WHY GAMBLING IS A GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM, AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

Gambling is increasingly perceived as a major Public Health problem, with estimates of gambling-derived harm now indicating a harm burden around two-thirds that of alcohol misuse and abuse, and on a par with major depression. Yet gambling continues to expand, globally, and the gambling industry is rapidly expanding in low and middle income countries, having consolidated a significant market in high income countries. This presentation, adapted from our recent seminar at WHO HQ, will explain the nature and scale of gambling harm globally, demonstrate that gambling can best be addressed by adopting effective public health approaches to harm prevention and minimisation, and provide suggestions on how to bring about a more unified and globally applicable approach to gambling harm prevention.