

# VALIDITY OF RETROSPECTIVE SELF-REPORTS ON ALCOHOL USE IS PREDICTED BY ALCOHOL USE DISORDER SYMPTOMS

Alexandra Gilmore<sup>1</sup>, Chris Martin Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>, & Danielle N. Jones B.S.<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Florida State University  
<sup>2</sup> University of California - Berkeley



## INTRODUCTION

### ALCOHOL USE AND MIS-REPORTING CONSUMPTION

- Individuals were more likely to under-report alcohol use when they desired to manage the impression left on others (Davis et al., 2010).
- Greater under-reporting of alcohol consumption occurs when individuals engage in heavy or non-routine drinking (Boniface et al., 2014).

### THE CURRENT STUDY

- Is the accuracy of an individual's self-reported alcohol consumption impacted by alcohol use disorder symptoms (AUD)?

## METHODS

### PARTICIPANTS

- 87 student and community members
- $M_{age} = 22.9$  years old (SD = 5.5 years)
- 51 Female, 33 Male, 3 Non-binary

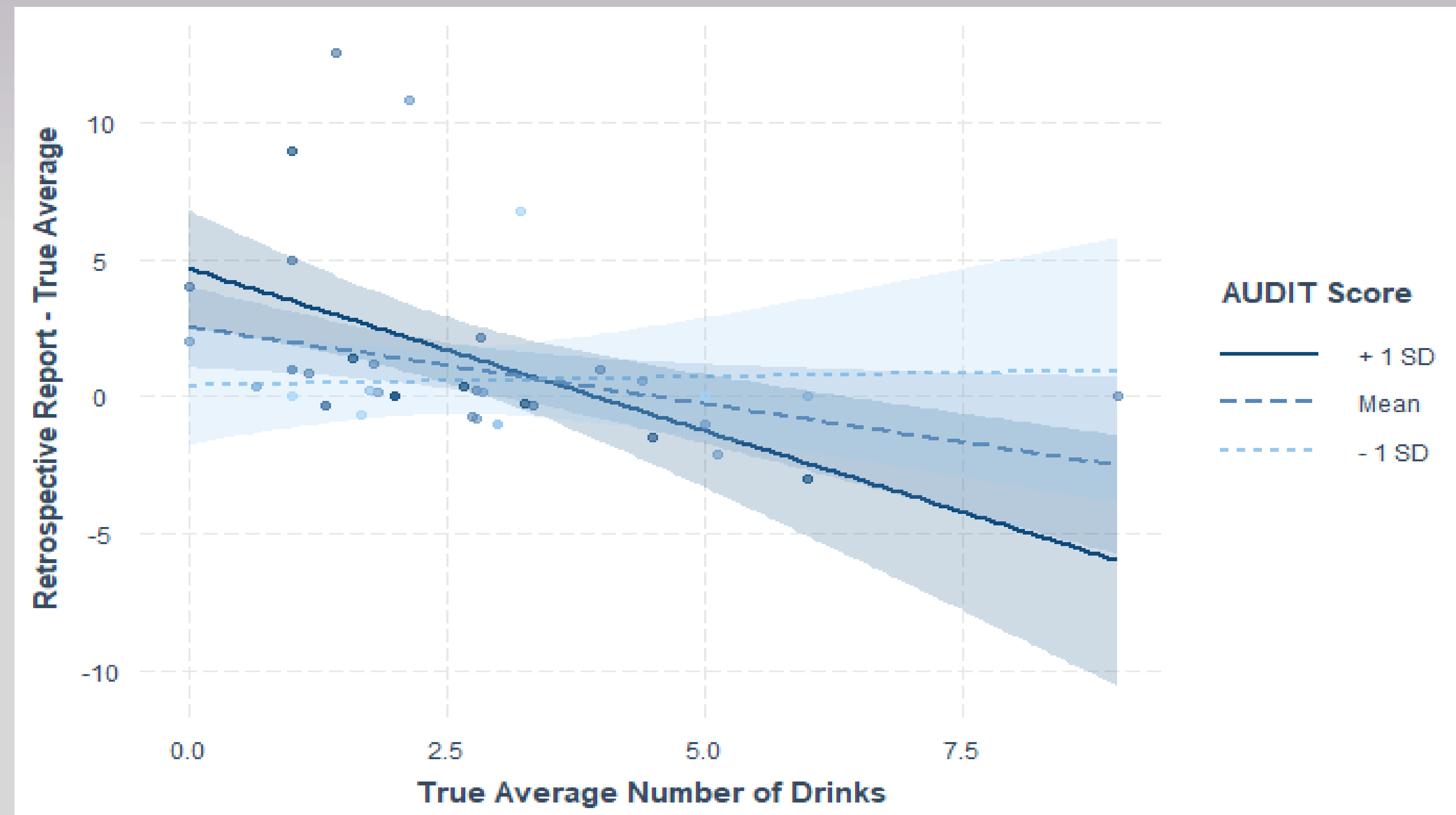
### AUD MEASURE

- Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT; Babor et. al., 2001)

### PROCEDURE

- Participants completed a questionnaire measuring AUD symptoms.
- The following two weeks, participants answered a question probing how many drinks they had in daily surveys.
- Participants responded to a follow-up questionnaire asking them to retroactively report how much they drank each day.

## RESULTS



Plot shows the relationship between participants' retrospectively reported and daily reported alcohol consumption.

- X-axis is the participants' true average number of drinks
- Y-axis is the difference between participants' retrospective report and true average.
- Each line represents a different AUDIT score, indicating higher (+1 SD) and lower (-1 SD) alcohol problems.

## CONCLUSION

Our results indicated that individuals who had more alcohol problems were more likely to under-report alcohol consumption the more they used alcohol.

Future work should further investigate the validity of retrospective self-report for alcohol use and other factors that may influence an individual's responses.

Boniface, S., Kneale, J., & Shelton, N. (2014). Drinking pattern is more strongly associated with under-reporting of alcohol consumption than socio-demographic factors: evidence from a mixed-methods study. *BMC public health*, 14(1), 1297.

Davis, C. G., Thake, J., & Vilhena N. (2012). Social desirability biases in self-reported alcohol consumption and harms. *Addictive behaviors*, 35(4), 302-311.

### REGRESSION

*Predicting Differences Between Retrospective Report and True # of Drinks*

	$\beta$	p
AUDIT Score	.62	.007
True # Drinks	.51	.316
Total Prompts	.13	.374
<b>AUDIT Score * True # Drinks</b>	<b>-.18</b>	<b>.017</b>

### SIMPLE SLOPES

*True # Drinks predicting Retrospective Report - True # by AUDIT Score*

	Estimate	p
Low AUDIT Score	.06	.86
Mean AUDIT Score	-.56	.02
High AUDIT Score	-1.19	<.01