



Nova Scotia

Approximately how many gambling games/venues are there?

2011 Games/Venues in Nova Scotia	
Casinos	2
Slot machines	600 in Halifax and 298 in Sydney
Video lottery terminals (VLTs)	2,234 licensed by the Province plus 579 hosted by First Nations
Video lottery retailers	345
Ticket lottery retailers	1,097
Table games	32 in Halifax and 11 in Sydney ¹
Racetracks	3
Teletheatres	84
Bingo facilities	0
Charitable licences issued	6,159 ²
Internet Gaming	Not available

Who operates and regulates gambling activities?

- Nova Scotia gaming Corporation (NSGC) is responsible for the business of gaming and the government and citizens are shareholders and owners of the gaming industry. ³
- The gaming industry is licensed and regulated by the Alcohol and Gaming Division of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.
- Day to day operations of regulated gaming in NS is carried out by the operators, Atlantic Lottery (ticket and VLTs) and Casino Nova Scotia (Halifax and Sydney casinos)
- Charitable gaming is conducted by organizations raising funds for charitable initiatives and these games are licensed and monitored by the AGD. ³
- Horse racing is regulated by CPMA and MPHRC and conducted/managed by MPHRC and operated by independent operators. ⁴

What are the most common gambling activities?

- 19–24 year olds buy scratch-and-win tickets most often. ⁵
- Students in grades 7–12 most commonly purchase scratch-and-win tickets. ⁶
- The most common activity that adults engage in is buying lottery tickets, charity raffles/draws and casino gambling. ⁵
- Older adults (65+) prefer buying weekly lottery tickets. ⁵

What are the rates of problem gambling?

- 4.3% of youth ages 19–24 are affected by problem gambling and 7.8% are at risk. This age group has the highest level of risk for gambling problems in Nova Scotia. ⁵
- 2% of students in grades 7–12 are affected by problem gambling and 3% are at risk. ⁶
- 0.9% of adults are severely affected by problem gambling and 1.6% of adults are considered to be at moderate risk. ⁵
- 3.6% of adults are in the at-risk or low-risk category. ⁵
- 2% of older adults (65+) are at risk for problem gambling. ⁵



What are the most common activities among those affected by problem gambling?

- VLTs and daily lotteries are the most common activities among those with gambling problems.⁵

What are the gambling revenues?

- In 2009-10, \$145.9 million in total profit, \$29.5 million from the 3 casinos, \$32.8 million from ticket lottery and \$99.5 million from video lottery⁷

Where are the gambling revenues allocated?

- All the money made from gaming goes directly back to the Province and people of Nova Scotia to, for example, pay for community programs and services, prevention, education, treatment, and to support community.⁷
- In 2009-10, NSGC spent more than \$7.8 million on prevention, education and treatment.⁷

Who is involved in reducing the harm associated with gambling and what are they doing?

Nova Scotia Government

- Shareholders and owners of the province's gaming industry are involved in gaming related policy decisions, such as the development of the Gaming Control Act.

[Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation \(NSGC\)](#)

- In 2010-11, NSGC spent \$6.6 million on prevention, education and treatment, of which \$4.1 million was distributed to the Department of Health and Wellness and \$0.6 million to Gambling Awareness Nova Scotia. The remaining \$1.9 million was allocated to responsible gambling and youth prevention programs throughout the province that directly reached over 99,000 Nova Scotians, including the following:
 - Know the Score II Education Program
 - R U Up? Prevention Program
 - 9th Annual Responsible Gambling Awareness Week
 - Interactive Community Education Display on Responsible Gambling
 - GamTalk
 - Bet Stopper
 - Youth Gambling Awareness Program, in partnership with YMCA
 - My-Play System
 - Mobile Access to Responsible Gambling Information (M.A.R.G.I)
 - Ticket and Video Lottery Retailer Responsible Gambling Training
 - NSGC Responsible Gambling Training
 - Responsible Gambling Information Program
 - Responsible Gambling Resource Centres

[Problem Gambling Services, Addiction Services, Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection \(HPP\)](#)

- Using a population health approach, HPP works to address the broader issues that contribute to risky and problematic gambling and focuses on the following:



Capacity building: Increases the knowledge and skills of researchers, policy-makers, service providers, and the public

Social marketing: Implements social marketing campaigns to reduce problem gambling

Services for individuals and families negatively affected by gambling: Offers a problem gambling helpline and addiction services in the District Health Authorities

Healthy policy: Recommends policy direction to assist in reducing harm associated with gambling

Research: Conducts independent, non-partisan research

Leadership: Ensures ongoing co-ordination and collaboration among provincial stakeholders

Gambling Awareness Nova Scotia, [Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation](#)

- A non-profit, arms-length government organization that offers funding to Nova Scotia community groups and researchers that wish to address the consequences of problem gambling.

References

1. Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation. (2011, April). [Gambling in Nova Scotia fact sheet](#).
2. Canadian Partnership for Responsible Gambling. (2010, April). [Canadian gambling digest 2009-2010](#).
3. Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation. (2011, April). [Overview of gaming in Nova Scotia fact sheet](#).
4. Canadian Partnership for Responsible Gambling. (2010). [Organization and management of gambling in Canada](#).
5. Schrans, T. & Schellinck, T. (2007). [2007 Nova Scotia adult gambling prevalence study](#). Halifax, NS: Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection.
6. Poulin, C. & McDonald, W. (2007, November). [Nova Scotia student drug use survey: Highlights report](#). Halifax, NS: Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection and Dalhousie University.
7. Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation website. (2011). [Where the money goes](#).