INTRODUCTION

A relationship has been established between religiousness and both aggression (North & Storch, 2002; Burns, 2004) and levels of social support (Ellison & George, 1996). Social support levels have been found to mediate the relationships between religiousness and psychological outcomes (Salsman, Brown, Brechting, & Carlson, 2005), religiousness and suicidal behavior (Robins & Fiske, 2009), and religious involvement and mental health outcomes (Nooney & Woodrum, 2002). It has also been discovered that amount of social support impacts levels of aggressiveness (Berkowitz & McPherson, 2008; Kashour & Shepperd, 1990; Scarpa & Haden, 2006; Schut & Kelloway, 2003).

However, little research has been done examining the relationships among religiousness, social support, and aggression-related outcomes.

Purpose of the Study: To help improve the understanding of the relationship between religiousness, social support, and levels of aggression.

General Hypothesis: Social support will mediate the relationship between lifetime religiousness and aggression.

METHODS

Design & Participants:
- Cross-Sectional
- Undergraduate college students (n=481)
- 57.3%; n = 362
- Caucasian = 92.1%; n = 418
- M age = 22.17; SD = 6.03

Demographic variables (i.e., gender, age, education, ethnicity, marital status)

Measures:

RESULTS

The overall model was significant ($R^2 = .25**$).

Lifetime religiousness was shown to have a significant salutary effect on aggression both directly and indirectly (partial mediation) through social undermining, only. That is, positive social support did not play a role in the relationship between lifetime religiousness and aggression.

More specifically, in addition to a direct association, higher levels of lifetime religiousness were also associated with less perceived social undermining, which in turn was associated with less aggression.

REFERENCES


