

Who is a Professional Gambler?

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INTRODUCTION

- ❖ While awareness of problem gambling has grown over the past decades, professional gambling has grown over the same time frame
- ❖ How can a gambling be a profession, while also holding the potential for addiction?
- ❖ Most recent research from Weinstock et al., (2013), Hing et al. (2015, 2016): differentiation between problem and professional isn't clear

HYPOTHESIS

- ❖ An individual with a higher SES is more likely to be considered a professional gambler than an individual with a lower SES

METHODS

- ❖ $N = 208$ individuals with lived experience gambling
- ❖ Online qualitative survey focusing on identification, perceptions, attitudes of professional gamblers.

METHODS CONT.

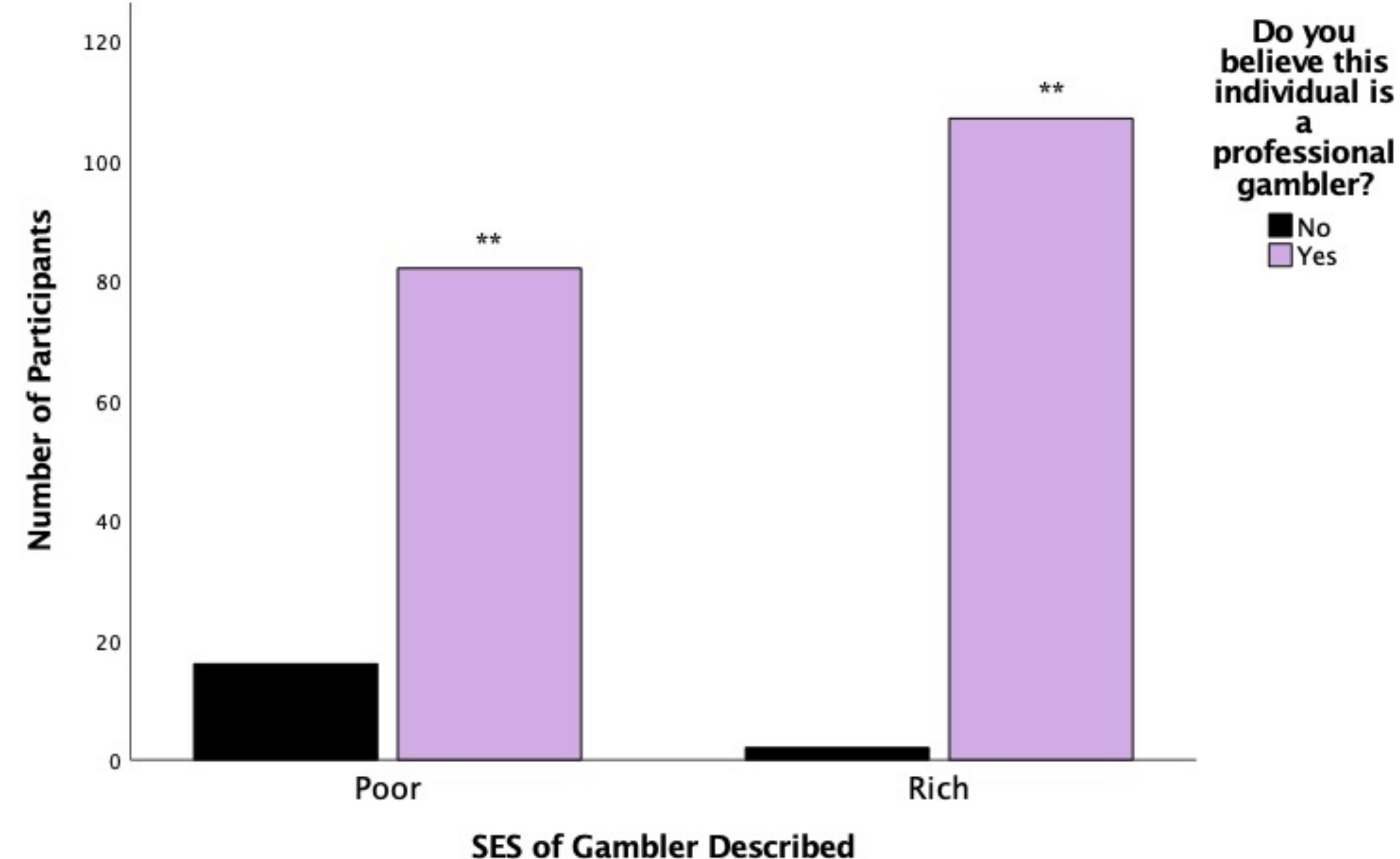
One question had a vignette with 2 conditions, describing 2 individuals:

- ❖ Both full-time gamblers, making a profit 4/5 years
- a) One individual grew up in a wealthy family, has a Bachelor's degree
- b) One individual grew up poor, didn't graduate high school



RESULTS

Participants were significantly more likely to perceive an individual from a higher SES as a professional gambler, compared to a similar individual from a lower SES



- ❖ ** = $p < .001$
- ❖ Majority of participants (60.6%) also answered that they did not believe that professional and problem gambling are mutually exclusive

CONCLUSION

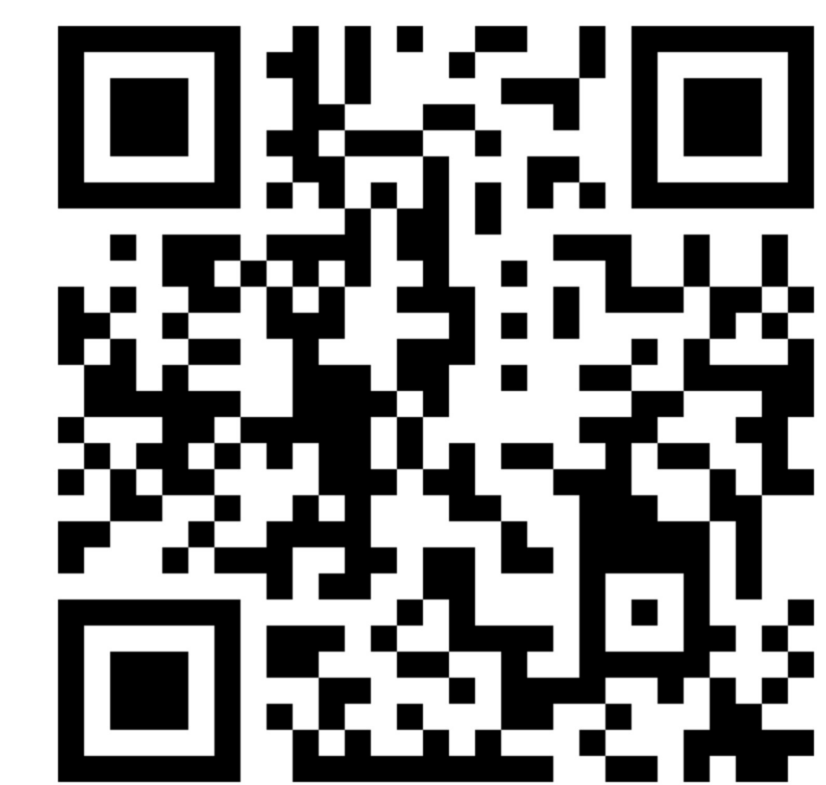
- ❖ When an individual's SES is higher, it affords them some protection from the negative perceptions of others regarding their involvement in the potentially problematic or undesirable behavior of gambling, likely due to socioeconomic biases.
- ❖ Gamblers believe that professional and problem gambling are not mutually exclusive; however, traditional attributes of professional and problem gambling are incompatible → more research on characteristics of both needed

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- ❖ Investigate extent of the industry of self-identified professional gamblers selling tips to amateur gamblers



REFERENCES



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