

Prevention and Education Review: Gambling-Related Harm

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

2021

3.0 Selective Measures

3.2 Targeted Safer Gambling Campaigns for Children, Youth, and Older Adults

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.¹ 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). Included among the selected measures are at-risk groups based on age cohort. These include children and youth (up to 19 years old), and older adults (65 years and older). Research suggests that people in these age groups may be more likely to be at risk of or experience harm from gambling than others.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to review evidence about prevention and education programmes for children, youth, and older adults. Such programmes exist across a wide range of education, workplace, and third sector settings but their long-term effectiveness remains unclear. RESEARCH QUESTIONS 1. How effective or ineffective are prevention and education programmes directed toward children, youth, and older adults who are at risk of or experiencing harm from gambling?² Are there any unintended consequences of prevention and education programmes for children, youth, and older adults?³ How might this information be used to inform a collective prevention and education plan?

METHODOLOGY

In recent years, several high-quality systematic reviews have been conducted for children and youth prevention and education activities, although less information may be available for older adults. GREO will search for and synthesize these reviews, accompanied by an additional search for information published since the latest review. This two-stage process has been undertaken successfully by the UK Health Development Agency in past, and is seen as particularly suitable when a review is conducted in-house.²

The knowledge synthesis will be undertaken following a narrative review approach. Knowledge synthesis is a broader term that refers to summarizing studies relevant to a specific question, seeking to enhance understanding of inconsistencies across a diverse range of evidence, with the possibility of shaping future research programmes.³ The narrative review approach allows quantitative and qualitative study types and grey literature to be reviewed, but does not generate new theories or merge data.² The findings of narrative reviews are often well suited to informing policy making decisions and intervention design applications.³ A strength of the narrative review is that it is flexible and can include consideration of contextual factors related to the evidence.² The focus is on information relevance, although less emphasis is placed rigorous quality assessment.⁴ Still, it is recommended that evidence of poorer quality be flagged and the weight given to such evidence will be considered. Therefore, an opinion of evidence quality will be included in this section.

Search strategy

The search strategy is currently being refined. An initial search will identify systematic reviews of prevention and education programmes and activities directed toward children and youth that have been conducted during the past five years, from 2015 onward. The search will include the relevant databases and grey literature. Children and youth will be combined in the search because of the lack of consistency defining age groups. For example, some studies include children up to age 10, while other set the age limit at 12 years old. This will be noted in the presentation of evidence.

For older adults, there will be no date limitation when searching for review articles. The evidence base for prevention and education programmes or initiatives for older adult gamblers is sparse. An initial search found only one review article directly relevant to prevention and education. Therefore, some broader reviews of older adult gambling that are more directly focused on antecedents and co-occurring conditions are included at this preliminary stage in a "Potentially relevant" subsection. They may yield information that could help to guide programmes and campaigns directed toward this age cohort.

The databases to be searched include: MEDLINE, PsycINFO, CINAHL, ERIC, Scopus, Web of Science, and PubMed. Grey literature searches will include:

- [Greo Evidence Centre](#)
- [Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand Library](#)
- [GambleAware Research Publications](#)

- [Gambling Commission Research Library](#)
- [OpenGrey Grey Literature Repository](#)
- [WorldwideScience.org](#)
- [Ontario Public Health Library Association \(OPHLA\) Custom Search Engine for Canadian Public Health Information](#)
- [Social Care Online](#)
- Google, following best practices using Google for grey literature⁵

The search terms are:

gamb* AND

child* OR Youth OR "all child" OR "young adult*" OR adolesce* OR teen* OR juvenile

"older adult*" OR aged* OR senior OR retire* OR elder* OR "very old"

AND "health education" OR "health promotion" OR "health program*" OR "health campaign" OR "public health" OR "prevention program*" OR "education program*" OR "prevention and control" OR "school health services" OR "primary prevention" OR "health intervention" OR "wellness program*" OR communit* OR organi* or non-profit* OR not-for-profit*

Preliminary results show that high-quality several systematic reviews of prevention and education programmes were published between 2016 to 2020 for children and youth (7 directly relevant and 2 potentially relevant reviews), and older adults (1 directly relevant and 6 potentially relevant reviews).

A second search will be conducted of new materials published from the date of the most recent review for each cohort onward. The search will include the same databases, grey literature sources, and search terms used to identify the existing systematic review.

Analysis plan

After removing duplicate and out of scope studies, the remaining studies and reports will be assessed for their applicability to gambling harm prevention and education among children, youth, and older adults. Specific areas to be examined are:

- Contextual factors (i.e., what works or does not work, for whom, and under what conditions);
- Whether any unintended consequences are reported;
- Any notable patterns in the relationship of age cohort and gambling harm prevention and education across studies;
- Whether recommendations or guidance are suggested for how the findings might be used; and
- Knowledge gaps in the evidence. Findings will be reported in both narrative and tabular format.

Data management

The dataset will consist of citations for academic literature and grey literature reports. The data will be stored on a shared drive during the analysis phase because the information is not considered confidential. Upon completion of the review, it will be uploaded to the Greo Dataverse, where it can be shared through open access with interested parties.

Project timeline

ACTIVITY	DATE
Search 1 - Existing systematic reviews	August, 2020
Search 2 - Information published from [insert date] onward	August, 2020
Removing duplicates and out of scope items	August, 2020
Data analysis	September, 2020
Writing	September-October 2020
Draft report	October 31, 2020
Proof-reading and editing	November 15, 2020
Section finalised	November 30, 2020

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2. Mays N, Pope C, Popay J. Systematically reviewing qualitative and quantitative evidence to inform management and policy-making in the health field. *Journal of Health Services Research & Policy*. 2005;10(1_suppl):6-20.
3. Kastner M, Antony J, Soobiah C, Straus SE, Tricco AC. Conceptual recommendations for selecting the most appropriate knowledge synthesis method to answer research questions related to complex evidence. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*. 2016;73:43-9.
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5. Bonato S. Google for grey literature. In: *Searching the grey literature: A handbook for searching reports, working papers, and other unpublished research*. London, UK: Rowman & Littlefield; 2018. p. 191-224.

INITIAL CITATIONS

(to be reviewed by assigned researcher and subject to change)

Children and youth

Directly relevant

Grande-Gosende A, López-Núñez C, García-Fernández G, Derevensky J, Fernández-Hermida JR. Systematic review of preventive programs for reducing problem gambling behaviors among young adults. *Journal of Gambling Studies*. 2020;36(1). Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-019-09866-9>

→ Funding information: "Funding for development of this study was provided by the Council of Health from the Principality of Asturias (FUO-205-17) and by a Predoctoral Grant BP16071 from the Council of Education and Culture from the Principality of Asturias (Spain). The funding sources had no role in the study design, collection, analysis or interpretation of the data, in writing the manuscript, or the decision to submit the paper for publication."

Keen B, Blaszczyński A, Anjoul F. Systematic review of empirically evaluated school-based gambling education programs. *Journal of Gambling Studies*. 2017;33(1):301-25. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-016-9641-7>

→ Funding information: "The authors would like to acknowledge DOOLEYS Lidcombe for their financial support to conduct a preliminary scoping report on gambling education programs for adolescents."

Kourgiantakis T, Stark S, Lobo DSS, Tepperman L. Parent problem gambling: A systematic review of prevention programs for children. *Journal of Gambling Issues*. 2016;33:8-29. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4309/jgi.2016.33.2>

→ Funding information: "This study was partially supported by a grant from the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre (OPGRC)."

MacArthur G, Caldwell DM, Redmore J, Watkins SH, Kipping R, White J, et al. Individual-, family-, and school-level interventions targeting multiple risk behaviours in young people. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. 2018;2018(10). Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD009927.pub2>

→ Funding information: "GJM is supported by an NIHR post-doctoral fellowship award (PDF-2013-06-026). This report is independent research supported by the National Institute for Health Research (Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Dr Georgina MacArthur, PDF-2013-06-026). The work was undertaken with the support of The Centre for the Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health Improvement (DECIPHer), a UKCRC Public Health Research Centre of Excellence. Joint funding (MR/KO232331/1) from the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Economic and Social Research Council, Medical Research Council, the Welsh Government, and the Wellcome Trust, under the auspices of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration, is gratefully acknowledged. This work is part of a programme of work on multiple

risk behaviours in young people being undertaken within DECIPHer. RC and DG are supported by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. CC was supported by funds from an Australia Fellowship awarded to Professor John Lynch (570120) by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. DMC was the recipient of an MRC Population Health Sciences Fellowship (G0902118). JR received support from DECIPHer, and JR and VE received support from the NIHR School for Public Health Research, of which the University of Bristol is a member."

St-Pierre RA, Temcheff CE, Derevensky JL, Gupta R. Theory of planned behavior in school-based adolescent problem gambling prevention: A conceptual framework. *Journal of Primary Prevention*. 2015;36(6):361-85. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10935-015-0404-5>

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→ Funding information: No funding information currently available.

Yu L, Ma CMS. Youth gambling in Hong Kong: Prevalence, psychosocial correlates, and prevention. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2019;64(6):S44-S51. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2018.09.019>

→ Funding information: "Publication of this article was supported by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University."

Potentially relevant

Dowling NA, Merkouris SS, Greenwood CJ, Oldenhof E, Toumbourou JW, Youssef GJ. Early risk and protective factors for problem gambling: A systematic review and meta-analysis of longitudinal studies. *Clinical Psychology Review*. 2017;51:109-24. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpr.2016.10.008>

→ Funding information: "This project was supported by a Research, Knowledge Translation and Exchange Award from the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The funding source had no role in the design of the review, data collection, statistical analysis, interpretation of the data, or in the manuscript preparation."

Kryszajtyts DT, Hahmann TE, Schuler A, Hamilton-Wright S, Ziegler CP, Matheson FI. Problem gambling and delinquent behaviours among adolescents: A scoping review. *Journal of Gambling Studies*. 2018;34(3):893-914. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10899-018-9754-2>

→ Funding information: "At the time of the study, David Kryszajtyts was funded through a Gambling Research Exchange Ontario Fellowship, Guelph, Ontario, Canada. The study was also funded by the Centre for Urban Health Solutions in the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The opinions, results, and conclusions are those of the

authors and are independent of the funding and supporting agencies.”

Older adults

Directly relevant

Matheson FI, Sztainert T, Lakman Y, Steele SJ, Ziegler CP, Ferentzy P. Prevention and treatment of problem gambling among older adults: a scoping review. *Journal of Gambling Issues*. 2018(39). Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.4309/jgi.2018.39.2>

→ Funding information: “This research was funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care, Health System Research Fund and supported by the Centre for Urban Health Solutions, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael’s Hospital. The authors would like to thank the Gambling Research Exchange Ontario for assistance with the grey literature search.”

Potentially relevant

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NMRC had no role in the study design, collection, analysis or interpretation of the data, writing the manuscript, or the decision to submit the paper for publication."

→ Funding information: No funding information currently available.

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→ Funding information: No funding information currently available.