

# Predictors of Cryptocurrency Ownership: Conspiratorial Thinking and Gambling Fallacies

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## BACKGROUND

- Cryptocurrencies have become an increasingly popular type of financial asset, **but who owns them?**
- Cryptocurrencies are:
  - *Decentralized* – unregulated by financial institutions. Suggests that **they may be attractive to those who distrust government.**
  - *Volatile* – a gambling-like activity with substantial risk of financial loss. Suggests that **they may be attractive to those who have false beliefs about chance.**

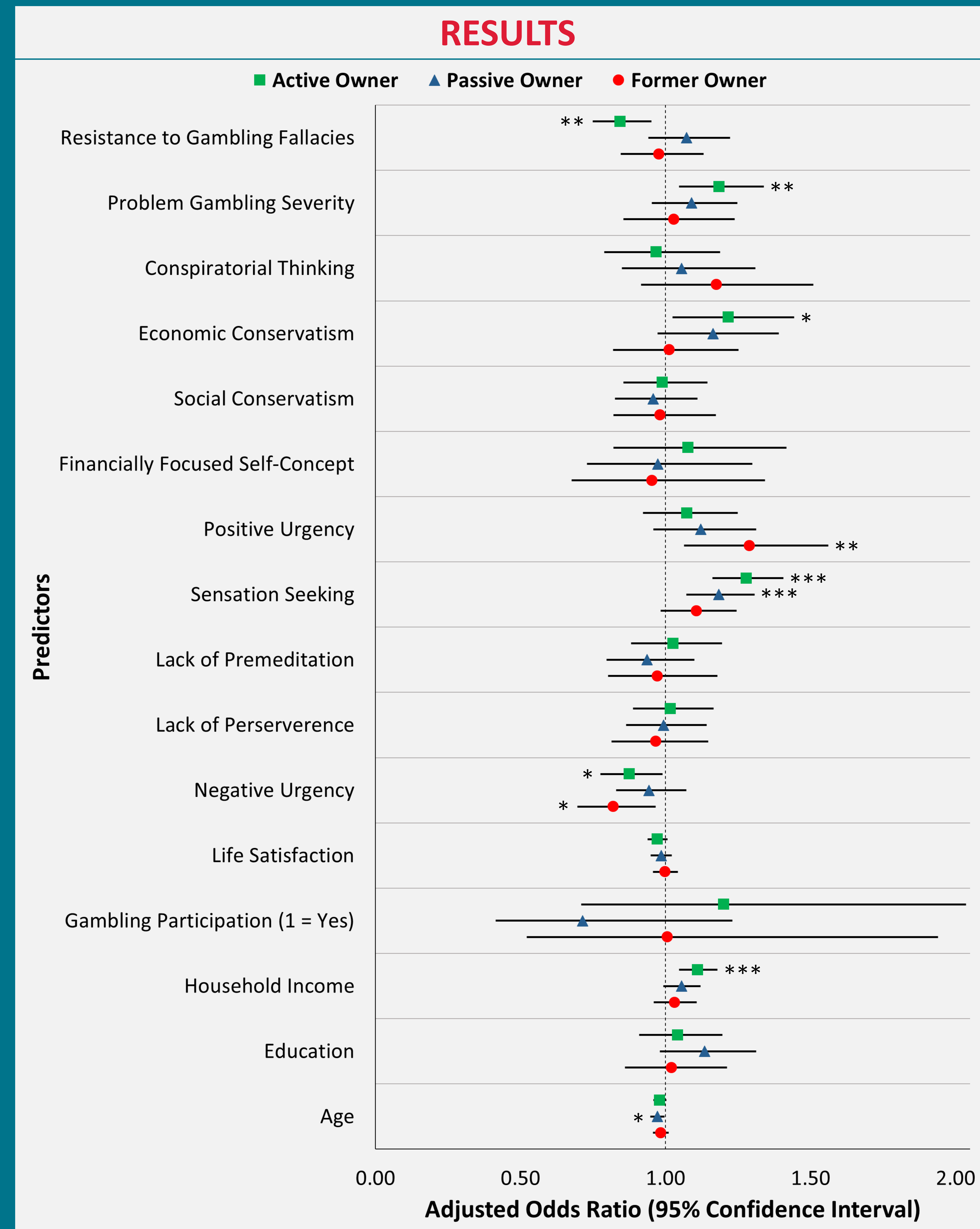
## OBJECTIVE

- To assess whether conspiratorial thinking and gambling fallacies, along with other factors, predict cryptocurrency ownership.

## METHOD

- *N* = 578 participants via Connect
- 284 never owned
- 294 lifetime owners
  - 57 former
  - 93 passive\*
  - 144 active\*
- Multinomial logistic regression to estimate type of ownership, never owned as reference.

\* activity is based on frequency of purchasing or news/price checking



Note. Gender (1 = Male) was also found to be a significant predictor of active ownership (OR = 6.57\*\*\* [3.75, 11.50]), passive ownership (OR = 1.78\* [1.04, 3.03]), and former ownership (OR = 2.38\*\* [1.27, 4.49]). The reference category was never owned.

\**p* < .05. \*\**p* < .01. \*\*\**p* < .001.

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Active** cryptocurrency ownership was associated with a lack of resistance to gambling fallacies.
- Other predictors of cryptocurrency ownership included:
  - Greater problem gambling severity
  - Greater economic conservatism
  - Higher sensation seeking
  - Lower negative urgency
  - Greater household income
- There was no association between ownership of cryptocurrency (of any type) and conspiratorial thinking.

## LIMITATIONS

- 70% of owners spent < \$5,000 on cryptocurrencies, 14% between \$5,000 – \$9,999, 16% > \$10,000; **conspiratorial thinking may be more prominent among higher spenders.**
- Modest Nagelkerke *R*<sup>2</sup> = .35; **additional factors unaccounted for.**

## IMPLICATIONS

- Findings suggest an **overlap between active cryptocurrency ownership and problematic gambling.**
- Additional factors may predict cryptocurrency ownership; future studies should aim to identify them.
- Future studies should aim to create measures that identify cryptocurrency owners by activity.

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