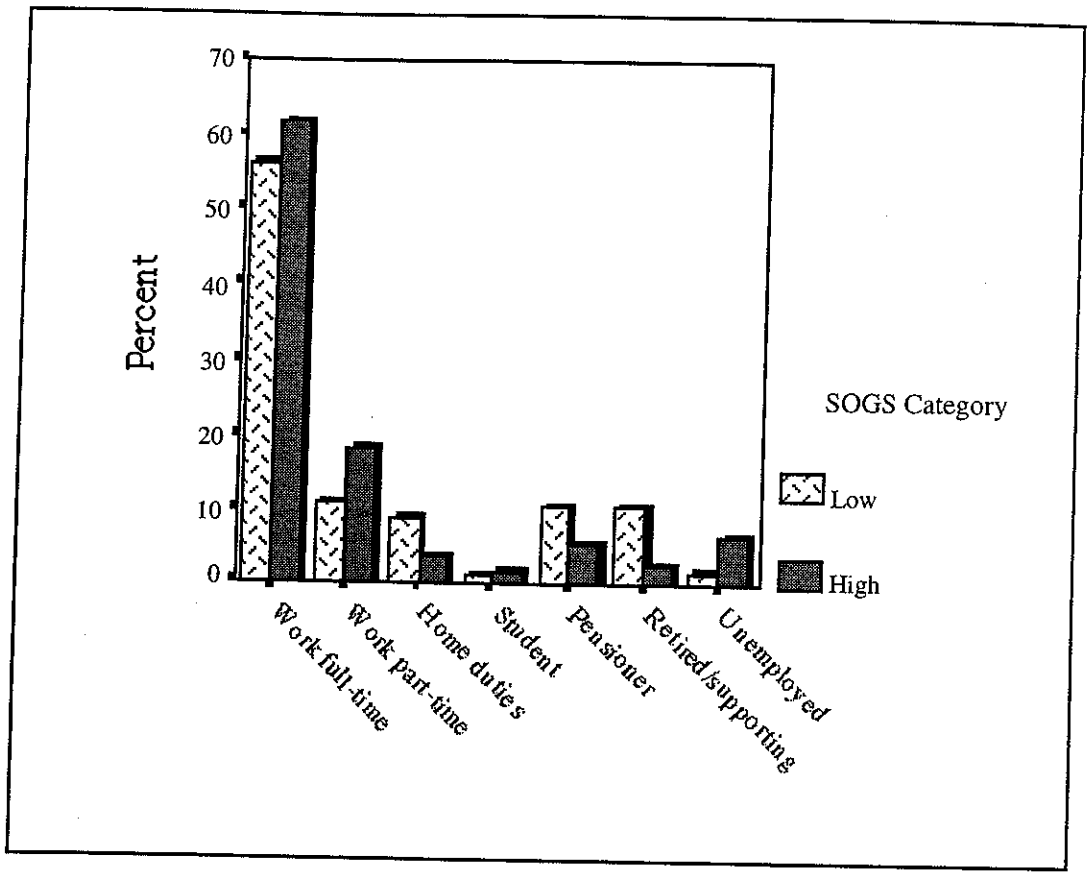
Figure 4
Housing Status by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Work Status by Problem Gambling Category

The chi-square test demonstrates a significant association between work status and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 29.1$; df = 8; $p \leq .001$). Figure 5 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers are working full or part-time or are unemployed. These groups represent 86.4% of problem gamblers, but only 68.6% of the non-problem gamblers. Conversely, lower proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers are pensioners, self-supporting retirees or engaged in home duties.

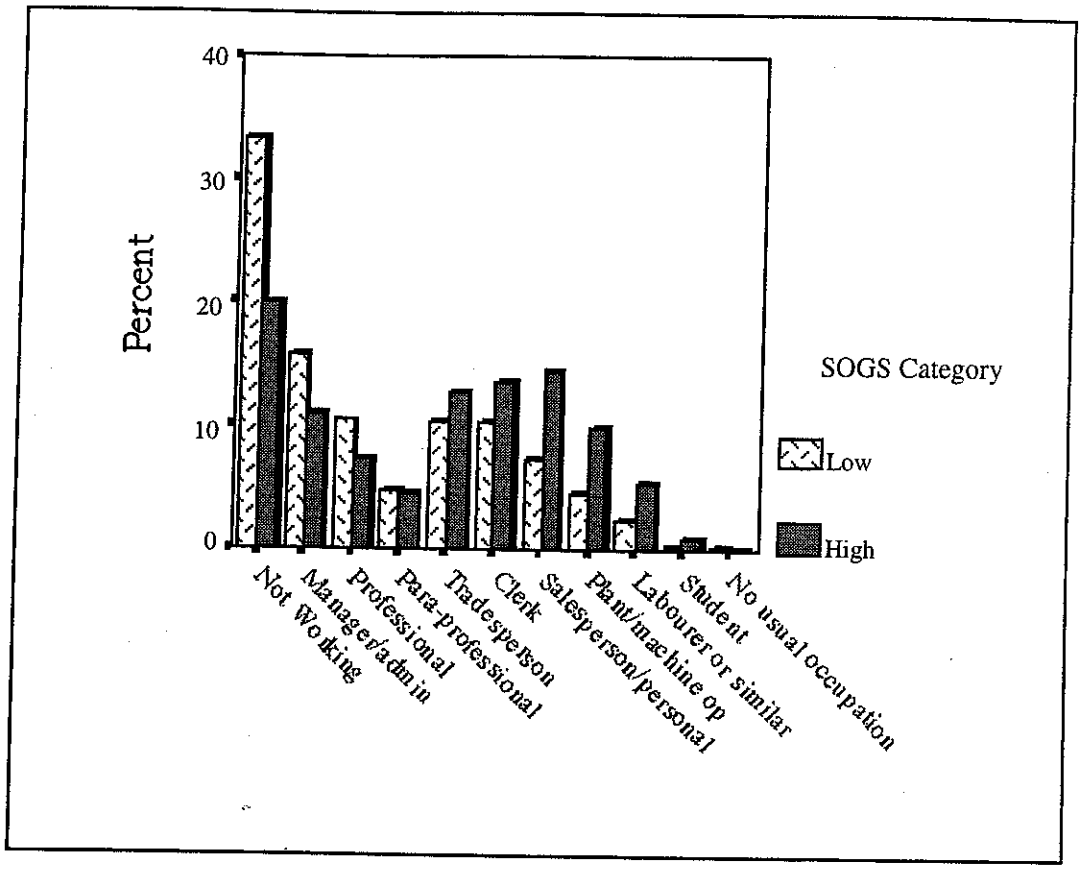
Figure 5
Work Status by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Occupation by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between usual occupation and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 30.3$; df = 12; $p \leq .002$). Figure 6 shows that for higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers, usual occupations are blue collar and lower white collar ones, such as tradespersons, clerks, salesperson/personal service workers, or plant or machinery operators/drivers. People in these occupations represent nearly half (46.3%) of problem gamblers, but only one-third (34.9%) of the non-problem gamblers. In contrast to non-problem gamblers, lower proportions of problem gamblers are managers/administrators, professionals, paraprofessionals or not working.

Figure 6
Occupation by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



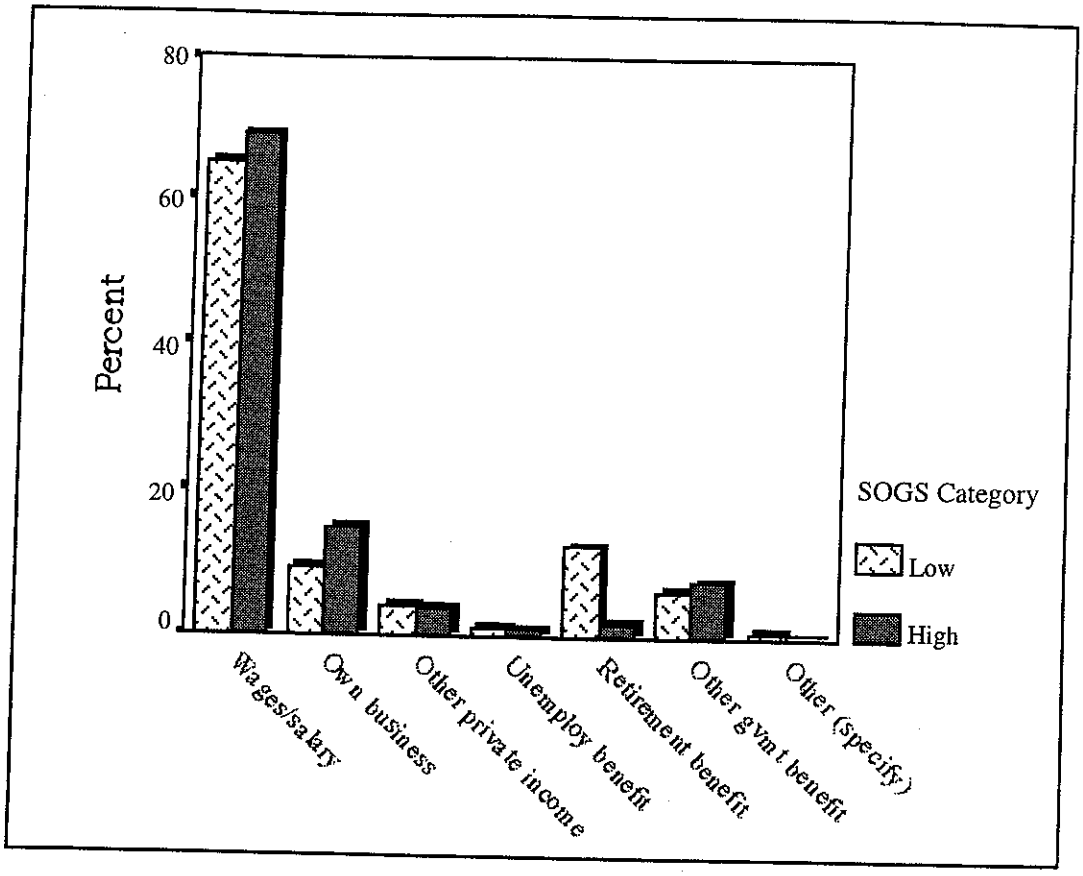
Income by Problem Gambling Category

There are no statistically significant associations between personal annual income or household annual income and problem gambling category.

Main Source of Income by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between the main source of household income and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 16.5$; df = 8; $p \leq .035$). From Figure 7, it is evident that, for higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers, the main sources of household income are wages/salary, their own business or other government benefit. These groups represent 90.9% of problem gamblers, but only 80.4% of the non-problem gamblers. Compared to non-problem gamblers, lower proportions of problem gamblers, source their main household income from retirement benefits and other private income.

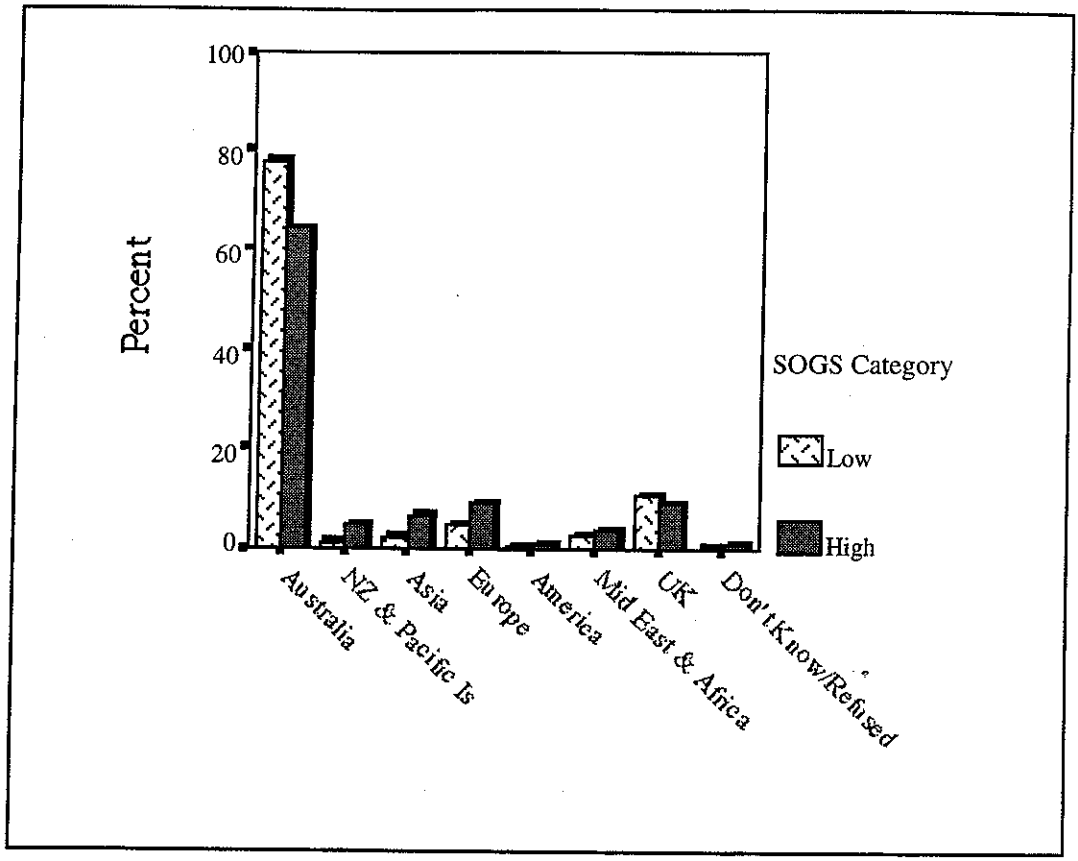
Figure 7
Main Source of Income by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Country of Birth by Problem Gambling Category

A significant association between country of birth and problem gambling category is shown by the chi-square test ($X^2 = 97.6$; df = 26; $p \leq .001$). Because of the small absolute numbers of problem gamblers from the various ethnic backgrounds, it was necessary to further collapse the categories used in Section 5 in order to provide reliable results. Higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers were born in Asia, Europe, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Conversely, lower proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers were born in Australia and the United Kingdom. The results for other countries shown in Figure 8 could not be determined reliably due to the small number of problem gamblers born in these countries.

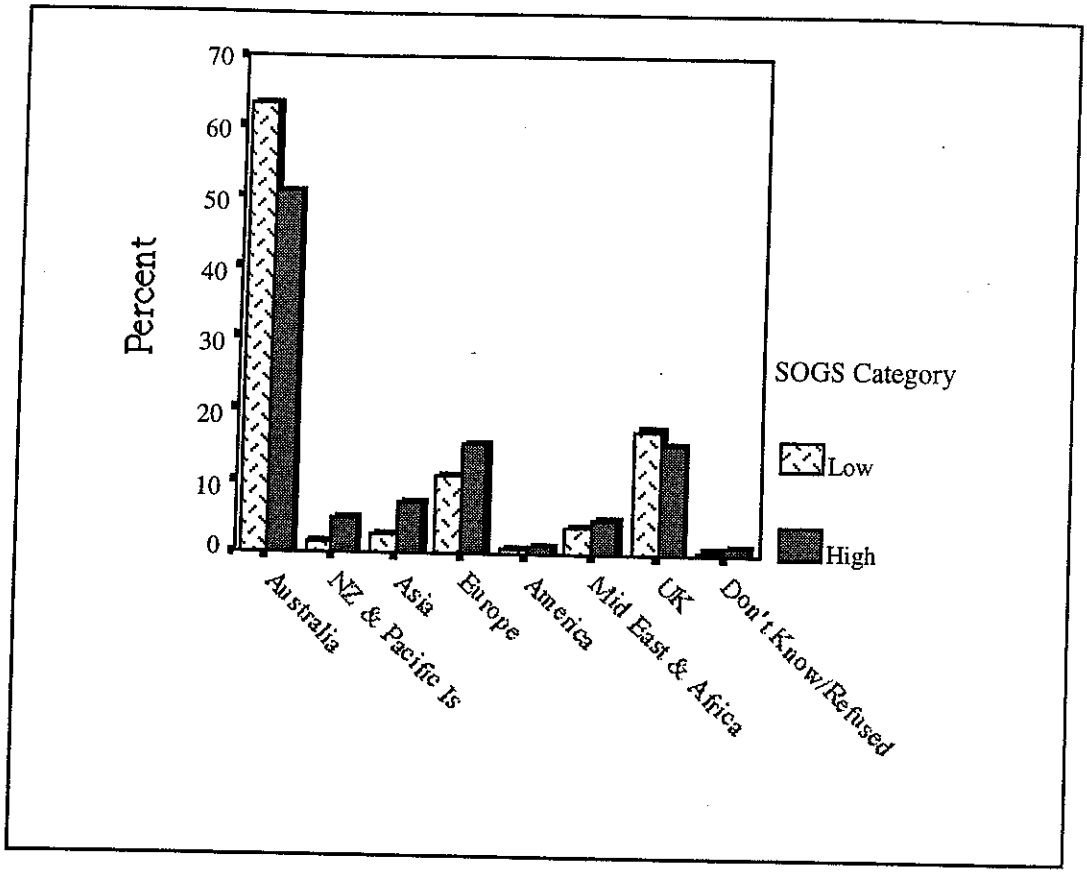
Figure 8
Country of Birth by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Father's Country of Birth by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between father's country of birth and problem gambling category (X^2 = 51.4; df = 29; p ≤ .006). Higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers have fathers born in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Conversely, lower proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers have fathers born in Australia and the United Kingdom. The results for other countries shown in Figure 9 could not be determined reliably due to the small number of problem gamblers with fathers born in these countries.

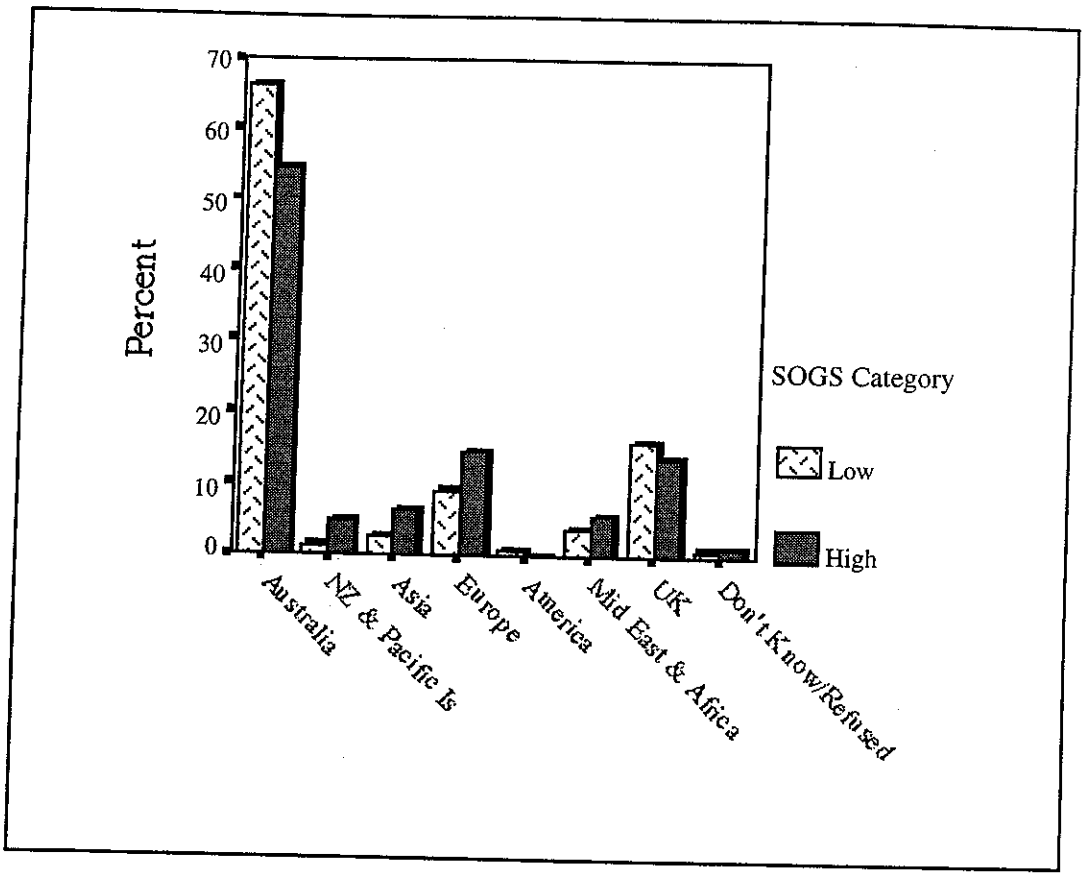
Figure 9
Father's Country of Birth by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Mother's Country of Birth by Problem Gambling Category

The chi-square test indicates that there is a significant association between mother's country of birth and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 65.2$; df = 32; $p \leq .001$). Higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers have mothers born in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Conversely, lower proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers have mothers born in Australia and the United Kingdom. The results for other countries shown in Figure 10 could not be determined reliably due to the small number of problem gamblers with mothers born in these countries.

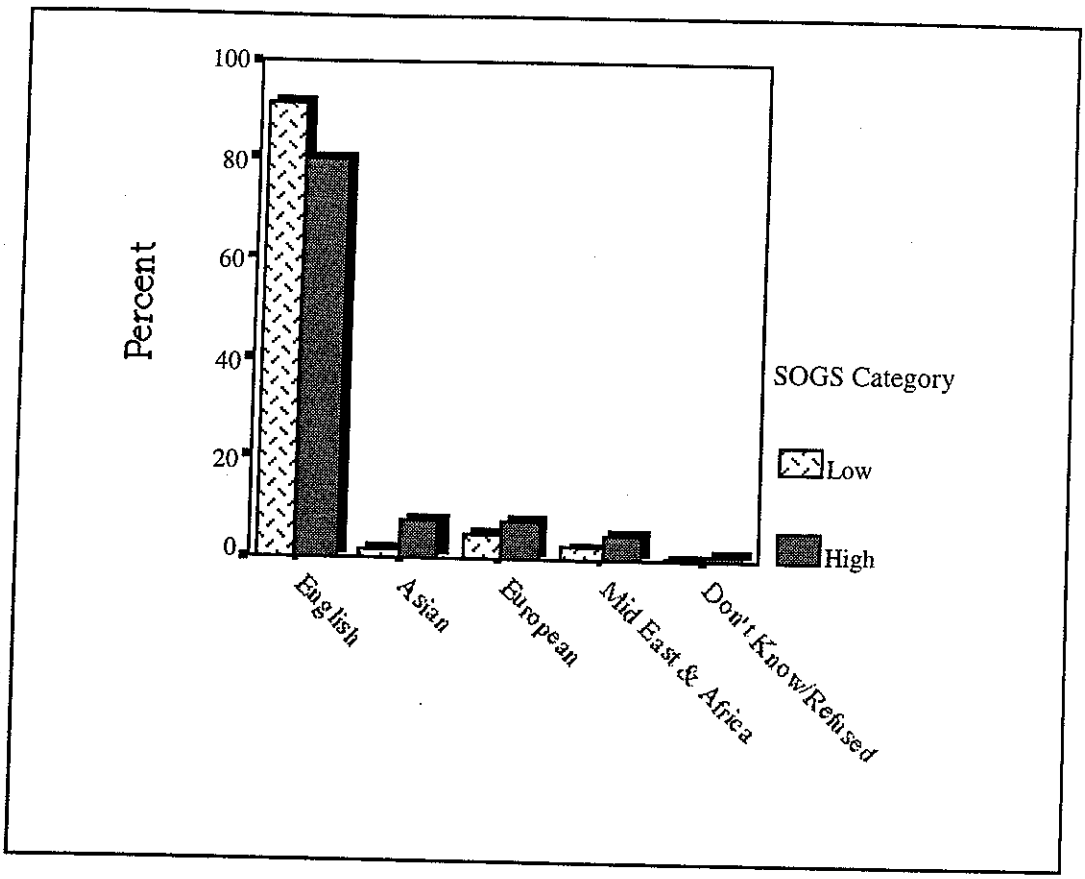
Figure 10
Mother's Country of Birth by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Main Language Other then English by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between main language other than English spoken at home and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 49.1$; df = 18; $p \leq .001$). Higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers speak Asian, European, Middle Eastern and African languages at home as well, or instead of English. Conversely, lower proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers speak only English at home. The results for other countries shown in Figure 11 could not be determined reliably due to the small number of problem gamblers who speak these languages.

Figure 11
Main Language Other than English Spoken at Home by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is no significant association between Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and problem gambling category.

6.5 Club Patronage of Problem and Non-Problem Gamblers

This section provides a comparison of club patronage and participation in club-based activities between the 2,320 non-problem and 110 probable problem gamblers amongst the 2,430 gamblers in the sample of club members.

Cross-tabulation and chi-square tests have been used to identify statistically significant relationships between the dependent variable, problem gambling category (non-problem and probable problem gambler) and each of the independent variables (each of the variables relating to club patronage and participation in club-based activities).

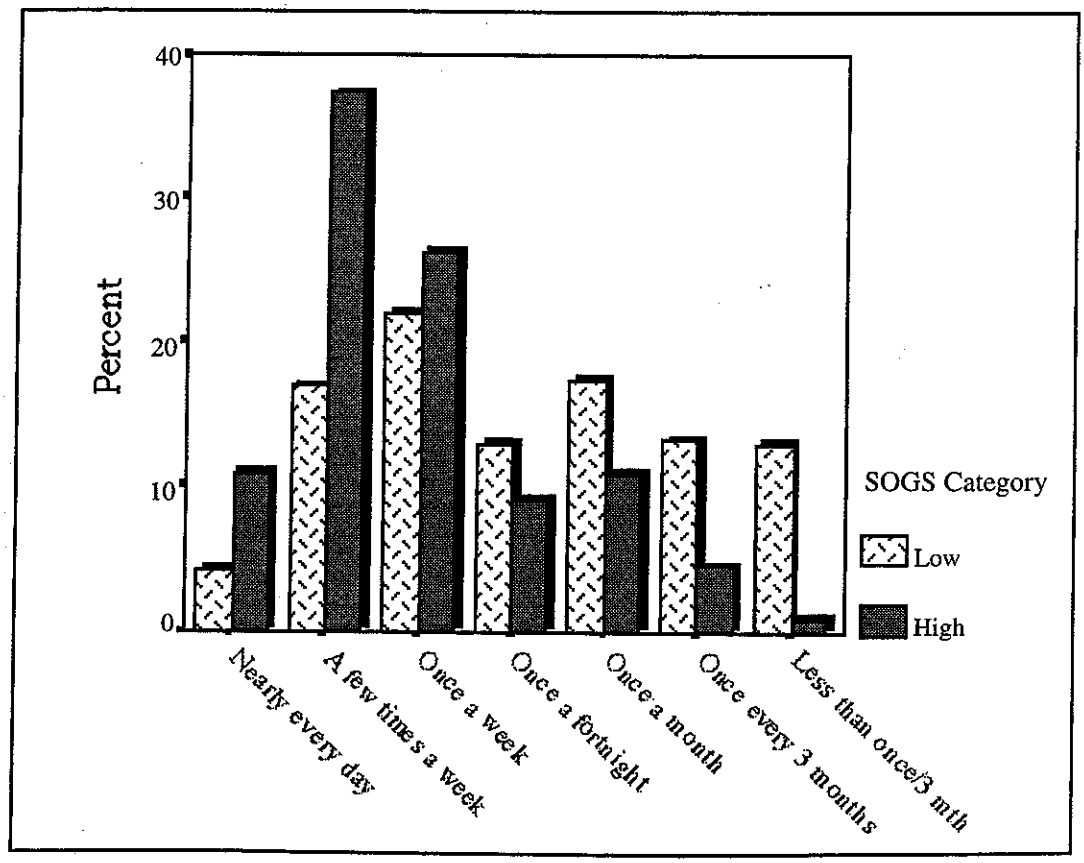
Number of Club Memberships by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test shows no significant relationship between the number of club memberships and problem gambling category.

Frequency of Club Patronage by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between frequency of club patronage and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 57.5$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$). Figure 12 shows that nearly one-half (48.2%) of problem gamblers patronise a club at least a couple of times a week, and that three-quarters (74.6%) patronise a club at least once a week. However, only about one-fifth (21.3%) of non-problem gamblers patronise a club at least a couple of times a week and two-fifths (43.3%) at least once a week.

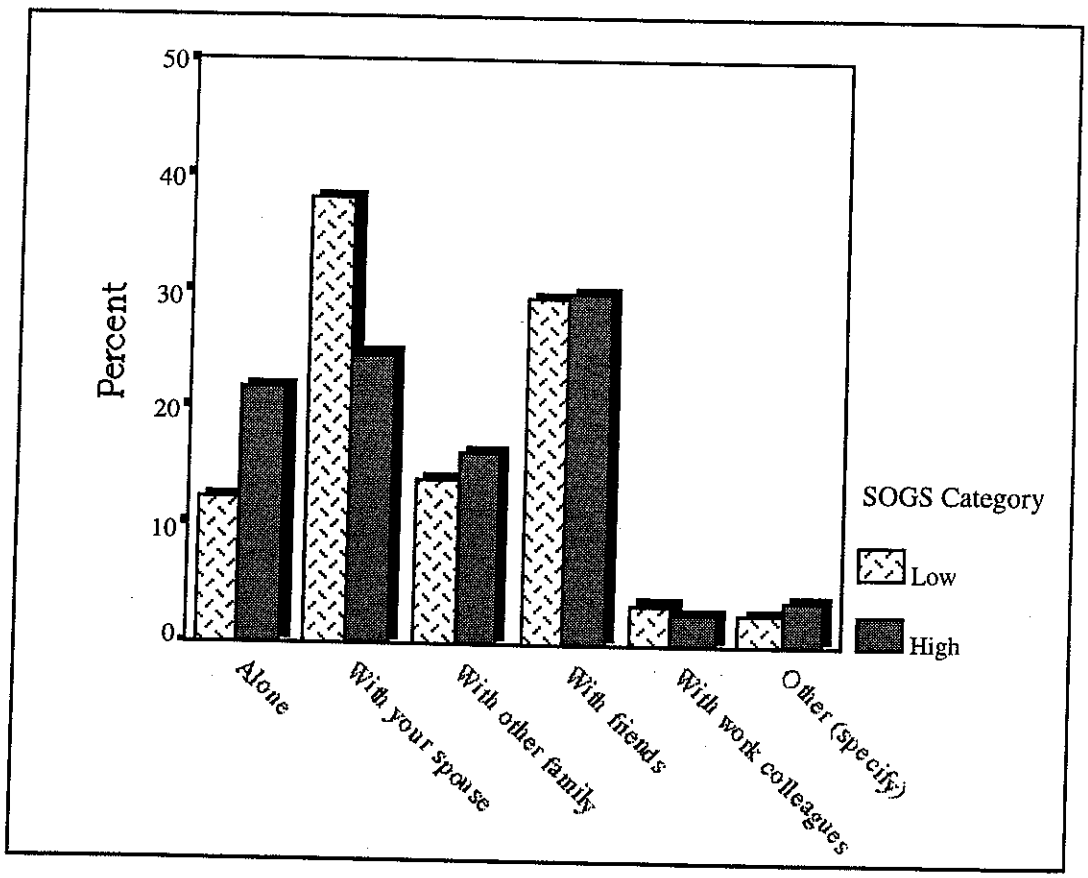
Figure 12
Frequency of Club Patronage by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Company Usually Attend Club With by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between the company the respondent usually attends a club with and problem gambling category (X^2 = 23.2; df = 6; $p \leq .001$). Figure 13 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers usually attend a club alone, with other family members or with friends. These groups represent two-thirds (68.2%) of problem gamblers, but only half (55.7%)% of the non-problem gamblers. In contrast, lower proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers usually attend a club with their spouse.

Figure 13
Company Usually Attend Club With by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



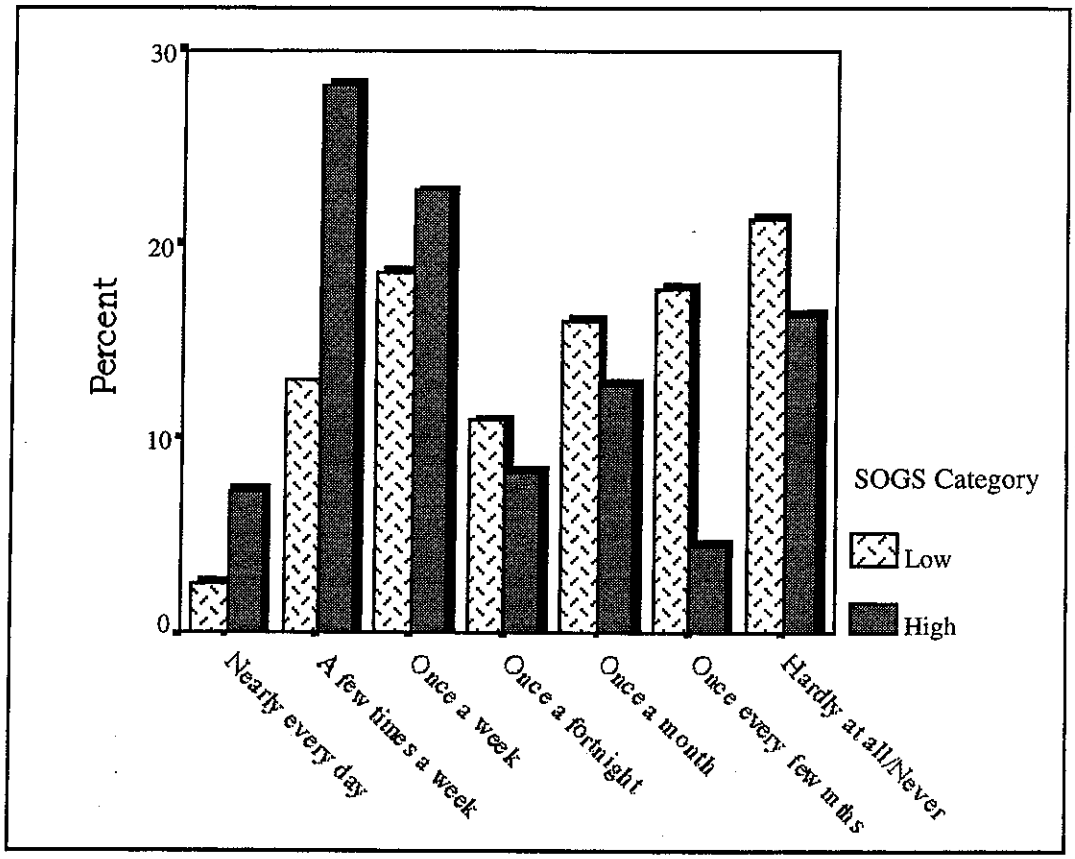
Frequency of Club Meals by Problem Gambling Category

There is no statistically significant association between the frequency of having meals at a club and problem gambling category.

Frequency of Club Drinks by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant relationship between the frequency of drinking at a club and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 41.0$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$). Figure 14 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers usually drink at a club at least once a week. Those who drink at a club at least once a week represent over half (58.2%) of problem gamblers, but only one-third (33.9%) of non-problem gamblers.

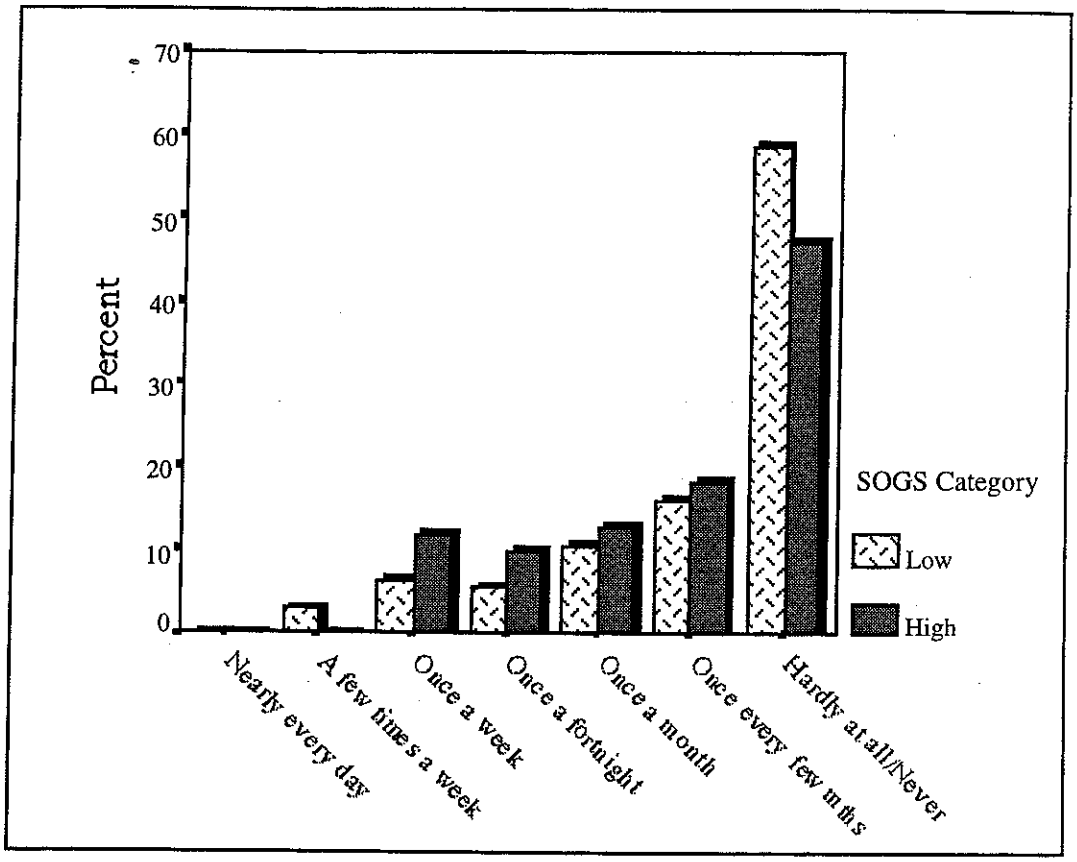
Figure 14
Frequency of Club Drinks by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Frequency of Club Entertainment by Problem Gambling Category

A significant association between the frequency of going to entertainment at a club and problem gambling category is demonstrated by the chi-square test ($X^2 = 15.4$; df = 7; $p \leq .031$). Figure 15 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers usually attend entertainment at a club once a week, once a fortnight, once a month and once every few months. Conversely, lower proportions of problem gamblers (47.3%) than non-problem gamblers (58.5%) hardly or never attend club entertainment

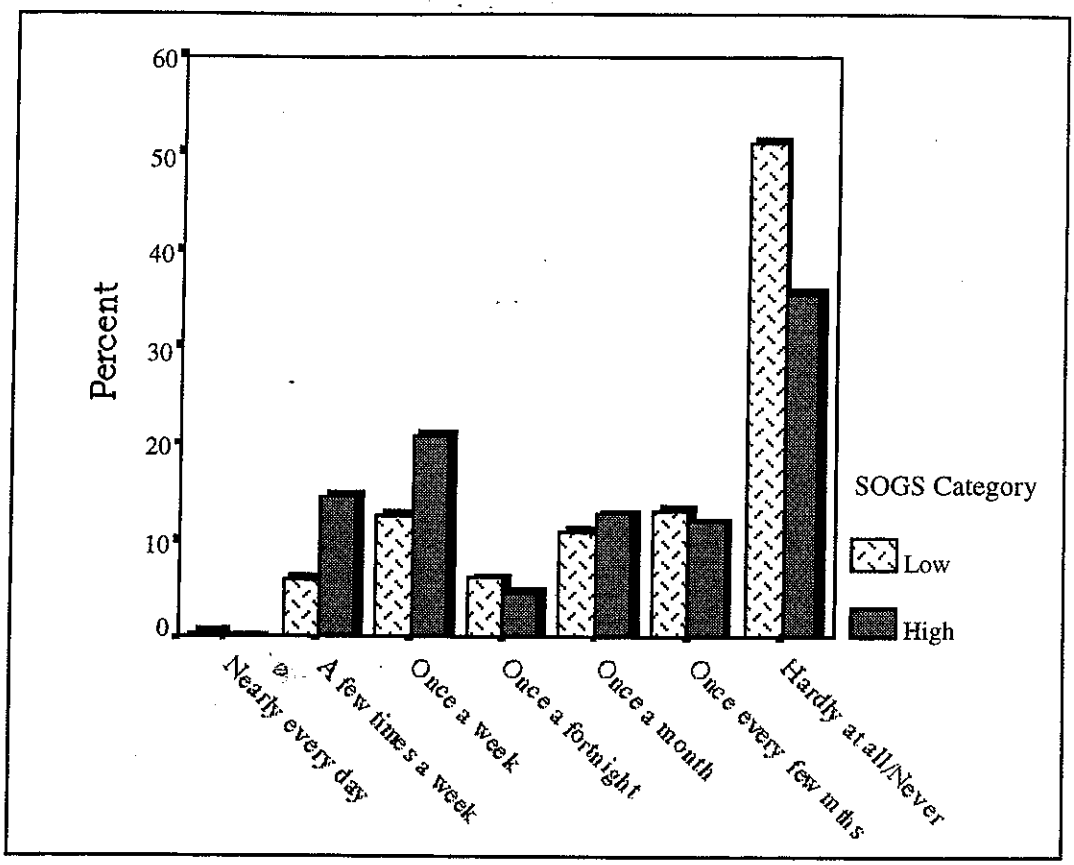
Figure 15
Frequency of Club Entertainment by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Frequency of Club Raffles by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between the frequency of participating in raffles at a club and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 25.2$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$). Figure 16 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers usually participate in raffles at a club once or twice a week or once a month. Conversely, lower proportions of problem gamblers (35.5%) than non-problem gamblers (50.9%) hardly or never participate in club raffles.

Figure 16
Frequency of Club Raffles by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



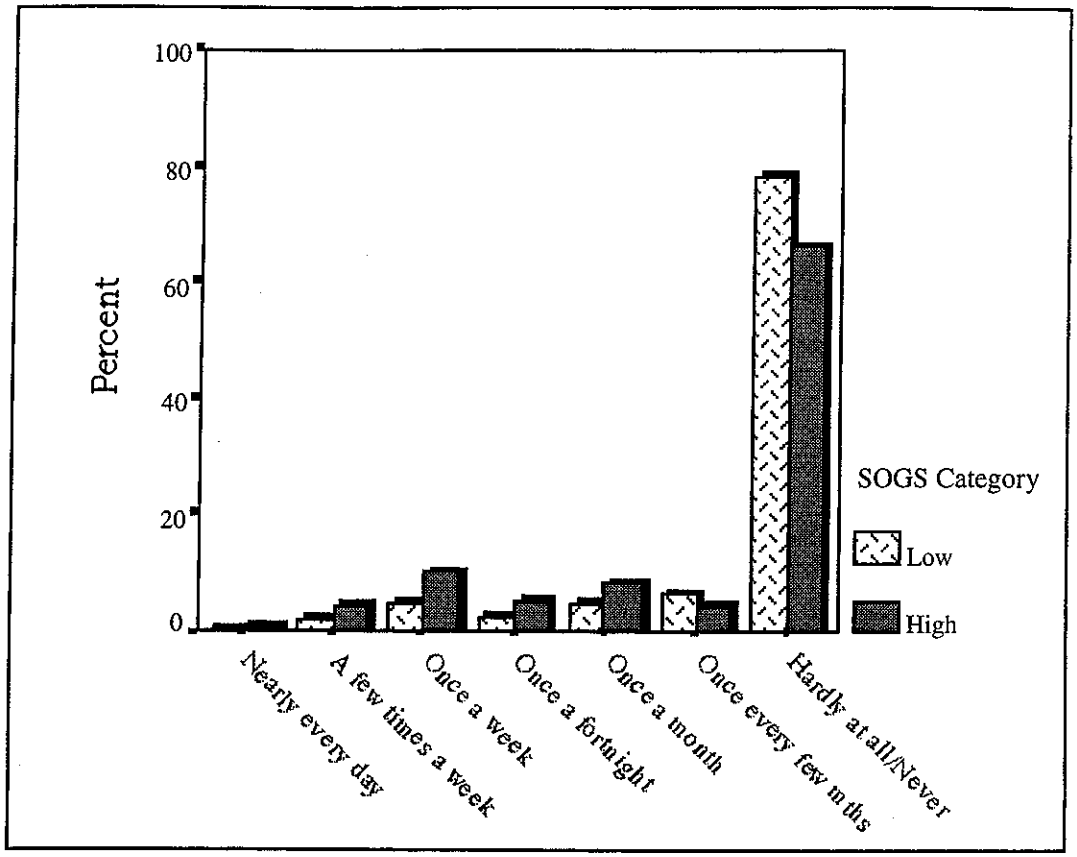
Frequency of Club Outdoor Sport by Problem Gambling Category

There is no statistically significant association between the frequency of participation in outdoor sport at a club and problem gambling category.

Frequency of Club Indoor Sport by Problem Gambling Category

A significant association is shown by the chi-square test between the frequency of participating in indoor sport at a club and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 16.5$; df = 7; $p \leq .021$). Figure 17 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers usually participate in indoor sport at a club at least once a month. These participants represent 29.1% of problem gamblers, but only 15% of non-problem gamblers. Conversely, those who hardly or never participate in indoor sport at a club represent about two-thirds (66.4%) of problem gamblers, but more than three-quarters (78.5%) of non-problem gamblers.

Figure 17
Frequency of Club Indoor Sport by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Frequency of Club Meetings by Problem Gambling Category

There is no statistically significant relationship between the frequency of participation in meetings at a club and problem gambling category.

6.6 Leisure Activities of Problem and Non-Problem Gamblers

Table 17 shows the most preferred leisure activities of non-problem and probable problem gamblers amongst the 2,430 gamblers in the sample. Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between leisure preferences and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 96.7$; df = 12; $p \leq .001$).

Gambling was the most preferred leisure activity for nearly one-fifth (19.1%) of problem gamblers. When compared with non-problem gamblers, higher proportions of problem gamblers also prefer indoor sport or exercise, going to watch sporting events, drinking, or dining out, whereas lower proportions prefer outdoor sport or exercise and holiday travel/pleasure driving, relaxing at home or socialising.

Table 17
Favourite Leisure Activities by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers

Non-Problem Gamblers N=2320	%	Problem Gamblers N=110	%
Outdoor sport or exercise	23.9	Gambling	19.1
Relaxing at home	16.3	Relaxing at home	14.5
Holiday travel/pleasure driving	14.7	Outdoor sport or exercise	13.6
Socialising	8.0	Holiday travel/pleasure driving	9.1
Dining out	7.0	Indoor sport or exercise	8.2
Hobbies/arts/crafts	6.6	Dining out	7.3
Visiting entertainment	5.5	Going to watch sporting events	6.4
Going to watch sporting events	5.1	Socialising	5.5
Indoor sport or exercise	4.0	Visiting entertainment	5.5
Shopping	3.4	Drinking	4.5
Gambling	2.8	Shopping	-
Drinking	2.7	Hobbies/arts/crafts	-

*** Differences between groups significant at $p \leq .001$

6.7 Gambling Activities of Problem and Non-Problem Gamblers

This section focuses on the gambling preferences of the 2,430 gamblers in the sample and their participation rates in the major forms of gambling. (It should be noted that no results are reported here for gambling activities in which less than 5% of the sample participate, namely non-club bingo and casino keno.)

Cross-tabulation and chi-square tests have been used to identify statistically significant relationships between the dependent variable, problem gambling category (non-problem and probable problem gamblers) and each of the independent variables (each of the gambling activities).

Gambling Preferences

Table 18 shows the most preferred gambling activities of non-problem and problem gamblers amongst the 2,430 gamblers in the sample. Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between gambling preferences and problem gambling category (X^2 = 84.7; df = 11; $p \leq .001$).

Club poker machines are the most preferred gambling activity for two-fifths (40.9%) of problem gamblers, while about one-sixth (16.4%) prefer either TAB betting or Lotto-type games. When compared with non-problem gamblers, higher proportions of problem gamblers prefer continuous forms of gambling, comprising club poker machines, TAB betting, on-course betting, casino poker machines, casino table games, hotel gaming machines and private gambling. Lower proportions prefer Lotto-type games, bingo and keno, which are either non-continuous or minor forms of gambling.

Table 18
Favourite Gambling Activities by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers

Non-Problem Gamblers N=2320	%	Problem Gamblers N=110	%
Lotto/instant lottery/lottery/pools	52.6	Club poker machines	40.9
Club poker machines	18.9	TAB betting	16.4
TAB betting	8.9	Lotto/instant lottery/lottery/pools	16.4
Club keno	5.7	On-course betting	8.2
On-course betting	4.5	Casino table games	6.4
Bingo	4.3	Club keno	5.5
Casino table games	3.4	Private gambling	-
Hotel gaming machines	0.7	Casino poker machines	-
Private gambling	0.5	Bingo	-
Casino poker machines	0.3	Hotel gaming machines	-
Casino keno	-	Casino keno	-

*** Differences between groups significant at $p \leq .001$

Frequency of Lotto-Type Gambling by Problem Gambling Category

There is no statistically significant association between frequency of participation in Lotto/instant lottery/lottery/pools and problem gambling category.

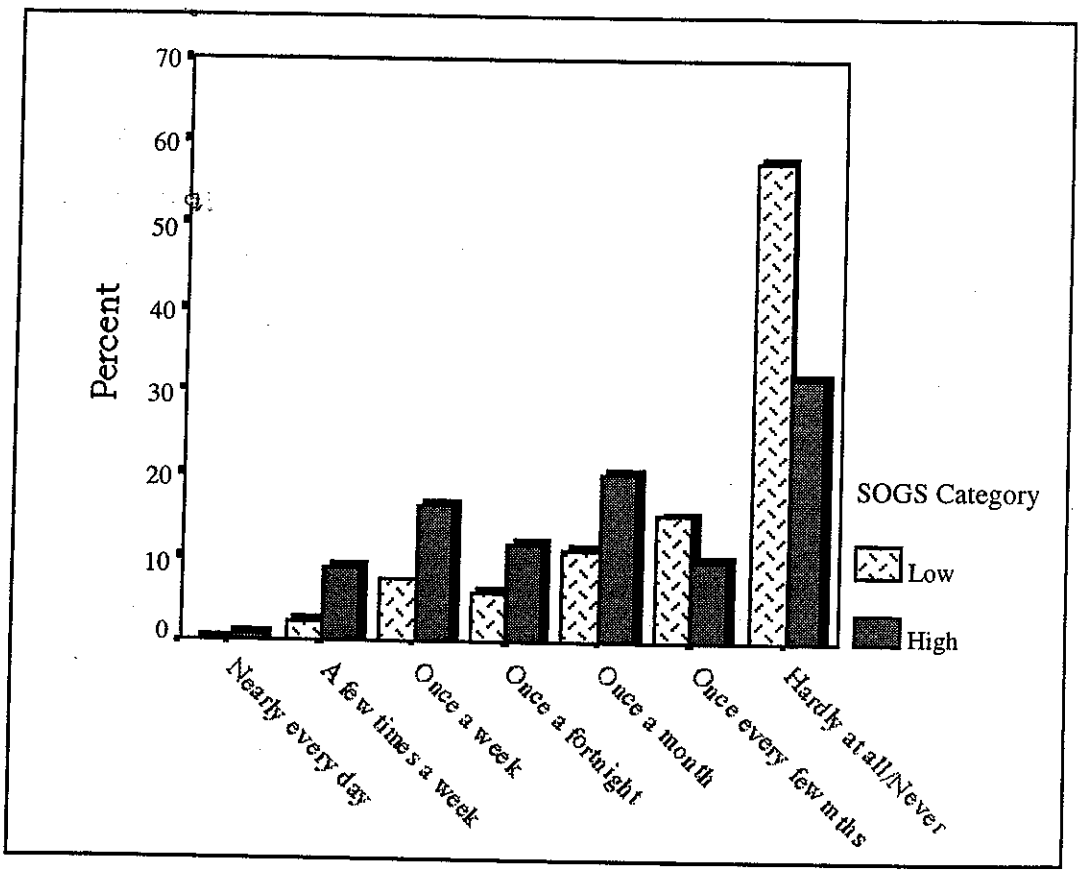
Frequency of Club Bingo Gambling by Problem Gambling Category

There is also no statistically significant relationship between frequency of participation in club bingo and problem gambling category.

Frequency of Club Keno Gambling by Problem Gambling Category

The chi-square test demonstrates a significant association between the frequency of participating in club keno and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 55.7$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$). Figure 18 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers usually participate in club keno at least once a month. People who play keno at least monthly represent over half (58.2%) of problem gamblers, but only one-quarter (27.3%) of non-problem gamblers. Conversely, lower proportions of problem gamblers (31.8%) than non-problem gamblers (57.6%) hardly or never participate in club keno.

Figure 18
Frequency of Gambling on Club Keno by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers

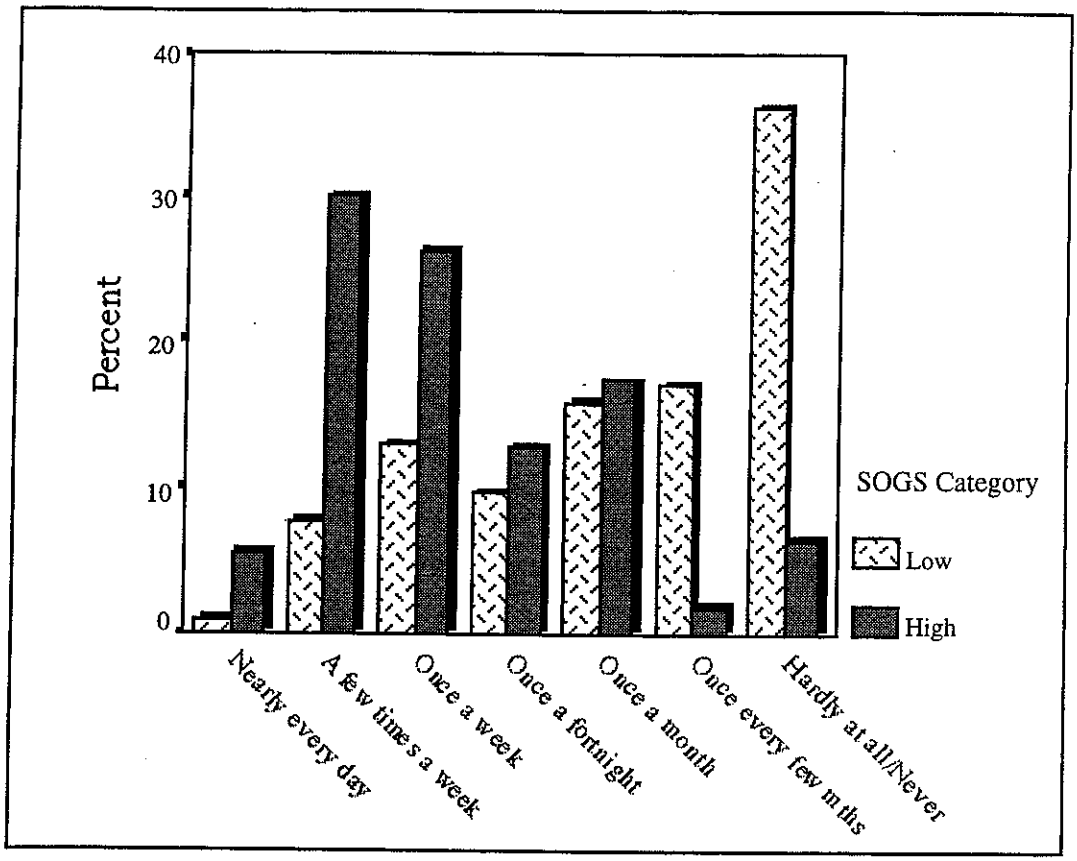


Frequency of Club Poker Machine Gambling by Problem Gambling Category

A significant association between the frequency of club poker machine gambling and problem gambling category is shown by the chi-square test ($X^2 = 136.2$; df = 6; $p \leq .001$). Figure 19 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers usually play club poker machines at least once a month. Over one-third (35.5%) of problem gamblers play club poker machines at least a couple of times a week, while a further quarter (26.4%) play once a week. In contrast, only 8.5% of non-problem gamblers play club poker machines at

least a couple of times a week, while a further 12.9% play once a week. At the other end of the spectrum, one-third (36.2%) of non-problem gamblers, but only 6.4% of problem gamblers hardly or never play club poker machines.

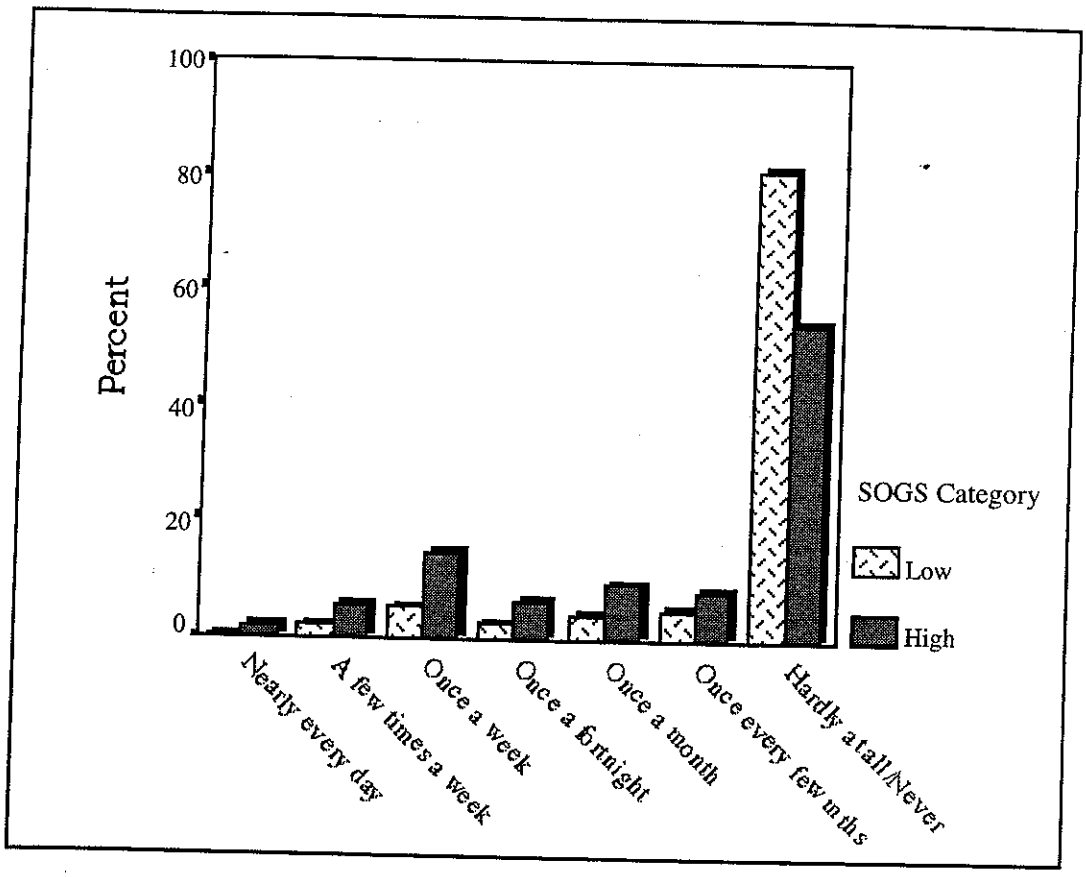
Figure 19
Frequency of Gambling on Club Poker Machines by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Frequency of Club TAB Gambling by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate a significant association between the frequency of betting at the TAB at a club and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 52.2$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$). Figure 20 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers usually bet at a club TAB at least once every few months. About one-fifth (21.8%) of problem gamblers bet at a club TAB at least once a week, while over one-third (37.3%) do so at least monthly. Conversely, only 7.4% of non-problem gamblers bet at a club TAB at least once a week, while 14.1% do so at least monthly Only 54.5% of problem gamblers hardly or never bet at a club TAB compared to 80.9% of non-problem gamblers.

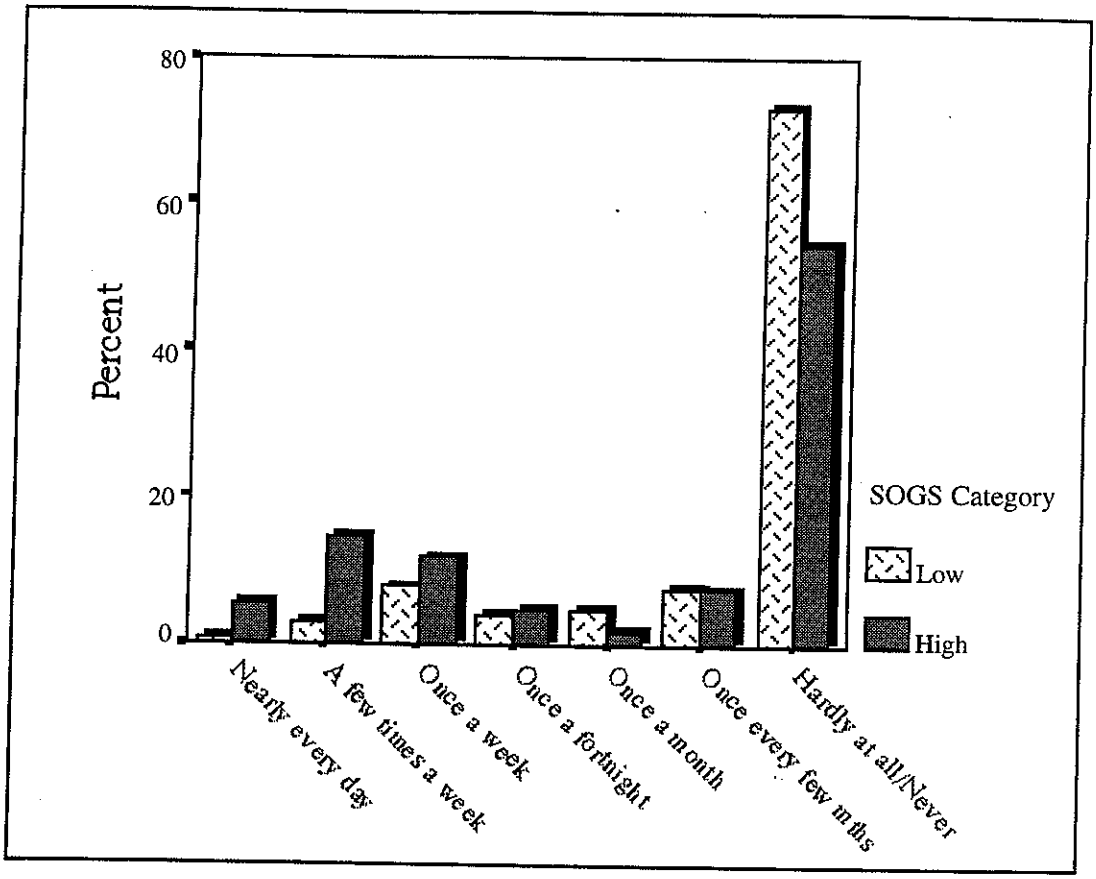
Figure 20
Frequency of Gambling at Club TAB by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Frequency of Other TAB Gambling by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between the frequency of betting on the TAB away from a club and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 78.3$; df = 6; $p \leq .001$). Figure 21 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers usually bet at a non-club TAB at least once a fortnight. About one-third (31.8%) of problem gamblers bet at non-club TAB at least a once a week, while 38.1% do so at least monthly. Conversely, only 11.1% of non-problem gamblers bet at non-club TAB at least once a week, while 19.5% do so at least monthly Only 54.5% of problem gamblers hardly or never bet at a non-club TAB compared to 72.9% of non-problem gamblers.

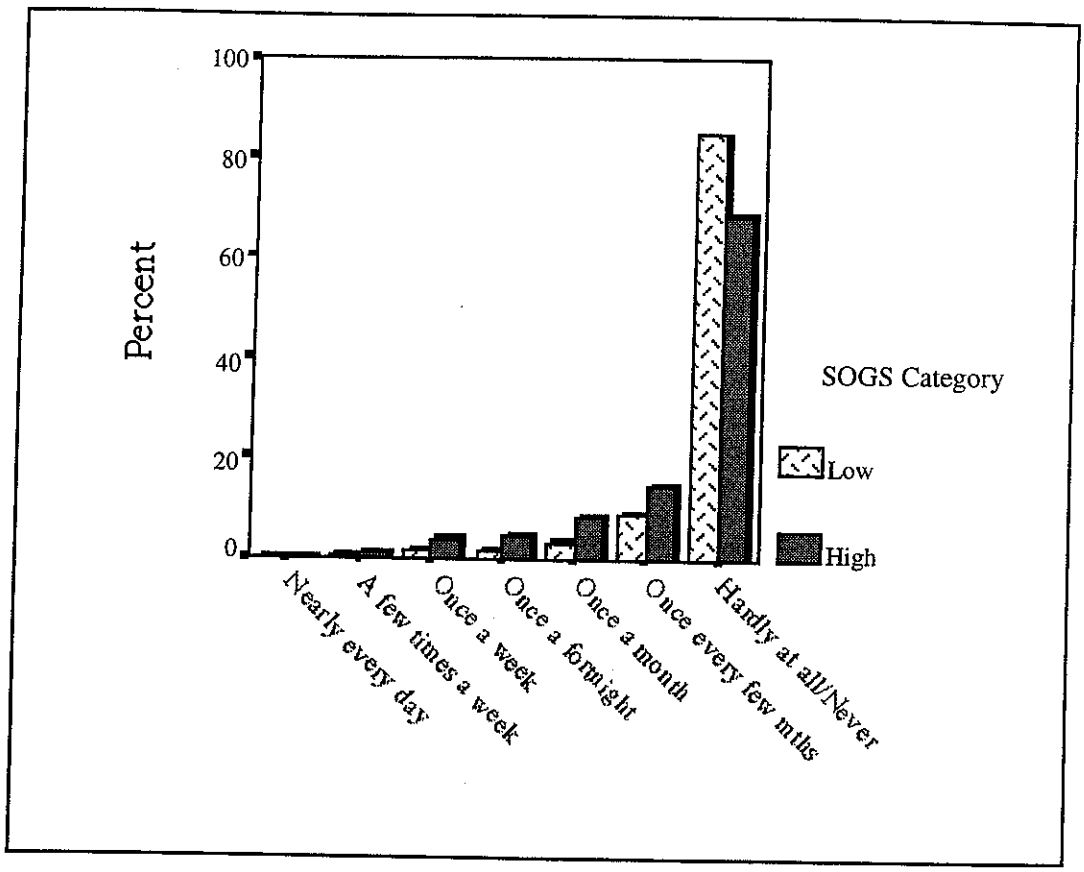
Figure 21
Frequency of Gambling at a Non-Club TAB by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Frequency of On-Course Gambling by Problem Gambling Category

The frequency of on-course betting and problem gambling category are significantly associated, as shown by the chi-square test ($X^2 = 24.1$; df = 6; $p \leq .001$). Figure 22 illustrates that higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers usually bet at the track at least fortnightly. 17.2% of problem gamblers bet at the track at least monthly, compared to 6.7% of non-problem gamblers. About two-thirds (68.2%) of problem gamblers hardly or never bet at the track compared to 84.5% of non-problem gamblers.

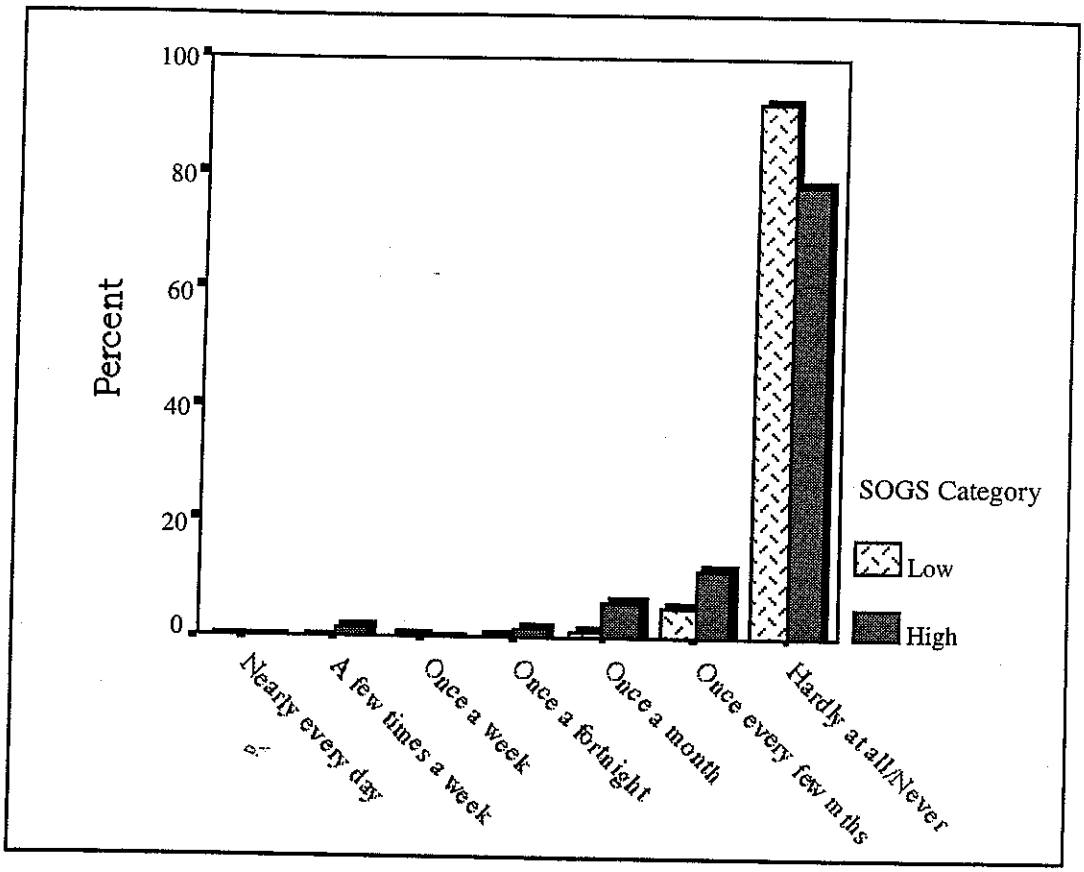
Figure 22
Frequency of On-Course Betting by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Frequency of Casino Poker Machine Gambling by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between the frequency of playing poker machines at a casino and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 44.3$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$). Figure 23 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers usually play poker machines at a casino at least once every few months. 10% of problem gamblers play poker machines at a casino at least a once a month, compared to 2.4% of non-problem gamblers. 78.2% of problem gamblers hardly or never play poker machines at a casino compared to 92.2% of non-problem gamblers.

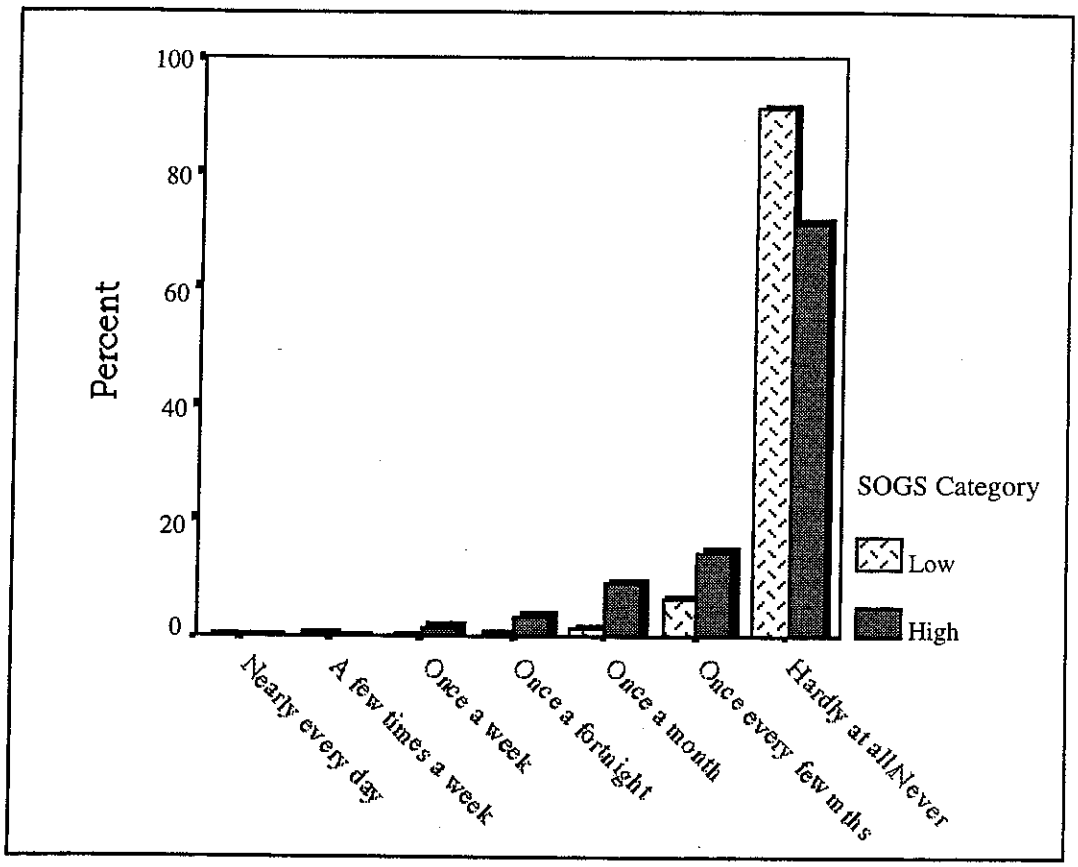
Figure 23
Frequency of Gambling on Casino Poker Machines by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Frequency of Gambling on Casino Table Games by Problem Gambling Category

There is a statistically significant association between the frequency of playing table games at a casino and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 79.3$; df = 6; $p \leq .001$). Figure 24 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers usually play table games at a casino at least once every few months. 14.5% of problem gamblers play table games at a casino at least a once a month, compared to 2.4% of non-problem gamblers. 70.9% of problem gamblers hardly or never play poker machines at a casino compared to 91.1% of non-problem gamblers.

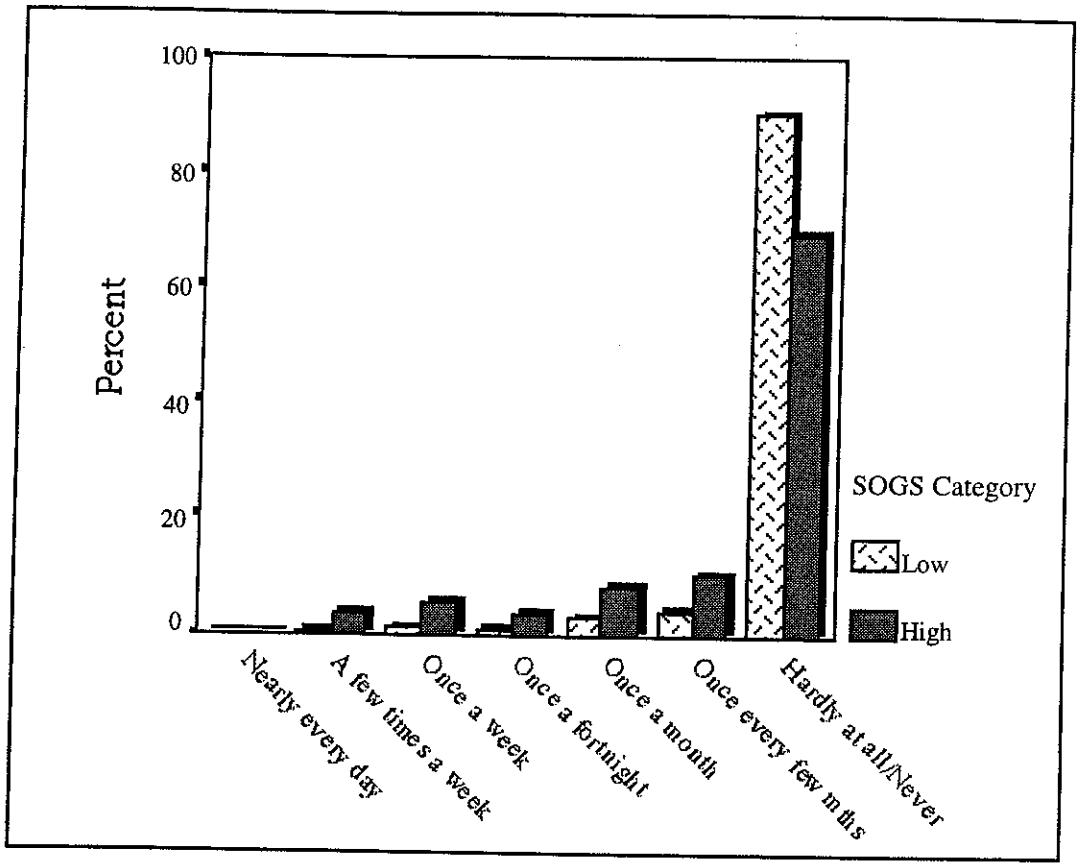
Figure 24
Frequency of Gambling on Casino Table Games by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Frequency of Hotel Machine Gambling by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between the frequency of playing hotel gaming machines and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 58.2$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$). Figure 25 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers usually play hotel gaming machines at least once every few months. About one-fifth (20.9%) of problem gamblers play hotel gaming machines at least a once a month, compared to 5.7% of non-problem gamblers. 69.1% of problem gamblers hardly or never play hotel gaming machines compared to 90.1% of non-problem gamblers.

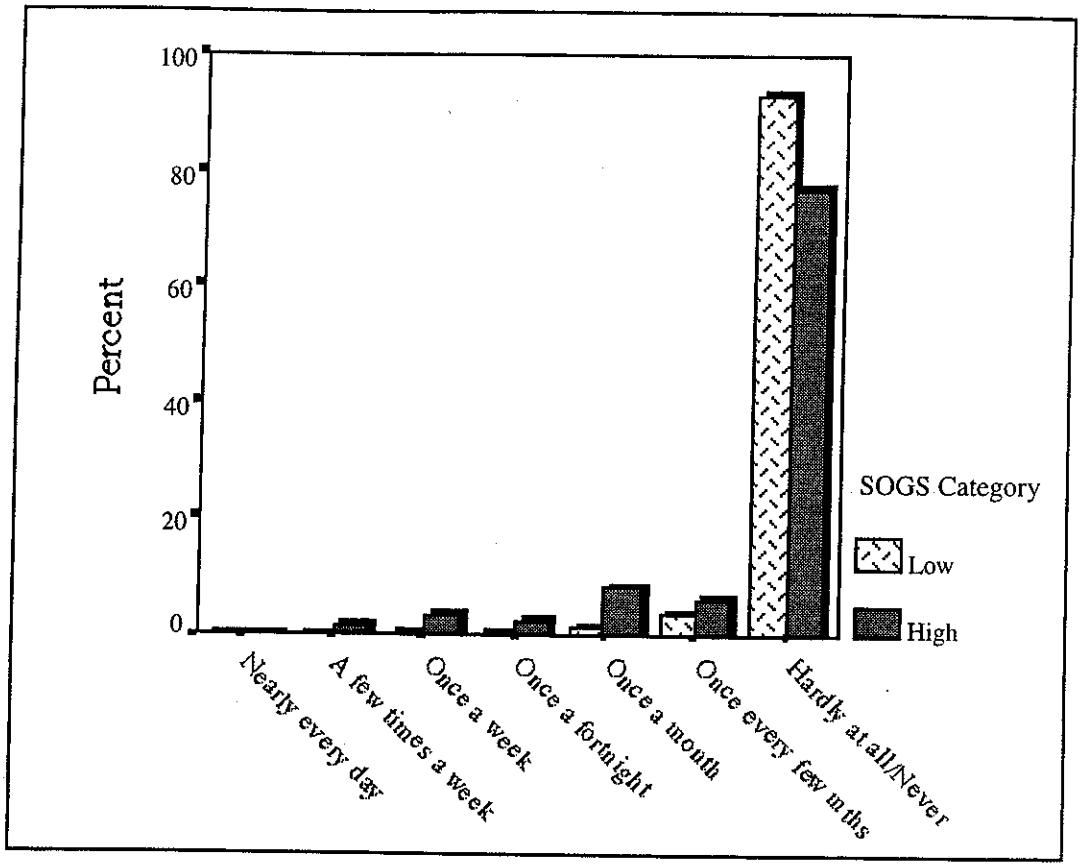
Figure 25
Frequency of Gambling on Hotel Gaming Machines by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Frequency of Private Gambling by Problem Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between the frequency of private gambling and problem gambling category ($X^2 = 56.6$; df = 7; $p \leq .001$). Figure 26 shows that higher proportions of problem gamblers than non-problem gamblers usually gamble privately at least once every few months. 16.3% of problem gamblers gamble privately at least a once a month, compared to 3.1% of non-problem gamblers. About three-quarters (77.3%) of problem gamblers hardly or never gamble privately compared to 93% of non-problem gamblers.

Figure 26
Frequency of Private Gambling by Problem Gambling Category for All Gamblers



Section Seven

Characteristics of Poker Machine Players Amongst Club Members

This section presents the survey results for the 1,879 club members who play poker machines (62.6% of all club members surveyed and 77.3% of all respondents who gamble). Their poker machine playing behaviours are firstly described, including their usual venue, who they generally play the machines with, their main reasons for playing, their use of certain player options, time and money spent on poker machines, likely expenditure of jackpots and belief in the importance of chance and skill in winning on poker machines. This is followed by an examination of the current prevalence of problem gambling related specifically to poker machine playing in this sub-sample and the types of poker machine gambling-related problems experienced in the last six months. The sub-sample is then divided into problem and non-problem machine gamblers and differences identified in their socio-demographic characteristics, club patronage, participation in club-based activities, leisure preferences, gambling activities and poker machine playing behaviours.

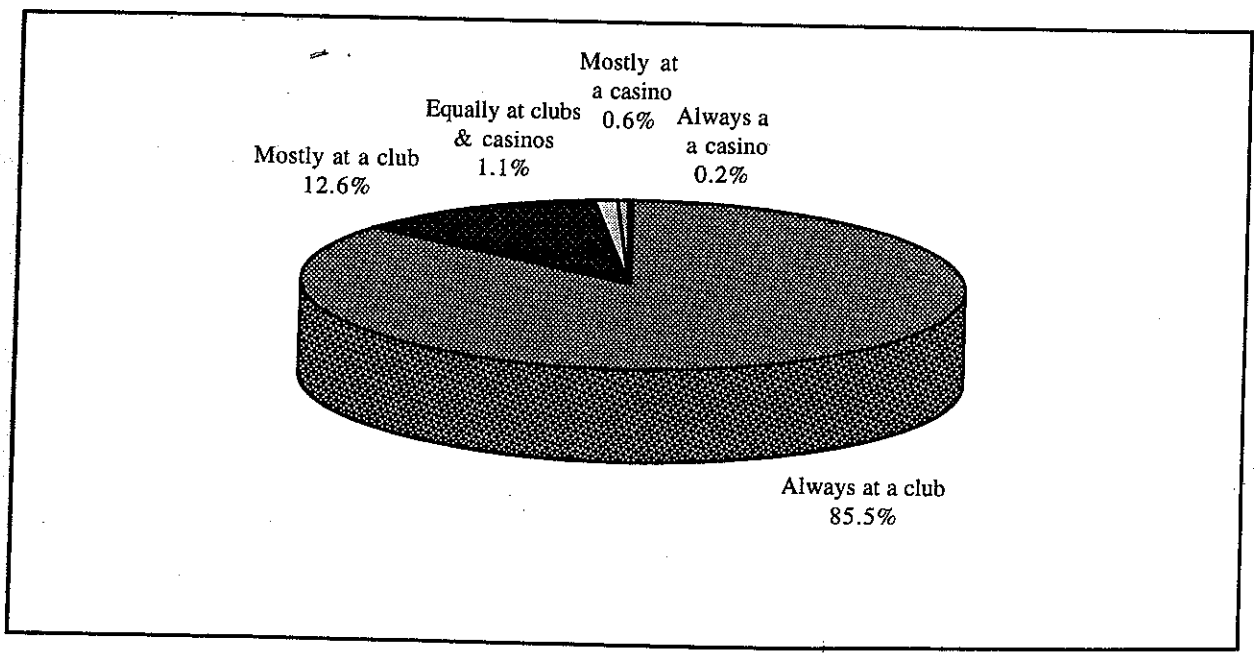
7.1 Poker Machine Playing Behaviour Amongst All Players

Tables 19 and 20, and Figures 27 to 36 show the poker machine playing behaviours of the 1,879 poker machine players in the sample.

Usual Venue for Poker Machine Players

As shown in Figure 27, of the 1,879 poker machine players in the sample, the vast majority (98.1%) always or mostly play them at a club. Only 0.8% of poker machine players mostly or always play the machines at a casino.

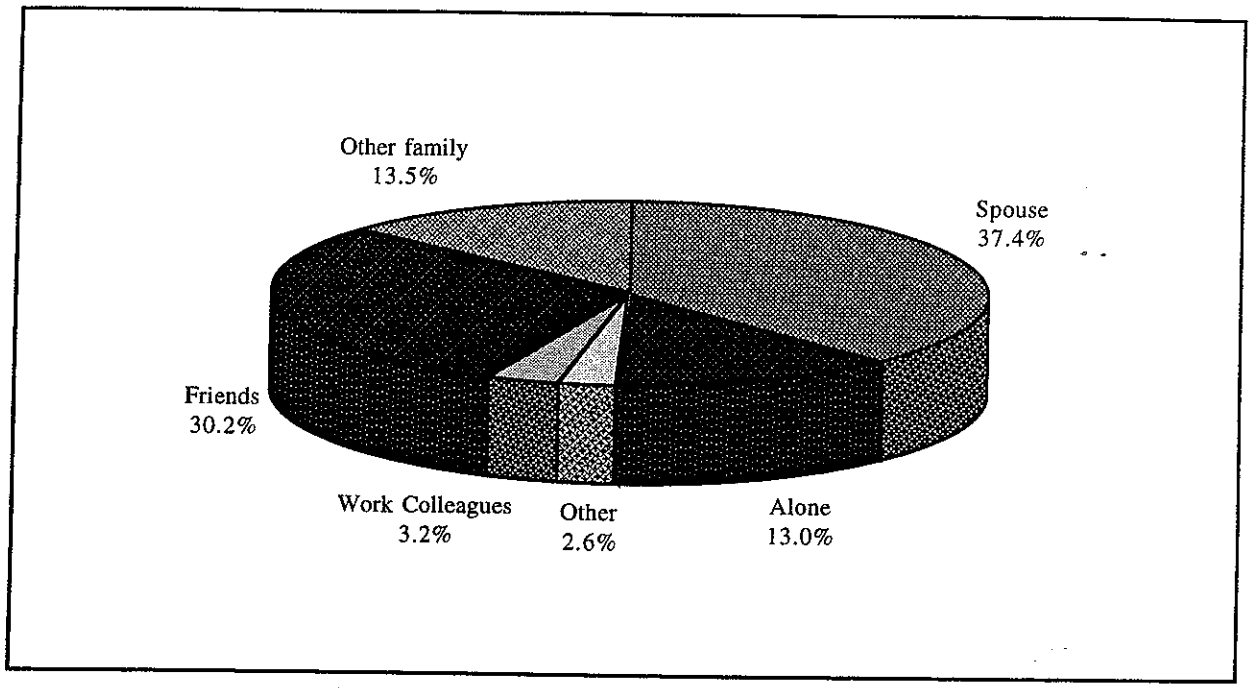
Figure 27
Usual Venue for Poker Machine Players



Usual Company for Poker Machine Players

Figure 28 shows the usual company the 1,879 poker machine players in the sample play poker machines with. The majority of poker machine gamblers generally play the machines with either their spouse (33.3%) or with friends (29.1%), although about one-quarter (26.2%) usually play the machines alone.

Figure 28
Usual Company for Poker Machine Players



Main Reasons for Playing Poker Machines

Table 19 shows the main reasons given by poker machine gamblers for playing poker machines. For over two-thirds (68.4%) of players, entertainment/social-related reasons are most important, including recreation/hobby/amusement/fun, social reasons/see friends, boredom/pass the time, atmosphere/excitement and relaxation. Another one-fifth (21.4%) of players cited money-related reasons for playing, including to win jackpots, to win money, not necessarily jackpots, wanting to be successful and exchange of money/handling money. About one-twelfth (8%) of players gave reasons related to risk and challenge, such as beating the odds, like taking risks and belief in luck/may get lucky. Only 0.4% (or 9 people) cited compulsion as the main reason for playing poker machines.

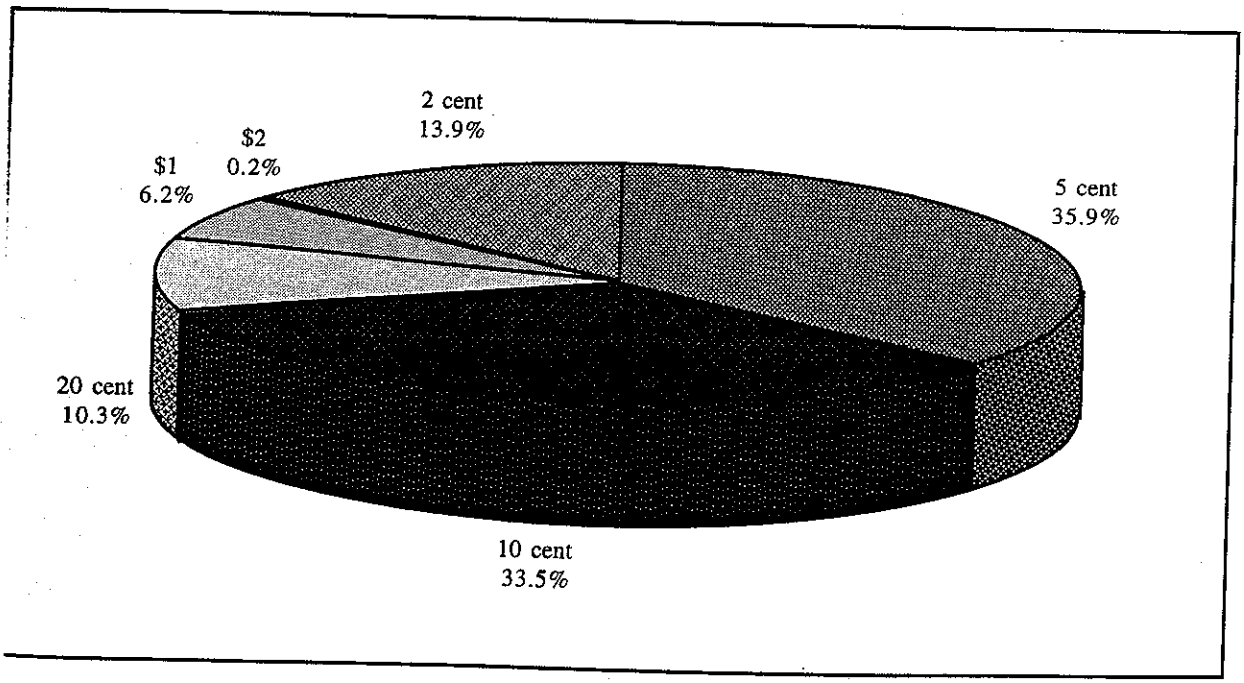
Table 19
Main Reasons for Playing Poker Machines
N=1879

Reason	1st Main Reason	2nd Main Reason	3rd Main Reason
	%	%	%
Recreation/hobby/amusement/fun	35.9	16.8	11.0
Social reasons/see friends	14.5	14.9	14.3
To win money, not necessarily jackpots	13.7	17.2	13.1
Boredom/pass the time	11.8	12.9	9.8
To win jackpots	7.5	8.4	8.4
Belief in luck/may get lucky	6.2	8.4	10.5
Atmosphere/excitement	5.8	7.8	9.2
Beating the odds	1.3	2.5	2.9
Like taking risks	0.5	0.6	1.1
Donation to the club	0.5	-	-
Compulsion/I need to	0.4	0.3	-
Relaxation	0.4	-	-
Want to be successful	-	0.3	0.5
Exchange of money/handling money	-	0.3	0.4
Ego/self-esteem	-	-	0.3
Get rid of loose change	-	-	-
Other	1.2	0.9	1.0
No other reasons	-	8.1	17.0

Usual Denomination Machine Played for Poker Machine Players

Figure 29 illustrates that the most popular machine denomination is 5 cent, usually played by over one-third (35.9%) of players and 10 cent, usually played by another third (33.5%) of players. 2 cent and 20 cent machines are generally played by about one-tenth of players, with small proportions of players preferring $1 and $2 machines.

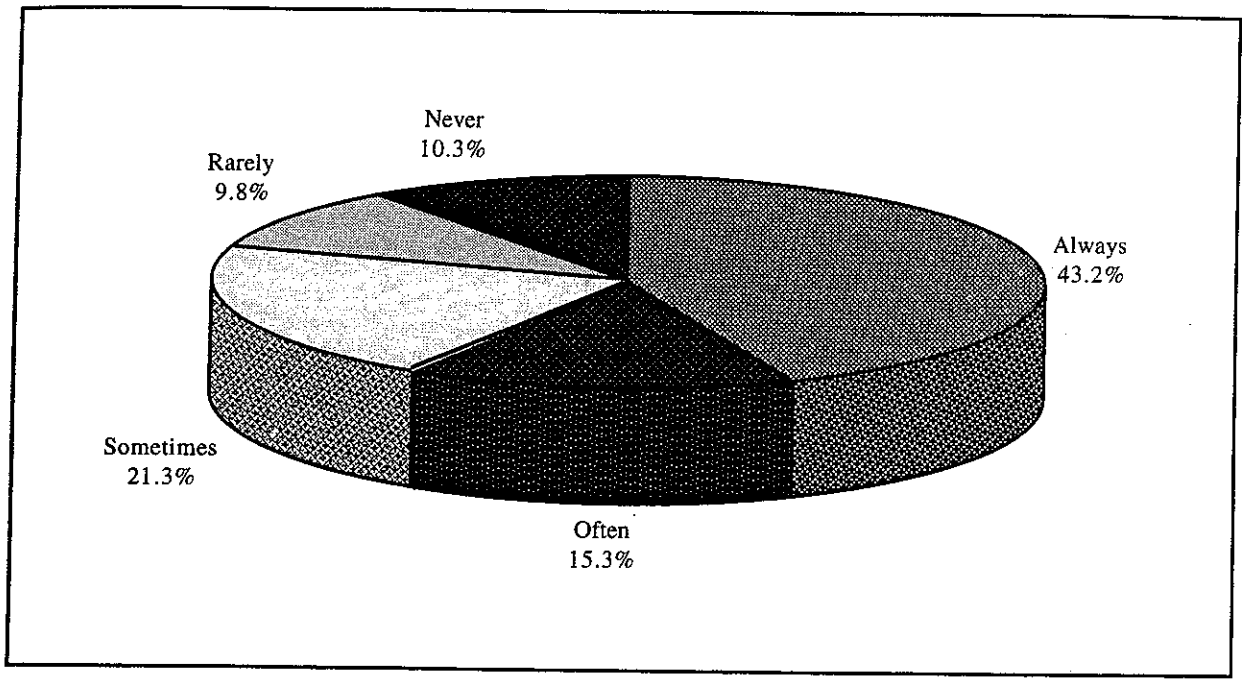
Figure 29
Usual Denomination of Poker Machine Played



Frequency of Multi-Coin Play for Poker Machine Players

As shown in Figure 30, over half the poker machine players (58.5%) always or often wager multiple coins per poker machine play, with only one-fifth rarely or never doing so.

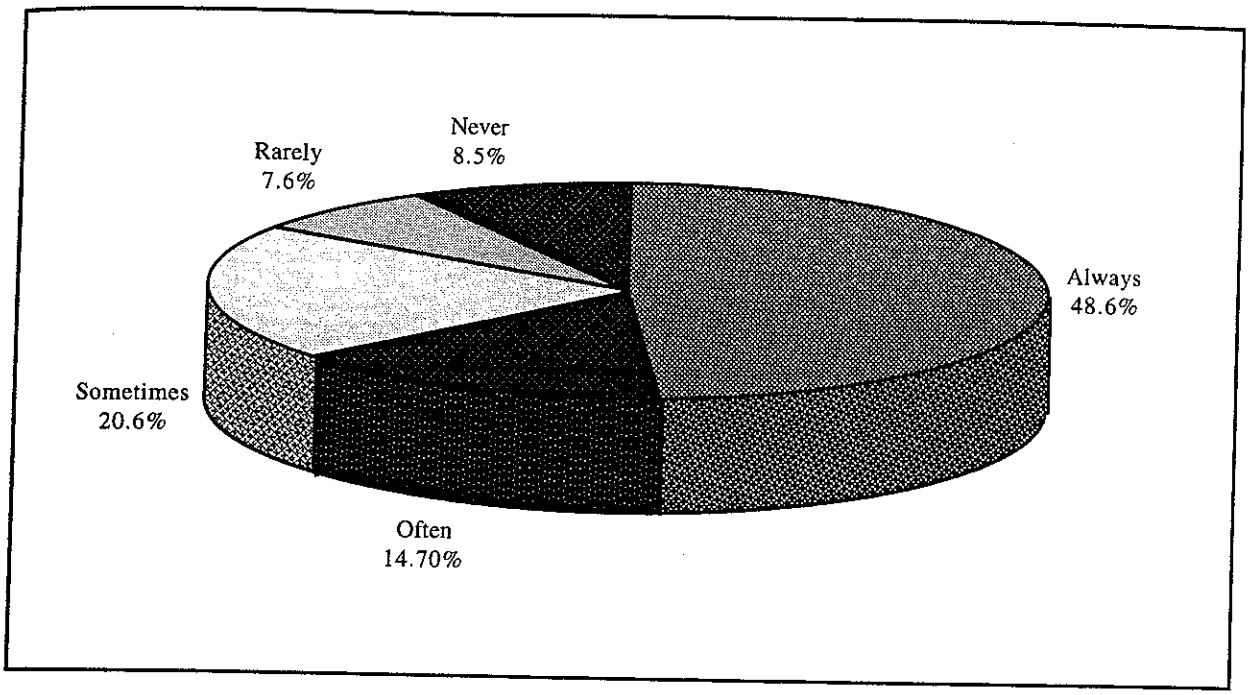
Figure 30
Frequency of Multi-Coin Play on Poker Machines



Frequency of Multi-Line Play for Poker Machine Players

Nearly two-thirds (63.3%) of all poker machine players usually bet on more than one line per poker machine play, with only 16.1% rarely or never doing so, as shown in Figure 31.

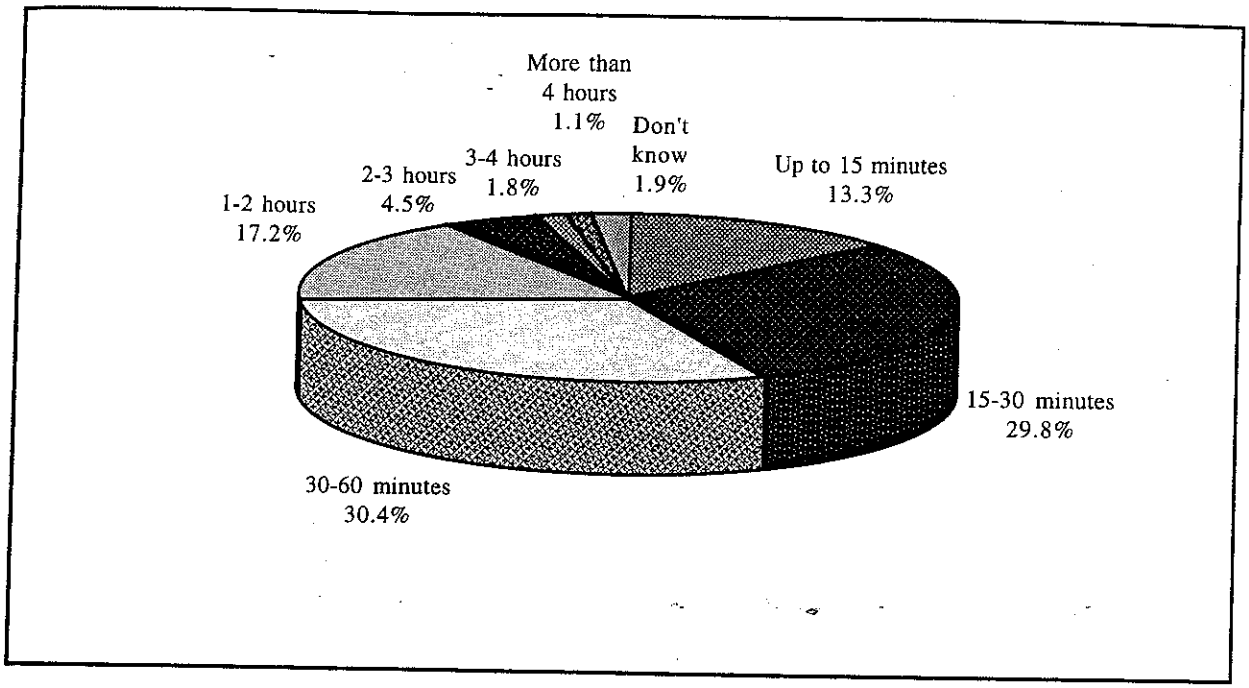
Figure 31
Frequency of Multi-Line Play on Poker Machines



Time Spent Playing Poker Machines

Figure 32 shows the distribution of usual time spent playing poker machines per session by the 1,879 poker machine players in the sample. About two-fifths (43.1%) of all players generally spend up to 30 minutes playing the machines, with nearly three-quarters (73.4%) playing for up to an hour. Only 7.4% generally play for more than 2 hours.

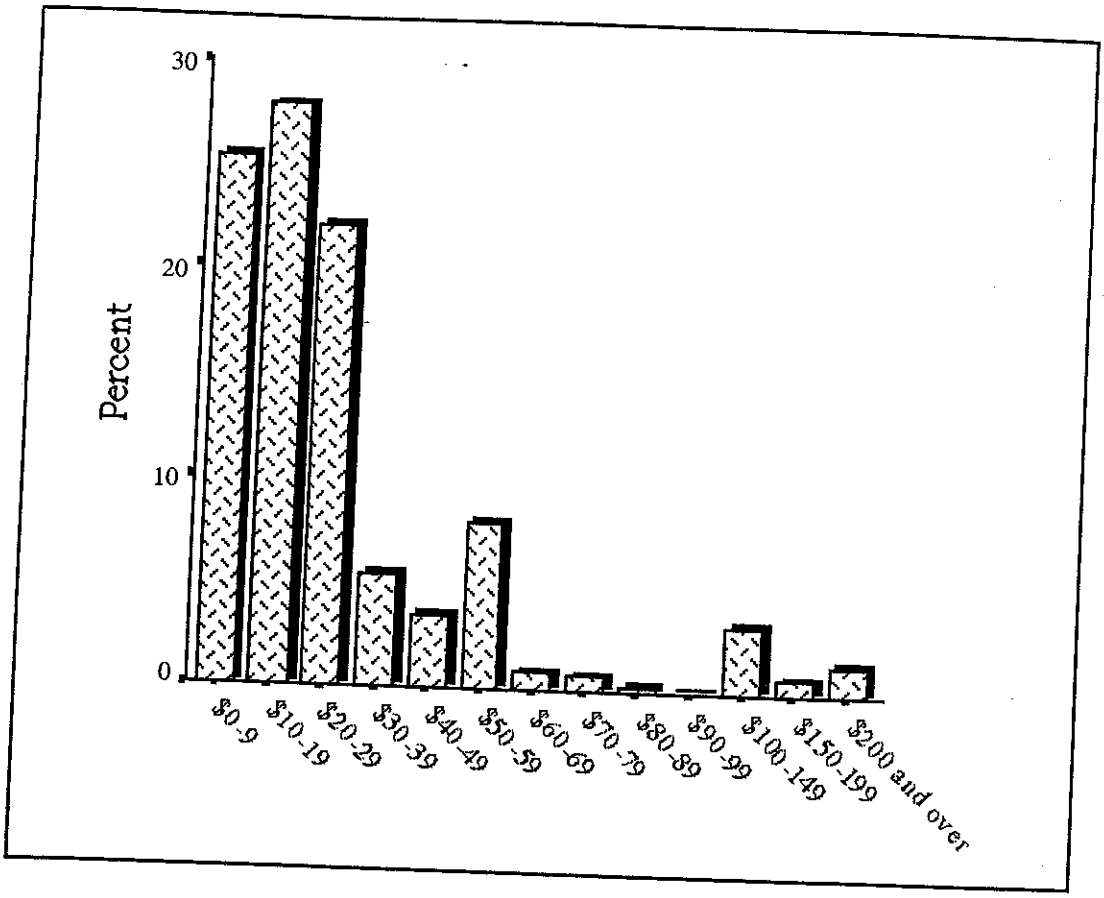
Figure 32
Average Time Spent Playing Poker Machines Per Session



Poker Machine Expenditure Per Session for Poker Machine Players

Figure 33 shows the distribution of usual expenditure per session by the poker machine players. Over half (53.4%) generally spend less than $20 per session, with about three-quarters (75.6%) usually spending up to $30. Only 15.5% usually spend $50 or more per session. The mean poker machine session expenditure is $25.79.

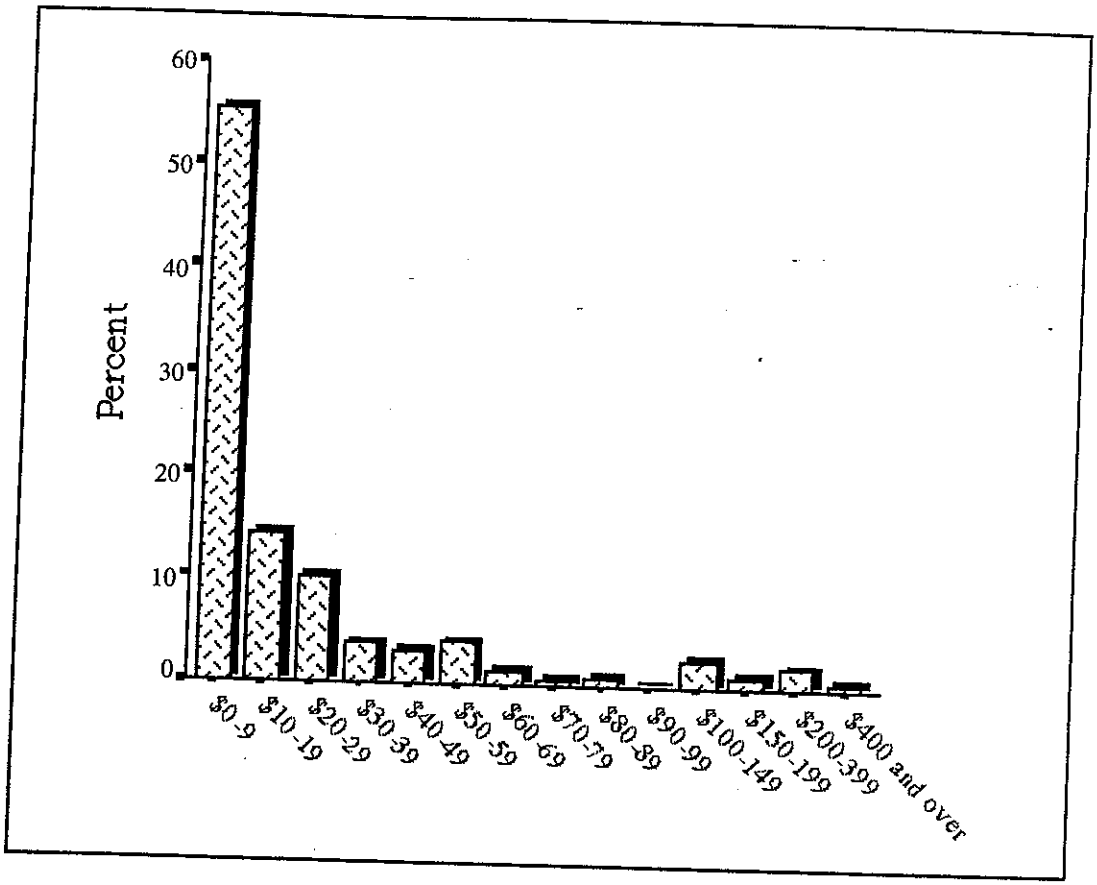
Figure 33
Average Expenditure Per Session on Poker Machines



Poker Machine Expenditure Per Week for Poker Machine Players

Figure 34 shows the distribution of usual weekly expenditure by the 1,879 poker machine players. Over half (55.9%) generally spend less than $10 per week on the machines, while only 12.6% usually spend over $50 per week. The mean weekly expenditure is $19.71.

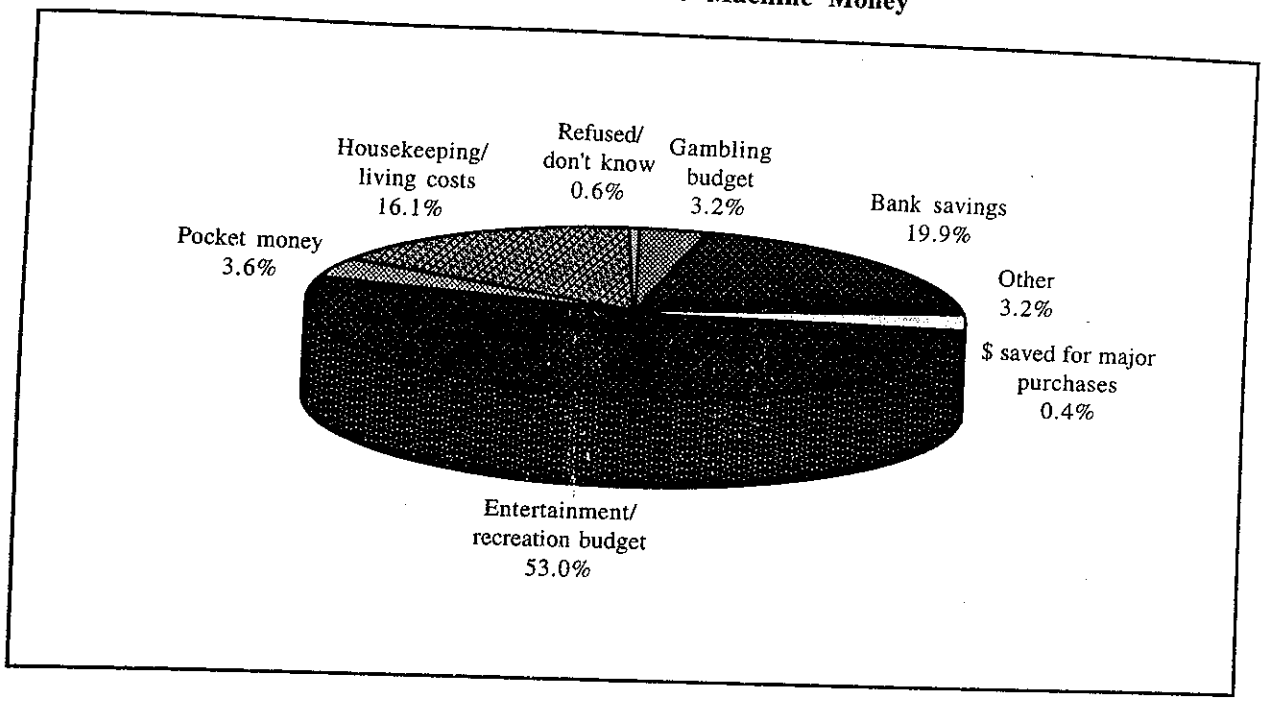
Figure 34
Average Expenditure Per Week on Poker Machines



Usual Source of Money to Play Poker Machines

Figure 35 shows the usual sources of poker machine money used by the poker machine players in the sample. The most common source for more than half (53%) of the respondents is their entertainment/recreation budget. About one-fifth (19.9%) of poker machine players use general bank savings, while 16.1% use money from their housekeeping and living costs. Small proportions of players use money from the other sources shown in Figure 35.

Figure 35
Usual Source of Poker Machine Money



Likely Expenditure of Jackpots for Poker Machine Players

Table 20 shows the likely expenditure by the 1,879 poker machine players of jackpots of $50, $100, $500 and $1,000. The most likely use of all jackpot prizes is to take them home and save them, and the proportion of people likely to do this increases with the size of the prize. The second most likely expenditure is to buy something special away from the club. Only a small minority of people stated they were likely to reinvest jackpot prizes on poker machines, with the number likely to do this declining with the size of the prize, from 11.3% for a $50 jackpot to 0.3% for a $1,000 jackpot.

Table 20
Likely Expenditure of Poker Machine Jackpots
N=1879

Likely expenditure of Jackpot	$50 Jackpot %	$100 Jackpot %	$500 Jackpot %	$1000 Jackpot %
Take it home/save it	48.7	63.4	75.5	77.3
Buy something special away from the club	20.1	21.6	17.8	15.9
Spend it on food, drink or entertainment at the club	13.5	4.9	0.5	0.3
Reinvest it on the poker machines	11.3	4.3	0.6	0.3
Spend it on another type of gambling	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.3
Other	4.2	4.6	4.3	5.1
Don't know	0.8	0.5	0.9	1.0

Assessment of the Importance of Chance and Skill by Poker Machine Players

As shown in Figure 36, when asked to assess the relative importance of chance and skill needed to win on poker machines, most (85.4%) of the poker machine players recognise that it is a game of pure chance, although a small minority (5.2%) think that skill plays an equal or greater role in winning than chance does.

However, when asked to assess the amount of influence of the way people play on winning on poker machines, about half (50.9%) of the players recognise that this has no influence, nearly one-fifth (18.8%) think that this has a strong influence, with about one quarter (23.8%) considering that this has some influence. This distribution is shown in Figure 37.

Figure 36
Assessment of the Importance of Skill and Chance on Poker Machines

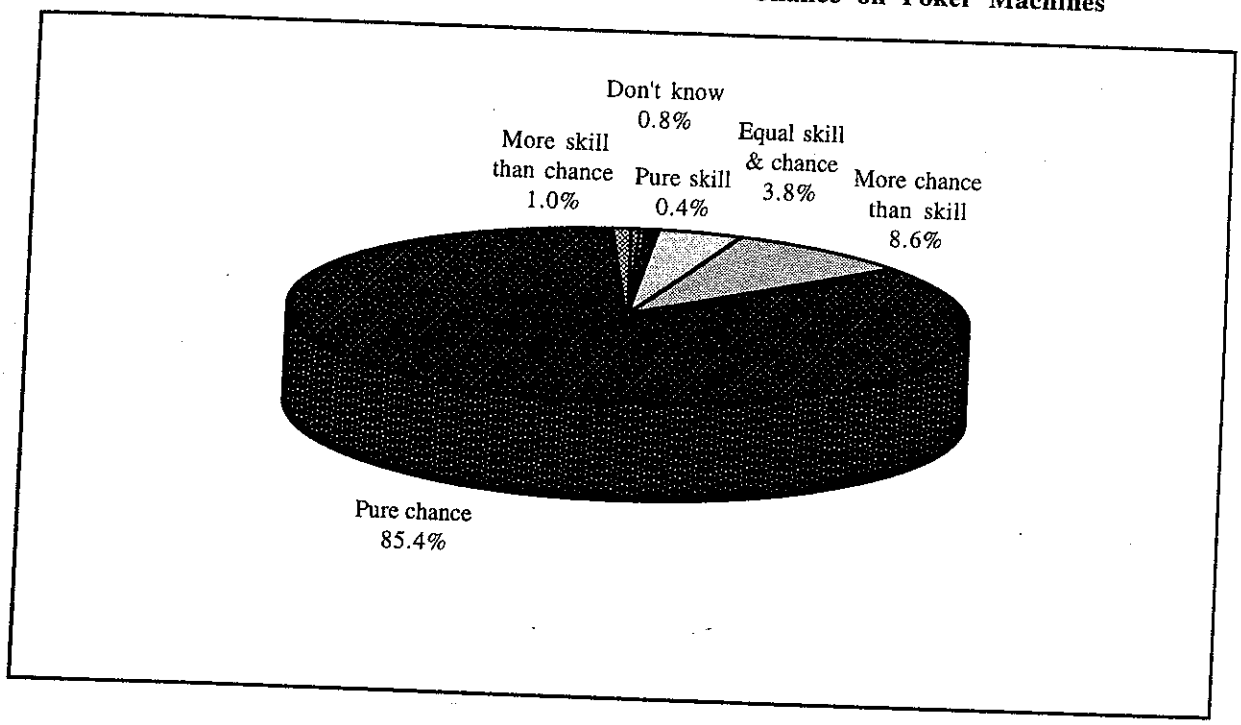
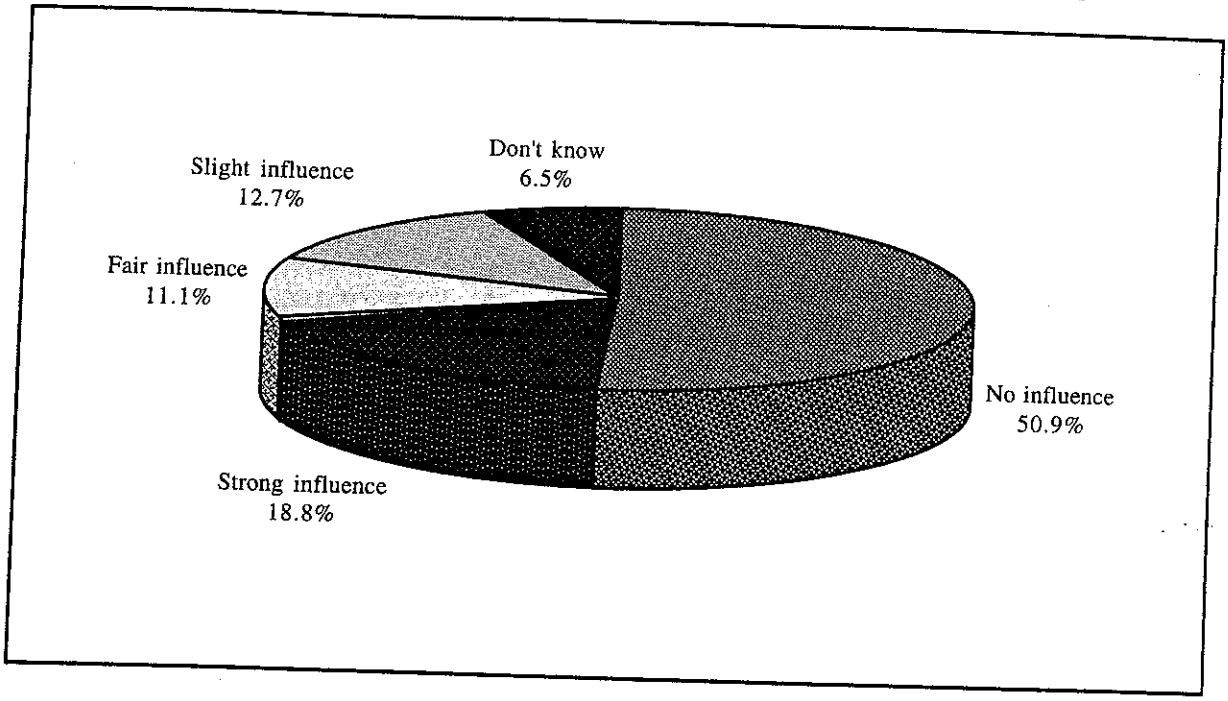


Figure 37
Assessment of the Importance of Player Influence on Poker Machines



7.2 Prevalence of Problem Poker Machine Gambling

This section focuses on the current prevalence rate of problem gambling related specifically to poker machine playing amongst the 1,879 poker machine players in the sample, using the adapted poker machine SOGS instrument (Lesieur & Blume, 1987). Table 21 shows the distribution of scores on the poker machine SOGS for this sub-sample, while Table 22 shows the numbers and proportions of the sub-sample who can be classified as non-problem and probable problem poker machine gamblers, using a cut-off score of 5 on the poker machine SOGS.

From Tables 21 and 22, it is evident that 2.4% (or 72 people) of the 3,000 club members surveyed can be classified as probable problem poker machine gamblers. That is, about one in 41 of the club members is a probable problem poker machine gambler.

The 72 people who scored 5 or higher on the poker machine SOGS represent 3.0% of the 2,430 gamblers amongst the club members surveyed. That is, of all gamblers surveyed, about one in 33 can be classified as a probable problem poker machine gambler.

The 72 people who scored 5 or higher on the poker machine SOGS represent 3.8% of the 1,879 poker machine players amongst the club members surveyed. That is, of all poker machine players surveyed, about one in 26 can be classified as a probable problem poker machine gambler.

Table 21
Distribution of Poker Machine SOGS Scores Amongst All Club Members
N=3000

SOGS Score	No.	%	Cum. %
0	2459	82.0	82.0
1	291	9.7	91.7
2	102	3.4	95.1
3	45	1.5	96.6
4	31	1.0	97.6
5	25	0.8	98.4
6	13	0.4	98.9
7	5	0.2	99.0
8	8	0.3	99.3
9	9	0.3	99.6
10	4	0.1	99.7
11	3	0.1	99.8
12	3	0.1	99.9
13	1	0.0	100.00
14	1	0.0	100.00
Total	3000	100.0	100.0

Table 22
Categories of Poker Machine SOGS Scores Amongst All Club Members, All Gamblers and Poker Machine Players
N=3000

Category	All Club Members N=3000		All Gamblers N=2430		Poker Machine Players N=1879	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
SOGS < 5	2928	97.6	2358	97.0	1807	96.2
SOGS 5 +	72	2.4	72	3.0	72	3.8
Total	3000	100.0	2430	100.0	1879	100.0

7.3 Poker Machine Gambling-Related Problems

This section focuses on the types of poker machine gambling-related problems experienced by some of the 1,879 poker machine players amongst the club members, as identified by the items in the poker machine SOGS instrument.

Table 23 presents a cross-tabulation of "yes" responses to the items in the poker machine SOGS instrument by problem gambling category (non-problem and probable poker machine problem gamblers), as well as the frequency of "yes" responses amongst the sample of 3,000 club members gamblers, the sub-sample of 2,430 gamblers and the sub-sample of 1,879 poker machine players.

- For problem poker machine gamblers, the most common poker machine gambling-related problems experienced by over half were gambling more than intended on poker machines (95.8%), feeling guilty about their poker machine gambling (91.7%), considering they have a problem with poker machine gambling (76.4%), chasing poker machine losses (68.1%), inability to stop playing poker machines (68.1%) and criticism by others of their poker machine gambling (65.3%). For over one quarter, their poker machine gambling had caused arguments with significant others (45.8%), they had lied about poker machine losses (34.7%) and they had borrowed household money (27.8%) or money from their spouse (6.4%) or from credit cards (26.4%) to gamble on poker machines. Smaller proportions had hidden signs of poker machine gambling from others (20.8%), lost work or study time due to poker machine gambling (15.3%), not repaid poker machine gambling-related debts (9.7%) and borrowed money from other sources to finance their poker machine gambling (1.4% to 18.1%).

- For non-problem poker machine gamblers, some poker machine gambling-related problems were still evident, with at least one type of problem experienced by about one in eight people. The most common of these were gambling more than intended on poker machines (11.3%), chasing poker machine losses (3.4%), feeling guilty about playing poker machines (3.1%), lying about poker machine losses (1.7%), criticism of their poker machine gambling by significant others (1.7%) and inability to stop playing poker machines (1.6%). The remaining gambling-related problems were experienced by less than 1% of the non-problem poker machine gamblers.

- In terms of all 3,000 club members, about one in every seven people had experienced at least one type of poker machine gambling-related problem in the last six months.

- In terms of all 2,430 gamblers, about one in six had experienced at least one type of poker machine gambling-related problem in the last six months.

- In terms of all 1,879 poker machine players, about one in five had experienced at least one type of poker machine gambling-related problem in the last six months.

Table 23
Comparison of "Yes" Responses to Poker Machine SOGS Items

SOGS Item	SOGS <5 N=2928 %	SOGS 5+ N=72 %	All PM Players N=1879 %	All Gamblers N=2430 %	All Club Members N=3000 %
After losing on poker machines during the last 6 months, have you usually gone back another day to win back money lost?	3.4	68.1	8.0	6.2	5.0
During the last 6 months, have you ever claimed to be winning money playing poker machines but weren't really? In fact you lost?	1.7	34.7	4.0	3.1	2.5
Do you feel you have had a problem with poker machine gambling in the last 6 months?	0.8	76.4	4.1	3.2	2.6
Did you ever gamble more on poker machines than you intended to in the last 6 months?	11.3	95.8	21.3	16.5	13.4
Have people criticised your poker machine gambling in the last 6 months?	1.7	65.3	5.2	4.0	3.2
During the last 6 months, have you ever felt guilty about your poker machine playing or about what happens when you play?	3.1	91.7	8.4	6.5	5.3
During the last 6 months, have you ever felt like you would like to stop playing poker machines, but didn't think you could?	1.6	68.1	5.1	4.0	3.2
During the last 6 months, have you ever hidden poker machine money or other signs of poker machine playing from your family or friends?	0.2	20.8	1.2	0.9	0.7
During the last 6 months, has your poker machine playing ever caused arguments about money with family or friends?.	0.4	45.8	2.3	1.8	1.5
During the last 6 months, have you ever borrowed from someone and not paid them back as a result of poker machine playing?	-	9.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
During the last 6 months, have you ever lost time from work or study due to poker machine playing?	0.2	15.3	0.9	0.7	0.5
During the last 6 months, have you ever borrowed money to play poker machines or to pay poker machine debts from:					
household money	-	27.8	1.2	0.9	0.7
your spouse	0.2	26.4	1.4	1.0	0.9
other relatives or in-laws	0.3	18.1	1.2	0.9	0.7
banks, loan companies, or credit unions	-	12.5	0.5	0.4	0.3
credit cards	0.3	26.4	1.5	1.2	0.9
loan sharks	-	-	-	-	-
cashed in stocks, bonds, or other securities	-	-	-	-	-
the sale of personal or family property	-	-	0.3	0.2	0.2
borrowings on your cheque account (passed bad cheques)	0.2	6.9	0.5	0.4	0.3

7.4 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Problem and Non-Problem Poker Machine Gamblers

This section provides a comparison of socio-demographic characteristics between non-problem and probable problem poker machine gamblers (referred to as problem machine gamblers) amongst the 1,879 poker machine players in the sample of club members. Rather than provide a comparison between problem machine gamblers and non-problem machine gamblers amongst the entire 3,000 club members, a comparison between the 72 problem machine gamblers and the 1,807 people who play poker machines but experience limited gambling-related problems was deemed more useful in order to identify factors which are associated with those players who lose control of their poker machine gambling.

Cross-tabulation and chi-square tests have been used to identify statistically significant relationships between the dependent variable, problem poker machine gambling category (non-problem and problem machine gamblers) and each of the independent variables (each of the socio-demographic characteristics).

Sex by Problem Poker Machine Gambling Category

4.2% of males (46 people) and 3.3% of females (26 people) amongst the sub-sample of 1,879 poker machine players were classified as problem machine gamblers using the adapted SOGS instrument with a cut-off score of 5. However, results of the chi-square test indicate that there is no significant association between sex and problem poker machine gambling category.

Age by Problem Poker Machine Gambling Category

There is also no statistically significant relationship between age group and problem poker machine gambling category.

Education by Problem Poker Machine Gambling Category

There is also no significant association between highest educational qualification attained and problem poker machine gambling category.

Marital Status by Problem Poker Machine Gambling Category

Results of the chi-square test indicate that there is a significant association between marital status and problem poker machine gambling category ($X^2 = 15.4$; $df = 6$; $p \leq .017$). Figure 38 shows that higher proportions of probable problem than non-problem poker machine gamblers are never married, divorced, separated or in de facto relationships. About one-third (30.6%) of problem machine gamblers are never married compared to about one-fifth (19.0%) of non-problem poker machine gamblers, while the proportion of problem poker machine gamblers in de facto relationships (6.9%) is double that of non-problem poker machine gamblers (3.5%). 16.4% of problem machine players, but only 8% of non-problem poker machine gamblers are separated or divorced. In total, nearly half (45.9%) of problem machine gamblers are unpartnered, compared to one-third (33.1%) of non-problem poker machine gamblers.