DR. WESTPHAL: I'd like to thank the Commission for this opportunity to speak before you. My testimony is going to give you something that's new. I've done two studies last year that are currently in the process of being reviewed and published in the scientific literature. So this should be considered to be an addendum to Doctor Stinchfield's testimony and you have it in front of you and I'll just go through this.

The background on this that was covered very well is that adolescents gamble and they experience gambling related problems. And there's some significant evidence that they may have more problems than adults. The other issue that's not so well-known is that underage adolescents participate in legalized gambling activities, especially the lottery. There's four jurisdictions where studies have been done showing that adolescents participate in legalized gaming activities and then the study that I'll talk to you about will be the fifth jurisdiction.

And also some background; this study was done in Louisiana and Louisiana has more forms of gambling and it's more accessible than many states and it's a somewhat unique situation. But there are seven different types of gambling available in the state, most of them since 1987, 1990. And there's one gaming license per every 605 adults in Louisiana, so there's a tremendous amount of accessibility; video poker, lottery sites.

What I'm going to describe are two studies that we did concurrently. The first one was a school study. We randomly sampled -- we attempted to randomly sample all the private and
public schools from sixth to twelfth grade in the State of Louisiana. We ended up sampling 12,000 school children and all but six of the parishes in Louisiana participated in this study. At the same time, I did a complete survey of all the students in juvenile detention facilities across the State of Louisiana. So we have two studies and I'll be showing you what happens when you use the information from both studies.

If you go to -- and the juvenile justice study was 600 inmates, if you can call them that, across the state in 14 different facilities. We use the South Oaks gambling screen revised for adolescents. That's the instrument that was developed in Minnesota with Doctor Stinchfield's group. And I'd like you to take a look at the lifetime prevalence of gambling. It's the first color chart. Now, in our study we essentially randomized the sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades, so there's basically seven different studies here. They're all independently randomized. So we have information about each cohort, each grade of student.

And if you take a look, the school study is in green and the juvenile detention study is in blue, and this is a question, "Have you ever gambled?" As you can see, it's all in the 80's. This is the same proportion of responses that you get in the Louisiana adult population. So there's no difference if you ask, "Have you ever gambled" to a group of adults versus a group of basically from sixth graders on.

The next page, if you go to the next page, it says, "High risk gambling behavior, scores two to three." We've identified by looking at these instruments an intermediate group.
of people, people that have a risk for developing serious
gambling problems. They don't -- they're not there yet but it's
sort of what's been called problem gambling. This is what was
surprising to us.

If you take a look at this, start with the green
bars, you're really looking at between 10 -- well, 9 and 13
percent across the grades; sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, through
twelfth, about 9 to 14 percent of kids are saying that they're at
risk, that they have some problems with gambling.

We were very surprised. The reason that we did this
by grade was that we were attempting to find the point when kids
started gambling so we could target prevention efforts. What we
found was starting in sixth grade there were kids already with
problems and this was surprising to us and shocking. If you look
at the blue bars, the juvenile detention sample was even higher
across the grades, about double. Now, this is -- but this is
still within what the Harvard Study considered to be the
confidence range for community rates, but still it's quite high.
It's higher than what we found in the school sample.

Now, if you go to the next color graph, it's called
"Pathological Gambling," here is the group of children with
problems. As you can see it's relatively steady. If you look at
the first green bar, starting in sixth grade you have six percent
of the kids that are responding that they have problems
associated with gambling and that is relatively steady all the
way to eleventh and twelfth grade. The reason we feel it drops
in eleventh and twelfth grade is that those kids are dropping out
of school.
And all of the adult studies show that adult pathological gamblers are more likely to be high school dropouts and here you have the evidence, you know, the percentage remains very steady until you get to the point where you can drop out of school in Louisiana. What shocked us, though, is when you look at the blue bars here, this is the juvenile detentions sample. Now, to give you some background, juvenile detention is a transition state in the State of Louisiana. These are children that have been arrested and are awaiting sentencing or awaiting trial. So they're not in jail yet but they mostly have been arrested and are waiting for trials or waiting to go to other facilities. So it's a short-term sort of facility.

Most of the stays there are about two to three months at most. But as you take a look across the grades here, the amount of pathological gamblers are between a quarter and 30 percent, between 25 and 30 percent of each grade, so of these children in the juvenile justice system in the State of Louisiana, we're talking about between a fourth and a third of them having pathological gambling problems. And it's about six to eight times higher incidents than people with pathological gambling problems in the community.

This is consistent with adult studies. If you look at adult prisoners there's high levels of gambling problems in adults but we found this pattern holds in juveniles. Now, the question here, go to the next page, which is lifetime prevalence rates. We asked the question, these juvenile defenders are they gambling on some particular activity. Now, what we did is we compared the juvenile detention sample to what Harvard said was
the proportion of adolescents participating in various gambling activities.

The dark little bars are the juvenile detention study in Louisiana. The lighter blue bars are the Harvard Med analysis and as you can see, the people in juvenile detention are just gambling at higher rates and trying things across the board. There's no one particular activity, if you ask their lifetime prevalence of gambling that they're doing more than anybody else.

If you go to the next graph, it says "Past or prevalence rates" --

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Doctor Westphal --

DR. WESTPHAL: Yes, I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: -- just a point of clarification.

That's casino, lottery, sports, parimutuel, what's the next one, NCC, NC cards?

DR. WESTPHAL: Those are chase cards. It's a form of gambling that's popular among adolescents. It's chase and --

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: For the benefit of those of are who are not adolescents --

DR. WESTPHAL: I'm sorry, and I'm a non-adolescent, too, so I'm not into this. There's cards that children can buy and --

MR. BIBLE: Like a pull tab?

DR. WESTPHAL: Pardon?

MR. BIBLE: Like a pull tab?

DR. WESTPHAL: Yes, yeah, it's something like that and it's not available in Louisiana, or it is available but it's
-- they trade them and you can get prizes for them, that sort of thing. It's a very --

MR. BIBLE: Similar like baseball cards.

DR. WESTPHAL: Similar to baseball cards, if you put it that way. I'm not an expert in that and my only exposure to that is in doing these studies.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: It just seemed to be the highest rate and so I wondered --

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes, yes, it's the highest rate nationally and it's the highest rate also, but it's a type of card, like a baseball card situation, where you can trade them and you can get prizes and things like that.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: What's the skill, the next one?

DR. WESTPHAL: It's betting on skills. It's like a personal thing. Like I can shoot free throws better than you.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Oh, okay.

DR. WESTPHAL: I can -- pool, that type of thing.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I can clean my room faster?

DR. WESTPHAL: Not clean my room. It's more like I can -- I'm going to do better in this hole of golf. I'm going to do better shooting free throws, that sort of thing.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Can I ask the staff to do just a little bit of maybe a paragraph or two on the cards and just send it out to all the Commissioners because we are interested in that?

DR. WESTPHAL: Okay. I wish I was more of an expert on that. Okay, but if you go to the next page, you'll see that this is where we asked, "What have you been doing in the last
year," and again, there's no one form of activity that dominates. It's just more across the board than the national sample. The conclusion we come to is that the people in juvenile detention are just gambling at a higher rate in all activities.

Okay, the next page is entitled --

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: One question.

DR. WESTPHAL: Sure.

MR. LANNI: Do you also make the conclusion from this particular chart that in those areas where the gambling activities (inaudible).

DR. WESTPHAL: Yes, yes, it's very clear in Louisiana the lowest level legalized gaming activity that adolescents participated in was casinos and there is more obviously policing there. The highest rate was lottery where you get -- where it's much more open, more accessible, right, and in the middle was video poker which is sort of in between. So I think the issue that we came to is that the more accessible an activity is and the less policed it was, the more likely adolescents are going to be participating in it.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Commissioner Lanni.

MR. LANNI: I have one question, sorry, Doctor Westphal.

DR. WESTPHAL: Sure.

MR. LANNI: My memory is not as long as yours so I need to ask it now. On the casino side, in Louisiana there are a number of video machines at truck stops.

DR. WESTPHAL: Yes.
MR. LANNI: That's probably one of the reasons there
are more than 600 and --

DR. WESTPHAL: Yes, there are a tremendous amount of
licenses.

MR. LANNI: Exactly. Would that -- for those people
who have problems, children or adolescents, would that be in the
casino side or on the lottery side?

DR. WESTPHAL: No, that's not on the casino side.
That would be in the video poker side and actually --

MR. LANNI: I don't see that on here.

DR. WESTPHAL: -- we don't have that here because
there's no video poker nationally.

MR. LANNI: So the casinos are casinos and --

DR. WESTPHAL: Casinos are casinos.

MR. LANNI: All right, thank you.

DR. WESTPHAL: There's a number of river boat casinos
and that was the only question we asked on that.

MR. LANNI: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Doctor -- I'm sorry, Doctor
Dobson.

DR. DOBSON: In other words, the item there for
casinos, every one of those represents an illegal activity.

DR. WESTPHAL: Yes.

DR. DOBSON: And every one of them, I would think
represents a failure of the casino operators to prevent that.

DR. WESTPHAL: I would assume so, unless there's some
perception issues in terms of -- first of all, there's variation
in the age ranges in terms of what's legal in what states. I
know literally because of some of the information from this data, Louisiana has raised the age of gambling to 21 across the board because of this and the -- but I don't know the national numbers on this, whether it's legal in some states or not. But I would assume, if you're talking about children below 18, all of this would be illegal activity.

DR. DOBSON: Thank you.

DR. WESTPHAL: If we go to Louisiana juvenile offenders, here's I think where the rubber meets the road in terms of the important findings here. And it really shows to me that when we define pathological gambling that there's some meaning to that. Here we asked -- this is just the juvenile offenders. Okay, this is the 600 people that were in the juvenile detention facilities and then about half of them admitted to gambling problems. So this is just looking at them.

And it's asking them, "Did you ever steal from your family to participate in gambling?" Okay, the level 2 said that is about 16 percent but the people that were classified as pathological gambling half of them said that they stole from their families to participate in gambling. On the side there you'll see of the people that were stealing what their crimes were, what they were in juvenile detention for. Okay, there's a breakdown on that.

We then asked, "Outside of the family," did they ever steal outside of their family to participate in gambling and the level 2's about eight percent but the level 3's, the people who are pathological, 63 percent of them said that they stole outside of the family to participate in gambling. And then the last
pages, Louisiana juvenile offenders who stole outside their family to cover gambling debts, 11 percent of level 2's but again, over 50 percent of the level 3 gamblers said that they stole outside their family to cover debts.

What I would suggest from this -- I want to say that both of these studies are currently -- one of them is being published and one of them is under review, so it's not included in the current literature on adolescent gambling but to me what this -- the big message here is that adolescent gambling is not benign. There's significant social cost to the adolescents that are especially -- that hit the pathological level. There are costs, social costs to the society in terms of gambling and juvenile justice costs that are involved with pathological gambling and that at this point I'm unaware of a single jurisdiction in the United States that is aware that pathological gambling is associated with juvenile crime.

I gave this presentation to the state meeting on compulsive gambling about a month ago and several probation officers came to me in shock saying that, you know, they really did not know that gambling disorders were associated with crimes to this level in kids and they asked for more training and I really think that one of the areas that is important for the Commission to consider is to think about the issues involved in juvenile gambling and crime and making at least the juvenile legal agencies aware of this issue and to do screening and some early treatment.

I want to end with the fact that NIDA (ph) has made an estimate that each one of these offenders, each one of these
kids that goes on to a life of crime costs the government --
costs the society two to $3 million in costs over their lifetime.
This study identified 175 juvenile offenders in the State of
Louisiana that if these problems are not and dealt with will
produce staggering costs.

MR. LEONE: Excuse me a second. Each of which kids
because there are several categories mentioned.

DR. WESTPHAL: Okay, the NIDA study is if someone
drops out of school because of a drug habit, gets involved in the
criminal justice system, over their lifetime they cost the
society about two to $3 million. Okay.

If -- I'm just extrapolating that. If a child gets
involved with gambling and drops out of school and gets involved
in a life of crime, my guess is the cost would be very similar.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Doctor Westphal.