

PHS Knowledge Services Gambling Harms Bulletin – February 2026

**New evidence and outputs from key organisations
relating to gambling harms**



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About this bulletin

This current awareness bulletin contains a selection of material gathered from a search of the evidence base. It is not intended to be comprehensive and has not been critically appraised. Collated by a qualified information professional, the content is selected by informed prioritisation of the search results based upon agreed criteria.

The bulletin is not a substitute for clinical or professional judgement and the information contained within does not supersede national and local NHS policies and protocols.

Journal articles were sourced from MEDLINE, Embase and APA PsycInfo, all on the Ovid platform. Grey literature was sourced from Idox Knowledge Exchange, Policy Commons and a range of relevant websites. For details of resources used and associated search strategies, please contact us using the details below.

Contact

If you need assistance in obtaining the full text of any of the articles, or have any other queries, please contact phs.knowledge@phs.scot.

Recent journal articles

Highlights

Cardoso LG, Barroso BCR, Piccoli G, Peixoto M, Morgado P, Marques A, et al. **Deep technologies and safer gambling: A systematic review**. Acta Psychologica. 2026;262106140

Riley BJ, Battersby MW, Baigent MF, Smith D. **Helping Others Promote Engagement in Gambling Support (HOPE-Gam): a Feasibility Randomised Controlled Trial**. Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026

Tannous A, Demetrovics Z, Chhabra B, Logemann A, Czakó A, Griffiths MD, et al. **Mindfulness-based interventions for gambling disorder: A systematic review.** Journal of Behavioural Addictions. 2026

Gambling technology

Eisenberg MD, Westermeyer B, Meiselbach MK. **Online sports betting is a public policy issue and a public health issue.** JAMA Health Forum. 2026;7(2)e256926.

Farrell H, Bennett D, Myles D. **More frequent use of live sports-betting features is associated with increased risk of gambling harm: Evidence from a case-control design.** Journal of behavioral addictions. 2026

Ghaharian K, Azizsoltani M, Cohen C, Puranik P, Chagas B. **Characterising online gamblers exceeding financial risk thresholds in the UK: A retrospective analysis using open banking data.** Public Health. 2026;251106080

Ghaharian K, Dragicevic S, Percy C, Nelson SE, Murch WS, Heirene RM, et al. **The Need for Benchmarks to Advance AI-Enabled Player Risk Detection in Gambling.** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026

Marketing and promotion

Tessier S, Romo L, Gonthier C, Zerhouni O. **Betting on influence: The impact of gambling advertising on the attitudes and behaviors of problem gamblers in France.** Psychology of Addictive Behaviors. 2026;40(1)99–112

Neuroscience

Ahluwalia Y, Jangra D, Singh S, Sarkar S, Balhara YPS. **Neurocognitive functioning in gambling: A systematic review of comparisons with other psychiatric and comorbid conditions.** Psychiatry Research. 2026;359117000

Inagaki T, Kyuragi Y, Katsuragi K, Ebina K, Ishikawa Y, Mutsuda Y, et al. **Negative correlation between habenular volume and duration of gambling disorder: Modulation by symptom severity and personality traits.** Journal of Behavioral Addictions. 2026

Prevention and intervention

Ahluwalia Y, Sarkar S, Kaloiya GS, Deo V, Singh S, Gupta SK, et al. **Protocol for a randomized controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy of inhibitory control training for aggressive behaviours among individuals with co-occurring substance use disorder and gambling behaviour.** Trials. 2026

Coloma-Carmona A, Carballo JL, Miró-Llinares F, Pérez-Jover V. **Online personalized normative feedback to foster intention to change and help seeking in young adults with disordered gambling and trading behaviors: protocol for a randomized controlled trial.** JMIR Research Protocols. 2026;15e73155

Heirene RM, Chandrakumar D, Fahey G, Huynh ELY, Gainsbury SM. **Development of lower-risk guidelines for online sports and race betting in Australia using objective behavioural data.** Harm Reduction Journal. 2026;23(1)

Kock L, Brown J, Buss V, Roberts A, Shahab L. **Gambling, smoking and alcohol use in Great Britain: insights from the 2023 Gambling Survey of Great Britain.** Addictive Behaviors. 2026;177108641

Kontto J, Grönroos T, Palomäki J, Hodgins DC, Young MM, Salonen AH. **Deriving lower-risk gambling limits from data collected in four cross-sectional Finnish surveys.** Journal of Behavioral Addictions. 2026

Meyer AM, Kim E, Lee HK, Jo G, Schaub MP, Haug S. **Identifying Predictors of Gambling Episodes and Craving Using Ecological Momentary Assessment and Smartwatch-Based Physiological Measures: Protocol for a Longitudinal Observational Study.** JMIR Research Protocols. 2026;15e82782

Nagar M, Gueta K, van Mierlo T. **Reducing gambling harm through digital self-help intervention: a pilot study in mild to moderate gambling disorder.** Harm Reduction Journal. 2026

Pio RP, Ruwel AG, Dewes JVE, Madruga C, Roza TH, Spritzer DT, et al. **The gambling landscape in brazil: developing effective public health policies based on a population survey data.** Brazilian Journal of Psychiatry. 2026

Psychology and mental health

Calhoun BH, Graupensperger S. **Identifying key correlates of problem sports betting in young adults: A machine learning approach.** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026

Coloma-Carmona A, Carballo JL, Dowling NA. **Psychometric validation and measurement invariance of the Brief Situational Confidence Questionnaire for Gambling (BSCQ-G) in a sample of adult gamblers from the general population.** Psychology of Addictive Behaviors. 2026;40(1)86–98

Corbeil O, Huot-Lavoie M, Abdel-Baki A, Bécharde L, Brodeur S, Artaud L, et al. **Incidence and predictors of problem gambling in first-episode psychosis: a prospective multicentre cohort study.** European Psychiatry. 2026;1–32

Cudo A, David J, Lelonek-Kuleta B, Bartczuk RP, Keough MT. **When Gaming Becomes Like Gambling: The Role of Flow, Immersion, Craving, and Self-control in Risky Loot Box use among Polish gamers.** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026

Hawker CO, Dias SE, Merkouris SS, Rodda SN, Dowling NA. **Exploring the associations between momentary gambling motives and gambling behavior: An ecological momentary assessment study.** Psychology of Addictive Behaviors. 2026;40(1)113–25

Lambuth J, Litt DM, Lewis MA, Lostutter TW, Graupensperger S. **The Prototype Willingness Model of Sports Betting: A Yearlong Within-Person Study of Young Adults.** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026

Palomäki J, Grönroos T, Heiskanen M, Levola J, Salonen AH. **Occurrence and trajectories of psychiatric disorders in adults with gambling disorder: a longitudinal register-based study of the Finnish population.** Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology. 2026

Roza TH, Spritzer DT, Madruga CS, Kessler FHP, de Borba Telles LE. **Criminal Responsibility in Individuals with Gambling Disorder in Brazil.** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026

Wei H, Zhong G, Liu J, Wei Y, Zhang X, Yang P, et al. **Diminishing loss sensitivity during risky decision-making among male individuals with gambling disorder.** Journal of Behavioral Addictions. 2026

Xiao LY, Zendle D, Petrovskaya E, Nielsen RKL, Newall P. **Physical card pack and especially video game loot box spending are both positively correlated with problem gambling but not linked to negative mental health: An international survey.** Psychology of Addictive Behaviors. 2026;40(1)66–85

Miscellaneous

Boson K, Andersson M, Gurdal S, Claesdotter-Knutsson E, Kapetanovic S. **Parental influence on adolescent gambling: the role of communication, rules, and social support.** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026

Connolly AJ, Kraus SW, Grubbs JB. **The differences in alcohol frequency while gambling among sports versus non-sports gamblers.** Journal of Psychiatric Research. 2026;193366–8

Grönroos T, Salonen AH, Latvala TA, Kouvonen A, Lundqvist A, Kontto JP. **Health risk behaviours, obesity, and gambling severity: findings from a nationwide population study.** European Journal of Public Health. 2026;36(1)156–61

Johnson B, Chan G. **Prediction markets: An emerging form of gambling?** Addiction. 2026;121(2)458–9

Karhulahti V-M, Auranen T. **Systematic error in gaming disorder measures.** The British Journal of Psychiatry. 2026;228(2)169–70

Lambuth J, Shaygan A, Lostutter TW, Graupensperger S. **All my friends are doing it: perceived social norms predict heavier sports betting behavior among young adults.** Health education & behavior : the official publication of the Society for Public Health Education. 2026;53(1)8–16

Moore E, Pryce R, Squires H, Goyder E. **The association between gambling frequency and risk of harm: Analysis using health survey data from England and Scotland.** Addiction. 2026

Moxey M, Dennie E, Rossi R, Sallis H, Herbert A. **Exploring adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) among those seeking treatment for gambling problems: A mixed-methods study.** Addictive Behaviors. 2026;173108535

Pugh KE, Shirk SD, Volberg RA. **Individual and Neighborhood Risk and Protective Factors of At-Risk and Problem Gambling: a Spatial Analysis Using Geographic Information Systems.** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026

Schwarzkopf L, Rosenboom B, Pitzschel B, Bickl AM. **Associations Between Gambling Motives and More Severe Gambling Disorder - Does Gender Matter?** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026

Recent reports and news (grey literature)

*** Published by organisation funded in part by voluntary gambling industry levy**

*Close J, Statton R, Martin I, Pinto C, Davies S, Wheaton J, et al. **The Gambling Harms Severity Index (GHSI): Development of a Holistic Framework and Measurement Instruments for Gambling Related Harms and Recovery** [Internet]. 2026 [cited 2026 Mar 2]