

Touchpoint

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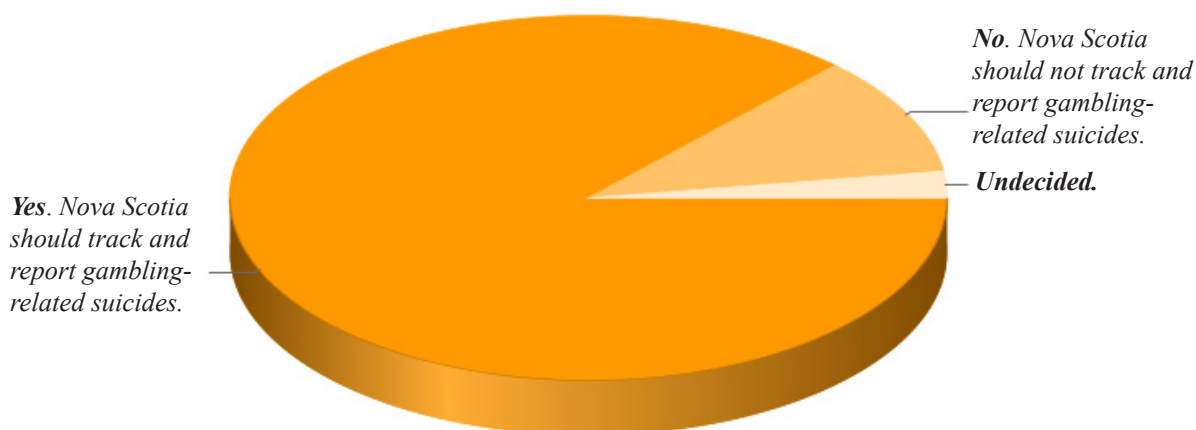
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Should Nova Scotia Track Gambling-related Suicides? The Results Are In!

In the wake of a recent Ontario coroner's report that indicated an increase in gambling-related suicides in Ontario, the latest Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation's informal website poll asked the public:

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

The results of the informal poll are in, and the message is clear - the overwhelming majority of respondents (87.21%) believe that the province should track and report gambling-related suicides. Only 10.47% of respondents believe that the province should not track and report gambling-related suicides, while 2.33% of respondents are undecided.



The Challenge With Tracking

Accurately tracking and attributing suicides to gambling can be difficult. Many people with gambling issues hide their addiction from others and leave no direct evidence to its involvement in their death. Even when family members and friends are aware of an addiction, the shame and guilt that often surrounds suicide and/or gambling may cause them to withhold information from the coroner and/or investigators.

Unfortunately the correlation between suicide and problem gambling is undeniable: In 2002, Statistics Canada reported in *Canadian Community Health Survey - Mental Health and Well-being* that 18% of problem gamblers had contemplated suicide within the last year. That is six times higher than the 3% of non-problem gamblers who contemplated suicide within the last year.

More information about this issue can be found on the NSGF website in the new *Search By Theme* category, *Suicide and Problem Gambling*, within the *Resource Library*.

www.nsgamingfoundation.org/pages/Suicide-And-Problem-Gambling.aspx

Until next time,
Jen Wheatley

