

PHS Knowledge Services Gambling Harms Bulletin – July 2025

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

Talebi F, Bazrafshan F. Effectiveness of preventive gambling interventions in adolescents: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Addictive Behaviors. 2025;170108436. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2025.108436

Udeanu A, Garcia-Fernandez G, Krotter A, García-Aller JA, Solis Garcia P, Gómez LE. Substance use and problem gambling interventions for people with intellectual disability: A systematic review. Journal of Intellectual Disability Research. 2025; https://doi.org/10.1111/jir.70007

Marketing and promotion

Thomas S, McCarthy S, Pitt H, Arnot G, Randle M, Daube M. "Industry still has too loud a voice": expert views on government policy consultations about gambling marketing. Health promotion international. 2025;40(4) https://doi.org/10.1093/heapro/daaf122.

Neuroscience

Bellmunt-Gil A, Majuri J, Nummenmaa L, Helin S, Forsback S, Rajander J, et al. Striatal cue-reactivity and neurotransmitter function in gambling disorder. Journal of behavioral addictions. 2025;14(2)997–1009.

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Ishikawa Y, Katsuragi K, Inagaki T, Ebina K, Mutsuda Y, Aki M, et al. Amygdala-Ventral Striatum Functional Connectivity Underlies Craving in Gambling Disorder: A Mediating Role of Depressive Symptoms. Addiction Biology. 2025;30(7)e70065. https://doi.org/10.1111/adb.70065.

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Prevention and intervention

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Fisher M, Piper T, Mavi S, Nambiar J, Sharma PK, Kirby J, et al. Effects of interventional public health laws and regulations intended to reduce gambling-related harms: a realist review study protocol. BMJ Open. 2025;15(7)e093906. https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2024-093906.

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Miller M, Howell F, White J, Griffiths D, Noble L, Weir CJ, et al. Preventing gambling-related harm among adolescents (PRoGRAM-A): an embedded multi-modal process evaluation in a pilot cluster random control trial. BMC Public Health. 2025;25(1)2327. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-025-23565-8.

Reith G, Biggar B, Bunn C, Deidda M, Donnachie C, Graham F, et al. Group-based interventions to reduce gambling involvement among male football fans: a synopsis of findings from a feasibility study. Public health research (Southampton, England). 2025;13(6)1–24. https://doi.org/10.3310/SWWP9393.

Psychology and mental health

Hoven M, Lebreton M, van Holst RJ. Behavioral and computational signatures of reinforcement learning and confidence biases in gambling disorder. Journal of behavioral addictions. 2025;14(2)982–96. https://doi.org/10.1556/2006.2025.00046. Karlsson A, Balem M, Hansson H, Håkansson A. Suicide and Mortality in Individuals with Gambling Disorder and Matched Case controls - A Swedish Nationwide Register Study. Journal of Gambling Studies. 2025; https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-025-10415-w.

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Miscellaneous

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