

# War Impact on Gaming Behavior among Ukrainian University Students (2023-2024)



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## Introduction

University students, like other young adults, use the Internet and online games as a coping strategy to address their social needs, support, connections, and communication. Our hypothesis is that the impact of war on student mental health and well-being will be associated with their gaming behavior and gaming disorder.

## Methods

A total of 1,904 Ukrainian student-gamers of 5 Ukrainian universities were surveyed on-line from March to July 2023 (n=759) and from September to November 2024 (n=1,145). Respondent average age was 19.1 years, 65.5% female, 29.9% secular and 32.5% married/partnered. Valid and reliable survey instruments were translated to Ukrainian language and used to gather data about gaming disorder (GD), depression, burnout, resilience and loneliness. SPSS Version 29 was used for analysis.

## Findings

The t-tests do not show significant changes in GD over the two study periods. However, female, religious and married/partnered students have lower levels of GD than those male, secular and not married/partnered. Also, one-way ANOVA shows gaming disorder associated with increased depression (including suicide ideation), burnout, loneliness as well as decreased resilience. The three-way ANOVA revealed gaming disorder associated with interaction between gender, depression and burnout.

## Discussion

Current study findings show gaming disorder associated with the psycho-emotional and personal well-being of students in war conditions. Further research is needed to determine the long-term consequences of war impact on gaming behavior across locations and over time. Also, such research will have implications for gaming policy and intervention service purposes.

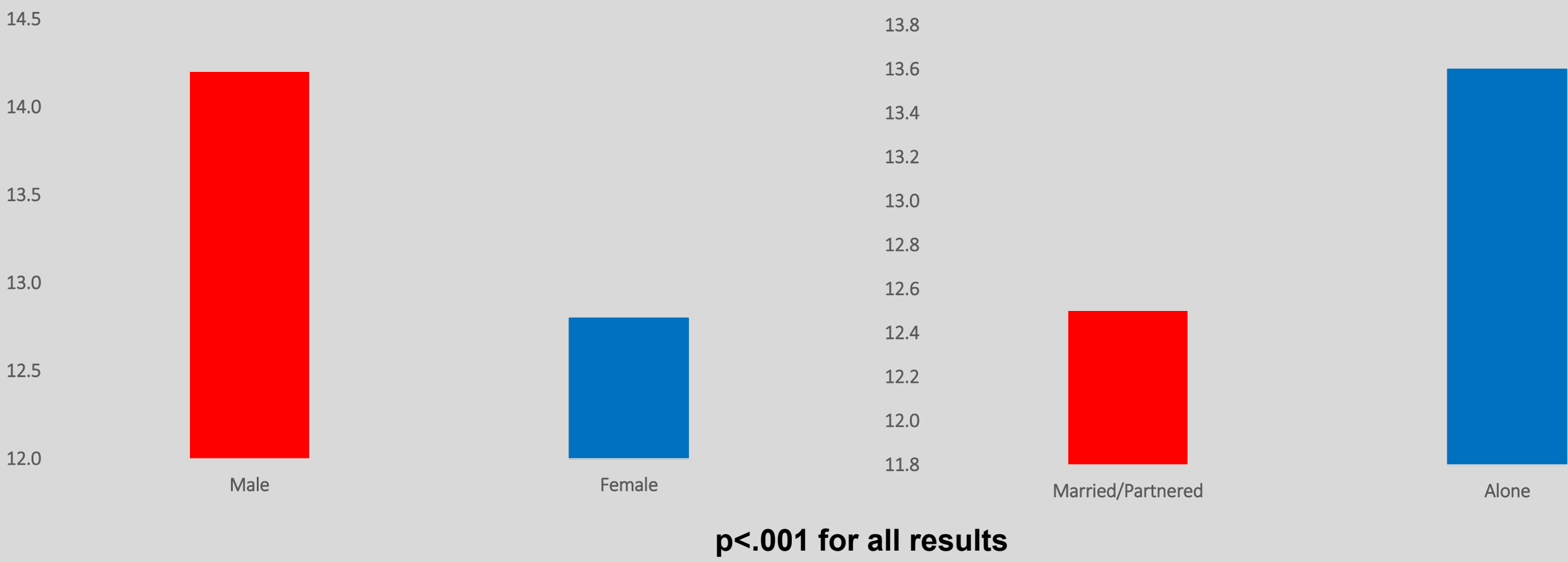
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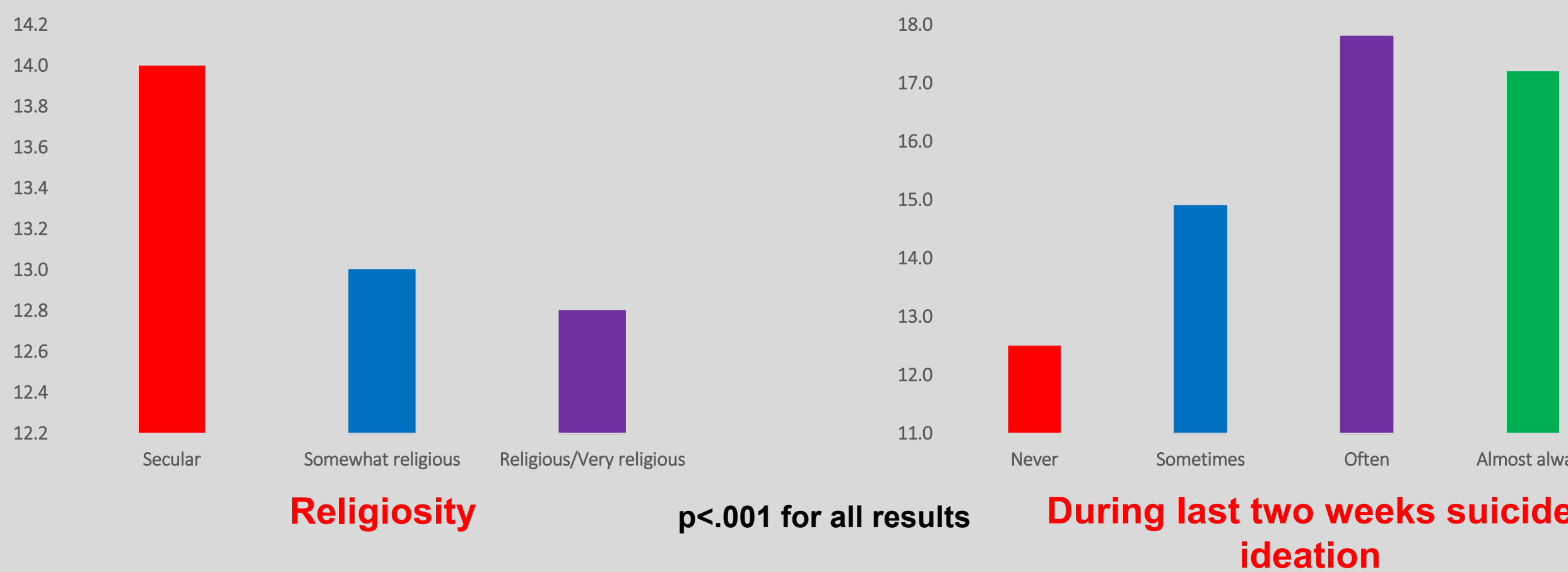
## Factors Associated with Gaming Disorder among Ukrainian University Students During War



## GD by Gender & Marital Status



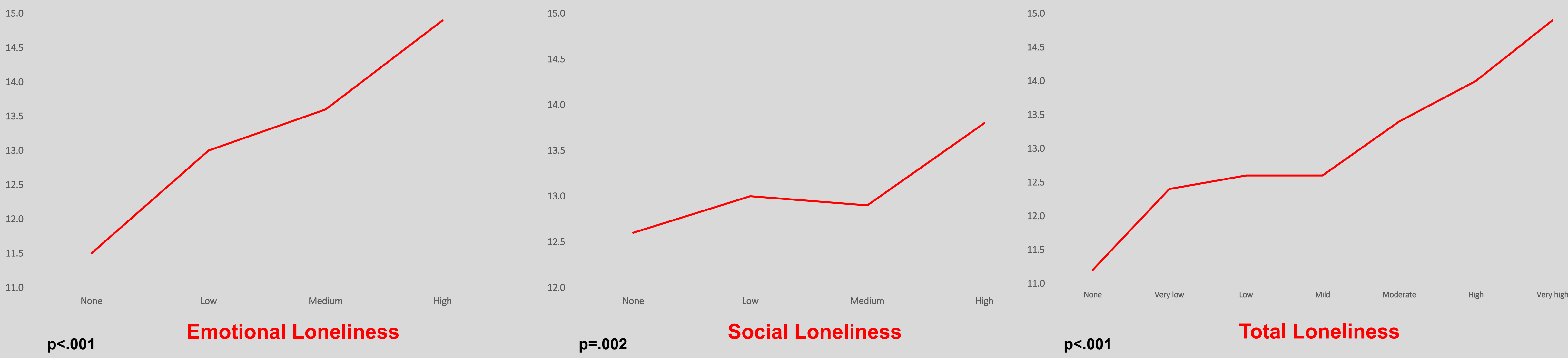
## GD by Religiosity & War Related Suicide Ideation



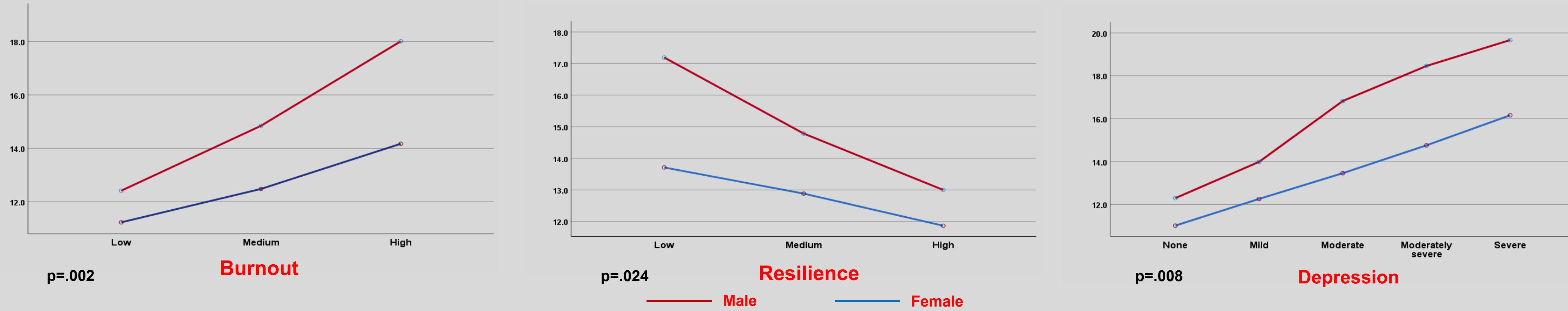
## GD by Level of Burnout, Resilience & Depression



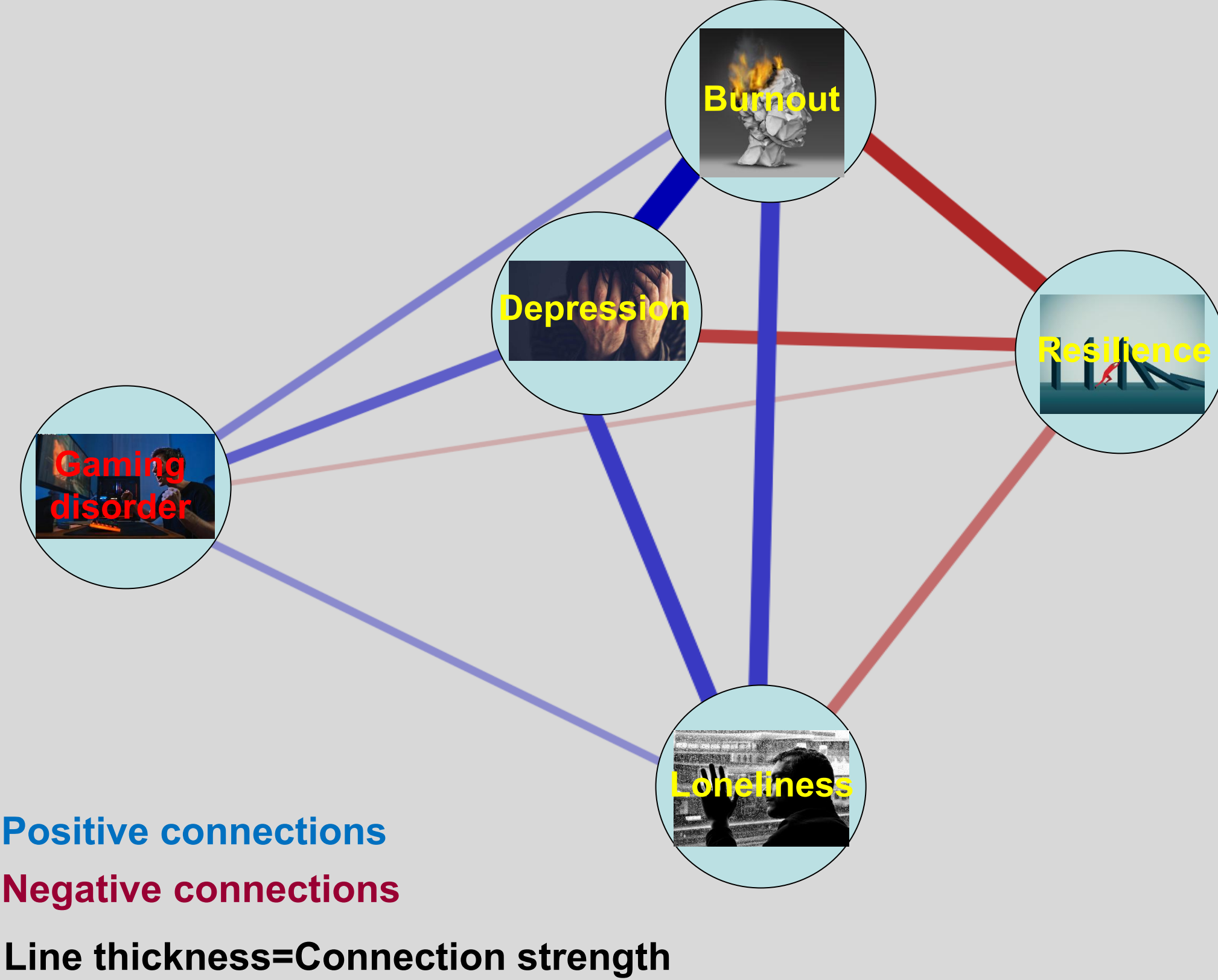
## GD by Loneliness



## Two-way ANOVA: GD by Gender Interaction with Level of Burnout, Resilience & Depression



## Network Correlation Analysis



## GD Main Predictors



## Declaration of Financial Interests or Relationships

I have no financial interests or relationships to disclose regarding the subject matter of this presentation.