



Williams, R. J., R. T. Wood, and S. R. Currie, “*Stacked Deck: An Effective School-Based Program for the Prevention of Problem Gambling.*” *Journal of Primary Prevention* (March 2010).

Abstract: School-based prevention programs are an important component of problem gambling prevention, but empirically effective programs are lacking. *Stacked Deck* is a set of five to six interactive lessons that teach about the history of gambling; the true odds and “house edge”; gambling fallacies; signs, risk factors, and causes of problem gambling; and skills for good decision making and problem solving. An overriding theme of the program is to approach life as a “smart gambler” by determining the odds and weighing the pros versus cons of your actions. A total of 949 grade 9–12 students in ten schools throughout southern Alberta received the program and completed baseline and follow-up measures. These students were compared to 291 students in four control schools. Four months after receiving the program, students in the intervention group had significantly more negative attitudes toward gambling, improved knowledge about gambling and problem gambling, improved resistance to gambling fallacies, improved decision making and problem solving, decreased gambling frequency, and decreased rates of problem gambling. There was no change in involvement in high-risk activities or money lost gambling. These results indicate that *Stacked Deck* is a promising curriculum for the prevention of problem gambling.

Key words: gambling, prevention, problem, youth, adolescent, school

Williams, Robert J., Beverly L. West, and Robert I. Simpson. *Prevention of Problem and Pathological Gambling: A Comprehensive Review of the Evidence*. Report prepared for the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. December 1, 2008. <http://hdl.handle.net/10133/414>.

Abstract: This report contains an exhaustive review of the nature and effectiveness of all major educational and policy initiatives that are being used around the world to prevent problem gambling. Educational initiatives discussed include information/awareness campaigns, school-based prevention programs, and venue-based information/counseling centers. Policy initiatives discussed include restrictions on the general availability of gambling, restrictions on who can gamble, and restrictions or alterations on how gambling is provided. The final part of this presentation provides a list of best practices in the prevention of problem gambling that derive from this evidence as well as evidence from related fields. This report is a more comprehensive and updated review to Williams, Robert J., Beverly L. West, and Robert I. Simpson. “Prevention of Problem Gambling.” In *Research and Measurement Issues in Gambling Studies*, edited by G. Smith, D. Hodgins, and R. J. Williams, 399–435. San Diego, CA: Elsevier, 2007.