

Online Gambling: Screening & Assessment Tools

Youth & Digital Technology: Growing Up Online Toolkit

This document provides service providers with validated screening and assessment tools to support children and youth experiencing problematic online gambling. Screening tools help to identify potential concerns and determine if further assessment is needed. Assessment tools are used to gain a deeper understanding of a client's problems with gambling, should concerns be identified through screening.

Questions about online gambling may be administered independently, or as part of a larger psychosocial assessment. Both screening and assessment are helpful to support the development of a treatment plan and clarify areas of potential intervention.

Screening and assessment should be integrated into broader psychosocial assessments and used to develop tailored treatment plans. While these tools do not provide a definitive diagnosis, they help guide clinical decisions. If concerns arise, service providers should refer clients to a mental health or addiction professional specializing in process addictions [1].

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Gambling Screening Tools

THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND GAMBLING ADDICTION ASSESSMENT FOR YOUTH (SAGAAA-Y) (*Internal AHS use*)

This reference manual guides practitioners through an intake screening, basic assessment, and treatment plan. It is designed to collect information in a motivational-style interview. The basic assessment allows counsellors to use a structured questionnaire or a more open-ended, counsellor-directed questionnaire [2].

- <https://insite.albertahealthservices.ca/Main/assets/tms/amh/tms-amh-sagaa-y-manual.pdf#search=THE%20SUBSTANCE%20ABUSE%20AND%20GAMBLING%20ADDICTION%20ASSESSMENT%20FOR%20YOUTH%20>

SOUTH OAKS GAMBLING SCREEN-REVISED FOR ADOLESCENTS (SOGS-RA)

This is a valid instrument to assess gambling behaviour and gambling related problems [3, 4].

For more information, contact

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<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/info/Page17564.aspx>

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- <https://ipgap.indiana.edu/documents/southoaksgamblingscreen-adolescents.pdf>

MASSACHUSETTS ADOLESCENT GAMBLING SCREEN (MAGS)

During a 5- to 10-minute survey or interview, this clinical screening instrument identifies non-pathological and pathological gambling [5].

- https://www.academia.edu/4296441/Pathological_gambling_among_adolescents_Massachusetts_Gambling_Screen_MAGS

BRIEF BIOSOCIAL GAMBLING SCREEN (BBS)

This self-administered three-question brief screening tool is based on the DSM-IV criteria for pathological gambling [6]. This screening tool can be found and downloaded from:

- The International Centre for Responsible Gambling: <https://www.icrg.org/resources/brief-biosocial-gambling-screenhttps://www.divisiononaddiction.org/wp-content/plugins/bbgs-e-screener/index.php>

DSM-V SCREEN: PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING TO DSM-5 GAMBLING DISORDER

The fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) replaced the DSM-IV diagnosis of Pathological Gambling (PG) with Gambling Disorder (GD). Four or more “yes” answers indicate a diagnosis for Gambling Disorder [7]. The DSM-5 reclassified Gambling Disorder under Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders, recognizing its similarities to substance use disorders in terms of brain function, behavior patterns, and treatment approaches. In 2022, Gambling Disorder remains the only officially recognized behavioral addiction in the DSM-5-TR, classified under Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders.

A diagnosis of Gambling Disorder is based on meeting at least four of the listed criteria within a 12-month period. Individuals with fewer than four criteria may still be at risk and could benefit from further assessment, education, or intervention services. This change enhances the clinical and research-based approach to diagnosing and treating problematic gambling behaviors.

<https://oasas.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/02/dsmvgamblingdiagnosticform.pdf>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK519704/table/ch3.t39/>

CLINICAL NOWER GAMBLING SCREENER

These pages contain the gambling screener and follow-up questions to be used to identify gambling problems outside a treatment setting [8].

https://socialwork.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/2022-05/nower_clinical_gambling_screen.pdf

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Gambling Assessment Tools

CANADIAN ADOLESCENT GAMBLING INVENTORY (CAGI)

This inventory was formally known as the Adolescent Problem Gambling Instrument (APGI). A comprehensive 44-item questionnaire designed for adolescents aged 13-17 [9].

Information, and a link to the final report, can be found on the Alberta Gambling Research Institute's website:

- <https://prism.ucalgary.ca/items/3d355d50-d93f-4383-b6a9-15d51b5ad7ff>
- [https://www.greo.ca/Modules/EvidenceCentre/files/Wiebe%20et%20al%20\(2007\)The_Canadian_Adolescent_Gambling_Inventory_Phase_II.pdf](https://www.greo.ca/Modules/EvidenceCentre/files/Wiebe%20et%20al%20(2007)The_Canadian_Adolescent_Gambling_Inventory_Phase_II.pdf)
- This test is also available in French (*Inventaire canadien des jeux de hasard et d'argent chez l'adolescent (ICJA)*); it can be found through the Université de Trois-Rivières' website: https://oraprdnt.uqtr.quebec.ca/pls/public/gscw031?owa_no_site=4242&owa_no_fiche=191

PROBLEM GAMBLING SEVERITY INDEX (PGSI)

The Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI) is a brief, 9-item, self-report measure of problematic gambling behaviours in the general population (Ferris & Wynne, 2001) [10].

- <https://novopsych.com.au/assessments/health/problem-gambling-severity-index-pgsi/>
- <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DMHAS/PGS/SeverityIndexPrintablepdf.pdf>

Additional Screening & Assessment Resources for Gambling Problems

Some other options for screening and assessing gambling problem can be found at Provincial System Support Program (PSSP). Gambling, Gaming & Technology Use. Knowledge Exchange, CAMH.

<https://learn.problemgambling.ca/eip/screening-assessment>

National Opinion Research Center Diagnostic Screen for Gambling Disorders, Loss of Control, Lying and Preoccupation screen, is a three-item screen derived from the NODS.

<https://problemgambling.az.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/NODSCLiP.pdf>

Screening Standards Manual

<https://www.ncpgambling.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Screening-Standards-Manual.pdf>

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