

Prevention and Education Review: Gambling-Related Harm

R E S E A R C H R E P O R T

2021

4.0 Indicated Measures

4.3 Systems and Tools that Produce Actual (“Hard”) Barriers and Limit Access to Fund

Protocol

DESCRIPTION

The Prevention and Education Review contributes to guiding the development of a collective and clear prevention plan, as set out in the National Strategy to Reduce Gambling Harms. The review is organised into three levels of prevention and education measures: Universal (for the benefit of the whole population), Selected (for the benefit of at-risk groups), and Indicated (for the benefit of at-risk individuals). Financial gambling blocks are included in the review as an indicated measure. Financial blocks are harm management tool for people who identify as at risk of or experiencing harm from gambling.

This section examines systems and tools that produce actual (“hard”) barriers and limit access to funds.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The primary goal is to conduct a scoping review to determine (a) the effectiveness of systems and tools that produce hard barriers and limit access to funds for gambling; (b) the relevance to different levels of risk; (c) the target group of brief interventions (e.g., students, specific gambling types); and (d) describe the content and functionality of these systems and tools.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What is the effectiveness of systems and tools that produce hard barriers and limit access to funds for gambling?
- Are there effective systems and tools for those at different levels of gambling risk?
- Who are the target group of these systems and tools?
- What are the characteristics of these systems and tools?

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Gamblers at risk of gambling problems or with problem gambling
- Systems and tools that provide a hard barrier to access to funds
- May be initiated inside or outside of the gambling industry (e.g., financial institutions)
- May apply to a gambling venue or setting (e.g., removal of ATM's, credit bans) or external to a venue or setting
- Must be targeted directly at access to funds (not speed of expenditure like bet limits)
- Can be any type of outcome study including feasibility, RCT, cohort, pre-post
- Must have an outcome measure of gambling consumption (frequency, expenditure, severity)

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Optional and non-binding ("soft") financial barriers, such as most pre-commitment systems (these are considered gambling management tools and not hard barriers)

DATABASE SEARCH

- Medline, Epub, Cochrane, PsychInfo, PDQP and grey literature search

SEARCH TERMS

- Gambling AND financial (cash, credit, access, funds, money) and systems OR tools

ASSESSMENT OF EVIDENCE QUALITY

- Informed expert opinion of author (since rigorous quality assessment is not normally part of a scoping review), guided by quality assessment tools shared by GREO