

The Effect of Sexual Arousal on Rapists' Implicit Attitudes and Explicit Cognitive Distortions toward Rape

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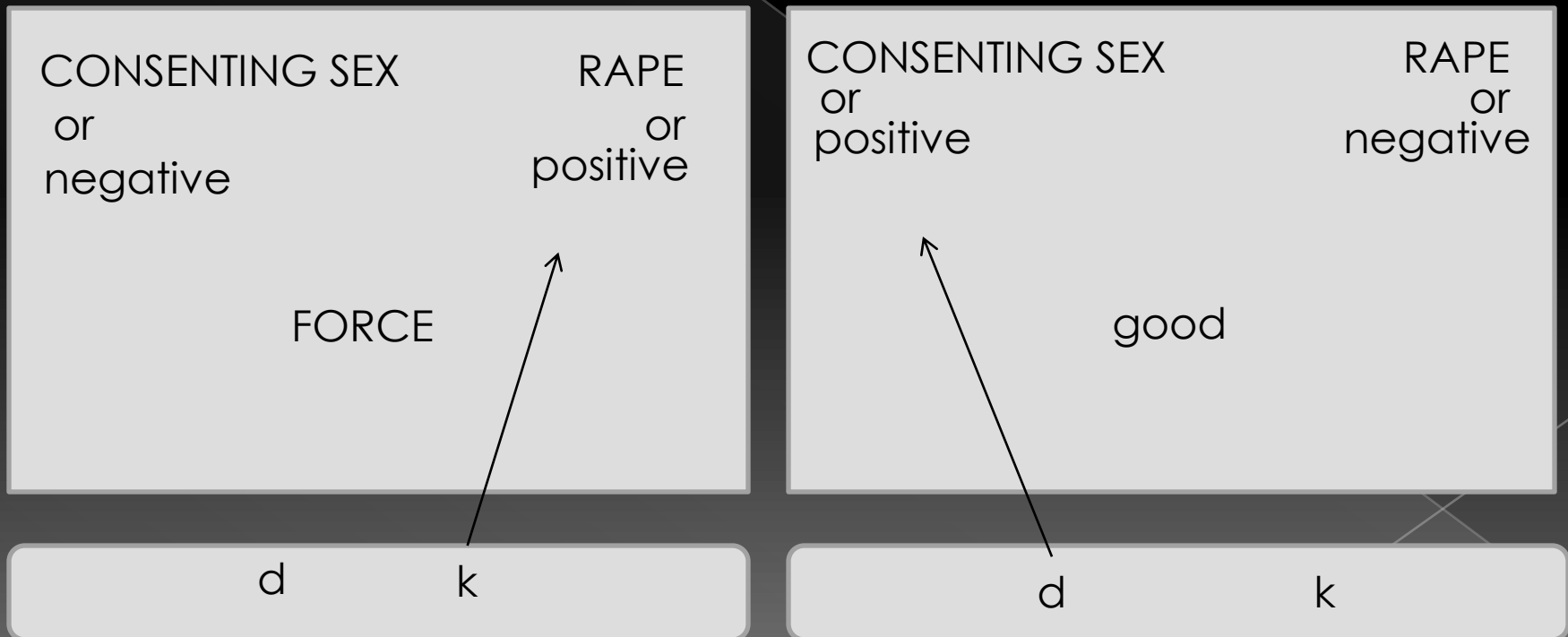
- ◎ We would like to thank Jan Looman, Yolanda Fernandez, Ed Peacock, Grant Harris, and their staff for facilitating our data collection
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Background Theory & Research

- ◎ Rape-related cognitions are theoretically and empirically related to rape (e.g, Bumby, 1996; DeGue & DiLillo; 2004, Hall & Hirschmann, 1991; Lanier, 2001; Polaschek & Gannon, 2004; Polaschek & Ward, 2002)
- ◎ Attitudes fall within the cognitions construct
- ◎ Attitudes toward rape have received little empirical attention

Background Theory & Research

- ◎ Implicit vs. Explicit cognition
- ◎ Implicit Association Test (Greenwald, McGhee, & Schwartz, 1998)



Background Theory & Research

- ◎ Sexual arousal theoretically plays a role in the sex offence process (e.g., Self- Regulation Model of Sex Offending; Ward & Hudson, 2000)
- ◎ Sexually aroused participants report they are more likely to be sexually aggressive (Ariely & Loewenstein, 2006; Loewenstein et al., 1997)
- ◎ Importance of sexual assault benefits may mediate the link between sexual arousal and sexual coercion (Bouffard, 2002)

Summary

- ◎ Rape-related cognitions are theoretically and empirically important to the study of rape
- ◎ There are two types of cognition: Implicit and Explicit
- ◎ Sexual arousal is a motivational state that plays a theoretical role in the sex offence process
- ◎ Sexual arousal influences:
 - Reported likelihood of rape
 - May be mediated by evaluations of sexual assault benefits

Research Question

- ◎ How does sexual arousal influence implicit attitudes and explicit cognitive distortions toward rape in rapist and non-sex offender populations?

Participants

◎ Incarcerated Rapists ($n = 24$):

- Sexually motivated offence with a female victim equal to or greater than 16 years old
- Recruited from federal institutions in Ontario, Canada

◎ Non Sex Offenders ($n = 12$):

- No evidence of committing a sex offence
- Recruited from federal institutions and a maximum security mental health facility in Ontario, Canada

Measures

- ◎ Rape Evaluation IAT (RE-IAT):
 - > Implicit attitudes toward rape relative to consenting sex
- ◎ Bumby RAPE Scale:
 - > Explicit cognitive distortions

Manipulation

◎ Sexual Arousal

- Audio recording read by female
- 2 minute Penthouse story
- Consensual and mutually satisfying heterosexual sexual encounter

◎ Neutral

- Audio recording read by female
- 2 minute story about a man grocery shopping

Background Questionnaire

RE-IAT

Bumby RAPE Scale

Counter Balance

Sexual Arousal

Neutral

RE-IAT

Bumby RAPE Scale

Counter Balance

Manipulation Check

File Review

Participants

Table 1

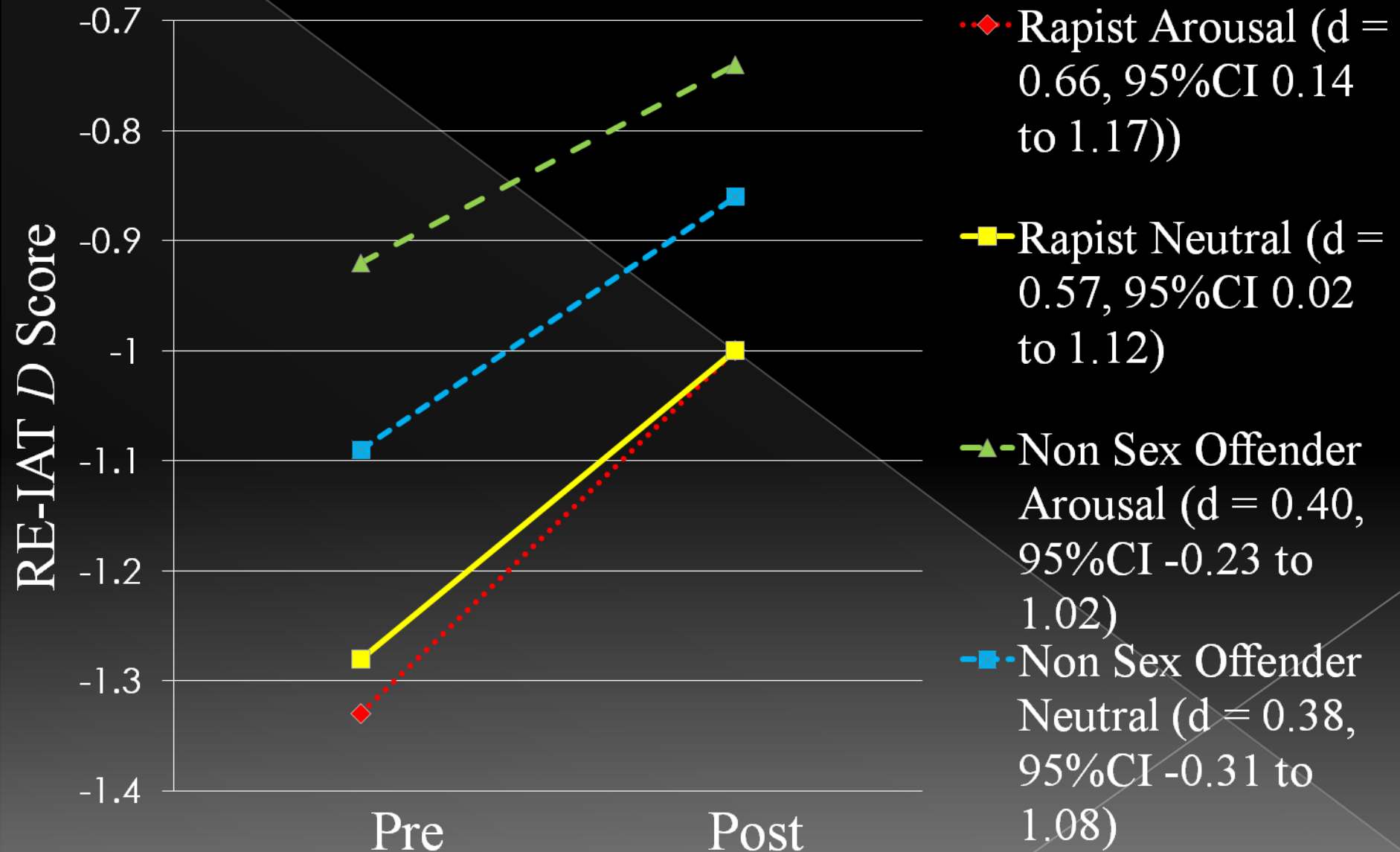
Participants' Demographic Information

	Rapist Arousal	Rapist Neutral	Non Sex Offender Arousal	Non Sex Offender Neutral
Mean Age Category (SD)	35-39 (1.52)	35-39 (1.66)	30-34 (1.17)	30-34 (1.22)
Has Grade 8 Education %(n)	92.30% (12)	100% (11)	100% (6)	100% (6)
Had a Victim Under 16 yrs old %(n)	30.77% (4)	36.36% (4)	-	-
Any SO Treatment %(n)	53.85% (7)	63.64% (7)	-	-
Static -99 M (SD)	5.50 (1.27)	6.28 (2.50)	-	-

Results

Figure 1

Sexual Arousal and Implicit Attitudes toward Rape



Results

Figure 2

Sexual Arousal and Implicit Attitudes Towards Rape when Treatment and Effectiveness of Arousal Manipulation are Controlled.

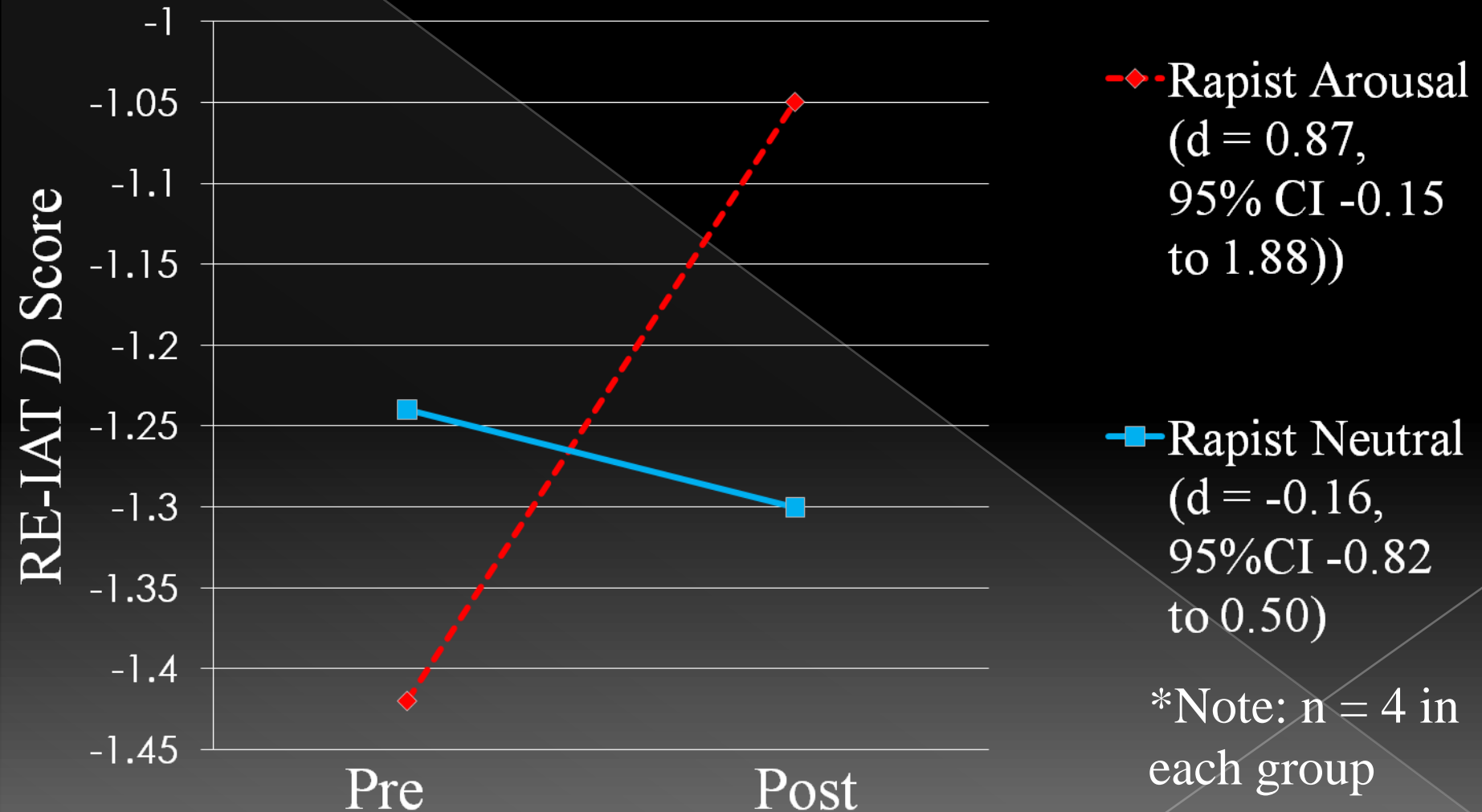
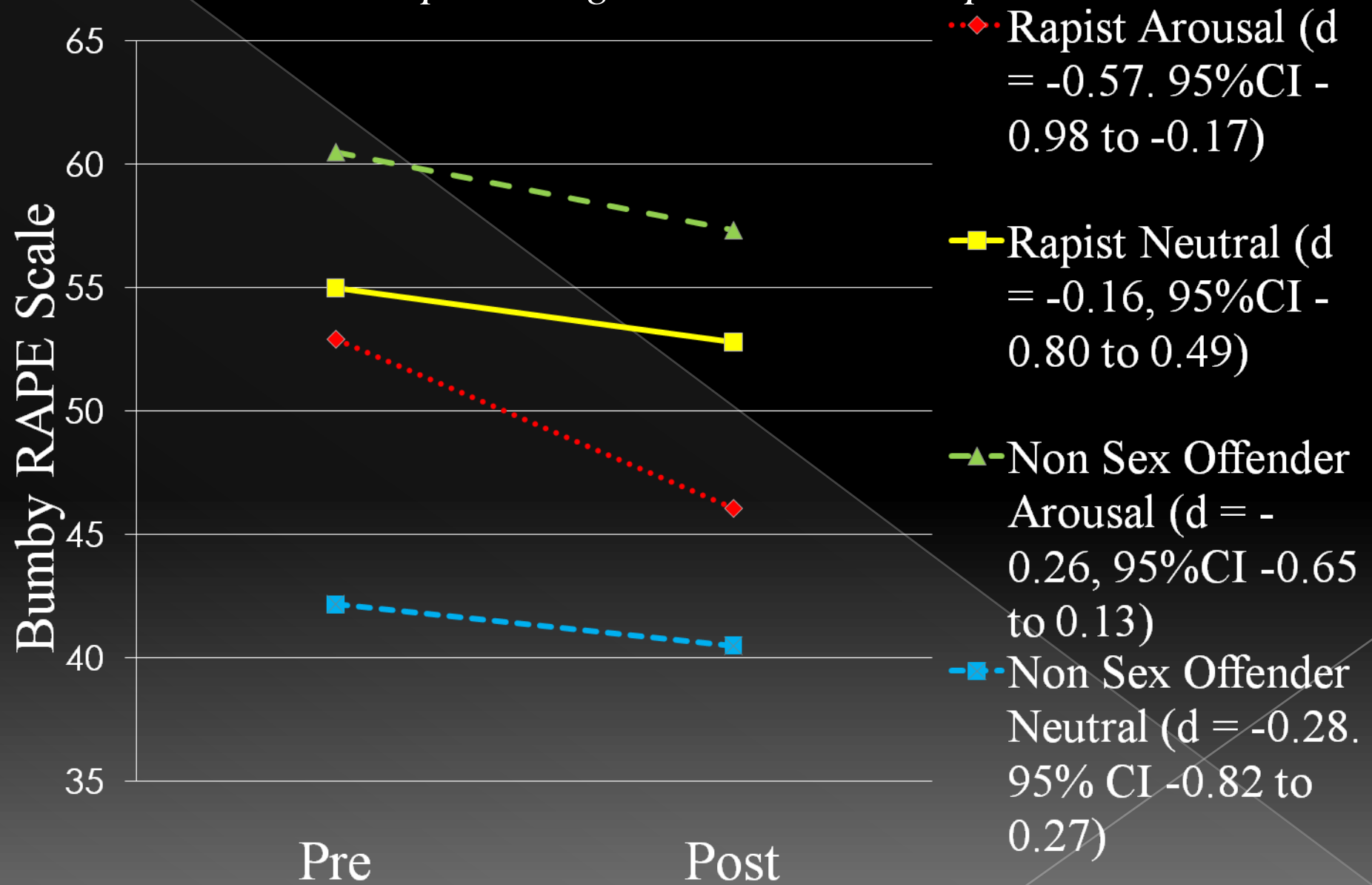


Figure 3

Results

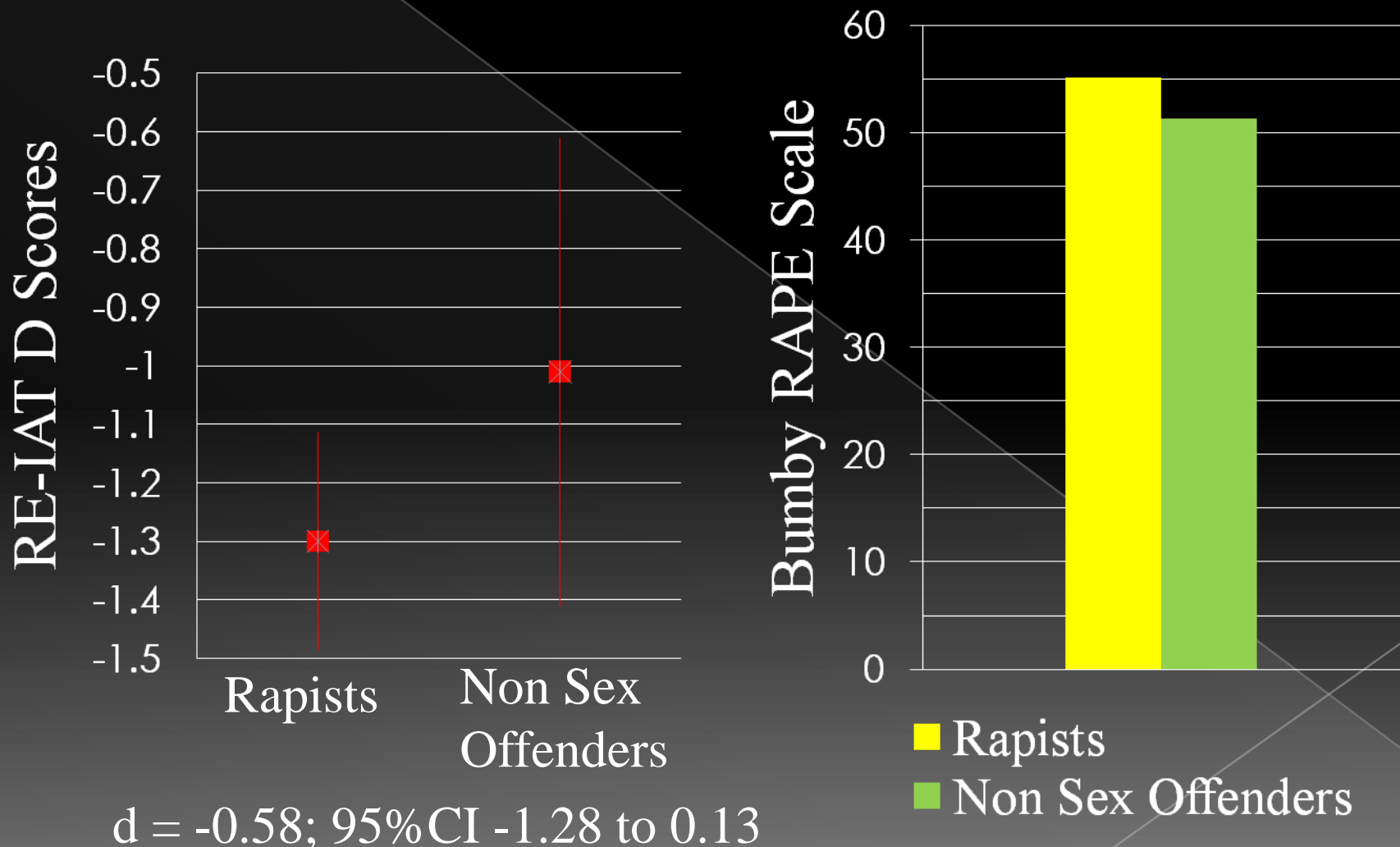
Sexual Arousal and Explicit Cognitions towards Rape



Results

Figure 4

Differences between Rapists and Non Sex Offenders on Pre Manipulation Implicit Attitudes and Explicit Cognitions toward Rape



Discussion

- ◎ When sexually aroused rapists implicitly evaluate rape less negatively
 - Consistent with theories of rape that suggest sexual arousal plays a role in the offence process
- ◎ When sexually aroused rapists endorse less cognitive distortions on the Bumby RAPE Scale
 - Unexpected
 - Could be because some of the cognitive distortions are not relevant to the goal of obtaining sex

Limitations

- ◎ Small Sample Size
- ◎ Effectiveness of Sexual Arousal Manipulation
- ◎ Generalizability of sample

References

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RE-IAT

Block	Number of Trials	Left Key Categories	Right Key Categories
B1	20	Rape	Consenting Sex
B2	20	Positive	Negative
B3	20	Rape & Positive	Consenting Sex & Negative
B4	40	Rape & Positive	Consenting Sex & Negative
B5	40	Consenting Sex	Rape
B6	20	Consenting Sex & Positive	Rape & Negative
B7	40	Consenting Sex & Positive	Rape & Negative

Note. Blocks 3 and 4 are counterbalanced with Blocks 6 and 7 and Blocks 1 and 5 are counterbalanced with each other, between participants.

RE-IAT

- ◉ Evaluates implicit attitudes toward rape relative to consenting sex

Rape	Consenting Sex	Positive	Negative
Force	Consent	Vacation	Rotten
Violent	Mutual	Rainbow	Poison
Rape	Willing	Smile	Sickness
Violate	Permission	Sunshine	Vomit
Assault	Agreement	Paradise	Cancer
		Freedom	Evil