

Playing Social Roulette:

The Impact of Gambling on Individuals & Society in Ireland

Phase 1: Mapping Service Provision for Gambling Addiction in Ireland

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Study Purpose:

This project explores the issue of problem gambling in Ireland and its impact on the individual, the gambler's relationships with social connections, and the wider impact of problem gambling behaviour on community and society.

Gambling in Ireland:

Little is really known about who gambles, how and why people gamble, and the wider social impact of gambling in Ireland. The Government is currently updating old legislation. This study will inform policy around problem gambling.

Research Questions:

- What services are currently available?
- How are services structured and coordinated?
- What additional social actions could cause positive social change for gamblers & their social networks?

Method:

- In-depth, semi-structured interviews.
- Snowball sample.
- 10 service providers working with gamblers &/or families across Ireland.

Participant Profile:

- Gender: 40% female; 60% male.
- Role: 50% director/manager; 40% counsellor; 10% psychologist.
- Age: 80% > 50 years.
- Professional qualification: 40% Addiction training; 10% Nursing; 10% Social Work; 40% Counselling; 10% Psychology; 10% no qualification.
- Service funding: 10% public; 50% private; 40% mixed.

Findings:

- Focus is on treatment.
- Services work with all addictions.
- Services largely focussed on gamblers; only 1 specialized for families & only 1 for young people.
- No single model of funding. A transparent funding and support model for services is needed.
- Organizations tend to offer services in a vacuum, with varying communication and collaboration.

Discussion:

- Various pressures on service provision, including funding and structure development, requiring support.
- Service providers advocate public education development.
- Critical need for coordination and collaboration of services for people affected by gambling, as well as related services.

Coordination of Supports Needed by People Affected by Gambling:



Next steps:

- Interviews with gamblers & social connections nearly completed.
- Focus group with gambling industry research analysts now completed.
- Project completion: May 2015.

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