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MAINE RESIDENTS PATRONIZE FOXWOODS AND MOHEGAN SUN

**By gender, age, income and education,
residents make 271,000 visits to Connecticut casinos**

Maine residents made more than 271,000 separate trips to Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun during the past 12 months, according to a behavioral survey released today by the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Center for Policy Analysis.

The survey, part three of a seven-part survey determining New England residents' attitudes toward casinos and slot parlors, found that Maine residents, who comprise approximately 1% of Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun patrons, respectively, made more than 271,000 trips to the southeastern Connecticut casinos during the past twelve months. Approximately 76% of Maine residents visiting Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun are 30 years-of-age and older.

Last week, the CFPA released a poll of 1,041 Massachusetts residents showing that 57% of Bay Staters support the authorization of a resort casino in the commonwealth, while 30% are opposed and 14% are undecided. In that same survey, 53% of Massachusetts residents supported authorizing slots at the state's four racetracks, while 29% are opposed, and 18% are undecided.

The CFPA, which neither supports nor opposes gambling, studies gambling because of the increasingly significant public policy implications of gambling's fiscal, economic and social impacts throughout New England. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia allow some form of gambling, with many states relying on gambling revenues as an essential part of the state budget.

Next week, the CFPA will release the fifth and sixth parts of its seven-part behavioral survey examining the potential of gambling addiction, entitled "Is Gambling a Social Problem in New England?" and "Who Gambles at Maine's Slot Parlor?"

One-in-ten Maine residents surveyed --- approximately 10% --- reported visiting either Foxwoods or Mohegan Sun in the past 12 months, with men comprising 61% of Maine residents visiting the Connecticut casinos, and women accounting for 39% of Maine's casino visitors.

"Maine residents' desire for casino gambling, and the recreational and entertainment amenities it offers, continues to increase each year," said Dr. Clyde W. Barrow, CFPA director. "It is clear that Maine residents of all economic and educational backgrounds view casino gambling as acceptable entertainment and will continue to pursue that experience in Connecticut if denied the opportunity to do so in their home state, or unless a similar --- and closer --- opportunity is offered in Massachusetts or Rhode Island."

Of the four states surveyed --- Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Maine --- 66% of Maine residents visiting Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun possessed at least some college experience: an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, or post-graduate work. Specifically, 33% of Maine residents patronizing the two casinos reported having a bachelor's degree or higher --- the highest percentage of any of the four states' residents surveyed.

By income, 60% of Maine residents visiting the two Connecticut casinos reported having annual incomes of \$45K or more, including 18% who had annual incomes of \$75K or more. About 21% of Maine residents visiting the casinos had incomes of \$25K or less.

Maine residents also exhibited a propensity to spend money on non-gambling amenities at the two casinos, such as food, lodging, retail and other entertainment. Barrow said many Maine residents view their

Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun visits as “mini-vacations,” resulting in more time spent at the casinos and in southeastern Connecticut.

“They’re spending more time in that region overnighting, attending a cabaret show or sporting event, shopping, and dining at restaurants,” Barrow said, “so they’re going to be making more non-gambling expenditures than their Connecticut counterparts.”

In early March, the CFPA will release its fourth annual New England Gaming Update, which tracks spending by residents of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont and New York at the Connecticut casinos, Rhode Island VLT parlors, and Bangor, Maine’s recently opened slot parlor. Last year’s study found that in 2005, Maine residents spent \$35 million at the two casinos. Massachusetts residents spent approximately \$1.1 billion --- \$890.3 million and \$190.4 million,, respectively, while Rhode Islanders spent an estimated \$322.5 million at Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun.

Overall, the survey showed 83% of women and 51% of men reported that they primarily play slot machines. In fact, 60% of the slot machine players at Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun are women.

Persons aged 40-and-over are much more likely to play slot machines and, in general, the older the patron, the larger the percentage of persons who report that they primarily play the machines. The average slot machine player at Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun is a woman aged 40-plus, with at least some college, and an annual income of \$25K-to-\$75K per year.

Overall, 65% of slot machine players at the two casinos have annual incomes of \$45K or more. In addition to gambling, these players are likely to spend money on food, lodging and retail.

Conversely, 35% of men reported that they primarily play table games at Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun, and 83% of all table game players at the two casinos are men. The average table game player at Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun is a male under age-40, with at least some college, and earning \$75K or more a year.

Overall, 81% of table games players have annual incomes of \$45K or more, while 56% of table games players have annual incomes of \$75K or higher. In addition to gambling, these players are likely to spend money on food, lodging, golf and patronizing the casinos’ entertainment venues.

Nearly 60% of Foxwoods’ high-stakes bingo players are women, and the average high-stakes bingo player at Foxwoods is a young woman aged 21-29, with some college, and earning between \$25K-\$45K annually. In addition to gambling, these players are likely to spend money on food and entertainment.

Both men and women visitors to Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun rated the casinos’ general atmosphere and physical attractiveness, slots machines, table games, bars and restaurants, geographic proximity to their homes, and concerts and other entertainment as amenities important to them.

At the same time, 80% of those surveyed reported traveling more than 60 minutes to visit either casino, underscoring that, for the vast majority of casino patrons, gambling on slot machines alone is not the sole reason they patronize Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun.

In fact, 77% of those who visited the casinos said they had not visited Lincoln Park or Newport Grand. This is despite the fact that both Rhode Island facilities are closer to the vast preponderance of Bay Staters who gamble, and who reside in Greater Boston and eastern Massachusetts.

The Center for Policy Analysis surveyed 448 Maine residents from September 29 – November 2, 2006. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.7%.

For a summary of today’s survey results, go to “What’s New!” at <http://www.umassd.edu/cfpa>. The summary will be posted on Sunday, February 4th, at 5pm.