



## AN INSIDE VIEW

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# Manitoban Students Report More Gambling Via Internet & Computer/Video Games

A new study being released by the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM) this fall reveals some interesting information about the current state of youth gambling in the province – in particular that more youth are engaging in more gambling on the Internet and with computer/video games. The study included almost five thousand students from all areas of the province who answered questions about their gambling, including activities they engaged in and measures of at-risk and problem gambling.

With the assistance of school staff, parents and students, the research team at AFM surveyed 4,992 randomly-selected students (50.4% males and 49.6% females) from over 50 schools across the province. To ensure that the data received was valid, 36 students who endorsed gambling on a fictitious activity were removed from the study. Therefore, the total sample size for the study was 4,956.

Data collected by the researchers was consistent with previous studies in that male youth are more likely to

gamble than young females (39% compared to 29% respectively). By the time students are in grade twelve, 40% have gambled in the past year. Problem gambling rates are low (less than 1%) and appear to have decreased since the last study survey conducted in 2004.



### *Common Activities*

There are two forms of gambling that have seen an increase in participation by youth since the last prevalence study in 2005: betting on computer/video games (from 7.4% to 9.3%) and Internet gambling (from 3.6% to 6%, which is almost double). (See chart on back.) These new findings may indicate that further study is required to obtain more details about the effects of these types of gambling on youth.

Other information gleaned from this current youth survey indicates that overall, 34% of students from grade 7 to grade 12 report past year gambling. Raffles, poker and sporting events are the most common types of gambling activities. The least common forms of gambling among

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