

# Keep Your Head in the Game: DEMOGRAPHIC AND CLINICAL CORRELATES OF ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER IN GAMBLING DISORDER

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## Background and Objectives

• Gambling disorder (GD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are both characterized by high levels of impulsivity,<sup>1</sup> deficits in executive functioning,<sup>2,3,4</sup> and emotion dysregulation.<sup>5</sup>

• GD and ADHD have a comorbidity rate ranging from 5.8 to 20.0%.<sup>6,7</sup>

### COMORBID GD+ADHD<sup>8</sup>

- ♠ Occurs more often in men
- ♦ Co-occurs with psychiatric disorders (e.g., SUDs, personality disorders)
- ♣ Demonstrates earlier GD onset and greater GD severity
- ♥ Is associated with unique gambling motivations (i.e., sedation effect)

• Though clinical correlates of GD+ADHD have been examined, it remains an understudied population. Understanding the clinical profile of this population can further our understanding of their potentially unique treatment needs.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Identify rates of ADHD among treatment seeking gamblers in Brazil (N = 415).
2. Examine the demographic, psychiatric, psychosocial functioning and personality characteristics among people with comorbid ADHD and GD (GD+ADHD) compared to GD without ADHD (GD-ADHD).

## Methods

• 415 treatment individuals seeking with GD were recruited through the University of São Paulo Hospital in Brazil.

• The following measures were administered by psychologists and psychiatrists:

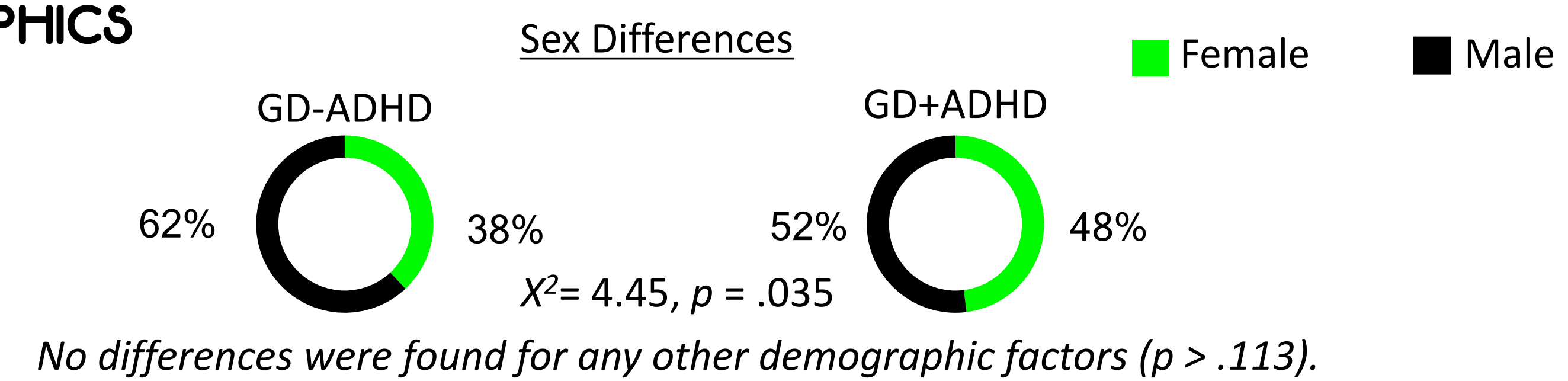
- A standard demographic questionnaire.
- **Gambling:** Gambling Symptom Assessment Scale (GSAS)<sup>9</sup>, Gamblers' Beliefs Questionnaire (GBQ),<sup>10</sup> Gambling Abstinence Self-efficacy Scale (GASS)<sup>11</sup>
- **Psychiatric Comorbidities:** Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI)<sup>12</sup>
- **Addictive Behaviours:** Short PROMIS Questionnaire (SPQ)<sup>13</sup>
- **Personality Characteristics:** Temperament and Character Inventory (TCI)<sup>14</sup>, Barratt Impulsiveness Scale – 11 (BIS-11)<sup>15</sup>
- **Psychosocial Functioning:** Social Adjustment Scale (SAS)<sup>16</sup>

### STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

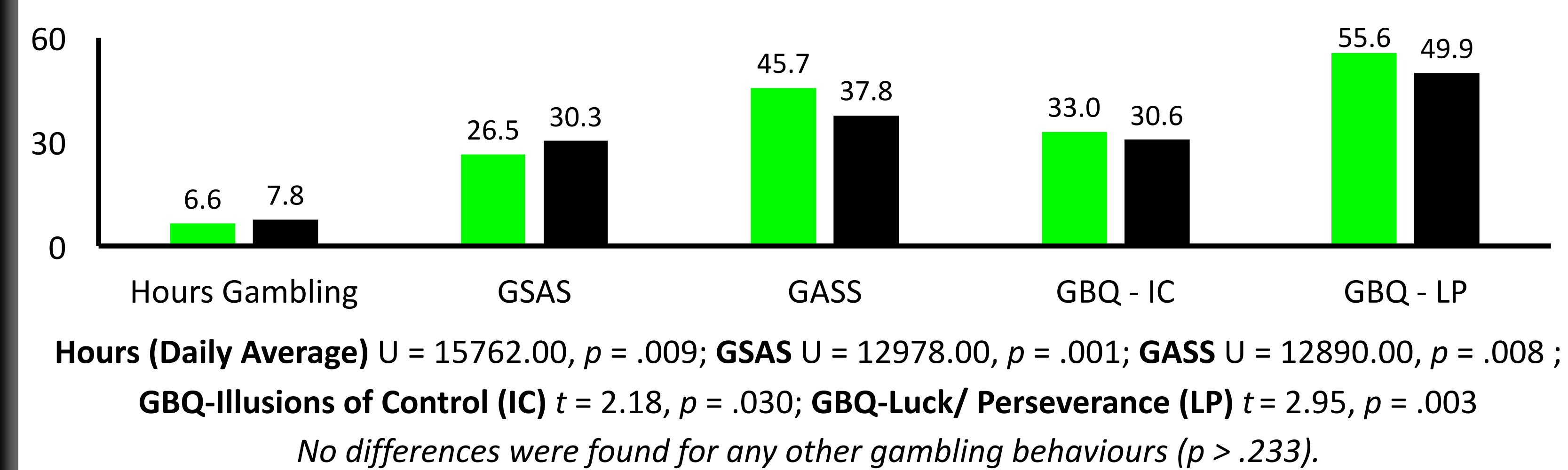
- Univariate analyses compared GD+ADHD and GD-ADHD; Chi-square tests used for categorical variables; Fisher's Exact Test used when expected cell counts < 5.
- Independent samples t-tests used for continuous variables; Mann-Whitney U tests conducted if normality violated.

## Results

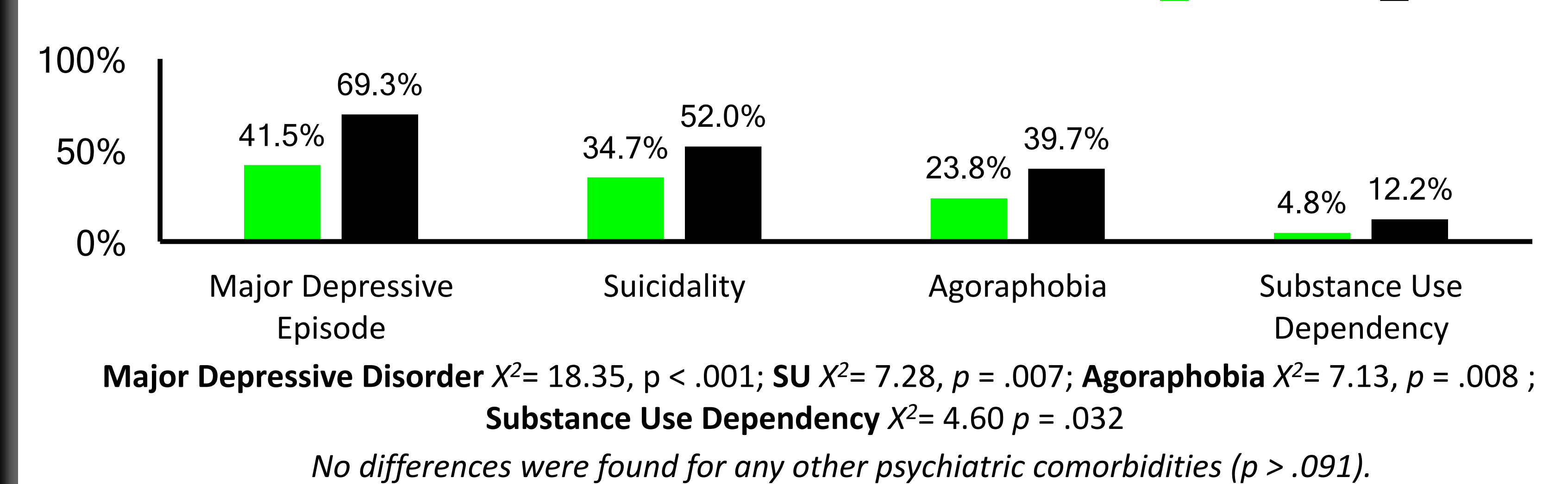
### DEMOGRAPHICS



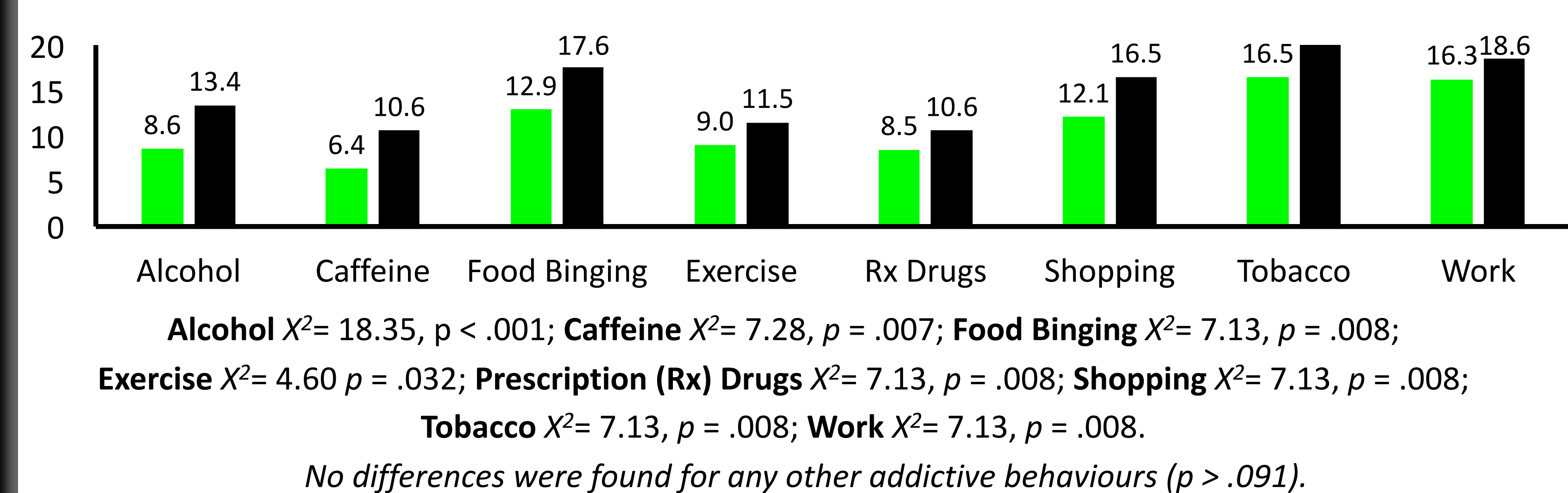
### GAMBLING VARIABLES



### PSYCHIATRIC COMORBIDITIES

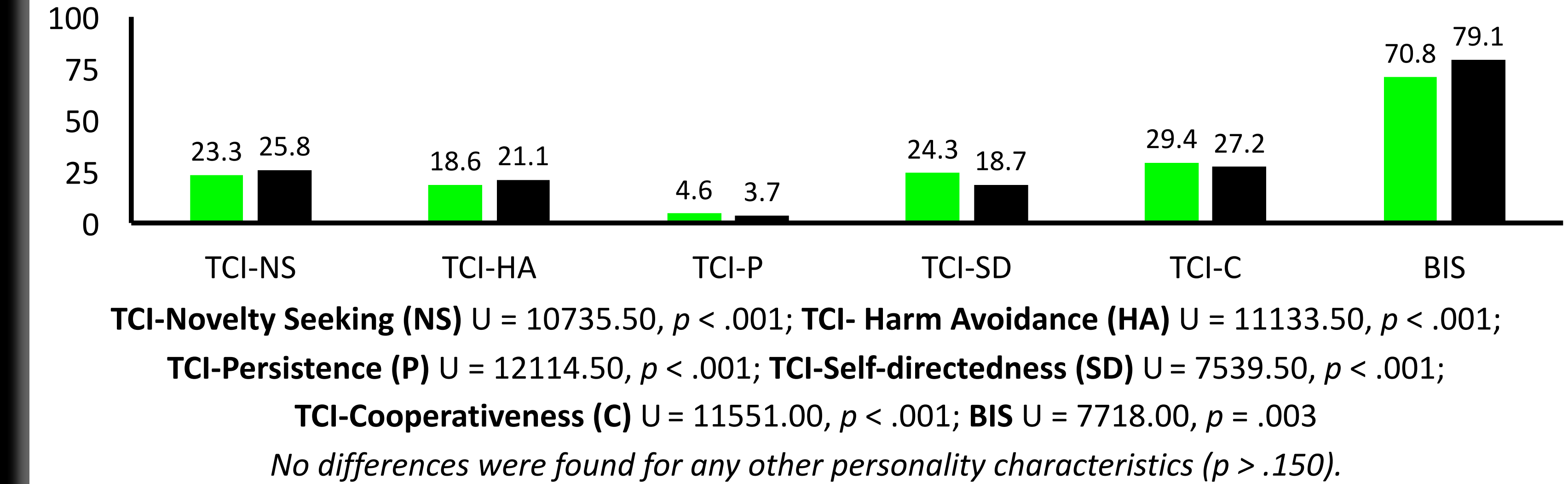


### ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOURS

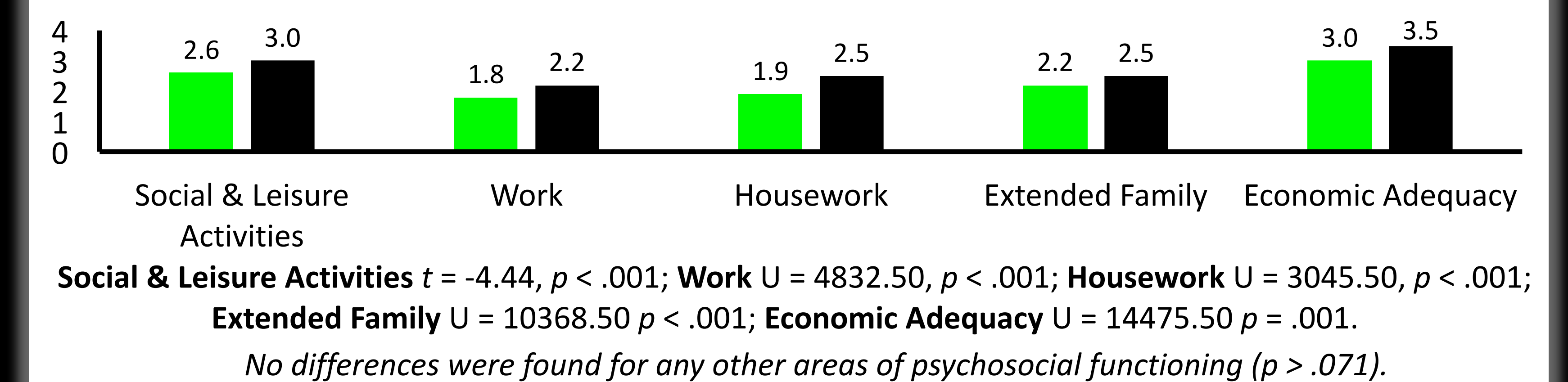


## Results

### PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS



### PSYCHOSOCIAL FUNCTIONING



## Conclusions

- Of the total sample, 153 (36.9%) met diagnostic criteria for GD+ADHD
- Individuals with GD+ADHD were more likely to be female, have greater gambling symptom severity, lower gambling abstinence self-efficacy, poorer psychosocial functioning, a unique personality profile, and elevated rates of impulsivity, psychiatric comorbidities, and addictive behaviours.
- Interestingly, those with GD+ADHD displayed less gambling-related cognitive distortions than those without comorbid ADHD.
- GD+ADHD represent a unique population at increased risk for psychopathology, and potentially require tailored treatments to best meet their unique needs.

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**REFERENCES** 1. Blaszczynski & Nower. (2002) 2. Alessi & Petry NM. (2003). 3. Martins, Tavares, da Silva Lobo, Galetti, & Gentil. (2004). 4. Brand, Kalbe, Labudda, Fujiwara, Kessler, & Markowitsch. (2005). 5. Mestre-Bach et al. (2021). 6. Dannon, Lowengrub, Aizer, & Kotler. (2006). 7. Specker, Carlson, Christenson, & Marcotte. (1995). 8. Retz, Ringling, Retz-Junginger, Vogelgesang, & Rösler. (2016). 9. Kim, Grant, Potenza, Blanco, & Hollander. (2009). 10. Steenbergh, Meyers, May, & Whelan. (2002). 11. Hodgins, Peden, & Makarchuk. (2004). 12. Amorim. (2000). 13. Christo, Jones, Haylett, Stephenson, Lefever, & Lefever. (2003). 14. Cloninger, Przybeck, Svrakic, & Wetzel. (1994). 15. Malloy-Diniz et al. (2010). 16. Gameroff, Wickramaratne, & Weissman. (2012).