

## Developing and validating lower risk online gambling thresholds with actual bettor data

Lower risk gambling limits for how much time and money are spent gambling can reduce gambling harms. Online player betting records can help us develop specific lower risk limits for online gamblers.

### The Study

Examined three **longitudinal datasets of actual player betting records** from bwin Interactive Entertainment, AG between 2000 and 2011.

Attempted to develop **six lower risk gambling limits** for time and financial measures of gambling involvement.

Amount wagered per month

Percentage of yearly household income wagered online

Frequency of gambling per month

Daily betting amount variability

Betting amount escalation during player's first 6 months

Net outcome of gambling per month

Tested how well each of the limits predicted **screening positive for Gambling Disorder** and **four proxies for gambling-related problems**.

*Voluntary self-limiting*

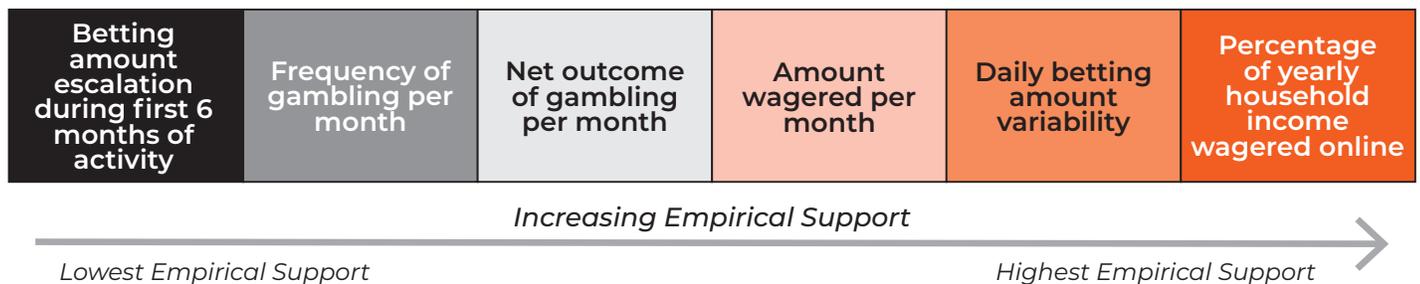
*Closing one's account*

*Voluntary self-exclusion*

*Being assigned a flag for potential problem gambling by customer service*

### Key Findings

General **empirical support differed** for each online gambling limit's prediction of a positive screen for Gambling Disorder and the four gambling harm proxies.



**Four limits best supported lower risk online gambling.** Exceeding any of these limits predicted a positive screen for Gambling Disorder.

Wagering 167.97 Euros or less each month

Spending 6.71% or less of annual income on online gambling wagers

Losing 26.11 Euros or less on online gambling per month

Variability in daily amount wagered of 35.14 Euros or less during one's active duration

### Key Takeaways

Gambling online above lower risk limits increases risk of experiencing gambling-related problems.

**Although not gambling is the most certain way to avoid problems, guidelines for lower risk limits could stimulate safer gambling practices.**

People gambling above the four limits might be more likely to experience gambling-related problems, engage in voluntary self-exclusion, and receive account warning flags for problem gambling from customer service.

**Gambling operators could recommend online limits in these four areas, but should let players know that individual cases might require more stringent thresholds.**