

## *Pathological Slot Machine Gambling in the Czech Republic*



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**SUMMARY:** *This paper reviews the current situation concerning pathological gambling in the Czech Republic as a topic of growing relevance for addiction treatment services. Underlining the multifaceted nature of the issue, the paper explores the differences between addictions to psychoactive substances and slot machines, as well as looking into certain elements which are common to both types of addictive behaviour. Specific aspects of gambling are described, with a special focus on slot machines, which are much more widespread in the Czech Republic than in other European countries. The characteristics, availability, and principle of the operation of slot machines that contribute to the development of pathological gambling are also discussed.*

**KEY WORDS:** PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLING – SLOT MACHINES – GAME – PREVALENCE – SYSTEM OF SERVICES

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