

ILLEGAL GAMBLING IN CANADA

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Background and Methods

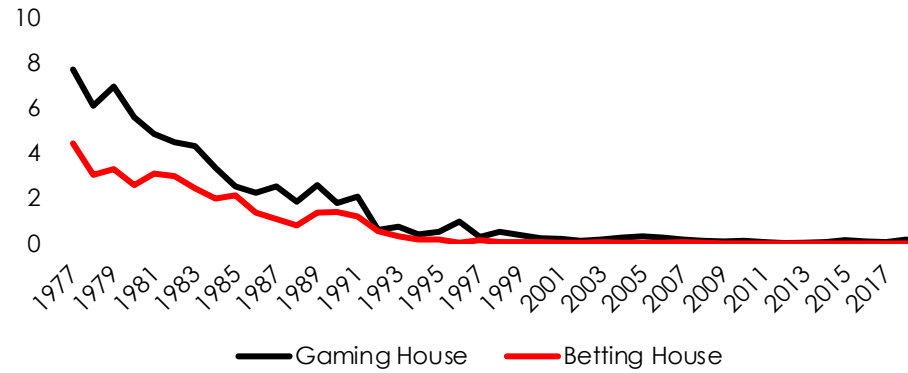
Purpose: Illegal gambling activity has been historically common in Canada because most gambling activities have been prohibited. Currently however, most gambling activities in Canada are legal. Supporters of legalized gambling argue a regulated gambling industry replaces black-market operations and collects revenues from these illegal industries to use for the greater good of society. The purpose of this project is to investigate the validity of this assertion.

Methods: To investigate this purpose, this study involves the analysis of three data sources.

1. Rate of illegal betting house and illegal gaming house criminal charges between 1977 and 2018 collected by Statistics Canada.
2. Self-reported illegal gambling participation data (i.e., illegal animal contests, illegal casino/cardroom use, illegal online gambling) collected from an online panel of 10,199 Canadian adults in 2018.
3. CCHS Gambling Module of self-reported gambling participation among adolescents aged 15-17 from 2002 and 2018.

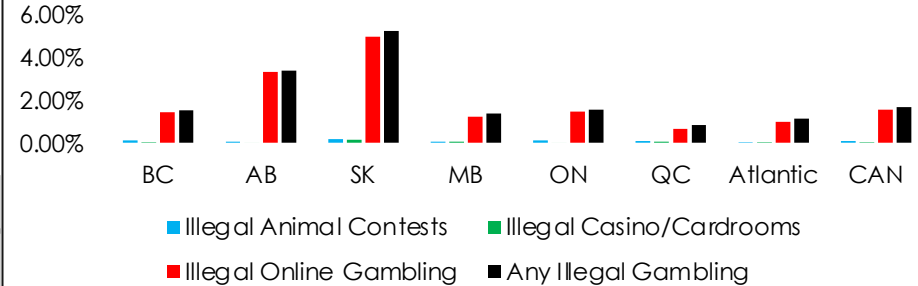
Results

Rate per 100,000 of Betting House and Gaming House Criminal Charges

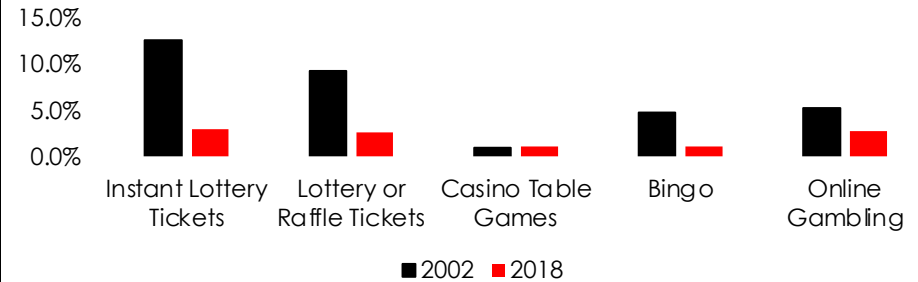


Results

Prevalence of Illegal Gambling by Province/Region



Illegal Adolescent Gambling (15-17)



Conclusion

Analysis partially supports the assertion that legal gambling replaces black-market operators. Illegal gambling participation has been steadily declining since gambling expansion but has not disappeared completely. Future work in this area could focus on the predictors of illegal gambling in Canada and alternative possibilities related to the decrease in illegal gambling participation outside of regulation and expansion.