



PHS Knowledge Services

Gambling Harms Bulletin –

December 2025

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



Translations



Easy read



BSL



Audio



Large print



Braille

Translations and other formats are available on request at:

 phs.otherformats@phs.scot

 0131 314 5300

Public Health Scotland is Scotland's national agency for improving and protecting the health and wellbeing of Scotland's people.

© Public Health Scotland

OGL

This publication is licensed for re-use under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#).

For more information, visit
www.publichealthscotland.scot/ogl

www.publichealthscotland.scot

Contents

Contents.....	2
About this bulletin.....	3
Contact.....	3
Recent journal articles.....	3
Highlights.....	3
Gambling technology.....	4
Marketing and promotion.....	4
Neuroscience	5
Prevention and intervention.....	5
Psychology and mental health.....	6
Miscellaneous.....	7
Recent reports and news (grey literature).....	8

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

Aonso-Diego G, Etxaburu N, Martínez-Cabrero C, Liendo M, Estévez A. **The role of stigma in gambling disorder: A systematic review**. Stigma and health. 2025

Dobbie F, Miller M, Niven A, Wardle H, Weir C, Ensor H, et al. **Preventing gambling-related harm in adolescents (PRoGRAM-A), a secondary school-based social network intervention: Results from a pilot cluster randomised controlled trial**. Addiction. 2025

Powell K, Fenton L, McGill E, Nazir-Desforges S, Clowes M, Stevely AK, et al. **A synthesis of explanations for spatial inequalities in gambling harm: integrating social and material dimensions of place**. *Health & Place*. 2025;97103574

Gambling technology

Anci E, Rothen S, Tra C, Liberacka-Dwojak M, Rochat L, Wiłkosc-Debczynska M, et al. **Personality and impulsivity traits associated with problematic online gaming and poker playing**. *Scientific Reports*. 2025;16(1)129

Byeon H. **Impact of video game addiction on social interaction: An observational review examining loneliness, social anxiety, and social activity**. *World journal of psychiatry*. 2025;15(12)110653

Côté M, Kairouz S, Savard A-C, Brodeur M. **Online gambling during the COVID-19 pandemic: do living conditions matter?** *BMC Public Health*. 2025

Czakó A, Villalba-García C, Ferenci T, Maldonado-Murciano L, Shaw CA, Griffiths MD, et al. **Does the unavailability of social media affect online gambling behavior? A behavioral tracking data study before and after the October 2021 Facebook outage**. *Addictive behaviors reports*. 2025;22100629

Ghaharian K, Azizzoltani 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*. 2025;251106080

Marketing and promotion

Jääskeläinen PP, Väkeväinen EV, Maronneau VK. **Gambling marketing in Finland: Experiences of exposure and regulation among Finnish individuals who gamble regularly**. *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*. 2025;14034948251394912

Neuroscience

No articles

Prevention and intervention

Biggar B, Champion H, Jones M, Dighton G, Larcombe J, Fossey M, et al. **Help and support for gambling harm among United Kingdom Armed Forces personnel: A mixed-methods study**. Journal of Health Services Research & Policy. 2025;13558196251409040

Gavriel-Fried B, Malka I. **Gambling behaviors in Israeli adults: findings from a nationally representative sample**. Israel journal of health policy research. 2025;14(1)77

Lakew N, Lindner P. **What do they say they are doing? a mixed-methods analysis of Swedish gambling operators' duty of care action plans**. Harm reduction journal. 2025;22(1)196

Rolvien L, Sönmez D, Schuurmans L, Borgmann L, Schmüser A, Moritz S, et al. **Help or harm? Assessing positive and unwanted effects of a self-guided internet-based intervention for gambling problems**. Internet interventions : the application of information technology in mental and behavioural health. 2025;42100893

Satow C, Lloyd CEM. **Psychological therapists' experiences of working with gambling addiction: a reflexive thematic analysis**. Counselling psychology quarterly. 2025;1–19

Stenbro AW, Marcussen T, Hodgins DC, Lamm TT, Frostholm L. **Internet-based versus synchronous cognitive behavioral therapy for gambling disorder: Study protocol for a non-inferiority randomized controlled trial**. Addictive behaviors reports. 2025;22100642

Psychology and mental health

Basharpoor S, Naeim M, Narimani M. **Compulsivity and impulse control in behavioral addictions: A bibliometric and conceptual analysis of global research trends, thematic gaps, and future directions.** Psychology of Addictive Behaviors. 2025

Beymer MR, Anderson Goodell EM, Hoge CW. **Association between experiencing gambling problems and adverse behavioral health outcomes among U.S. military service members, 2018.** The American Journal on Addictions. 2025

Gerle E, Lundberg T, Hofvander B, Håkansson A. **“I want control and I imagine I have it” experiences of control and loss of control among people with gambling problems in Sweden.** International journal of qualitative studies on health and well-being. 2025;20(1)2530019

Kesavayuth D, Shangkhum P, Zikos V. **Gambling Behavior and Subjective Well-Being.** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2025

Mohan G. **Frequency of gambling, mental health, and financial stress among young adults.** BMC Public Health. 2025

Nguyen R, Lail Z, Vieira JL, McGrath DS, Kim HS. **Comparative analysis of video gamers, esports spectators, and esports athletes on gambling, gaming, and psychological characteristics.** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2025

Salonen AH, Latvala TA, Vuori M, Levola J, Castrén S, Grönroos T. **Gambling Disorder and Increased Psychiatric Comorbidity: A Finnish Register-Based Study.** Nordisk alkohol- & narkotikatidskrift : NAT. 2025;42(5–6)424–46

Venuleo C, Cuzzola D, Marinaci T. **Sex and Age Differences and Psychosocial Determinants of Regular Gambling: Insights from a Community-Based Study.** European Journal of Investigation in Health, Psychology and Education. 2025;15(12)

Westerberg T, Håkansson A, Berglund K. **The role of craving in gambling behavior: examining its relevance and links to psychological distress, personality, and demographics.** BMC Psychology. 2025

Yeung K, Gatton M, Wraith D. **The Interplay between Gambling Activity Groups, Problem Gambling Symptoms, and Mental Wellbeing from a Public Health Perspective**. Journal of Gambling Studies. 2025

Miscellaneous

Demireva N, Iacono SL. **Gambling outlets as agents of local area disorganization: Crime and local institutions, the case of the UK**. Acta Sociologica – Pécsi Szociológiai Szemle. 2025;68(2):238–59

Fernández P, Quagliato L. **The association between loot boxes and gambling in children and adolescents**. Trends in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy. 2025

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. 2025

Hing N, Rawat V, Lole L, Tulloch C, Dittman CK, Rockloff M, et al. **From ‘quirky and cool’ to ‘addicted’: lived experiences of sports betting harm in early adulthood**. International journal of mental health and addiction. 2025

Kauppila E, Hautamäki S, Savolainen I, Castrén S, Velleman R, Oksanen A. **Problem Gambling Transmission. An Eight-wave Longitudinal Study on Problem Gambling Among Affected Others**. Journal of Gambling Studies. 2025

Khiatani PV, Chui WH, Li J. **Do people with problem and non-problem gambling differ on financial literacy? A mixed methods study in Hong Kong**. Applied psychology Health and well-being. 2025;17(6):e70082

Mosconi G., Bertuccio P., Cecconami L., Vecchio R., Benedetti E., Scalese M., et al. **Gaming and gambling behaviours among Italian adolescents: a cross-sectional study**. The Lancet Public health. 2025

Noble N, Freund M, Scully M, White V, Clapham M, Hill D. **The Prevalence and Correlates of Youth Susceptibility to Gambling among a Sample of Australian Secondary School Students**. Journal of Gambling Studies. 2025

Palacios-Ceña D, Florencio LL, Palacios-Ceña M, Hernández-Barrera V, Jiménez-Trujillo I, Gallardo-Pino C, et al. **Trends in problematic gambling among school-aged adolescents based on three Spanish nationwide population-based studies (2018-2023): a gender-based analysis of risk and protective factors.** Scientific Reports. 2025

Sharma R, Weinstein A. **Gambling disorder comorbidity a narrative review.** Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience. 2025;27(1)1–18

Smith J, Dymond S, Torrance J. **Public perceptions of gambling in the UK armed forces: understanding stigma via a vignette experiment.** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2025

Recent reports and news (grey literature)

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

*Humankind Research. **Lived experiences of gambling in teenage boys and young men: Qualitative research** [Internet]. 2025 [cited 2026 Jan 8]

*Hunter L, O'Young Vlies M, Okonkwo S. **Gambling Harms and Young People in Great Britain: A State of the Nation Report** [Internet]. 2025 [cited 2026 Jan 8]

* Ipsos UK. **Let's Open Up About Gambling – Summary of key learnings & insights from a three year marketing strategy to reduce stigma** [Internet]. 2025 [cited 2026 Jan 8]

* The Tavistock Institute. **Showcasing Impactful Practices for Joined-up Local Systems Addressing Gambling-Related Harms** [Internet]. 2025 [cited 2026 Jan 8]

* The University of Brighton. **Understanding Gambling and Gambling Harms in LGBTQ+ Communities** [Internet]. 2025 [cited 2026 Jan 8]