

Misinformation and Education Level on Discriminatory Behavior Toward Asian Victims During COVID-19

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Purpose of Study

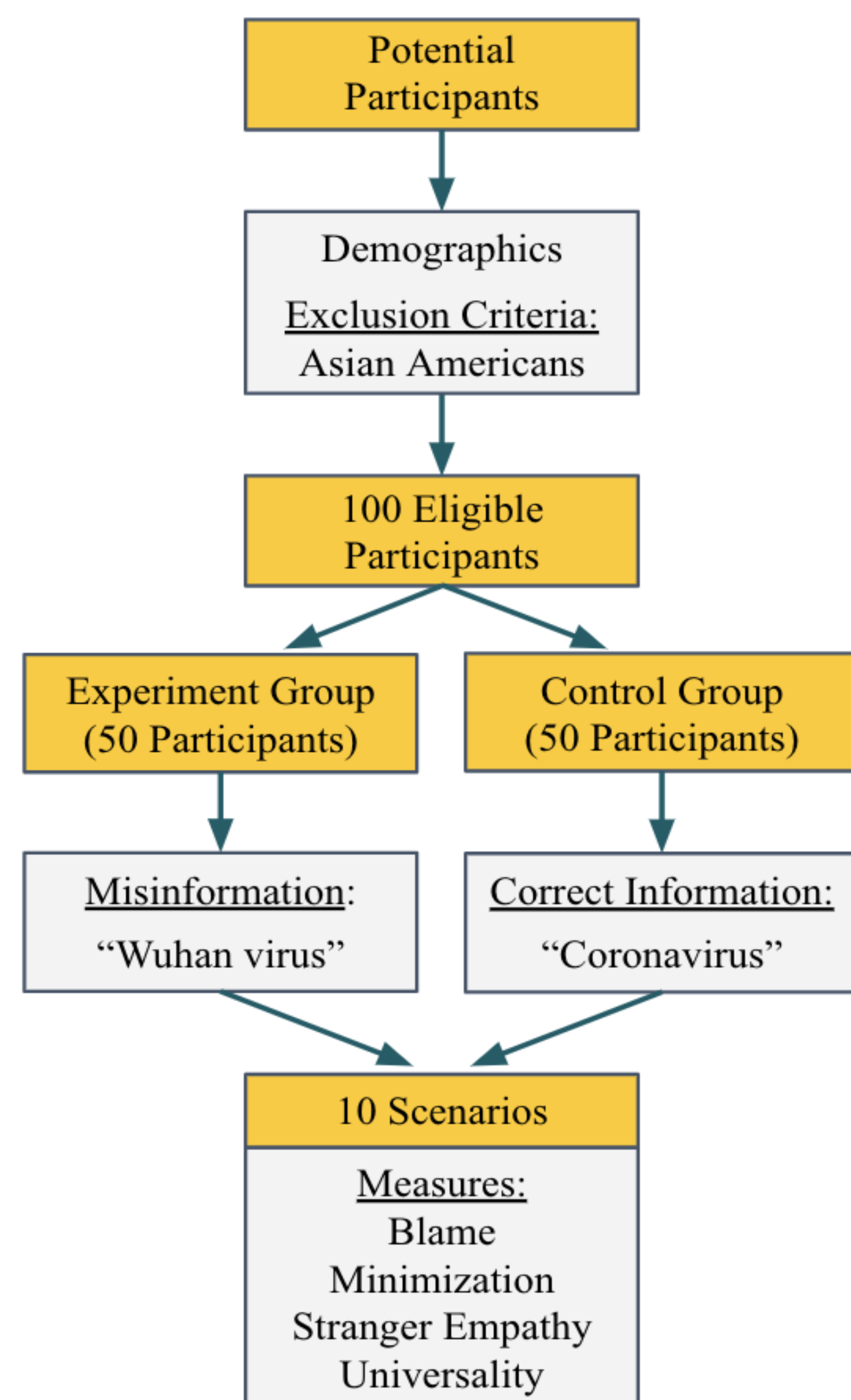
- Investigate how misinformation influences individuals' perceptions during the COVID-19 pandemic
- How individuals perceive prejudicial attitudes and discriminatory behavior against Chinese and Asian victims of hate crimes

Hypotheses

1. Participants in the experimental group will demonstrate higher levels of blame and minimization, but lower levels of stranger empathy and universality in comparison to the control group
2. Participants who score higher on the Right-Wing Authoritarian Scale will exhibit higher levels of blame, minimization, and lower levels of stranger empathy and universality

Method

- Participants were randomly assigned to one of two groups and completed a Qualtrics survey
- MANOVA conducted using SPSS



Higher Education and Misinformation Associated with Blame toward Asian Individuals during COVID-19.



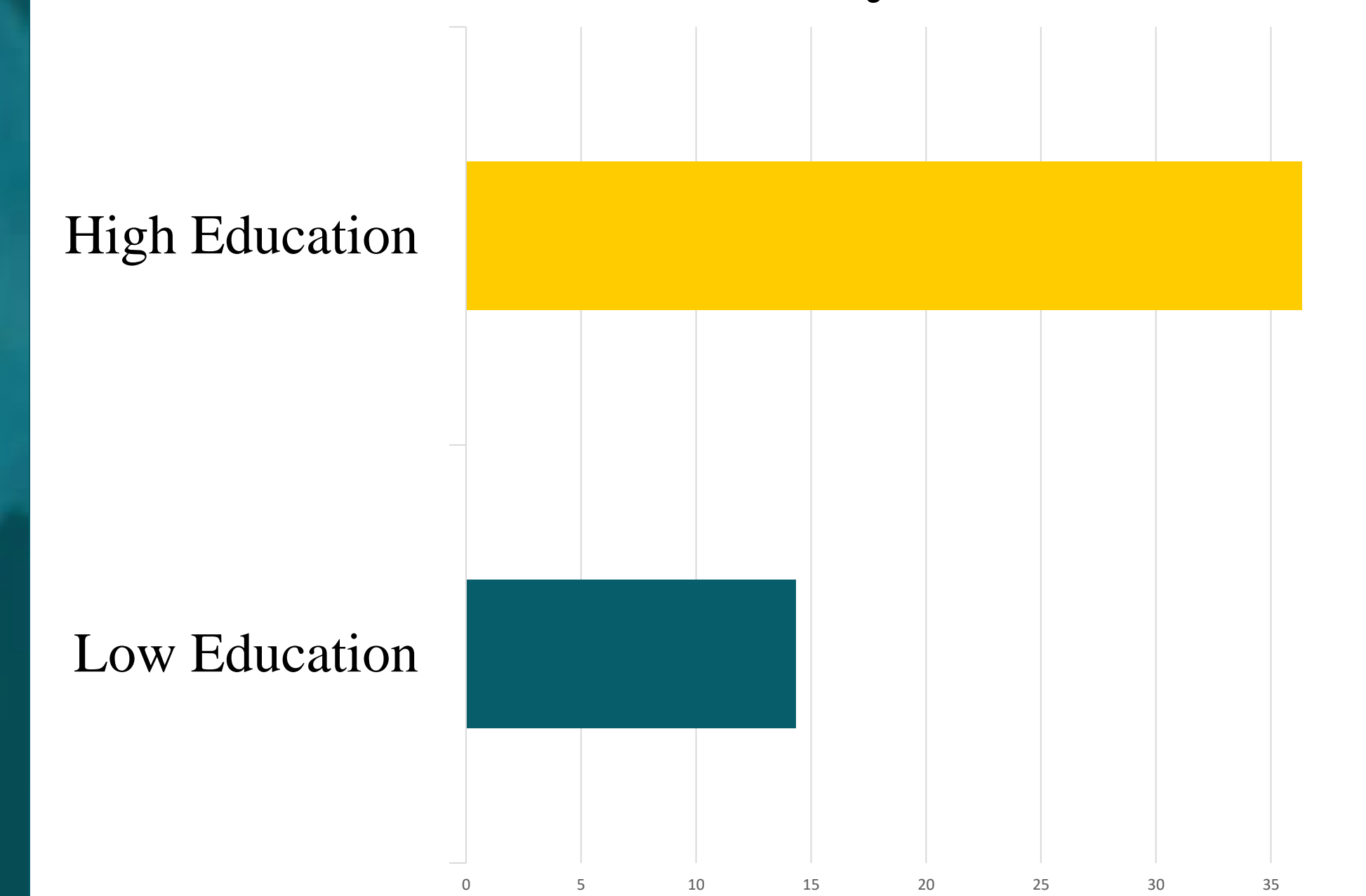
For more information on the study, please take a picture of this poster.

Department of Psychology

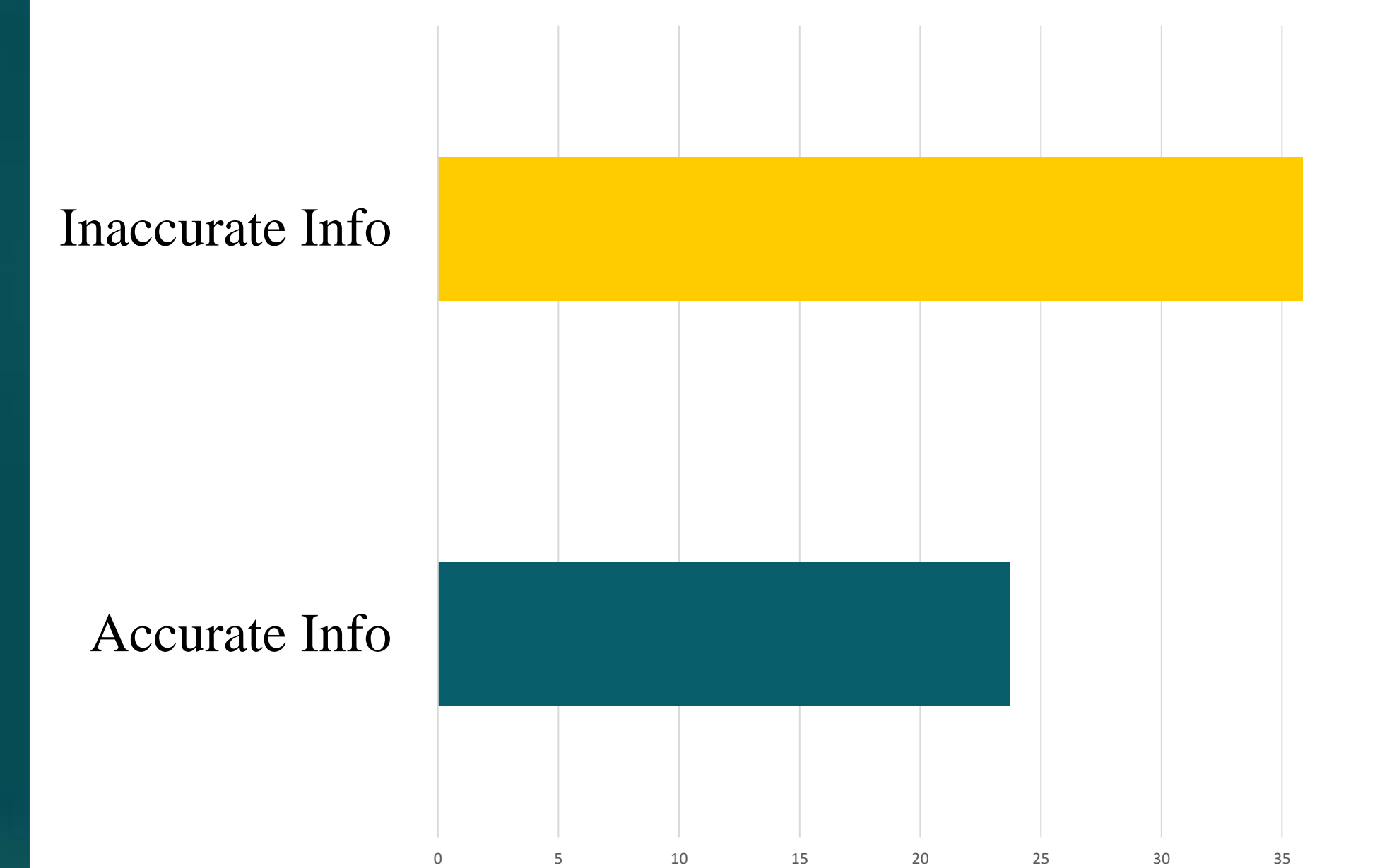
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Mean Blame Score by Education



Mean Blame Score by Info Accuracy



Results

1. Participants who received misinformation were more likely to blame Asian victims ($p < .001$).
2. Participants with an education level of bachelor's degree and higher were more likely to blame Asian victims ($p < .001$).

Discussion

- The manipulation on information accuracy was effective (see result 1)
- Inaccurate information is associated with a higher tendency to blame the Asian victims of hate crimes
- Blame is positively associated with education level
- Null findings on the association between misinformation and the other DVs (minimization, stranger empathy & universality)

Limitations & Future Directions

- Participants might not properly represent the general population due to small sample size
- Cannot ensure that all biases and attitudes towards Asians from the participants were eliminated from our study due to the self-report aspect of the survey
- Survey was limited to participants who have an MTurk account, which does not account for the larger population who are not users of Mturk
- Future research should be conducted on a bigger sample to increase external validity