



MEDIA RELEASE
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**ADDICTIONS FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA RELEASES
NEW MANITOBA GAMBLING AND PROBLEM
GAMBLING REPORT**

Winnipeg . . . August 7th, 2008 - The Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM) released a new Manitoba Gambling and Problem Gambling report today, the fourth adult prevalence study in the province since 1993. A total of 6,007 Manitoba adults, 18 years and over, participated in the telephone survey in the spring of 2006.

In announcing the prevalence report AFM CEO John Borody, said “The report provides very detailed and important information about the state of gambling in the province. The information from this report will assist in our continued efforts in prevention and treatment of problem gambling.”

The study reveals:

- Overall, 86 percent of Manitobans have gambled at least once in the past year, which is consistent with the results of other gambling prevalence studies in Canada.
- The most popular form of gambling in Manitoba continues to be raffle and fundraising tickets (75.3%), and the second most popular is lottery tickets (74.4%). Gambling on Video Lotto Terminals (VLTs) in restaurants, bars and lounges is also popular with 27.7% reporting to do so in the past year and 24% with slot machines in casinos.
- Using the Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI), it is estimated that 9.6% of the adult population are ‘low- risk’ gamblers, 4.7% are ‘moderate-risk’ gamblers and a further 1.4% are ‘problem gamblers’. The majority of Manitobans do not have problems with their gambling.
- Overall, the at-risk and problem gambling rates are slightly higher than the Canadian provincial average, but comparable to the average figures in the Prairie Provinces.

- Problem gamblers were more likely to report playing VLTs in the past year compared to any other group (78.8%). Problem gamblers were also more likely to play VLTs more frequently. For example, of the VLT playing problem gamblers, 68% report playing daily or weekly compared to 17% of those in the low-risk group.

Profile of a problem gambler: equally likely to be male or female; significantly more likely to be between the ages of 18-24; more likely to be from a lower income; more likely to be single; and to have less education compared to their non-problem gambling counterparts.

There is a strong relationship between money spent on gambling activities per month and gambling problems. On selected gambling activities included in this study, problem gamblers reported spending, on average, \$350 per month compared to less than \$1 and \$25 per month for non-problem and low-risk gamblers; respectively.

In general, the study found that gambling is a popular activity in Manitoba and most people do not experience gambling problems. “We have found that level of education is related to problem gamblers and hope our recent outreach initiatives through our website and the Responsible Gambling Information Centres will assist us in this challenge,” said Borody.

The entire study can be obtained by contacting the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba: Cindy Elliott 944-6236 or celliot@afm.mb.ca

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