Differences in Mental Health and Drinking Behaviors between Couples Concordant for Aggression versus Couples with No Aggression

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# Introduction

- o In an alcoholic treatment program for men, couples with more severe problems reported more accurately on high rates of concordant psychological aggression with women admitting to perpetrating more than men reported experiencing (Panuzio et al., 2006).
- o In another study in a substance use disorder (SUD) treatment program found that depression is a proximal factor to various forms of aggression, include psychological, from both partners (Chermack, 2008).
- o One study found that heavy drinking wives experienced more physical violence while husbands who were the only one to smoke marijuana experienced more physical violence from their wives (Cunradi et al., 2015).
- Hypothesis: Couples with concordant psychological aggression will have greater struggles with alcohol use, depression, and anxiety compared to couples concordant without psychological aggression.

## Methods

### <u>Participants</u>

- o N = 154 participants recruited from MTurk. Ages ranged from 22 to 42, with a mean of 36.43 (SD = 5.5).
- o 53.2% of participants were female and 46.8% were male.
- Relationship lengths ranged from 3 months to 161 months, with a mean of 69.48 (SD = 39.7).
  62.3% Caucasian, 3.3% Native American, 7.1% African American, 22.7% Asian, 0.7% Pacific Islander, 2.6% Multiethnic, & 1.3% Other.

### <u>Procedures</u>

- o Participants completed an online study through Mechanical Turk. Measures
- o Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ; Spitzer, Williams, Kroenke, 1999): participants were asked a series of questions on their symptoms of depression by rating items such as "feeling down, depressed, or hopeless" and "poor appetite or overeating" by if they have experienced in the past two weeks not at all, several days, more than half the days, and nearly every day.
- o Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7; Spitzer, Kroenke, Williams, Lowe B., 2006): participants were asked to rate the frequency of their symptoms of anxiety from the past two weeks in questions asking them if they have "trouble relaxing" and "feeling afraid as if something awful might happen" on a scale of not at all, several days, more than half the days, and nearly everyday.
- o Quanity Frequency Measure (QFHDE; Dimeffet. al, 1999): participants were asked about their frequency of drinking such as

# Results Discussion References