

Title: The Relationship between Worry, Perception of Crime, and College Adjustment

PRESENTER:

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INTRO

Prior research through the sensitivity to risk model has examined fear of crime in adults. However, research on fear of crime among college students, who are already at higher risk for a range of negative psychological consequences, is surprisingly limited. Additionally, it is not clear how students' overall adjustment in college may be affected by fear of crime or mass shootings.

METHODS

107 undergraduate students at a private northeastern university were administered a battery including measures of demographics, worry, anxiety control, college adjustment, fear of crime in the past month, perceived likelihood of victimization to crime in the next 12 months, and disproportional concern about school shootings. Multiple regression analyses were conducted to assess predictors of fear of crime and college adjustment. A separate multiple regression additive model and Hayes Process Macro was done to assess the moderating effect of threat control on the relationship between perceived likelihood of victimization and fear of crime.

RESULTS

Perception of likelihood of victimization was a significant predictor of fear of crime. Additionally, perception of threat control was found to be a significant moderator, such that the relationship between perceived likelihood of victimization and fear of crime was stronger in the positive direction for individuals with low perceived control compared to high control over threats ($B = -.273, SE = .13, p = .03$). Another model predicted college adjustment with worry, perception of anxiety control, disproportionate fear of school shootings, fear of crime, and perceived likelihood of victimization would predict poorer college adjustment was not supported. Interestingly gender ($B = -9.43, SE = 4.30, p = .03$) was found to be a unique predictor of overall college adjustment. Additionally, worry was approaching significance ($B = -4.35, SE = 2.31, p = .06$).

The association between perceived likelihood of victimization to crime and fear of crime is stronger for people who feel less in control over threatening situations.

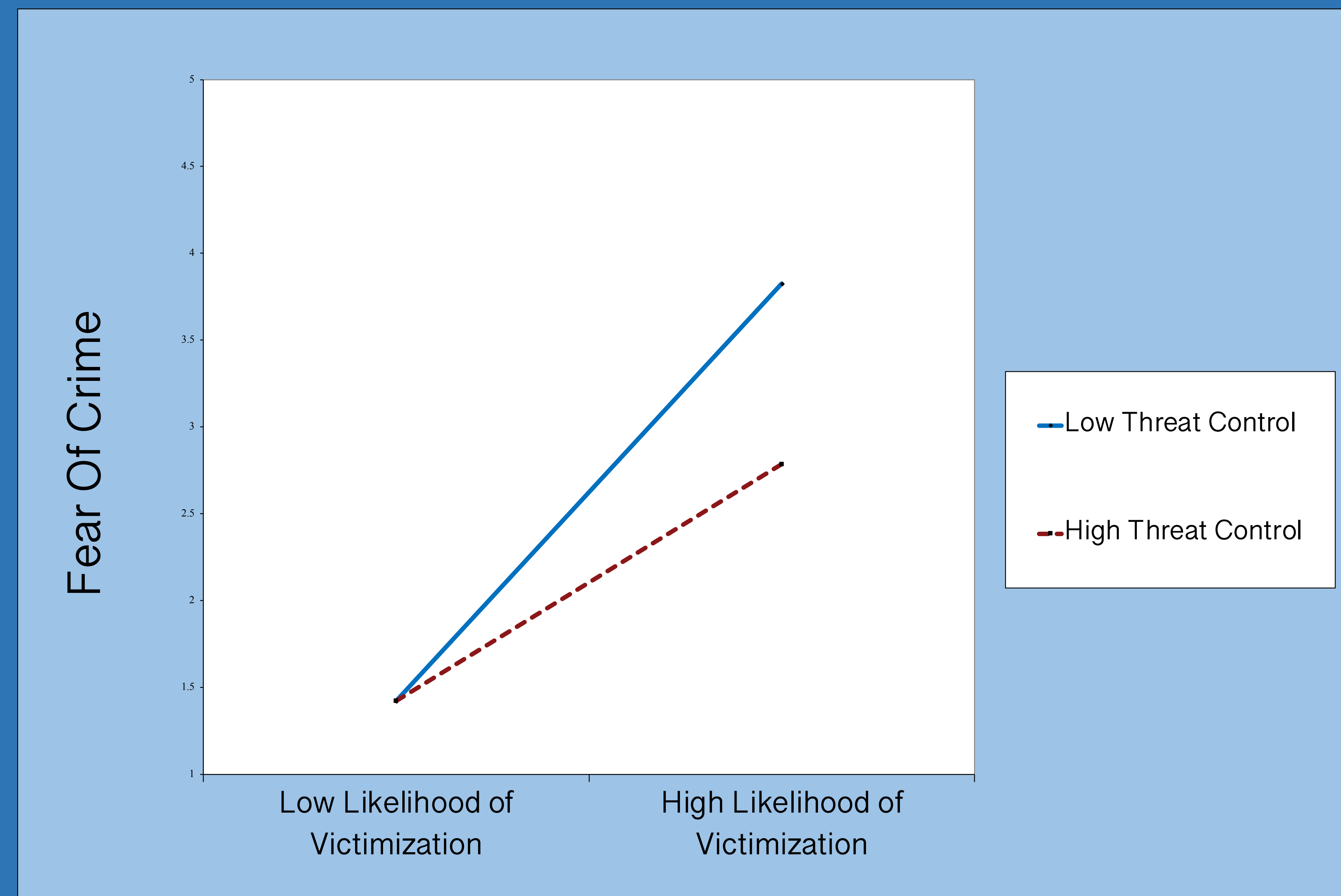
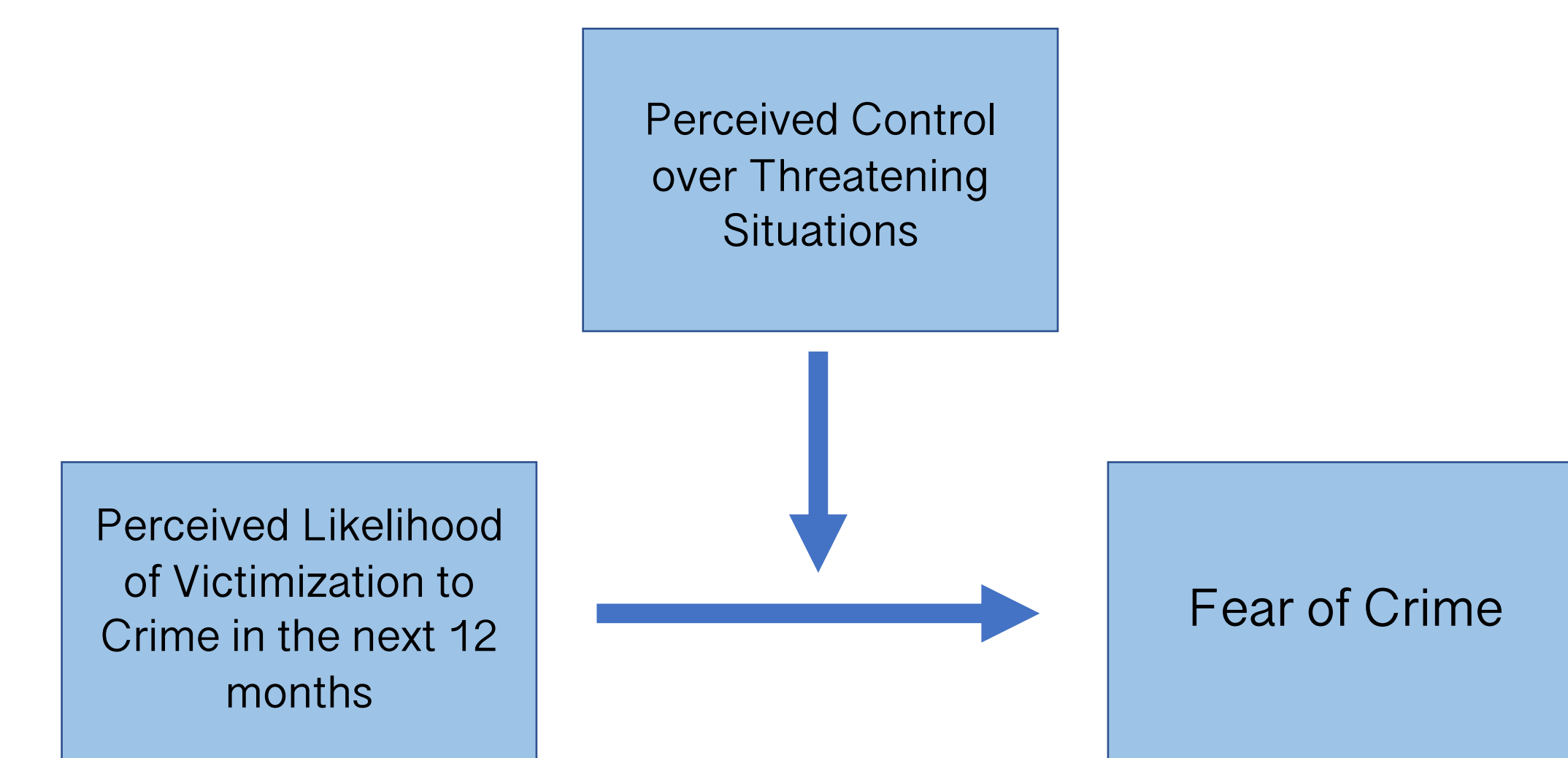


Table 1. Results of the Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting Fear of Crime

	Predictor	B	SE	p-value	ΔR^2
Step 1	Threat Control	-0.17	0.10	0.07	0.02
	Likelihood of Victimization	0.71	0.09	< 0.001	0.37
Step 2	Threat Control	0.27	0.22	0.22	0.01
	Likelihood of Victimization	1.63	0.43	< 0.001	0.08
	Threat x Likelihood	-0.27	0.13	0.03	0.03

Table 2. Results of the Multiple Regression Analysis Predicting College Adjustment

Predictor	B	SE	p-value
Age	-0.73	0.79	0.36
Gender	-9.43	4.30	0.03
Disproportionality	1.81	2.38	0.45
Worry	-4.35	2.31	0.06
Threat Control	1.50	2.55	0.56
Likelihood of Victimization	-0.63	2.70	0.82
Fear of Crime	-2.75	2.35	0.24



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