

# **Testing an Online Worry Induction Procedure**



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### **PREVIOUS RESEARCH**

In-person worry induction procedures effectively induce increases in state worry, negative affect, and anxiety (Penney et al., 2011)

### **PRESENT STUDY**

Investigate the effectiveness of an online worry induction and the predictors of an individual's emotional response to the induction

#### **METHODS**

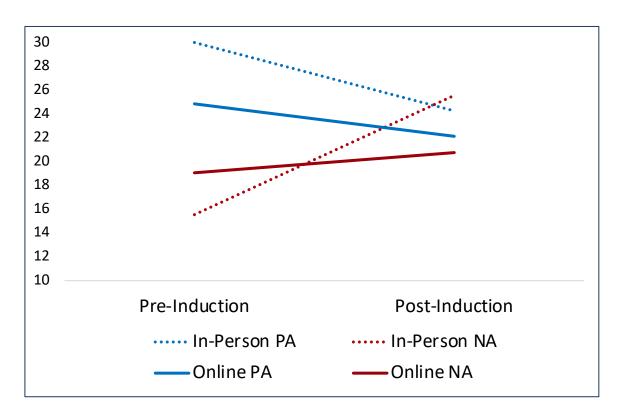
**Sample:** 268 undergraduate psychology students ( $M_{age}$  21.5 years; 76% female)

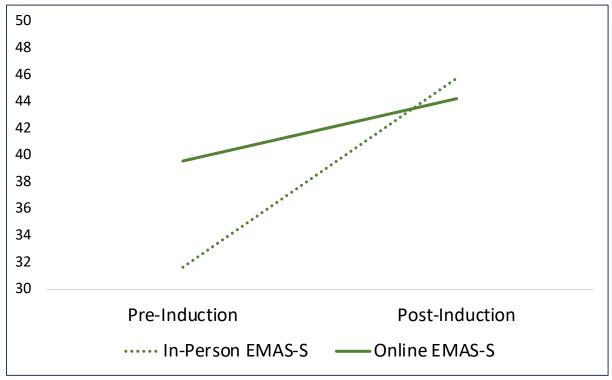
### **Self-report measures:**

- Penn State Worry Questionnaire (PSWQ)
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder Questionnaire-IV (GADQ-IV)
- Positive and Negative Affect Schedule (PANAS)
- Endler Multidimensional Anxiety Scales-State (EMAS-S)
- Worry Report



## Magnitude of emotional change





# Predictors of an individual's emotional response

	▲ PA	▲ NA	▲ EMAS-S
GADQ-IV	<i>r</i> =05	r = .20**	r = .19**
PSWQ	<i>r</i> =01	r = .20**	r = .14*

# **TAKE AWAYS**

- Online worry inductions → increase distress
- GAD symptoms and trait worry predict changes in NA and anxiety
- Intensity of worry = less pronounced compared to in-person induction

## **IMPROVEMENTS**

- Proctor induction/cameras
- Hide timer
- Write out worries

## **LIMITATIONS**

○ Pandemic → heightened baseline distress/anxiety



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