



NOVA SCOTIA

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Cross-Cultural Issues in Gambling*



*Unless otherwise indicated, all information on cross-cultural issues in gambling is from Catherine McKean Royer's presentation at the 2010 Northern California Problem Gambling Summit, titled *Problem Gambling and Culture: Risk Factors and the Clinician's Role*.

General Cultural Issues

- Gambling prevalence rates and cultural variables have been found to play a role in the development and maintenance of problem gambling.

Considerations

- Cultural history and rationales influences the meanings that are given to gambling behavior, the motivations for gambling, the monetary costs and benefits of gambling, and the perceived advantages and disadvantages of gambling.

The Need for Culturally Sensitive Approaches

- Gambling treatments, which are generally based on Western models, may not address the needs of ethnic minorities and indigenous communities.
- Existing mainstream prevention and treatment services using accepted techniques do not generally take cultural variables into account.
- Certain cultures may interpret the nature and treatment of problem gambling somewhat differently from what the Western models assume.

Being Culturally Sensitive...

- Acknowledge
- Learn
- Language
- Respect



Need for Further Research*

- There is a lack of research on gambling among ethnic minority groups.
- It is difficult to determine to what extent previous studies are applicable to ethnic communities in Canada.
- Culturally relevant programs need to be developed that will meet the needs of ethnic minority groups.