



# The New Jersey Gaming, Sports, and Entertainment Advisory Commission: Revitalizing Atlantic City

Final version

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## Context

This document provides a synthesis of research on Atlantic City done by McKinsey & Company in October 2009

It includes a perspective on the city economics, as well as quantitative and qualitative consumer research led by McKinsey & Company

External sources and public reports were consulted and are referenced as appropriate

# Content

- 1. Atlantic City's economic situation**

2. Segmentation of potential Atlantic City customers

3. Overview of current unmet needs

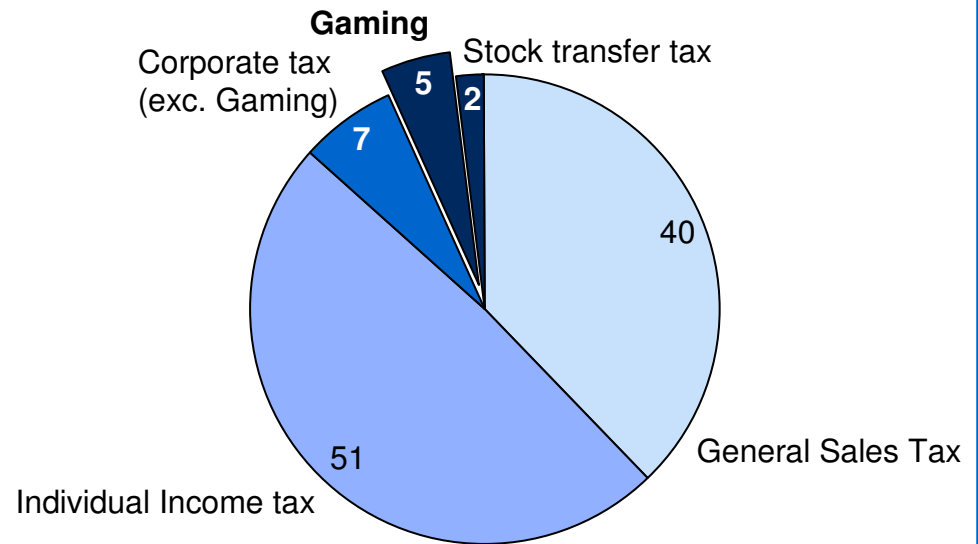
# Atlantic City plays a large role in New Jersey's economy



**NJ Gaming industry tax receipts in 2009: ~\$1b**

**NJ Tax receipts breakdown in 2009**

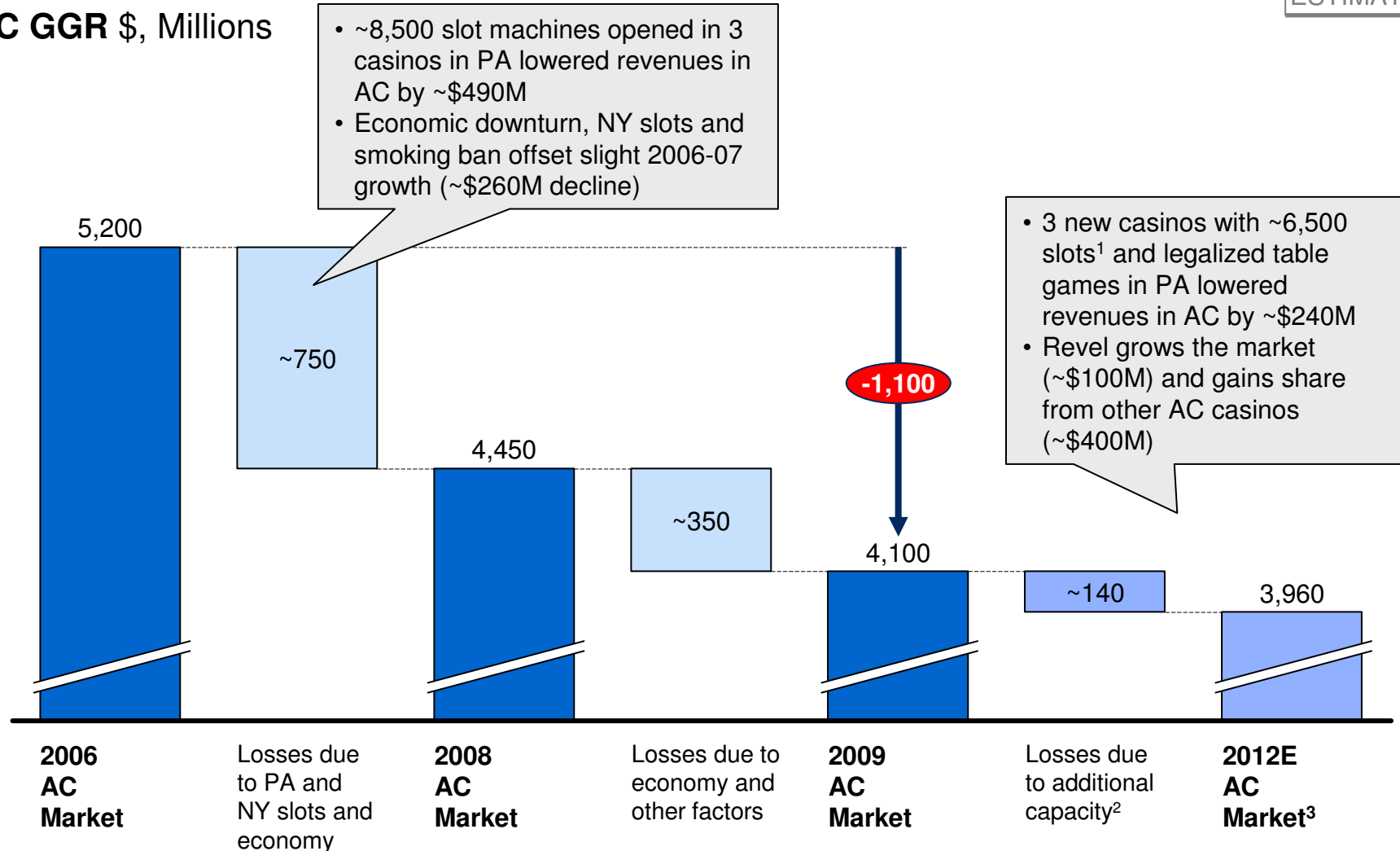
100% = \$20.6b



# However, Atlantic City gaming revenues (and tax base) have declined by \$1b over the last 3 years

ESTIMATES

AC GGR \$, Millions

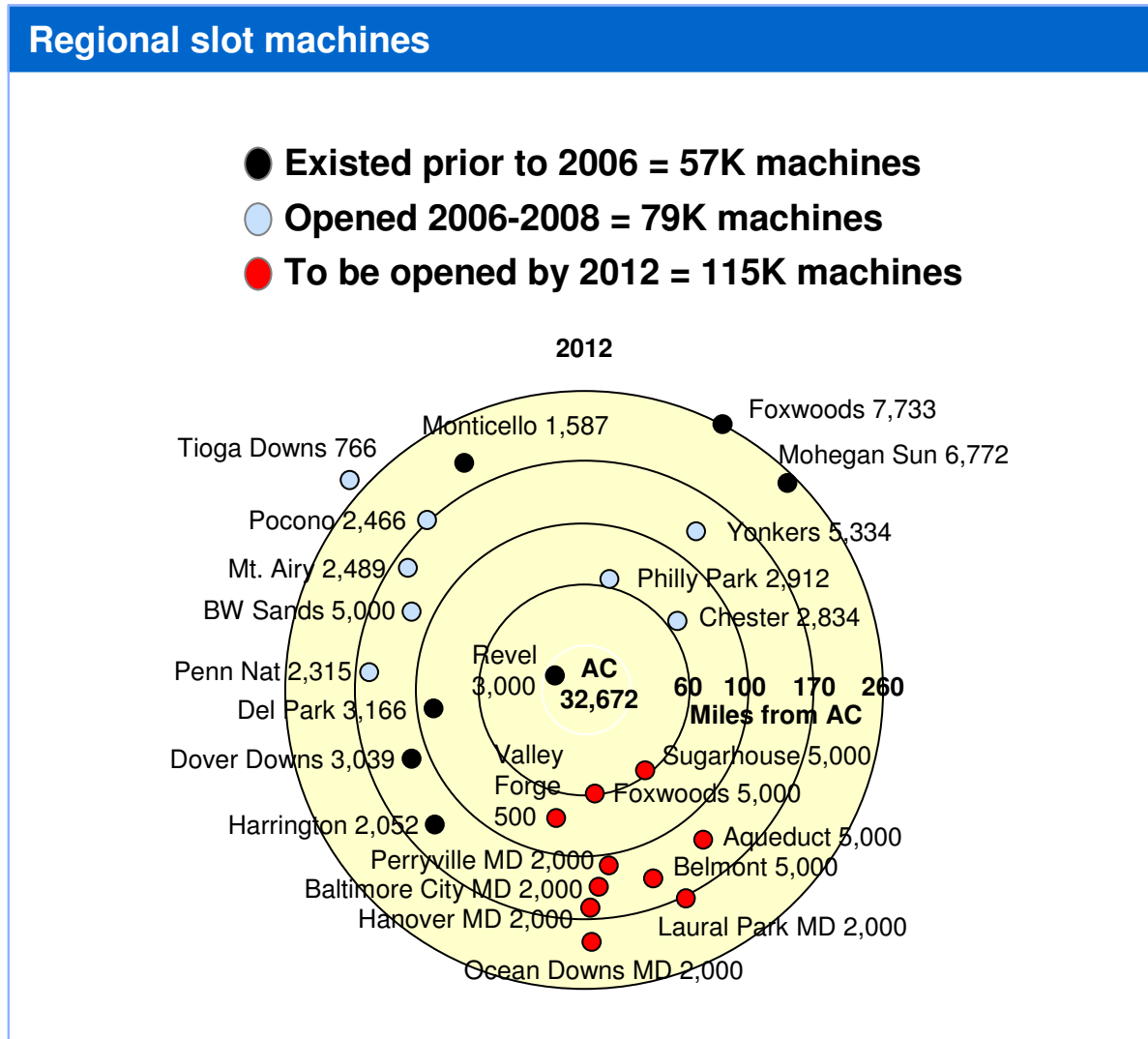


- ~8,500 slot machines opened in 3 casinos in PA lowered revenues in AC by ~\$490M
- Economic downturn, NY slots and smoking ban offset slight 2006-07 growth (~\$260M decline)

- 3 new casinos with ~6,500 slots<sup>1</sup> and legalized table games in PA lowered revenues in AC by ~\$240M
- Revel grows the market (~\$100M) and gains share from other AC casinos (~\$400M)

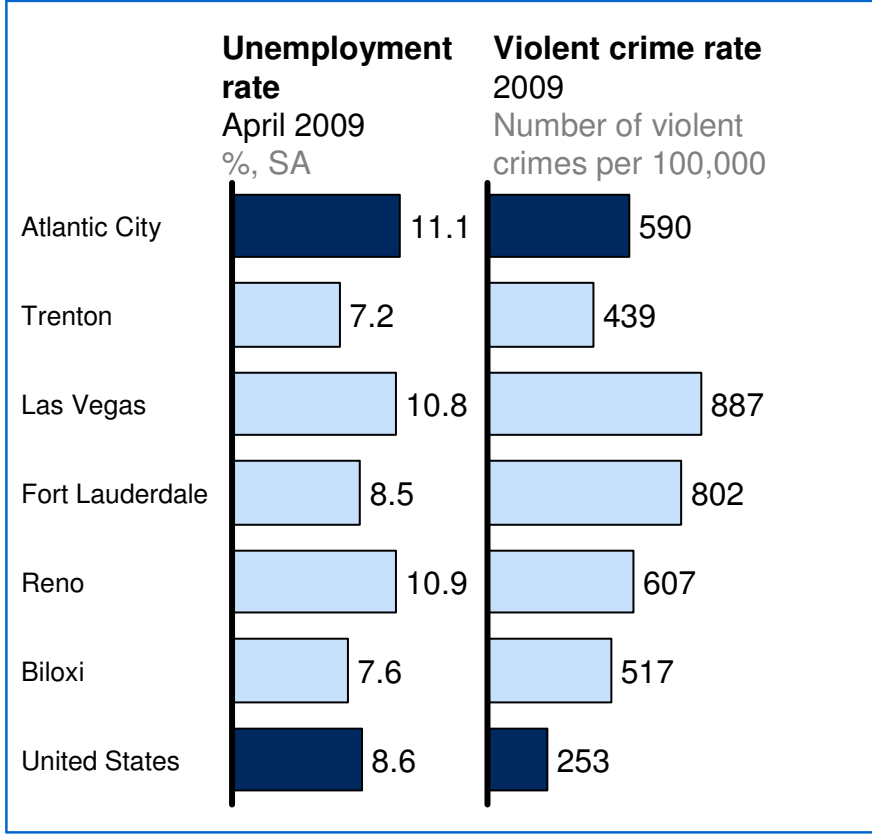
1 Bethlehem Sands (3,000 slots), Foxwoods (500 slots), Valley Forge (3,000 slots)  
 2 Includes estimated impact from PA slots (\$90M), PA table gaming (\$70M), Baltimore (\$25M) and NY slots (\$55M)  
 3 Assumes overall flat market growth from 2009 to 2012 due to off-setting economic downturn and rebound

# Regional competition has driven about \$750M of the gaming revenue decline



# While competition has been a factor, the City's atmosphere/environment has also contributed to the revenue decline

## High unemployment and violent crime rate



## Abandoned buildings and boardwalk



## Consumer reactions

*"..The beach is no better. You first have to get rid of the riff raff to get me to even consider it"*

*"It is seedy, not safe at all. There are prostitutes and drug dealers"*

*"I do not like seeing the abandoned buildings, pawn shops, and empty lots right next to Casinos. ... at night it's like a ghost town"*

# Content

1. Atlantic City's economic situation

**2. Segmentation of potential Atlantic City customers**

3. Overview of current unmet needs



# 8 customer segments were identified through consumer research



SOURCE: McKinsey customer segmentation survey 2009 (N=5,793)

# 1

## Recreation and scenery seekers

### Basic description

- Average income ~\$90,000 with 44% earning \$45-74K
- Average age is 49 with 65% older than 45 years of age
- AC has lowest penetration of this segment, at 27%

### Attitudes & needs

- Do not like upscale amenities (94%)
- Do not like to go to places that are loud, bustling, and energetic (97%)
- Prefer to stay close to home and take short getaways (60%)
- Do not like to gamble and do not like having casinos in destinations where they travel (92%)
- Like to visit destinations “off the beaten path” (73%)



### Travel behavior

- See an attraction or monument (~26%)
- Like to see change in scenery (27%)
- Participate in outdoor activities (19% on day trips and 31% on weekend)
- ~7% gamble
- Spend below average on all categories

### Objections to Atlantic City

- Satisfaction with all features of AC is below average
- Dissatisfied with availability of affordable lodging (91%)
- Dissatisfied with availability of well known and reputable brands (9%)

## 2 Upscale resort and outdoor travelers

### Basic description

- Average income ~\$103,000 with 45% earning >\$100K
- Average age 51 and 72% are over 45 years in age

### Attitudes & needs

- Like to go on trips with upscale resorts and amenities (73%)
- Do not like to go to places that are loud, bustling, and energetic (96%)
- Like having casinos at destinations where they travel (32%)
- Prefer to go to places that are oriented towards adults, not children (64%)
- Go to locations with good weather and spend most of their time outdoors (79)



### Travel behavior

- ~34% go to the beach
- 9% go to special hotels
- ~19% gamble
- Spend above average on lodging

### Objections to Atlantic City

- Satisfaction with AC similar to average of other segments
- Particularly dissatisfied with art and cultural events and historic buildings

### 3 Multi-experience gamers

#### Basic description

- Average income ~\$110,000 with 53% earning >\$100K
- Age skews younger (25-45)
- AC has high penetration of this segment, at 58%

#### Attitudes & needs

- Like to go on trips with upscale resorts and amenities (80%)
- Like to go to places that are loud, bustling, and energetic (61%)
- Take trips to city locations (68%)
- Like having casinos at destinations where they travel (66%)
- Prefer to go to places that are oriented towards adults, not children (54%)



#### Travel behavior

- ~33% have gambled on most recent trips
- 46% have gambled in Atlantic City in last 12 months
- Go to nightclubs, concerts, special events, sporting events, special hotels, spas and beach when they travel
- Spend more than average on gambling, average on other categories

#### Objections to Atlantic City

- Dissatisfied with affordable lodging (60%)
- Dissatisfied with quality of hotels (50%) and hotel amenities (55%)



## 4 Young entertainment seekers

### Basic description

- Average income ~\$90,000, 45% are in lower income bracket
- Average age is 35, 87% are in 21-45 age group
- 27% are from New York

### Attitudes & needs

- Like to go to places that are loud, bustling, and energetic (47%)
- Take trips to city locations (66%)
- Prefer to go to places that are oriented towards adults, not children (54%)
- Like to go on trips where they can walk everywhere (71%)



### Travel behavior

- Spend less than average on all categories
- ~19% have gambled on most recent trips
- Go to nightclubs, concerts, special events, sporting events, special hotels, spas and beach when they travel
- Some feeder markets (e.g., Philadelphia and DC) do not fulfill this segment's entertainment needs

### Objections to Atlantic City

- Dissatisfied with availability of affordable lodging (60%)
- Dissatisfied with quality of hotels (50%) and hotel amenities (55%)

# 5

## Recreation seeking boomers

### Basic description

- Average income ~\$110,000, 57% are in higher income brackets
- Average age 61, 37% are in 65+ age cohort
- AC has low penetration of this segment, at 30%

### Attitudes & needs

- Do not like to go to places that are loud, bustling, and energetic (94%)
- Take trips to city locations (66%)
- Do not like having casinos at destinations where they travel (94%)
- Like to visit destinations “off the beaten path” (71%)



### Travel behavior

- Travel to see attractions and national monuments (30%)
- Go shopping (39%)
- Change in scenery (31%)
- ~7% gamble
- Spend below average on all categories, except lodging and transportation

### Objections to Atlantic City

- General satisfaction with AC much lower than average for all segments
- Particularly dissatisfied with affordable lodging options and retail shopping

## 6

# Gaming boomers

### Basic description

- Average household income ~\$92,000, overrepresented in \$45,000-75,000 income bracket
- Average age is 58, overrepresented in 45+ age cohort
- AC has highest penetration of this segment, at 61%

### Attitudes & needs

- Like having casinos at destinations where they travel (77%)
- Prefer to go to places that are oriented towards adults, not children (56%)
- Prefer to stay close to home and take short getaways (50%)
- Do not like loud, bustling, energetic places (88%)



11%

### Travel behavior

- Go for food and drink experience (~61%)
- ~43% gambled on their last trip
- 53% gambled most in AC in past 12 months
- Active in other categories, at average level to total population
- Spend above average on gambling and below average on other categories

### Objections to Atlantic City

- Rate AC highest along all dimensions, compared to other segments
- Most disappointed by fair rewards, comps, and mail offers in AC (83%) and odds of winning (88%)

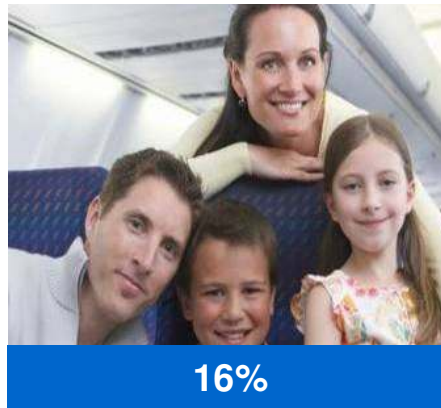
## 7 Family vacationers

### Basic description

- Average household income ~\$100,000  
overrepresented in \$75,000-150,000 income bracket
- Overrepresented in 25-45 age cohort

### Attitudes & needs

- Like to go on trips with upscale resorts and amenities (53%)
- Prefer to stay close to home and take short getaways (37%)
- Only go to destinations with nice weather and refer to spend most of their time outside (65%)



### Objections to Atlantic City

- Rate AC lowest along all dimensions, compared to other segments, except kid friendly amenities where they are just above average, but still poor (only 12% in top 2 satisfaction boxes, compared to 11% for other segments)
- Most disappointed by availability of affordable lodging, outdoor activities, and quality of the beach

### Travel behavior

- Go to the beach (36% day trips and 43% weekend trips)
- Go to an amusement park (~18% compared to 9% average)
- Go to water parks (11% compared to 5% average)
- Go to see change in scenery (26%)
- Participate in outdoor activity (27%)
- ~12% gambled during last trip and 32% enjoy gambling
- Spend more than average on most categories, including gambling



# 8

## Wealthier boomers

### Basic description

- Average household income ~\$227,000
- Overrepresented in 45-60 age cohort (60%)
- AC has 48% penetration and 14% have been to AC more than 6 times in the past 24 months

### Attitudes & needs

- Like to go on trips with upscale resorts and amenities (79%)
- Do not prefer to stay close to home and take shorter vacations (81%)
- Only go to destinations with nice weather and prefer to spend most of their time outside (65%)



### Travel behavior

- Gamble slightly above average (21% on weekend trips)
- Go to spas, attend concerts and special events, and stay at nice hotels more than the average
- Spend more on all categories and more than twice the average on gaming

### Objections to Atlantic City

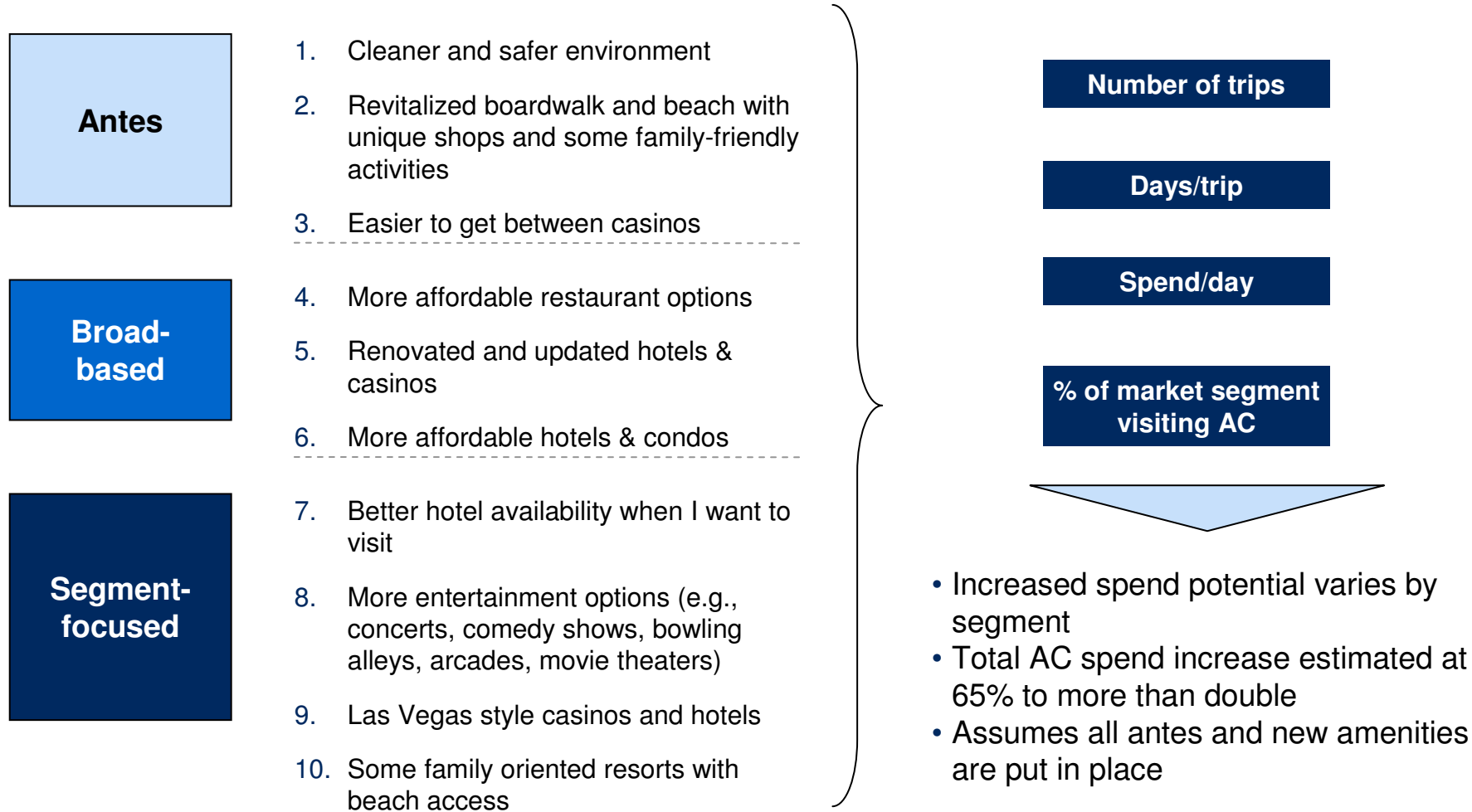
- Rate AC similarly as other segments and slightly higher on fair comps, loyalty rewards, and availability of affordable lodging

# Consumer study suggests that addressing the gaps in AC safety and amenities could significantly increase AC revenue potential

|Based on 6 focus markets

**Assuming AC “antes” and improved offerings were delivered...**

**...the impact on AC spend by segment was estimated:**



# Content

1. Atlantic City's economic situation
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- 3. Overview of current unmet needs**

## **Amenities: Many visitors require non-gaming options to want to come to Atlantic City**

### **Non-Gamers**

“I like having the hotel set up with a pool and beach access...it’s easier to deal with my kids

### **Non-gamers go to other Jersey Shore towns and activity-oriented destinations for day & multi-day trips and vacations**

- Want a variety activities and family friendly amenities
- Resorts and more lodging options, access to clean and safe beaches and freedom to walk around town safely
- Nostalgic and vibrant boardwalk with more shopping options
- Entertainment options (e.g., sports, leisure activities, amusement or water parks)
- A main attraction or icon (e.g., aquarium, museum)

### **Gamers**

“I can’t gamble for an entire week, I need other things to do. There is nothing else to do...nothing at 1:00AM”

### **Gamers do not come to Atlantic City because they are satisfied with their local casino and need more to make the trip to AC**

- Vibrant nightlife and entertainment (e.g., Las Vegas-quality shows)
- More shopping options and a nostalgic boardwalk
- Younger, higher-charged atmosphere with “glitzier” casinos and more gaming options (particularly table games)
- Safer and cleaner surroundings outside the casinos

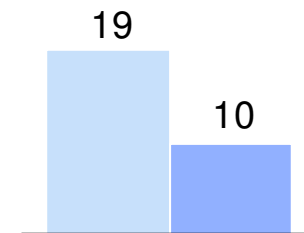
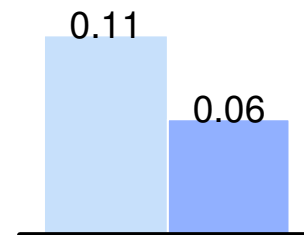
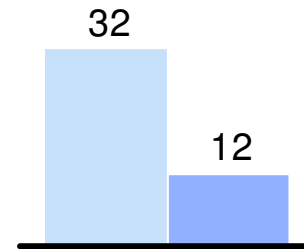
# Amenities: Compared to Vegas, AC lacks in non-gaming amenities

Las Vegas  
Atlantic City

## Non-gaming supply Amenities



## Per thousand sq. ft. casino space



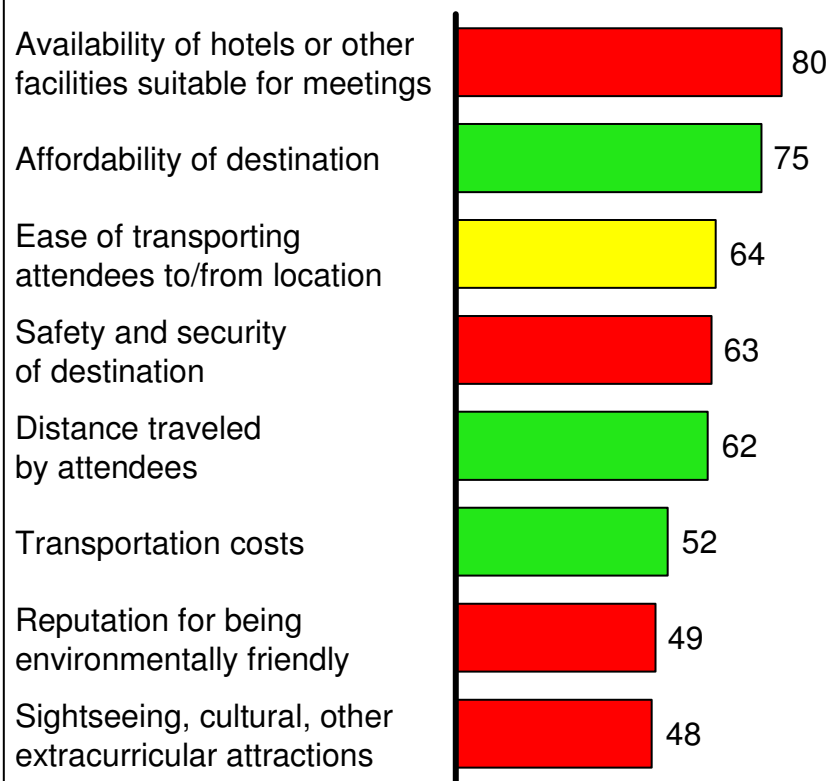
# Amenities: Better hotel facilities suitable for meetings and recreational activities are important for corporate customers

■ AC has advantage  
■ Neutral  
■ AC had disadvantage

## Corporate Meeting Planners are demanding in their selection of a meeting destination ...

“What factors considered are very important in selection of a destination<sup>1</sup>”

Percent that agreed



## ... and Atlantic City falls short on several dimensions<sup>2</sup>

“(AC needs) **higher quality meeting space**...Limited (now)”

“**Upgraded technology in guest rooms and meeting rooms**”





“AC needs to promote **the safety and cleanliness** of the city”

“**Limited alternatives to recreational activities**”

<sup>1</sup> Meetings and Conventions, 2008 Market Report

<sup>2</sup> NE Meeting Planner Survey 2008

## **Competition: There are few large, world-class NE destinations that can compete for corporate meetings**

Location	Meeting planners experience <sup>1</sup>	Perception of meeting planners <sup>2</sup>	
	<p><i>Mohegan Sun, Uncasville</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 100K sq. ft. space</li> <li>▪ Uncas ballroom 40K sq. ft.</li> <li>▪ 20 breakout rooms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emphasized professionalism, high quality and quantity of meeting space and testimonials</li> <li>▪ Courteous, knowledgeable staff that paid attention to client needs. 9 sales mgrs.</li> <li>▪ Followed up with great marketing material, proposal and calls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “Mohegan Sun is the Nordstrom of the business”</li> </ul>
	<p><i>Gaylord National, D.C.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 160K sq. ft. space</li> <li>▪ Potomac ballroom 50K sq. ft.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emphasized service level, state-of-art space, pedigree. Disassociated with Foxwoods</li> <li>▪ Courteous, knowledgeable staff that paid attention to client needs. 20 sales mgrs.</li> <li>▪ Easy to reach sales team. Excellent follow-up with proposal, plans and calls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “Gaylord National is one of the best in the business”</li> </ul>
	<p><i>MGM Grand, Foxwoods</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 115K sq. ft. space</li> <li>▪ Premier ballroom 48K sq. ft.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emphasized new MGM Grand property, 115K sq. ft. space, golf course, theater</li> <li>▪ Courteous, knowledgeable staff that paid attention to client needs. 6 sales mgrs.</li> <li>▪ Easy to reach sales team. Excellent follow-up with proposal, plans and calls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ n/a</li> </ul>
	<p><i>Hilton Washington, D.C.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 110K sq. ft. space</li> <li>▪ 36K sq. ft. ballroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ n/a</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ n/a</li> </ul>

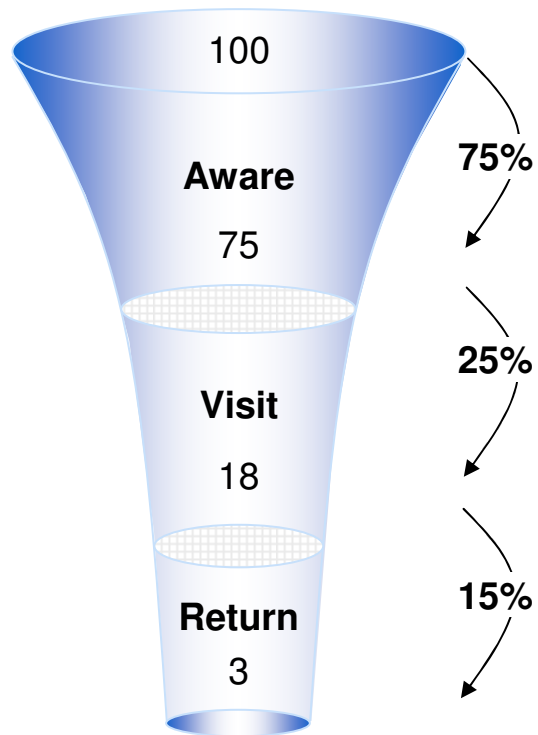
<sup>1</sup> Secret shopper calls

<sup>2</sup> Interviews

SOURCE: McKinsey Analysis

**Environment: Current awareness of AC is very high but visitation is low due to the environment**

**Atlantic City Marketing Funnel**



70% of potential NYC customers are aware of AC advertising

**Focus Group quotes**

*"It is seedy, not safe at all. There are prostitutes and drug dealers"*

*"I do not like seeing the abandoned buildings, pawn shops, and empty lots right next to Casinos. ... at night it's like a ghost town"*

*"..The beach is no better. You first have to get rid of the riff raff to get me to even consider it"*