

knowledge snapshot



A scoping review of gambling disorder in LGBTQIA2S+ populations

What this article is about

Gambling disorder is a public health issue in many countries. Gambling disorder involves recurring gambling behaviour that is problematic. People with gambling disorder experience negative consequences, such as financial harm, relationship disruption and conflict, and harmful impact on their health.

Gambling disorder is linked to issues such as substance use disorders, psychological distress, and suicide. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersexual, asexual, two-spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) populations are more likely to have some of these issues. For example, LGBTQIA2S+ populations are at greater risk for depression, suicide, and substance use disorders than heterosexual and cisgender populations. The authors of this scoping review summarized the research on gambling behaviours and gambling disorder among LGBTQIA2S+ populations.

What was done?

The authors conducted a scoping review. They followed an established framework for a scoping review and the PRISMA guidelines. First, the authors searched 10 databases through the EBSCOhost Research Databases. They searched the databases using a combination of words associated with LGBTQIA2S+ and gambling.

Studies included in this review had to discuss gambling and LGBTQIA2S+ populations as the main themes. Included studies also had to be published in English in a peer-reviewed journal.

The initial search on EBSCOhost identified 629 articles. Duplicate articles were removed from the list. This left 476 articles. The authors then reviewed the title and

Why is this article important?

Gambling disorder involves recurring gambling behaviour that is problematic. Gambling disorder is linked to issues such as substance use disorders, psychological distress, and suicide. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersexual, asexual, two-spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) populations are more likely to have some of these issues. This scoping review summarized the research on gambling behaviours and gambling disorder among LGBTQIA2S+ populations. The authors identified six research studies that were published in English. There was a considerable mix of methods and results across all six of the studies. Each of the studies examined problem gambling using different tools. All six studies compared people who identified as non-heterosexual and those who identified as heterosexual. The authors of this review concluded that the current research does not show whether gambling disorder is more common among LGBTQIA2S+ populations.

abstract of each of the articles. This step left 12 articles. The authors then read each article. After reviewing the full-text of each article, they retained six articles to include in the review.

The authors recorded the following information from each of the six articles: the names of the authors, year of publication, continent and country, objective, methodology, study population, and conclusions.

What you need to know

The six articles were published between 2005 and 2021. Most (67%) were conducted in the United States, Sweden (16%), and Australia (16%).

The authors of this review noted that there was a considerable mix of methods and results across all six of the studies. For example, half of the articles used online surveys. Two of the studies conducted secondary analyses of existing data.

Each of the studies examined problem gambling using different tools. The tools used included the following: the NORC DSM-IV Screen for Gambling Problems, Loss of Control, Lying and Preoccupation; the Victorian Prevalence Survey; the Social and Economic Impact Study of Gambling; the Problem Gambling Severity Index; the Short Gambling Harms Screen; the Brief Adolescent Gambling Screen; the Gambling Activities Questionnaire; and DSM-IV or DSM-5 criteria. One study was based on interview data collected between 1938 and 1963 and, thus, did not use any validated screening tool.

Four of the studies included self-reported questionnaires for sexual orientation and gender identity. While all studies examined sexual orientation, only four assessed gender identity by offering more choices than 'female' and 'male' (e.g., non-binary/gender fluid).

The studies focused on different populations, including exclusively male populations (33%), student populations (33%), and general adult populations (33%). Across the studies, men reported more gambling disorder symptoms than women.

All six studies compared people who identified as non-heterosexual and those who identified as heterosexual. The authors noted that the current research does not show whether gambling disorder is more common among LGBTQIA2S+ populations. The research also does not show whether gambling patterns differ among these populations. For example, three studies suggested that problem gambling was more common among LGBTQIA2S+ populations. These three studies were from the United States. However, one study from Sweden did not find a link at all, and two studies from the United States and Australia found the opposite result. In two of the studies, findings showed that sexual minority groups had higher levels of psychological distress.

Who is it intended for?

This review can help guide researchers to further examine gambling among LGBTQIA2S+ populations.

About the researchers

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Citation

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