

## New Quebec Study on Gambling

A recent study by the National Institute of Public Health in Quebec in collaboration with the University of Laval's centre for excellence in prevention and treatment of gambling reveals that the proportion of problem gamblers in Quebec remained stable from 1996-2002. Results from this large-scale survey also demonstrate that video lottery terminals (VLTs), casino games and horse-race betting are more likely to be associated with problem gambling than other gambling games or activities.

A representative sample of 9000 Quebec adults enabled researchers

to identify the typical portrait of the pathological gambler. Individuals in this group were more likely to be single, male, have a primary or secondary level of education, and an annual income of less than 40,000\$. While the majority of Quebecers who gamble were not at risk, it was estimated, based on 2002 data, that between 35,000 and 55,800 individuals (0.8%) would be categorized as probable pathological gambler and another 40,000 to 62,000 (0.9%) would be considered at-risk.

Overall, most Quebec adults (81%) participated in some form of gambling at least once in the year preceding the study, this represents a decrease in the rate from 1996 (90%). The three most popular forms of gambling were lottery tickets (68%), draws (40%), and casino-playing (18%). However, games with the highest proportion of problem gamblers were keno games in the casino, VLTs, and sports betting with 15%, 14%, and 13% of players being problem gamblers, respectively.

For more information, please visit [www.inspq.qc.ca](http://www.inspq.qc.ca).

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In collaboration with the Institut National de Santé Publique du Québec, we cordially invite you to attend a free public lecture on electronic gaming machines on Friday, May 14th, 10:00 to 12:30 at McGill University, 3700 McTavish St, room 129. Presentations will be conducted in English.

**Mark Griffiths**

**Nottingham Trent University**

Linking Electronic Gambling Machines Structural Characteristics to the the Development of Gambling Problems

**Serge Chevalier**

**Institut national de santé publique du Québec**

Negative Public Health Impacts Related to Electronic Gambling Machines