

RESEARCH QUESTION

Does sexual orientation influence perceptions of blame toward a female sexual assault victim?

1. Homosexual
2. Heterosexual
3. Bisexual

BACKGROUND

Victim blame in sexual assault looks at the perceived responsibility of victim and perpetrator

Previous research indicates:

- Male participants blame victim most
- Straight victims perceived more responsible for assault than gay victims

Missing piece in literature:

- Heterosexual vs. homosexual → no bisexual victim

HYPOTHESES

1. Bisexual victims will be blamed more for their assault than both straight and gay victims
2. Straight victims will be blamed more for their assault than gay victims
3. Males participants will blame victims more than female participants

METHODS

PARTICIPANTS

- $N = 366$ (females = 270) recruited through university and online avenues
- Age: $M = 23.50$ years; $SD = 7.77$ years

DESIGN & PROCEDURE

Randomized quasi-experimental 2 (gender) X 4 (victim sexual orientation)

MEASURES

Blame Questionnaire (Davies, Pollard & Archer, 2006)

1. Victim Blame Subscale ($\alpha = .92$)
 - Range of scores: 0-66, $M = 11.76$, $SD = 11.62$
2. Reaction toward the Perpetrator Subscale ($\alpha = .72$)
 - Range of scores: 0-30, $M = 4.99$, $SD = 4.34$

DEMOGRAPHICS

Figure 4. Friend/Family Member Disclosure of Assault

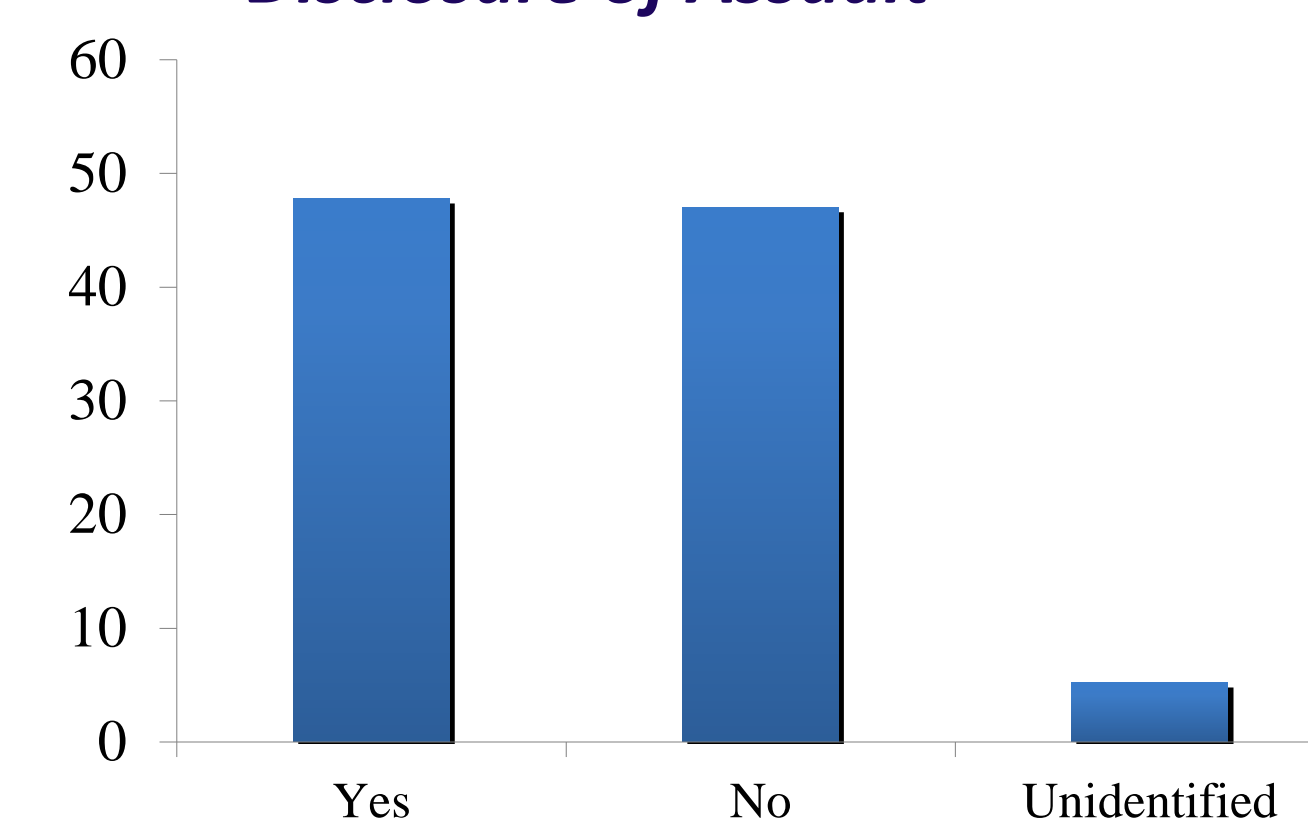


Figure 2. Sexual Orientation (%)

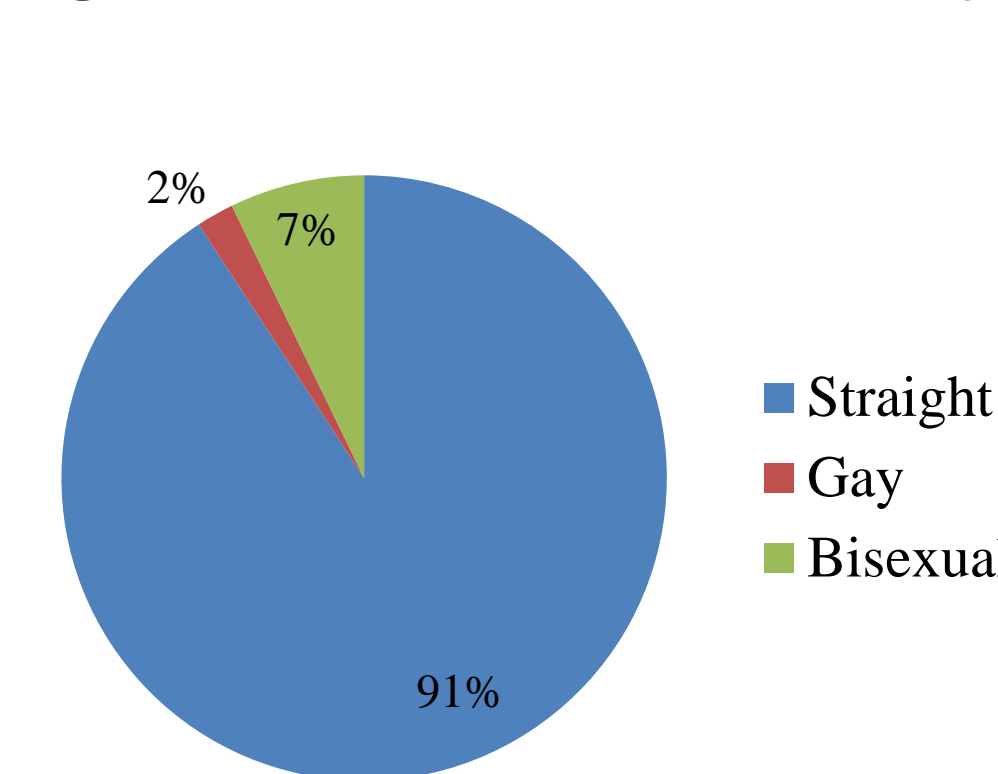
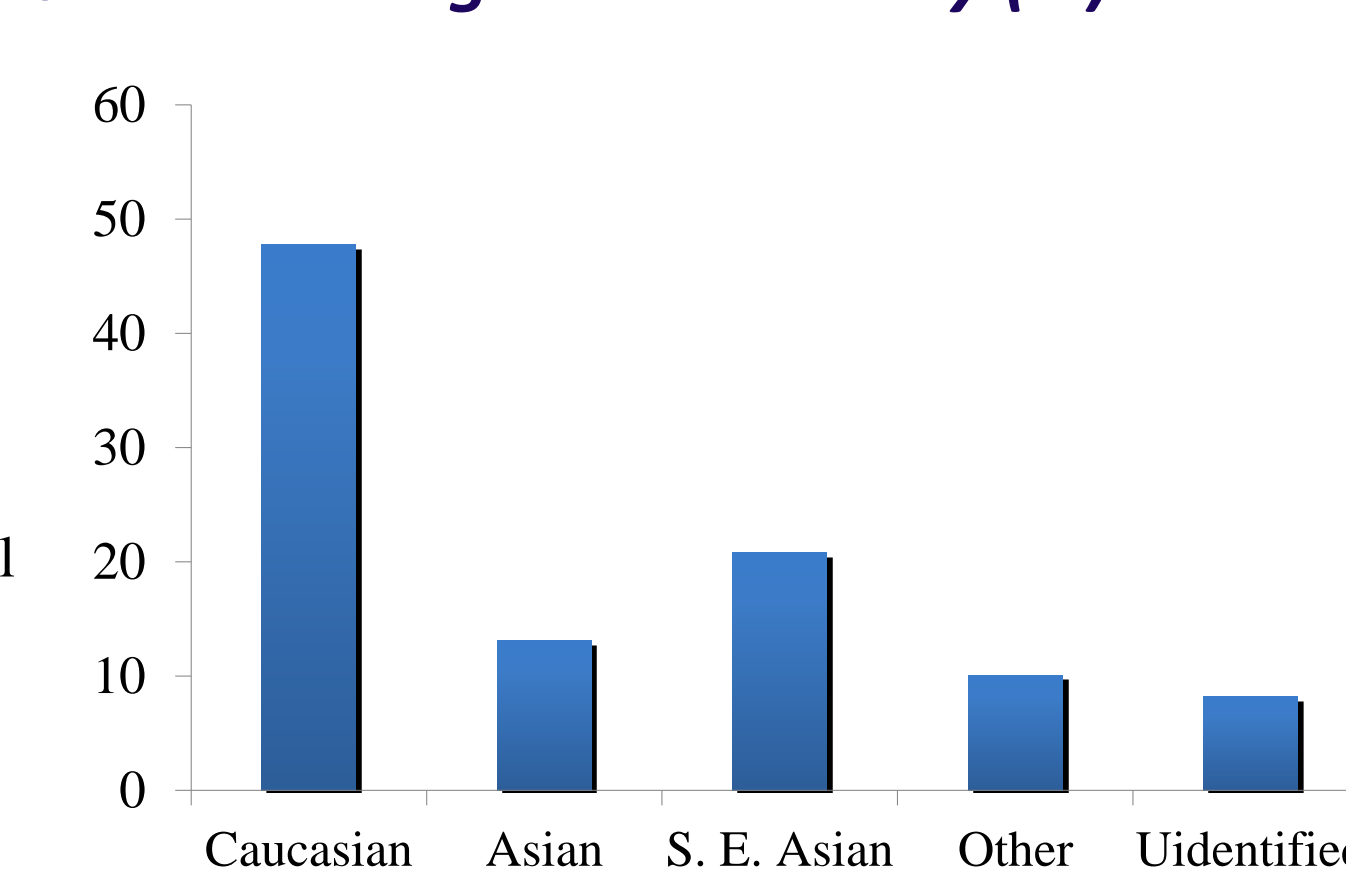
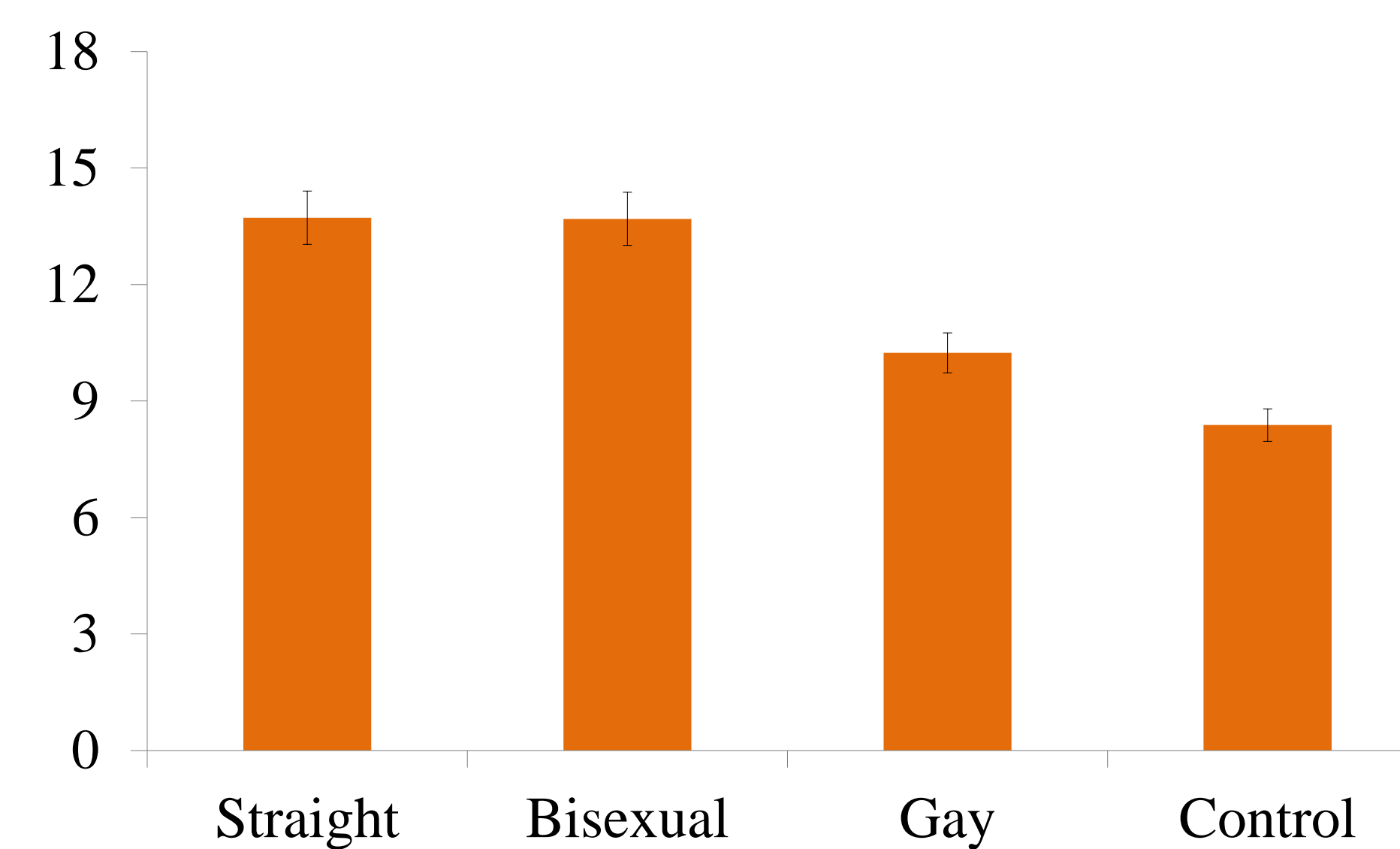


Figure 3. Ethnicity (%)

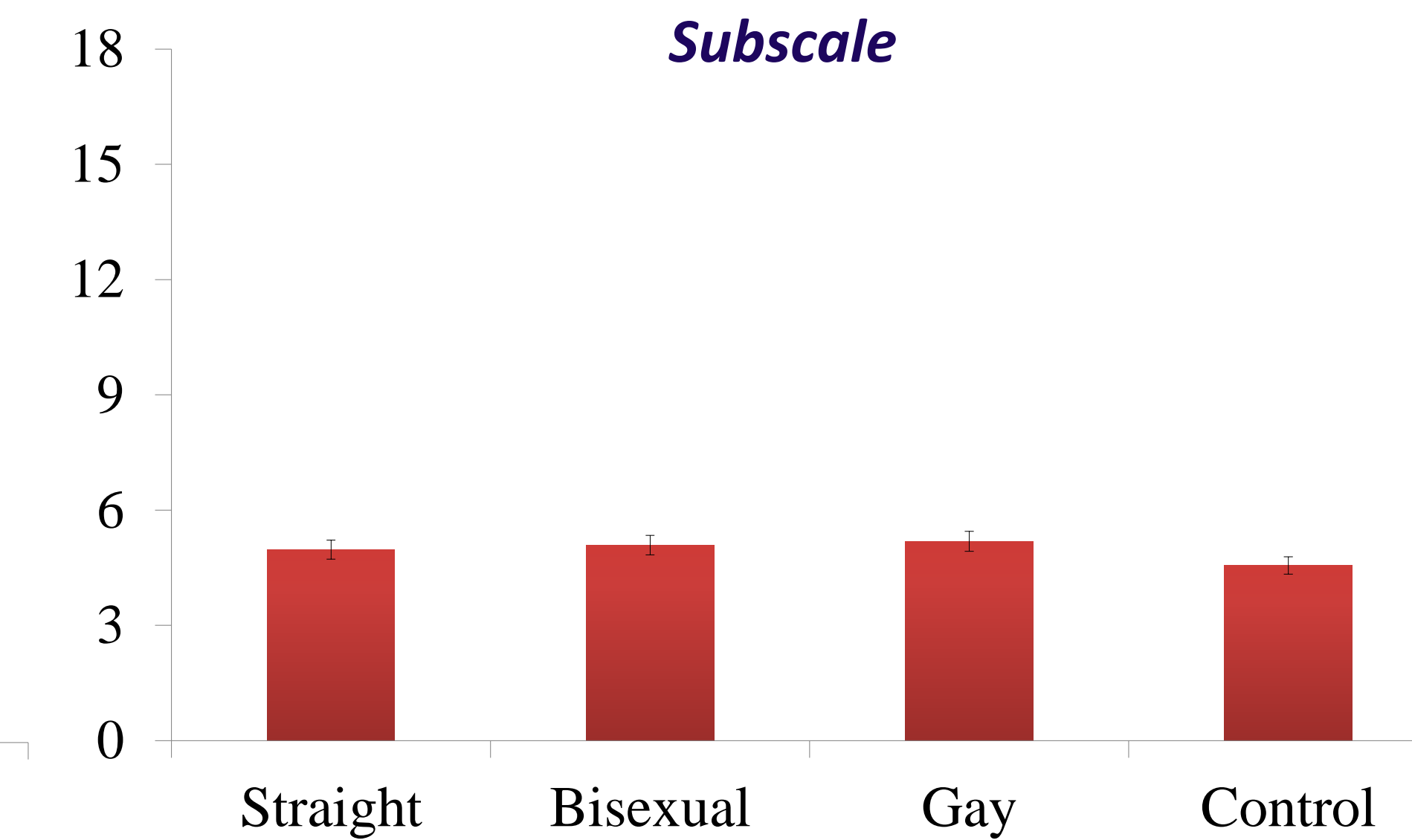


RESULTS

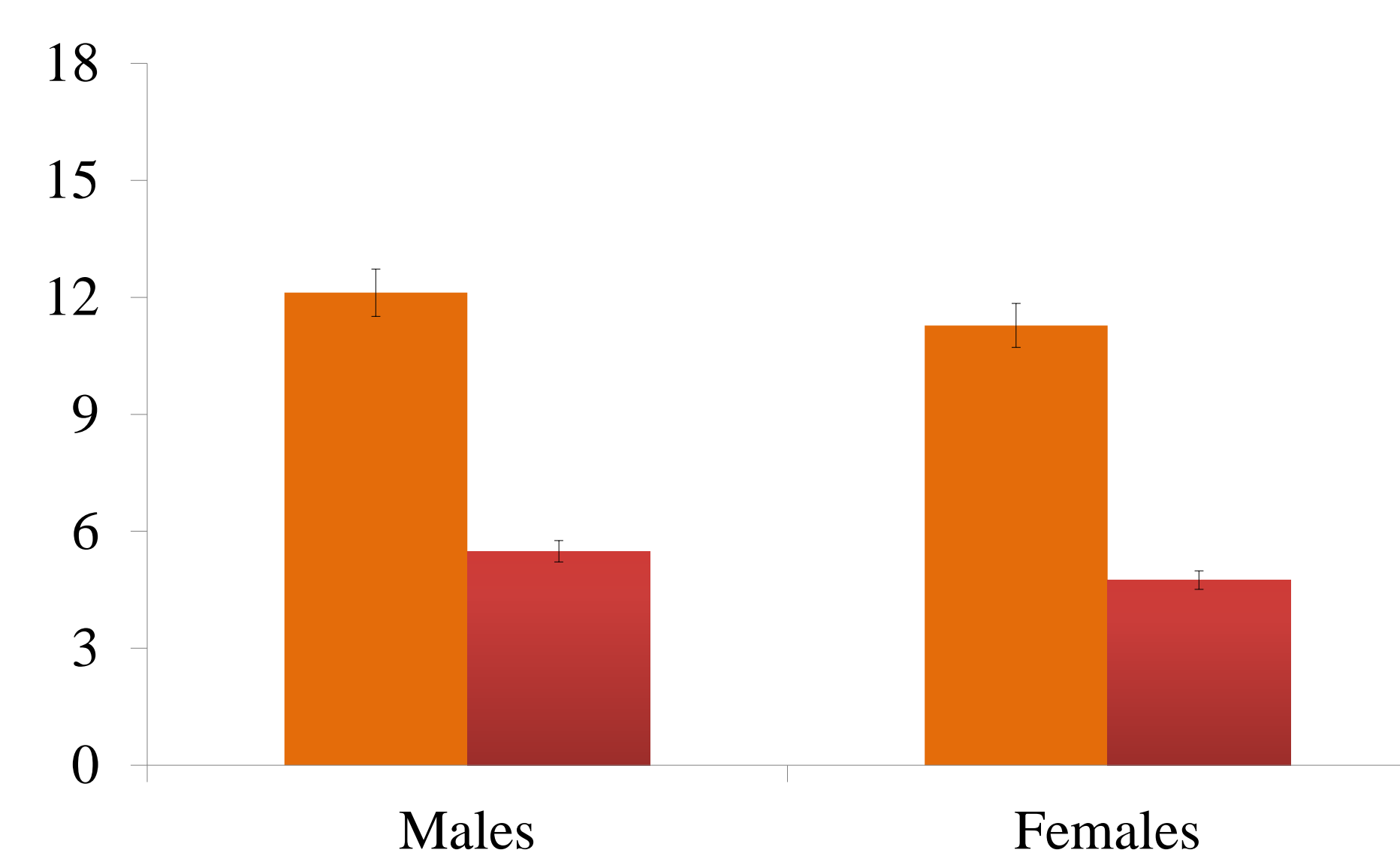
1. Victim Blame Subscale



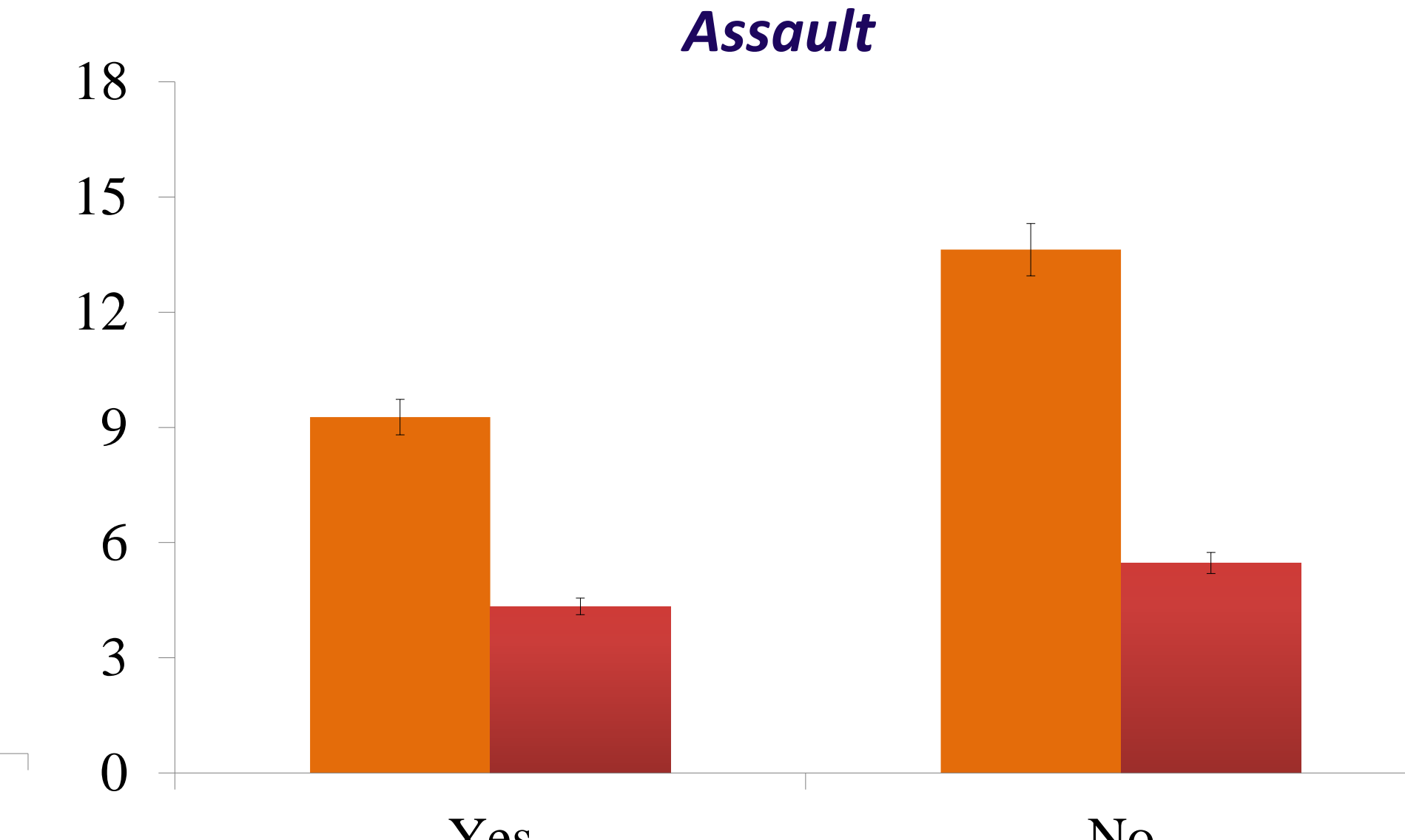
2. Reaction Toward the Perpetrator Subscale



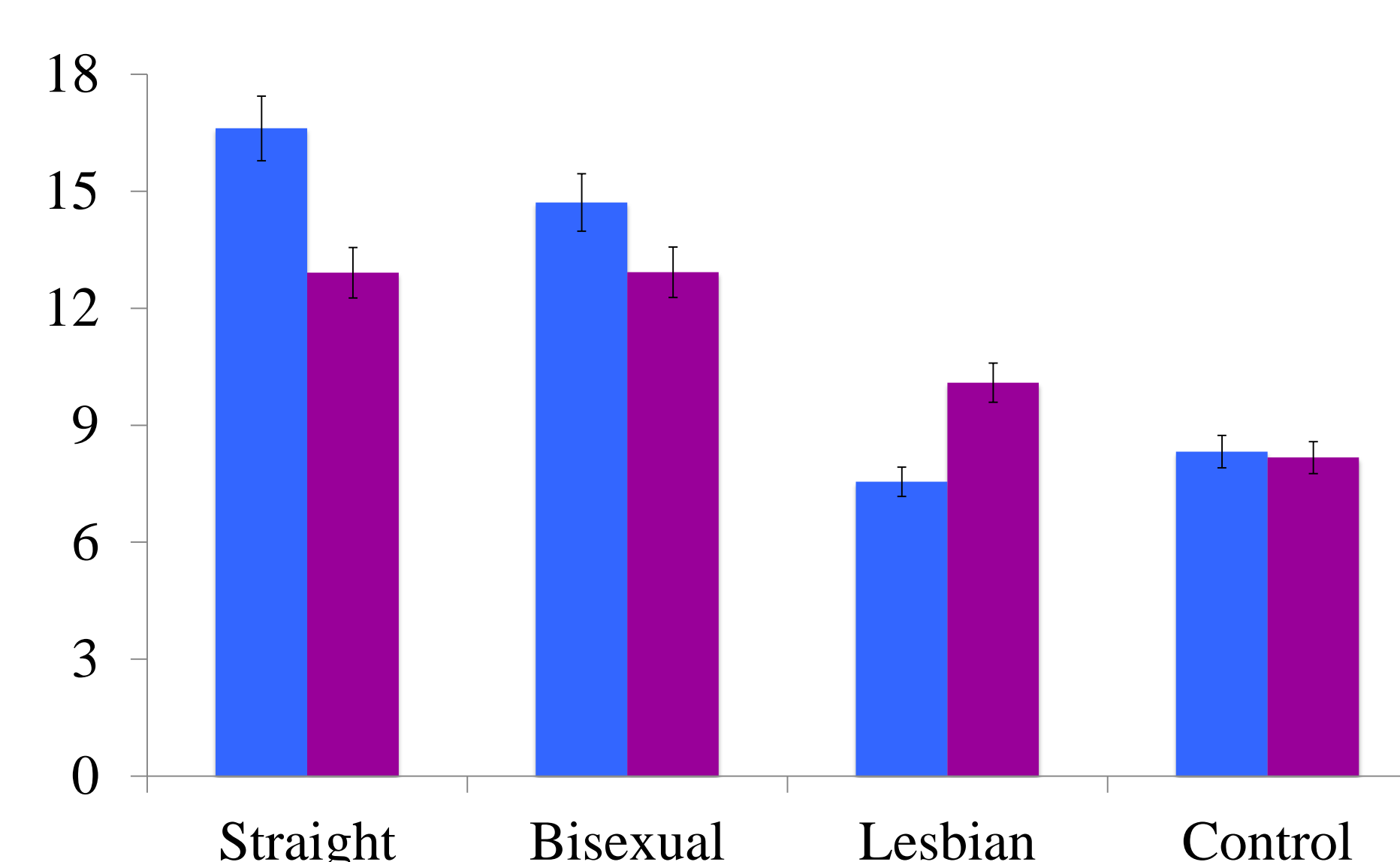
3. Gender Differences



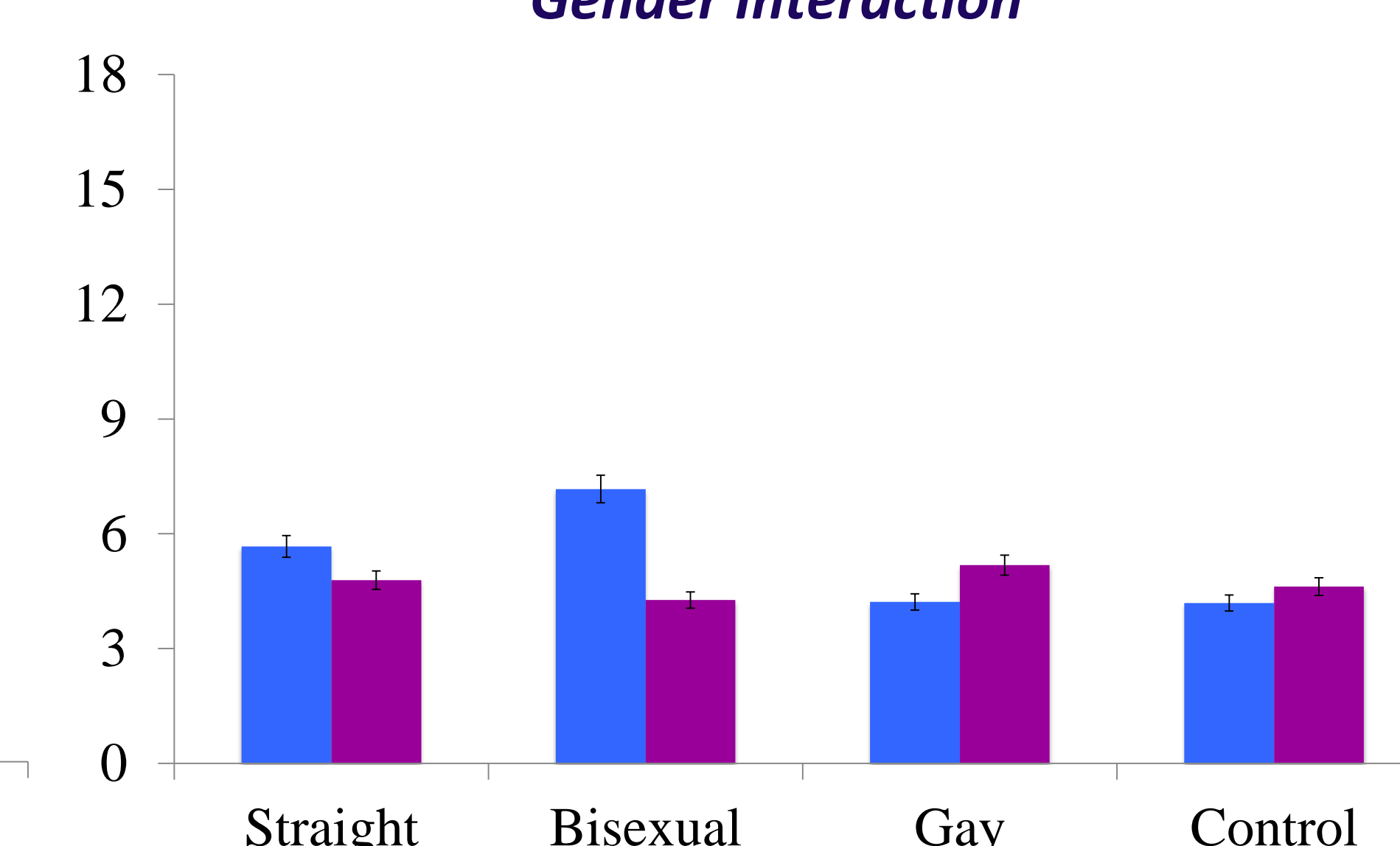
4. Friend/Family Member Disclosure of Assault



5. Victim Blame Subscale X Gender Interaction



6. Reaction toward Perpetrator Subscale X Gender Interaction



RESULTS

1. Victim Blame Subscale: Significant ANOVA

✓ Victim Blame: $F(3, 361) = 4.74, p = .003$; partial $\eta^2 = .038$

2. Reaction toward the Perpetrator Subscale: Non-significant ANOVA

✗ Reaction toward Perpetrator: $F(3, 361) = .342, p = .795$; partial $\eta^2 = .003$

3. Gender Differences: Non-significant ANOVA

✗ Victim Blame: $F(1, 344) = .312, p = .577$; partial $\eta^2 = .001$

✗ Reaction toward Perpetrator: $F(1, 344) = 1.725, p = .190$; partial $\eta^2 = .005$

4. Friend/family member that had disclosed sexual assault to participant: Significant ANOVA

✓ Victim Blame: $F(1, 345) = 12.828, p < .000$; partial $\eta^2 = .036$

✓ Reaction toward Perpetrator: $F(1, 345) = 6.074, p = .014$; partial $\eta^2 = .017$

5. & 6. Gender Differences x Condition Interaction: Non-significant ANOVA

✗ Victim Blame: $F(3, 337) = .793, p = .498$; partial $\eta^2 = .007$

✗ Reaction toward Perpetrator: $F(3, 337) = 2.601, p = .052$; partial $\eta^2 = .023$

DISCUSSION

1. Significant differences among sexual orientation groups:

- Straight and bisexual victims blamed significantly more than control condition

2. Significant differences between disclosure groups:

- Knowing a sexual assault victim significantly decreased victim blame and led to more negative perception of the perpetrator

3. No significant differences among conditions:

- Straight/bisexual/gay victim perceived similarly

4. No significant differences between genders:

- Male and female participants perceive victim and perpetrator similarly

LIMITATIONS

1. Convenience sample → reduces generalizability
2. Lack of LGBT participants
3. Ecological validity of vignette
4. Social desirability due to online survey