Analyzing the Variable Pain

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Introduction:

● Previous Studies:
  ○ Zale et al. (2015) study: Moderate drinking associated with greater quality of life. Excessive drinking associated with greater pain
  ○ Witkiewitz et al. (2015) study: Correlation between negative affect and pain. Correlation between negative affect and drinking. Negative affect attributed to the association between pain and drinking alcohol
● Hypothesis:
  ○ Those who experience pain, will drink more frequently
  ○ Participants experience more pain when they report drinking to reduce negative affect
  ○ Males report experiencing more pain

Results:

● Males: Average pain: M=2.38
● Females: Average pain: M=2.01
● Average pain: M=2
● Max pain reported: M=7 (reported by female)
● Average pain impairment: 0.5
● Max pain impairment: 4 (reported by female)
● Correlations
  ○ Pain intensity and pain impairment r=0.761
  ○ Correlation between serving in the military and those who are impaired by their pain: r=0.224
  ○ Those with more pain drink more to cope with anxiety r=0.156 (p=0.087)
  ○ Age: more pain impairment with increased age but not quite significant r=0.174 (p=0.057)

Conclusion:

● The more pain someone experiences, the more impairment they will have
● Those who serve in the military have a greater chance of being impaired by their pain
● The more pain reported, the more someone will drink (Not sig.)
● The more someone drinks, the less physical impairment they have (Not sig.)
● Those with more pain may experience more drinking to cope with anxiety (Not sig.)
● Men experience more pain on average, women report higher effects when in pain (Not sig.)

Future:

● Analyze acute vs chronic pain (pain impairment)
  ○ What is causing pain/the most pain
● Redesign questions for intensity and impairment when drinking
  ○ More males in future study
● Analyze anxiety with pain and impairment in depth

Method:

● A survey was given to college students by using the online apps Qualtrics and TigerAware. Participants were recruited by giving SONA extra credit for their class.
● Descriptives:
  ○ Participants: N=141
  ○ Ages: 19-59 (M=25)
  ○ Assigned Sex:
    ■ Male: N=13, Female: N=113
  ○ Race
    ■ Asian: N=5, Black: N=26, White: N=91, Multiple: N=4