

# Gambling Harms

**Health and Wellbeing Board**  
**13/07/2026**

# Gambling Harms

## What is Gambling?

"Gambling is betting, gaming or participating in a lottery, where gaming means playing a game of chance for a prize and a prize is defined as money or 'money's worth'"

- The Gambling Act 2005.

The DHSC estimates that gambling costs the Government and society between **£1.05 billion and £1.77 billion a year.**

## Gambling-Related Harms

**Resources:** Work and employment, money and debt, crime, housing

**Relationships:** impact upon partners, families, community, domestic violence, community

**Health:** physical health, mental health, wellbeing

## Types of Gambling

**Online-** sports betting, online casino/slots/bingo, national lottery, poker, loot boxes and skin betting (in-game)

**In-Person-** betting shops, casinos, horse racing, gaming machines, national lottery and scratchcards

## Industry Tactics

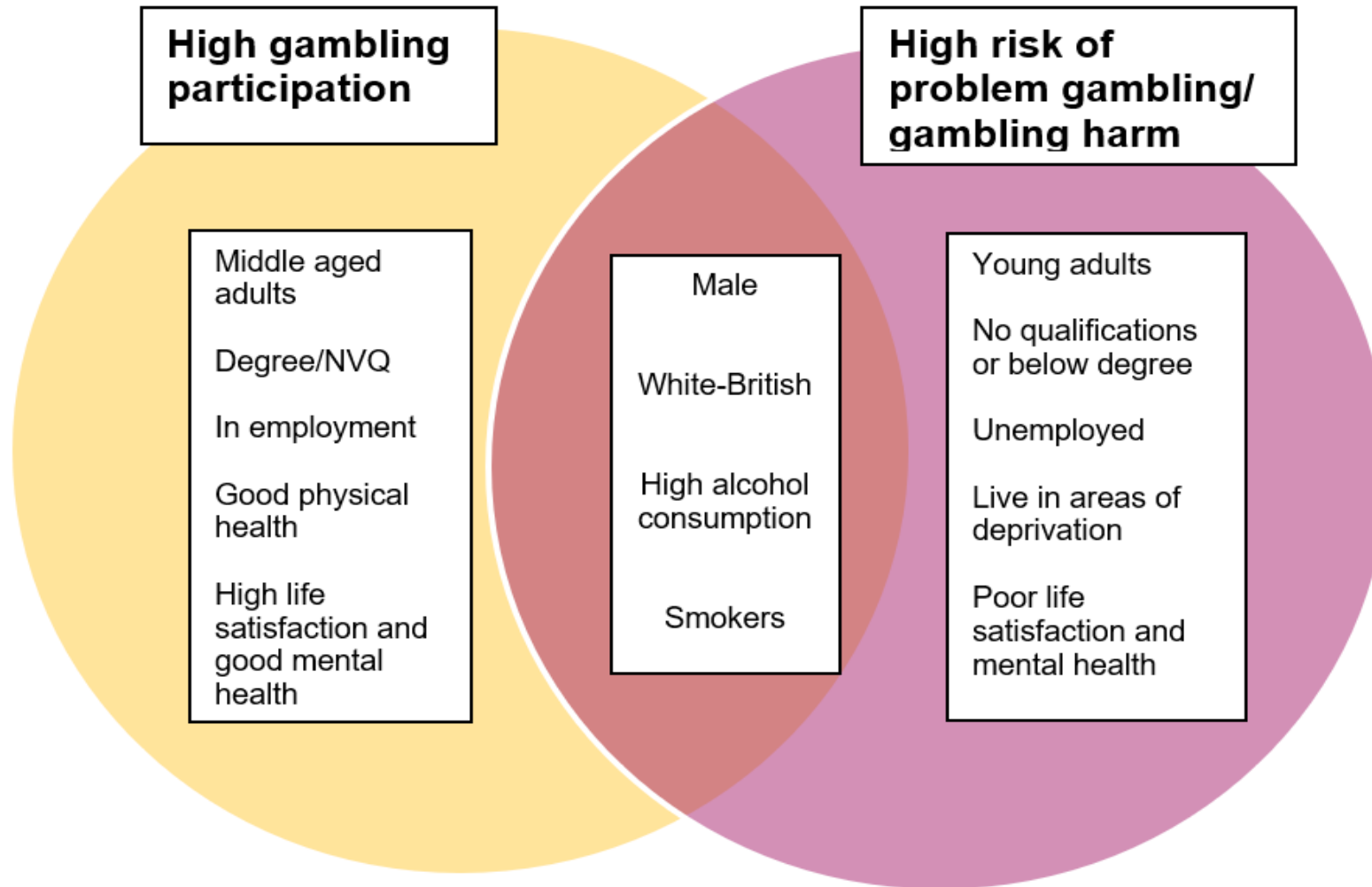
Lobbying and political party donations, aggressive marketing and advertising, self-regulation and corporate responsibilities

## The Gambling Levy

The statutory gambling levy in the UK is a mandatory charge applied to licensed gambling operators to fund research, prevention, and treatment of gambling-related harms

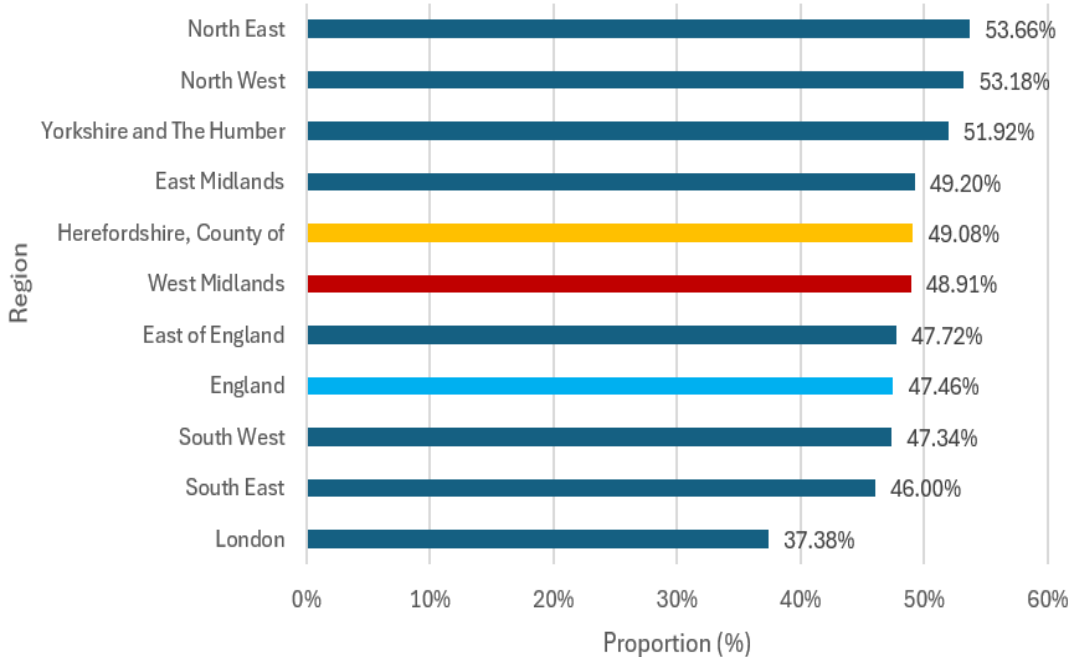
**There is £33,000 funding for the first year in Herefordshire**

# Predictors of Gambling Participation and Harm

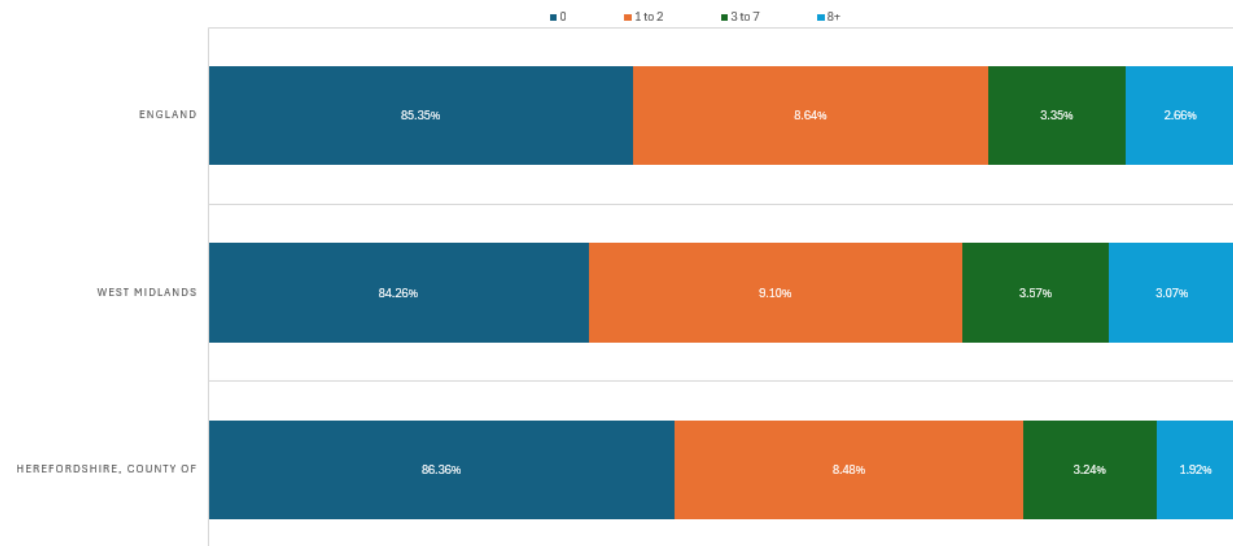


# Local Insights – OHID Estimates

The proportion of adults (18 years or over) spending money on any gambling activity in the past 4-weeks (OHID estimates, developed by NIHR)



THE PROPORTION OF ADULTS (18 YEARS OR OVER) IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR GROUPS BASED ON PROBLEM GAMBLING SEVERITY INDEX (PGSI) SCORES: 0, 1-2, 3-7 AND 8+



Score	Risk Category	Interpretation
0	<b>Non-problem gambler</b>	No negative consequences, though the individual may gamble heavily.
1-2	<b>Low-risk gambler</b>	Unlikely to have suffered adverse consequences but at risk of developing issues.
3-7	<b>Moderate risk gambler</b>	Shows signs of problematic behaviour and may have experienced some negative consequences.
8+	<b>Problem gambler</b>	Experiences significant adverse consequences, loss of control, and potential financial/personal harm.

PGSI 8+ is 1.92% = >3000 residents

PGSI 1-7 is 11.72% = >18,000 residents

# Local Gambling Provision

- Gamblers Anonymous
- NHS Gambling Clinic
- Aquarius
- Dudley Rehabilitation Centre
- GamCare East Midlands



OHID report that only 35 of 153 upper-tier local authorities in England had a treatment provider physically located in the area

Image from Midlands Gambling Needs Assessment

# Next Steps:

We are conducting a Gambling Harms Needs Assessment.

We hope that this will help us to:

- Identify vulnerable people already in contact with services
- Strengthen local data and insights into gambling harms
- Identify what services are available locally and what is missing
- Develop stronger partnership working (primary care, mental health, housing and homelessness, police, employers, VCSE, schools, banks)
- Embed gambling harms awareness and support into existing services