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The Hungarian gambling situation in a European context

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Introduction – Systematic literature review

- Several normal population studies in USA, Canada, Western Europe
- Differences in prevalence data – also between regions or states (e.g. Spain, USA)
- Only few population studies in Central and Eastern Europe, and the Baltic countries (i.e. formal socialist countries)
 - Normal population study: only in Estonia
 - Special population studies (adolescents): Romania, Lithuania
- In formal socialist countries
 - different historical, cultural, economical background
 - different gambling history (according to the previous features)

Normal population studies in Europe (≥18 year old)

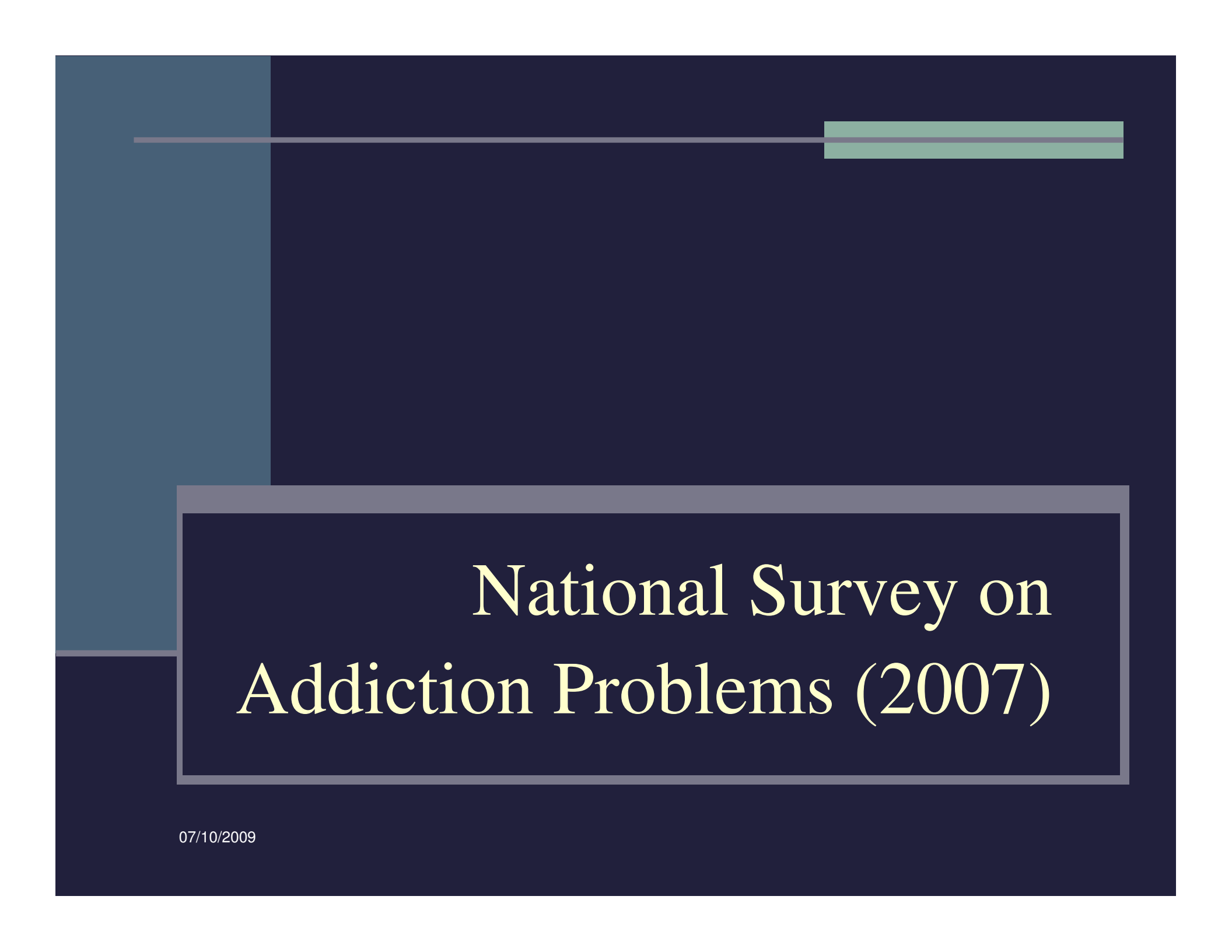
Country	Year of the survey(s)	Method
Belgium	2006	DSM-IV
Denmark	2005	SOGS, NODS
Estonia	2004, 2006	SOGS
Finland	2003, 2007	SOGS
Germany	2006, 2006, 2007	DSM-IV, SOGS
Great Britain	1999, 2007	SOGS, DSM-IV, PGSI
Iceland	2000, 2005	NODS, PGSI, DIGS
Italy	2003	SOGS
The Netherlands	2004	SOGS
Norway	1997, 2002	DSM-IV, NODS, SOGS
Scotland	no data (published in 2008)	SOGS
Spain	1990, 1993, 1999 and no data (8 surveys)	SOGS, DSM-IV, NODS
Sweden	1990, 1997	SOGS, DSM-IV
Switzerland	1998, 2002, 2005	SOGS, NODS

Main results from Western Europe

- Lifetime prevalence of problem and pathological gambling:
 - Problem gambling: **0.4% - 5.2%**
 - Pathological gambling: **0.15% - 3.4%**
- 2-3 times higher prevalence among men; but there is a slight increase among women
- Risk factors: ethnical minorities, low socio-economic status, living in capital/cities, single or divorced, earlier onset of gambling, parents' problem gambling

History of gambling in Hungary

- After WW II. → state socialism – ideology of equality
- the possibility of enrichment by luck is not accepted
- An age of reliable safety, and not an age of risk
- Only race tracks and betting on a horse race (considered as ideologically deviant behavior)
- 1947: toto pool
- 1957: lottery is reintroduced
- A real gambling market is established only since the end of the '80s, beginning of the '90s



National Survey on Addiction Problems (2007)

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Method

- Corvinus University of Budapest, & Addiction Research Unit of Eötvös Loránd University
- Data collection: Spring 2007
- Scope: national
- Target population: adults between 18-64 years (6 703 854 persons)
- Sampling: randomized by regions, size of city, and age
- Number of participants: 2710 (85,1% of the gross sample)
- Method: „face to face” and self-rating questionnaires

Measures

- socio-demographic data
- substance use: EMCDDA, WHO, ADE 2001, ADE 2003 standard
- problematic alcohol use: AUDIT, CAGE
- **pathological gambling: South Oaks Gambling Screen (SOGS) – Hungarian version (Cronbach alfa = 0,81)**
- eating disorders: SCOFF
- problematic internet use: PIUQ
- work addiction: WART
- exercise dependence: EAI, EDS
- obsessive buying: QABB
- personality dimensions: SCL-90, TCI, BIS-11 (impulsivity)



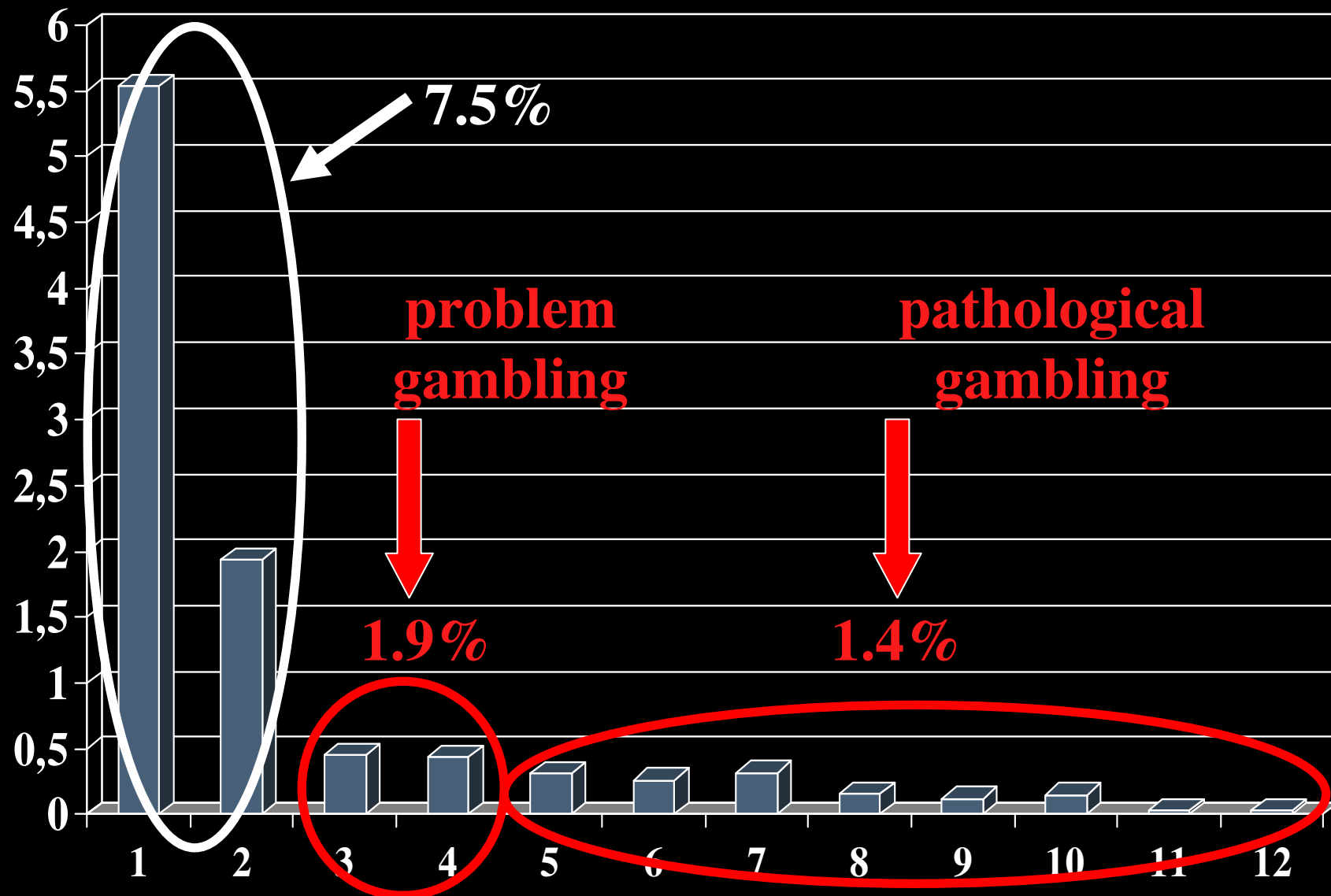
Results

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Prevalence data

<i>%</i>	Lifetime never	Lifetime ever	Weekly during last month
Playing card for money	88.1	11.9	9.1
Horse betting, etc.	98.5	1.5	0.0
Sport betting	78.6	21.4	22.3
Playing dice for money	99.2	0.8	0.0
Casinos	96.4	3.6	10.5
Lotteries	40.5	59.5	40.0
Scratch tickets	68.6	31.4	18.9
Stocks	98.6	1.4	13.6
Slot machines	91.0	9.0	14.5
Internet casino	98.7	1.3	20.1
Snooker, etc. for money	92.5	7.5	19.3
Other	98.6	1.4	15.0

Problem gambling and pathological gambling



p<0.001

Age (%)	18-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	total
Weekly never	67.8	60.0	54.7	56.1	53.5	57.9
No problem (0 point)	21.6	29.8	35.1	33.6	34.1	31.4
Few problems (1-2 points)	5.7	7.0	7.5	6.7	10.1	7.5
Problem gambling (3-4 points)	2.9	1.1	1.3	2.4	2.1	1.9
Pathological gambling (>5 points)	2.1	2.0	1.3	1.3	0.2	1.4%
Total (N)	385	640	598	553	525	2701

p<0.001

Sex (%)	Male	Female	Total
Weekly never	54.1	61.5	57.9
No problem (0 point)	31.6	31.3	31.4
Few problems (1-2 points)	8.9	6.0	7.5
Problem gambling (3-4 points)	3.1	0.7	1.9
Pathological gambling (>5 points)	2.2	0.5	1.4%
Total (N)	1334	1376	2710

p<0.001

Education (%)	c(max. 8 years)	Middle level (high school graduation)	High level (college & university graduation)	Total
Weekly never	66.6	55.4	57.1	57.9
No problem (0 point)	22.6	32.6	35.9	31.4
Few problems (1-2 points)	6.1	8.3	5.7	7.4
Problem gambling (3-4 points)	1.8	2.1	1.1	1.9
Pathological gambling (>5 points)	2.9	1.3	0.2	1.4%
Total (N)	491	1737	471	2699

Monthly income (per household) in thousands of HUF (%)	s< 60	61– 90	91– 120	121– 150	151– 200	201 – 300	301 - 500	501 - 1000
No problem	67.9	64.2	76.4	70.0	73.0	81.3	61.0	77.8
Few problems (1-2 points)	16.1	21.7	16.9	23.1	19.7	12.9	28.8	21.1
Problem gambling (3-4 points)	10.7	5.6	3.4	4.8	4.2	2.3	10.2	11.1
Pathological gambling (> 5 points)	5.4	8.3	3.5	2.2	2.8	3.6	0.0	0.0



p<0.001

<u>Binge drinking</u> (past year) (%)	At least monthly	Less than monthly	No binge	No alcohol	<i>total</i>
Weekly never	57.1	51.6	56.4	66.1	57.6
No problem (0 point)	22.0	31.9	35.4	24.4	31.5
Few problems (1-2 points)	10.7	9.3	6.1	8.7	7.6
Problem gambling (3-4 points)	4.5	3.7	1.5	0.4	1.9
Pathological gambling (>5 points)	5.6	3.5	0.6	0.4	1.4%
Total (N)	177	517	1375	549	2618

p=0.003

Lifetime cannabis use (%)	Ever	Never	Total
Weekly never	54.3	57.7	57.4
No problem (0 point)	28.3	32.1	31.8
Few problems (1-2 points)	10.0	7.3	7.5
Problem gambling (3-4 points)	3.7	1.8	1.9
Pathological gambling (>5 points)	3.7	1.1	1.4%
Total (N)	219	2359	2578

Discussion

- Similar prevalence rates to Western European data
- Lower than the Estonian rates (problem gambling: 2.6 (2004) and 3.1 (2006); pathological gambling: 2.4 (2004), 3.4 (2006))
- Similar characteristics
- Risk factors:
 - Male
 - Younger age
 - Binge drinking
 - Cannabis use
 - Lower level of education

Thank you very much!

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