

Gambling  
in Ontario Intercollegiate  
Athletics:

*Getting it on the Radar  
Screen*

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CANADA

# APPRECIATIONS

Interviewers: Graciella Mallia, Jacqueline Sato

Julia Alleyne

7 Key Informants

Athletic Directors & Coaches

Gary Smith

Jennifer Reynolds

Harvey Skinner

OPGRC Funder

# WHO WE ARE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
SCIENCES

PUBLIC HEALTH & GAMBLING PROJECT

# WHY US

- Exist within a university ... our community
- Interest in youth & gambling issues
- Interest in sport & athletics
- Interest in gambling policy & prevention

**University Landscape  
Athletics & Gambling  
“Getting it on the Radar Screen”**



# UNDERSTANDING UNIVERSITY GAMBLING & STUDENT ATHLETICS

Student  
Athlete / Gambler

Money

Athletic Department  
Sport Specific Team  
University Environment

University Sport Event  
or  
Game of Chance

# OUTLINE

- Provide the context & rationale for interest in university athletics & gambling
- Review relevant gambling epidemiology, research & theory
- Describe the research study
- Discuss findings and implications

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# Why Gambling?

# CONTEXT & RATIONALE

- Expansion & normalization of legalized gambling in Canada / Ontario
- Variance in problem prevalence rates within different at risk populations
- High problem prevalence in youth / adolescents
- Within adults, highest prevalence in 18-24yr old cohort of which university students are a subset

# CANADA GAMBLING EXPANSION

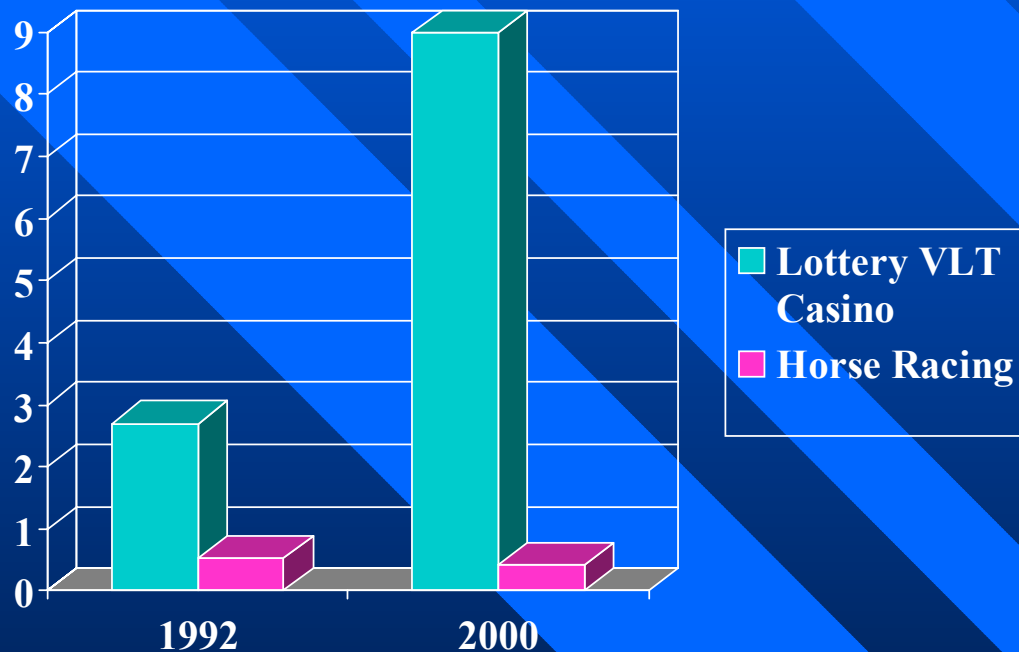
Over 100,000 places to make a bet in Canada:

- » 8,252 VLTs
- » 31,537 slot machines
- » 32,932 lottery ticket centres
- » 1,880 bingo halls
- » 59 permanent casinos (7 provinces)
- » 107 teletheatres
- » 70 race tracks (20 with slot machines)

*Canada West Foundation*

# Canada

## Growth in Revenue from Gambling



- Lottery, VLT, Casino Net Revenue Increase: \$2.7 to \$9.0 Billion
- Horse Racing Net Revenue Decrease: \$530 to \$430 Million

*Source: Katherine Marshall, Statistics Canada, 2001*

# CANADA GAMBLING SPENDING PER CAPITA

	1992	1999	2001
Annual Expenditure per capita	\$130/year	\$370/year	\$ 447/year

*Source: Katherine Marshall, Statistics Canada, Winter 2003*

# ONTARIO GAMING REVENUE 2001

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TOTAL NET  
REVENUES

**\$4 billion**

*Source: Katherine Marshall, Statistics Canada, Winter 2003*

# ONTARIO PREVALENCE OF GAMBLING PROBLEMS

## GENERAL ADULT POPULATION

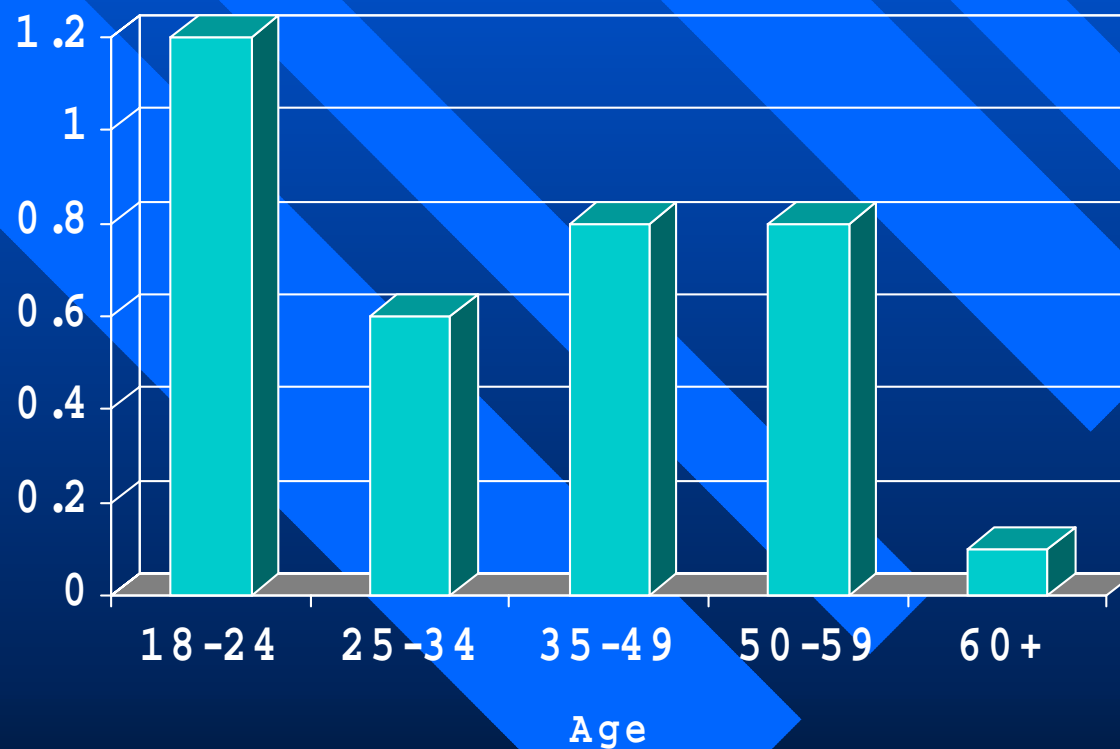
Moderate problems = 3.1

Severe problems = 0.7

**Combined = 3.8**

*Source: Wiebe , Single, Falkowski-Ham 2001*

# ONTARIO SEVERE PROBLEMS BY AGE (%)



*Wiebe, Single et al, Measuring Gambling Problems  
in Ontario, 2001*

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# Why University Students?

# College Students

- **Very high gambling participation rates**
- **Highest rate of pathological gambling amongst 3 population segments (adults, youth, college)**
- **Problem gambling prevalence rates are 2-3 times higher than general adult population**
- **Subset of 18-24 yr old adult cohort which has highest rates of moderate & severe gambling problems in Ontario**

(Ladouceur et al., 1994; Lesieur et al., 1991; Shaffer & Hall, 2001; Winters et al., 1998, Wiebe et al, 2001)

# College Student Gambling

85% - 89%

(Ladouceur et al., 1994;  
Shaffer, Hall & VanderBilt, 1997)

# Prevalence and Population Gradient

## Pathological Gambling (Lifetime)

– Adult:	1.9
– Adolescent:	3.4
– College:	5.6

*Shaffer & Hall, Canadian Journal of Public Health, May/June 2001*

# Gambling Activity (%)

## Adults, Adolescents, College

### College Students Rank First

- *Casino Games: 61%*
- *Lottery: 60%*
- *Sports Gambling: 30%*

### College Students Rank Second

- *Non Casino Card Games: 36%*
- *Games of Skill: 24%*
- *Pari-mutuel: 9%*

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# Why Student Athletes?

# STUDENT ATHLETES

- US research suggests significant problems in their country
- US data shows high gambling activity amongst student athletes - similar to non athletes (83% athlete vs. 80% non athlete)
- US student athlete rates of pathological gambling twice non athlete (6.2 athlete vs. 3.4 non athlete)

*Rockey, Beason et al, Electronic Journal of Gambling Issues, 2002*

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# Our Study

# STUDY

Offers an introductory and descriptive account of gambling and sport wagering policies and practices at Ontario Universities.

# Complementary research

- Paired with another research project at the University of Toronto examining problem gambling prevalence among student athletes (high school, university, & college)
- Peter Donnelly, PhD & Glen Markle, PhD



Sport  
Research & Policy  
Background

# Integrity of Sport

“ to protect the integrity of amateur sports, we [need] to consider how to protect students and youth in general from developing gambling related problems....it will require new public policy at the local level....middle schools, high schools, colleges”

Howard Shaffer, Harvard University

# Background – United States

- Considerable research in US on gambling among athletes and in college athletics
- Problems well documented
- National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA)
  - The NCAA prohibits gambling activities among student athletes and athletic department members as it relates to intercollegiate or professional sporting events.

# Background - Canada

- Little is known about:
  - Awareness levels among Athletic Directors and Coaches around student athlete gambling and related problems
  - If policies and practices exist for gambling and sport wagering among athletes and athletic departments at Canadian universities

# In Canada

Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS)

&

The Ontario University Athletics Union (OUA)

do not have any official policies or by-laws related to gambling and sport wagering among athletes and in intercollegiate athletics.

# Research Questions

1. What is the extent of knowledge among university Athletic Directors and Coaches in selected sports about gambling and related problems among student athletes?
2. What gambling policies, if any, are available in university athletic departments across Ontario?
3. What are the current practices for prevention and intervention of gambling related problems among student athletes and in athletics in Ontario?

# Study Sample

- Ontario universities
- 18 universities Ontario
  - Brock, Carleton, Guelph, Lakehead, Laurentian, McMaster, Nipissing, Ottawa, Queen's, RMC, Ryerson, Toronto, Trent, Waterloo, Western, Laurier, Windsor, and York

# Study Sample

- Athletic Directors
- Coaches from:
  - Basketball (male and female)
  - Swimming (male and female)
  - Volleyball (male and female)
  - Football
  - Hockey (male and female)

# Participation Rate

- 17/18 (95%) universities agreed to part of the study
- 80/125 (65%) response rate from Athletic Directors and Coaches
- Seven key informant interviews

# Methodology

- Quantitative and qualitative approach
- Combination of face-to-face & telephone interviews
- Survey administered by trained interviewers
- Taped, transcribed & analyzed
- In-depth qualitative interviews with key informants

# Summary of Results

- 100% of Coaches and ADs had little or no knowledge of student athlete gambling on intercollegiate athletics
- *Acknowledgement of problem in the US*
- *Not as much money at stake (as in the US)*
- *No betting lines*

# Summary of Results

- 93% of Coaches and ADs had little or no knowledge of gambling and related problems in student athletes
- *“...our sense is that its not been a particular issue here...I think we’ve had almost every kind of personal, student and family problem but never directly dealing with gambling or circumstances around gambling.”*

# Summary of Results

- 99% of Coaches and ADs had no knowledge of gambling on intercollegiate sports by athletic staff
- *“just very, very infrequently somebody making a very small bet, ten dollars or something with someone who’s at another school, or a relative who’s at another school, or something like that.”*
- 93% of respondents felt that student athlete gambling was not an issue on their campus

# Summary of Results

## Attitudes & Student Athlete Gambling

- *Are athletes more or less likely to gamble?*
  - 28% said less likely (less time, less money)
  - 46% no difference
  - 16% more likely
- *Is gender a factor with gambling?*
  - 75% indicated yes
  - Males more likely
- *Gambling settings*
  - private, informal settings with friends and family

# Summary of Results

- All Athletic Directors indicated that no policies for athletes or athletic department staff existed
- 5 Coaches initially indicated that gambling related policies did exist
  - However, further follow-up did not produce any policies.
- No prevention, intervention or treatment practices specific to gambling are currently available

# Key Informant Interviews

- Both university and non-university perspective
- National and international
- Expert backgrounds related to sports and/or gambling
- Respond to key findings
- Identify key issues and challenges

# Key Informant Perspectives

- Results indicate lack of “awareness” but not lack of potential problem
- Reflected the fact that gambling was not “on the radar screen” of the Canadian intercollegiate community

# Key Informant Perspectives

- This was attributed to the following factors:
  - Lack of awareness of presence and influence of gambling in their sport community.
  - Lack of recognition that participating in gambling activities (ie. poker games, sports bets or hockey pools) may lead to greater gambling behaviour or could be perceived as problematic.
  - The Canadian Intercollegiate system did not have problematic gambling issues but that surveillance and management by exception were warranted.

# Key Informant Perspectives

- Athletes at greater risk for gambling behaviours
- Co-morbidity of alcohol and tobacco use associated with gambling
- New trends (i.e. internet gambling, college student bookies) heighten risk for increased gambling and related problems
- Further research, education & monitoring are needed

# Study Summary

- Student athlete gambling, both in general and on intercollegiate athletics, is not perceived by Coaches and ADs to be problematic at this time
- No specific gambling policies or practices currently exist at Universities in Ontario

# Implications

## ■ Future Research

- Prevalence rates among student athletes vs. general student population
- Internet gambling and its potential impact
- The role of college student bookies
- Issues facing student athletes with identified gambling problems

# Implications

## ■ Practice

- Awareness program and education training for athletic department staff
- Future guidelines for dealing with gambling problems
- Further monitoring of the issue

## ■ Policy

- Development of a model policy based on student athlete gambling as a potential emerging issue

## Quote from Coach

“To the best of my knowledge it is not an issue but it may be worth somebody exploring, drafting some statements or guidelines before it becomes...”

# Handout Information

For a copy of presentation, please go to:

[www.teennetproject.org](http://www.teennetproject.org)

See presentation section, under publications.

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***THE END***