

Attitudes toward Vegetarianism and Hunting in a Northern Town



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Marquette, MI, pop. 20,640

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Introduction



Vegetarianism is becoming more common in American society. Therefore, attitudes toward vegetarianism (ATV) may be improving.

ATV at a large Southeastern university were primarily positive, although females had more positive ATV than males (Chin, Fisak, & Sims, 2002).

There are likely to be regional differences in ATV due to variations in exposure to diversity. Another factor that may affect ATV is one's attitude toward hunting; people with positive attitudes toward hunting should have more negative attitudes toward vegetarianism.

The current study examines ATV in Marquette, MI, a remote town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP).

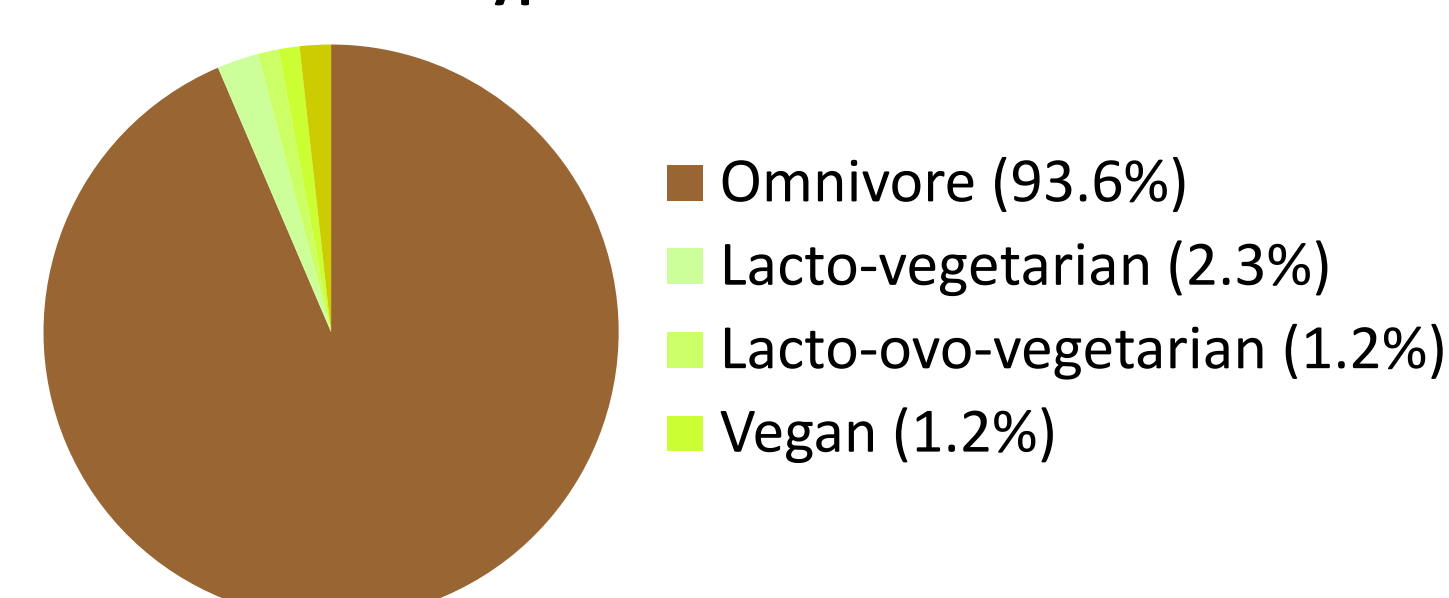
92.2% of Marquette's population of 20,640 is Caucasian (U.S. Census Bureau, 2008).

Hunting is a very popular activity in the UP. Michigan ranked 16th in the US in terms of percent of residents (9.24%) who reported hunting in 2006 (U.S. Dept of the Interior, 2006, Table 38). Although the UP represents only 3.08% of Michigan's population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2008), 8.36% of the deer "harvested" in Michigan were from the UP, and 15.55% of deer hunters in Michigan hunted in the UP (MI DNR, 2008, Table 3).

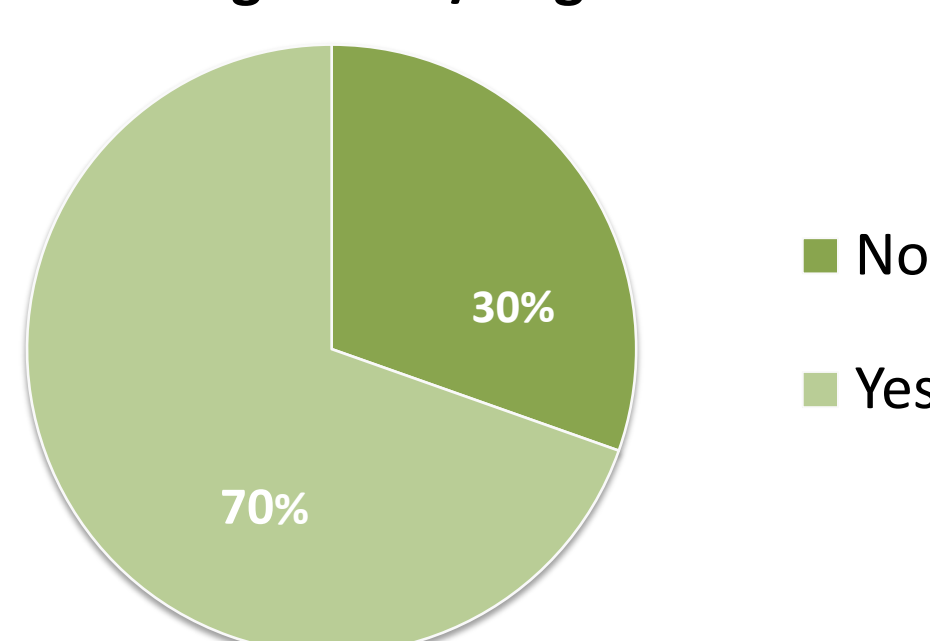
Participants

171 (79 female, 92 male) psychology students participated (mean age = 20.55 years; range = 18 – 49 years). Most were Caucasian (91.8%), omnivorous, had a friend or family member who was vegetarian or vegan, and did not currently hunt.

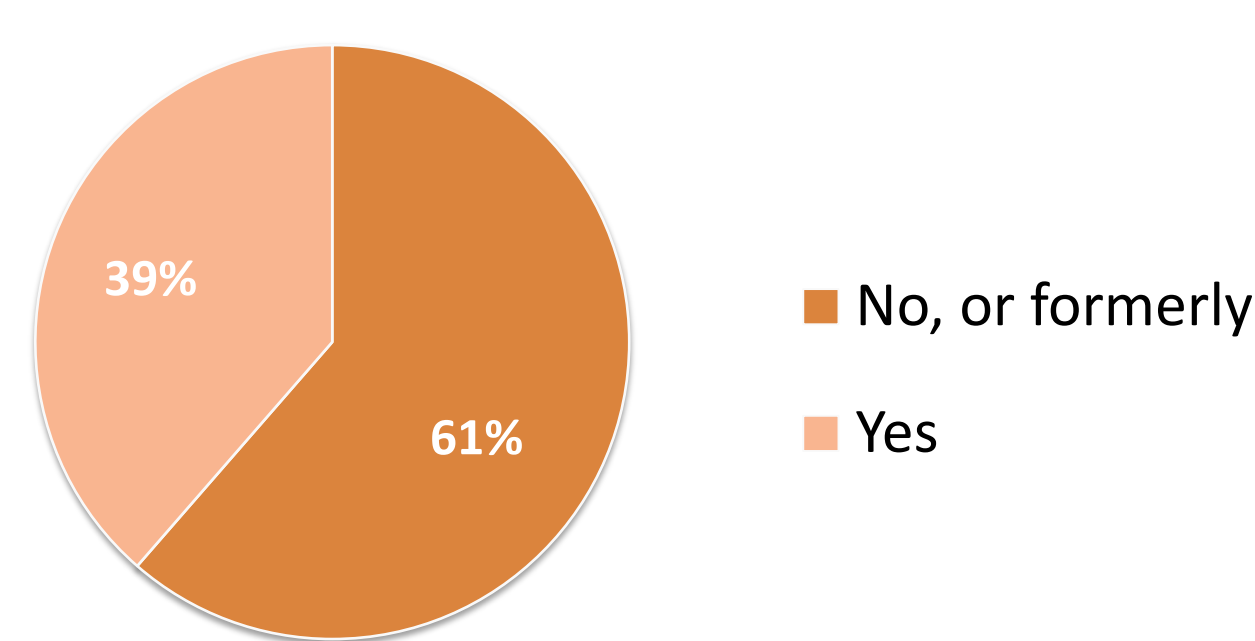
Type of Diet



Friend or family member who is vegetarian/vegan?



Hunting Status



Procedure

Participants filled out the Attitudes toward Vegetarianism Scale (ATVS; Chin et al., 2002), which consists of 21 questions on a 7-point Likert-type scale (e.g., "Vegetarians preach too much about their beliefs and eating habits," "You can eat a balanced diet without meat").

A composite ATV score was calculated by adding responses for all ATVS questions: possible range = 21 (positive ATV) – 147 (negative ATV).

Attitudes toward hunting (ATH) were assessed with four questions on a 7-point Likert-type scale (e.g., "Hunting is an important national pastime," "Hunting is inhumane").

A composite ATH score was calculated by adding responses for all ATH questions: possible range = 4 (positive ATH) – 28 (negative ATH).

Results

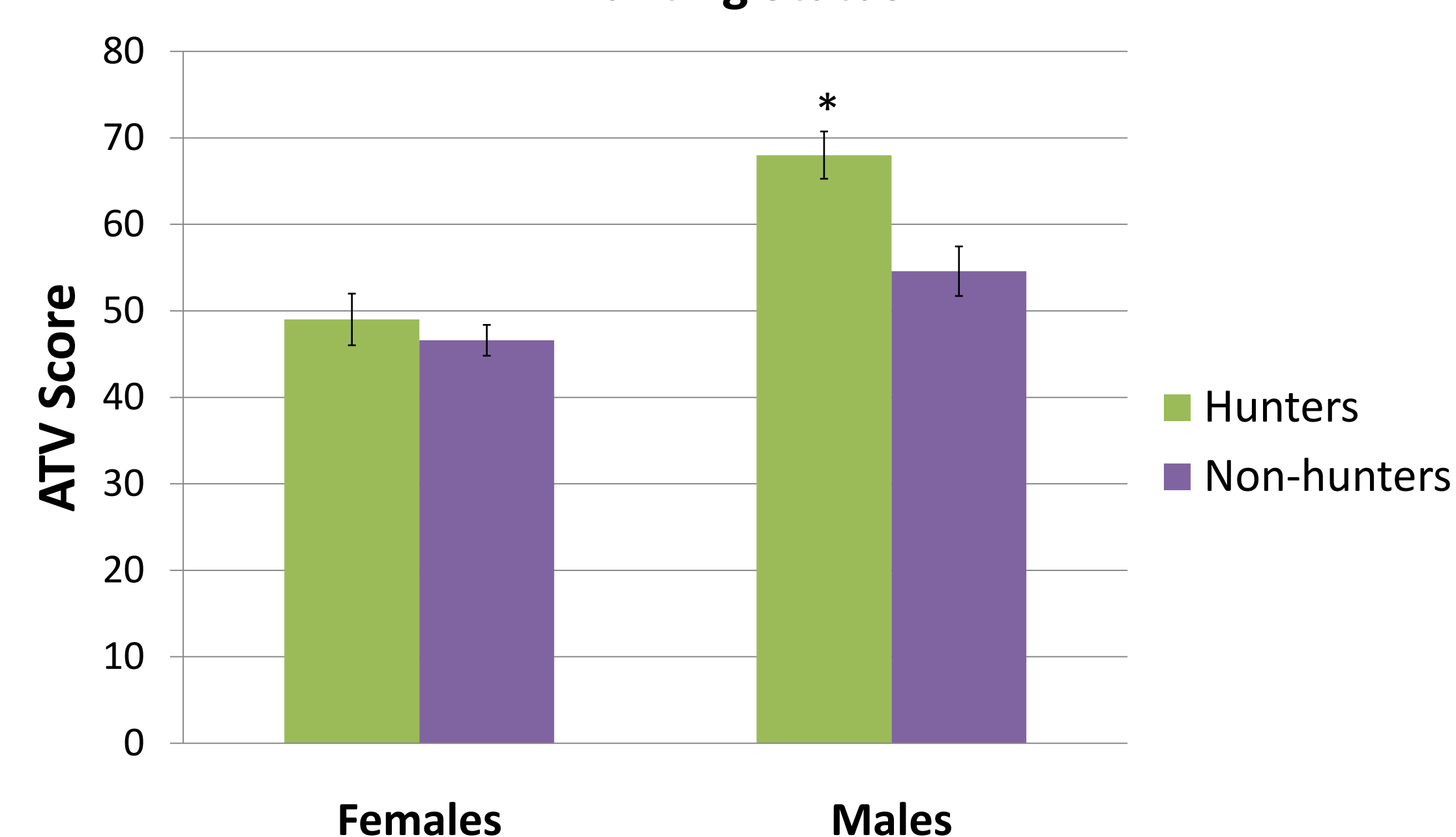
ATV and ATH showed a moderate negative correlation, $r^2(169) = 0.21$, $p < 0.01$.

A 2 (Sex) x 2 (Hunting Status) ANOVA was performed on the ATV score. There was a significant Sex x Hunting Status interaction, $F(1, 167) = 4.41$, $p = 0.04$.

A follow-up Tukey HSD test indicated that ATV scores for Male Hunters ($M = 68.56$, $sd = 19.32$) were significantly more negative than those of any of the other groups.

The ATV scores for the remaining three groups did not differ significantly from each other: Male Non-hunters [$M = 53.83$, $sd = 18.57$], Female Hunters [$M = 49.00$, $sd = 11.96$], Female Non-hunters [$M = 46.59$, $sd = 14.17$].

Attitudes toward Vegetarianism, by Sex and Hunting Status



Poster presented at the 21st Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, May 2009, San Francisco, CA. <http://psychology.nmu.edu/~msen/lab/>

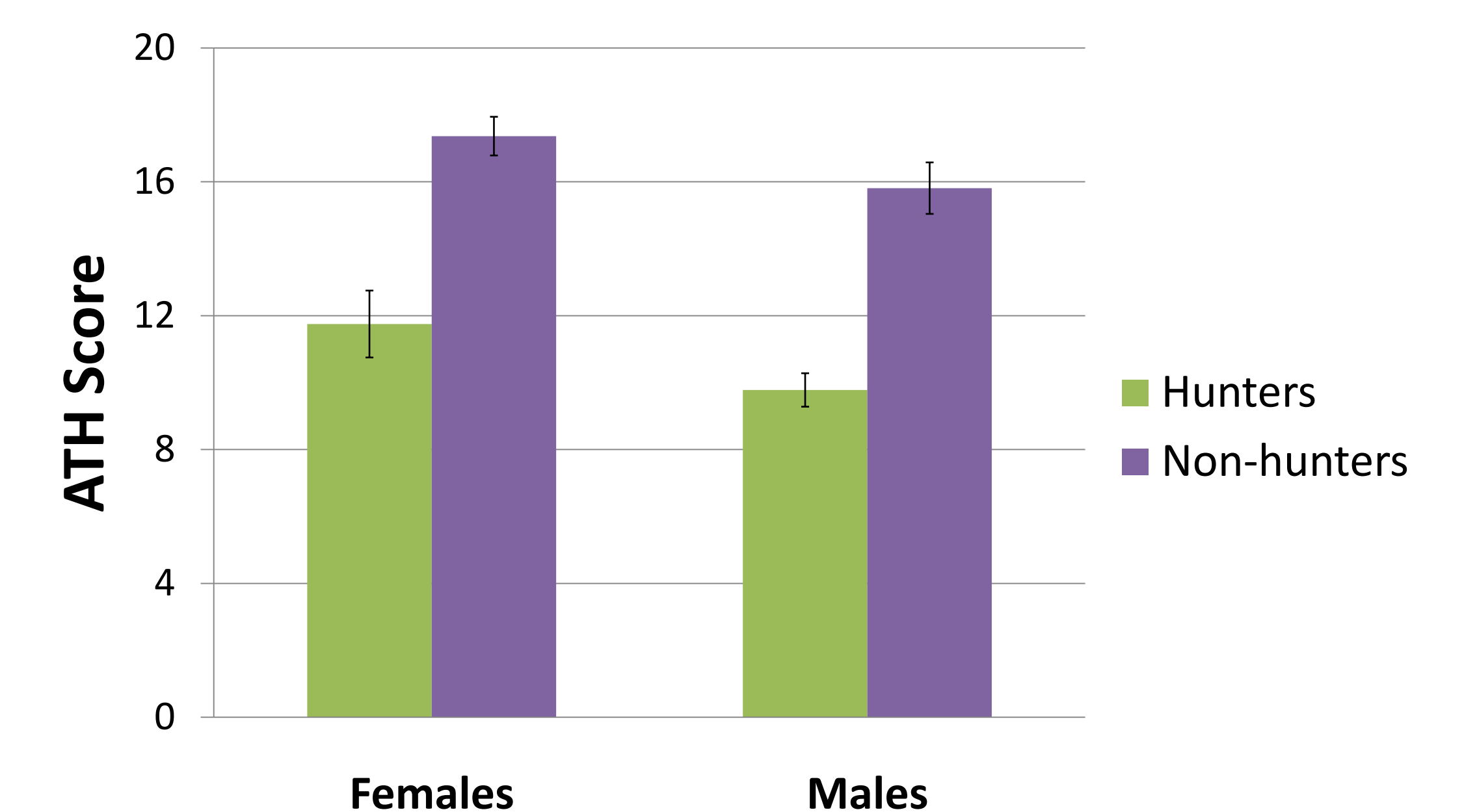
Results, cont'd

A 2 (Sex) x 2 (Hunting Status) ANOVA was performed on the ATH score. There were main effects of both Sex $F(1, 167) = 5.35$, $p = 0.02$ and Hunting Status, $F(1, 167) = 58.31$, $p < 0.01$.

Males ($M = 12.53$, $sd = 5.20$) had significantly more positive ATH than did Females ($M = 16.23$, $sd = 5.00$).

Hunters ($M = 10.26$, $sd = 3.72$) had significantly more positive ATH than did Non-hunters ($M = 16.74$, $sd = 4.80$).

Attitudes toward Hunting, by Sex and Hunting Status



Conclusions

As expected, ATV and ATH are negatively correlated.

In addition, ATV are related to both sex and whether one is a hunter, with male hunters having significantly more negative ATV than other groups.

Chin et al. (2002) found a similar effect of sex, with ATV scores ($M_{female} = 50.8$; $M_{male} = 56.7$) that appear slightly more negative than scores from the UP in 2009.

This could be due to time (2002 vs. 2009) or location (Marquette vs. Southeastern US).

ATH vary by both sex and hunting status.

Future research will examine ATV and ATH in UP residents (other than college students) and in other areas of the country that have less focus on hunting.

References

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