



**Determinants at the level of the social, economic and political environment are more important in the transition to risky substance use and gambling whilst determinants at the individual and sub-individual level of analysis are more dominant in the transition to harmful behaviours**

determinants  
harmful behaviour  
**transitions**  
risky behaviour

In order to facilitate understanding of the broad range of determinants of transitions in the development of harmful substance use and gambling, determinants were organised into three levels of analysis: the social, economic, and political environment, individual level, and cellular and molecular (including substance-related factors e.g. drug kinetics).

Our findings suggest that different levels of analysis are dominant at different stages in the development of harmful substance use and gambling. Specifically, in the transition from no use or low-risk use to risky substance use and gambling, many more determinants were identified in the social, economic, and political environment (e.g. social acceptance, availability and price) than at the other two levels of analysis. In contrast, in the transition to harmful substance use and gambling, determinants at the individual and cellular and molecular levels are more dominant (e.g. adverse life events, route of administration, and speed and degree of neuroadaptations).

Thus, different approaches may be better suited to influencing behaviour at different stages in the trajectory of harmful substance use and gambling.

## READ MORE

Lees R, McLeod J, Holmes J, et al. (2012): *Determinants of risky substance use and risky gambling: an interdisciplinary report*. Addiction and Lifestyles in Contemporary Europe: Reframing Addictions Project (ALICE RAP): [Deliverable D7.1](#)

Gell L, Holmes J, Bühringer G, et al. (2013): *Determinants of harmful substance use and harmful gambling: an interdisciplinary report*. Addiction and Lifestyles in Contemporary Europe: Reframing Addictions Project (ALICE RAP): [Deliverable D8.1](#)

Gell, L. Bühringer, G. McLeod, J. Forberger, S. Holmes, J. Lingford-Hughes, A. and Meier, P. S. (Eds.) (2016) [‘What determines harm from addictive substance and behaviours?’](#) Oxford: Oxford University Press.