

The Association Between Drinking Disorder and Pathological Gambling

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Introduction

- Research has found a strong positive correlation between drinking disorders and pathological gambling by focusing on the overlap between the two.
- How they are correlated by common factors remains unclear.
- Some research has shown factors that are strongly correlated to pathological gambling, such as the ethnicity and religion of the person participating in gambling, personality traits, social and sociodemographic characteristics, as well as mental health. (Clarke, 2005).
- Some other research has found that parental alcohol problems and high trait anxiety prevail among those who have drinking problems. (Kari, 2000).

Research Questions

- We investigate on whether income level and biological sex affect the rate of one diagnosed with Drinking Disorder or pathological gambling

Methods

Sample

- The first wave of the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC) is a nationwide survey in the U.S. It represents the non-institutionalized adult of the age 18 or older population living in household and select noninstitutional group quarters. The data was obtained through a large cross-sectional survey of 43093 participants.

Measures

- Income level: The income is the total personal income in last 12 months. The data was separated into 17 subgroups. The definition of low, mid, high, is according to federal level and Pew Research Center
- People who tried to quit drinking/gambling : People who tried to quit drinking/gambling for the past years for more than 5 times but failed to do so.

Results

Bivariate

- Chi-Square analysis showed that income level were significantly associated with proportion of people who tried to quit drinking but failed (graph 1, $p < .05$).
- However, Chi-Square analysis showed that income level were not significantly associated with proportion of people who tried to quit drinking but failed (graph 1) ($p = .577$).
- Gender is significantly correlated with proportion of people who tried to quit drinking but failed to do so.

Multivariate

- Logistic regression analyses showed that people with low income and mid income were significantly more likely than high income to fail to quit drinking. (OR 0.87, $p < .05$), (OR 0.64, $p < .05$).
- Being a low income is 2.3 times likely to fail to quit drinking by compared to high income; Being a low income is 1.9 times likely to fail to quit drinking by compared to high income
- Gender is not a significantly moderates ($p = 0.41$)

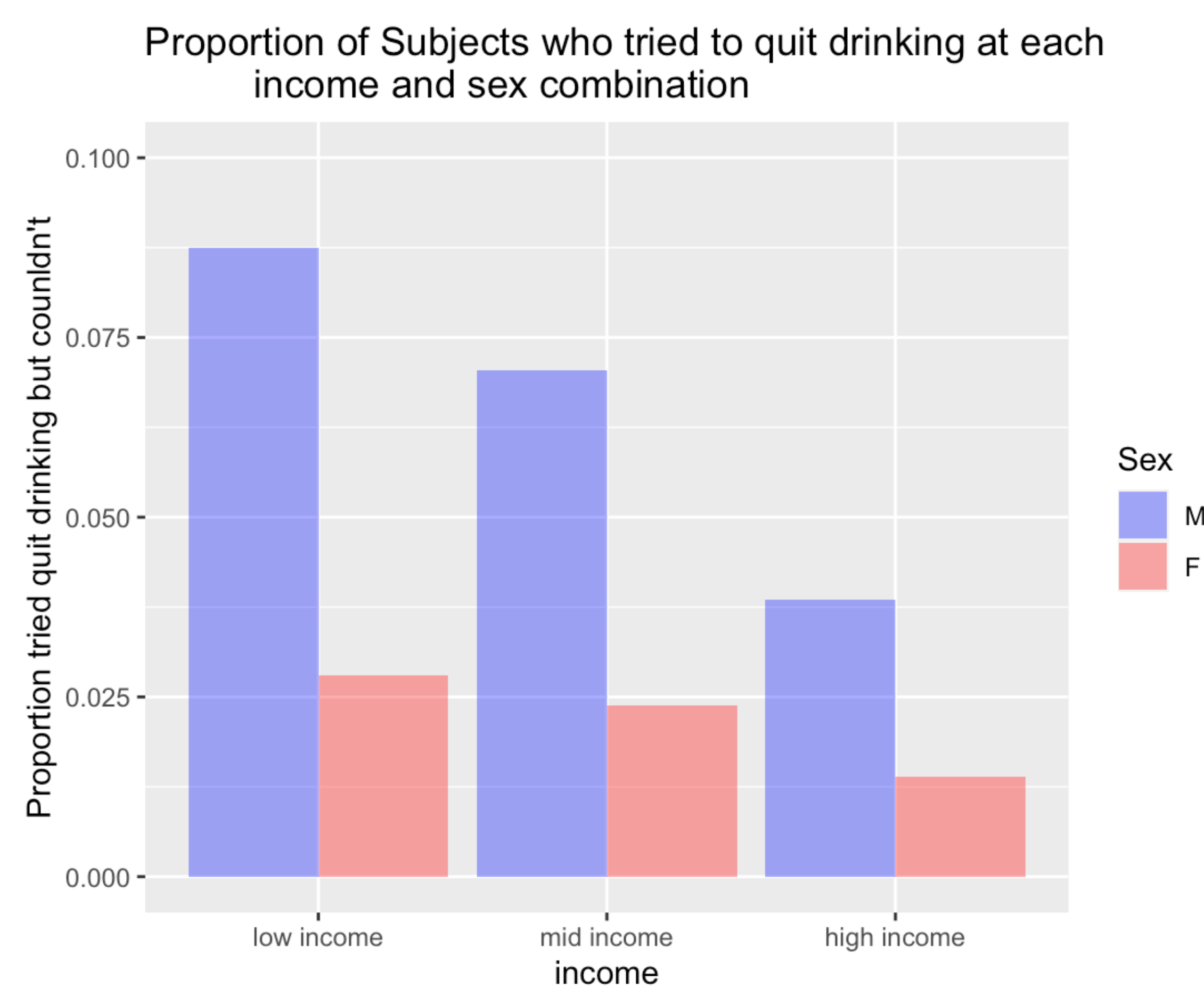


Figure 1: The Proportion of Fairness Ratings in Each Income Inequality Estimate Percentile

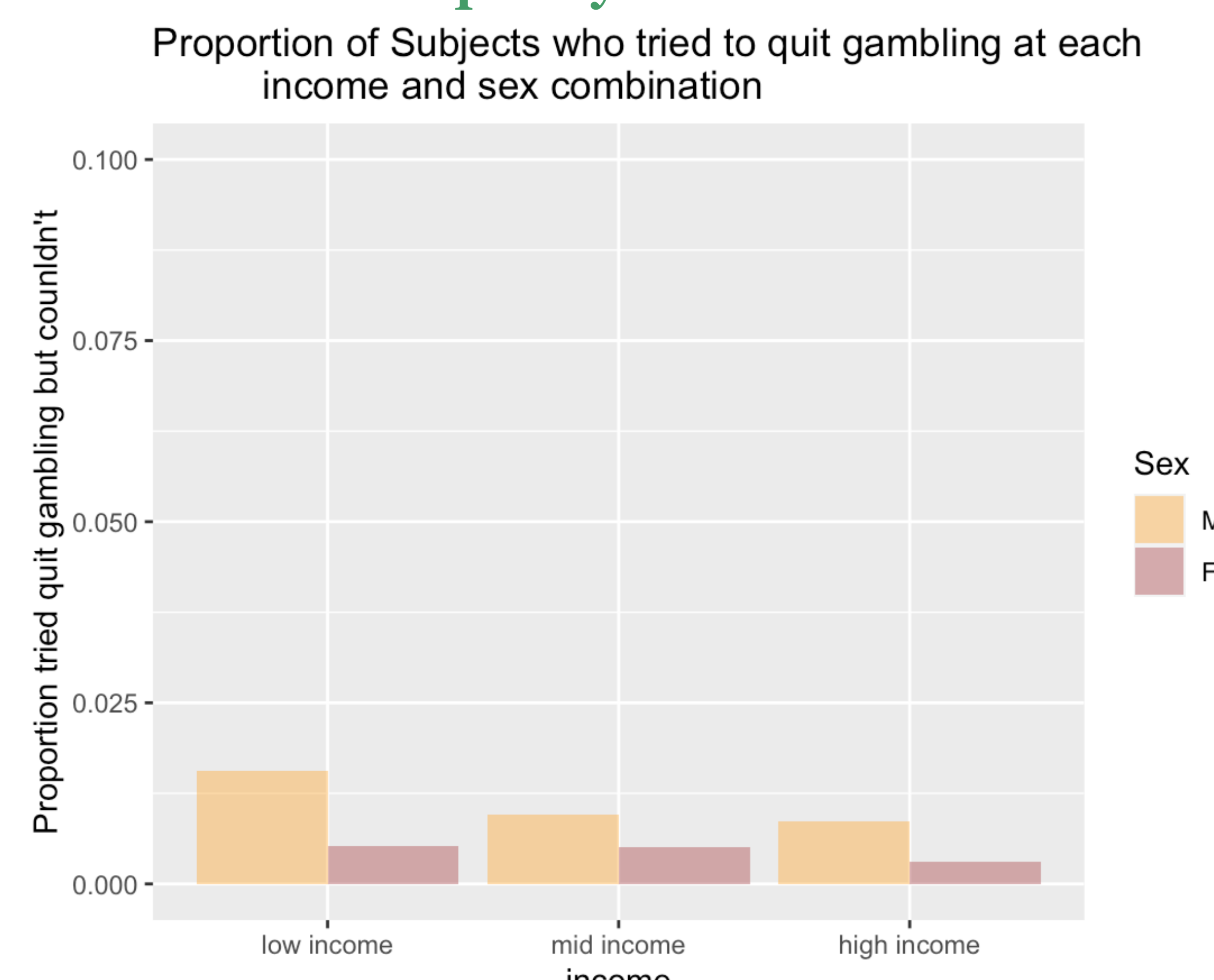


Figure 2: The Proportion of Subjects who tried to quit gambling at each income and sex combination

Discussion

- In three income ranges, the proportion of people who tried to quit, for both drinking and gambling problem, decreases from high income to low income.
- These findings may be helpful to inform practical strategies for lawmakers, healthcare professionals, individuals struggling with drinking disorder and with pathological gambling
- Future research is needed to determine the role of other covariates (e.g. race, religion,...), and other factors not explored in this study.

References

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