Bridging the Research to Practice Gap: Context Matters; Understanding the Life Circumstances of Hispanic Residents of a Casino Neighborhood.



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### Neighbor to Neighbor, Inc.

+ "We do things."



# Implications of "doing things"

+"Brings about "implementing"

### Implementation Science

+ "Implementation science is the study of methods to promote the adoption and integration of evidence-based practices, interventions, and policies into routine health care and public health settings to improve the impact on population health



"Bridge gap between research and practice : takes up to 17-years

Implementation Science



Avoid implementation failures



Establishes accountability

#### Implementation Failures: Examples

(failed due to lack of understanding of community context)

- + The New York City Voucher Experiment
- + The Comprehensive Child Development Program
- + Scared Straight (now known as Juvenile Awareness Program)
  - + Low-birth weight prevention programs

# Implementation Sciences: Relevance and Importance

Helps explain how an intervention works or why it fails

Yields an explanation of causes of differential impact across race, gender, ethnicity

Facilitates the replicability and sustainability of interventions.

Ensures alignment with the priorities of the community

Engages key community stakeholders who will lead and champion an intervention.

### A Core Tenet of Implementation Science





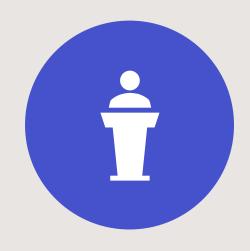
UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT OF THE INTERVENTION

SOCIAL SCIENCES HAS DONE A POOR JOB UNDERSTANDING THE LIFE CONTEXT OF THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY INEQUITIES IN OUR SOCIETY

### Considering Context Makes Intuitive Sense



ARCHITECTURE BEFORE CONSTRUCTION



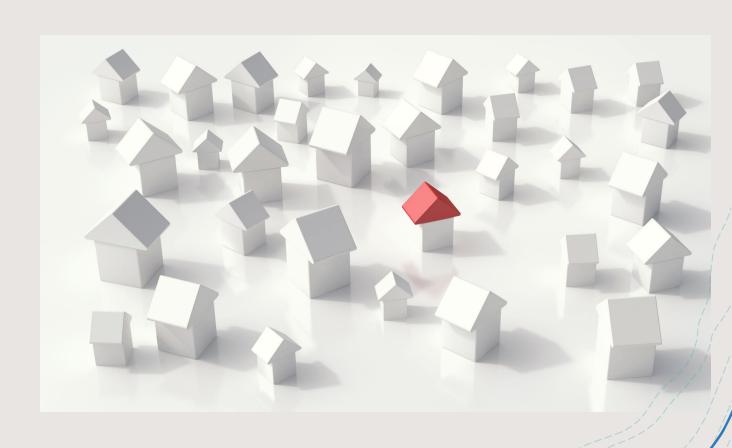
BEFORE A PUBLIC PRESENTATION



LONG DISTANCE RUNNER GOING OVER THE COURSE

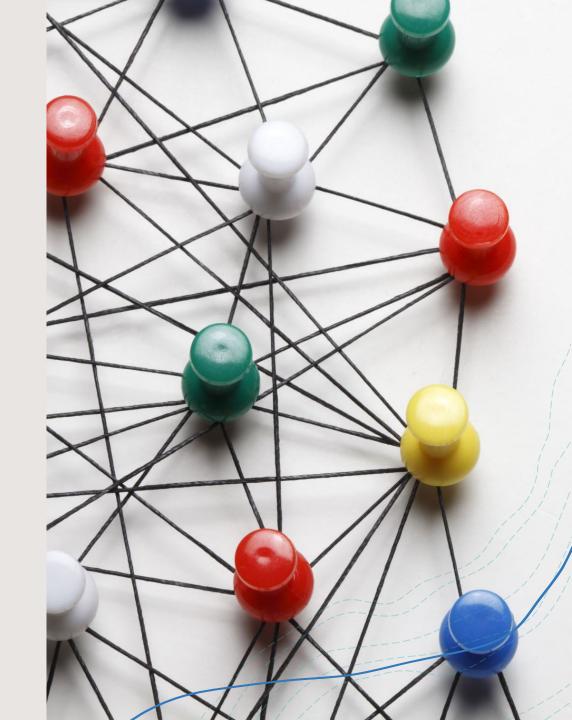
### Life Context: Definition

+ As employed in this study, it refers to the physical and psychosocial features of the places where people live (i.e., housing, neighborhood), work (i.e., employment), and play (i.e., entertainment).



### Life Context: Definition

- + Context is the stage where social determinants of health, culture, and behavior play out.
- + This context also includes elements of culture, history, and the intersection of individual and environmental factors that are likely to shape the gambling experience of those living in those settings.



# Importance of Including Context

- + The inclusion of context in research studies and policy interventions contributes to the creation of "more appropriate, implementable, effective, and sustainable interventions that either work well in a specific context or have sufficient flexibility built into their design to work across a range of contexts" (Craig et al., 2018).
- Helps explain how an intervention works or why it fails

# Importance of Including Context

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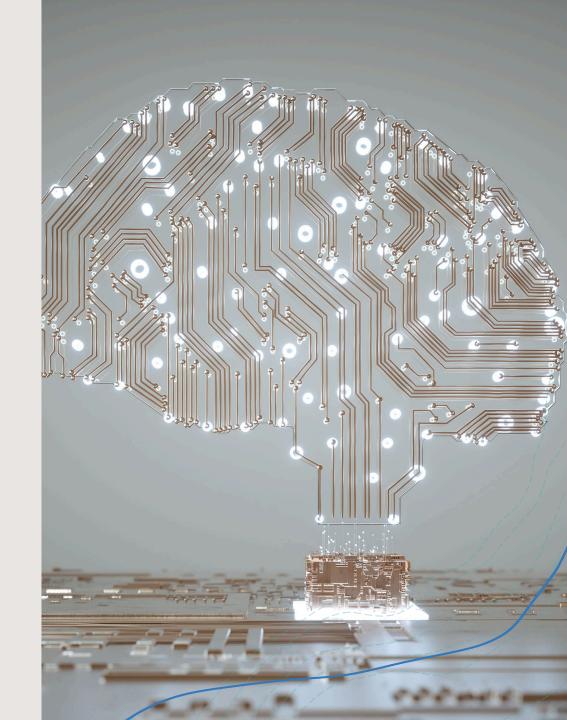
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#### Methods

+The study used a community-based participatory research (CBPR) method within a qualitative descriptive exploratory research design, which involves the use of purposive small samples.



Sample Description The final sample consisted of 24 Hispanic residents of zip codes 01103 and 01105 in Springfield, MA.

There were four males and 20 females, all over 18-year of age. They completed the Problem Gambling

### Sample Description

+ Severity Index Mini-Screen--a 3-item scale developed by Volberg and Williams (2012) derived from the original 9-item PGSI. The profiles yielded by this measure depicted ten respondents as non-gamblers, two as low-risk gamblers, three as moderate-risk gamblers, and one as a high-risk gambler. Four participants did not answer the profile



### Theme 1. Stress and trauma are pervasive in the respondents' life context, manifesting itself in the areas of family, neighborhood, employment, and housing

Problem gambling and relation to drug use as a longstanding problem in the family

Crime is a daily occurrence. Stealing, prostitution, shootings are not far from casino.

While jobs are available, livable wages are not.

Respondents perceived some prices are going up because of the casino presence

### Theme 2: Respondents held distinct and often opposing views about the presence of the MGM casino in their community.

The casino has improved the aesthetic of its location

The casino has the opportunity to help underemployed residents and businesses that are closing down through hiring and engagement

Increased police presence, prostitution, environment is worsening

Crime has been redistributed

Theme 3. Responders noted the normative aspects of gambling, particularly as a family activity, as well as its negative consequences.

# Respondents recognized the signs of problem gambling in self and others

Gambling as an intergenerational issue

Theme 4. Impact of COVID-19 on Respondents' Lives. Disproportionately negative health outcomes for Latinos.

People getting laid off and losing jobs

Stress supporting the family while a digital gap exists

Mistrust in government re: COVID

### Features of the participants' life context

Intersectionality →
Interconnected life
events and
circumstances

Intergenerational component→ Past experiences of family members with problem gambling

Historical → Past events that continue to exert their influence in current generations

Cultural → Values and beliefs that individuals use to develop a sense of agency

Ethical/Moral →
Personal beliefs
about what is right or
wrong

Force Majeure →
Unpredictable
events that have a
major impact on the
community

Safety → The desire to be free from harm

Leisure → The quality of free time to engage in recreational or social activities

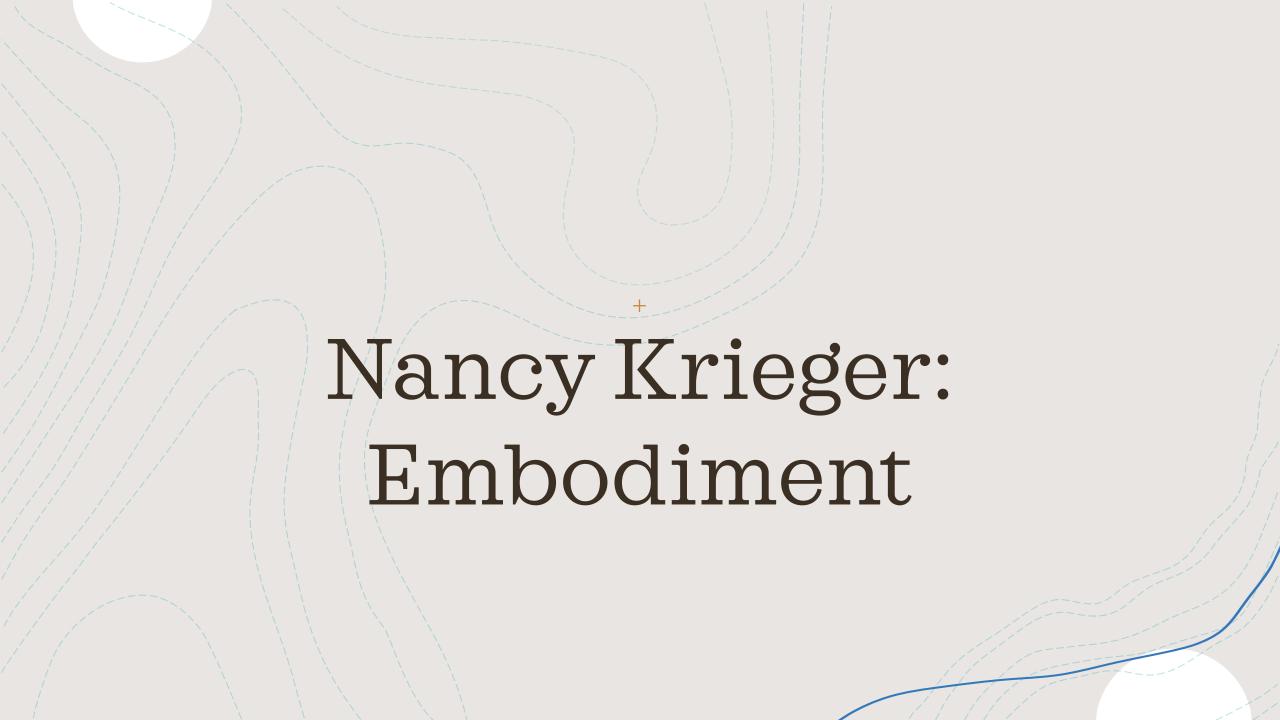
Societal →
Extensive
documentation of
structural racism in
Springfield

### Implications

- + Responsible gambling-Drug use
- + Family-intergenerational component-Inclusion
- + When you know how gambling is expressed you rethink interventions such as exclusions
- Community members, get to know them, you would count on them more
- + Proud about their culture: include their cultural expressions
- + Uncovering theoretical directions



Between Racism and health outcomes stands a backbox



# David Williams: Toxic Stress

