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

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)

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

PATH ANALYSIS
χ² (4) = 7.39, p = 0.117, RMSEA = 0.038, TLI = 0.985, CFI = 0.996
Bootstrapping 10,000 samples
95% CI
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