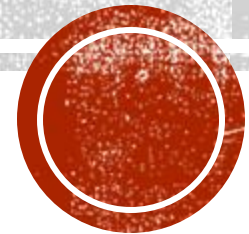


# DO ANGRY WOMEN CHOOSE ALCOHOL?

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Vodka,  
not  
water



# INTRODUCTION

- Assumptions: The research article addresses in the beginning on how Clinicians viewed anger as a common motivator for alcohol consumption
- Included plenty of examples to support the data that was being presented throughout the article such as the example that explained how 29% of relapsers during alcohol treatment cited anger as a major precipitant
- Interesting information: "Women are more likely than men to report use of alcohol to relieve several negative emotional states, including anger"
- Stated fact: That aggressive individuals are more provoked to act in anxiety or fear instead of anger, which is assumed by many people
- Present study hypothesis: "Anger is a determinant of alcohol consumption, especially for women"
- To implement the study, the lessons were taken into consideration on the previous research done in order to address the challenging methodological issues (4 lessons on previous research were presented in the article)
- Summary: Addressed how the purpose of the study was to observe the result on "female-specific" anger provocation on alcohol consumption by young adult women



# METHODS

- Recruitment – used ads on flyers/in the paper, must be 21 years or older, not pregnant, no history of substance use disorders, self-report good health, confederates used, and randomly select one participant to win \$250 at the end.
- Materials – self-reports, multi-affect adjective checklist, feeling thermometer, and the alcohol expectancy questionnaire.
- Initial data collection – both the subject and confederate were placed in the same room in the beginning for the self-report exams, all participants must pass a breathalyzer test and report that they did not use any drugs within the last 24 hours.
- Manipulation – anger provocation: no difference in initial measurements. First task-unsolvable anagrams with monetary motivation in an 8-minute time frame, this induced frustration and anger, followed by the confederate "completing" it which elicited more negative emotions. Anger self-rate increased post provocation.
  - no provocation: individuals were given easy anagrams while confederate took all 8 minutes given while keeping a neutral attitude. Then given second self-report test for pre and post comparison.



# METHODS CONTINUED

- Provocation Condition: Confederates were seated across from participants and "completed" anagrams within 4 minutes. After the confederate "solved" her list of anagrams she followed a script that included making tapping noises, commenting on how quickly they completed the task and make references to how slowly the participant was taking
  - All confederates used the same script
  - One participant guessed out loud that confederate was not a real participant
- After this was complete, participants were told they would be involved in a second experiment which was meant to study women's perceptions of the tastes of different beverages
- Participants and confederates were all given beverages in opaque cups labeled either "beer" or "ginger ale" and told that once they tasted and rated all four they were free to drink the remainder of any of the beverages



# MORE METHODS

- After the "second" experiment, cups were collected and the amount of each was measured to collect beverage intake of each participant
- During this, participants were asked to complete their Alcohol Expectancy Questionnaires
- Debriefing: debriefing was individual and lengthy. Participants were asked to state her thoughts on the purpose of the research
  - Each participant seemed to believe that the confederates were real participants
  - None of the participants realized they were given non-alcoholic beer
  - Research Coordinator fully explained anger provocation condition and true purpose of the study
  - All participants stated they felt no anger by the time they left





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# RESULTS

- To verify that provocation led to anger, participants' ratings on the Feeling Thermometer scales and the subscales of the MAACL-R were subjected to independent sample t-tests
- The Provocation participants had higher Feeling Thermometer anger scores than those in the non-provocation condition
  - Participants in the Provocation condition reported higher MAACL-R hostility scores
- Analyses of the remaining MAACLR scales (anxiety and depression) and the Feeling Thermometer scales did not detect any significant differences between the two groups
- Participants in the Provocation condition consumed an average of 170.0 ml of placebo beer and 181.79 ml of ginger ale.
- Non-Provocation participants consumed a mean of 120.07 ml of placebo beer and 199.5 ml of ginger ale



# RESULTS CONTINUED

- An analysis of covariance was conducted; the fixed factor was the condition, the amount of placebo beer was the dependent variable, and the pre-manipulation Anger Feeling Thermometer and MAACL-R negative emotion subscales (hostility, anxiety, and depression) were covariates
  - The result was significant and those in the Provocation condition consumed more placebo beer than those in the Non-Provocation condition
- Bivariate correlations were conducted between, assertiveness expectancies, relaxation expectancies and amount of placebo beer consumed within each group
  - No significant correlations within the Non-Provocation group
  - There was a significant finding in the Provocation group that the women drank more when believing alcohol would make them more assertive
    - But no significant correlation between relaxation expectancies and placebo beer drinking





# DISCUSSION

- The Provocation protocol successfully increased anger and hostility without significantly affecting other emotions.
- Participants exposed to the Provocation protocol consumed more "beer" than the control group.
- No group differences in consumption of ginger ale indicates that when provoked participants chose to drink more alcohol.
- When provoked, women expected alcohol to increase assertiveness.



# DISCUSSION

- Limitations
  - Non-alcoholic "beer"
  - "Drinking" may have affected participants responses to alcohol expectancies.
  - Limited demographics
  - Manipulation included many variables
- Future
  - Replications should focus on if findings are specific to anger.
  - Would a more diverse sample yield the same results?
  - How would the consumption of actual alcohol impact women's feelings of anger?

