



**“How does economic deprivation lead to problem drinking?”  
: The mediating effect of income inequality consciousness and depression**

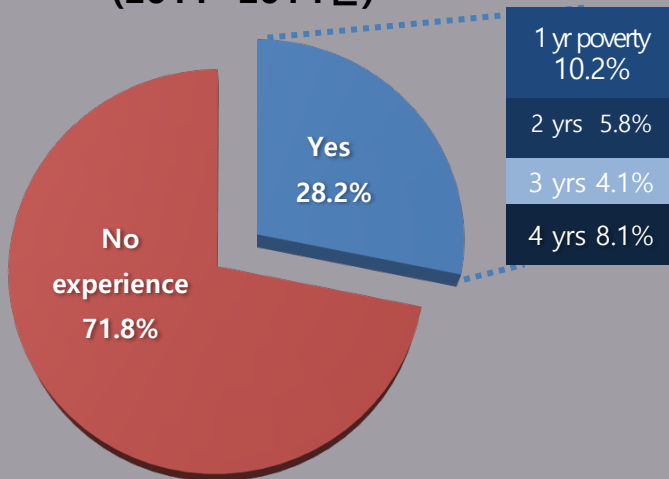
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Chung-Ang University

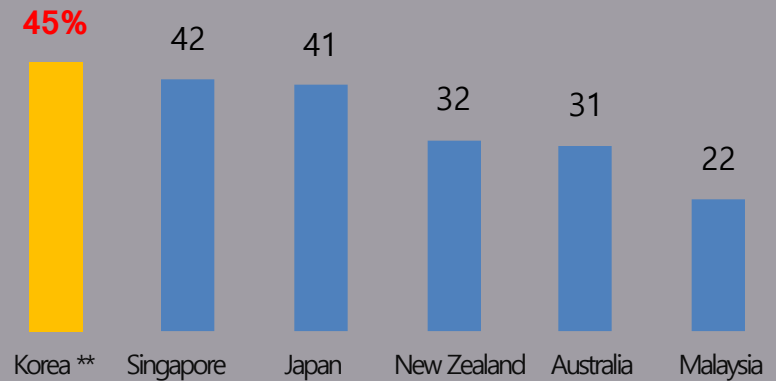
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# Introduction

Household experience of poverty  
(2011~2014년)



% income held by upper 10%\*



\* Asian countries where data were available in 2013

\*\* Increased from 29% in 1995 (16% increase)

(Source) : International Monetary Fund

**Intergenerational transmission of poverty (Kim, 2010) → Fixation of poverty/economic deprivation**

# Introduction

## Meaning of *poverty* in current society



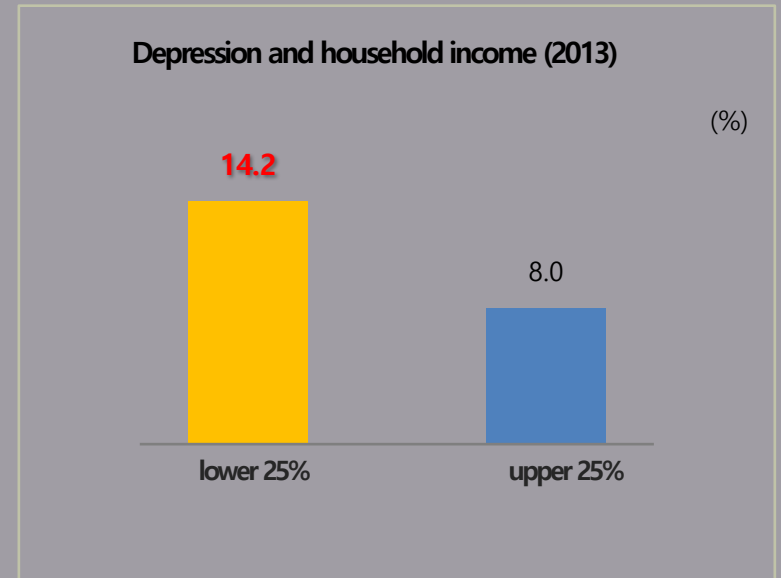
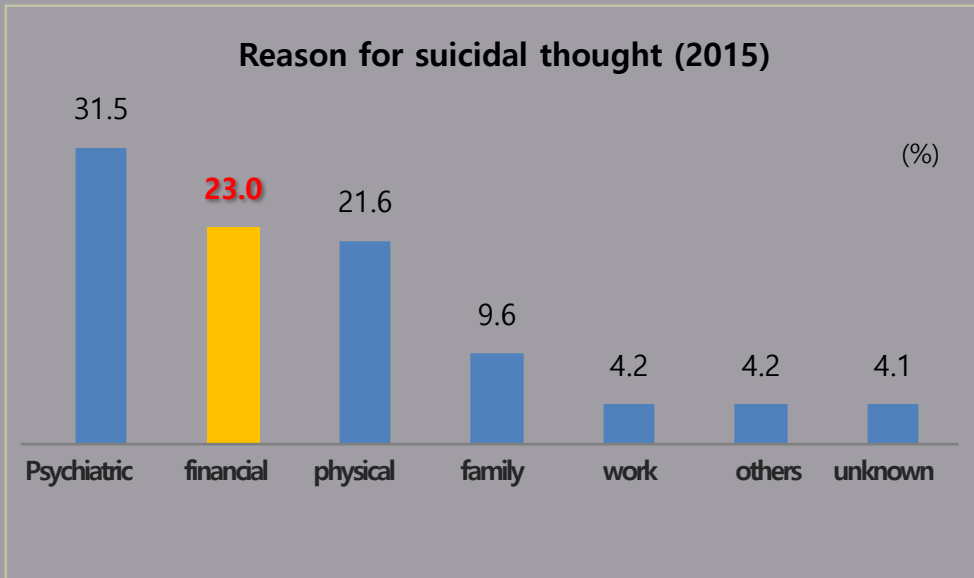
poverty  
≠  
Economic  
deprivation



Not just economic deprivation. It means deprivation of basic needs, ability and opportunity, and sociocultural isolation

# Introduction

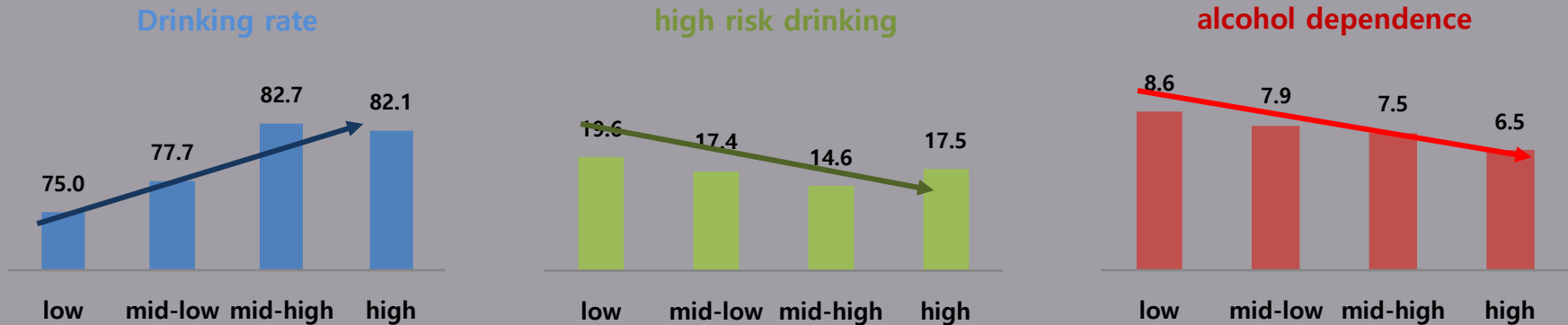
## Influence of poverty, income inequality on individual and society



Economic hardship and increasing inequality is being manifested in many aspects of social problems

# Poverty, income inequality and alcohol use (2005-2013)

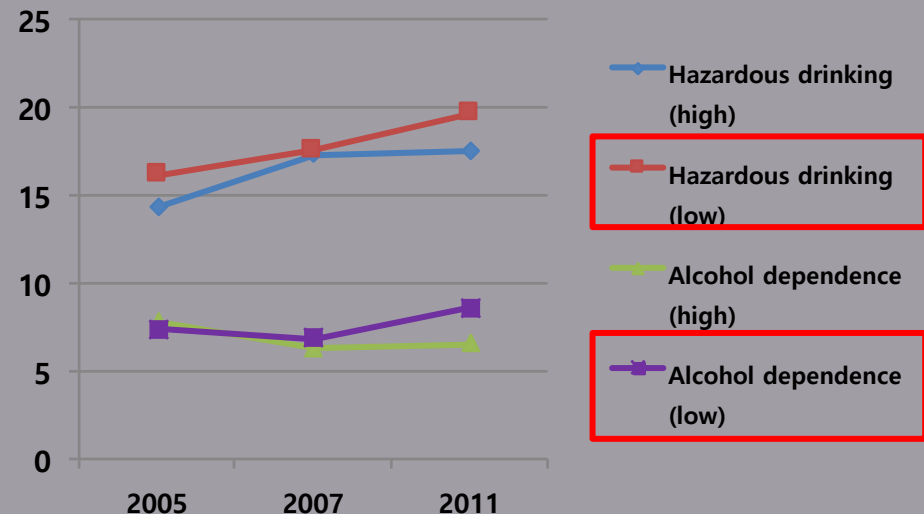
## Drinking behaviors by Income Group



※ source : Ministry of Health and Welfare (2011). National Health Statistics.

## Changes in Hazardous drinking, Alcohol dependence rate by Income group (2005-2011)

drinking rate (income)	2005	2007	2011
Hazardous drinking (high)	14.3	17.3	17.5
Hazardous drinking (low)	16.1	17.5	19.6
Alcohol dependence (high)	7.8	6.3	6.5
Alcohol dependence (low)	7.4	6.8	8.6



# Literature on poverty, income inequality and alcohol problems

1/3 of those in the lower income group (receiving basic livelihood benefit) have alcohol-related problems (Do & Hong, 2014)

**The poverty group showed faster increase in problem drinking over the 4 years. Also, people with higher perception of income inequality showed faster increase in problem drinking** (Chung & Lee, 2015)

Material hardship (economic deprivation) in the lower income group leads to drinking behavior and increases the risk of alcohol problems (Lee & Lee, 2016)

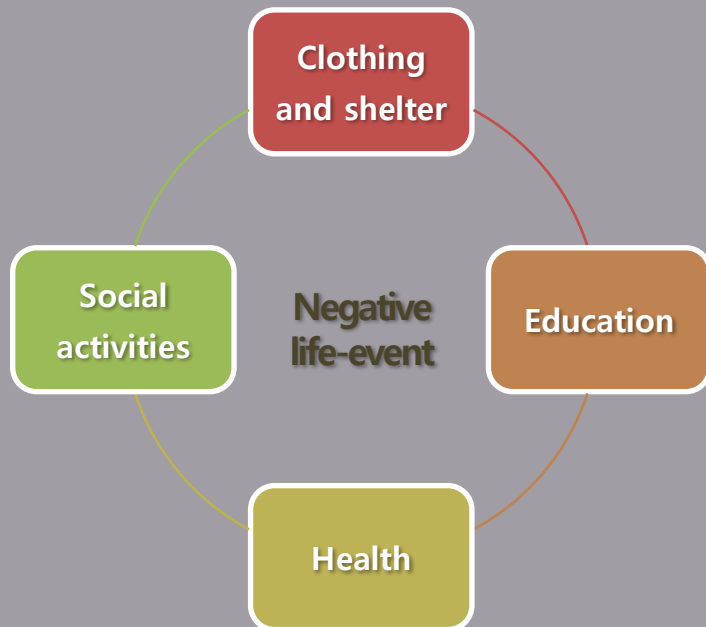
**Lower perception of subjective class is related to higher level of stress, which leads to alcohol related problems** (Hwang & Chung, 2016)

**Richard Wilkinson** (2005)

Income inequality → wider gap in social status → depression, stress, aggression, anxiety increase → health problems (including alcohol and drug abuse)

## Process of social stress (Aneshensel et al., 1991; Turner et al., 1995; Pearlin, 1999)

The poor experiences social stress from negative life events coming from deprivation in basic clothing/shelter, education, health, social activities



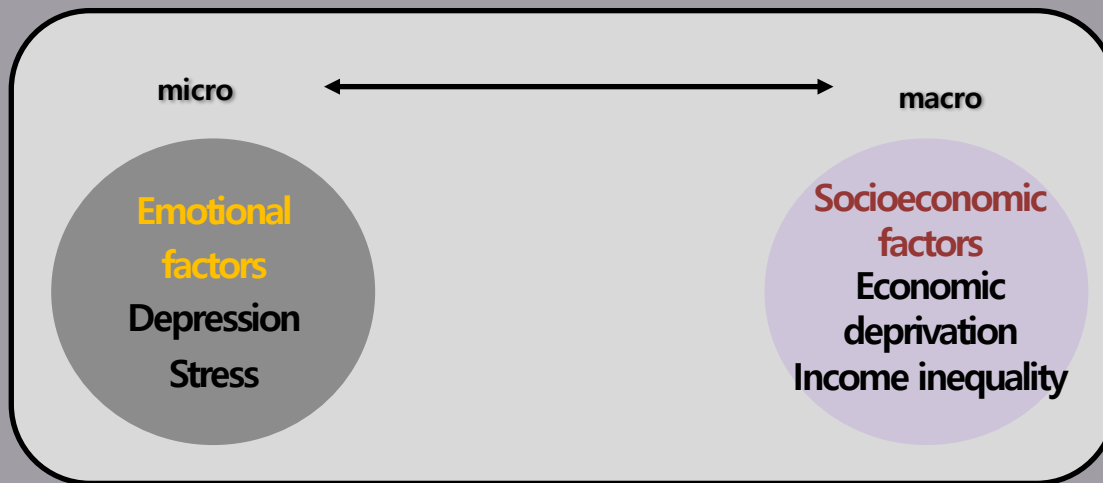
Negative emotions related to relationship problems and social pressure can lead to alcohol consumption

People with limited resources have limited ways to cope with stress

Easy access to alcohol in Korea → makes easier to use alcohol to cope with stress

# Theoretical background

Relationship between psychological vulnerability and problem drinking has been studied extensively.



However, the influence of macro socioeconomic factors has received less attention.

Need to understand the influence of socioeconomic factors on alcohol use  
(and examine the path of such influence)



# Study objective

## **This study aims to**

Examine the path of how economic deprivation influences problem drinking

## **Research questions**

- What is the relationship between economic deprivation, perceived income inequality, depressive mood, and problem drinking
- How does economic deprivation influence problem drinking?

# Methods

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## Data

The Korean Welfare Panel, 8<sup>th</sup> wave (2013)

## Study participants

13,553 adults (20+)

## Analytical method

Path analysis

SPSS / AMOS

## Main variables

Problem drinking (AUDIT), Experience of Economic deprivation,  
Perceived income inequality, depressive mood (CES-D)

# Methods

## Operational definition of variables

Problem drinking: Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT)

- 10 items (frequency, binge drinking, negative experience after drinking, etc.)

Perceived income inequality: Perception of income inequality in Korea

- 1 question (1-7), higher score - higher perception of inequality

Depressive mood: The Center for Epidemiologic Studies of Depression (CES-D)

- 11 items, higher score - higher level of depressive mood

Experience of economic deprivation

- 16 items in 5 areas (food, shelter, education, social deprivation, health)  
yes or no item. Higher score – higher level of deprivation

## 16 Indicators of Economic deprivation

### Food

- Lack of money to buy food
- Lack of balanced meal due to lack of money
- Skipped meal or reduced food consumption
- Had nothing to eat due to lack of money

### Shelter

- Could not pay rent for 2 months
- Temporary shelter
- Inadequate noise reduction, ventilation, lighting, heating
- Inadequate level of noise, pollution, odor
- Safe from natural disaster (flood, landslide, tidal wave, etc.)
- Could not pay for heating
- Could not pay for water, electricity

### Social deprivation

- Bankrupted person in the family
- Could not pay for insurance or regular bills

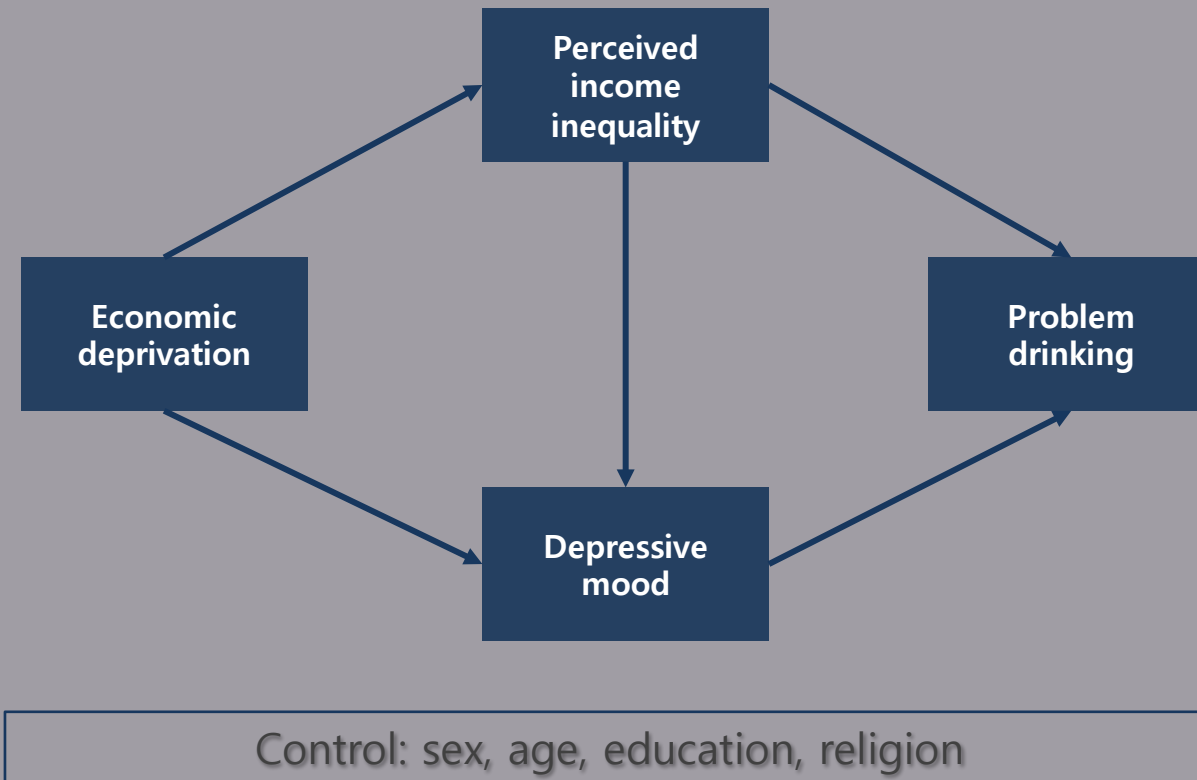
### Health

- Could not receive medical care
- Chronic illness

### Education

- Could not pay for children's tuition

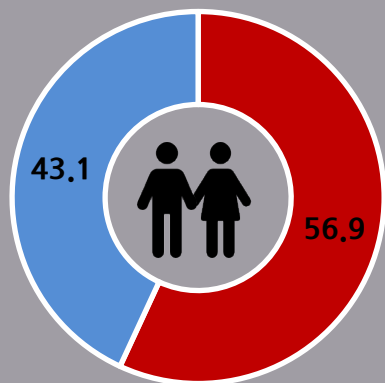
# Conceptual Model



# Results : Demographic Characteristics

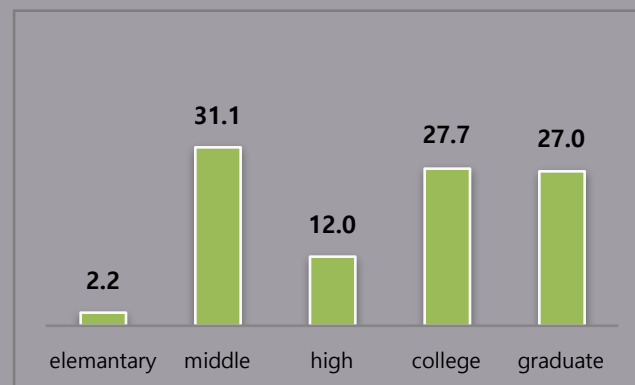
N=13,553

Sex

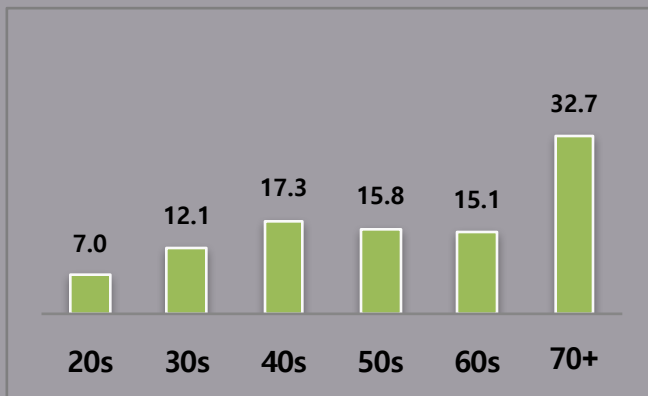


■ female ■ male

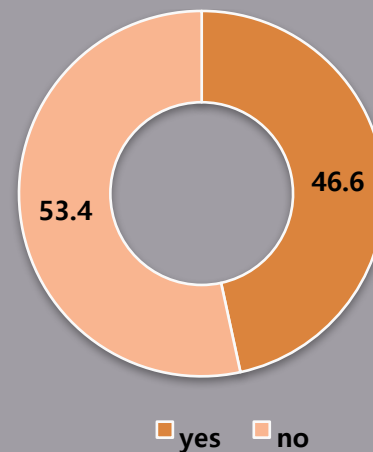
Education



Age

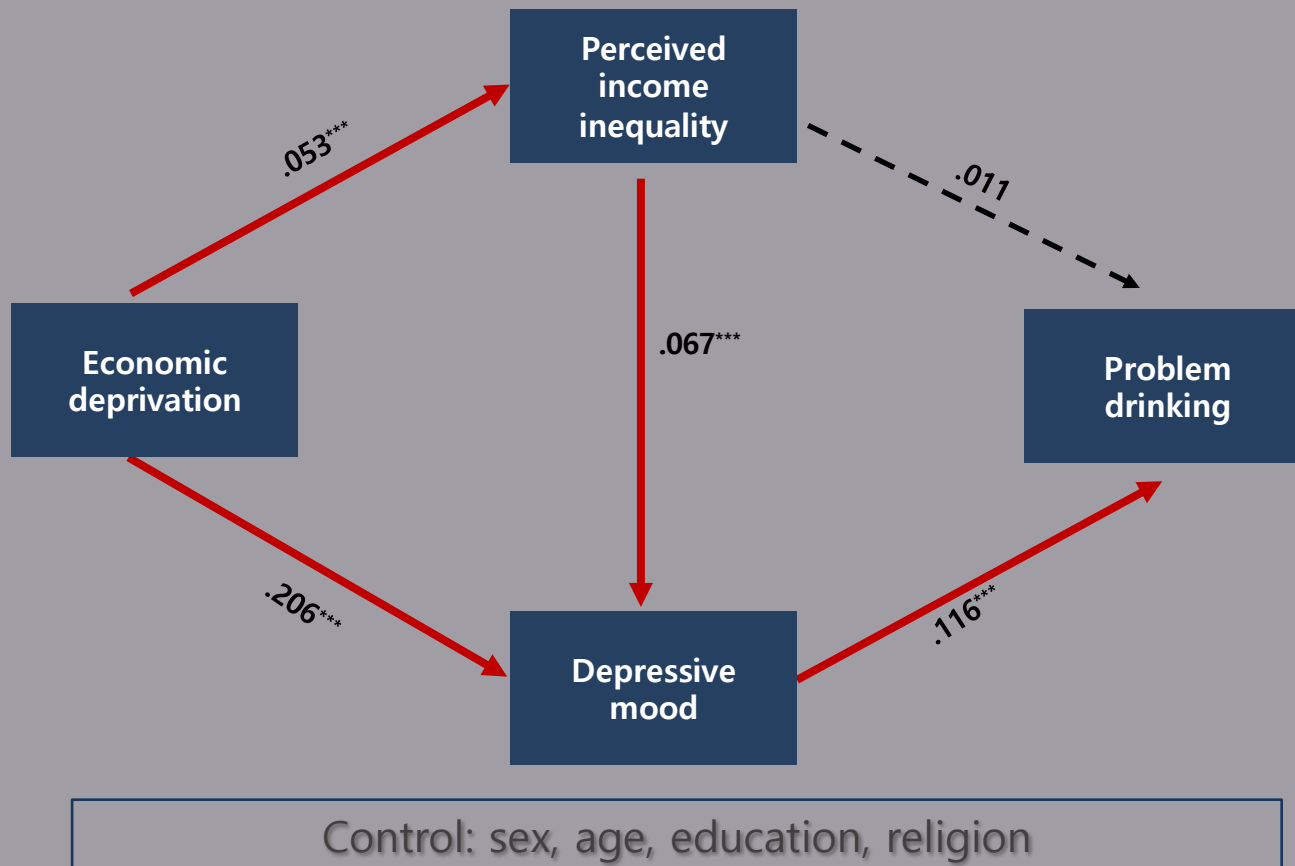


Religion



■ yes ■ no

# Results



# Discussion

## Economic deprivation → depressive mood → problem drinking

- Those who experience deprivation in many aspects in life are more likely to be depressed, and are more vulnerable to drinking problems

## Economic deprivation → perceived income inequality → depressive mood → problem drinking

- Those who experience deprivation have higher perception of inequality, and this affects one's health through depression
- Inequality threatens psychosocial factors → bad health

### ***Health inequity.***

Unequal society leads to more prominent hierarchy in society, leading to less social cohesion. This results in higher level of stress and anxiety which affects one's health

Drinking behavior is a product of interaction between physical, psychological, environmental factors



# Implications

1. Most addiction professionals or social workers working with addiction tend to view addiction as an individual's problem. **We need to expand our perspective to include a macro view of addiction.**
2. It is easier for people with limited resources to turn to drinking as a coping mechanism to many problems and life stress. **Professionals need to understand that these life problems and stress come from the social structure.** Interventions of alcohol problems must tailor to needs of specific groups.
3. Economic deprivation does not only mean financial deprivation. It includes deprivation in many aspects.
  - They are more vulnerable to problem drinking.
  - **Interventions of alcohol problems should consider both individual and structural aspects.**



Thank You

ありがとうございます