

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


Lower risk gambling guidelines for how much time and money are spent gambling might reduce gambling-related harms. Online player betting records can help us develop specific lower risk limits to help guide 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*

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




Lowest Empirical Support 
➔
 Highest Empirical Support


*Increasing Empirical Support*

**Four limits best supported lower risk online gambling.** Users who exceeded any of these thresholds were more likely to screen positive 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.

Though these four limits predict elevated risk, their accuracy is only moderate.

Gambling operators could use online thresholds in these four areas to help educate their customers about safer play, but should advise them that individual cases might warrant higher or lower thresholds depending on circumstances.