



Gambling Behavior and Awareness among UNC System Undergraduates

Dr. Michelle L. Malkin
Dr. Michele Stacey

Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology

INTRODUCTION

- Most studies indicate that college students gamble with a prevalence rate of approximately 40-60% (Ginley et al., 2013; LeBrie et al., 2010) with males more likely to report frequent gambling (LeBrie et al., 2010; Teeters et al., 2015).
- Studies consistently reveal a higher level of disordered gamblers compared to the general population (~7-11%) (Binn-Pike, 2007; Nowak, 2018; Nowak et al., 2014).
- No study has specifically examined whether college students in NC are at the same, higher, or lower risk for gambling and potential disordered gambling than in other states. It is important to conduct a study to know the baseline gambling behavior and risk in the state.
- A survey of undergraduate students across **12 University of North Carolina (UNC) campuses** was conducted to better understand the baseline gambling awareness, behavior, and risk of college students within the state.

Specific research questions considered include:

- What is the prevalence of past year gambling among undergraduate students in the UNC system?**
 - How is the prevalence moderated by gender?
 - How is the prevalence moderated by student-athlete status?
- What is the prevalence of sports wagering?**
 - How is the sports wagering prevalence moderated by student-athlete status?
- What is the disordered gambling risk?**
 - How is risk moderated by gender?
 - How is risk moderated by athletic-status?
- Do students perceive gambling to be an issue on their campus?**
 - Are students aware of gambling specific campus policies?
- Are students being educated on and screened for gambling risk on campus?**

METHODS

- Random sample of 750 Undergraduate students from each of 12 UNC System campuses.
- N=1,661, Response rate=18.5%
- Gambling prevalence:** daily, weekly, monthly, less than monthly, once, and never on various forms in the past year. Coded on most frequent gambling activity
- Gambling risk:** Problem and Pathological Gambling Measure (PPGM). Dichotomized to at-risk (inclusive of at-risk, problem, and pathological gamblers) vs not-at risk (inclusive of recreational and non-gamblers).
- Students were also asked about **awareness of gambling issues on their campuses** (i.e., whether they believe gambling is a problem on campus, whether they had received education around gambling on campus, whether they had been screened for gambling issues on campus, and knowledge of a campus-wide gambling policy).
- Analyses also examine sex, age, and athlete status.
- Preliminary analyses include univariate and bivariate comparisons.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

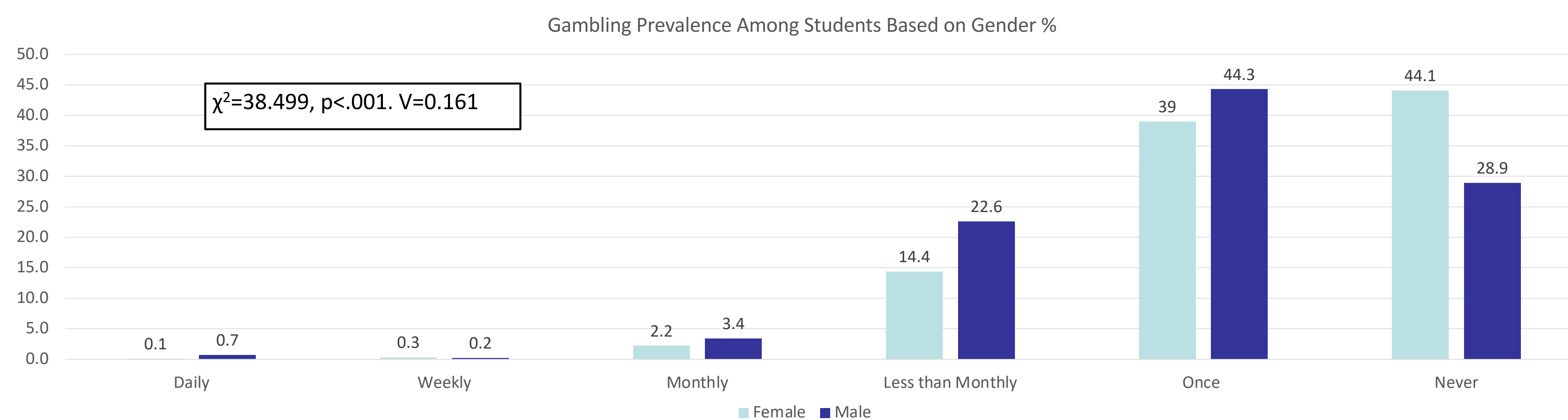
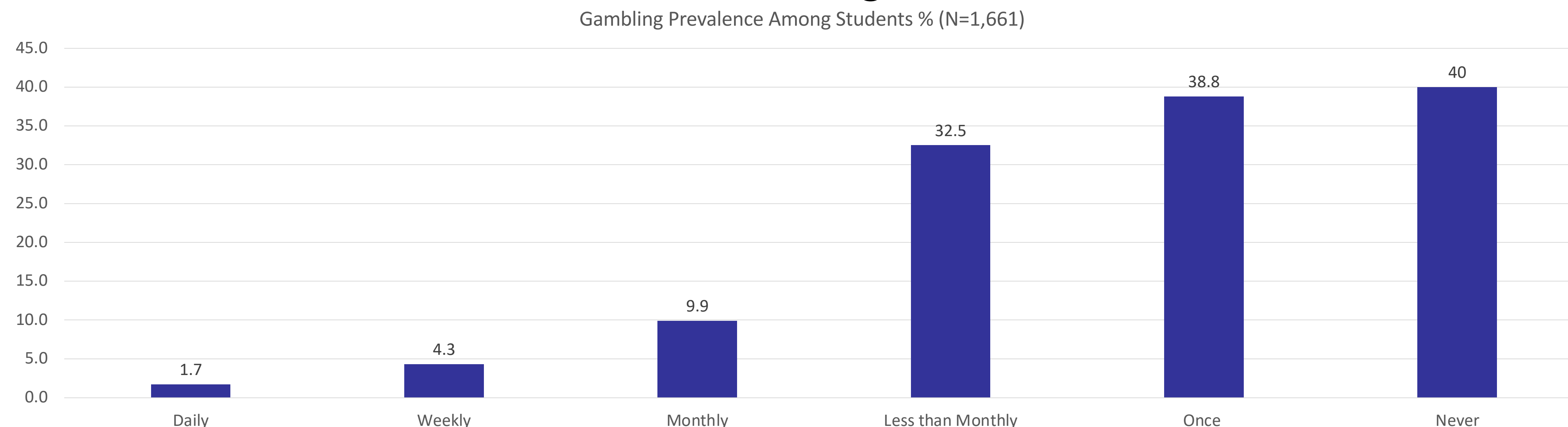
This study was sponsored by the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services, NC DHHS. No findings were influenced by the financial support of DHHS or any of its employees.

RESPONDENT KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

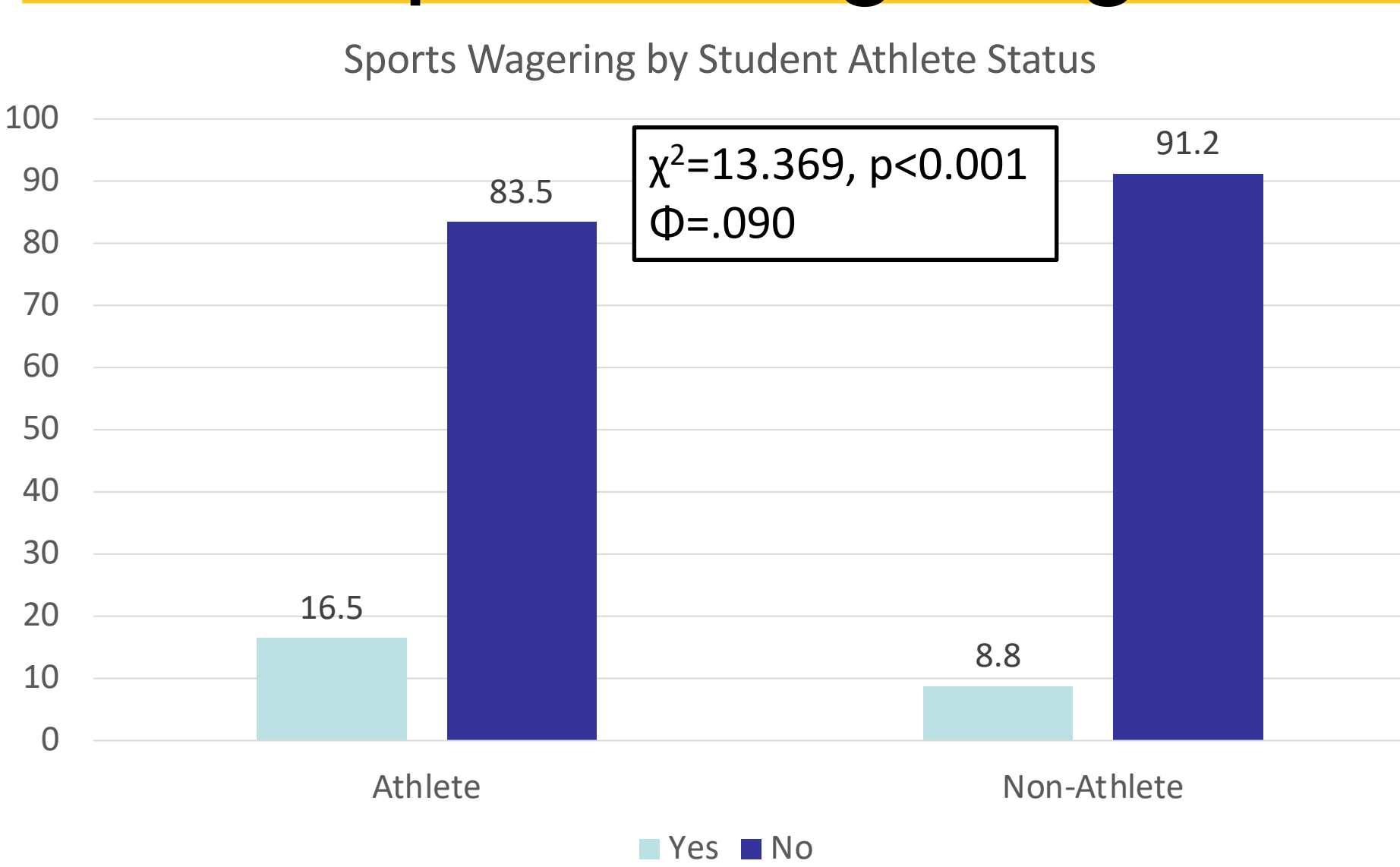
AGE	#	%	GENDER (NON-BINARY EXCL.)	#	%	ATHLETIC-STATUS	#	%
UNDER 21	660	39.7	MALE	451	27.2	STUDENT-ATHLETE	246	14.8
21+	931	56.1	FEMALE	1042	62.7	NON-ATHLETE	1406	84.6

HIGHLIGHTED FINDINGS

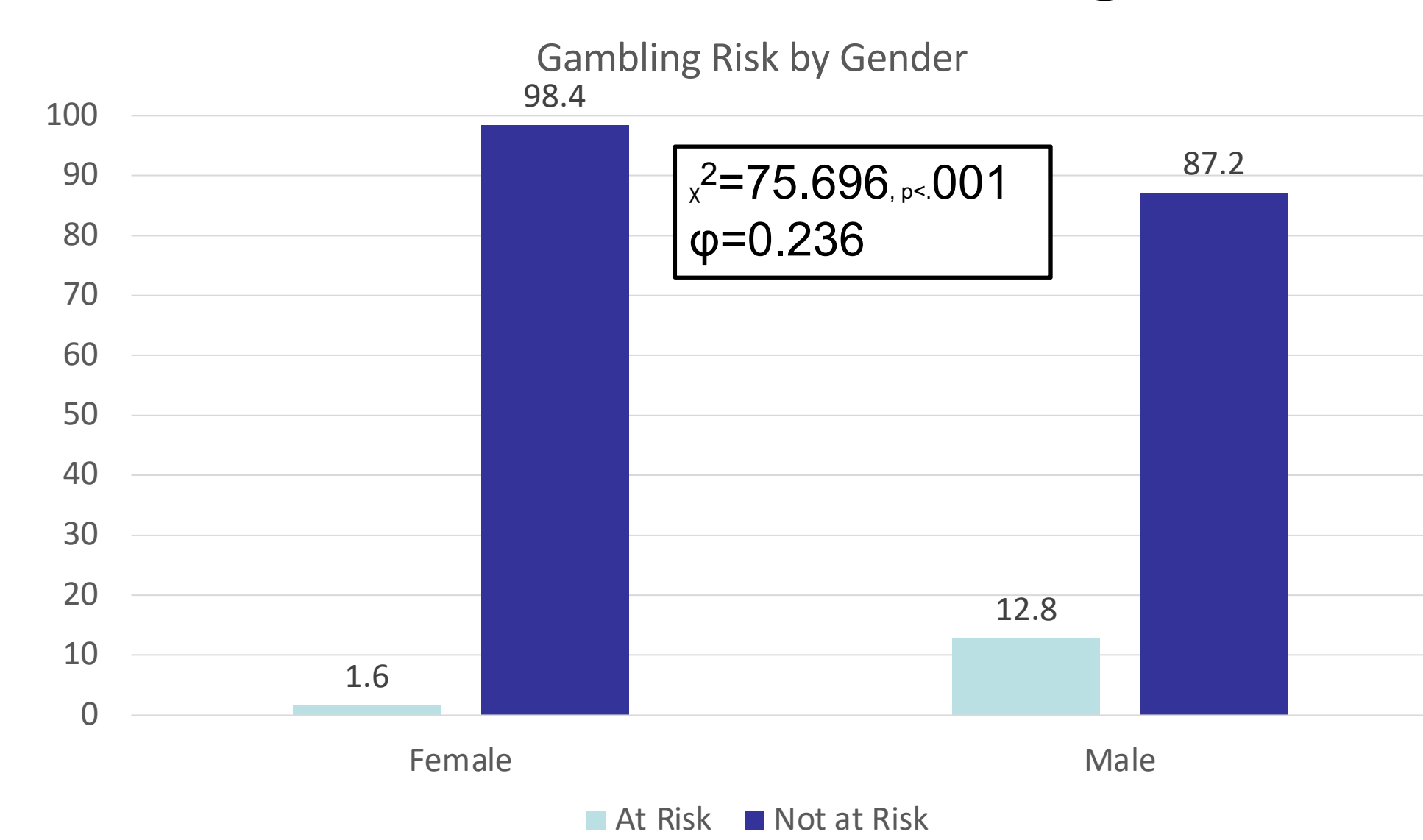
Baseline Gambling Prevalence



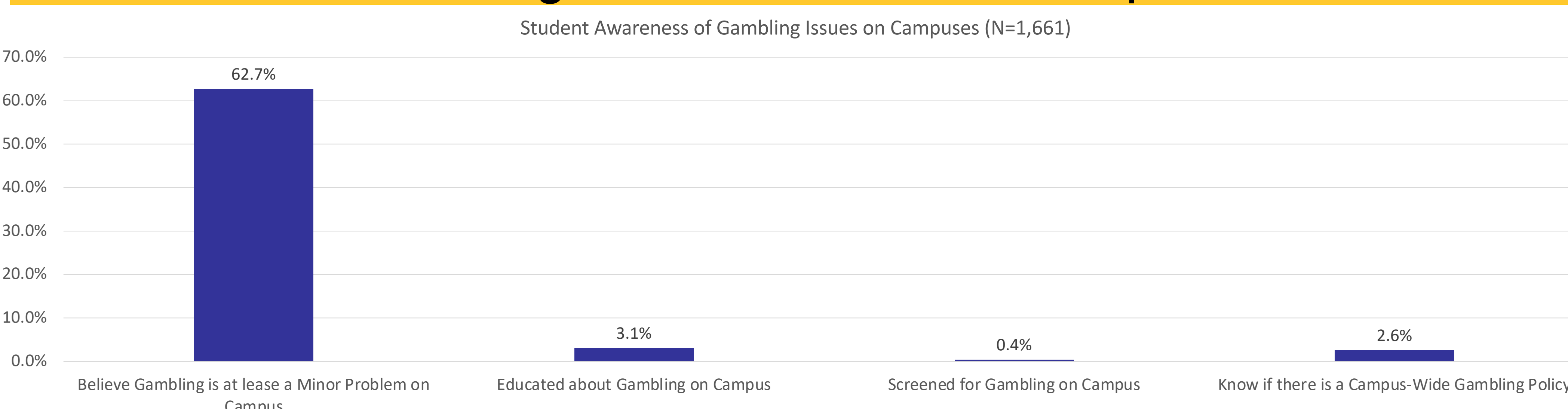
Sports Wagering



Disordered Gambling Risk



Gambling Issues Related to Campuses



FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

PREVALENCE OF PAST YEAR GAMBLING

- ~58% of respondents gambled
- ~13% of respondents gambled at least monthly
- Similar to past studies indicating **males gamble at higher prevalence than females**, 70.5% of males gambled compared to 55.7% of female students and 25.3% of male students gambled at least monthly compared to 6.8% of female students
- While **student-athlete status** was not significant as to gambling prevalence overall, monthly or more often was significant where 17.1% of athletes (12.2% of Non-Athletes) gambled at least monthly
- Athlete status was not significant compared to non-student-athlete status based on sex
- There was a significant difference in prevalence rates by age which suggest that students 21+ gamble at higher rates (61.9%) however more than half of underage students (18-20) gambled

SPORTS WAGERING

- Only 10% of respondents gambled on sports, however **student-athletes were significantly more likely to place a sports wager** (16.5% of athletes compared to 8.8% non-athletes).
- Male athletes were significantly more likely to place a sports wager** (16.9% of males compared to 6.6% of females)

GAMBLING DISORDER RISK ACCORDING TO PPGM

- ~5% of respondents score as at-risk or greater severity
- Males were significantly at higher risk of Gambling Disorder** with 12.8% of males at risk or more severe compared to 1.6% of females
- Gambling disorder risk was not significantly different based on age nor student-athlete status.

GAMBLING ISSUES RELATED TO CAMPUSES

- Over **60% of students perceive gambling to be at least a minor issue** on their campus
- Education concerning gambling behavior and risk and screening for gambling risk are practically non-existent on college campuses
- The vast majority of students (over 97%) do not know if there is a gambling behavior policy at their campus

There is a need to follow up this study periodically after new gambling legalization occurs to see how gambling awareness, behavior, and risk are affected by new gambling legalization.

REFERENCES

Blinn-Pike, L., Worthy, S. L., & Jonkman, J. N. (2007). Disordered gambling among college students: A meta-analytic synthesis. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 23, 175-183.

Ginley, M. K., Whelan, J. P., Relyea, G. E., Simmons, J. L., Meyers, A. W., & Pearson, G. D. (2015). College student beliefs about wagering: An evaluation of the adolescent gambling expectancies survey. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 31, 161-171.

LaBrie, R. A., Shaffer, H. J., LaPlante, D. A., & Wechsler, H. (2003). Correlates of college student gambling in the United States. *Journal of American College Health*, 52(2), 53-62.

Molander, O., & Wennberg, P. (2022). Assessing severity of problem gambling—confirmatory factor and Rasch analysis of three gambling measures. *International Gambling Studies*, 1-15.

Nowak, D. E. (2018). A meta-analytic synthesis and examination of pathological and problem gambling rates and associated moderators among college students, 1987–2016. *Journal of gambling studies*, 34(2), 465-498.

Nowak, D. E., & Aloe, A. M. (2014). The prevalence of pathological gambling among college students: A meta-analytic synthesis, 2005–2013. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 30, 819-843.

Teeters, J. B., Ginley, M. K., Whelan, J. P., Meyers, A. W., & Pearson, G. D. (2015). The moderating effect of gender on the relation between expectancies and gambling frequency among college students. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 31, 173-182.