RESEARCH QUESTIONS
What is the association between legalized gambling and rates of violent crime in Canada? Is access to gambling activities associated with rates of violent crime in the 10 provinces of Canada?

PURPOSE
The purpose of the present study was to explore which of 18 (in 1990) and of 14 (in 2000) types of gambling activities were associated with rates of violent crime (i.e., robbery, fraud, burglary, possession of stolen goods, motor vehicle theft, theft over $5000, theft of $5000 and under) across the 10 provinces and territories of Canada. The present study was also designed to explore whether measures of access to gambling activities (i.e., the total numbers of gambling machines by type, the rate (per 100,000 adults) of these machines, and the rate (per 100,000 adults) of the machine locations) were associated with crime rates in Canada.

HYPOTHESIS
None stated.

PARTICIPANTS
Not applicable.

PROCEDURE
The rates (per 100,000) for robbery and various property crimes in 1990 were calculated by the one of the authors from the Federal Government's raw data and included data from the Northwest Territories combined with those data from Nunavut. However, the 1990 sample only included 'gambling activity' data for the 10 provinces, the Yukon, and Northwest Territories, without Nunavut. The rates (per 100,000) for robbery and various property crimes in 2000 were already readily available from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, but did not contain any data for Nunavut alone. Therefore, the 2000 sample included both 'robbery and property crime' and 'gambling activity' data for the 10 provinces, the Yukon, and Northwest Territories/Nunavut combined. The 'robbery and property crime' data for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were originally available separately. For the sake of comparability, one of the authors using raw data from the Federal Government combined crime data from the Northwest Territories with those same data from Nunavut. The rates (100,000 adults) of gambling machines and their locations were calculated from data provided by previous researchers, as well as from raw population data for Canada provided by the Federal Government.

MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES
Not applicable.

KEY RESULTS
In the 10 provinces and 2 territories of Canada in 2000, but not in 1990, the total number of types of gambling activities was positively associated with rates of robbery. Taking other social variables into account did not eliminate these associations. The results further revealed that in the 10 provinces of Canada in 1999/2000, the total numbers of electronic gambling machines (EGMs) for each province was associated with rates of theft over $5000. In 1990 there were positive associations found for burglary with off-track betting and race/sportsbooks; motor vehicle theft with off-track betting, and race/sportsbooks; rate of theft with casinos; quarter horse racing with thoroughbred racing. In 2000 there were positive associations for robbery with casinos and slot machines; casinos with slot machines; scratch tickets with raffles, break-open tickets, sports tickets, and charitable bingo; raffles with break-open tickets, sports tickets, and charitable bingo; break-open tickets with sports tickets; charitable bingo with break-open tickets and sports tickets.

LIMITATIONS
None stated.

CONCLUSIONS
Overall, in the 10 provinces and 2 territories of Canada in 2000, but not in 1990, the total number of types of gambling activities was positively associated with rates of robbery, and controls for other social variables did not eliminate these associations. Further, in the 10 provinces of Canada in 1999/2000, the total numbers of EGMs for each province was associated with rates of theft over $5000. In 1990 and
2000 various other positive associations were found between violent crimes and different types of gambling. Future research is needed to shed additional light on the above associations, as well as to add further understanding to how legalized gambling and access to gambling activities are associated with rates of violent crime in Canada.

**KEYWORDS:** legalized gambling, rates of violent crime, access to gambling activities, Canada

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