

Neighborhood Perceptions and Gambling Behaviors

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Introduction

Relationships between environmental factors and health-related behaviors



Neighborhood contextual factors and mental illness



Associations between neighborhood context and gambling participation and problems

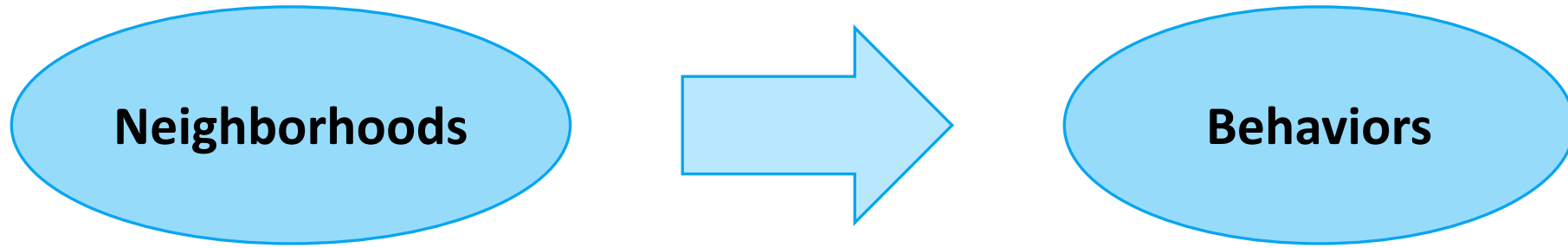


Objective measures



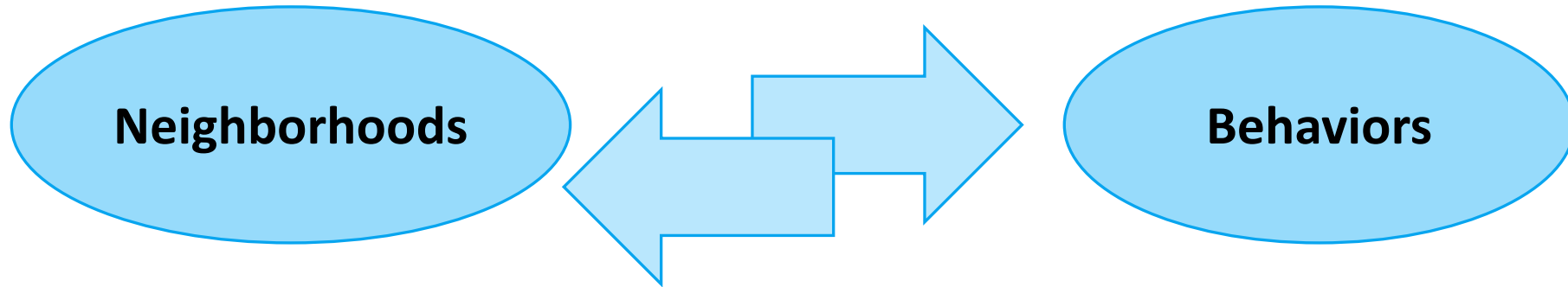
Subjective expressions

Environmental Context



- Compositional factors
 - Characteristics of people who live in specific places
- Contextual factors
 - Characteristics of places themselves

Environmental Context

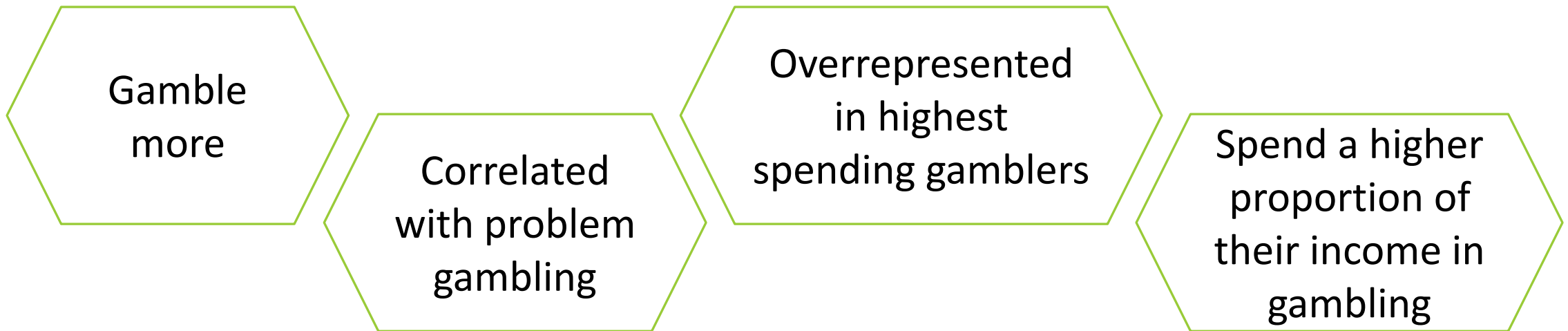


- Compositional factors
 - Characteristics of people who live in specific places
- Contextual factors
 - Characteristics of places themselves

Compositional Factors

- Inequalities based on socioeconomic level of neighborhoods

Lower income individuals and households:

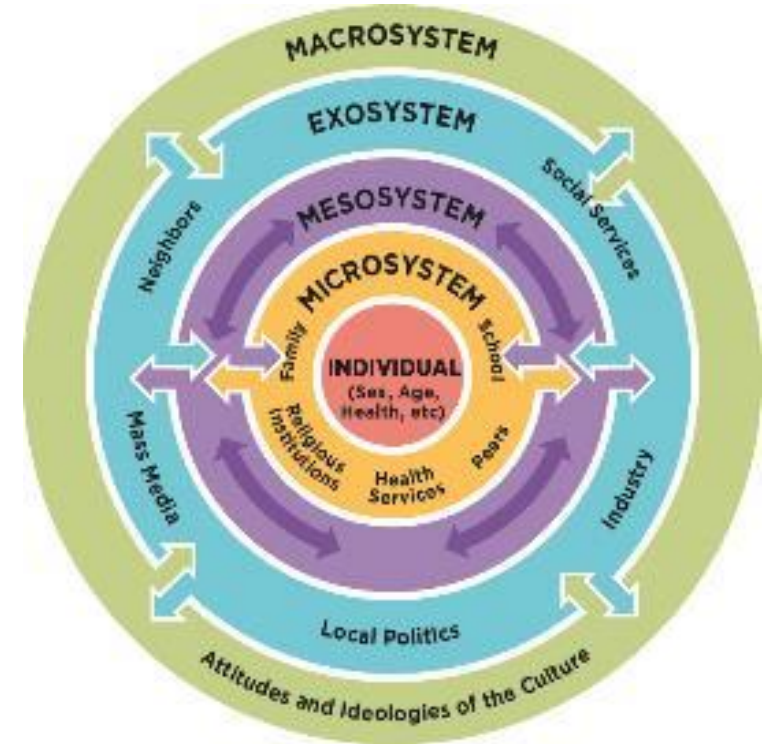


Vulnerable groups experience a disproportionate burden of gambling-related problems

Contextual Factors

Heavily focused on gambling-specific influences within neighborhoods

- Proximity with gambling opportunities
- Accessibility
- Density of gambling machines



Neighborhood Perceptions

Objective Measures	Perception-based Measures
Insufficient for complex theoretical constructs	Importance of perceptions and experiences
Concrete account of context but not of constructs requiring persons' perspectives	In-depth understanding
Can lead to misinterpretations	Interactions (individual/society)

Perceived neighborhood characteristics and gambling outcomes

- Few studies have examined deprivation-specific contextual factors
- Previous research has focused on gambling specific contextual factors
 - Focused on objective measures of neighborhood composition
- Few have examined subjective measures of neighborhood perceptions

Aim

To expand knowledge from previous studies on the effects of neighborhood characteristics on gambling patterns through cross-sectional investigation in an epidemiological community sample of the associations between perceived neighborhood contextual factors and (a) gambling participation and (b) problems

Method: Epidemiological catchment area

Design

- Cross-sectional – Wave 4
- In-person interviews
- Random selection of homes in Southwest Montreal
 - January 2014 to June 2015

Sample

- N = 1,871
- 15 to 65 years

Measures

- Sociodemographic and economic information
 - *Canadian Community Health Survey Questionnaire 1.2*
- Gambling participation and patterns
 - Past 12 months participation
 - Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI)²⁶
 - Two groups were formed for analysis:
 - 1) Non-problem gamblers and low-risk gamblers and 2) moderate-risk and problem gamblers

Measures

- Neighborhood Perceptions

 - (+) Community Involvement Scale

 - (+) Neighboring Behaviour Scale

 - (+) Social Cohesion Subscale

 - (-) Resident Disempowerment Scale

 - (-) Neighborhood Safety Subscale

 - (-) Neighborhood Disorder Scale

Analysis

Two-step analysis:

- Bivariate followed by multivariate analyses between neighborhood variables and gambling outcomes

Models developed in relation to:

- Gambling participation
- Gambling categories (i.e. non-problem and low-risk vs. moderate-risk and problem gamblers)

Multivariate analyses include logistic regressions:

- Associations between the neighborhood perception variables and gambling pattern variables
- Adjustment for multiple comparisons

Results

Sample characteristics

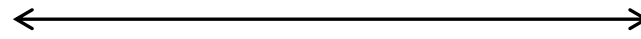
Personal characteristics	Mean (SD)	% of residents
Age	46.86 (13.9)	N.A.
Sex	-	
▪ Women		▪ 60.2
▪ Men		▪ 39.8
Marital status	-	
▪ Single		▪ 32.8
▪ Married/in relationship	-	▪ 54.7
▪ Separated/divorced		▪ 15.7
▪ Widowed	-	▪ 2.8
Completed high school	-	81.5
Employed (past 12 months)	-	74.6

Gambling participation

Gambling characteristics	% of residents
Gambling participation (12 months)	58.8
Lottery	53.5
Slot machines	7.9
Poker	4.7
Other gambling activities	< 4.0
PGSI categories	
Non-problem	55.7
Low-risk	1.5
Moderate-risk	1.2
Problem	0.4

Bivariate results

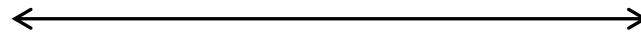
Community Participation



Gambling Participation

Higher community participation = more likely to have gambled

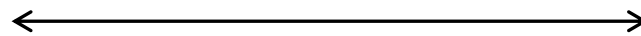
Resident Disempowerment



Moderate-Risk/
Problem Gamblers

Higher resident disempowerment = more likely to be moderate-risk or problem gamblers

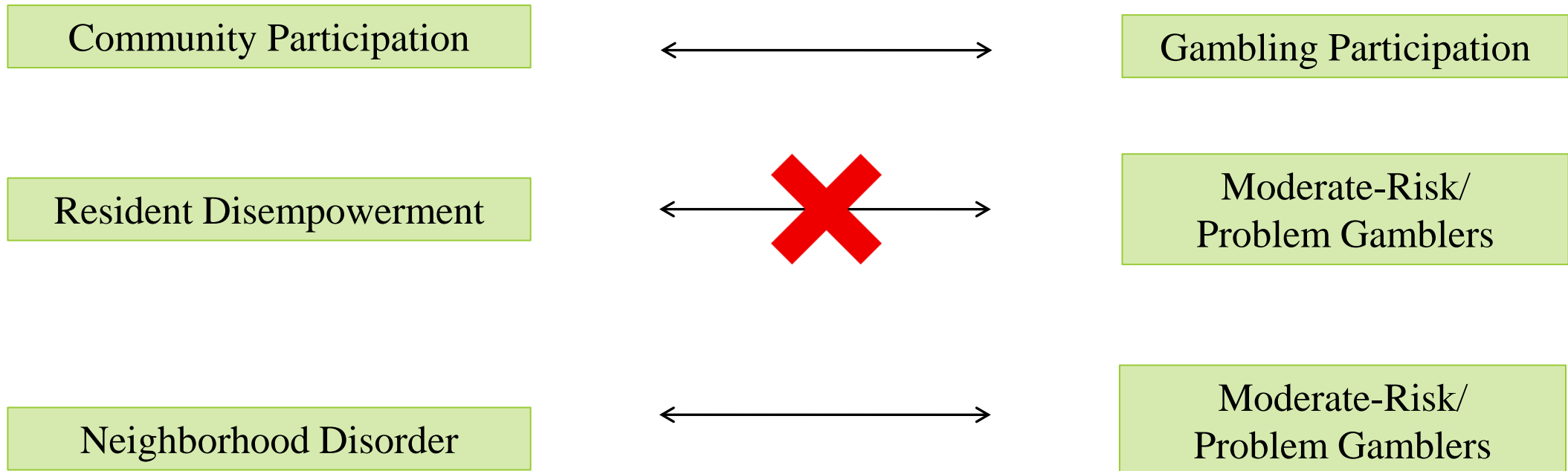
Neighborhood Disorder



Moderate-Risk/
Problem Gamblers

Higher neighborhood disorder = more likely to be moderate-risk or problem gamblers

Multivariate results



Discussion

Associations between perceptions of neighborhood context and gambling outcomes

Relationship between community participation and gambling needs to be further explored

Contrasts previous findings

- Martins et al. (2013) - individuals living in moderate and high disadvantaged neighborhoods were more likely to be past year gamblers as well as to have gambling problems
 - Different samples: low-income, urban, young adults compared to general population

Discussion

Associations between perceived neighborhood disorder and problem gambling

Results broaden previous research with youth linking perceived disadvantage and gambling problems

Consistent with existing research using with objective measures of neighborhood disadvantage

Discussion

Strengths

- Large geographically-defined population
- Significant results despite the low prevalence of moderate-risk and problem gamblers

Limitations

- No causality
- Self-report

Conclusions

- Look beyond individual risk factors for gambling problems
- Intervene in communities
 - Improve neighborhood social dimensions
 - Understand the role of neighborhood contexts
- Changing social norms and altering access to gambling opportunities¹⁵

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Chaire de recherche sur
l'étude du jeu
Research chair on gambling studies



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