

## Land-based vs. Online Gamblers: Systematic Review Comparing These Forms of Gambling



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**BACKGROUND:** Online gambling is a relatively new and specific mode of participation in gambling activities. Its rapid progression and dynamic development make it difficult to investigate this phenomenon. **AIMS:** The main goal of this systematic review is to summarise evidence about both online and offline gambling settings. Furthermore, the assumption of online gambling as posing a greater risk is critically assessed and proposals for further research in this area are made. **METHODS:** A two-step systematic search was performed on the basis of predetermined selection criteria. The study reflected the PRISMA Statement recommendations. Fourteen studies meeting the selection criteria were identified. **RESULTS:** The results of the studies that were included are presented in the sections comparing online and offline gamblers in terms of problematic gambling,

sociodemographic characteristics, gambling behaviour, motives for participation, personality profiles and psychopathological traits and differences in attitudes. The majority of the studies show a higher prevalence of problem gambling among online gamblers. The validity of this conclusion was discussed and explanations were sought. The methodological limitations of the studies included, mainly inconsistencies in the definition of the group of online gamblers, were also noted. **CONCLUSION:** This systematic review presents a body of research papers focused on the comparison of players involved in online and offline gambling settings. These differences are discussed and summarised. Finally, possible directions for future research in this area are outlined.

**KEY WORDS:** GAMBLING – ONLINE GAMBLING – OFFLINE GAMBLING – LAND-BASED GAMBLING

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