



**Northumbria  
University**  
NEWCASTLE



# The indirect impacts of hate crime

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## **Collaborators**

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# The impacts of hate crime

- **Direct** victims can experience severe and long-lasting impacts including anxiety, depression, PTSD (e.g., Herek et al., 1997; 1999; 2002)
- **Assumed** to send messages of intolerance to other members of the identity group (Iganski, 2001)
- These indirect effects of hate crime have resulted in the use of **automatic sentence uplifts** for crimes motivated by hate in the UK and elsewhere:
  - Attempted robbery = 5 years imprisonment
  - Attempted robbery which was racially aggravated = 6 years imprisonment
- But critics argue that they should not be treated differently (e.g., Hurd, 2001)

## **Research aim: what are the indirect impacts of hate crime?**

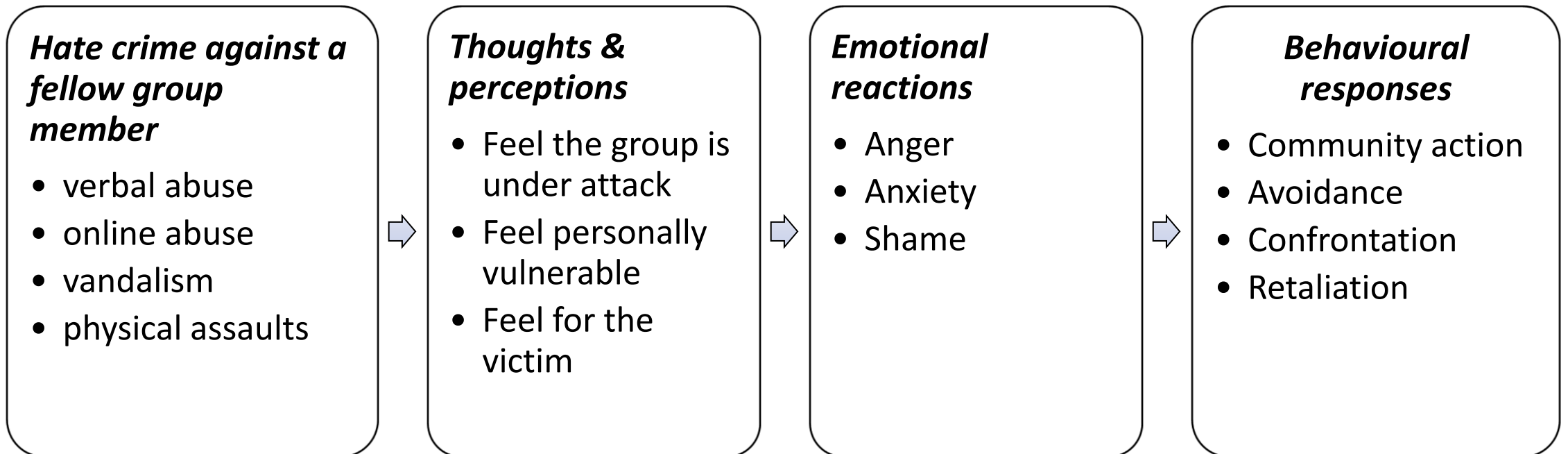
1. How do they compare with non-hate crimes?
2. What are the reactions to hate crime victims?
3. What criminal justice intervention(s) should be used to respond to hate crimes?

# The theory: the importance of groups

- We all have an innate *need to belong* for safety and protection (Baumeister, 1995)
- Social identity theory (Tajfel & Turner, 1979)
  - We categorise ourselves with similar others to form social groups/communities
  - This social identity has many psychological benefits:
    - Sense of belonging
    - Purpose
    - Self-esteem
- Intergroup emotions theory (Mackie et al., 2009)
  - We (often) appraise contexts as group members – not individuals – and think, feel, and react as a typical group member
  - What happens to the group is felt and responded to as if it were happening to us directly
  - When attacked or threatened, respond with many different emotions and behaviours

# Researching the indirect impacts of hate crime

Continuing on from Sussex Hate Crime Project (2013-2018), we've conducted > 40 studies with over 6000 participants, including cross-sectional surveys, longitudinal surveys, experiments, and interviews



# Example experimental primes



## Man's leg broken in sickening attack

**A 26-year-old man, Mark Hodgson, was followed and then assaulted by a group of men in what police have described as a sickening unprovoked attack in a case of mistaken identity.**

During the attack the victim was accosted by the group as he walked along Kings Road around 11.15pm on Thursday night. The victim was verbally abused before the attackers began beating and kicking him to the ground.

The victim suffered a cut to his head and a broken leg.

Investigators say members of the public intervened and called paramedics and police to the scene.

The victim was taken to a nearby hospital where he is awaiting surgery.

Speaking at the hospital, **Mr Hodgson's husband** said: "Mark wasn't causing any problems, he was just walking down the street when the men started shouting about him owing them money and then just attacked him. He's got a broken left leg and a cut eye which has been stitched.

"The surgeon said he must have an operation on his leg today."

Chief Supt Andy Bickley said that the assault was a clear case of mistaken identity – the group of men were plainly targeting someone other than Mr Hodgson. He added that such events cause great concern to the public and the police would robustly deal with the offenders. "I have committed a team of specialist detectives, overseen by a senior officer, to investigate this crime and bring the offenders before the courts."

Anyone with information about the incident should call the police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 quoting crime reference number EC/12/1935.



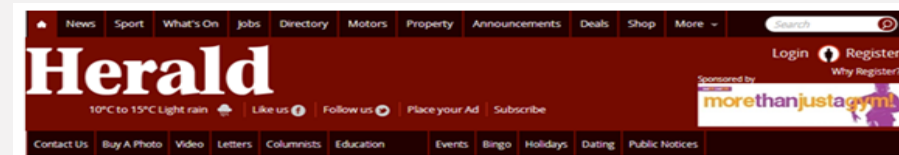
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## Man's leg broken in sickening homophobic hate attack

**A 26-year-old man, Mark Hodgson, was followed and then assaulted by a group of men in what police have described as a sickening unprovoked homophobic hate attack.**

During the attack the victim was accosted by the group as he walked along Kings Road around 11.15pm on Thursday night. The victim was verbally abused before the attackers began beating and kicking him to the ground.

The victim suffered a cut to his head and a broken leg.

Investigators say members of the public intervened and called paramedics and police to the scene.

The victim was taken to a nearby hospital where he is awaiting surgery.

Speaking at the hospital, **Mr Hodgson's husband** said: "Mark wasn't causing any problems, he was just walking down the street when the men called him a sick queer and a batty boy and attacked him just because he's gay. He's got a broken left leg and a cut eye which has been stitched.

"The surgeon said he must have an operation on his leg today."

Chief Supt Andy Bickley said the assault was clearly hate motivated – the men were plainly homophobic toward Mr Hodgson. He added that such events cause great concern to the public and the police would robustly deal with the offenders. "I have committed a team of specialist detectives, overseen by a senior officer, to investigate this hate crime and bring the offenders before the courts."

Anyone with information about the incident should call the police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 quoting crime reference number EC/12/1935.



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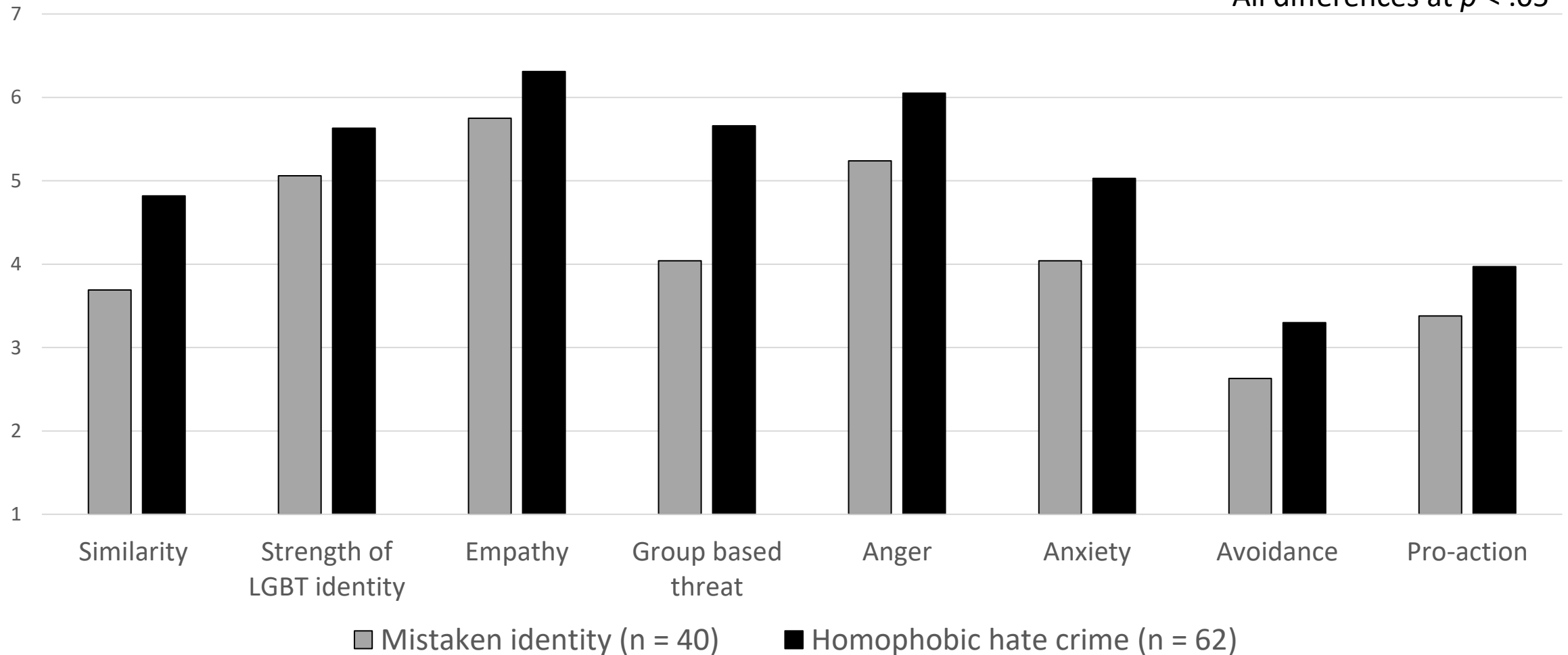
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# Hate crimes hurt more

Study 2, Paterson et al. (2019), *BJSP*

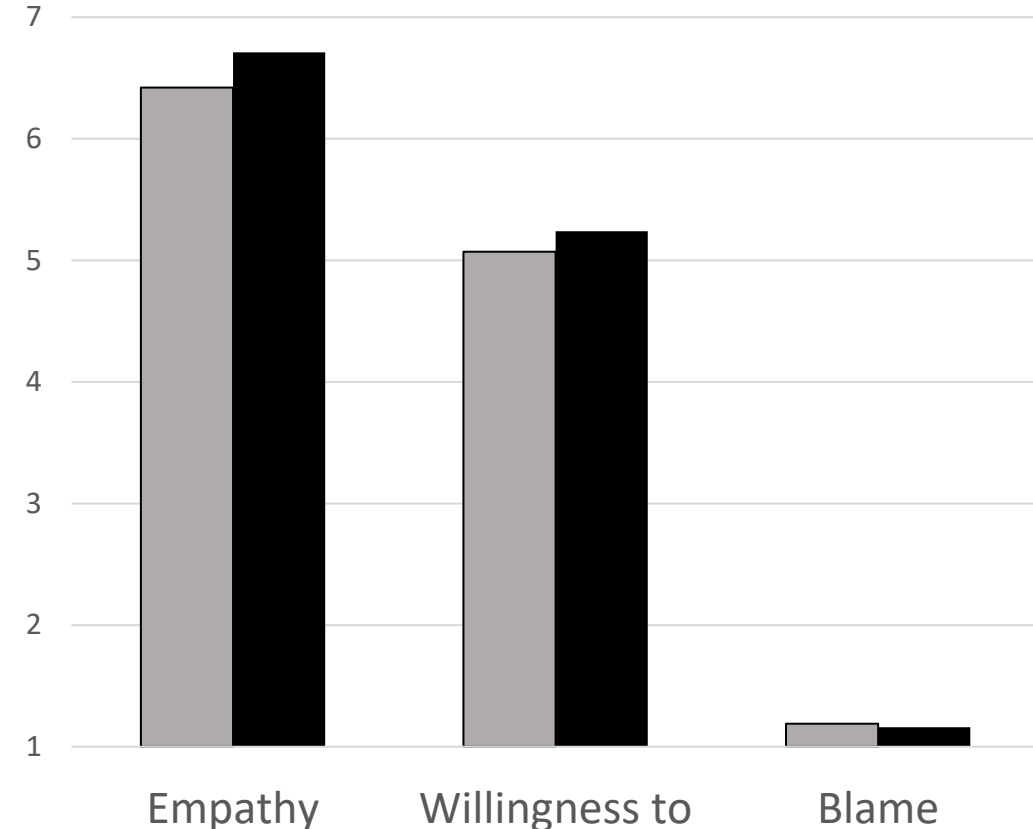
These show the unique impacts of the hate motivation, above and beyond sharing an identity with the victim

All differences at  $p < .05$



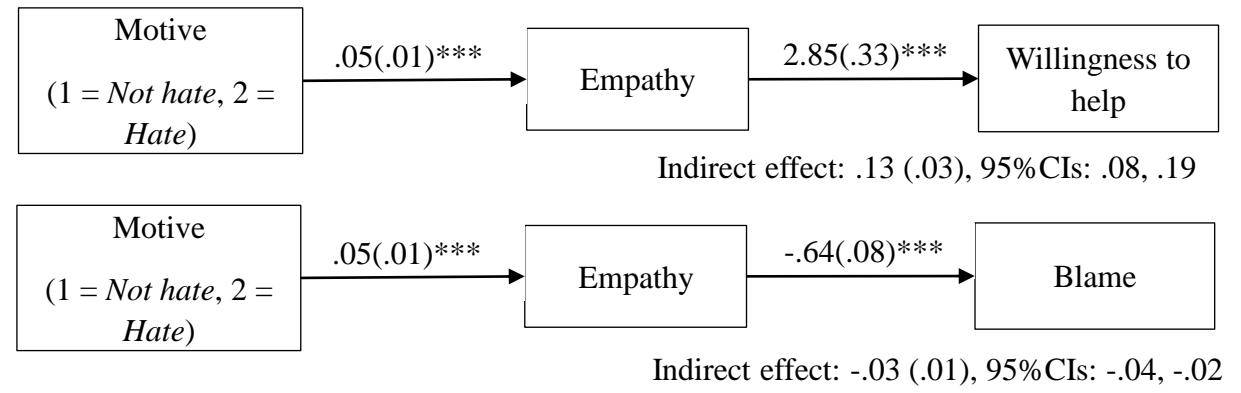
# Reactions to hate crime victims

Study 2, Paterson et al. (2023) *JIV*



All differences at  $p < .05$

■ Non-hate (n = 326)



More empathy is given to hate crime victims, which leads to more help and less blame

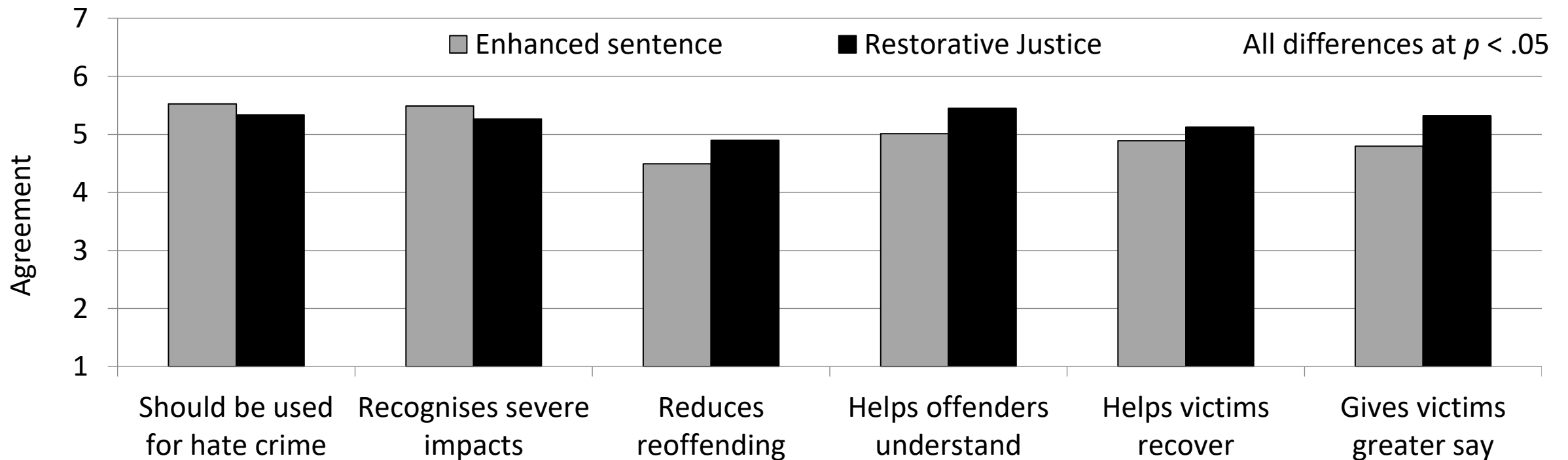
# Restorative justice for hate crimes

Study 1, Walters et al., (2020), *BJC*

**Restorative Justice (RJ)**– parties collectively resolve how to deal with the aftermath of the offence and its implications (Marshall, 1999). Traditionally has been met with scepticism and policy resistance.

We asked 589 LGBT+ people if they would prefer RJ or an enhanced sentence for a hate crime (forced choice):

**61% RJ vs. 39% enhanced sentencing**





# Applications

Raise awareness

Increase reporting

Increase recording

Improve responses

BBC Sign in News Sport Weather iPlayer Sounds

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How hate crime affects a whole community

By Rupert Brown, Mark Walters & Jenny Paterson  
University of Sussex

© 12 January 2018

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Community Impact Statements and their use in Hate Crime cases

15 August 2018 | Legal Guidance, Hate crime



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# Summary

- Hate crimes have unique and far-reaching impacts on community members
- They can increase feelings of threat, anger, anxiety, and shame
- Leading to avoidance, as well as community action
- Hate crime victims tend to receive more empathy and help, and less blame
- Community perceptions of restorative justice tend to be relatively positive

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