

INTRODUCTION

- There is a paucity of research investigating ethnic differences among gamblers.
- Studies on ethnic differences have mostly been conducted in Western countries and have found non-Caucasians to be at an increased risk for experiencing gambling problems (Cookman & Weatherly, 2016).
- Examining ethnic differences in gambling behaviors among non-Western countries may provide a more complete picture regarding the experience of diverse populations.
- Brazil is a diverse country mainly comprised of two self-identified majority groups, Caucasians and African-Caucasians, and a minority group comprised of people who solely identify as African.

Ethnic Distribution of Brazil

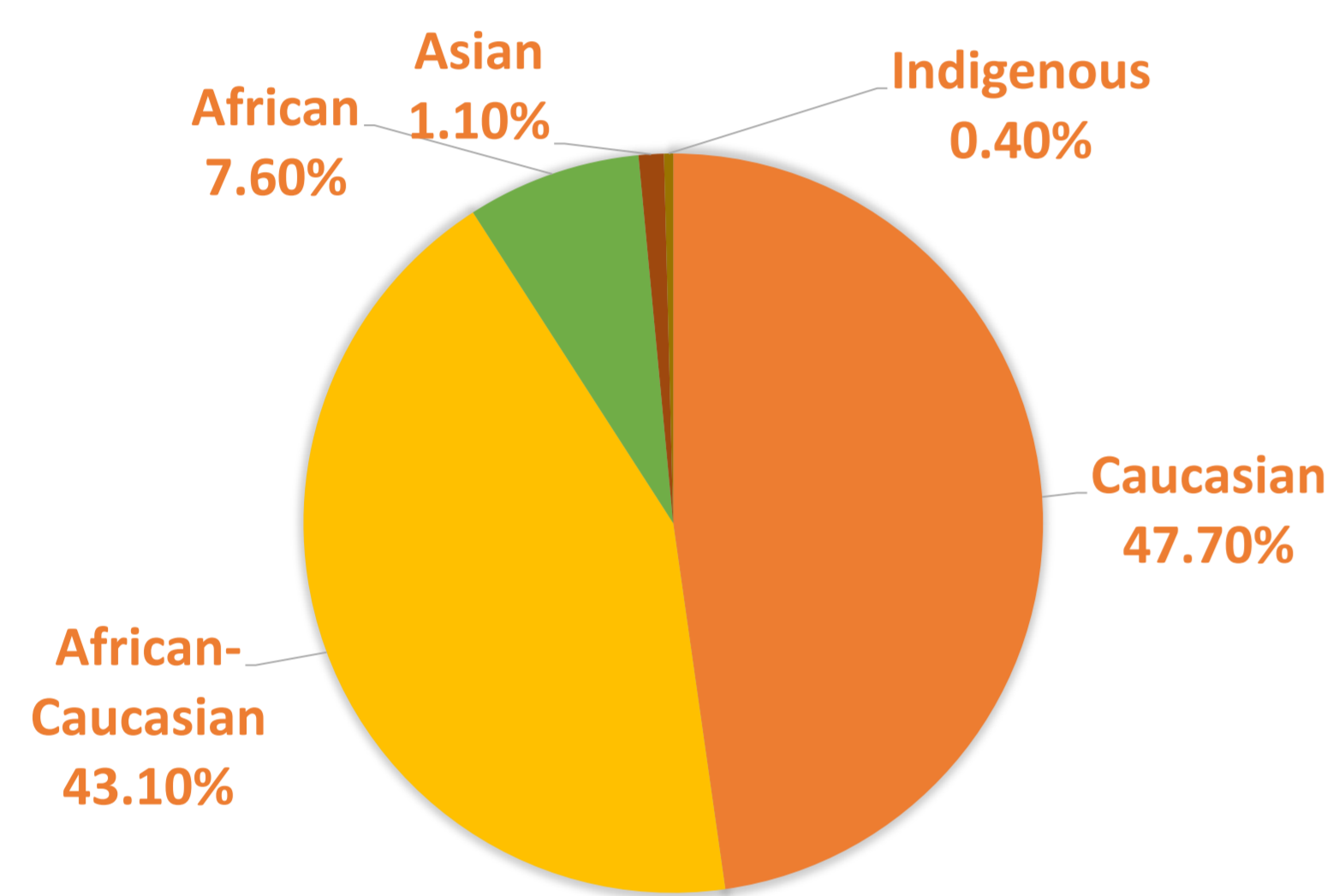


Figure 1: Ethnic distribution of Brazil based on the 2010 Brazilian Census

- Gambling is a partially prohibited activity in Brazil and lotteries are the most popular form of legalized gambling.
- Understanding the differences between ethnic groups can inform ethnically sensitive practice, including among non-western countries.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Investigate ethnic differences in lottery players in Brazil (47.5% Caucasian, 40.9% African-Caucasian and 11.6% African).
- 2) Compare demographic, and gambling characteristics among Caucasian (n=2695), African-Caucasian (n=561) and African Brazilians (n=2090).

HYPOTHESES

- 1) Based on existing literature, it was hypothesized that African and African-Caucasian Brazilians would be associated with higher rates of problem gambling.
- 2) Caucasian participants will be part of a higher socio-economic status compared to African and African-Caucasian participants as determined by monthly income.

METHODS

- 5,346 lottery players were recruited from a representative sample of lottery kiosks across Brazil (stratified by population).
- The following measures were administered:
 - A standard demographic questionnaire.
 - A questionnaire assessing gambling characteristics (type of game played, age of onset of regular gambling, age of first significant problem, etc.).
 - The National Opinion Research Center DSM Screen for Gambling Problems (NODS; Wickwire et al., 2008).

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

- Univariate analyses compared the three ethnic groups; Chi-square tests were used for categorical variables.
- One way ANOVAs were used for continuous demographic variables. Bonferroni post-hoc tests were used to perform pairwise comparisons between group means.
- To control for the effects of monthly income and age, one way ANCOVAs were used to test continuous gambling characteristic variables.

RESULTS: DEMOGRAPHICS

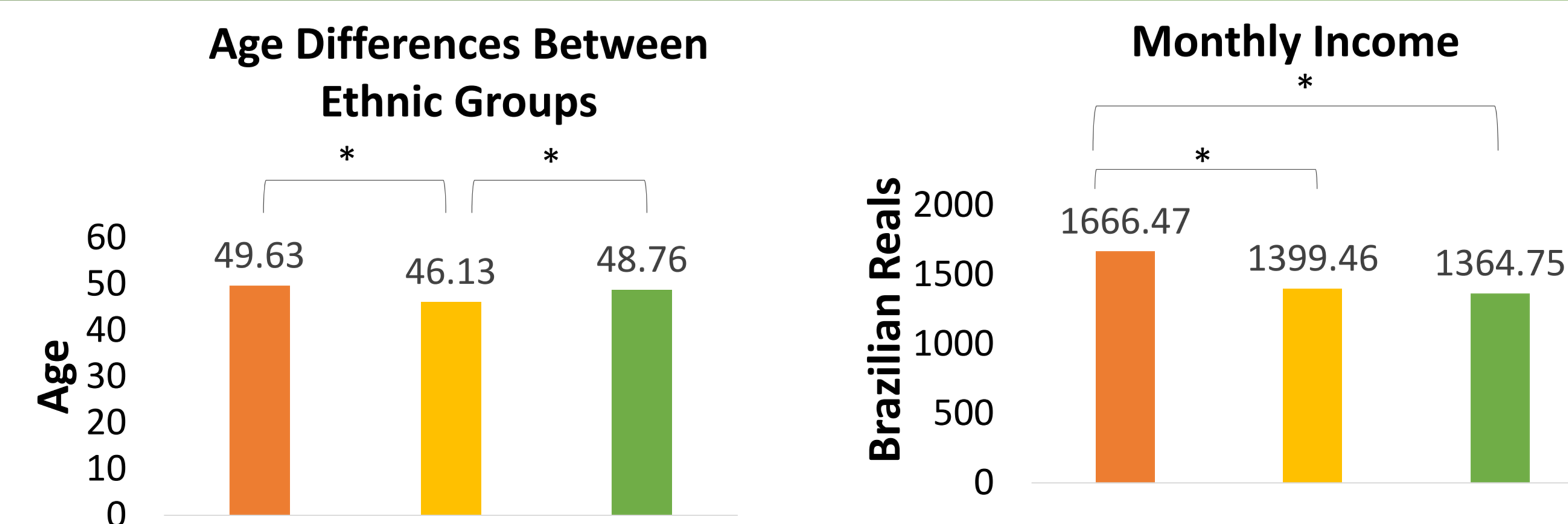


Figure 2: Mean age based on ethnicity. $F = 35.02, p < 0.001$. *Denotes a significant difference between groups, $p < .05$.

Marital Status (Single)

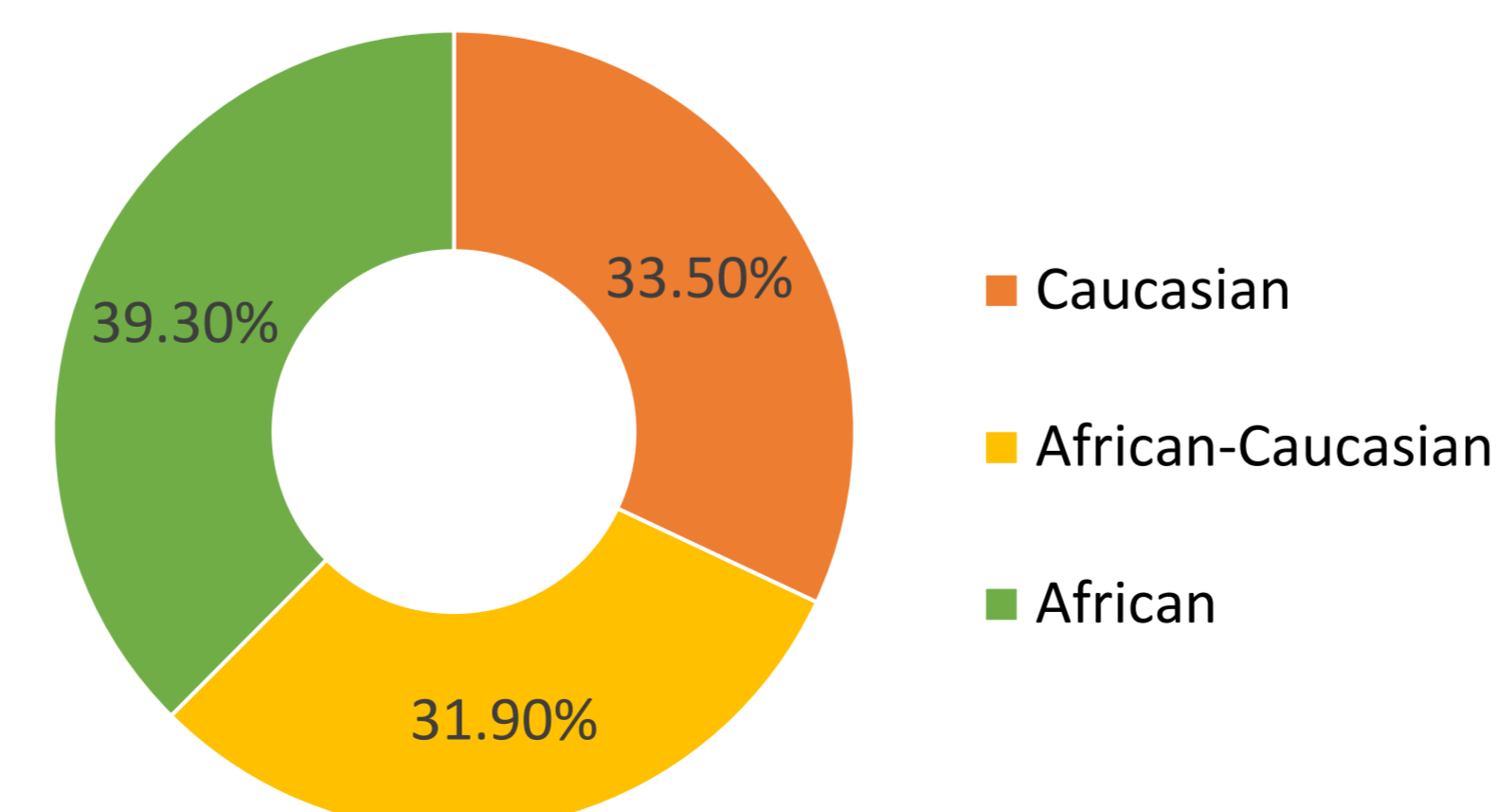


Figure 4: Percentage of participants who were not in a relationship, based on ethnicity. $\chi^2 = 8.33, p = .016$

RESULTS: GAMBLING CHARACTERISTICS



Figure 5: Mean age of onset of regular gambling behaviour. $F = 0.05, p = .950$.

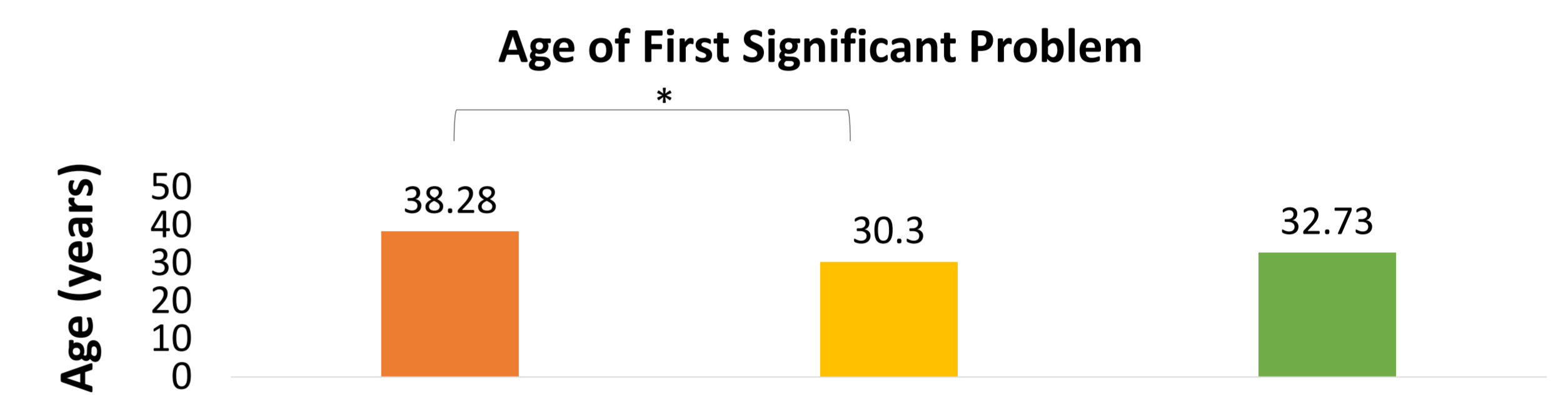


Figure 6: Mean age of first significant problem: $F = 3.99, p = .020$. *Denotes a significant difference between groups, $p < .05$.

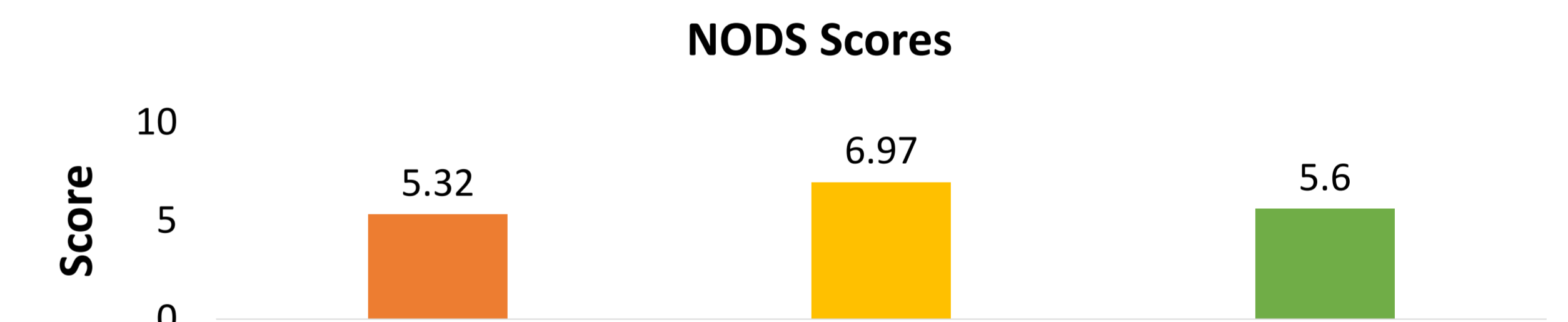


Figure 7: Mean lifetime NODS score. $F = 4.14, p = .020$. *Denotes a significant difference between groups, $p < .05$.

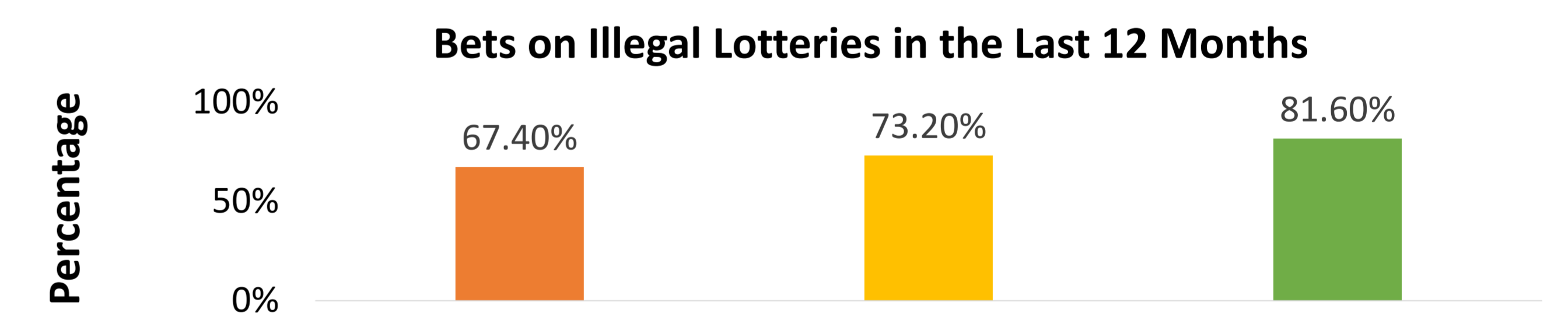


Figure 8: Percentage of participants who had placed bets on illegal lotteries (Jogo do Bicho) in the last 12 months. $\chi^2 = 15.14, p = 0.001$.

CONCLUSIONS

- After controlling for the effects of age and income, there were some significant differences found in the gambling experiences amongst ethnic groups in Brazil.
- African-Caucasians experienced their first problems due to gambling at a younger age than Caucasians.
- African-Caucasians were more likely to play Jogo do Bicho (an illegal lottery) and to meet criteria for gambling disorder compared to Caucasians.
- Africans were the most likely group to play Jogo do Bicho.
- Ethnicity may be a risk factor for gambling disorder in Brazil.