

Abstract

BACKGROUND: A gambling disorder, which newly ranks among an addiction disorder, may develop with a lack of control over playing the hazard games. The structural and situational characteristics affects the risk potential of each hazard game for development of a gambling disorder.

OBJECTIVES: The aim of the work was to map the perceptions and experiences of the addictology workers, who specialize on the gamblers, on the risk potential of the various types of the gambling products and their characteristics.

METHODS: The research was designed as a cross-sectional survey with using e-mail communication. The convenient sample consisted of professionals working in addiction treatment a counselling programs for people with gambling disorder, who met the inclusion criteria. The questionnaire includes the filter with inclusion criteria, questions about sociodemographic profile of the respondents, the characteristics of the clients and the risk potential of gambling products and their characteristics. The sample consisted of 18 professionals (response rate 28 %). Descriptive analysis was performed.

RESULTS: A total of 70,1 % people with gambling disorder, who are clients of the respondents, gamble primarily online. Betting online was the largest part (48,8 %) of the primary preferred game, then technical game land-based (23,4 %) and online (12 %). The highest risk potential measured as average risk potential of the individual structural characteristics was shown by online live betting (during the game) and technical game online. Overall, hazard games online had higher risk potential. The availability was perceived as the structural characteristic with the highest risk potential especially in online games.

CONCLUSIONS: Professional helping people with gambling disorder rate online gambling, especially live betting and technical games, as the games with the higher risk potential for the development of gambling disorder. Evaluation of structural and situational characteristics of gambling products is relevant not only from clinical perspective, but also for the prevention of gambling disorder on the side of gambling operators as well as gambling regulatory bodies.

Key words

gambling – gambling disorder – structural characteristics – situational characteristics