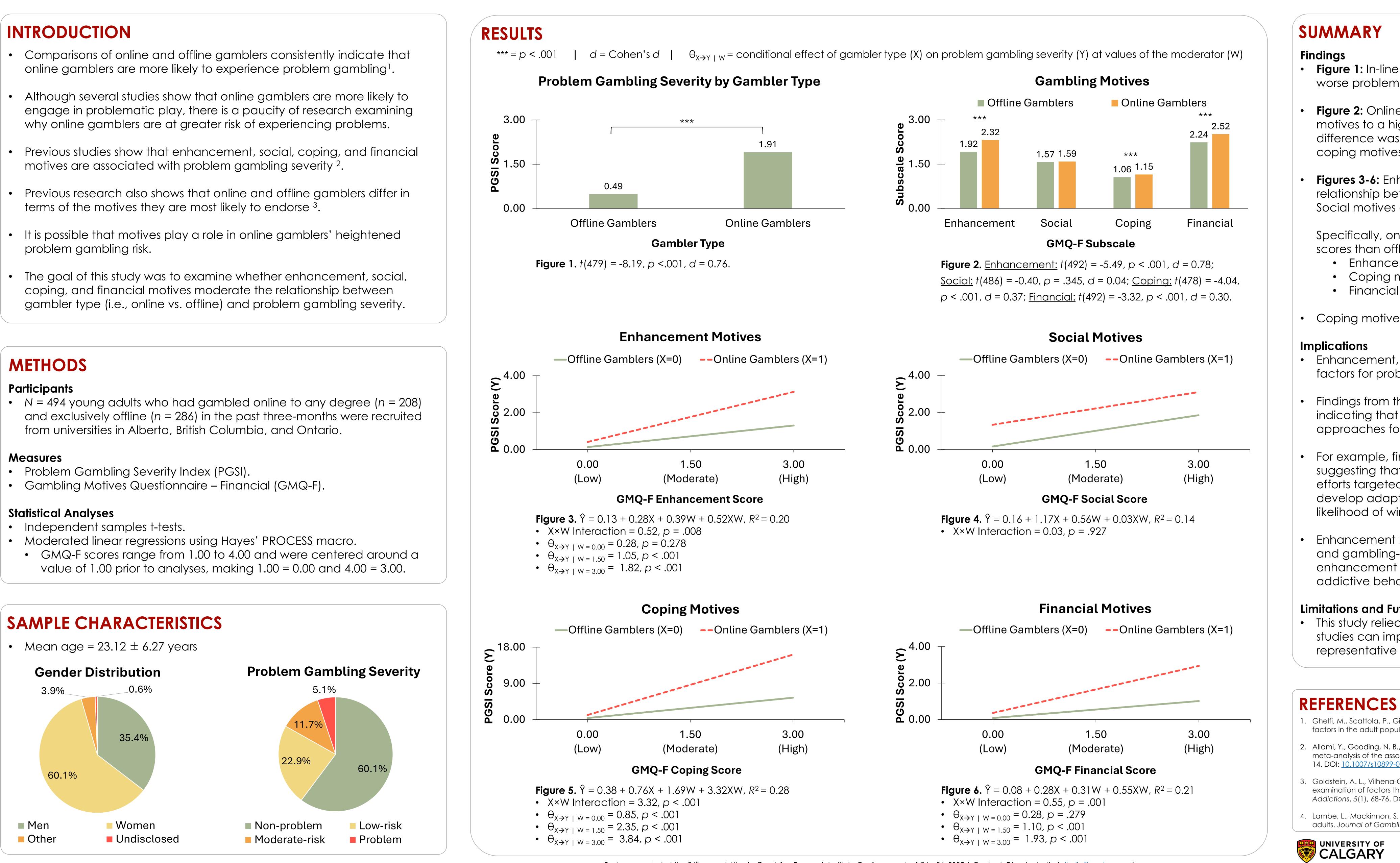
MOTIVES MODERATE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GAMBLER TYPE AND PROBLEM GAMBLING SEVERITY R. Diandra Leslie & Daniel S. McGrath

- online gamblers are more likely to experience problem gambling¹.
- engage in problematic play, there is a paucity of research examining why online gamblers are at greater risk of experiencing problems.
- motives are associated with problem gambling severity ².
- terms of the motives they are most likely to endorse 3 .
- problem gambling risk.
- coping, and financial motives moderate the relationship between

from universities in Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario.

- value of 1.00 prior to analyses, making 1.00 = 0.00 and 4.00 = 3.00.



Department of Psychology, University of Calgary

Figure 1: In-line with previous research findings ¹, online gamblers reported worse problem gambling severity scores than offline gamblers.

Figure 2: Online gamblers endorsed enhancement, coping, and financial motives to a higher degree than offline gamblers. A statistically significant difference was not found for social motives. The results for social and coping motives are in-line with previous research findings ³.

Figures 3-6: Enhancement, coping, and financial motives moderated the relationship between gambler type and problem gambling severity. Social motives did not moderate this relationship.

Specifically, online gamblers reported worse problem gambling severity scores than offline gamblers when:

- Enhancement motive scores were moderate and high.
- Coping motive scores were low, moderate, and high.
- Financial motive scores were moderate and high.

• Coping motives had the strongest impact on problem gambling severity.

• Enhancement, coping, and financial motives appear to be important risk factors for problem gambling amongst online gamblers.

• Findings from this study support suggestions made by Goldstein et al.³, indicating that online and offline gamblers may require different approaches for problem gambling prevention and treatment.

• For example, findings from this study offer preliminary evidence suggesting that a focus of problem gambling prevention and intervention efforts targeted toward online gamblers could include helping players develop adaptive coping strategies and realistic expectations about the likelihood of winning money.

• Enhancement motives are associated with substance use, impulsivity, and gambling-related cognitive distortions ^{2, 4}. Interventions that target enhancement motives may need to address how they interact with other addictive behaviours, and cognitive and psychological factors.

Limitations and Future Directions

• This study relied on a convenience sample of university students. Future studies can improve on the generalizability of findings by recruiting representative and community-based samples.

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2. Allami, Y., Gooding, N. B., Young, M. M., & Hodgins, D. C. (2024). Why you gamble matters: A systematic review and meta-analysis of the association between gambling motivation and problem gambling. Journal of Gambling Studies, 1-14. DOI: 10.1007/s10899-024-10356-w

3. Goldstein, A. L., Vilhena-Churchill, N., Stewart, S. H., Hoaken, P. N., & Flett, G. L. (2016). Mood, motives, and money: An examination of factors that differentiate online and non-online young adult gamblers. Journal of Behavioral Addictions, 5(1), 68-76. DOI: 10.1556/2006.5.2016.003

 $SSHRC \equiv CRSH$

4. Lambe, L., Mackinnon, S. P., & Stewart, S. H. (2015). Validation of the gambling motives questionnaire in emerging adults. Journal of Gambling Studies, 31, 867-885. DOI: <u>10.1007/s10899-014-9467-0</u>

