2014

Editorial Comment: Not So Crazy Eight!

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Over seven years ago, *Analysis of Gambling Behavior* was launched in the hopes of stimulating and disseminating research on gambling behavior from a behavior-analytic perspective. This issue marks the journal's eighth year of publication and I am confident in saying that we have come a long way in meeting the initial goals of the journal.

One way to assess whether the journal is meeting its goals is to analyze how broadly it is attracting submissions from different researchers and laboratories from across the world. The present issue is an excellent example of the breadth the journal has obtained. Appearing in this issue are research papers from the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and the United States. Clearly the journal is attracting submissions from a number of different areas of the world.

Another way to assess the journal's success is to analyze the breadth of topics that are being published in it. Again, the present issue is an excellent example of the wide range of topics the journal does, and has, published. This issue covers topics of motivations for gambling from a behavior-analytic framework, applying an established mathematical model of reinforcement to gambling behavior, and validation of a functional-assessment tool in a sample of problem/disordered gamblers. Again, clearly the journal is attracting submissions on a number of different (and interesting!) topics.

I would also assert that the ultimate goal of increasing the amount of research on gambling behavior from a behavior-analytic perspective has been reached, even if all of that research has not found its way into the pages of *Analysis of Gambling Behavior*. For instance, if one cross referenced "gambling" and "experiment" using *PsycINFO* in 2006, one would have identified 159 publications. That same search today would yield 331 publications. Thus, there has been over a 100% increase in experimental research on gambling in the past eight years. That is more than a doubling in eight years; simply outstanding.

Of course, not all the experimental work being conducted is behavior analytic, or even truly experimental in nature for that matter. If one repeated the above search cross referencing "gambling" and "reinforcement" in 2006, the results would have been 87 identified publications. When repeating that same search today, one identifies 218 publications. That is well over a 200% increase over the time period since *Analysis of Gambling Behavior* was conceived and launched. I should also point out that these numbers cannot be directly attributed to *Analysis of Gambling Behavior* because our articles are not referenced in *PsycINFO*! Truly, the study of gambling behavior from a behavior-analytic perspective is going strong.

Thus, I am pleased to say that not only does the journal continue to accomplish what its originators hoped it would accomplish, it has been part of a blossoming field of inquiry – the behavior analysis of gambling behavior. Of course, that success has come as the result of a number of different individuals who have helped support and maintain the journal over the years. I would like to thank the researchers from around the globe who have submitted their work for review, the reviewers who have taken time out of their busy schedules to perform thorough and constructive reviews, the members of the editorial board for their continued support of the journal and its mis-

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sion, and the subscribers, whose subscription fees have helped offset the cost of producing this publication. Without these individuals and their efforts, we would not be where we are today.

So, without further ado, I present to you *Analysis of Gambling Behavior,* Volume 8, Issue 1.

Jeffrey N. Weatherly
Executive Editor
Analysis of Gambling Behavior