

# The Lancet Public Health Commission on gambling

Gambling is now available 24/7 to anyone with internet access. The negative effects from gambling are far reaching and go beyond individuals experiencing gambling disorder, impacting families, friends, and society more widely.

## An expanding public health threat



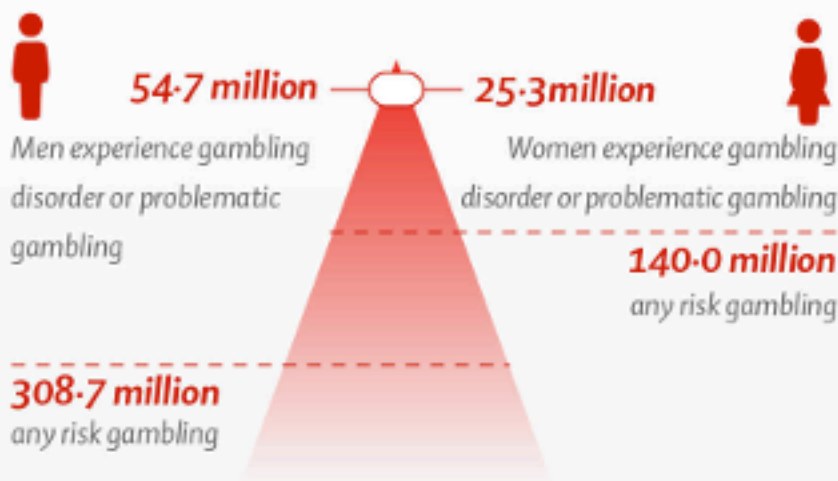
Countries around the world where commercial gambling is legally available

Not only through traditional environments or products, such as casinos or lotteries

But also digital environments, such as apps and websites



The Commission estimates that approximately:



These estimates are likely to be conservative; many more people are harmed by the gambling of others

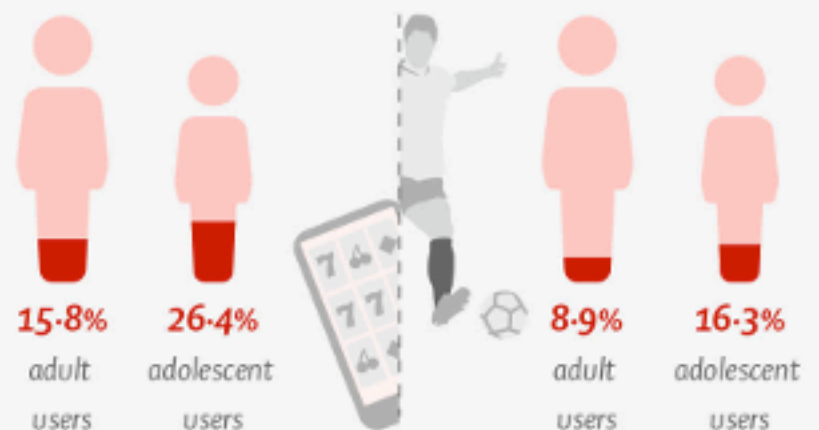


The digital transformation of the global gambling industry extends its reach to areas with little previous experience of commercial gambling, making it widely accessible even where it is not legally permitted. This rapid expansion is particularly concerning in low-income and middle-income countries, where regulatory frameworks are often weak.

Commercial gambling is associated with a wide range of negative consequences such as:

- Financial loss and the risk of financial ruin
- Physical and mental health problems
- Domestic violence
- Increased crime against property and people
- Relationship and family breakdown
- Heightened risk of suicide
- Loss of employment

**Online casino** and **online sports betting** are two of the most rapidly expanding areas for commercial gambling globally. In these areas, gambling disorders could affect:



Read the full *Lancet Public Health* Commission report for more details