

# **PHS Knowledge Services Gambling Harms Bulletin – May 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 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](mailto:phs.knowledge@phs.scot).

## Recent journal articles

### Highlights

de Almeida Cunha NB, Peixoto M, Dores AR. **The use of virtual environments to prevent or treat behavioral addictions: A systematic review**. Journal of Psychiatric Research. 2026;20071–84.

Han W, Li R, Lin Y. **Adolescents and loot boxes: a systematic review of behavioral mechanisms and problematic outcomes**. Addictive Behaviors. 2026.

## **Gambling technology**

Coffey J, Threadgold S, Cook J, Curtis J. **'Betting with mates': Gambling apps, masculinities and the financialisation of everyday life.** Journal of Consumer Culture. 2026;26(2)206–22.

Ivern J, Carbonell X, Griffiths MD. **Psychological mechanisms in video game monetization: A typology of contemporary strategies beyond loot boxes.** Journal of behavioral addictions. 2026.

Kavanagh NM, Jameson JC, Pollack HA, Glasser NJ. **The effect of legalizing online sports gambling on population mental health.** medRxiv. 2026

Park J, Kim D, Kim Y. **Impact of online gambling on youth problem behaviors during COVID-19 periods in South Korea.** Scientific Reports. 2026

Sanmartín FJ, Velasco J, Cuadrado F, Moriana JA. **Brawl stars players' perceptions after the removal of loot boxes.** International Journal of Human–Computer Interaction. 2026;42(9)6645–54.

Vural M, Konstantinidis G, Pastore M, Pop TL, Sevketoglu E, Bali D, et al. **The Silent Epidemic: Early-Onset Ludopathy in Children and the Invisible Digital Threat.** The Journal of Pediatrics. 2026;292:114987.

Wilson C, Butler N, Quigg Z, Sumnall H. **Associations between loot box purchasing and gambling behaviours, financial problems, and low mental wellbeing in a household sample from a British island, a cross-sectional study.** Journal of public health. 2026;34(5)1187–95.

Xiao LY, Czako A, Deery C, Heath C, Király O, King D, et al. **Global review of assessments of online video gaming policies affecting young people: Loot boxes, age ratings, gameplay time restrictions, and beyond.** Comprehensive Psychiatry. 2026;148:152713.

Yamamoto S, Yamamoto T, Ejiri H, Iio Y, Mori Y, Seguchi M, et al. **Internet addiction and problem gambling among Japanese university students:**

**comorbidity and lifestyle correlates**. Behavioral sciences (Basel, Switzerland). 2026;16(5).

## **Marketing and promotion**

No relevant articles

## **Neuroscience**

Ahluwalia Y, Negi PS, Singh S, Sarkar S, Balhara YPS. **Neurocognitive Deficits Associated with Gambling Behavior: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Executive Function, Decision-making, Delay Discounting & Reward Sensitivity**. Indian journal of psychological medicine. 2026;02537176261444941.

Xue C, Zhong G, Chen T, Wei Y, Liu J, Zhang X, et al. **Altered long-range temporal correlations in delta oscillatory amplitude dynamics in gambling disorder**. European Archives of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience. 2026.

Zhou H, Spada MM, Dang L, Zhai J, Wu AMS. **Cross-lagged panel model among metacognitions about gambling, emotion regulation, and gambling disorder: A two-wave longitudinal study**. Addictive Behaviors. 2026;181108735.

## **Prevention and intervention**

Gupta H, Tari-Keresztes N, Aanundsen D, Smith JA. **“It’s [gambling] obviously not regulated that well”: insights into Aboriginal peoples’ views on gambling regulation in the Northern Territory of Australia**. Journal of public health. 2026;34(5)1159–72.

Hadinata IE, Saunders A, Stephens E. **Gaming disorder: Practical tips for general practice**. Australian journal of general practice. 2026;55(5)282–8.

Heirene RM. **Preventing lower-level gambling harms: Shifting from individual- to system-frame approaches**. Addiction. 2026.

Jara-Rizzo M, Erazo-Pérez D, Perales JC, Rodas JA. **Differences in the relationship between impulsivity and compulsivity between video gamers and gamblers**. Psychological Reports. 2026;332941261450879.

Kavla Y, Demirgöl SA, Bozdemir T, Demircan D, Yamanel-Özsoy B, Durmuş H, et al. **A comparative analysis of sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of gambling disorder by sex among treatment-seeking individuals: A national sample from Türkiye**. Journal of behavioral addictions. 2026.

Mansueto A, Challet-Bouju G, Hardouin J-B, Grall-Bronnec M. **From coming to terms with the gambling problems to post-traumatic growth: A novel nine-stage theoretical model of recovery from gambling disorder**. Journal of behavioral addictions. 2026.

Penfold KL, Huntington C, Nicklin LL, Upstone O, Chadwick D, Devonport TJ, et al. **Online Peer Support for Gambling Harm: Perspectives from People with Lived Experience and Service Providers**. Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026.

Rodda SN, Jones ASK, Siegert RJ, Merkouris SS, Bijker R, Fehoko E, et al. **Gambling help seeking and self-management in New Zealand and Australia: a cross-sectional survey with quota sampling of priority populations**. Harm reduction journal. 2026.

## **Psychology and mental health**

Chang K, Uhm J-P, Lee H-W. **Esports in-game consumption across generations: Integrating motivated reasoning theory and the theory of planned behavior**. Plos One. 2026;21(5)e0348355.

Coloma-Carmona A, Valdivia Blanco CJ, Carballo JL, Pelegrín-Muñoz A. **Impulsivity, Cognitive Distortions, and Problem Gambling Among Spanish Adults Who Gamble: Exploring the Moderating Role of Gambling Self-Efficacy**. European Journal of Investigation in Health, Psychology and Education. 2026;16(5).

D'Hooge S, De Jans S. **Exploring the potential of evaluative conditioning to alter attitudes towards gambling: a longitudinal study**. International Journal of Advertising. 2026;45(4)828–51.

Jackson SE, Brown J, Oldham M, Shahab L, Kock L. **Gambling and its association with psychological distress among different population groups: a cross-sectional study in Great Britain, 2022**. BMC Public Health. 2026.

Kumar C, Mohanty A, George T, Pooja K, Kamath GB. **The psychological journey: Interplay of brand awareness, perceived quality, and brand trust in shaping consumers' intention to buy gaming mobiles**. Acta Psychologica. 2026;267107056.

Luu CQ, Nguyen JP, Wong-Padoongpatt G, Kraus SW, Robnett RD. **Links between problem gaming, loot box transactions, and psychological factors: Two studies focusing on women**. Translational issues in psychological science. 2026.

Mora-Salgueiro J, Corradi G, Martín-Pérez C, Perales JC, Blanco I, Chaves C, et al. **Quantifying the negative impact of gambling: psychometric evaluation of the Spanish version of the Short Gambling Harm Scale (S-SGHS) among individuals engaged in gambling activities**. International Gambling Studies. 2026;1–24.

Zahnow R, Lin K. **Stressful Life Events, Masculinity and Gambling Participation: An Age-Stratified Analysis of Australian Men**. Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026.

Zhong G, Chen T, Liu J, Wei Y, Zhang X, Yang P, et al. **Attenuated dynamic impulse control in risky action under the escalating risk and reward in gambling disorder**. Psychological Medicine. 2026;56e141.

## Miscellaneous

Brodeur M, Légaré A-A, Morvannou A, Roberge P, Loignon C, Jutras-Aswad D, et al. **Gambling trajectories among sexual and gender minority individuals in Canada: protocol for a 5-year mixed-methods longitudinal study.** BMJ Open. 2026;16(5)e118633.

Carbonneau R, Vitaro F, Brendgen M, Boivin M, Côté SM, Tremblay RE. **Developmental Trajectories of Gambling and Substance use Throughout Adolescence - A Population-Based Longitudinal Study of Preadolescent Risk Factors and Related Outcomes in Early Adulthood.** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026.

Chilver MR, Butterworth P, Suomi A. **Gambling participation and risk over time associated with type of gambling activity: Trends in Australian general population 2015-2022.** Addictive Behaviors. 2026;176108618.

Grundström J, Latvala T, Heiskanen M. **Gambling severity and the use of general health care and social services: a nationwide population survey of service use and associated factors.** European addiction research. 2026;1–15.

Hijikata I. **Development and validation of the gambling impact scale for families.** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026.

Kocsoy A. **Determinants of Betting Behaviour Among Professional Football Players: Evidence from Administrative Data.** Journal of Gambling Studies. 2026

Mou C, Kailasnathan SA, Ferguson E, Tunney R, James R. **Measuring gambling harm in self-reported questionnaires: a scoping review.** Harm reduction journal. 2026.

Smit K, Jiang H, Room R, Suomi A, Hahn MH, MacLean S, et al. **Alcohol use associated with gambling harm in a population representative Australian sample.** Drug and Alcohol Review. 2026;45(4)e70164.

## Recent reports and news (grey literature)

Gambling Commission. **Insights into affected others from the GSGB** [Internet]. 2026 [cited 2026 Jun 1].