

Changes in gambling availability and advertising: Implications for addiction medicine

Category: Oral Presentation

Abstract Body

Recent changes in Canada have resulted in increased gambling availability and advertising. These changes are expected to increase gambling involvement which, in turn is expected to impact the health and wellbeing of Canadians. This presentation will outline how a public health approach to reducing alcohol and cannabis-related harm is also applicable to gambling, in particular how harm can be prevented by regulatory or other interventions that limit public consumption/exposure. To do so, we will describe why and how recent legislative and regulatory changes have led to the current gambling landscape in Canada, and compare how gambling is regulated differently from alcohol and cannabis in the country, outlining the implications for public health. This presentation will also detail evidence of how the total consumption model applies to both gambling and alcohol, and how public health approaches/interventions employed to reduce alcohol and cannabis harm can and should be used for gambling – including a discussion of Canada’s guidelines on alcohol and health and the Lower Risk Gambling Guidelines. Conclusions will centre on the lessons that can be learned from public health approaches to cannabis and alcohol, and the value of implementing these to mitigate increases in gambling-related harm expected to result from increased availability and advertising.

Key Words

- Behavioural Addictions
- Concurrent Disorders
- Policy
- Prevention/Harm Reduction

Learning Objective # 1

Increased understanding of why gambling should be considered a priority in addiction medicine

Learning Objective # 2

Increased awareness of how approaches for cannabis and alcohol can be mobilized for and extended to gambling

Reference # 1

Rosow, I., 2019. The total consumption model applied to gambling: Empirical validity and implications for gambling policy. *Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 36(2), pp.66-76.

Reference # 2

Young, M. M., Hodgins, D. C., Currie, S. R., Brunelle, N., Dufour, M., Flores-Pajot, M.-C., Nadeau, L. (2022).
Not too much, not too often, and not too many: the results of the first large-scale, international project to develop
lower-risk gambling guidelines. *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11469-022-00896-w>

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