

## OVERVIEW

- WHAT IS A GAMBLING ADDICTION?
- ASSUMPTIONS & STEREOTYPES
- CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS
- IMPACTS ON FAMILY LIFE
- SOCIAL WORK IMPLICATIONS



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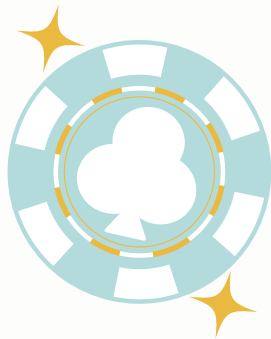
## SHEDDING LIGHT: EXPLORING GAMBLING ADDICTION THROUGH THE LENS OF SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

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STEREOTYPES AND ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT GAMBLING ADDICTION HAVE A REAL IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS WITH THESE ADDICTIONS. SHAME AND GUILT MAKE IT CHALLENGING TO REACH OUT FOR HELP, WHILE POSITIVE SOCIETAL PERSPECTIVES OF ONLINE GAMBLING/SPORTS BETTING CAN ALSO POSE HARM TO INDIVIDUALS WANTING TO SEEK HELP. (MILLER & THOMAS, 2017; LOPEZ-GONZALEZ ET AL., 2019).

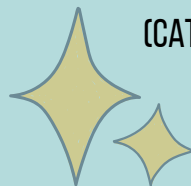


THERE IS A HIGH PREVALENCE OF COMORBIDITY BETWEEN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND GAMBLING DISORDERS. THE CO-OCCURRENCE OF GAMBLING DISORDER AND MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER IS LINKED TO A HIGHER RISK OF SUICIDE. (WIECZOREK & DĄBROWSKA, 2021; YAMADA ET AL., 2022)

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

ASSUMPTIONS THAT BEHAVIOURAL ADDICTIONS ARE LESS VALID THAN SUBSTANCE ADDICTIONS MUST BE CHALLENGED.

GAMBLING ADDICTION IMPACTS MENTAL HEALTH AND RELATIONSHIPS, WITH DSM-5 CRITERIA IDENTIFYING KEY SIGNS. ONLINE GAMBLING POSES ADDITIONAL RISKS, MANAGED THROUGH TOOLS LIKE SELF-EXCLUSION, BUT THEIR EFFICACY REQUIRES FURTHER STUDY. GREATER ACCESSIBILITY, AWARENESS, AND ONGOING RESEARCH ARE VITAL FOR ADDRESSING THIS COMPLEX ISSUE. (CATANIA & GRIFFITHS 2022)



FAMILIES AFFECTED BY GAMBLING ADDICTION CAN MEND THEIR CONNECTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE RIGHT SUPPORT. THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE INTERVENTIONS, THEY CAN NAVIGATE THROUGH THE CHALLENGES, HEAL EMOTIONAL WOUNDS, AND STRENGTHEN THEIR BONDS, EMERGING STRONGER TOGETHER. (MCCARTHY ET AL., 2023)



THERE IS A LACK OF POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR ROUTINE SCREENING FOR PROBLEM GAMBLING. SERVICE PROVIDERS RARELY ADDRESS PROBLEM GAMBLING AND OFTEN PRIORITIZE OTHER ISSUES OR CONDITIONS. SERVICE PROVIDERS MUST ADDRESS THE INTERSECTION OF PROBLEM GAMBLING WITH OTHER HEALTH CONCERNS FOR BEST PRACTICE. (GUILCHER ET AL., 2019; JOHNSTONE & REGAN 2020)