

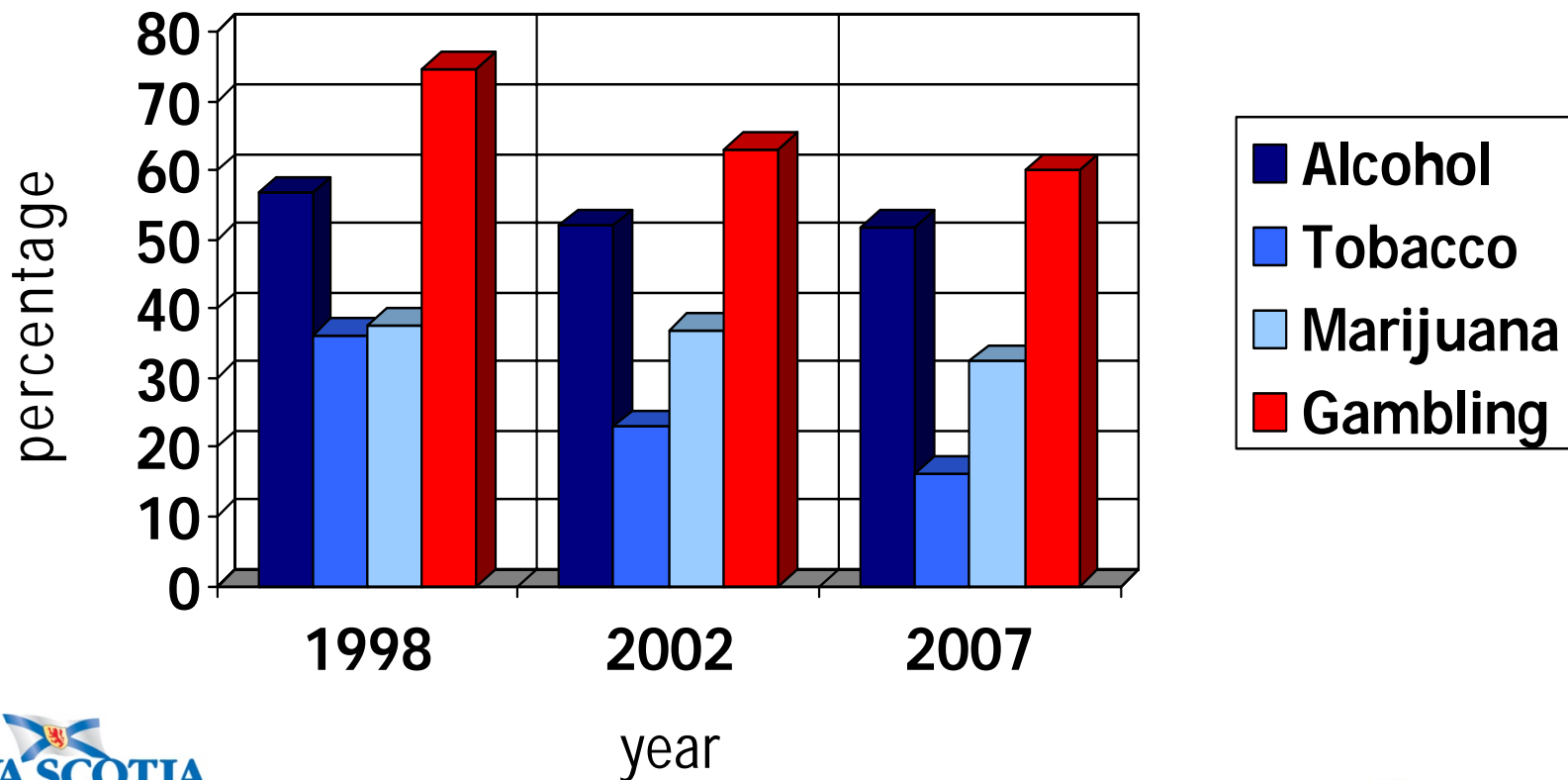
Natalie Cochrane  
Manager, Addiction Services  
Department of Health Promotion and Protection  
Natalie.Cochrane@gov.ns.ca

# Adolescent Gambling

November 2009

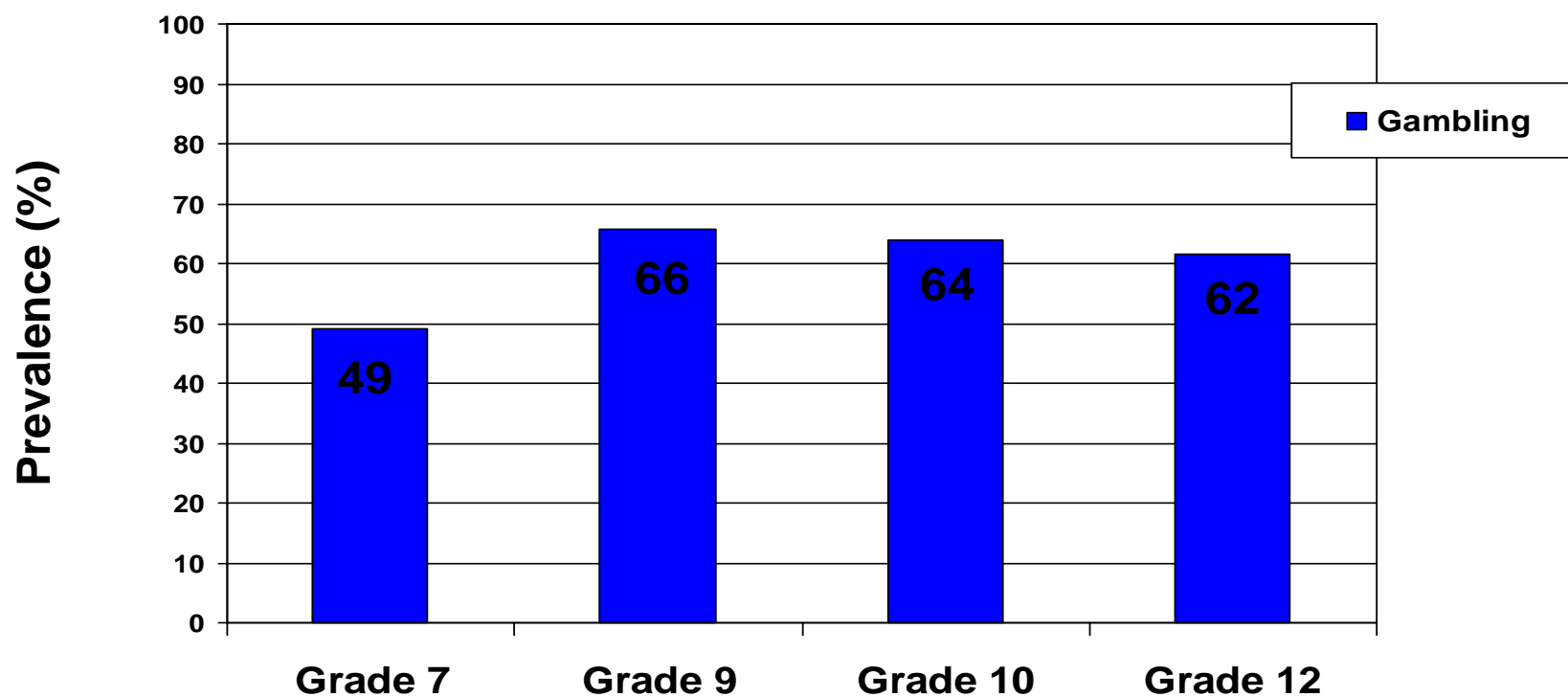
# Nova Scotia Student Drug Use Survey 1998 – 2007

## Student Use over 12 months



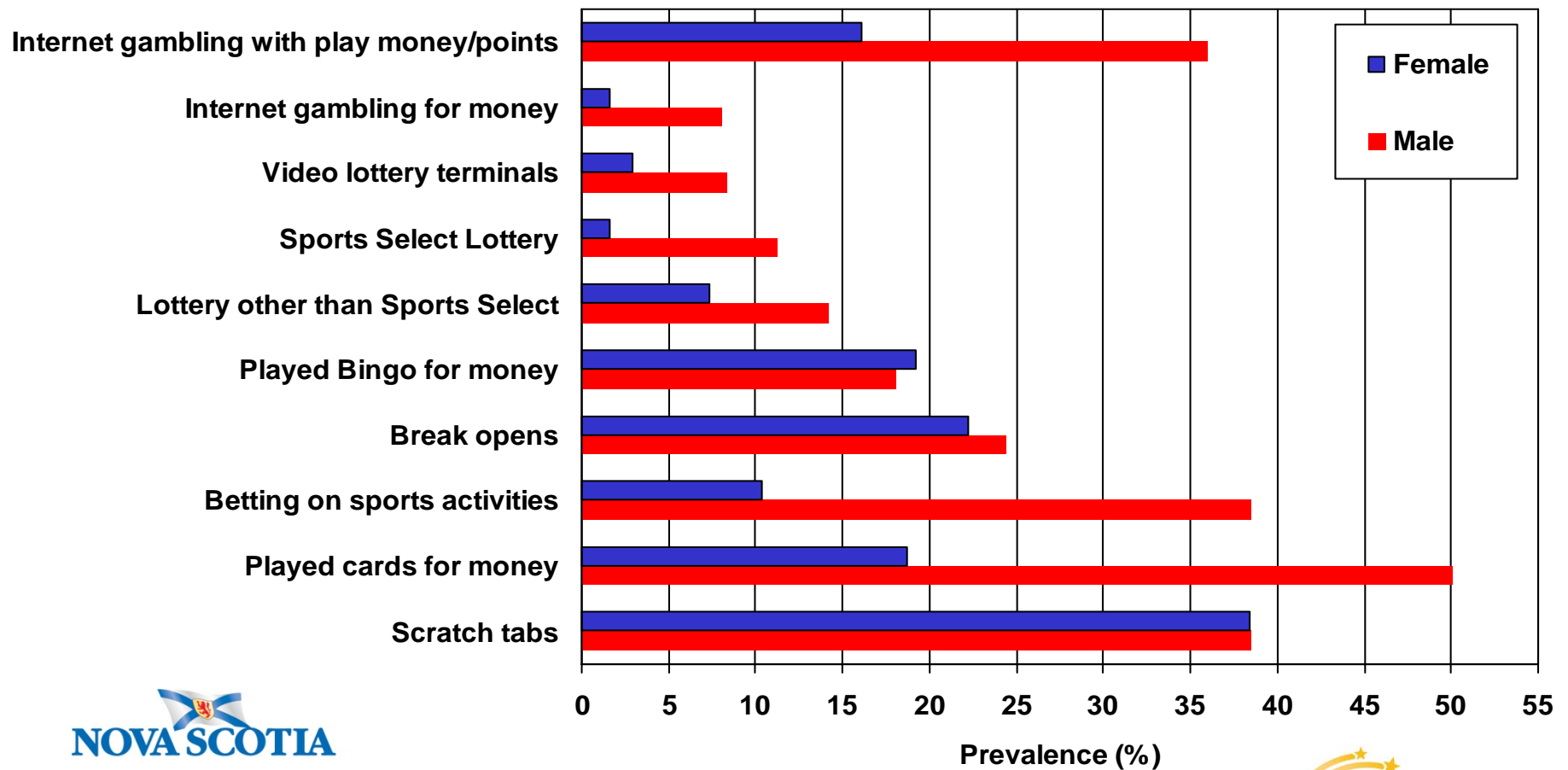
# Nova Scotia Student Drug Use Survey 2007

## Any gambling over the past year

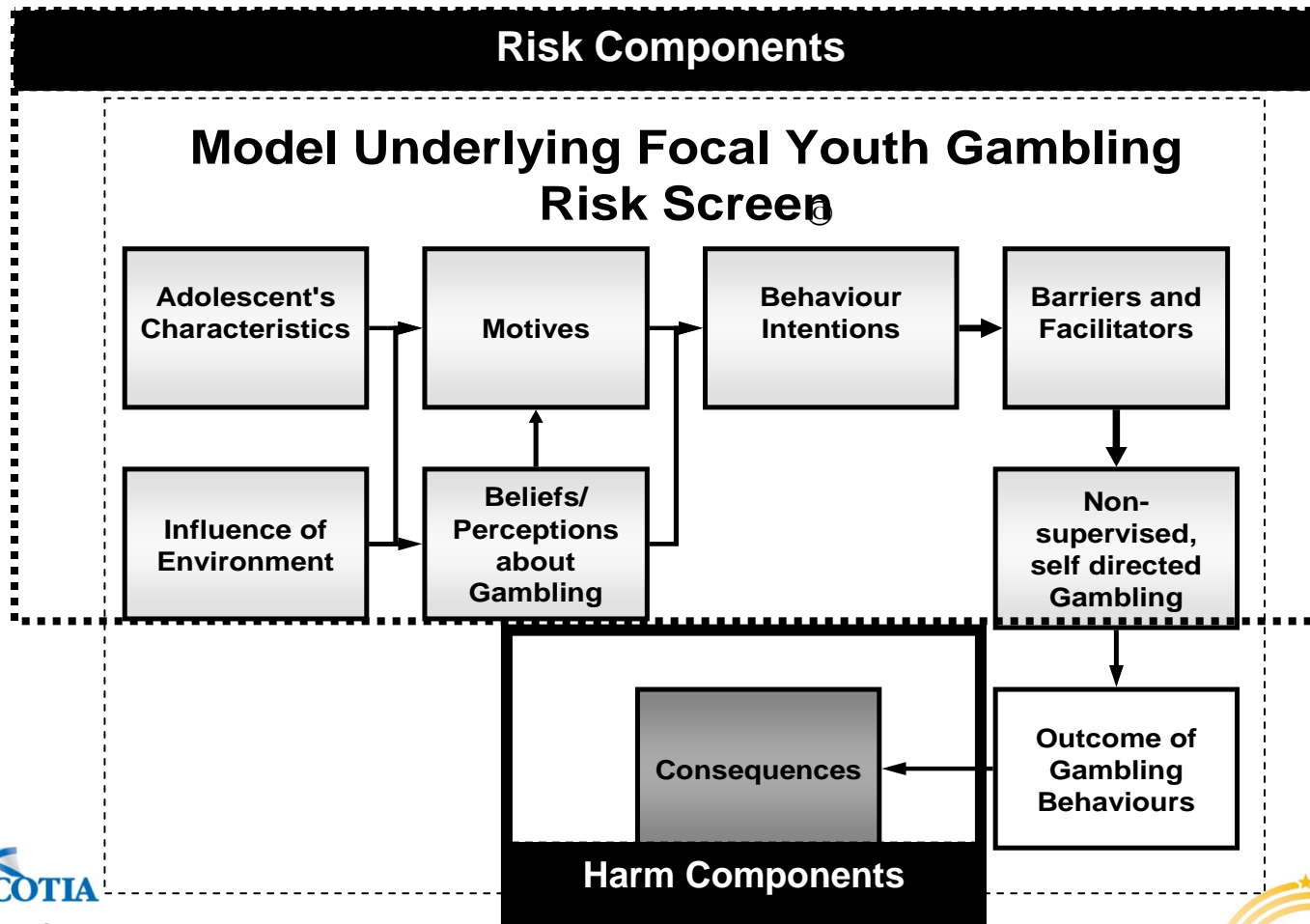


# Nova Scotia Student Drug Use Survey 2007

## Past year participation in gambling



# 2008 Nova Scotia Exploratory Adolescent Gambling Research



# Defining Gambling

Informal gambling refers to non-commercial forms of gambling that are largely self-organized or occur between family, friends, or acquaintances at home, school, or in other venues and areas that youth congregate.

Formal gambling refers to commercial and organized gambling activities intended to generate funds/business for those operating the activity. This includes provincially regulated and age-restricted gambling as well as, regulated, non-restricted commercial gambling activities.

# Gambling Activities

## Informal Gambling

- Card games
- Outcomes for video games or arcade games
- One-on-one skill games such as 'Quarters' or 'Bloody Knuckles'
- Coin pitching
- Dice games
- Sports bets
- Dares
- Outcomes of fights or competitions

## Formal Gambling

- Lottery draw tickets
- Instant tickets and break opens
- VLTs
- Casino gambling
- Sports lottery
- Horse racing
- Charity raffles and 50/50 tickets
- Bingo in bingo halls or charity events
- Video games for prizes at arcades
- Internet gambling
- On-line bingo or ticket purchasing
- Internet gambling for play/fake money or points.

# Method

## Survey research with Nova Scotia youth 13 to 18 years to examine gambling risk among adolescents

- Telephone survey
- March 2008
- Parents/guardians (n=74)
- Adolescents (n=85)
- Results linked by household
- Purpose: identify and assess key factors for gambling risk and harms among adolescents

# Conclusions



- **12%** of participants identified as being at risk for gambling problems.
- **7%** of participants experienced harm due to their gambling.
- Formal gambling was most often associated with harm.
- Informal gambling contributed most strongly to risk.

# Conclusions



**Adolescent gambling was found to differ strongly from that of adults, especially in terms of:**

- involvement is opportunistic and irregular
- social aspects
- higher involvement with informal gambling
- reduced access to formal gambling
- outcomes of participation are less extreme
- consequences are less severe

# Key Factors associated with Risk and Harm

- Accessibility
  - » **Almost half** of youth participated in charity or 50/50 draws
- Opportunities for training or practice
  - » **75%** of participants played on-line games for fun
  - » [Online Games for Youth](#)
  - » **11%** visited ALC's *Playsphere*
- Adult exposure to or facilitation/encouragement of gambling
  - » **Over one quarter** had adults purchase or gift lottery tickets
  - » **13%** have gambled at bingo halls with adults
  - » **6%** gambled on-line with fake or real money with family

# Parents can play a protective role

- Gambling was a common topic of discussion and represented an important source of information for youth
- Conversations including gambling risk occurred spontaneously, in response to media coverage, exposure to TV advertising, or first hand knowledge of someone struggling with gambling.
- Curiosity was also noted as a motivator for information and many parents shared personal gambling experiences with their youth.
- These discussions did not contribute to youth risk and were found to have some benefits.

# But parents can not do it alone

Public policies restricting adolescent exposure/access to high-risk forms of commercial gambling appear effective.

Business practices restricting age of involvement are not effective as illustrated by the numbers of youth playing scratch tickets and bingo.



*For a copy of the study go to:*

*[http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/publications/2008\\_Adolescent\\_Gambling\\_Report.pdf](http://www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/publications/2008_Adolescent_Gambling_Report.pdf)*