

A closer look at BC problem gambling data

- Prevalence studies commissioned by Gambling Policy & Enforcement Branch of Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
- Four studies of prevalence in 1993, 1996, 2002 & 2007
- Although the instrument to measure PG changed for the 2002 & 2007 studies, efforts were made to make them comparable

BC PG prevalence studies

	1993	1996	2002	2007
Moderate & Severe PG	3.5% (SOGS)	3.9% (SOGS)	3.8% (SOGS) 4.6% (CPGI)	4.6% (CPGI)
Severe PG	1.0% (SOGS)	1.0% (SOGS)	1.0% (SOGS) 0.4% (CPGI)	0.9% (CPGI)

Lower Mainland Study

- Timed in conjunction with new gambling venues opening in 2004/5
- Vancouver, Surrey, Langley (& Township of Langley)
- Vancouver: Edgewater
- Surrey: Fraser Downs & Casino
- Langley(s): Cascades Casino
- Surveys before, during & after

Lower Mainland Study: Results

- Langley
 - Increase in moderate PG in City only
- Surrey
 - No increase in PG, but no increase in patronage
- Vancouver
 - No increase in PG; no increase in slot play
 - “... actual gambling availability did not change appreciably from 2004 to 2005 and 2006 for most Vancouver residents...”

The precision of small samples

- Prevalence studies may have trouble distinguishing between small proportions
- 2007 BC Study range of estimates for PG
 - Total PG: 133,000 – 185,000 (+/- 16%)
 - Moderate only: 104,000 – 152,000 (+/- 19%)
 - Severe only: 19,000 - 43,000 (+/- 35%)

Conclusions

- Severe PG probably is somewhere between 0.5% and 1.5% in most places.
- The best explanatory model for PG is yet unknown, but is most likely a combination of “exposure” and “adaptation”.
- Where we are on the trajectory in the Vancouver, the Lower Mainland, and BC is not clear.



Thank you

Questions?