

Touchpoint

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Problem Gambling and Suicide in Canada: Tracking the Impact

The Canada Safety Council estimates that every year 200 Canadians experiencing problems related to gambling take their own lives. This is only an estimate because there are no official countrywide statistics on gambling-related suicides. In fact, only seven provinces currently report gambling-related suicides: Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Manitoba.

According to new figures from the Ontario coroner's office, suicides attributed to gambling in Ontario were up slightly in 2007. Ontario reported 13 gambling-related suicides; Quebec reported 22; Alberta, 9; British Columbia, 3; Saskatchewan, 2; Manitoba, 0; and New Brunswick, 2. Nova Scotia tracked gambling-related suicides in the past, but no longer does so.

Attributing a suicide to gambling-related problems can be a difficult task, and often requires additional investigation. Consequently, the actual numbers of gambling-related suicides may be higher than indicated.

In an effort to stimulate balanced dialogue on this important issue, the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation's latest informal website poll at www.nsgamingfoundation.org asks:

Should Nova Scotia track gambling-related suicides in the province?



CANADIAN MENTAL
HEALTH ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
POUR LA SANTÉ MENTALE

Research Study:

Exploring the Relationship between Mental Health & Gambling Issues

The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Nova Scotia Division, is preparing a research study to explore the relationship between gambling and mental health issues and their related services.

CMHA is seeking the participation of mental health consumers and caregiver/family members of mental health consumers. Participation in this project will involve either a short individual interview or participation in a small focus group concerning the relationship between gambling and mental health issues. Study participants will receive an honorarium.

If you are interested in this project and would like to contribute to the body of knowledge needed to improve services for those living with both mental illness and gambling issues, please contact:

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To take part in the latest NSGF poll, visit www.nsgamingfoundation.org.

Until next time,
Jen Wheatley

