

## Assessing Innovations for Child Victims in the Courtroom

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### Dogs ready to help scared victims in court

Illinois could be one of a few states allowing comfort dogs to help during testimony in sex cases

#### Dogs give comfort - and controversy - in court

By: Sue Manning The Associated Press  
Published: June 10, 2013

Comments: 1 Gallery 2

### U.S. courtroom dogs spark legal debate

HUDSON, NEW YORK | BY DAN WIESSNER

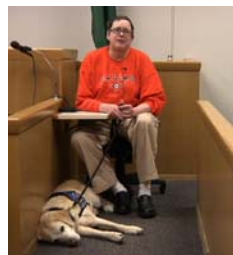


### The Debate

- Argument against: Defense
  - Juror bias
- Argument in support: Prosecution
  - Maintains integrity of the courtroom

### Washington v. Dye (2013)

- Burglary case
- Bases of appeal
  - Use of facility dog
- Court rejected appeal



### Burd and McQuiston (2014)

- Mock trial involving child molestation
- Facility dog v. teddy bear v. nothing
- No evidence of dogs creating bias

## Current Study

- Looking more closely at the impact of facility dogs

## Method

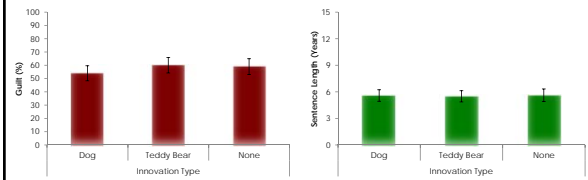
- N=240
- Partial trial transcript
- Participants read and responded to their assigned transcript



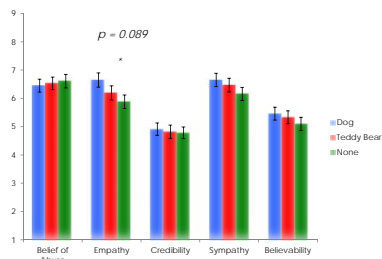
## Hypothesis

- Crime Seriousness x Innovation Type interaction

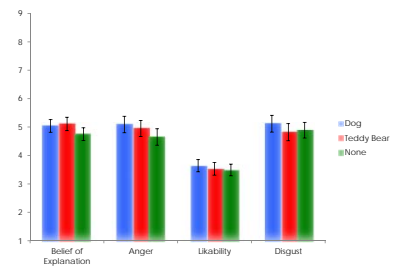
## Results: Guilt and Sentencing



## Results: Evaluations of Victim



## Results: Evaluations of Defendant



## Discussion

- Findings support the use of facility dogs
- Limitations
  - Lack of visual stimuli
- Future directions
  - Video recording/live mock trial
  - Defendant use of facility dog
  - Level of interaction with dog