

# Coping with the Pandemic in Prison

Sam Beery | Eric Dubow | Bowling Green State University

## Problem / Question

To what degree did the pandemic foster stress and depression in prison populations, and how did prisoners cope with these feelings?

## Hypothesis

- Higher levels of stress will be correlated with higher levels of anxiety and depression.
- More positive religious and general coping will be associated with less stress and depression due to the pandemic.

## Project Overview

- Approximately 100 previously incarcerated individuals who were in prison during the pandemic will be surveyed.
- Participants will fill out a 91-item questionnaire on Qualtrics.
- The questionnaire will be distributed to participants through the directors of organizations that service returned citizens.
- The data gathered will be analyzed in SPSS.

## Example Questions

- BDI-II 1) While in prison during the pandemic, I...
  - A ) ...did not feel sad.
  - B ) ...felt sad much of the time.
  - C ) ...was sad all the time.
  - D ) ...was so sad or unhappy that I couldn't stand it.
- CSS 7) While in prison during the pandemic, I was worried about catching the virus.
- COPE 9) While in prison, to cope with the stressors of the pandemic, I was making jokes about it.
- RCOPE 2) While in prison, to cope with the stressors of the pandemic, I sought God's love and care.

## Data Gathering

- Ohio Department of Justice not allowing research due to Covid
- Halfway houses have been difficult to contact
- Most success came from Ohio reentry coalitions
- Hundreds more organizations will be contacted

## Measures Utilized

Depression

Beck Depression Inventory-II (Beck et al., 1996)

Stress

Covid Stress Scale (Taylor et al., 2020)

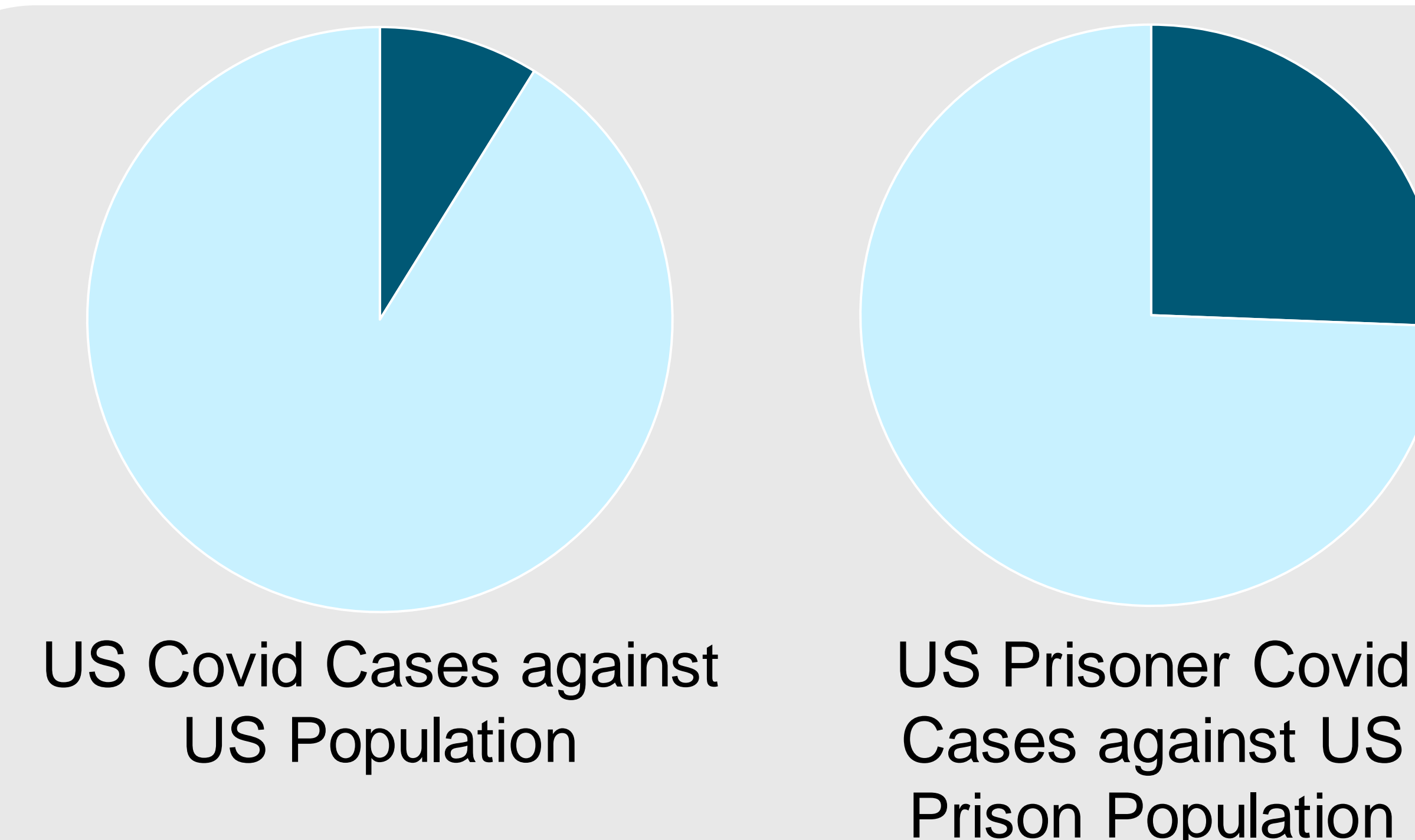
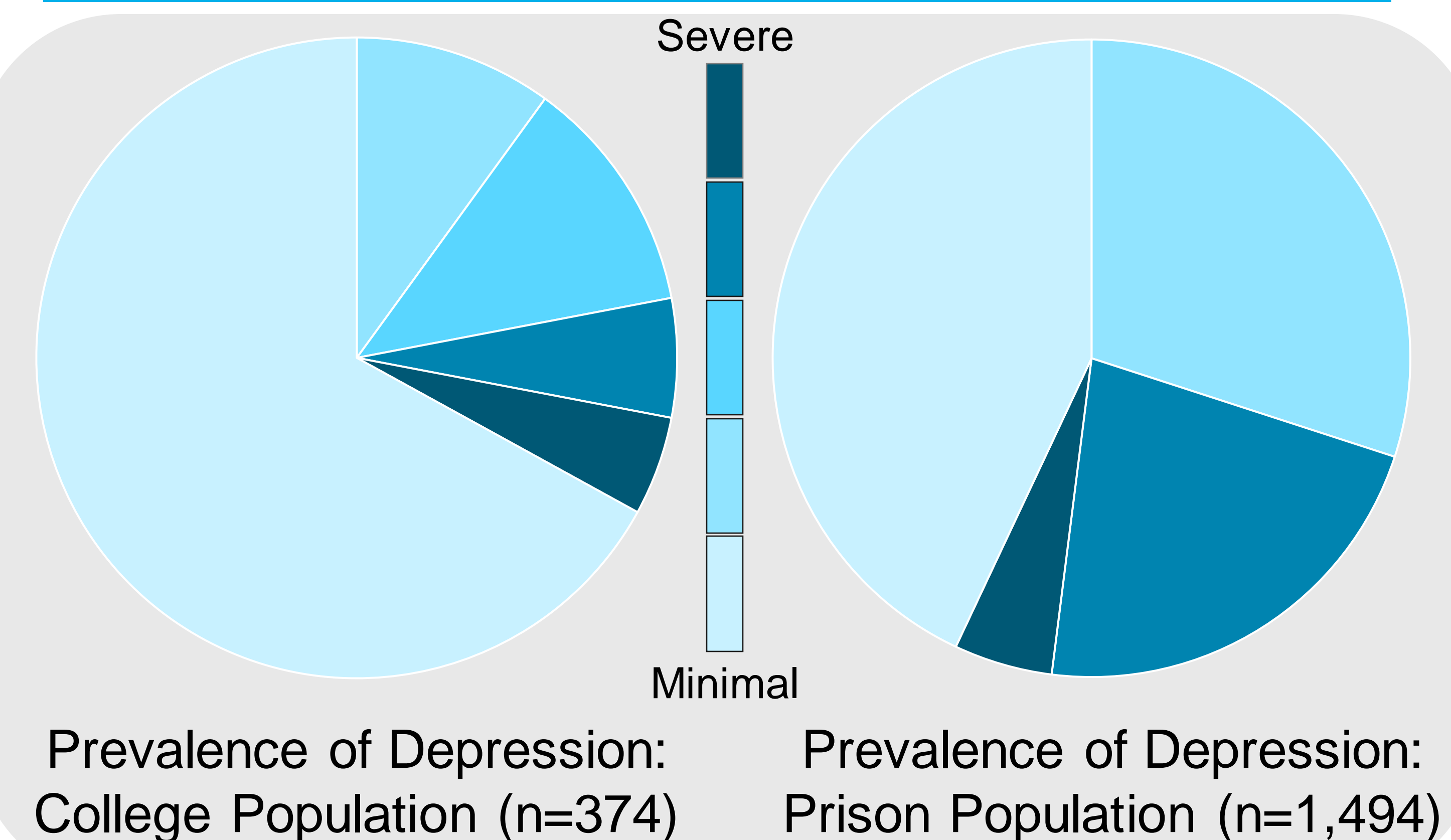
General Coping

Brief COPE (Carver, 1997)

Religious Coping

Brief RCOPE (Pargament, 2011)

## Statistics



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