

Nunes, K. L., Hatton, C. E., Zelenski, J. M., Fabrigar, L. R., & Pedneault, C. I. (2023, June 23-25). Effects of evaluative attitudes toward violence on violent behaviour. In K. L. Nunes (Chair), *Measurement and effects of evaluative attitudes toward violence* [Symposium]. Fifth North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Effects of Evaluative Attitudes Toward Violence on Violent Behaviour

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N5 2023



1

Nunes et al. (2022)

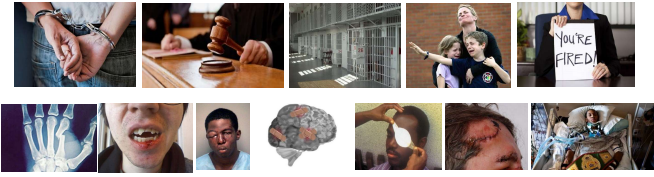
- 285 men (online panel from Canada and USA)
- Randomized experiment
 - Anti-violence message and evaluative conditioning
 - Control condition
- Violent Behavior Vignette Questionnaire (VBVQ)
- Evaluation of Violence Questionnaire (EVQ)



2

Anti-Violence Attitude Condition


- Violence is a “lose-lose” situation, with negative consequences for everyone involved.



3

You hitting a guy.

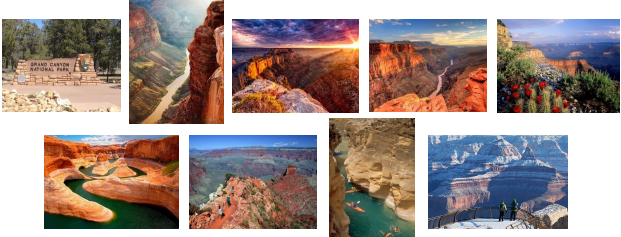
bad



4

Control Condition


- The Grand Canyon is an impressive site with something for everyone to enjoy.



5

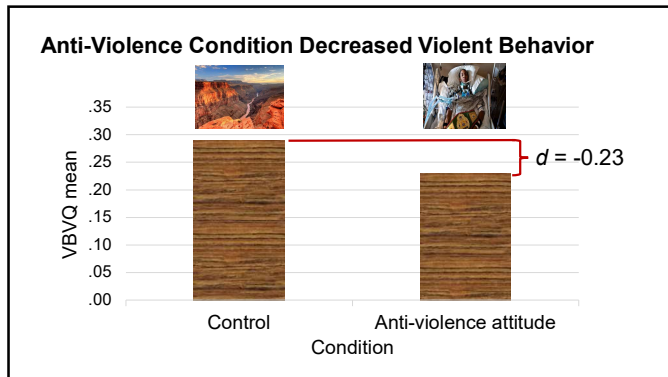
You hitting a guy.

bridge



6

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7

Replication: Perrault et al. (2023)

- 351 men (online panel from Canada and USA)
- Replicated effect on violent behaviour with message only (no evaluative conditioning)
 - Cohen's $d = -0.29$

8

Cárdaba et al. (2016)

- Effect of anti-violence attitude manipulation was moderated by trait-aggression
- Manipulation effective only with participants low in trait-aggression

9

- Might some anti-violence attitude manipulations be less effective with more aggressive men?

10

Present Study

- Improvements to anti-violence attitude manipulation from Nunes et al. (2022)
 - Added voiceover reading message
 - Added questions before and after message
- Tested potential moderation by trait-aggression
- Additional aggressive behaviour measure

11

Hypotheses


- Our revised manipulation will reduce violent/aggressive behaviour
- Effects will differ (be moderated) by participants' trait-aggression
- No hypothesis for pattern of the moderation
 - May be more effective with low trait-aggression or with higher trait-aggression

12

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Method

- 705 men (online panel from Canada and USA)
- Physical Aggression scale of the Aggression Questionnaire
- Randomized experiment
 - Anti-violence attitude message
 - Control condition
- Violent Behavior Vignette Questionnaire (VBVQ)
- Doll Aggression Task (DAT)
- Evaluation of Violence Questionnaire (EVQ)




13

Physical Aggression scale of the Aggression Questionnaire (PA-AQ)

Once in a while I can't control the urge to strike another person

1 2 3 4 5
Strongly disagree Strongly agree



14

Doll Aggression Task (DAT)

Here is the doll that represents **SOMEONE YOU FEEL A GREAT AMOUNT OF ANGER TOWARD** with the maximum of 51 pins stabbed into it.

Now, indicate the number of pins you wish to stab into the doll that represents **SOMEONE YOU FEEL A GREAT AMOUNT OF ANGER TOWARD**.




0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 51
Number of pins to stab into the doll



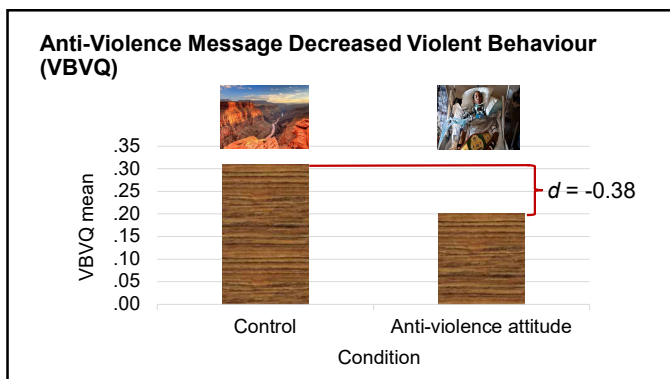
15

Manipulation Check

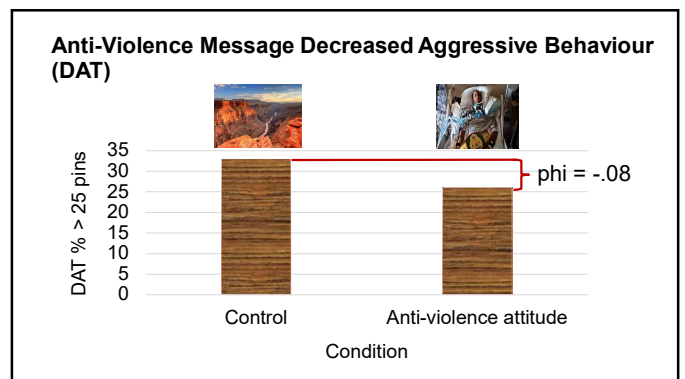
- Mean EVQ scores were lower for participants in the experimental condition ($M = 2.02$, $SD = 0.72$) than in the control condition ($M = 2.20$, $SD = 0.76$)
- $d = -0.27$, 95% CI [-0.42, -0.12]



16

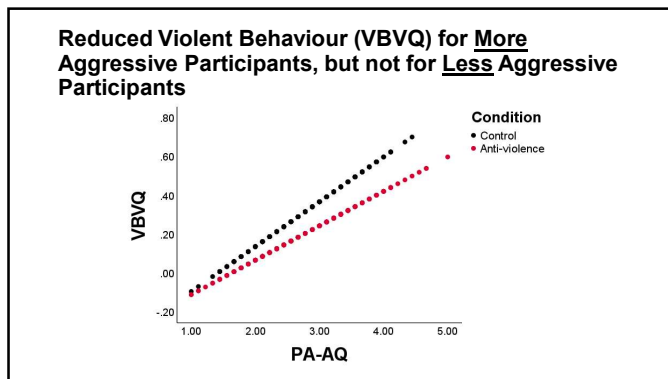


17

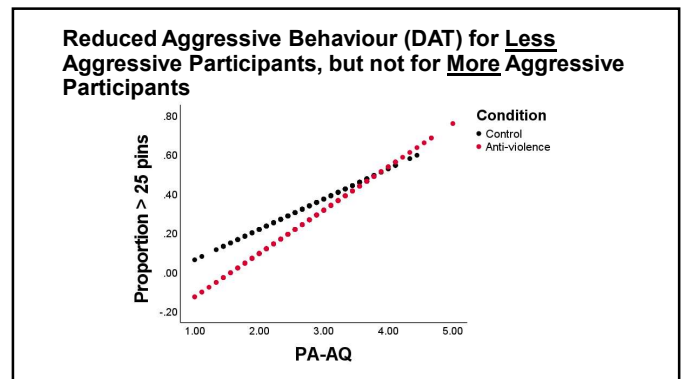


18

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19



20

Discussion

- Results supportive of hypotheses
 - Manipulation reduced violent/aggressive behaviour
 - Manipulation effects moderated by trait-aggression
- However, unexpected divergence of pattern of moderation for VBVQ and DAT

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21

Reconciling Discrepancy

- DAT bimodal distribution
 - Issues with response format?
- Interaction pattern for the EVQ was consistent with the pattern for the VBVQ, not for the DAT
- Thus, the VBVQ result appears more credible than the DAT result

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22

Limitations

- Self-report
- No follow-up
- Violent/aggressive behaviour measures

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Future Directions

- DAT with different response format
- Other violent/aggressive behaviour variables
- Longitudinal design
- Forensic/correctional populations

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24

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**Aggressive Cognitions and
Behaviour Research Lab**

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