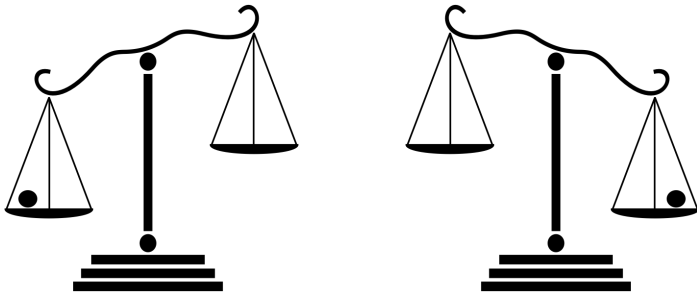


# The Effects of Differential Exposure to Gruesome Images on Mock Jurors' Emotions & Legal Judgments

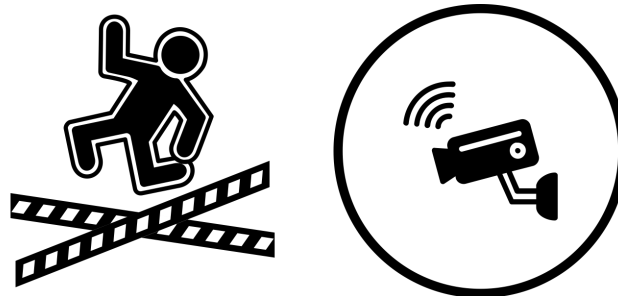
Samantha Bean, B.S.  
Jessica M. Salerno, Ph.D.  
Hannah J. Phalen, M.S.  
Arizona State University

# Background

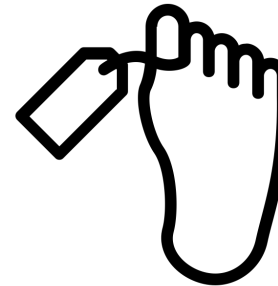
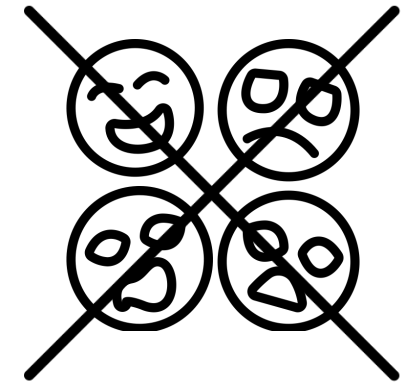
Jurors hear conflicting evidence



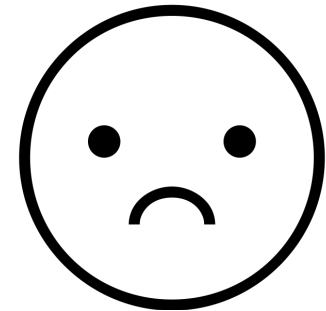
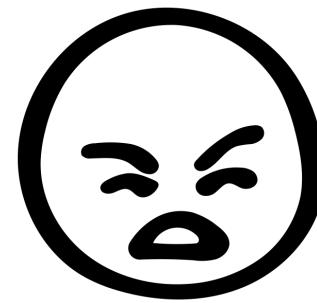
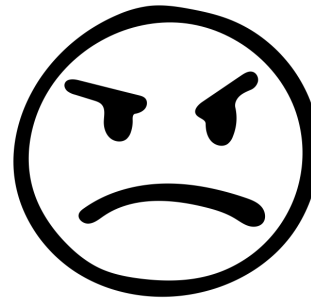
Violent and graphic



Emotional reactions

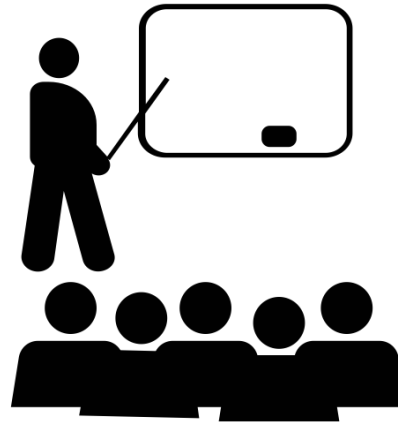
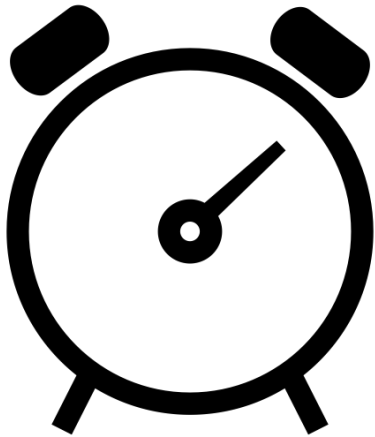
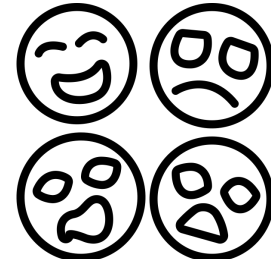
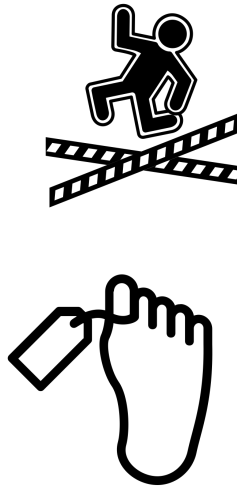


# Background



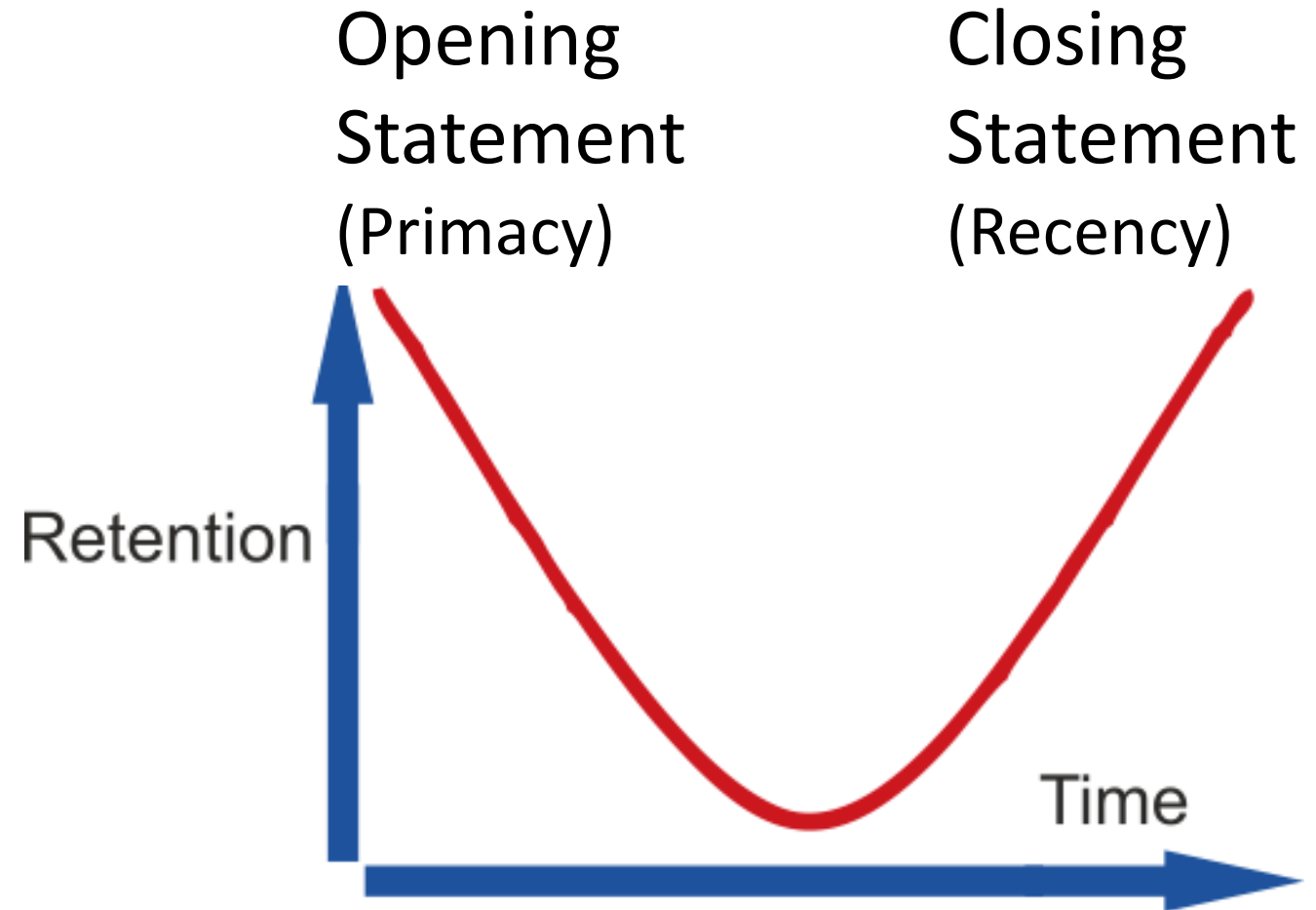
Bright & Goodman-Delahunty (2006); Douglas, Lyon, Ogloff (1997); Salerno (2017)

Previous  
Research



## Timing

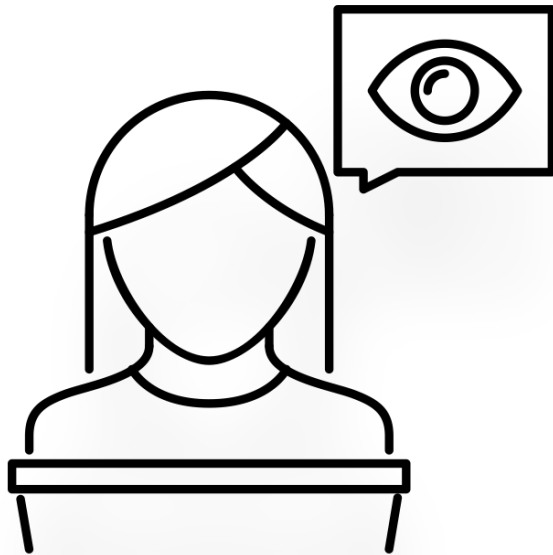
- *When* gruesome photographs are presented
- Conflicting research
- Primacy vs Recency
  - Information earlier vs later



Primacy =

- Greater influence, more persuasive
  - “Law of Primacy in Persuasion” hypothesis
- More credible

Story Model



Early testimony



Instructions to vote guilty



Recency =



1. Prosecution

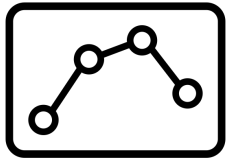
1. Defense

2. Defense

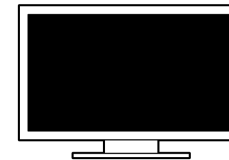
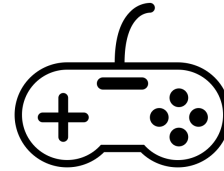
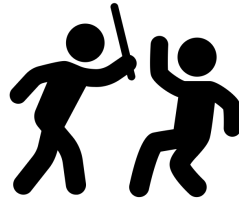
2. Prosecution

# Exposure Effects: Cumulative vs Desensitizing

Desensitization



Violent video games and film



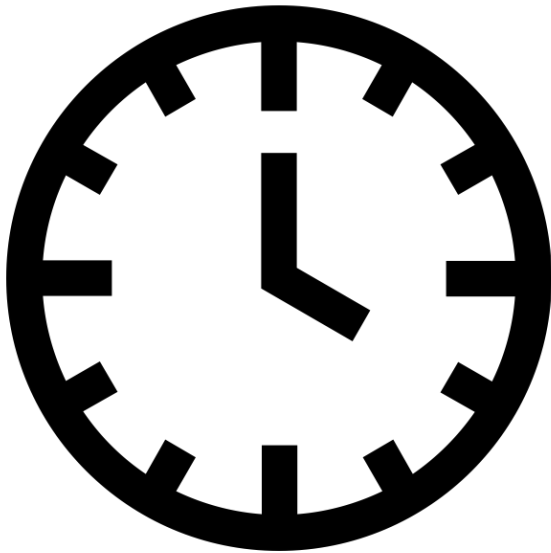
Brief exposure



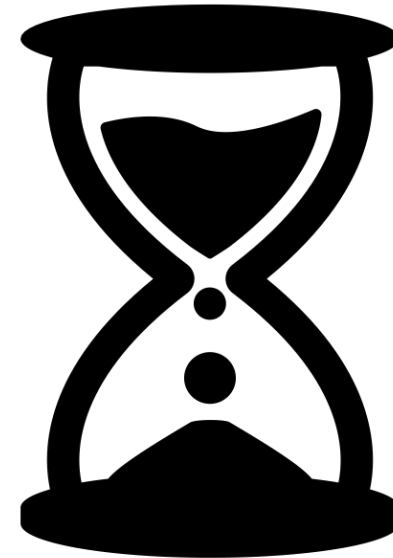


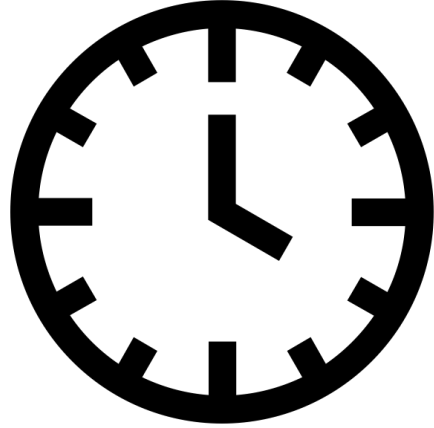
# Competing Hypotheses

Timing: Primacy vs Recency



Exposure Effects: Cumulative vs Desensitizing





# Method

- Participants
  - 446 adults from Amazon's Mechanical Turk
  - 60% Female, 79% White
  - Passed 4 attention checks and 2 manipulation checks
- Trial Video
  - 50% guilty/ 50% not guilty
  - 27 minutes long
  - Opening statements, four witnesses, closing statements
  - Superimposed autopsy photograph
  - Verbal descriptions of injuries

Opening  
Statements

Locksmith  
Testimony

Pathologist  
Testimony

Closing  
Statements



Control



Primacy



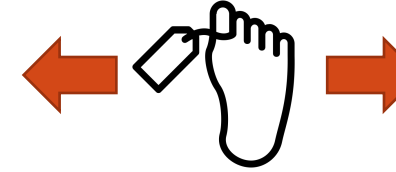
30 seconds

Recency



30 seconds

Repeated  
Exposure



6 minutes

# Measures

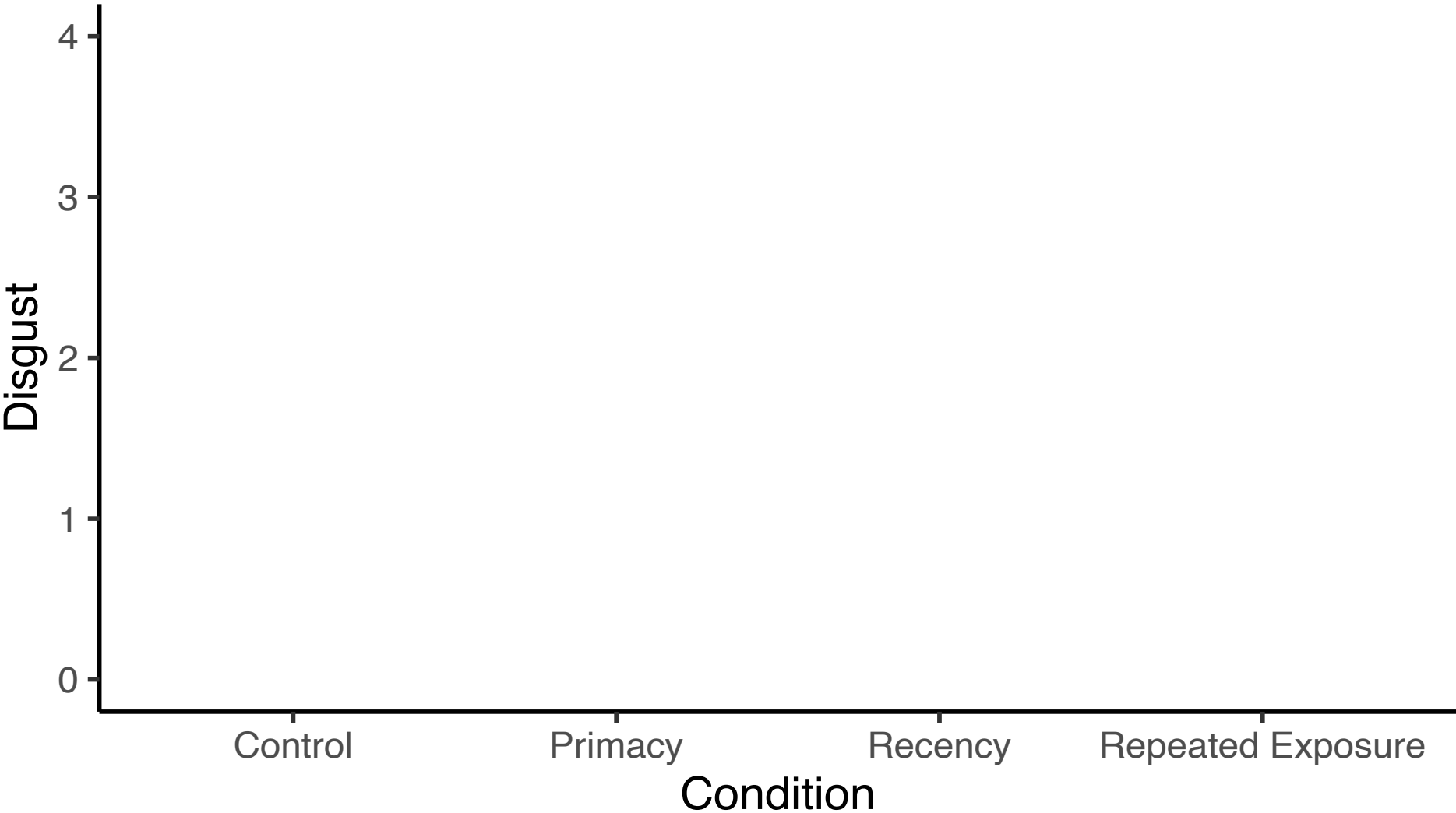
Guilt

Emotion scales

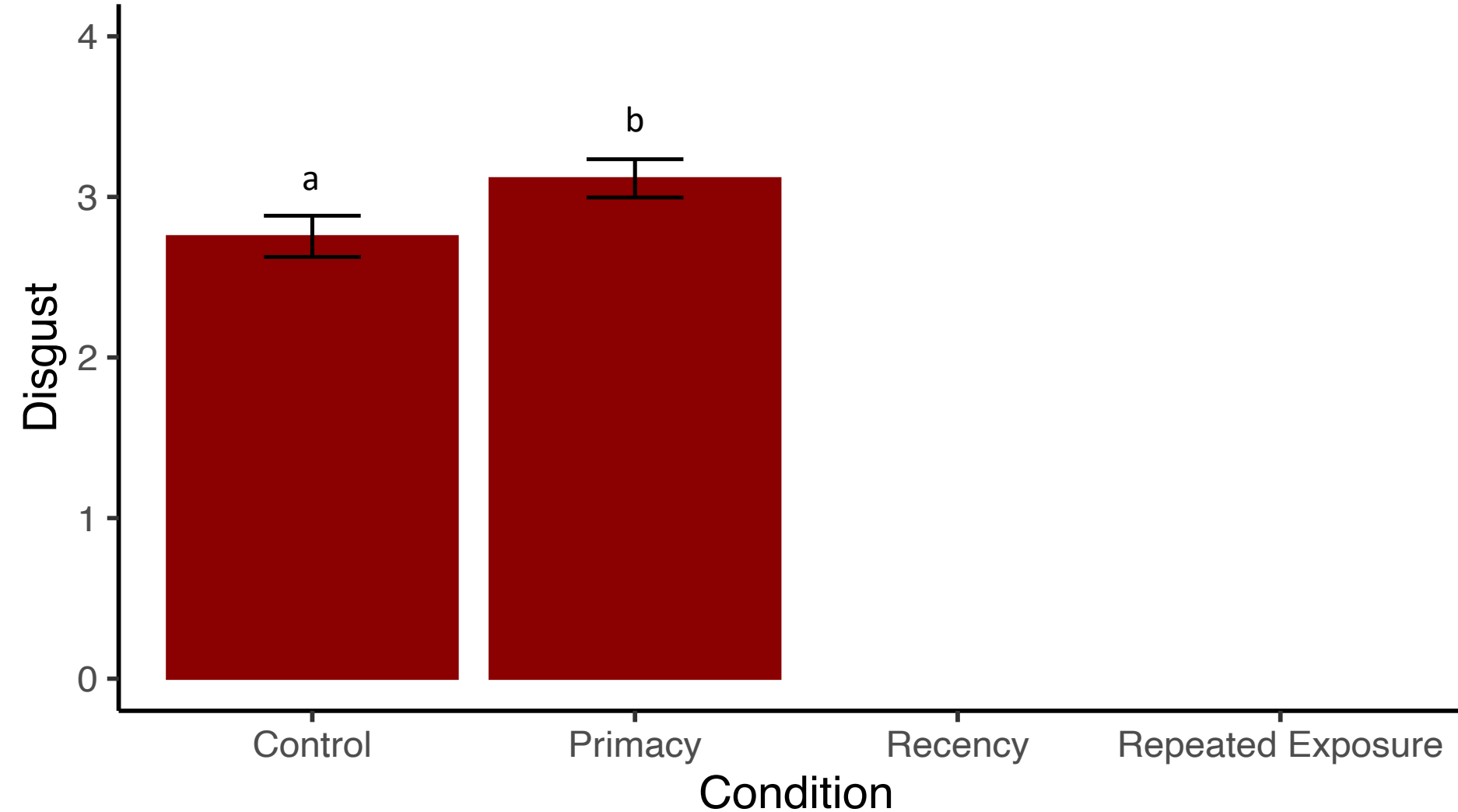
- Disgust ( $\alpha = .93$ )
- Anger ( $\alpha = .93$ )
- Sadness ( $\alpha = .79$ )
- Fear ( $\alpha = .80$ )
- Sympathy ( $\alpha = .78$ )
- Empathy ( $\alpha = .87$ )

Punishment recommendation (years)

# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Disgust



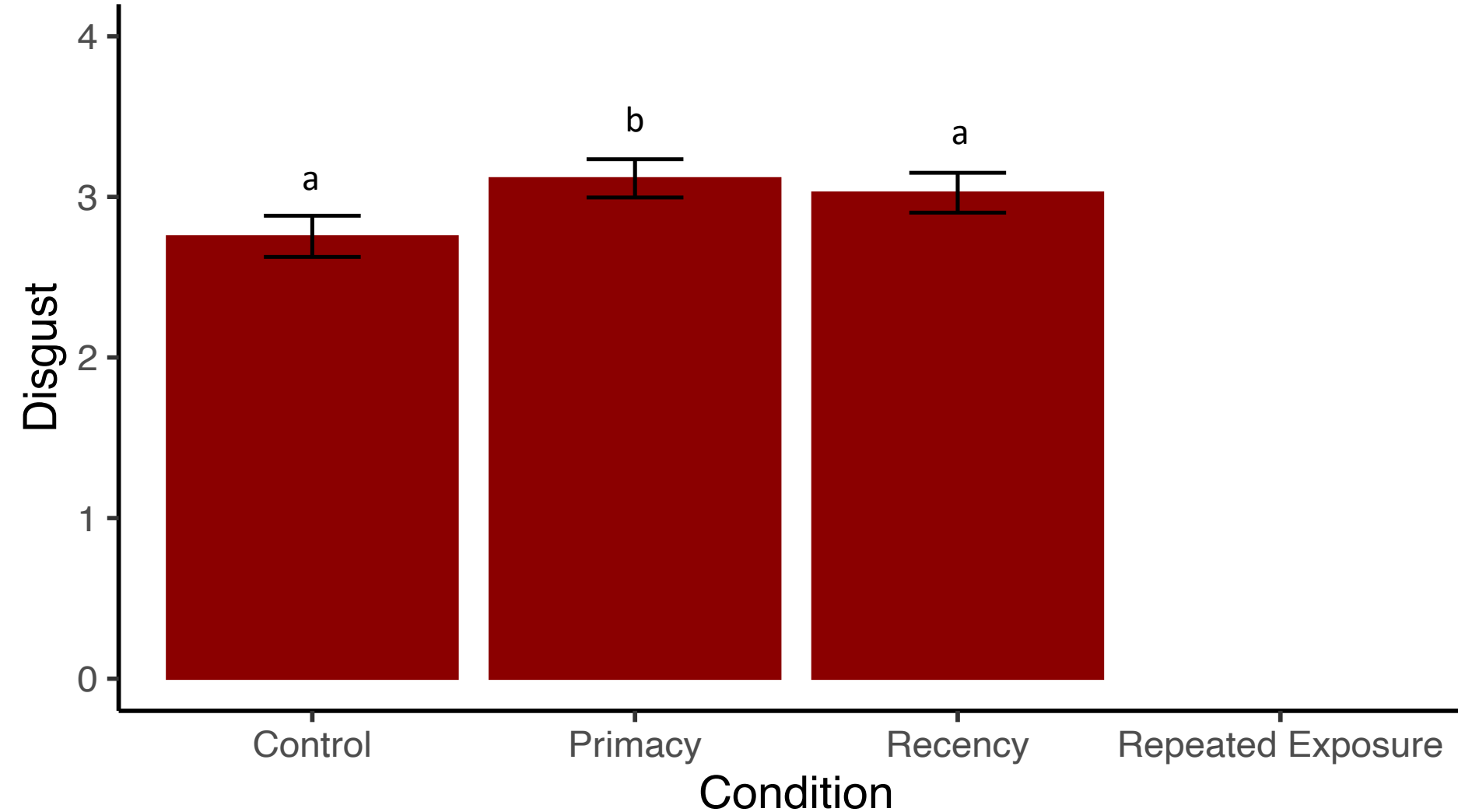
# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Disgust



$F(3, 442) = 6.65, p = .001,$   
 $\eta^2 = .043$

Primacy more  
than control ( $p$   
= .03)

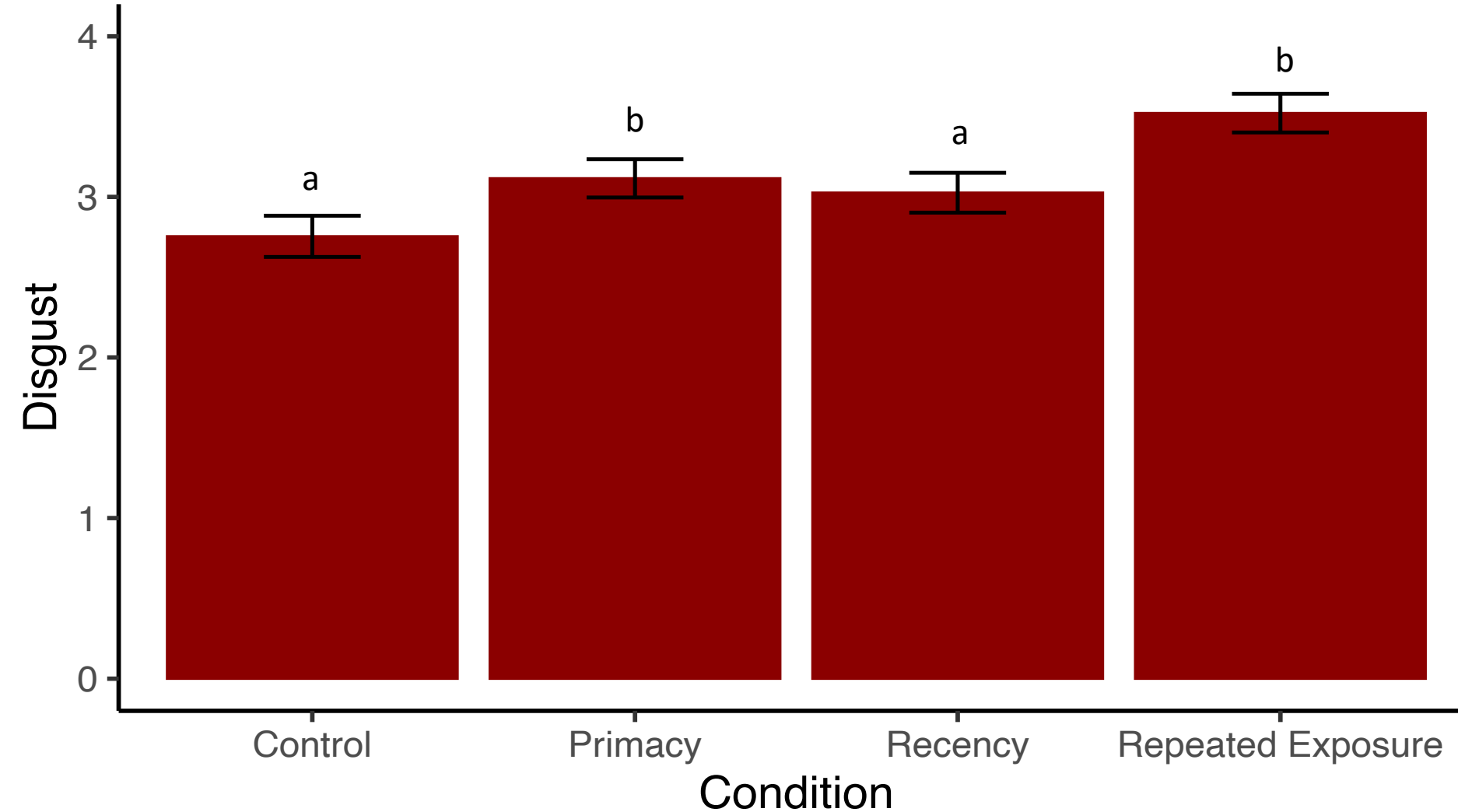
# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Disgust



$F(3, 442) = 6.65, p = .001,$   
 $\eta^2 = .043$

Primacy more  
than control ( $p$   
= .03)

# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Disgust



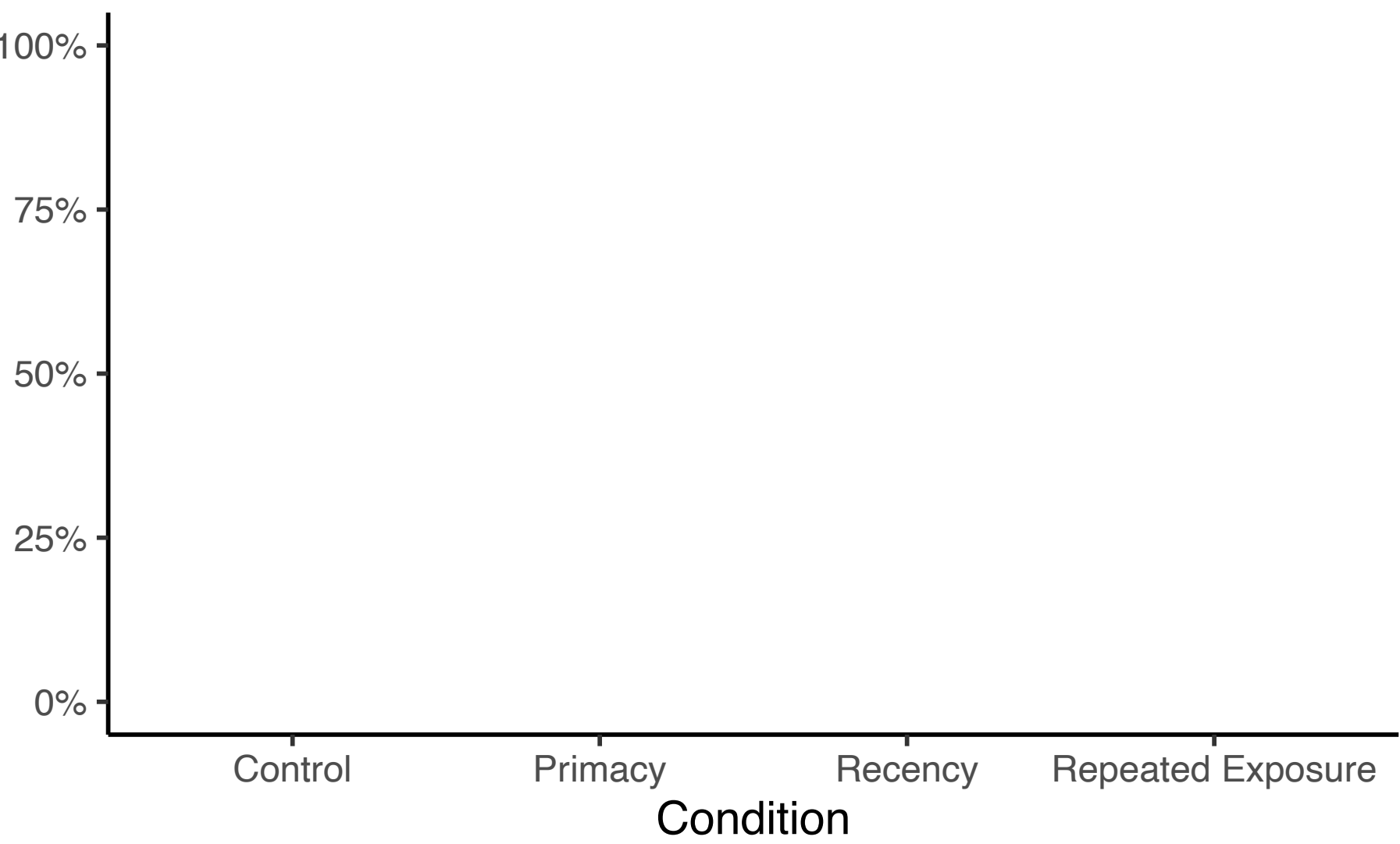
$F(3, 442) = 6.65, p = .001,$   
 $\eta^2 = .043$

Primacy more  
than control ( $p$   
= .03)

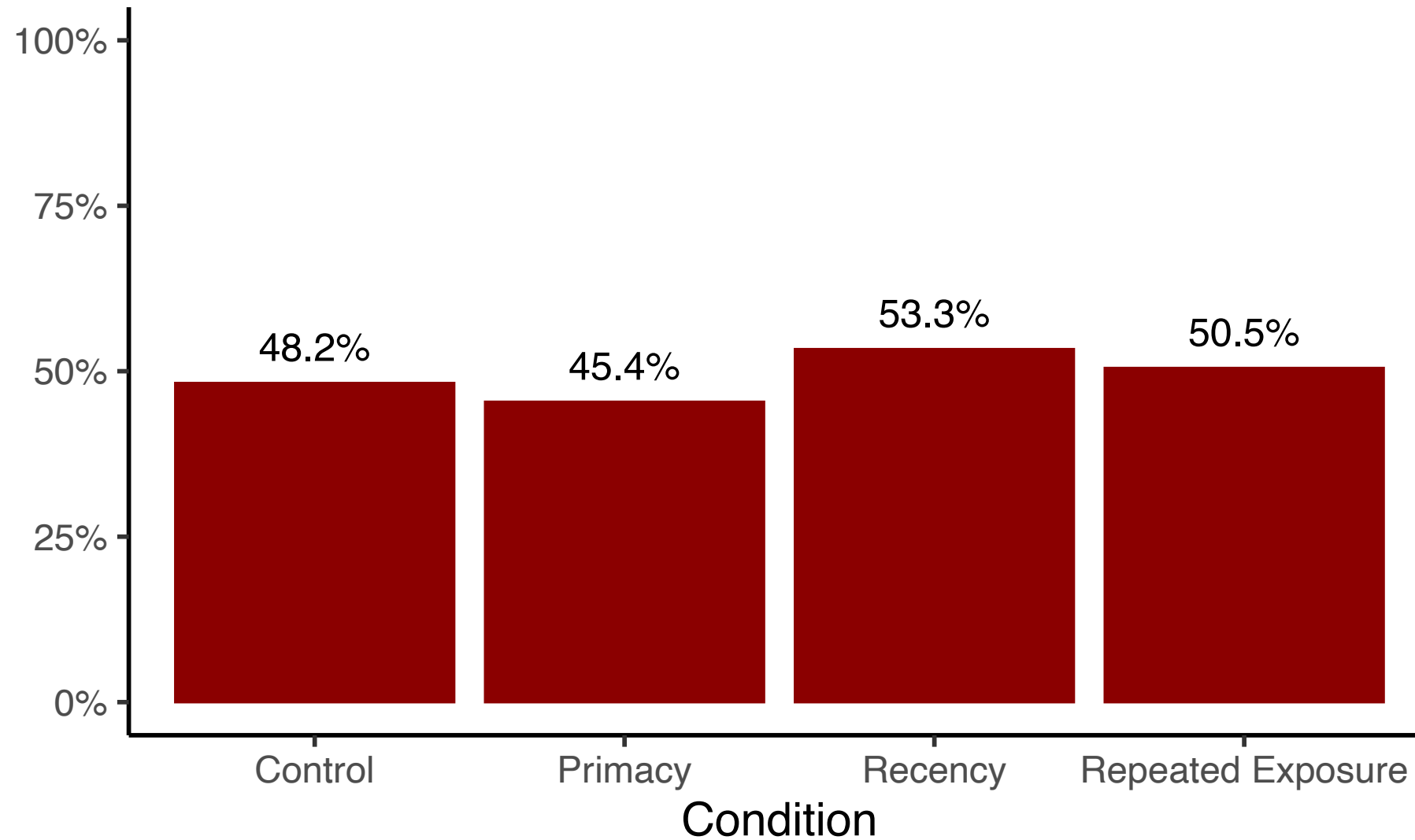
Repeated exposure more  
than control ( $p < .001$ )  
and recency ( $p = .024$ )



# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Verdict



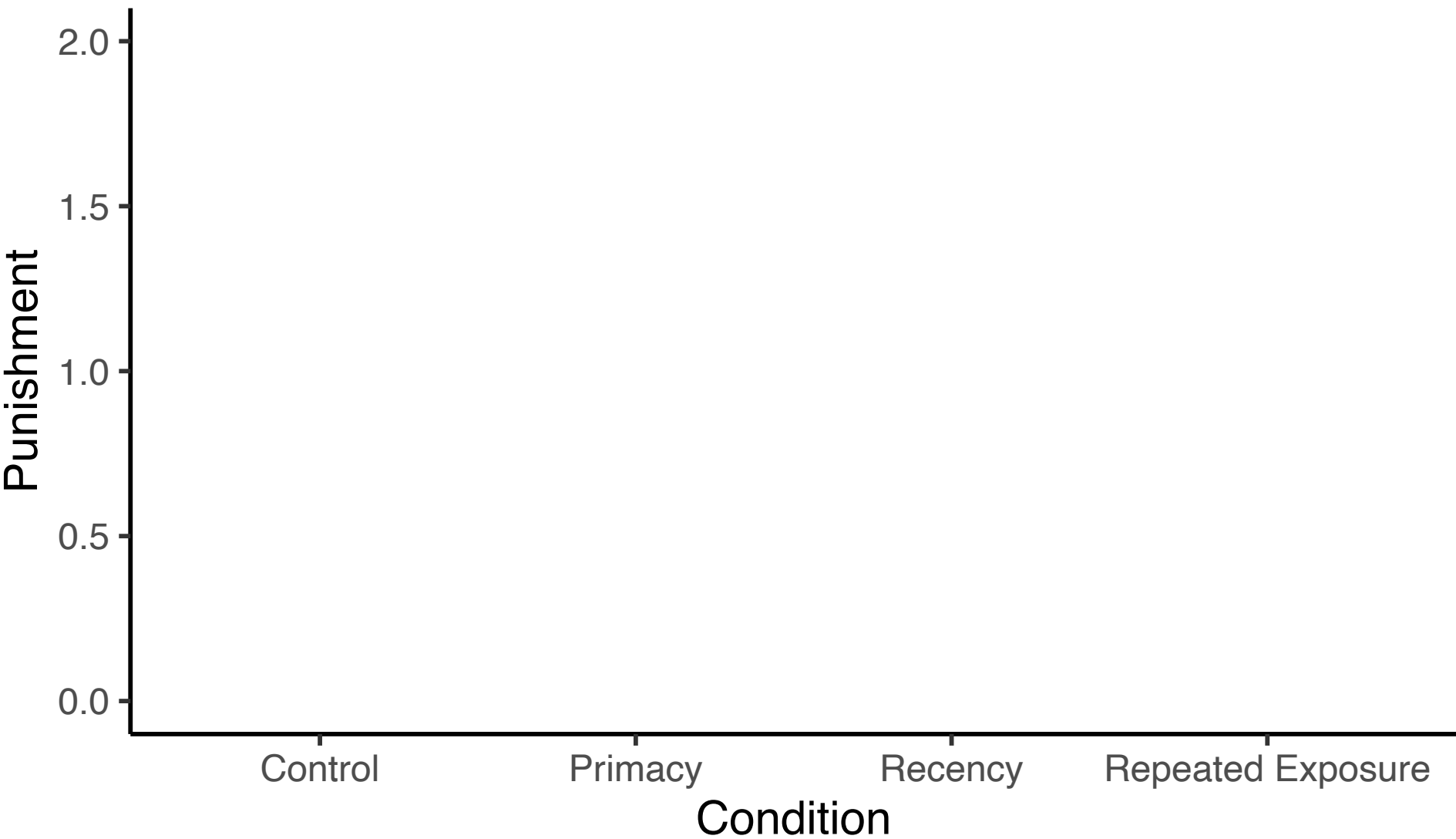
# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Verdict



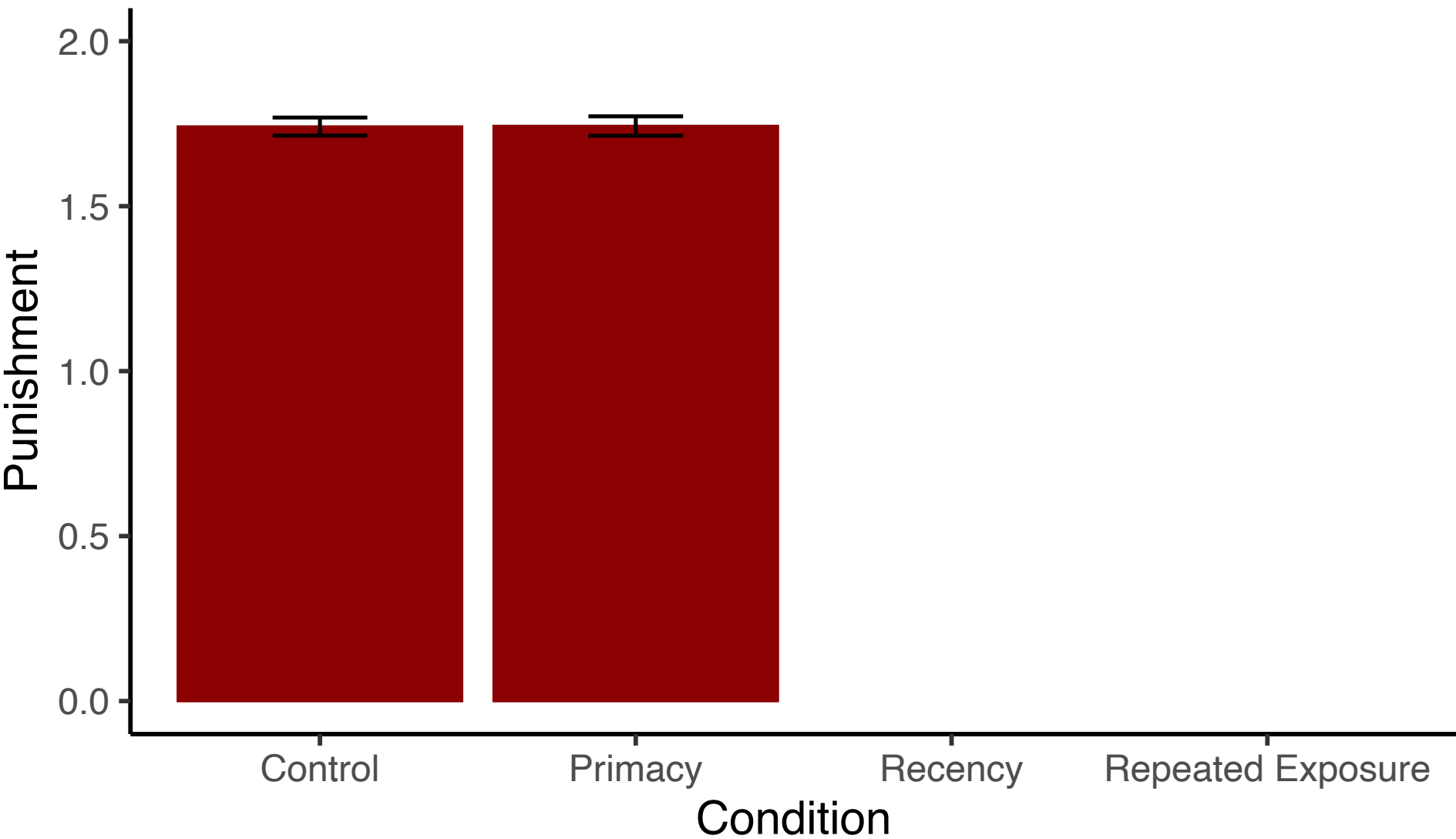
Verdicts:  $\chi^2(3)=0.90$ ,  $p=.83$

No gruesome photograph condition differed from the control, all  $B$ s <  $|.29|$ , all  $p$ s > .59

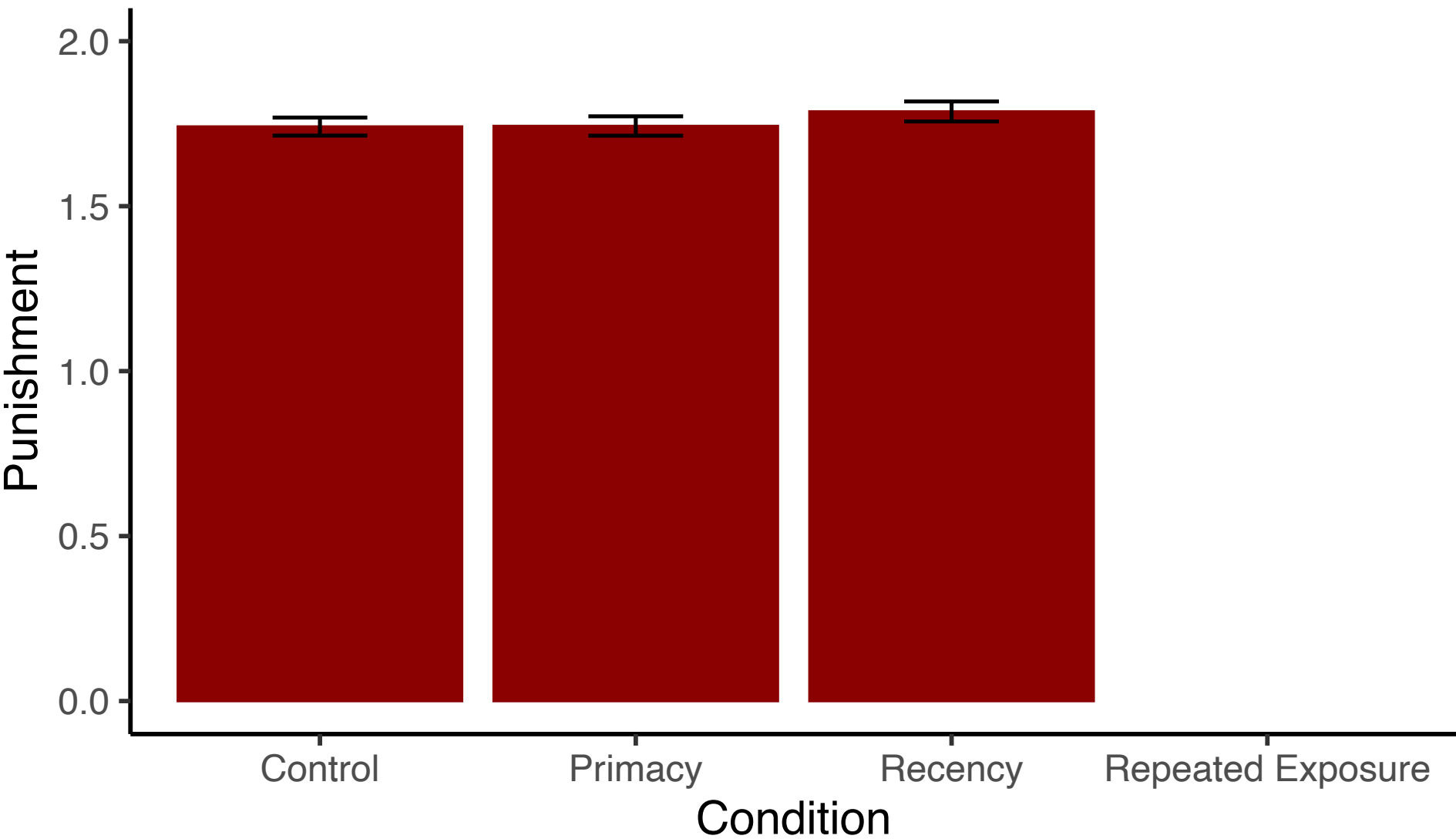
# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Punishment



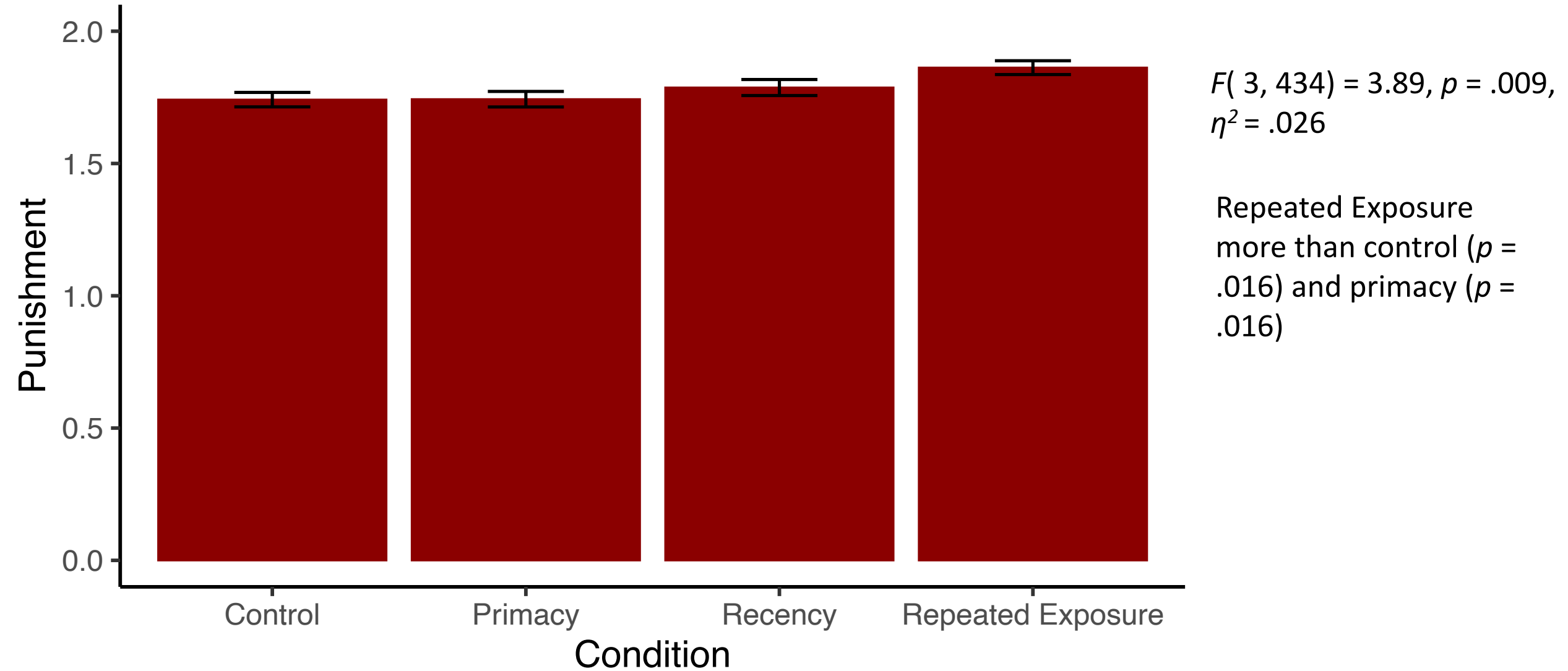
# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Punishment



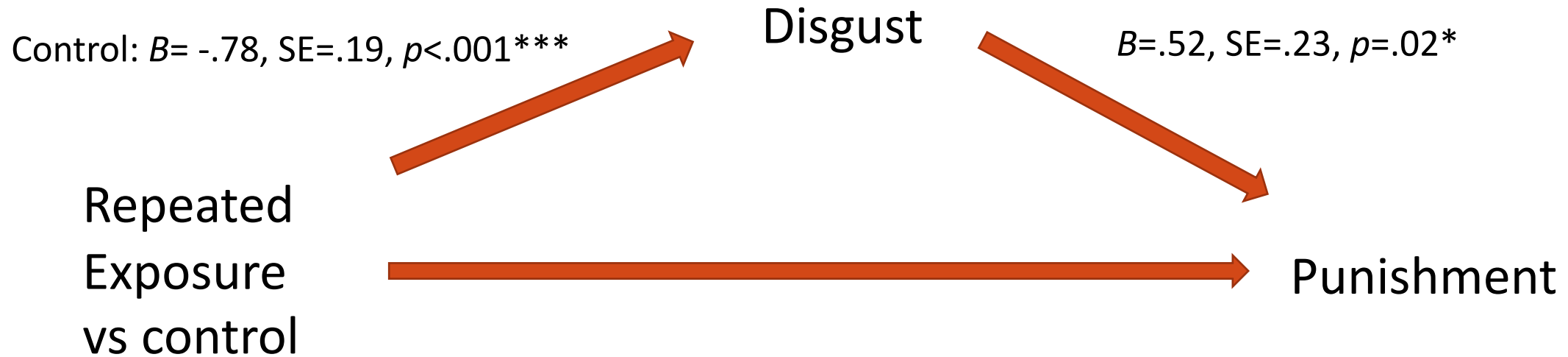
# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Punishment



# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Punishment



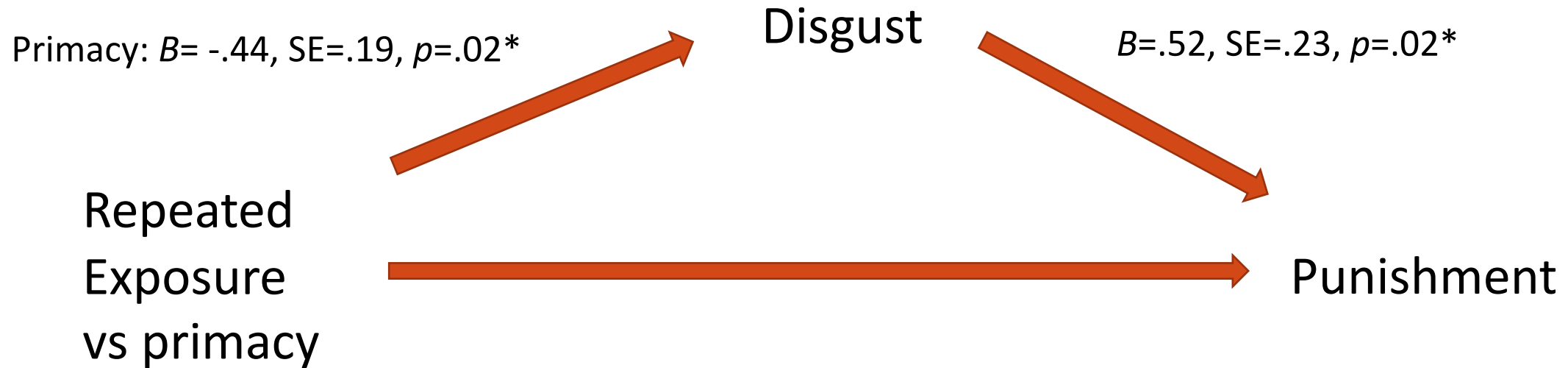
# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Punishment through Disgust



Repeated Exposure to control,  
 $M_{\text{IndirectEffect}} = -.40, CI[-.86, -.05]$

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$

# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Punishment through Disgust

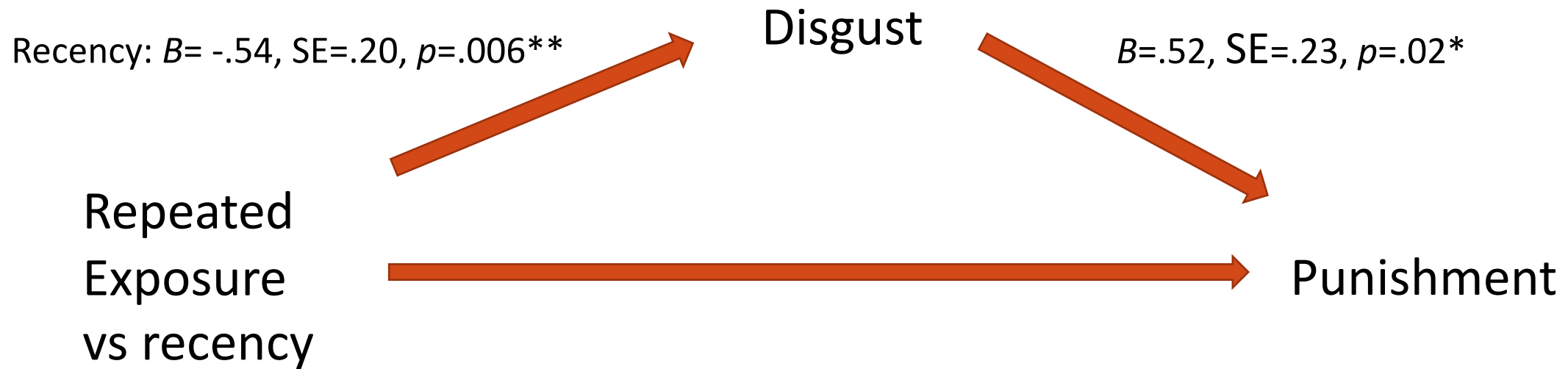


Repeated Exposure to primacy,  
 $M_{\text{IndirectEffect}} = -.23$ ,  $CI[-.58, -.004]$

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$



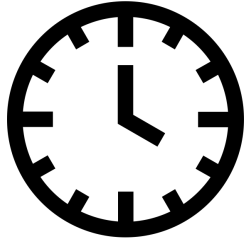
# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Punishment through Disgust



Repeated Exposure to recency,  
 $M_{\text{IndirectEffect}} = -.28$ ,  $CI[-.65, -.02]$

\* $p < .05$ , \*\* $p < .01$ , \*\*\* $p < .001$

# Discussion



Timing: Primacy vs Recency

No significant differences on:



Exposure Effects:  
Cumulative vs Desensitizing

Repeated vs all, increased:

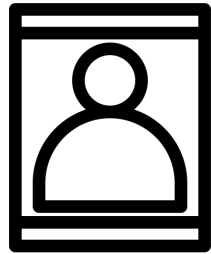


# Limitations & Future Study

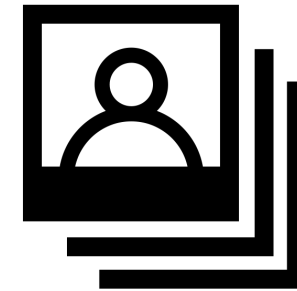
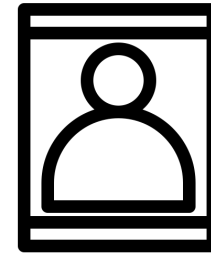
Previous



Study 1



Study 2



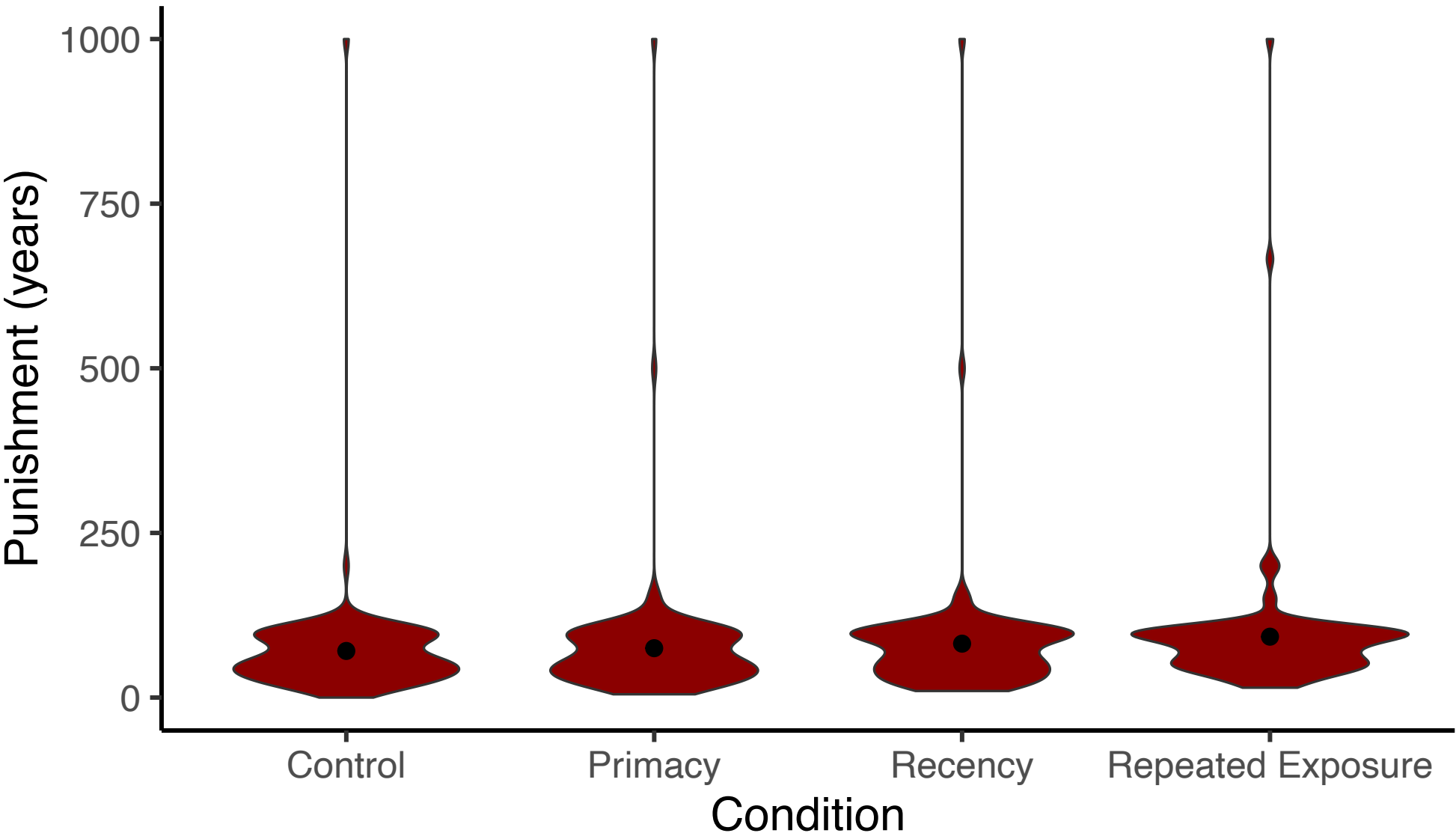
# Thank you

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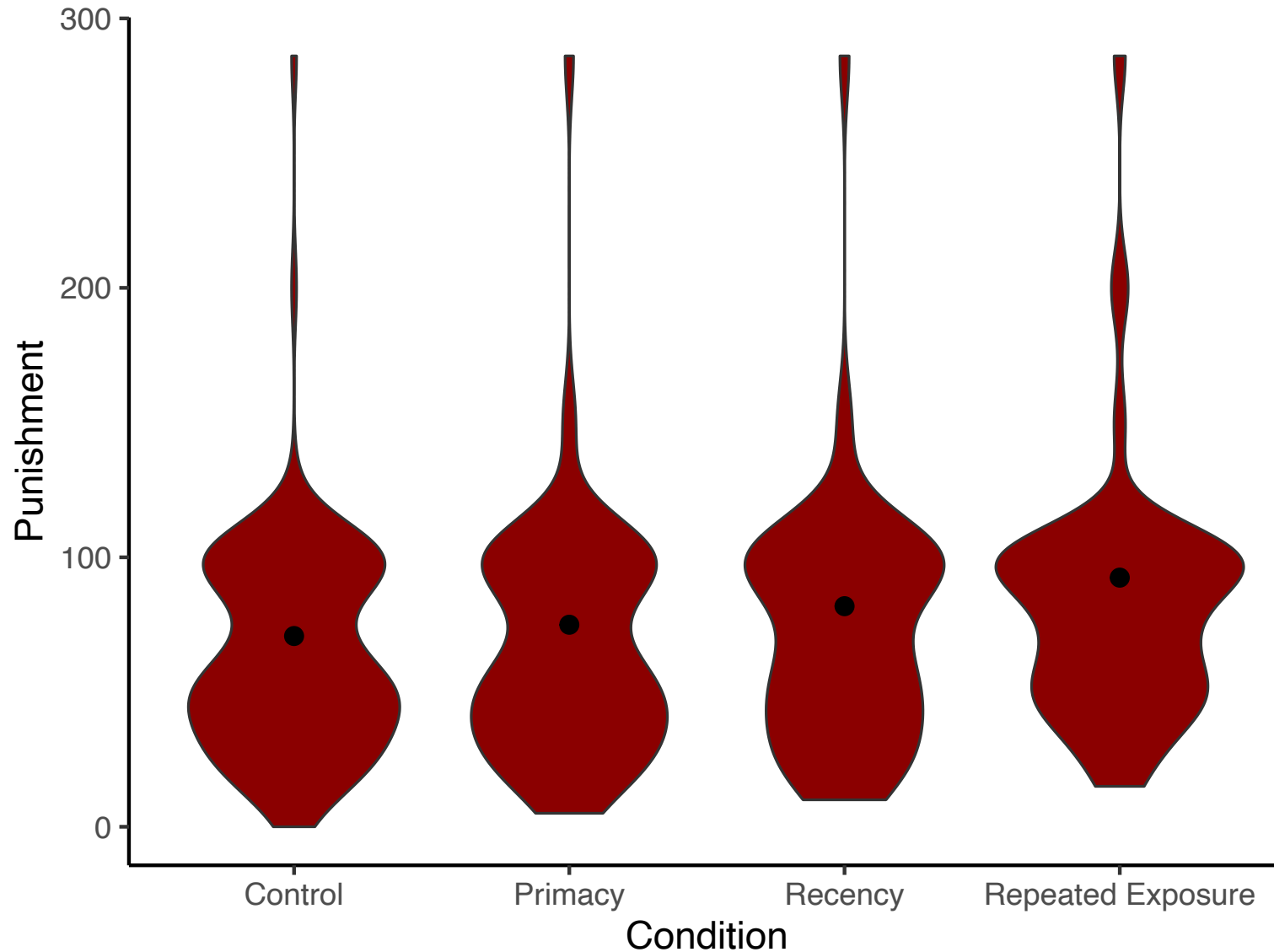
Questions?



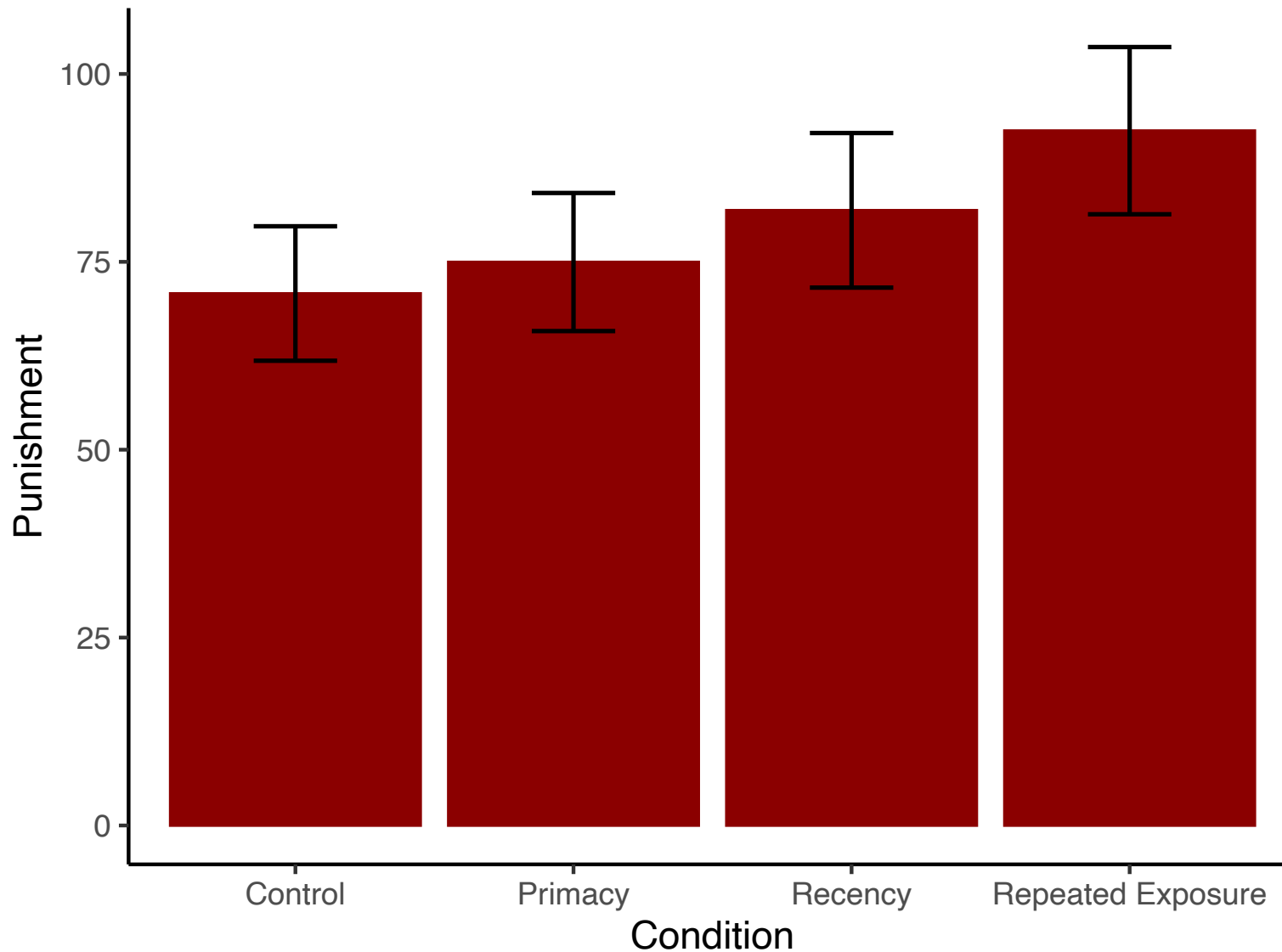
# Effect of Gruesome Photo on Punishment



# Punishment on Condition – Outliers Replaced



# Punishment on Condition – Outliers Replaced



$F(3, 435) = 3.34, p = .019, \eta^2 = .026$

Repeated Exposure more  
than control ( $p = .019$ )