

# Gambling-Related Statistics for Nova Scotia

## *Facts from the 2007 Adult Gambling Prevalence Study & the 2008 Nova Scotia Adolescent Exploratory Research*

- **47,000** adults in Nova Scotia are at risk, or already experience problems with their gambling.
  - **One-third** of the 47,000 adults in Nova Scotia who are at risk are experiencing moderate or severe problems with their gambling.
  - **180,000** Nova Scotians reported knowing someone with a gambling problem, yet the majority do not contact an agency or service for assistance.
  - Despite high awareness of programs to assist problem gamblers, only **9.8%** of problem gamblers actively seek assistance.
  - **57.8%** of Nova Scotians think there is too much advertising promoting gambling.
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- **95%** of gambling revenue in the province comes from people who gamble regularly each month and almost **40%** of that figure comes from those who score at some level of risk for gambling problems.
  - During 2008/2009, **\$1.47 BILLION** dollars was wagered on gambling in Nova Scotia (which amounts to \$400,000 a day).
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- **1 in 4** people who play Video Lottery Terminals on a regular basis develop a problem.
  - **48.2%** is wagered on Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs), the gambling product with the highest rate of problems.
  - Regular lottery gamblers spend about \$506.00 a year, while regular VLT and Casino Gamblers spend about **\$5,293.00 per year**.

- VLTs exhibit the highest levels of problems. About **1 out of every 21** people who try these machines experience problems.
- Youth aged 19-24 have the highest participation in high-risk gambling activities such as daily lottery, VLTs, casino gambling, and poker.
- **One in three** adolescents reported that adults had purchased lottery tickets for them or gave them tickets as gifts.
- **13%** of adolescents have gambled at bingo halls with adults
- **4%** of adolescents have wagered online with adults
- **4%** of adolescents said adults had bet money on the outcome of sports events for them and/or paid for other forms of gambling.
- The most common form of gambling among adolescents was **charity or 50/50 draws**.
- Adolescents who gambled reported experiencing negative consequences and **23%** felt they would have been better off if they had never started gambling.
- Approximately **80%** of adolescents age 12–17 reported having gambled at some time during the previous 12 months, with **35%** gambling at least once per week.
- The research found that **7%** of participating youth were experiencing gambling related Harm with an additional **12%** scoring at Risk for gambling harm but not yet scoring for consequences.
- **Two-thirds** of Nova Scotians believe advertising encourages adolescents to start gambling.