

## ALBERTA BY NUMBERS

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### I



Year Alberta became the only province to fully privatize liquor retailing: 1993  
Not including off-sales, number of liquor outlets in Alberta in 1993: 310;  
number in Jan 2003: 983  
Percentage by which Alberta Gaming and Liquor Act “incidents”—such as public  
intoxication and sale to minors—increased in Edmonton between 1994 and 2002: 273  
Rank of Calgary for average household spending on alcoholic beverages compared to  
other Canadian metro areas in 2000: 1; Edmontonians: 8  
Rank of Edmonton for per capita impaired-driving charges among Canada’s nine largest  
cities in 1998: 1; Calgary: 3  
Estimated social and economic cost of alcohol use to Albertans, including productivity  
losses, health care and law enforcement, in 1992: \$749-million

### II



Year Swiss chemist Albert Hofmann accidentally ingested LSD and reported seeing  
“a kaleidoscope-like play of colours”: 1943; length of his “trip,” in hours: 2  
Year psychologist Humphrey Osmond began treating alcoholics with LSD: 1953  
Percentage of alcoholics with a year of traditional treatment who relapse: 75–90  
Year U.S. restricted LSD research and made first LSD arrests, ultimately leading to end of LSD  
experimentation in Saskatchewan: 1962

### III



Number of video lottery terminals in Alberta in 1992: 435; in 2004: 5,992  
Percentage of Alberta adults experiencing “mild to severe” problem gambling, 2002: 5  
Projected provincial government revenue from gambling in 2004/2005: \$1.168-billion  
Percentage of Alberta government revenue generated by gambling  
in 1992: 1.6; in 2001: 5.4  
In dollars, average annual expenditure on gambling by Alberta adults  
in 1992: 120; in 2001: 604  
Among 10 provinces, rank of Alberta adults for average gambling expenditures  
in 1992: 8; in 2001: 1

### IV



Percentage of Alberta adult males who are overweight or obese: 57; females: 40  
Cost of physical inactivity to public health care system in 1999: \$2.1-billion  
Percentage of dieters who regain the weight they’ve lost within five years: 98; percentage who gain  
back more than they lost: 90  
Number of Google hits for “fat: the new tobacco” in Jul 2004: 153; number of hits for “obesity and  
symptom and consumerism”: 596

### V



Number of premature deaths attributed to smoking and second-hand smoke in Alberta  
every year: 3,400  
In dollars, estimated public health care savings for each dollar invested in tobacco control: 3  
In millions of dollars, annual tobacco tax revenue in Alberta before 2002 tax increase: 373;  
tax revenue in year after increase: 618; amount spent on tobacco reduction programs in year  
after increase: 12.4  
Percentage of Albertans in favour of a province-wide smoking ban in the workplace,  
as recommended in 2002 government strategy but not endorsed by cabinet: 78