

Restructuring a Myth: Economic Impact of Casinos in the Chippewa Valley

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History of Wisconsin Native Owned Casinos

- ✓ Problems with Wisconsin Government
 - Didn't want to negotiate until 1991 when Judge Barbara Crabb told government had to negotiate
- ✓ Tribal-State Compact
 - Every 7 years new compact
 - Now both the state and tribes have power in regulating Native owned casinos
- ✓ History of St. Croix Turtle Lake Casino
 - Started in 1992

Economic Impact on St. Croix Reservation

- ❖ New Business
 - Four Winds
 - Tobacco Shops
 - Check and Cash
 - Convenient store
- ❖ Youth and Elderly
 - New senior center and apartments
 - Scholarship opportunities

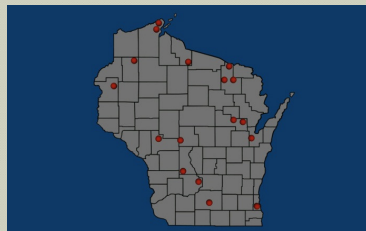
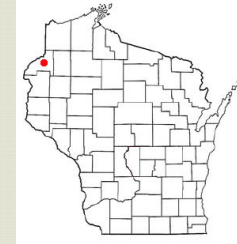


Figure 1: Tribal Casinos Locations throughout Wisconsin
<http://www.uscasinoindex.info/state.php?stateID=49>

- ❖ Jobs
 - Increase, more members getting jobs
- ❖ Basic Infrastructure (Roads, Healthcare, Housing)
 - More rental units build
 - Paved roads, getting plowed regularly in Winter
 - Budget increase, more services, transport patients, 2 new vans
- ❖ Per Capita
 - \$1,000 per member
 - Payment of bills, rent or mortgage, new cars, more basic needs

Impact on Surrounding Communities

- Put Turtle Lake and Surrounding Communities on the Map
 - More business, increase in tourism, helped clean up town,
- Jobs
 - Increased with new business, added more jobs
- Crime
 - Shoplifting increasing, problems with casino
- Taxes, Donations
 - Payment in Lieu of Taxes, offset taxes otherwise would have for land
 - Donating to certain community aspects (police, EMT, Library)
 - Donating to community fund raiser
 - Hotel, Government building, and restaurant= %20 of village budget
- Population
 - Increased from 800 to 1065
- Public Service/Traffic
 - More traffic means more accidents more police, ambulances
 - Casino doesn't pay for this increase in the public service aspect
 - Increase in highway lines from 1 to 2 on Highway 8



Stereotypes:

- "Rich"
 - Only about 5 casinos in the nation are wealthy
 - In Wisconsin there is only four tribes that give per capita payments
- No job
 - Biggest supplier of jobs in the counties
 - Many tribal members have jobs now because of these casinos
- Selfish
 - Do pay taxes to federal and some state
 - Give money away to help other tribes
 - Give money to the community projects or fund raisers

- "The crime problem did get brought up in the initial assessment of the casino but it is just like putting a Wal-Mart in a town. No matter what business is getting brought in there will be more crime because there are more people coming and going from the town."



Ask me about my Title!!