

# UNDERSTANDING THE ODDS

## GAMBLING AMONG BC YOUTH AGED 12-18

Results from the 2018 BC Adolescent Health Survey



of youth gambled for money in the past year



of youth who gambled for money reported that their gambling had reached a point they needed help

### 3 Most Common Gambling Activities Youth Played for Money:

- ▼ In-person dice or cards
- ▼ Online gaming
- ▼ Scratch cards/ Lottery tickets



33%

of youth who gambled for money in the past year did so a couple of times a month or more (frequent gambling)

“ I want to learn more about gambling and the effects of gambling on kids.” -BC Youth

## TECHNOLOGY USE

- Over half of youth who engaged in online gaming for money reported that they were gaming after the time they were supposed to be asleep
- Youth who participated in online gaming for money were more likely to use their phone to gamble and communicate with people they only knew online than those who had not taken part in online gaming for money
- Youth who engaged in online gambling were more likely to have needed help for their gambling than those who gambled in person



## RISK FACTORS FOR GAMBLING FREQUENTLY FOR MONEY:

### Substance Use

- Using cannabis on 6 or more days in the past month and drinking alcohol regularly

### Feeling unsafe

- Not feeling safe in their neighbourhood during the daytime

### Not living with parents

- Not living with a parent or guardian or living alone

### Poverty

- Feeling hungry because there was not enough money for food at home

### Deprivation

- Feeling deprived of items their peers had such as clothes in order to fit in

### Regular Employment

- Working more than 20 hours each week

## REDUCING FREQUENT GAMBLING FOR MONEY

Youth who gambled were less likely to do so frequently when:

### Supportive Family



- Felt connected to their family and supported by them

### Post-Secondary Plans



- Planned to continue their education beyond high school

### Extracurricular Activities



- Took part in extracurricular activities in the past year

### Supportive Adults Outside of Family

- Asked an adult for help and found the support helpful (for example, adults such as a teacher or coach)

### Relationships with Friends



- Had friends with healthy attitudes towards risk behaviors

### Community Connections

- Felt connected to the community



## Resources:

Youth Action Grants [www.mcs.bc.ca/youth\\_action\\_grants](http://www.mcs.bc.ca/youth_action_grants)

BC Responsible and Problem Gambling Program [www.bcresponsiblegambling.ca](http://www.bcresponsiblegambling.ca)

BC Gambling Support Line: 1-888-795-6111 (24/7 toll-free)

GameSense [www.gamesense.com](http://www.gamesense.com)

## Download the Full Report

[https://www.mcs.bc.ca/download\\_resources](https://www.mcs.bc.ca/download_resources)