



**Bournemouth University**

# Gambling-Related Harms within LGBTQ+ Communities

“ I got scared when I started losing. ”

## LGBTQ+ individuals are particularly at risk of problem gambling and gambling-related harms

There is a statistically significant relationship between distress caused by life stressors among LGBTQ+ individuals and turning to gamble as a coping strategy.

**53%** of LGBTQ+ individuals have 3 or more gambling accounts they use regularly.

**36%** of LGBTQ+ individuals report being moderate-to-severely depressed.

“ My problem gambling was linked to what was going on in my life. It’s always a lot easier when you’re online to just click deposit. ”

## The online environment enables LGBTQ+ individuals to gamble more frequently

“ Online is the most accessible route. I wouldn’t have been gambling if the online routes weren’t available, because I wouldn’t have wanted to go into stores. ”

## LGBTQ+ individuals have unique daily stressors that lead to problem gambling

**71%** of LGBTQ+ individuals experience some form of discrimination or harassment.

**89%** of LGBTQ+ individuals experience some form of isolation.

**39%** of LGBTQ+ individuals experience problems disclosing their gender identity.

**97%** of LGBTQ+ individuals are affected by hate crimes against the LGBTQ+ community.

“ Gambling has been a release to get away from life in general. ”



## Harms will proliferate among LGBTQ+ communities unless this is addressed

There is a statistically significant relationship between distress caused by life stressors among LGBTQ+ individuals and problematic gambling.

This will proliferate unless targeted community support is provided.

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**As a community, we tend to be vulnerable to all sorts of addictions.**

**The risks are quite high and no one talks about them in the community.**

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## Targeted support is a priority

**Operators** should advertise the risks associated with gambling and how this relates to sexual orientation and gender identity.

**Operators** should offer tailored land-based and online support to individuals from LGBTQ+ communities experiencing gambling-related harms.

**The Regulator** should extensively consult researchers and LGBTQ+ individuals with lived experience to develop a gold standard for inclusive safer gambling support.

**Parliamentarians** should call on the Government to monitor gambling-related harms in LGBTQ+ communities and prioritise safer gambling initiatives towards LGBTQ+ individuals in forthcoming legislation.

**The Government should hold the gambling industry to account and lead the sector by championing LGBTQ+ and other marginalised voices in safer gambling initiatives.**

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**The LGBT community are more likely to have issues with addiction, because of our lives, because of homophobia, because of the way society looks down on non-conformity.**

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