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## Conventional and Online Gambling: Emerging Challenges for the Wonogiri Regional Police

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### Abstract

The proliferation of conventional and online gambling in Indonesia has created new challenges for law enforcement agencies, particularly in relation to evolving criminal modus operandi, the use of electronic evidence, and the increasing sophistication of digital technologies. This study aims to identify the forms and characteristics of gambling offenses within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police, analyze the implementation of Articles 303 and 303 bis of the Indonesian Criminal Code in investigative and criminal inquiry practices, and examine the obstacles encountered by law enforcement officers in addressing these offenses. The study employed an empirical juridical method with a socio-legal approach, utilizing interviews, observations, and document analysis as data collection techniques. The findings reveal that gambling activities have shifted toward more complex digital forms, while law enforcement efforts have been implemented through both preventive and repressive measures in accordance with prevailing legal provisions. The principal challenges include difficulties in obtaining electronic evidence, limited digital forensic capabilities, and inadequate inter-agency coordination. Therefore, strengthening institutional capacity, modernizing technological infrastructure, and enhancing public participation are essential to achieving more effective and sustainable strategies for combating gambling-related crimes.

**Keywords:** *Gambling, Law Enforcement, Wonogiri Regional Police*

### Abstrak

Perkembangan perjudian konvensional dan perjudian online di Indonesia menimbulkan tantangan baru bagi penegakan hukum, terutama terkait perubahan modus operandi, pembuktian elektronik, dan pemanfaatan teknologi digital. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi bentuk dan karakteristik tindak pidana perjudian di wilayah hukum Polres Wonogiri, menganalisis implementasi Pasal 303 dan Pasal 303 bis KUHP dalam praktik penyelidikan dan penyidikan, serta mengkaji hambatan yang dihadapi aparat kepolisian dalam penanganannya. Penelitian menggunakan metode yuridis empiris dengan pendekatan socio-legal melalui wawancara, observasi, dan studi dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa perjudian telah bergeser ke bentuk digital yang lebih kompleks, sementara penegakan hukum dilaksanakan melalui pendekatan preventif dan represif sesuai ketentuan hukum yang berlaku. Kendala utama meliputi pembuktian elektronik, keterbatasan kapasitas digital forensik, dan koordinasi antarinstansi. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan penguatan kapasitas kelembagaan, modernisasi sarana teknologi, dan peningkatan partisipasi masyarakat guna mewujudkan penanggulangan perjudian yang lebih efektif dan berkelanjutan.

**Kata kunci:** *Perjudian, Penegakan Hukum, Polres Wonogiri*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, as a state founded upon the rule of law (*rechtstaat*), places law as the primary instrument for maintaining order, ensuring justice, and protecting societal interests. One form of behavior considered disruptive to public order and contrary to social values is gambling. Gambling has long been classified as a social pathology because it not only causes economic losses to perpetrators and their families but also contributes to various social problems, including increased crime rates, domestic conflict, poverty, fraud, and social instability.<sup>1</sup> Consequently, the state regards gambling as an activity that must be controlled through criminal law instruments and effective law enforcement policies.

The prohibition of gambling in Indonesia is regulated under Articles 303 and 303 bis of the Indonesian Criminal Code (*Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Pidana [KUHP]*), which impose criminal sanctions on individuals who organize, offer, or participate in gambling activities without lawful authorization. These provisions are further reinforced by Law No. 7 of 1974 concerning the Regulation of Gambling, demonstrating the state's commitment to eradicating all forms of gambling practices. With the rapid development of information technology, a new form of gambling—online gambling—has emerged and is regulated under Article 27(2) in conjunction with Article 45(3) of Law No. 1 of 2024 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions. The existence of these legal instruments demonstrates that gambling is no longer viewed merely as a moral issue but has evolved into a legal, social, and security concern requiring comprehensive responses.

Despite the existence of an established regulatory framework, empirical evidence indicates that gambling practices continue to evolve and undergo significant transformation. Gambling, which was previously conducted through conventional activities such as card games, lotteries, cockfighting, and other forms of betting, has increasingly shifted to digital platforms, including websites, social media, instant messaging applications, and electronic payment systems.<sup>2</sup> The ease of access, anonymity, and promise of immediate financial gain have made online gambling increasingly attractive to various segments of society and have generated new challenges for law enforcement agencies.

This phenomenon has given rise to numerous issues in the law enforcement process, particularly concerning offender identification, the collection of electronic evidence, financial transaction tracing, and the use of technologies that enable

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<sup>1</sup> Muslimin Muslimin et al., "Patologi Sosial Dan Kesehatan Mental: Orientasi Problematika Dan Solusi Dalam Kajian Pendidikan Agama Islam," *Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Konseling* 4, no. 6 (2022): 9820–26, <https://doi.org/10.31004/jpdk.v4i6.9943>.

<sup>2</sup> Kadek Tina Widhiatanti and David Hizkia Tobing, "Dampak Judi Online Pada Remaja Penjudi: Literature Review," *Deviance Jurnal Kriminologi* 8, no. 1 (2024): 91–108, <https://doi.org/10.36080/djk.2759>.

perpetrators to conceal their identities and operational locations.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, limited human resources, inadequate digital investigative capabilities, and low levels of public participation have adversely affected the effectiveness of efforts to combat gambling-related crimes.<sup>4</sup> The persistence of gambling activities is also influenced by economic conditions, social environments, limited legal awareness, and the widespread accessibility of digital technology.

Studies on law enforcement against gambling-related crimes in Indonesia have developed considerably in line with the transition from conventional gambling to information technology-based gambling. Previous research has generally focused on the effectiveness of law enforcement, the challenges encountered by law enforcement agencies, and strategies for addressing gambling-related offenses. Saputra found that gambling practices take various forms and continue to evolve, while obstacles to law enforcement stem from limited public participation, insufficient personnel, and the clandestine operational patterns of offenders.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, Yudistia and Zakaria emphasized the importance of balancing preventive and repressive approaches within criminal policies aimed at combating gambling.<sup>6</sup>

Nainggolan et al. found that law enforcement against number-guessing gambling remains suboptimal due to insufficient evidence, limited human resources, and low levels of public participation.<sup>7</sup> Similarly, Salsabila et al. demonstrated that online gambling presents new challenges, including difficulties in obtaining electronic evidence, the use of fictitious identities by perpetrators, and limited authority to address cybercrime at the regional police level.<sup>8</sup> Comparable findings were reported by Fortuna et al., who highlighted regulatory weaknesses, lengthy case-processing procedures, and investigators' limited capabilities in information technology.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Seri Mughni Sulubara et al., "Judi Online Sebagai Cybercrime Serta Tantangan Penegakan Hukum Pidana Di Era Digital: Antara Regulasi, Pembuktian, Dan Ancaman Cybercrime," *Jurnal Riset Rumpun Ilmu Sosial, Politik Dan Humaniora* 4, no. 2 (2025): 539–52, <https://doi.org/10.55606/jurish.v4i2.4990>.

<sup>4</sup> Rizki Nurdiansyah et al., "Efektivitas Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Judi Online," *Federalisme: Jurnal Kajian Hukum Dan Ilmu Komunikasi* 1, no. 3 (2024): 219–38, <https://doi.org/10.62383/federalisme.v1i3.79>.

<sup>5</sup> Angga Adi Saputra, "Upaya Kepolisian Dalam Menanggulangi Tindak Pidana Perjudian Di Wilayah Hukum Polres Boyolali" (Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, 2013), <https://eprints.ums.ac.id/27046/>.

<sup>6</sup> Willy Ahmad Yudistia and Chepi Ali Firman Zakaria, "Penegakan Hukum Tindak Pidana Perjudian Di Wilayah Kepolisian Sektor Binong Kabupaten Subang Dihubungkan Dengan Undang-Undang Nomor 7 Tahun 1974 Tentang Penertiban Perjudian," *Bandung Conference Series: Law Studies* 4, no. 2 (2024): 853–60, <https://doi.org/10.29313/bcsls.v4i2.12623>.

<sup>7</sup> Awet Lestari Nainggolan et al., "Penegakan Hukum Tindak Pidana Perjudian Tebak Angka Di Wilayah Hukum Polres Indragiri Hulu Berdasarkan Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Pidana," *The Juris: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 8, no. 2 (2025): 664–77, <https://doi.org/10.56301/juris.v8i2.1359>.

<sup>8</sup> Vania Mahfira Salsabila et al., "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Perjudian Online Di Wilayah Hukum Kepolisian Resor Kampar," *Jurnal Ilmiah Wahana Pendidikan* 10, no. 23 (2024): 808–14, <https://doi.org/10.5281/ZENODO.14586202>.

<sup>9</sup> Lovely Fortuna et al., "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Perjudian Online Di Wilayah Hukum Kepolisian Resor Kota Padang Panjang," *Unes Law Review* 5, no. 4 (2023): 2496–506, <https://doi.org/10.31933/unesrev.v5i4.607>.

Research by Hidayatulloh et al. (2025), Diassari and Sumarwoto (2025), and Fittra (2025) further reinforces the view that effective law enforcement against gambling-related crimes continues to face numerous challenges, including limited personnel, inadequate supporting facilities, low levels of public legal awareness, and weak inter-agency coordination. Accordingly, previous studies have generally focused on three principal aspects: the effectiveness of law enforcement, the identification of inhibiting factors, and strategies for combating gambling-related offenses.<sup>10</sup>

However, these studies remain fragmented and are largely confined to specific regional contexts, thereby failing to provide a comprehensive understanding of patterns of handling gambling-related crimes at the regional police level, where social and geographical characteristics vary considerably. Consequently, a research gap exists due to the lack of studies that simultaneously integrate normative and empirical dimensions, social factors, and strategies for addressing both conventional and online gambling within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police.

Against this background, the present study aims to conduct an empirical and legal analysis of the patterns of handling gambling-related crimes within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police. Specifically, the study seeks to identify the forms and characteristics of emerging gambling practices, examine the implementation of criminal law provisions in policing practices, and analyze the challenges encountered by law enforcement officers in addressing gambling-related offenses.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed an empirical juridical method using a qualitative descriptive approach. This method was selected because the study not only examines legal norms governing gambling-related offenses but also analyzes their implementation in law enforcement practices within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police. The empirical juridical approach conceptualizes law as both a set of written norms and a social institution manifested through the behavior of law enforcement officials and the community.

The study utilized two complementary approaches: a statutory approach and a sociological approach. The statutory approach was employed to examine the provisions of the Indonesian Criminal Code, Law No. 7 of 1974 concerning the Regulation of Gambling, Law No. 1 of 2024 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions, the Criminal Procedure Code, and internal police regulations. Meanwhile, the

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<sup>10</sup> Taufiq Hidayatulloh et al., “Efektivitas Penegakan Hukum Tindak Pidana Judi Online Di Wilayah Tegal,” *Jurnal Ilmu Hukum, Humaniora Dan Politik* 5, no. 5 (2025): 4146–56, <https://doi.org/10.38035/jihhp.v5i5.4578>; Apriska Diassari and Sumarwoto Sumarwoto, “Efektivitas Penyidikan Tindak Pidana Perjudian Pasal 303 KUHP Di Wilayah Hukum Polsek Kerjo Polres Karanganyar,” *Indonesian Journal of Islamic Jurisprudence, Economic and Legal Theory* 3, no. 3 (2025): 2211–15, <https://doi.org/10.62976/ijjel.v3i3.1251>; Diky Hikmatul Fittra, “Upaya Kepolisian Republik Indonesia Dalam Penanggulangan Tindak Pidana Perjudian Online,” *Journal of Legal Research* 7, no. 1 (2025): 41–60, <https://doi.org/10.15408/jlr.v7i1.46862>.

sociological approach was used to analyze the implementation of these legal provisions and the social factors influencing the effectiveness of handling gambling-related offenses.

The research was conducted at the Wonogiri Regional Police in Central Java, Indonesia. The data consisted of primary and secondary sources. Primary data were obtained through interviews, observations, and documentation, while secondary data were derived from statutes and regulations, books, scientific journals, and other official documents. Research informants were selected using a purposive sampling technique and included police investigators, community leaders, academics, and other individuals with knowledge and experience related to the handling of gambling-related offenses.

Data collection was carried out through a literature review, semi-structured interviews, observations, and document analysis. The collected data were analyzed through the stages of data reduction, data display, conclusion drawing, and verification. To ensure the trustworthiness of the findings, this study employed both source and methodological triangulation, thereby enhancing the credibility and objectivity of the research results.

### 3. RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. Forms and Characteristics of Gambling Crimes within the Jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police

Gambling activities in Wonogiri Regency do not exhibit a linear pattern of development. The increase in the number of cases recorded in 2025 indicates that gambling practices continue to persist and evolve within the community. However, this increase should not be interpreted solely as evidence of a factual rise in the prevalence of gambling-related crimes. The higher number of cases was also influenced by the increased intensity of public order operations (*penyakit masyarakat* operations), routine patrol activities, and the enhanced capacity of law enforcement officers to obtain information from the public. Consequently, the increase in reported cases may also be viewed as an indicator of improved detection and law enforcement effectiveness.

**Table 1.**

*Trends in Gambling Crime Cases within the Jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police, 2024–2026*

| Year | Number of Cases | Change           | Interpretation                                                                                                          |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2024 | 1 case          | –                | The lowest number of cases, although this does not indicate the complete absence of gambling practices.                 |
| 2025 | 3 cases         | Increase of 200% | The increase was influenced by the effectiveness of police operations, routine patrols, and increased public reporting. |

|      |         |                   |                                                                                                                           |
|------|---------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026 | 2 cases | Decrease of 33.3% | The decline suggests the effectiveness of preventive measures, although undetected gambling activities may still persist. |
|------|---------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

*Source:* Wonogiri Regional Police data, processed by the researchers (2026).

The forms of gambling identified within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police can be broadly classified into two categories: conventional gambling and online gambling. Conventional gambling continues to occur in the form of number-guessing games, card games, and betting on specific activities conducted clandestinely within the community. These activities generally take place in relatively private settings, such as food stalls, private residences, or remote locations, to avoid detection by law enforcement authorities.

**Table 2.**

*Forms and Characteristics of Gambling Crimes within the Jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police*

| Type of Gambling      | Main Characteristics                                                              | Level of Difficulty in Law Enforcement |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Conventional gambling | Number-guessing games, card games, dice games, and betting on specific activities | Moderate                               |
| Online gambling       | Online slot games, online lotteries, gambling websites, and mobile applications   | High                                   |

*Source:* Field research data, processed by the researchers (2026).

Meanwhile, online gambling has demonstrated more rapid growth than conventional gambling. Research findings indicate that individuals increasingly access gambling platforms through mobile phones, social media platforms, messaging applications, and dedicated websites. The primary characteristics of online gambling include anonymity, ease of access, the absence of a fixed physical location, and the use of digital financial transactions that are difficult to trace directly. Moreover, online gamblers frequently employ fictitious identities, intermediary accounts, and closed communication groups to avoid detection by law enforcement agencies.

**Table 3.**

*Characteristics of Conventional and Online Gambling*

| Aspect               | Conventional Gambling                                         | Online Gambling                                               |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Medium               | Face-to-face interactions                                     | Internet and digital devices                                  |
| Location             | Food stalls, private residences, and other secluded locations | No specific physical location required                        |
| Payment system       | Cash transactions                                             | Bank transfers, e-wallets, and intermediary accounts          |
| Perpetrator identity | Relatively easy to identify                                   | Anonymous or fictitious identities                            |
| Evidence             | Money, cards, dice, and betting slips                         | Electronic data, screenshots, and digital transaction records |

|                            |                            |                                               |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Monitoring and supervision | Relatively straightforward | Difficult and requires specialized technology |
| Scope                      | Local                      | Cross-regional and transnational              |

*Source:* Field research data, processed by the researchers (2026).

The findings indicate that advances in information technology have transformed gambling practices from relatively open forms of criminal activity into increasingly covert and sophisticated operations. In conventional gambling cases, law enforcement authorities can generally conduct raids based on information provided by the public. In contrast, addressing online gambling requires digital forensic capabilities, electronic transaction tracing, and extensive inter-agency coordination to identify perpetrators and obtain sufficient evidence for criminal prosecution.

This study also identified several factors contributing to the emergence and persistence of gambling-related crimes in Wonogiri Regency. The first factor is economic in nature. Some offenders perceive gambling as a means of obtaining quick financial gains amid economic hardship and limited employment opportunities. The second factor concerns social and environmental influences. In certain communities, gambling is still regarded as a socially acceptable activity, thereby increasing individuals' propensity to participate. The third factor is technological advancement, which enables individuals to access gambling platforms easily without temporal or geographical constraints. The fourth factor relates to supervision and law enforcement, as weak social control and limited monitoring of digital spaces provide opportunities for offenders to engage in gambling activities covertly.

These findings are consistent with the study conducted by Saputra, which concluded that gambling evolves through various *modus operandi* and is frequently conducted clandestinely to evade law enforcement.<sup>11</sup> The present study also confirms the findings of Nainggolan et al., who reported that gambling activities persist despite various enforcement measures implemented by the police.<sup>12</sup> Similarly, the results support the findings of Fortuna et al. and Salsabila et al., which demonstrated that online gambling has created new challenges for law enforcement due to the involvement of digital technologies, electronic evidence, and complex financial transactions.<sup>13</sup>

However, this study differs from previous research in several respects. Whereas most prior studies focused primarily on the effectiveness of law enforcement and barriers to criminal investigations, the present study demonstrates that the relatively

<sup>11</sup> Saputra, "Upaya Kepolisian Dalam Menanggulangi Tindak Pidana Perjudian Di Wilayah Hukum Polres Boyolali."

<sup>12</sup> Nainggolan et al., "Penegakan Hukum Tindak Pidana Perjudian Tebak Angka Di Wilayah Hukum Polres Indragiri Hulu Berdasarkan Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Pidana."

<sup>13</sup> Fortuna et al., "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Perjudian Online Di Wilayah Hukum Kepolisian Resor Kota Padang Panjang"; Salsabila et al., "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Perjudian Online Di Wilayah Hukum Kepolisian Resor Kampar."

small number of reported cases does not necessarily indicate a substantial decline in gambling activities. Instead, gambling practices in Wonogiri Regency appear to have shifted from easily detectable activities to more concealed forms facilitated by digital technology.

From a criminological perspective, this condition reflects the phenomenon of the dark figure of crime, referring to offenses that occur within society but are not fully captured in official crime statistics.<sup>14</sup> Therefore, the recorded figures of one case in 2024, three cases in 2025, and two cases in 2026 should be interpreted with caution, as gambling activities may remain undetected or unreported to law enforcement authorities.

The characteristics of gambling-related crimes within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police are dynamic and highly adaptive to social and technological developments. Gambling activities are no longer conducted openly but increasingly utilize digital platforms and closed communication networks. Consequently, a response strategy that relies exclusively on repressive measures is no longer sufficient. Gambling-related offenses must be addressed through a more comprehensive approach that includes enhancing public legal literacy, strengthening digital surveillance mechanisms, improving information technology-based investigative capabilities, and increasing public participation in providing information to law enforcement agencies.

This study confirms that gambling-related crimes within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police remain both a legal and a social issue requiring serious attention. The fluctuations in the number of cases between 2024 and 2026 do not indicate the disappearance of gambling activities; rather, they reflect changes in increasingly complex patterns and characteristics of offending. Therefore, efforts to combat gambling should be implemented sustainably through the integration of penal and non-penal policies to achieve the objectives of law enforcement, public order, and community protection more effectively.

### **3.2. Implementation of Articles 303 and 303 bis of the Indonesian Criminal Code and Related Legislation in Investigation and Prosecution Practices by the Wonogiri Regional Police**

Law enforcement against gambling-related crimes within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police has been carried out in accordance with the mechanisms of the Indonesian criminal justice system as stipulated in the Criminal Procedure Code (Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Acara Pidana [KUHP]). Case handling begins with the preliminary inquiry stage, which aims to determine whether an alleged gambling offense has occurred, as provided in Article 1(5) of the KUHP. At this stage, police

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<sup>14</sup> Edryan Wiguna, "Implementasi Fungsi Statistik Kriminal Dalam Penanggulangan Tindak Pidana Di Kota Padang," *Unes Law Review* 2, no. 3 (2020): 239–46, <https://doi.org/10.31933/unesrev.v2i3.117>.

officers collect information through public reports, routine patrols, information obtained from Community Police Officers (Bhayangkara Pembina Keamanan dan Ketertiban Masyarakat [Bhabinkamtibmas]), and surveillance of locations suspected of being used for gambling activities.

The inquiry stage plays a strategic role because it serves as the basis for determining whether a case should proceed to the formal investigation stage. In practice, inquiries into conventional gambling are relatively straightforward because the locations and activities can be directly observed. By contrast, online gambling presents more complex challenges because gambling activities are conducted electronically, involve anonymous identities, and frequently operate through cross-regional networks.

If sufficient preliminary evidence is obtained during the inquiry stage, the case proceeds to the formal investigation stage, as stipulated in Article 1(2) of the KUHAP. At this stage, investigators undertake a series of legal actions, including the examination of witnesses and suspects, searches, seizure of evidence, and the collection of other forms of evidence necessary to clarify the offense and identify the perpetrator. In conventional gambling cases, the evidence commonly obtained includes betting money, playing cards, lottery tickets, dice, and other gambling equipment. In contrast, evidence in online gambling cases generally consists of mobile phones, digital accounts, transaction screenshots, transfer receipts, SIM cards, and other forms of electronic data.

Article 303 of the Indonesian Criminal Code is more commonly applied to individuals who act as organizers, bookmakers, or parties facilitating gambling activities. Meanwhile, Article 303 bis is generally applied to individuals who participate in or engage in gambling activities. In online gambling cases, investigators rely not only on the provisions of the Criminal Code but also on Article 27(2) in conjunction with Article 45(3) of the Law on Electronic Information and Transactions, which criminalizes the distribution, transmission, or provision of electronic content containing gambling-related material.

Law enforcement does not end at the investigation stage. Once investigators determine that sufficient evidence has been obtained, they compile a case file and submit it to the Public Prosecutor for formal and substantive review. If the case file is declared complete (P-21), investigators transfer both the suspect and the evidence to the prosecutor's office for prosecution and trial. This mechanism demonstrates that the handling of gambling-related offenses within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police adheres to the principles of due process of law and an integrated criminal justice system.

In addition to adopting a repressive approach, the Wonogiri Regional Police also implement preventive measures through *Operasi Pekat* (Community Disease Operations). These operations are conducted routinely and target various disturbances to public order and security, including gambling activities. *Operasi Pekat* serves a dual

function: as an enforcement mechanism against gambling offenders and as a preventive instrument aimed at restricting offenders' opportunities to engage in illegal activities. Through these operations, the police are able to identify gambling locations, apprehend offenders, and develop intelligence to uncover broader criminal networks.

Another important finding concerns the strategic role of *Bhabinkamtibmas* in combating gambling-related crimes. Their close relationship with local communities makes them a primary source of information regarding suspected clandestine gambling activities. Furthermore, *Bhabinkamtibmas* officers play an important role in providing legal education, raising public awareness, and encouraging community participation in reporting suspected gambling activities to the police. These findings demonstrate that a community policing approach constitutes an essential instrument for preventing and addressing gambling-related crimes.

The handling of online gambling cannot be undertaken solely by the police. The Wonogiri Regional Police coordinate with relevant government agencies, particularly those authorized to regulate digital spaces, to block online gambling websites and trace the digital footprints of offenders. Such cross-sectoral collaboration is essential because online gambling is transnational in nature, frequently relies on overseas servers, and utilizes continuously evolving technologies.

The findings of this study are consistent with those of Hidayatulloh et al., who reported that law enforcement against online gambling continues to face challenges related to the implementation of legal regulations and the collection of electronic evidence.<sup>15</sup> These findings also confirm the results of Salsabila et al., who concluded that the successful handling of online gambling depends largely on the technological capabilities of law enforcement agencies and collaboration with the community.<sup>16</sup> Similarly, the present study supports the findings of Fortuna et al., which emphasized the importance of inter-agency coordination in enforcing laws against electronically facilitated gambling.<sup>17</sup>

This study offers a novel contribution to the existing literature. Whereas previous studies have primarily focused on barriers to law enforcement or the effectiveness of implementing criminal law provisions, the present study demonstrates that the implementation of Articles 303 and 303 bis of the Indonesian Criminal Code by the Wonogiri Regional Police is realized not only through repressive measures in the form of inquiries and investigations but also through the integration of preventive approaches, community policing, and inter-agency collaboration as components of a more comprehensive crime prevention strategy.

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<sup>15</sup> Hidayatulloh et al., "Efektivitas Penegakan Hukum Tindak Pidana Judi Online Di Wilayah Tegal."

<sup>16</sup> Salsabila et al., "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Perjudian Online Di Wilayah Hukum Kepolisian Resor Kampar."

<sup>17</sup> Fortuna et al., "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Perjudian Online Di Wilayah Hukum Kepolisian Resor Kota Padang Panjang."

The effectiveness of the implementation of gambling-related legal provisions within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police is influenced by three principal components: legal substance, legal structure, and legal culture. Legal substance provides an adequate normative framework through the Indonesian Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Gambling Control Law, and the Law on Electronic Information and Transactions. Legal structure is reflected in the roles of the police, prosecutors, and courts within the criminal justice system. Meanwhile, legal culture is manifested in the level of public participation in providing information and supporting efforts to eradicate gambling.

The implementation of Articles 303 and 303 bis of the Indonesian Criminal Code within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police has generally been carried out in accordance with the applicable legal framework. However, its effectiveness is highly dependent on the ability of law enforcement personnel to adapt to evolving gambling methods, particularly those associated with online gambling. Consequently, law enforcement can no longer rely exclusively on conventional approaches but must be complemented by enhanced digital investigative capabilities, stronger inter-agency cooperation, and active community participation.

The implementation of legal provisions concerning gambling within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police reflects an integrated criminal justice system oriented toward the protection of public order. Nevertheless, the increasingly sophisticated forms and methods of gambling necessitate the strengthening of institutional capacity, the modernization of law enforcement infrastructure, and the development of community-based preventive approaches to achieve the objectives of law enforcement, legal certainty, and the protection of society from the adverse effects of gambling more effectively.

### **3.3. Obstacles Faced by the Police in Handling Conventional and Online Gambling within the Jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police**

The rapid development of digital technology has become a major challenge in addressing gambling-related crimes, particularly online gambling. Unlike conventional gambling, which generally occurs at a specific location and involves face-to-face interactions among participants, online gambling can be conducted individually through electronic devices without direct contact between players. This situation makes it difficult for law enforcement agencies to detect offenders and identify the location of criminal activities.

Online gamblers employ various technological methods to evade law enforcement, including the use of fictitious identities, accounts registered under other individuals' names, virtual private networks (VPNs), encrypted communication applications, and constantly changing website links. Even after a gambling website has been blocked, its

operators can quickly establish a new domain or migrate their activities to another platform. These characteristics render online gambling a dynamic and transnational form of crime that is difficult to address through conventional investigative methods.

Technological developments have transformed the nature of gambling-related offenses from localized crimes into technology-based crimes with cross-regional and transnational dimensions. Consequently, the technological capabilities and digital investigative competencies of law enforcement agencies have become crucial determinants of successful law enforcement.

In addition to technological challenges, evidentiary issues constitute one of the most significant obstacles in handling online gambling cases. Under the Indonesian criminal procedure system, criminal liability must be established through legally admissible evidence, as stipulated in Article 184 of the Criminal Procedure Code. However, in online gambling cases, most evidence consists of electronic data, including screenshots, digital communications, transaction histories, transfer receipts, and internet activity records. Such evidence requires professional identification, preservation, and analysis before it can be admitted in court proceedings.

Investigators continue to face limitations in mastering digital forensic techniques and electronic trace analysis. Not all personnel possess the technical expertise necessary to conduct data extraction, digital information recovery, or electronic transaction analysis. Consequently, the evidentiary process in online gambling cases often takes considerably longer than that in conventional gambling cases.

The findings of this study are consistent with those of Hidayatulloh et al., who concluded that one of the principal obstacles to enforcing laws against online gambling is the limited capacity of investigators to handle cybercrime cases and the lack of supporting infrastructure.<sup>18</sup> This study also confirms the findings of Fortuna et al., who found that difficulties in obtaining electronic evidence and limited expertise in information technology significantly hinder the effectiveness of law enforcement against online gambling.<sup>19</sup>

In addition to evidentiary and technological constraints, challenges also arise from the geographical characteristics of Wonogiri Regency. The regency covers a vast area with diverse topographical conditions, making it difficult to monitor all gambling-prone locations effectively. The limited number of law enforcement personnel relative to the size of the surveillance area means that patrols and enforcement operations cannot be conducted evenly across all regions.

In conventional gambling cases, offenders also tend to operate clandestinely and frequently relocate to avoid police detection. Gambling activities often take place in

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<sup>18</sup> Hidayatulloh et al., "Efektivitas Penegakan Hukum Tindak Pidana Judi Online Di Wilayah Tegal."

<sup>19</sup> Fortuna et al., "Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Perjudian Online Di Wilayah Hukum Kepolisian Resor Kota Padang Panjang."

private residences, small food stalls, or remote locations that are difficult to access through routine surveillance. Consequently, the successful resolution of such cases depends heavily on information provided by the community.

Another important finding of this study concerns the issue of inter-agency coordination. The handling of online gambling cannot be undertaken solely by the police because it involves matters related to information technology, digital payment systems, and cyberspace governance. Therefore, the Wonogiri Regional Police must coordinate with the Indonesian Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs and other relevant stakeholders to block gambling websites and trace the digital footprints of offenders.

This coordination continues to face various challenges, primarily due to the highly dynamic nature of online gambling. Website blocking often produces only temporary effects because offenders can easily create new domains or distribute links through closed groups and instant messaging applications. Therefore, website blocking alone is insufficient to completely eradicate online gambling activities.

Community participation plays a crucial role in addressing the limitations faced by law enforcement agencies. Through the Jogo Wargo Jogo Negoro program and the 110 emergency call service, members of the public are provided with channels through which they can report suspected gambling activities occurring within their communities. Information provided by the public frequently serves as the primary source of intelligence for police investigations and case resolution.

These findings are consistent with the concept of community policing, which positions the community as a strategic partner of the police in maintaining public order and security.<sup>20</sup> Similarly, Diassari and Sumarwoto found that low levels of community participation constitute a significant factor hindering the effectiveness of investigations into gambling-related crimes.<sup>21</sup> Therefore, strengthening partnerships between the police and the community is essential.

The various obstacles encountered in handling gambling-related crimes within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police indicate problems across the three elements of the legal system. In terms of legal substance, regulations concerning digital evidence still require further strengthening in their implementation. Regarding legal structure, limitations in human resources and technological infrastructure adversely affect the effectiveness of law enforcement. Meanwhile, in terms of legal culture, some members of the public remain reluctant to report gambling activities due to fear of retaliation from offenders or because gambling is still perceived as a socially acceptable practice.

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<sup>20</sup> Afryanti Firman and Surya Dharma, "Community Policing Revitalization: Building Civilization and Social Order through Trust and Collaboration in Urban Areas," *Al-'Adl* 18, no. 1 (2025): 76–90, <https://doi.org/10.31332/aladl.v18i1.11682>.

<sup>21</sup> Diassari and Sumarwoto, "Efektivitas Penyidikan Tindak Pidana Perjudian Pasal 303 KUHP Di Wilayah Hukum Polsek Kerjo Polres Karanganyar."

Gambling, particularly online gambling, represents a form of crime that continuously adapts to technological developments. Consequently, a law enforcement approach that relies solely on conventional methods is no longer adequate.<sup>22</sup> Law enforcement agencies need to enhance their capabilities in digital forensics, strengthen technological infrastructure, develop inter-agency information-sharing systems, and optimize community participation in the prevention and detection of gambling-related crimes.

The obstacles encountered in handling gambling-related crimes within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police are not merely technical but also structural and cultural in nature. The rapid development of digital technology, difficulties in obtaining evidence, limited resources, geographical constraints, and suboptimal inter-agency coordination all affect the effectiveness of law enforcement. Therefore, an adaptive response strategy is required, including improving the competencies of law enforcement personnel, strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation, modernizing law enforcement technologies, and developing a community-based policing model to ensure that gambling-related crimes can be addressed more effectively.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that gambling-related crimes within the jurisdiction of the Wonogiri Regional Police have evolved from conventional forms of gambling, such as lotteries and card games, to online gambling that utilizes digital platforms and electronic transactions. Law enforcement efforts have been implemented through inquiry and investigation mechanisms in accordance with the provisions of the Indonesian Criminal Code, Law No. 7 of 1974 concerning the Regulation of Gambling, and the Law on Electronic Information and Transactions. These efforts have been further strengthened through Operasi Pekat (Community Disease Operations), the role of *Bhabinkamtibmas* (Community Police Officers), and a community policing approach.

However, the effectiveness of efforts to address gambling-related crimes continues to face various challenges, including difficulties in obtaining electronic evidence, limited digital forensic capabilities, extensive surveillance areas, inadequate personnel and technological resources, and suboptimal inter-agency coordination. These conditions indicate that combating gambling requires a multidimensional approach that integrates both penal and non-penal strategies.

From a theoretical perspective, this study contributes to the growing body of literature on law enforcement against technology-based gambling and cyber-enabled crime. From a practical perspective, the findings provide several policy recommendations, including strengthening the regulatory framework governing electronic evidence, enhancing investigators' digital competencies, optimizing inter-

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<sup>22</sup> Devi Yulida et al., "Tinjauan Yuridis Terhadap Pengaturan Judi Online Dan Pengaruhnya Terhadap Ketahanan Keluarga," *Locus: Jurnal Konsep Ilmu Hukum* 5, no. 3 (2025): 556–68, <https://doi.org/10.56128/jkih.v5i3.834>.

agency coordination, and increasing community participation to promote more effective and sustainable gambling prevention policies.

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