

# AN INVESTIGATION OF ADULT GAMBLING IN JAMAICA



Prepared by: Hope Caribbean Company  
limited

Commissioned by: RISE LIFE Management  
and Betting Gaming and Lotteries  
Commission

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**As the gaming industry grows rapidly, baseline data on prevalence and incidence rates of problem and pathological gambling in Jamaica is needed against which changes can be measured.**

**RISE Life Management in conjunction with the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission, tasked Hope Caribbean to conduct a national survey to investigate adult gambling in Jamaica.**

**A study such as this would:**

- Inform prevention and treatment programs and policies**
- Deliver relevant data on the impact of gambling socially**
- Prove informative to stakeholders in the industry and could be used to guide future directions**

**Hope Caribbean Company Limited conducted an island-wide quantitative survey among 2001 Jamaicans aged 18yrs -65yrs. The project results are projectible +/- 5% at the 95% confidence level. The sample was quota controlled by age, gender, and urban-rural status to mirror population distributions.**

**This study explored Jamaican respondents' attitudes towards gambling. In exploring attitudes toward gambling a “support for gambling scale” was derived. The scale used included 14 items, consisting of positive, neutral, and negative statements measuring respondents' overall attitude to gambling. Scores were then categorized as showing High Support for Gambling, Moderate Support for Gambling, or Low Support for Gambling.**

**Population problem gambling prevalence was measured in the survey using two well-used international scales, specifically the Problem and Pathological Gambling Measure (PPGM) and the Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI).**

**The following are the highlights of the study.**

**\*\*Gambling refers to playing games for money**

# AN INVESTIGATION OF ADULT GAMBLING IN JAMAICA

63%

of Jamaicans have ever gambled

34%

of Jamaicans are current gamblers  
(Played in P12M)



## Support for Gambling Scale

41%

Moderate Support

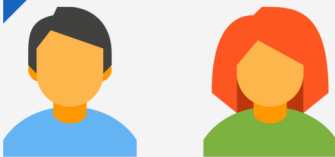
44%

High Support

More than half of both males and females agreed that:

82%

71%

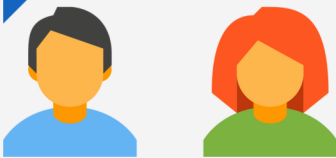


People should have the right to gamble whenever they want

Gambling is not part of a religious lifestyle

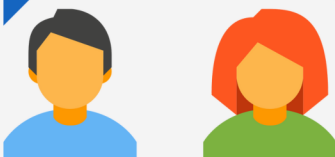
65%

70%



65%

74%



Many people regard gambling as an escape from personal problems and worries

Overall Jamaica has a problem gambling prevalence of

50%\*



\*Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI)

Of Current Gamblers

15%\* are Problem Gamblers

while

22%\* display Moderate Levels of Problems

\*Canadian Problem Gambling Index (CPGI)

Problem/ Pathological Gamblers are **MORE** likely to:

Be young:  
Aged 18-24yrs

Be drunk / use Alcohol or Drugs while gambling

Physically fight in the P12M

Have a family history of gambling

Socialize with friends in P12M

Use gambling, ganja or alcohol to cope with painful life experiences

Experience high levels of stress

Under doctor's care due to physical/emotional problems caused by stress

Use Alcohol, ganja or cigarettes in the P12M

Have sought professional help

Problem/ Pathological Gamblers are **LESS** likely to:

demonstrate strong humility-honesty on HEXACO Inventory

have high resilience

demonstrate strong conscientiousness on HEXACO Inventory

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