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W.Va. tops states in gambling revenue growth

By The Associated Press

West Virginia now rivals Nevada in the share of gambling revenue it relies upon for its general spending budget.

That's the finding of a new report that also ranks the Mountain State tops for the growth in its reliance on gambling dollars.

West Virginia has a traditional lottery as well as nearly 20,000 video lottery machines, many of them at four racetracks. Today's report from the Rockefeller Institute of Government says gambling revenues equaled nearly 9 percent of the state's 2006 general revenue budget.

Only Nevada had a larger share, at 13.4 percent.

West Virginia's reliance on such revenues grew by 6.4 percent between 1998 and 2006, the most of any state.