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Effective Preventive Programs for Gambling Disorders Among Incarcerated Individuals: A Literature Review

Skuteczne programy profilaktyczne w zakresie zaburzeń hazardowych wśród osadzonych – przegląd literatury

Abstract

Criminal behaviours and gambling are phenomena that may co-occur. Identifying this relationship, as well as measures aimed at limiting both phenomena is crucial not only for the individual in question but for society as a whole. This article seeks to address the question of effective preventive interventions for gambling disorder among individuals deprived of liberty. The study was conducted using a scoping review of the literature. The findings enabled the formulation of conclusions and recommendations for future research and penitentiary practice.

Key words: gambling, gambling disorders, correctional institutions, crime

Streszczenie

Zachowania przestępcze oraz hazard to zjawiska, które mogą ze sobą współwystępować. Identyfikacja owego związku, jak i działań mających na celu ograniczanie obu zjawisk, jest istotna zarówno dla jednostki, jak i społeczeństwa. W niniejszym artykule podjęto próbę odpowiedzi na pytanie dotyczące skuteczności oddziaływań profilaktycznych w zakresie zaburzeń uprawiania hazardu wśród osób pozbawionych wolności. Prezentowane badania zostały przeprowadzone w oparciu o przegląd systematyczny zgodnie ze standardami PRISMA. Ich wyniki pozwoliły na wyprowadzenie rekomendacji dla przyszłych badań oraz praktyki penitencjarnej.

Słowa kluczowe: hazard, zaburzenia uprawiania hazardu, jednostki penitencjarne, przestępstwo

Introduction

Gambling disorders among incarcerated individuals remain an understudied phenomenon, both in Poland and globally. Nevertheless, the limited available research indicates that gambling disorders occur significantly more frequently among incarcerated individuals than in the general population¹. The co-occurrence of criminality and gambling disorders may generate novel, socially undesirable phenomena. The identification of the extent, co-occurrence, and prevention of gambling addiction among incarcerated individuals will lead not only to the limitations of losses for the individual, but also for society as a whole.

This article presents the findings of a study conducted using secondary data analysis based on a scoping review of the literature².

¹ M. Piasecka, *Hazard – przestępczość – zaburzenia uprawiania hazardu*, [w:] *Zaburzenia uprawiania hazardu wśród osób osadzonych w jednostkach penitencjarnych. Diagnoza jako podstawa skutecznych interwencji*, M. Piasecka, J. Kusztal, Ł. Szwejka, S. Lizińczyk, A. Nastazjak, E. Podolak, K. Piątek (ed.), Kraków 2023, p. 17–32.

² The research was conducted as part of a project carried out by Małopolskie Towarzystwo „Powrót z U” [“Return from U”] in cooperation with Centralny Zarząd Służby Więziennej [Central Board of the Prison Service], under the Narodowy Program Zdrowia [National Health Program], and co-financed from the funds of Fundusz Rozwiązywania Problemów Hazardowych [Gambling Problems Resolution Fund], remaining at the disposal of the Ministry of Health as part of a competition conducted by Krajowe Centrum Przeciwdziałania Uzależnieniom [National Center for Addiction Prevention]. This article contains a fragment of that research.

Gambling disorders among incarcerated individuals

Participation in games of chance may take on various forms, including a pathological form associated with numerous negative consequences. Gambling disorder is recognised in both the diagnostic classification of the American Psychiatric Association (DSM-5) and that of the World Health Organization (ICD-11). According to the DSM 5, a diagnosis of gambling disorder in a given individual can be stated when in the course of the most recent 12 months at least four of the following criteria are met by the individual: increasing participation in gambling activities; occurrence of frustration and irritation in situations in which there is no possibility to engage in gambling behaviours or these behaviours are inhibited; successive unsuccessful attempts are made to control gambling behaviours or refrain from gambling; preoccupation with gambling and/or with acquiring funds with which to gamble; gambling represents a way to cope with negative moods; the individual returns to gambling after losing money in order “get even”; the scope of the gambling problem is concealed; important emotional ties, educational or professional opportunities or other important relationships or activities are damaged or jeopardised by gambling; reliance on others to relieve a desperate financial situation caused by gambling³.

Similarly, the ICD-11 defines a gambling disorder as persistent or recurrent gambling behaviour, which may occur online or offline, and is characterised by impaired control over gambling, increased priority given to gambling over other life interests and daily activities, and the continuation or escalation of gambling despite the occurrence of negative consequences⁴.

Accurate identification of gambling behaviour is important in that it allows for the appropriate adaptation of measures, both in terms of prevention and therapy. Equally important is an understanding of the risk factors associated with the gambling disorder, as well as protective factors in this area in order to effectively limit the occurrence of the phenomenon⁵.

³ American Psychiatric Association, *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders: DSM-5, 5th ed.*, Washington 2013, American Psychiatric Association.

⁴ World Health Organization, *ICD-11 for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics. 6C50 Gambling disorder*, „World Health Organization”, 2022, <https://icd.who.int/browse11> [accessed: 15.08.2022].

⁵ M. Piasecka, *Wielowymiarowy kontekst zaburzeń uprawiania hazardu*, [w:] *Systemowe ograniczanie zaburzeń uprawiania hazardu*, M. Piasecka, Ł. Szwejka, A. Nastazjak (ed.), Kraków 2022, p. 35–57.

Nevertheless, little is still known about the relationship between gambling and criminal behavior. It can be assumed that this relationship may be bidirectional: gambling may lead to criminal activity, or criminal activity may lead to gambling; alternatively, the link may be reciprocal or ambiguous⁶. Another perspective suggests that the association may be incidental, comorbid (a shared underlying factor contributing to both crime and gambling), or instrumental (implying a causal link between gambling and criminal behaviour)⁷.

Findings from a study conducted in Polish correctional facilities between 2016 and 2017 revealed that 10% of respondents declared that gambling was related to their incarceration, while 20% reported that gambling had contributed to their engagement in unlawful acts at some point in their lives⁸.

Further research in Poland was conducted between 2022 and 2023. The study employed survey methods and included 148 correctional officers and 149 incarcerated individuals from 15 randomly selected correctional facilities. Additionally, a focus group interview was conducted with 15 officers representing 15 randomly chosen institutions. The risk of gambling disorder among incarcerated individuals, measured using the LIE/BET questionnaire, was 17.45%, indicating that this proportion of respondents is classified as being at risk and requires further diagnostic assessment.

In response to a direct question, 6.7% of participants admitted that they consider themselves addicted to gambling, while 39.6% of incarcerated individuals believe that gambling is generally related to criminality. Interestingly, the vast majority of respondents (92.6%) did not perceive any connection between their gambling behaviour and their current imprisonment, whereas 7.4% acknowledged such a link. Furthermore, 46.9% of respondents believe that gambling is possible during incarceration, and 12.8% reported engaging in gambling activities while in prison.

⁶ Cf. M. Piasecka, *Wzmacnianie motywacji do zmiany zachowań dysfunkcyjnych u patologicznych hazardzistów osadzonych w jednostkach penitencjarnych*, „Nowa Kodyfikacja Prawa Karnego” 2020, t. LVIII, p. 106.

⁷ A. Adolphe, L. Khatib, C. van Golde, S.M. Gainsbury, A. Blaszczynski, *Crime and gambling disorders: A systematic review*, „Journal of Gambling Studies” 2019, nr 35, p. 396.

⁸ B. Lelonek-Kuleta, *Hazard problemowy i patologiczny wśród osób odbywających karę pozbawienia wolności — diagnoza sytuacji oraz specyfika zjawiska. Raport z projektu badawczego*, „Krajowe Centrum Przeciwdziałania Uzależnieniom”, 2017, <https://kcpu.gov.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/hazard-problemowy-i-patologiczny-wsrod-osob-odbywajacych-kare-pozbawienia-wolnosci-diagnoza-sytuacji-oraz-specyfika-zjawiska.pdf> [accessed: 15.08.2025].

The most popular forms of gambling identified by respondents included card games for money or other valuables, dice games, and sports betting⁹.

Stages of the Literature Review

Given the limited number of national studies addressing gambling disorder among incarcerated individuals in Poland, a decision was made to conduct a review of international literature on this topic. A scoping review methodology was applied, with all stages of the search process systematically documented. The collected data were qualitatively assessed by a three-member research team, and a narrative synthesis was conducted. Both qualitative and quantitative evaluation are required, and the search process must be fully documented.

Findings from international research may serve as an important source of evidence for initiating national studies as well as for developing interventions tailored to domestic conditions. The aim of this systematic review was to identify effective interventions—those documented as effective through empirical research—targeted at the prevention of gambling disorder among individuals incarcerated in correctional facilities, and to formulate recommendations for penitentiary practice in this area.

This review was guided by two research questions: (1) What effective preventive interventions addressing gambling disorder are implemented for individuals serving prison sentences? (2) What components constitute gambling disorder prevention programs carried out in correctional institutions?

Subsequently, inclusion and exclusion criteria were formulated. The formal inclusion criteria comprised articles published in English in peer-reviewed scientific journals between 2001 and 2021. The substantive inclusion criteria included theoretical and empirical studies dedicated to the issue of gambling among incarcerated individuals; theoretical and empirical works dedicated to gambling disorder prevention programmes and methods in correctional institutions. An additional exclusion criterion was research based on secondary research (systematic reviews and meta-analyses).

⁹ M. Piasecka, J. Kusztal, Ł. Szwejka, S. Lizińczyk, A. Nastazjak, E. Podolak, K. Piątek, *Zaburzenia uprawiania hazardu wśród osób osadzonych w jednostkach penitencjarnych. Diagnoza jako podstawa skutecznych interwencji*, Kraków 2022.

To address the research questions outlined above, a scoping review was conducted using the EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS)¹⁰, with the following key words: *gambling prevention in prison/jail, prevention program for gambling, prevention methods in prison/jail, prevention gambling methods in prison/jail, selective prevention gambling*. The search for primary studies covered the period from 2001 to August 2021.

In the first stage of the study, a search and selection were conducted based on the keywords and the filters specified in the formal inclusion/exclusion criteria. At this stage, researchers independently analysed titles and abstracts of a total of 3571 records (the number of records for individual keywords is presented in Table 1).

Table 1. Number of records for a particular phrase.

No.	keywords	EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS)	Number of records included in the analysis after removing duplicates	Number of records eligible for analysis after the next round of duplicate removal
1.	gambling prevention in the prison	17	12	7
2.	gambling prevention in the jail	3	3	3
3.	prevention program for gambling	958	404	54
4.	prevention methods in the prison	2016	1281	1
5.	prevention of gambling methods in the prison	2	2	1
6.	prevention methods in the jail	534	337	5
7.	prevention gambling methods in the jail	0	0	0
8.	selective prevention gambling	41	17	5

Source: own research.

In cases of ambiguity, records were discussed until consensus was reached regarding the inclusion or exclusion criteria. The specific nature of the research problem and the objectives of the review necessitated refraining from the full application of the PRISMA methodology (PRISMA 2020 guidelines), as it is not fully suited to studies based on qualitative strategies or articles employing meta-reviews¹¹. For quality

¹⁰ The EBSCO database includes resources from such databases as Taylor&Francis, SAGE Premier, Wiley Online Library, and Springer Link.

¹¹ S.N. Rodda, *A systematic review of internet-delivered interventions for gambling: Prevention, harm reduction and early intervention*, "Journal of Gambling Studies" 2022, vol. 38(3), p. 967–991.

assessment, selected elements of the Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT) were applied—specifically for primary studies based on experiments, observations, or simulations—while acknowledging that this tool is not appropriate for theoretical works or meta-reviews¹².

Cases of uncertainty were discussed until a consensus was reached regarding the final decision on the inclusion or exclusion criteria of a record. Records were advanced to the next stage based on an assessment of the concordance between titles and abstracts and the inclusion and exclusion criteria. After duplicates were removed, a total of 2056 records were obtained (a breakdown into particular sets of key words is presented in Table 2) for further analysis in terms of fulfilment of eligibility criteria.

In the next stage, reports were conducted using the substantive inclusion/exclusion criteria. The following data were extracted from each report: author, date of publication, source of publication, title, key words, abstract, and digital object identifier.

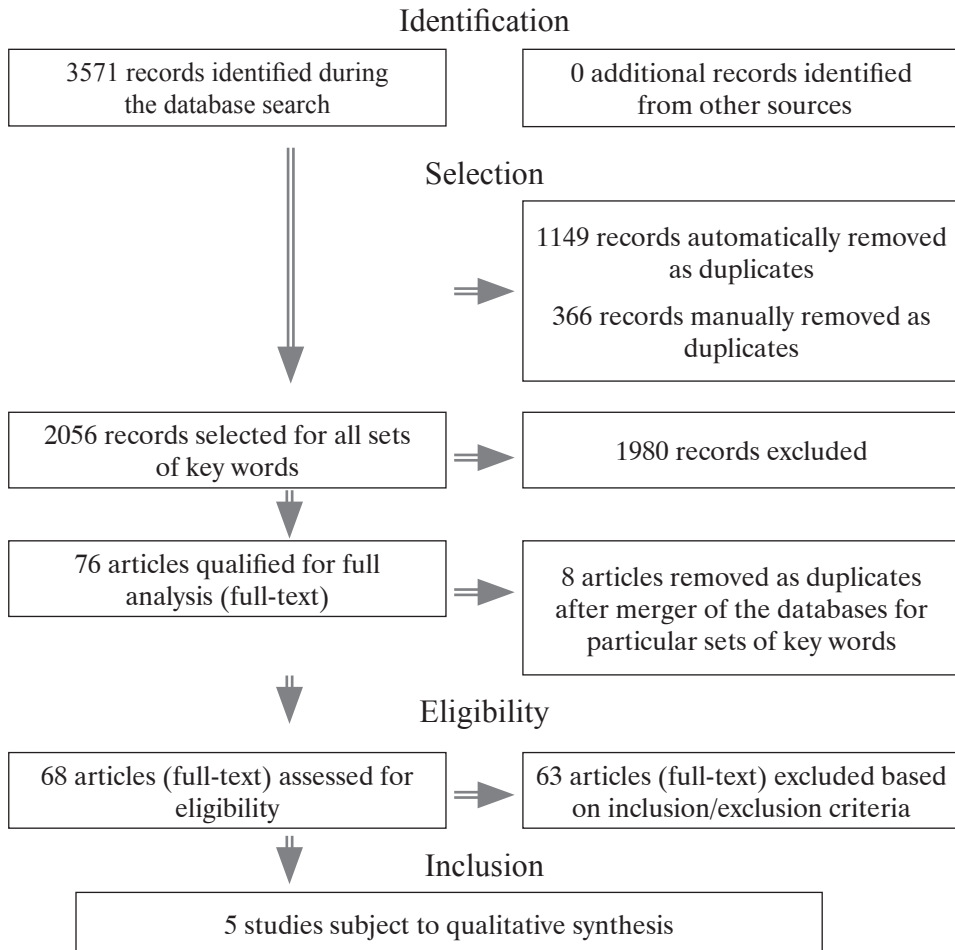
Ultimately, 76 articles were retained for full-text analysis (Table 1).

After merging the databases with reports with particular sets of key words, duplicates across databases were removed and thus for further analysis a total of 68 articles was qualified for further analysis. Next, a selection was conducted based on analysis of complete texts of the articles in terms of the substantive inclusion/exclusion criteria. Consequently, only five articles were included in the qualitative synthesis, as they were the only ones meeting the above-mentioned eligibility criteria, particularly those related to the penitentiary context and gambling behavior. Below is a flow diagram illustrating the progression of information through the successive stages of the systematic review (Figure 1).

The subsequent step involved synthesising the data collected during the systematic review. For this purpose, a qualitative synthesis of the data from articles which had been qualified for this stage (primary reports) was performed. During analysis of the material collected at this stage, the following data were reported: research aim, research question/hypothesis, research model, research group, type of intervention implemented, research results, and conclusions and implications for practice. A profile of the reports included for analysis is presented in Table 2.

¹² Q.N. Hong, P. Pluye, S. Fàbregues, G. Bartlett, F. Boardman, M. Cargo, P. Dagenais, M.- P. Gagnon, F. Griffiths, B. Nicolau, A. O’Cathain, M.-C. Rousseau, I. Vedel, *Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT) version 2018: User guide*, McGill University, Department of Medicine, p. 1-10.

Fig. 1. Diagram of information flow



Source: own research (based on¹³).

¹³ D. Moher, A. Liberati, J. Tetzlaff, D.G. Altman, *Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: The PRISMA statement*, „Journal of Clinical Epidemiology” 2009, vol. 62, iss. 10, p. 1006–1012.

Table 2. Profile of reports included for analysis in the category gambling phenomenon among incarcerated individuals.

item	Authors	Title of article	Periodical	Published
1.	Tessényi J., Kovács P.	A study of the connection between gambling and crime in Hungarian prisons	International Journal of Law & Psychiatry	2016
2.	Turner N. E., McAvoy S., Ferentzy P., Matheson F. I. Myers Ch., Jindani F., Littman-Sharp N., Malat J.	Addressing the Issue of Problem Gambling in the Criminal Justice System: A Series of Case Studies	Journal of Gambling Issues	2017
3.	Abbott M. W., McKenna B. G., Giles L. C.	Gambling and problem gambling among recently sentenced male prisoners in four New Zealand prisons	Journal of gambling studies	2005
4.	Riley B. J., Larsen A., Battersby M., Harvey P.	Problem Gambling Among Australian Male Prisoners: Lifetime Prevalence Help-Seeking and Association with Incarceration and Aboriginality	International Journal of Offender Therapy & Comparative Criminology	2018
5.	Turner N.E., Preston D. L. Saunders C., McAvoy S., Jain U.	The relationship of problem gambling to criminal behavior in a sample of Canadian male federal offenders	Journal of gambling studies	2009

Source: own research.

Thematic Analysis of Primary Report

The first analysed study, conducted by Tessényi and Kovacs¹⁴, examined change in trends over a period of five years (2009-2014) related to gambling among incarcerated individuals and their habits in this regard. In particular, it was assumed that the research would make it possible to: estimate the prevalence of problem gambling among incarcerated individuals and the degree to which they were aware of their own addiction; examine associations between gambling disorder and sociodemographic factors; determine the relationship between problem

¹⁴ J. Tessényi, P. Kovacs, *A study of the connection between gambling and crime in Hungarian prisons*, "International Journal of Law & Psychiatry" 2016, vol. 47, p. 176-180.

gambling and amounts of money lost as well as the type of gambling activity; explore the association between criminality and gambling addiction. The authors formulated two hypotheses: in the previous 5 years, the number of individuals addicted to gambling or at risk of addiction increased; the abolition of gambling machines redirected players to other forms of gambling. The research group consisted of incarcerated individuals (N=140, including 16 women).

According to the study, the type of criminal behaviour did not differentiate individuals in terms of intensification of gambling/gambling behaviours, although it was determined that the risk of gambling disorders is higher among recidivists. Additionally, the presence of other addictions increased the risk of gambling disorder (among individuals facing alcohol and/or narcotics abuse problems, the occurrence of pathological gambling behaviours was also higher). The study also identified a positive correlation between the number of problem gamblers in the environment of the respondent (e.g., the father, mother, brother, or other relative) and the probability the respondent themselves was a problem gambler. In turn, a correlation was not found between age, educational level, marital status or gender and gambling disorders. Significantly, along with the abolition of gambling machines, the interest of problem gamblers shifted towards other forms of gambling, primarily scratch cards.

The aim of the study conducted by Turner and colleagues¹⁵ was to expand the knowledge on programmes dedicated to gambling and addressed to clients involved in the criminal justice system (criminal cases). The study was guided by the following research questions: What programmes have been initiated for individuals incarcerated in correctional institutions? What is the structure of these programmes? Have these programmes been scientifically assessed? The research was conducted based on a literature review and interviews with experts. On the basis of this literature review and these expert interviews, four main categories of measures proposed to individuals involved in the criminal justice system based on the stage of the resocialisation process: (1) diversion to problem-solving courts; (2) Gamblers Anonymous, (3) brief intervention and psychoeducational treatment during incarceration; and (4) post- release programmes during parole. Categories 3 and 4 were also

¹⁵ N.E. Turner, S. McAvoy, P. Ferentzy, F.I. Matheson, C. Myers C., F. Jindani, N. Littman-Sharp, J. Malat J, *Addressing the issue of problem gambling in the criminal justice system: A series of case studies*, „Journal of Gambling Issues” 2017, vol. 35, p. 74-100.

further subdivided into brief psychoeducational informational sessions and treatment. In this report, note is also taken of the limited possibilities to answer the research questions posed due to the small number of studies in this area.

The third report, authored by Abbott, McKenna, and Giles¹⁶ described a study aimed at: 1) examining the extent of the gambling problem among male prisoners in New Zealand; 2) determine the main socio-demographic and clinical correlates of problem gambling in this population; 3) investigate the relationship between criminality and gambling addiction among incarcerated males. 357 inmates in four New Zealand men's prisons took part in the study. The results of the study indicated that among the sociodemographic variables (including age, ethnic background, education, occupation, marital status, religious affiliation, life situation, household size, and income), unemployment and a young age had a statistically significant relationship with problem gambling throughout the individual's lifetime. In comparison with gamblers who did not have a problem, problem gamblers were more prone to risky or problem drinking, had antisocial personality disorders, and childhood behavioural disorders in childhood. In the 12 months preceding incarceration, they abused tobacco and other illicit substances other than cannabis significantly more often than gamblers who did not experience problem gambling. Additionally, 15% of the participants had committed crimes in order to acquire money for gambling or to pay off gambling debts, and 10% of the prisoners indicated that they had been served sentences for crimes related to gambling.

The fourth report, authored by Riley and colleagues¹⁷ presented a study that aimed to: identify the prevalence of pathological gambling among a group of male prisoners in three prisons in South Australia; examine the forms of gambling which cause problems and previous help-seeking behaviours among respondents; assess these variables among Indigenous Australian prisoners (Aboriginals). The study sample comprised 450 incarcerated males from three prisons in South Australia. The study indicated a high rate of PG in the prison population. Nearly two thirds of respondents (N = 296) reported that they had experienced serious

¹⁶ M.W. Abbott, B.G. McKenna, L.C. Gilles L. C., *Gambling and problem gambling among recently sentenced male prisoners in four New Zealand prisons*, „Journal of Gambling Studies” 2005, vol. 21(4), p. 537-558.

¹⁷ B.J. Riley, A. Larsen, M. Battersby, P. Harvey, *Problem gambling among Australian male prisoners: Lifetime prevalence, help-seeking and association with incarceration and Aboriginality*, „International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology” 2018, vol. 62(11), p. 3447-3459.

problems with gambling at some point in their lives. What is more, one in five of the prisoners reported that their current incarceration was related to problem gambling. Roughly 25% of the prisoners who indicated that they had a problem with gambling reported that they had previously sought help. These results suggest that correctional facilities may be an excellent place for the identification of criminals with a gambling problem and their engagement, as well as an opportunity to organise interventions for the treatment of PG both before and after release. The results also highlight the need for the cultural adaptation of PG programmes to the needs of their recipients (Aboriginals).

The final report analysed a study conducted by Turner and colleagues¹⁸ presenting research whose aim was to: identify the extent of problem gambling among convicts; identify crimes committed by problem gamblers; identify the relationship between gambling problems and criminal behaviours. The authors proposed several hypotheses: indicators of the extent of moderate and severe problem gambling in the sample of criminals are much higher than in the general populace; problem gambling is more strongly associated with crimes committed for financial gain than crimes involving violence; criminals reported taking part in a larger number of unregulated gambling activities than the general populace; criminals with gambling disorders more frequently reported that gambling led them to crime. The study sample consisted of 254 male offenders incarcerated in federal institutions. The results indicated that severe problem gamblers committed crimes for financial gain much more frequently but were neither more nor less likely to commit crimes involving violence than other criminals. A majority of severe gamblers (65.2%) and on fifth of moderate gamblers (20.0%) reported that their criminal activity was the result of gambling (e.g., to pay off gambling debts).

Narrative synthesis

It should be noted that there is a very limited number of studies examining gambling disorder among incarcerated individuals, and an even smaller body of research addressing the effectiveness of interventions

¹⁸ N.E. Turner, D.L. Preston, C. Saunders, S. McAvoy, U. Jain, *The relationship of problem gambling to criminal behavior in a sample of Canadian male federal offenders*, „Journal of Gambling Studies” 2009, vol. 25(2), p. 153-169.

aimed at reducing this phenomenon. None of the reports directly concerned the effectiveness of implemented interventions or their structure, nor their constituent elements. Only one of the analysed articles contained research related to interventions limiting gambling disorders among incarcerated individuals. For this reason, all reports on the topics of gambling disorders among incarcerated individuals were subjected to analysis. Thanks to this, it was possible to elicit risk factors for the occurrence of gambling disorders among incarcerated individuals.

The analysed primary reports concerned studies conducted in countries such as Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. It should be noted that, from a historical perspective, the earliest research on gambling emerged in countries like Australia and Canada. These countries have extensive research experience in this area, largely due to their legal regulations and cultural context.

The aims of the analysed studies most frequently focused on assessing the prevalence of gambling among individuals incarcerated in correctional institutions (four primary studies) and examining the relationship between gambling and criminality (three studies). A relationship was also identified between gambling addiction and social-demographic factors (2 primary reports). Additionally, one study aimed to identify the forms of gambling causing the greatest problems and of earlier behaviours related to seeking help among respondents. One report described research whose aim was to expand knowledge on the topic of programmes associated with gambling addressed to clients involved in the criminal justice system (criminal cases). Thus, only one of the analysed reports contained research on programmes addressed to incarcerated individuals in correctional institutions and on gambling disorders.

The research group primarily consisted of male individuals incarcerated in correctional institutions (3 reports from the studies). One study also took into consideration female prisoners, and one was based on the literature and on interviews with experts. These were mainly survey studies.

In order to identify intensification of gambling behaviours, the following research instruments were used: SOGS (three times, including SOGS twice and SOGS-R once), EIGHT Gambling Screen, PGSI, and DSM-IVTR. One report concerned a literature review and interviews with experts.

The analysis of the study reports outlined here did not allow us to elicit effective programmes limiting gambling disorders among incarcerated individuals due to the deficit of studies in this area. Nonetheless, it is possible to indicate risk factors for the occurrence of gambling addiction and thus to formulate recommendations for the development of eligibility criteria for prevention programmes implemented in correctional institutions.

Based on the analysis and narrative synthesis of the primary studies presented above, recommendations for the development of prevention programmes for gambling disorders among incarcerated individuals can be put forth. In particular, these concern recruitment to programmes. While formulating recruitment criteria for programmes, it is worthwhile to note the following correlations with intensified gambling: previous criminal history, occurrence of other addictions (alcohol, narcotics, tobacco), unemployment, a young age group. At the same time, based on the results of the analysed studies, it can be stated that there is no need to create recruitment criteria on the basis of the type of crime committed. Additionally, another risk factor for gambling disorders, as the studies demonstrate, is close acquaintance with other gamblers.

A further relevant outcome is that correctional institutions can be places for the identification of individuals with gambling disorders and for the implementation of prevention and treatment programmes.

Due to the limited number of primary studies identified, it is not possible on their basis to elicit elements of applied interventions which demonstrate effectiveness in the context of their use in penitentiary isolation. This leads to a need to implement such solutions along with assessment of their effectiveness. Therefore, a relevant recommendation in terms of studies is to conduct evaluation of the results of implemented solutions aimed at limiting gambling addiction among individuals incarcerated in correctional institutions.

Conclusion

The co-occurrence of gambling disorder and criminality is most certainly at least concerning in nature due to the significantly higher share of individuals in correctional institutions among whom gambling addiction has been identified. Moreover, both phenomena may mutually reinforce

one another, with adverse consequences for both the individual and their social surroundings. Correctional institutions may therefore be places in which specialists can identify the risk of occurrence of gambling disorders or of the actual occurrence of such disorders. Preventive and therapeutic interventions implemented in these settings should be grounded in scientific evidence.

Based on the reviewed studies, key elements that should be considered during recruitment to prevention programmes can be identified. Recruitment should be preceded by a diagnosis of risk factors and protective factors in the context of adjusting the level of preventative measures and may also be supplemented by nosological diagnosis if such is available, leading to the proposal of measures in terms of addiction therapy.

At the same time, the available evidence clearly indicates a substantial gap in research on gambling disorder among incarcerated populations, particularly with regard to the prevalence of the phenomenon, its co-occurrence with other forms of addiction and criminal behaviour, and the evaluation of the effectiveness of implemented intervention strategies. Addressing these gaps constitutes an important direction for future research

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