

## **Substance use, alcohol, and behavioural addictions in autism: A scoping review of the literature**

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### **Objectives:**

There are over 700 000 people that are on autistic spectrum in the UK. According to a systematic review substance use disorder rates are up to 36% in autistic people. However, very little seems to be known about the comorbidities of autism and substance use disorders, problematic alcohol use, or behavioural addictions. Therefore, understanding the aetiology underlying these conditions or effective ways of managing them in autistic people is crucial. We are undertaking three literature reviews: substance use in autism, problematic alcohol use in autism and gambling in autism. This poster will present what is known on the subject and also where the gaps in the literature are.

### **Method:**

In this review we searched PUBMED for the papers dated up to June 2021 using keywords and MeSH terms related to autism and substance use, alcohol use and gambling.

### **Findings:**

1359 initial papers were identified for substance addiction in autism, and 694 for problematic alcohol use in autism and 343 papers for gambling in autism. Data is extracted from these papers and a summary of key findings and main gaps will be presented.

### **Conflict of interest:**

We do not work with tobacco, alcohol, electronic cigarettes and gaming companies. This study is funded by the Society for the Study of Addiction <https://www.addiction-ssa.org/>

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