Informed Consent Form

Title: Online Survey and Longitudinal Follow-up Study of Gamblers Who Patronize Casinos
Lead Researcher: Dr. Nigel Turner, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
Funder: Canadian Institute for Health Research

About the Survey

- You are being invited to take part in this survey because you are a resident of Ontario and a member of a casino loyalty program in this province. About 4,000 people will participate in this survey.
- The survey is confidential and the casinos will NOT be informed who is or is not participating in this study. Choosing not to participate or to withdraw from this study will have no effect on the services provided at any casino or at CAMH, should you ever need any.
- The survey is being done by Focal Research on behalf of CAMH to understand the gambling practices, health, and well-being of people who gamble at casinos in Ontario.
- The information from this survey will be used to help promote responsible gambling and may shape gambling policy in Ontario.

What You Can Expect

- You can only complete one survey. You can take breaks or complete it all at once. To return to the survey, click on the link in your invitation and you will return to the last page you viewed.
- There are no right or wrong answers, but it is important that you answer honestly based on your own experience.
- You are free to skip any questions you don't want to answer by selecting the "Prefer not to say" option.
- The survey will take about 15 to 25 minutes to complete.
- You will receive a $20 Tim Hortons gift card for completing the survey. Your gift card will be sent by email within one week of submitting your responses.
- The survey will **close at midnight (23:59 EST) on February 8, 2026**.

Can I Leave the Study?

- Yes. Your participation is voluntary. You are free to quit the survey at any point by simply closing your survey window or browser. Incomplete surveys will be deleted after the closing date.
- After you complete the survey, you will not be able to withdraw your data because the survey itself is anonymous.

Benefits and Risks

- There are no anticipated risks to participation, although it is possible that some individuals may experience mild psychological discomfort answering questions about their mental health or gambling behaviour.
- Although there may be no personal benefits to you, this information will be very useful for public health and policy development which will benefit Ontario citizens.

Privacy and Confidentiality

- Your responses to this survey are private and will be kept confidential.
- If you decide to take part, your personal information (name and email address) will only be used to communicate with you about the study and send your electronic gift card as compensation.
- Your responses will be collected and stored separately from your name and email address. Only a randomly generated ID will be attached to your individual responses.
- Only members of the research team and authorized representatives of CAMH, including the CAMH Research Ethics Board and Research Quality Assurance Office, will have access to study records for use in connection with this study.
- The survey does ask about personal health information (e.g., age, alcohol use). To protect your privacy, responses will be grouped into age brackets (e.g., 19 to 25, 26 to 35) rather than actual age. The likelihood that someone may identify you from the coded data is very small, but the risk can never be completely eliminated.
- Results of this study may be published in scientific journals or presentations to the scientific community. Published results will only include aggregated responses (at a group level) so that your identity will remain confidential.
- At the end of the survey, you can sign up to receive a one-page summary of the results of the study.
- Focal Research is an independent Canadian social research firm that follows national and international regulations for data protection and research ethics. Please visit our privacy policy for details.
- By participating in this study, you do not give up any of your legal rights.

Follow-Up Survey

- At the end of the survey, you will be asked for your permission to be re-contacted to participate in an optional follow-up survey in about 12 months.

Contact Information

If you have questions about the research study:

- Please contact the lead researcher, Dr. Nigel Turner, at nigel.turner@camh.ca or 416-535-8501 ext. 36063.

If you have questions about your rights as a participant or ethical aspects of this study:

- Please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Board (REB) at 416-535-8501 ext. 36798. The REB is a group of people responsible for the ethical oversight of this study.

For gambling or mental health support, the following resource is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week:

- ConnexOntario: call 1-866-531-2600 or visit https://connexontario.ca/our-services/

Consent

By taking part in this survey, you agree you have been informed about the project information above and confirm your voluntary participation.