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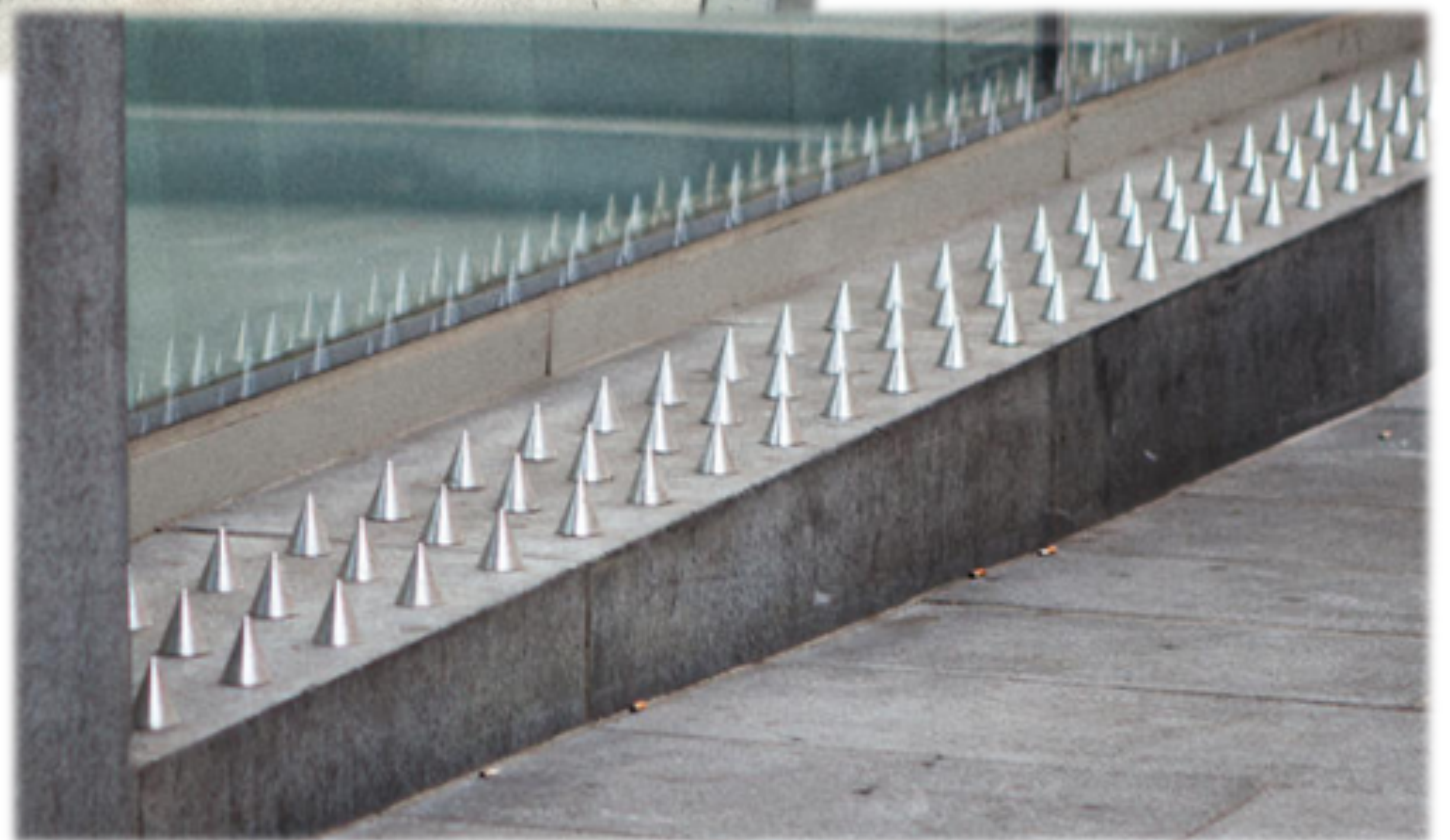
Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)



# Are You Enlightened?

The Impact of the Enlightenment Effect on the Fundamental Attribution Error in In-Group Evaluations of Homelessness









DAYTONA BEACH CRACKDOWN

## Police halt homeless feedings in Daytona Beach park

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## 'Industrial' sounds blast homeless from S.F. auditorium steps

MAY 2, 2012 | 11:11 AM

SUNDAY APR. 10, 2016

ALL SECTIONS NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS CLASSIFIED OBITUARIES ENTERTAINMENT TRAVEL

79°



## Forget free speech; Seminole residents beg for anti-begging laws



Opinion

Managers of San Francisco's Bill Graham Civic Auditorium  
rain saws, motorcycles and jackhammers overnight to rid the

uns continually from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. through outdoor  
Chronicle. The paper [reported](#) that at least one building

### Related



Seminole residents ask county to  
crack down on panhandlers

Jan. 18, 2016

*“...Some of these residents are so angry, they spent Christmas Eve standing on street corners themselves, urging drivers not to donate.”*



# How Do the Homeless See Each Other?

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*In-group prejudice*: prejudice against one's own group

Has been shown to occur among racial and ethnic minorities (K.B. Clark, and Clark, 1947; Correll, Park, Judd, & Wittenbrink, 2002; Davis, 2005)

## Two Questions:

Do the homeless exhibit in-group prejudice?

If so, what might reduce it?



# *What Bias?*

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The *fundamental attribution error* (FAE):

When explaining behavior, personality > situation



Warmth:

How do you *feel* about the homeless?



# What Might Reduce This Bias?

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## Education:

- May reduce prejudice against the homeless (Mistry, Brown, Chow, & Collins, 2012; Wisheart, Whatley, & Brihl, 2013)
- BUT other research may indicate that education may be ineffective (Wagner & Zick, 1995; Horne, Powell, Hummel, & Holyoak, 2015)





# What Might Reduce This Bias?

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The *enlightenment effect*: The phenomenon in which learning about a psychological mechanism reduces its power (Gergen, 1973)

- May reduce FAE (Chen, Froehle, & Morran, 1997; Stalder, 2012).
- Research still inconclusive



# Hypotheses

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The homeless population will feel less warmly toward their own group (the homeless) than toward other groups.

Enlightenment > education at reducing the FAE.



# Recruiting Participants

The Neighborhood Center – DeLand

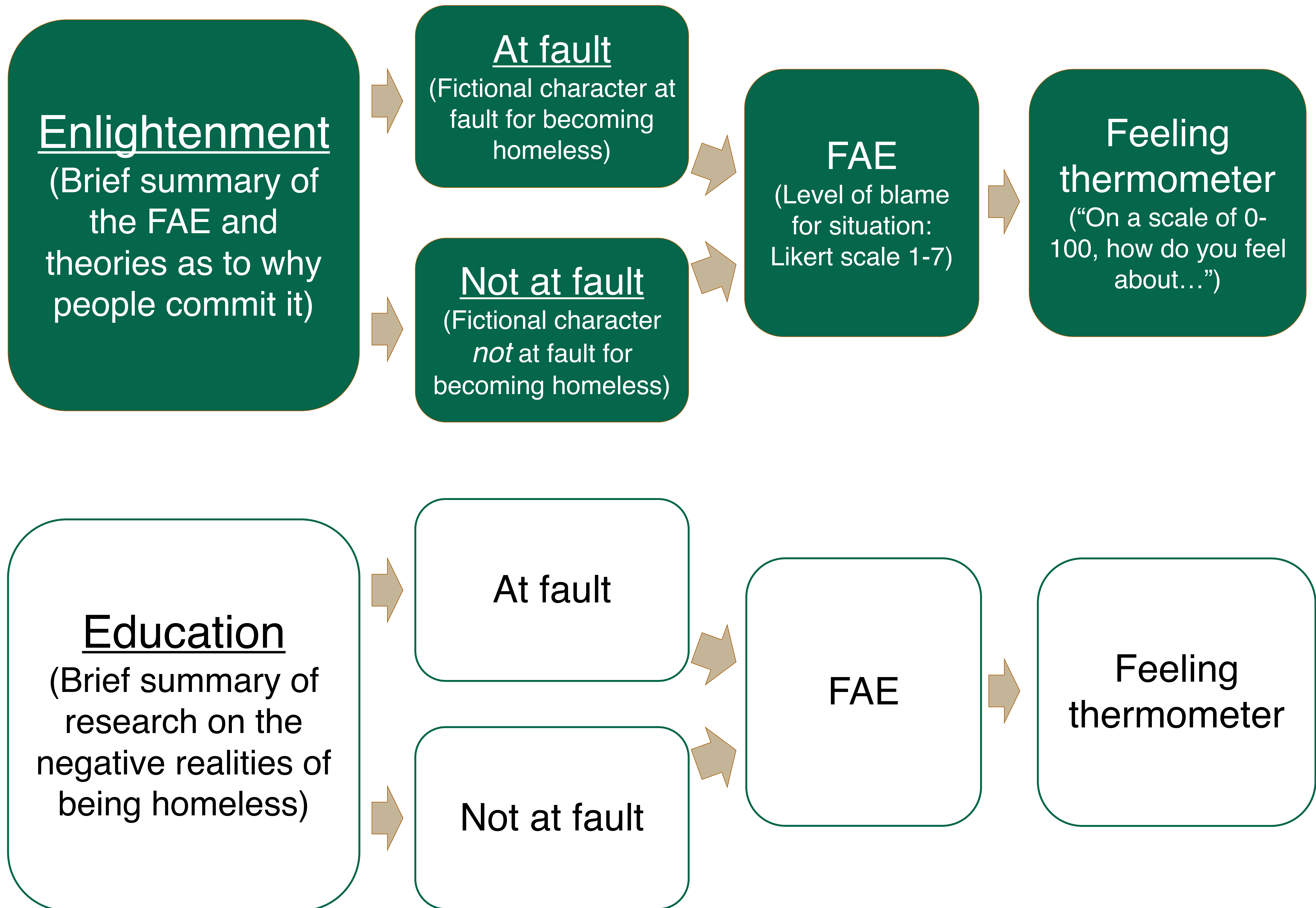


Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless - Orlando



## Methodology

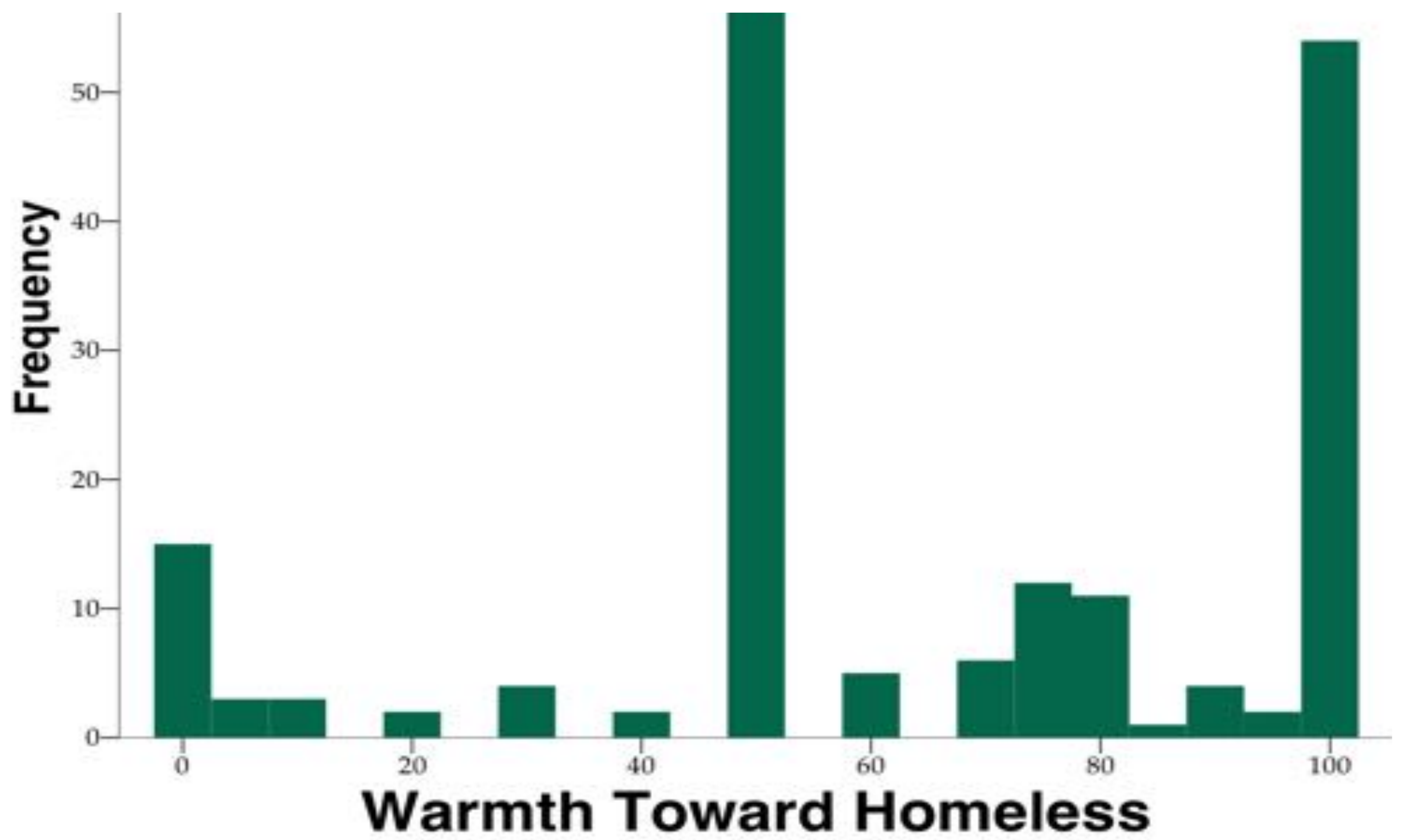




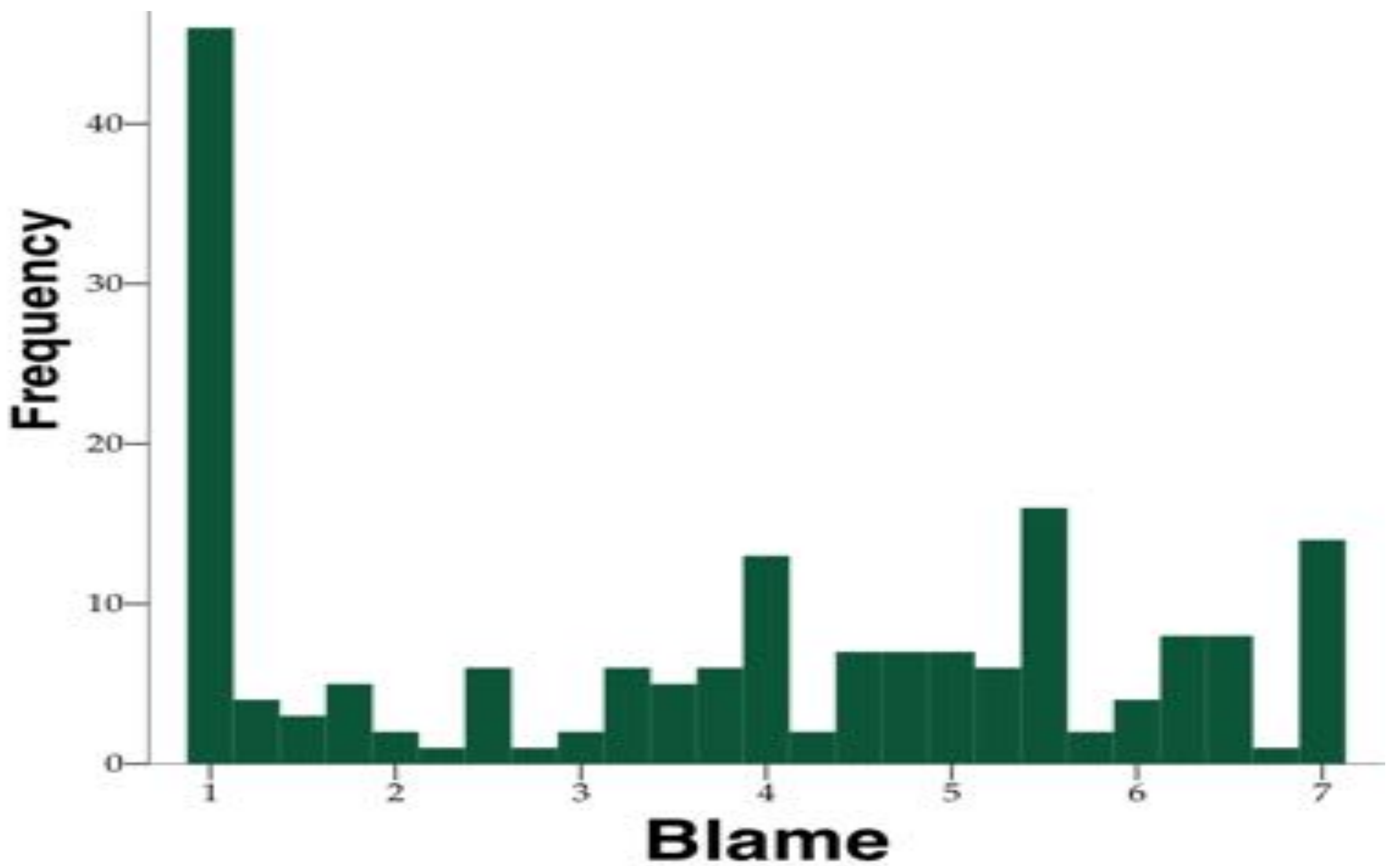
# Methodology



# Results



0 = Cold, 1 = Moderate, 2 = Warm



0 = Low Blame, 1 = Medium Blame, 2 = High Blame



# Results

Did we find evidence of the enlightenment effect?

No.

<i>N</i> = 182	Level of Blame						<i>X</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>(df)</i>	<i>p</i>
	<i>n</i>	<u>Low</u> (%)	<i>n</i>	<u>Medium</u> (%)	<i>n</i>	<u>High</u> (%)			
Enlightenment/Character at Fault	1	(2.3)	15	(34.1)	28	(63.6)	1.10	(2)	0.58
Education/Character at fault	3	(6.7)	16	(35.6)	26	(57.8)			
Enlightenment/Character not at fault	28	(62.2)	12	(26.7)	5	(11.1)	0.25	(2)	0.88
Education/Character not at fault	29	(60.4)	12	(25)	7	(14.6)			
Character at fault	4	(4.5)	31	(34.8)	54	(60.7)	73.62	(2)	< 0.01
Character not at fault	57	(61.3)	24	(25.8)	12	(12.9)			
	Level of Warmth						<i>X</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>(df)</i>	<i>p</i>
	<i>n</i>	<u>Cold</u> (%)	<i>n</i>	<u>Moderate</u> (%)	<i>n</i>	<u>Warm</u> (%)			
Enlightenment/Character at Fault	6	(13.6)	25	(56.8)	13	(29.5)	2.05	(2)	0.36
Education/Character at fault	11	(24.4)	20	(44.4)	14	(31.4)			
Enlightenment/Character not at fault	6	(13.3)	18	(40.0)	21	(46.7)	0.10	(2)	0.95
Education/Character not at fault	6	(12.5)	18	(37.5)	24	(50.0)			
Character at fault	17	(19.1)	45	(50.6)	27	(30.3)	6.28	(2)	0.04
Character not at fault	12	(12.9)	36	(38.7)	45	(48.7)			

Did we find evidence of in-group prejudice?

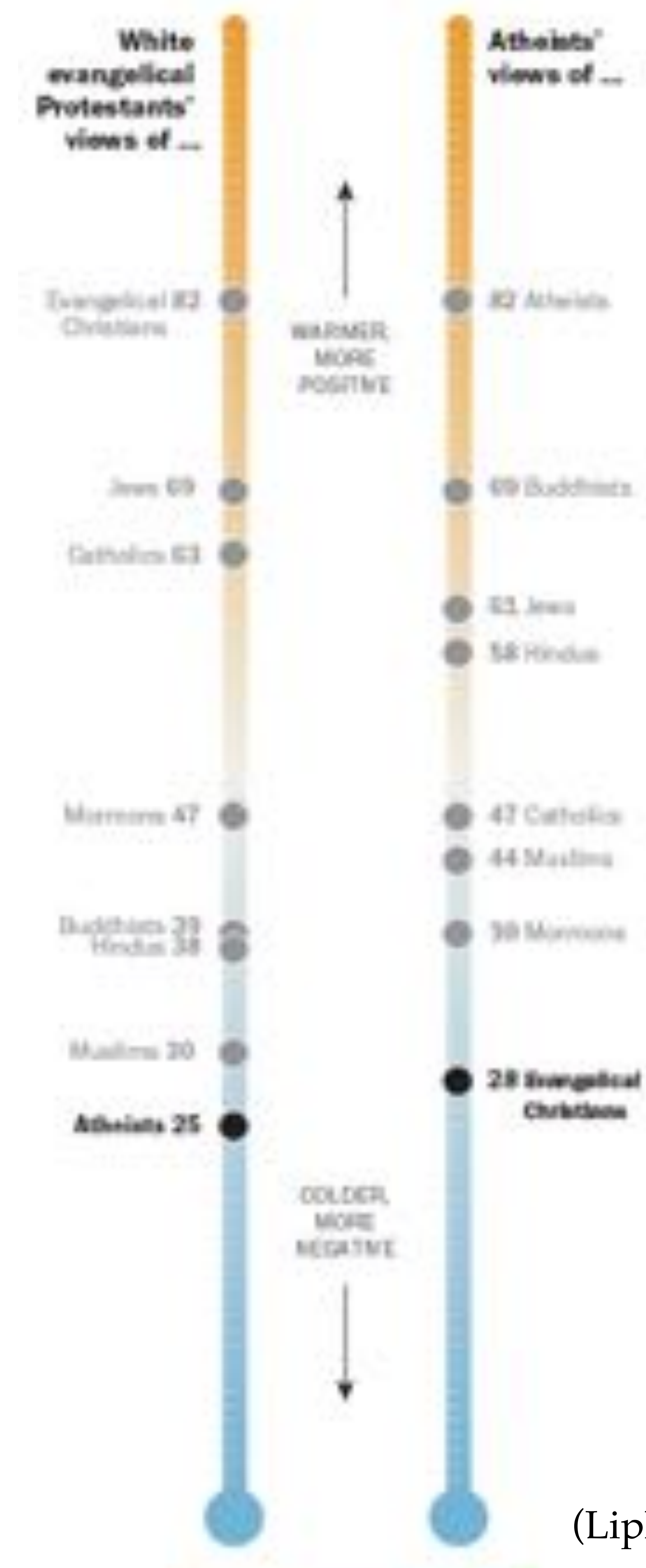
YES! Or...yes ☹



# Results

## White Evangelical Protestants, Atheists Give Each Other Coldest Ratings

On a "feeling thermometer" of zero to 100



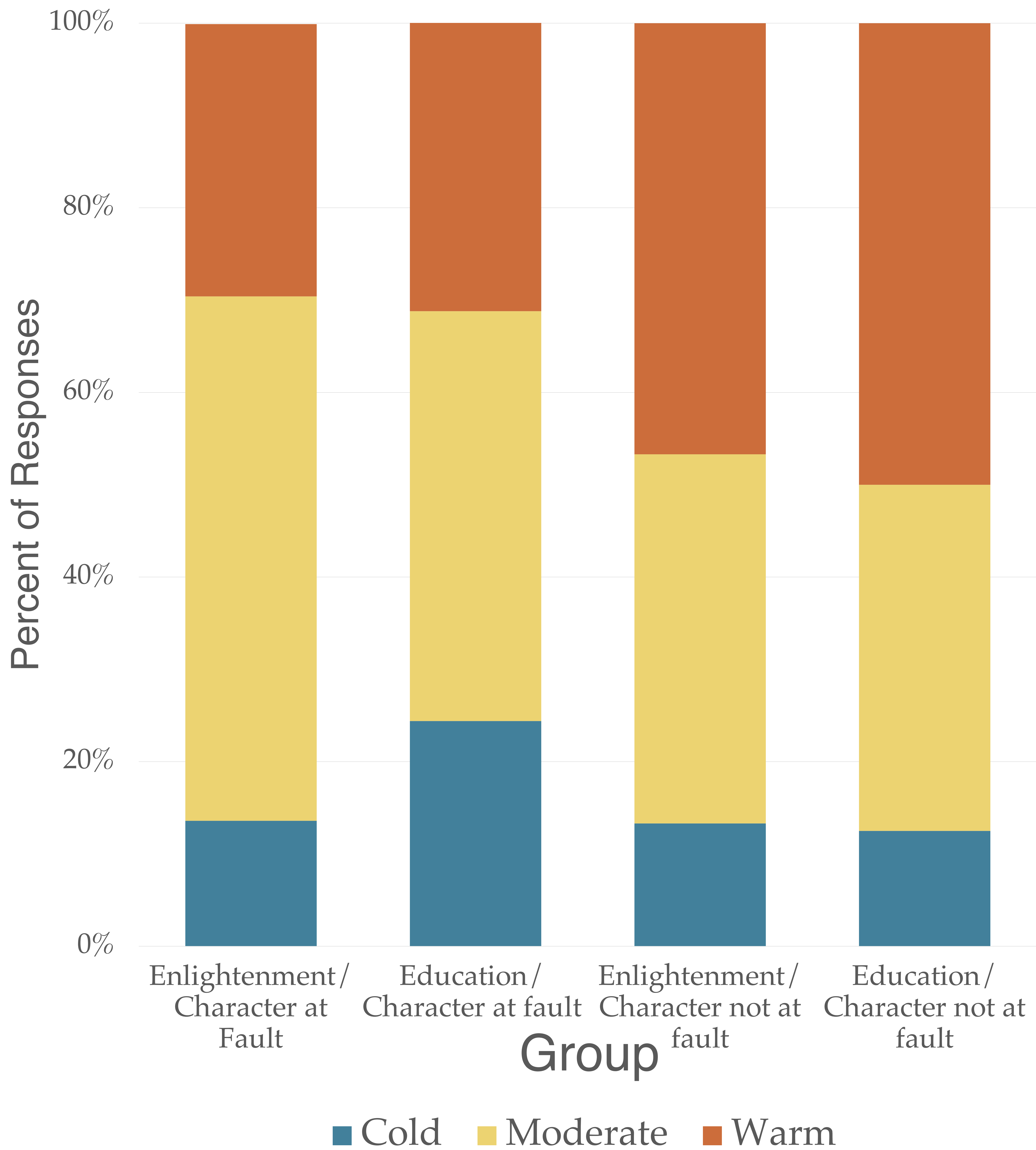
College  
African

3

(Lipka, 2014)



# Results





Replicate

Disseminate

Inform the public

**Where From Here?**



# Thank you!!!

## References

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