

## AGE-RELATED PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL VULNERABILITY AS PATHWAYS TO PROBLEM GAMBLING IN OLDER ADULTS

ADRIAN PARKE, JULIE PATTINSON & DAVID KEATLEY

APARKE@LINCOLN.AC.UK



### BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

- In GB older adults less likely to be PGs but those that are experience more severe consequences
- Higher Anxiety/Depression → more complex treatment (Kerber et al, 2008)
- Lower probability of recovery because of context (Pietrzak & Petry, 2006)
- Understanding the motivational pathways can enhance clinical and preventative efforts (Subramanian et al, 2015)

### BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Motivations: Accessibility, Social Support, 'Escape'

- In general gambling-related harm is primarily associated with negative motivation

'Escaping':

- Chronic Pain
- Loneliness/Depression
- and Anxiety

### PROPOSED MODEL

- Loneliness to co-vary with chronic pain and frailty
- Combination of Physical Decline and Loneliness will have direct effect on Depression and Anxiety
- Depression, in context of Older Adulthood, will also lead to Anxiety
  - Limited scope to address problems lead to tension (Pattinson & Parke, 2017)
- Anxiety and Depression will have direct effect of Problem Gambling

### DESIGN

Inclusion Criteria: Over 65, Past Year Gambling, No Cognitive Impairment

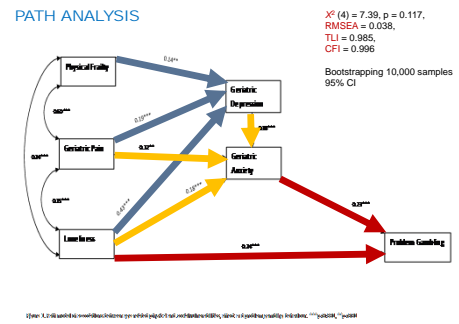
Diverse Sampling: Urban, Rural, Older Adult Social Groups, Generic Advertising, Commercial Gambling Sites

595, Female Skew, x= 74.4 years

- Problem Gambling Severity Index
- CSHA Clinical Frailty Scale
- Geriatric Pain Measure S-F
- de Jong Gierveld Loneliness Scale
- Geriatric Depression Scale
- Geriatric Anxiety Inventory



### PATH ANALYSIS



## FINDINGS

- Experiencing negative affective states has strong, direct effect on PG in over-65s
- Commercial gambling provides readily accessible, safe environments for older adults
  - Positive outcomes for majority
  - Harmful outcomes when gambling to 'escape'
- Depression plays strong mediating effect from physical deterioration/loneliness → anxiety
  - Stress/Uncertainty response?



## IMPLICATIONS

- Limitations: Cross-sectional, Not Representative
- Further exploration of 'causal' direction
- Target and Replace Avoidant Coping
- Propose/Provide alternative action to alleviate negative mood states
  - e.g. Addiction Services of Thames Valley

