APPENDIX B: SCREENING AND SUPPLEMENTARY SEARCH METHODS

INITIAL SEARCH – GAMBLING LITERATURE

Greo's Information Specialist performed a systematic search of the academic (up to 26 January 2022) and grey literature (up to 27 January 2022) on prevention and education for problem gambling targeted to military personnel and/or veterans (see Appendix A). After removing duplicates, the academic search returned 74 unique records, and the grey literature search returned 11 records. The Information Specialist then hand-searched a few databases and found an additional 5 academic records and 3 grey literature records.

SCREENING OF INITIAL SEARCH RESULTS

Greo's Research Analyst screened the titles and abstracts of all 93 records from the initial search. We excluded 12 academic papers, and three grey literature papers for either not focusing on gambling or not focusing on military personnel or veterans.

The remaining literature provided ample background information on gambling and gambling harms in military personnel and veterans. Additionally, some studies provided information relevant to targeting safer gambling information to military personnel and veterans. However, only one study directly focused on evaluating the delivery of safer gambling promotion information to military personnel or veterans[1]. Therefore, additional sources of information were required for the synthesis. So, the Research Analyst searched for relevant literature on other health promotion targeted to military personnel and veterans, specifically in the areas of mental health and substance use.

SUPPLEMENTARY SEARCH – SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH LITERATURE

Greo's Research Analyst hand-searched for papers on substance use and mental health messaging targeted at military personnel and veterans. Searches for substance use sources specifically focused on alcohol and tobacco use. Overall, from this search we found 13 relevant academic papers and seven relevant grey literature sources. Finally, other sources of information were searched for and added to the report on an as-needed basis.

1. Google Scholar Search

On February 1 and 2, 2022, the Research Analyst searched Google Scholar for substance use sources using different combinations of the following search terms: messaging/messages, prevention, education, alcohol use, alcohol misuse, tobacco, military, veterans.

Google Scholar was also searched for mental health sources using different combinations of the following search terms: messaging/messages, prevention, education, health, mental health, military, veterans.

For each search, the titles for all results in the first 2 pages were screened for relevance. For sources that appeared relevant, the abstracts were also screened.

2. Searching reference lists within relevant sources

Reference lists from the relevant sources that were returned by the Google Scholar search were then screened for titles of other possibly relevant papers. For papers that appeared relevant, the abstracts were also screened.

INCLUSION OF INFORMATION IN SECTION 1 - LITERATURE REVIEW AND SYNTHESIS

Note that for the subsection on gambling prevalence and vulnerability to gambling harms among military personnel and veterans, not all possible sources were included in the review. Where multiple sources provided similar, relevant information, we prioritized those that were:

→ more recent;

→ based on UK population samples;

→ included representative population samples instead of convenience samples (e.g., a population-level study vs. one that focuses on help-seeking individuals); and

→ reviews of the literature, rather than individual studies.

For the subsection on promising practices for sharing safer gambling information among military personnel and veterans, all relevant sources that we found were included in the review.

1. Chrysalis Research. EPIC Risk Management's harm-minimisation project: Armed forces. Evaluation report. London, UK: Chrysalis Research UK Ltd,; 2019. Available from: https://www.begambleaware.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/epic-armed-forces-project-independent-evaluation-report.pdf