



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

# DISSATISFACTION WITH THE CARCERAL STATE AND ITS EFFECT ON VARIOUS FORMS OF PARTICIPATION

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## ABSTRACT

While many scholars have sought to determine factors that predict participation, they have either neglected that multiple forms of participation exist beyond voter turnout or that dissatisfaction is not a binary concept. Our research looks at the relationship between the degree of dissatisfaction and the resulting level of participation. We measure how this relationship is affected by various demographic factors and varies among types of participation (general, protest specific, criminal justice related protest). Ultimately, as these additional factors are applied to our model, participation presents a curvilinear relationship with those who feel strongly participating the highest.

## RESULTS - ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS

Figure 1: Frequency Plot of Dissatisfaction

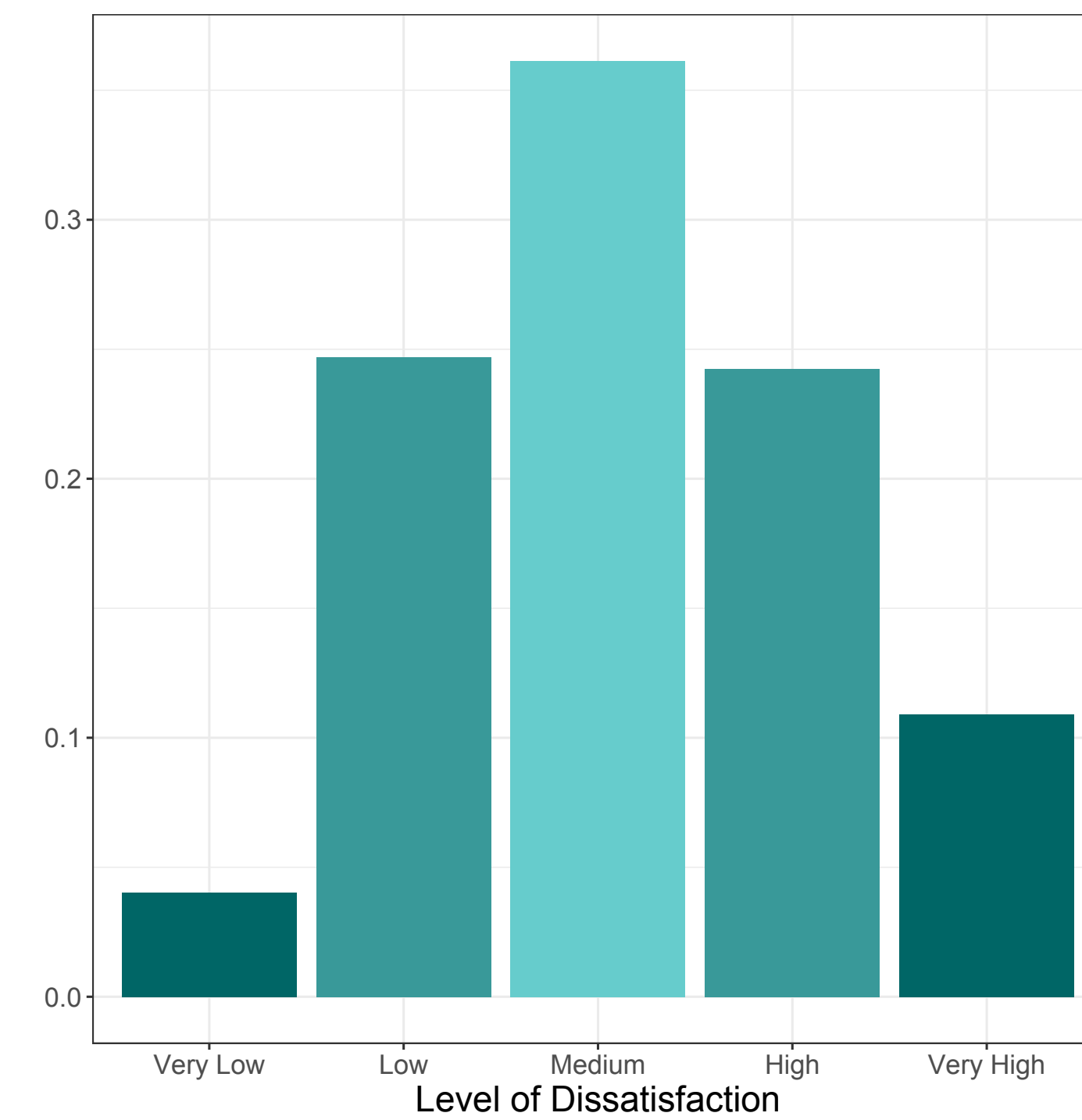


Figure 2: Frequency Plot of Participation

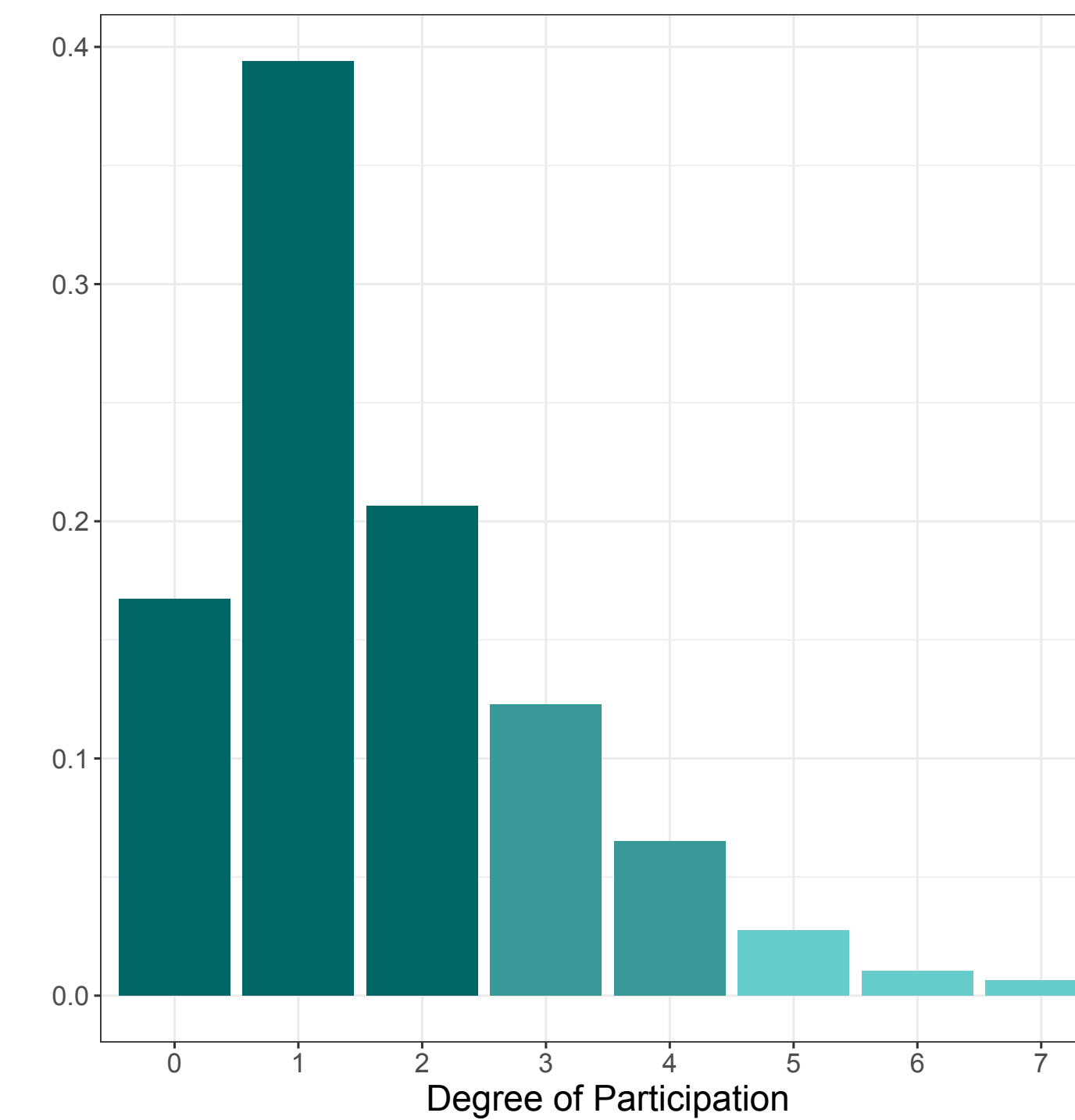


Figure 3: Dissatisfaction vs. Participation with Controls

Table with 4 columns: Variable, 1: Participation, 2: Protest, 3: CJ Protest. Rows include (Intercept), Dissat. 1-4, Race, Gender, Income, Education, R^2, Adj. R^2, Num. obs., and RMSE.

\*p < 0.05

## DATA AND METHODS

### Data Source

Race and the Carceral State Survey

- Online survey distributed nationally to 10,585 White and 4,458 Black respondents (n = 15,043), weighted on demographic dimensions on the back end.

### Analysis

#### Dependent Variables

- Dissatisfaction with carceral state (scale 1-5)

#### Independent Variables

- General Participation - 8 possible forms
- Protest
- Criminal Justice Protest

Covariates: race; income; gender; education; proximal contact, diverse networks

## RESULTS - INTERACTION OF PARTICIPATION AND DISSATISFACTION

Figure 4: General Participation against Dissatisfaction

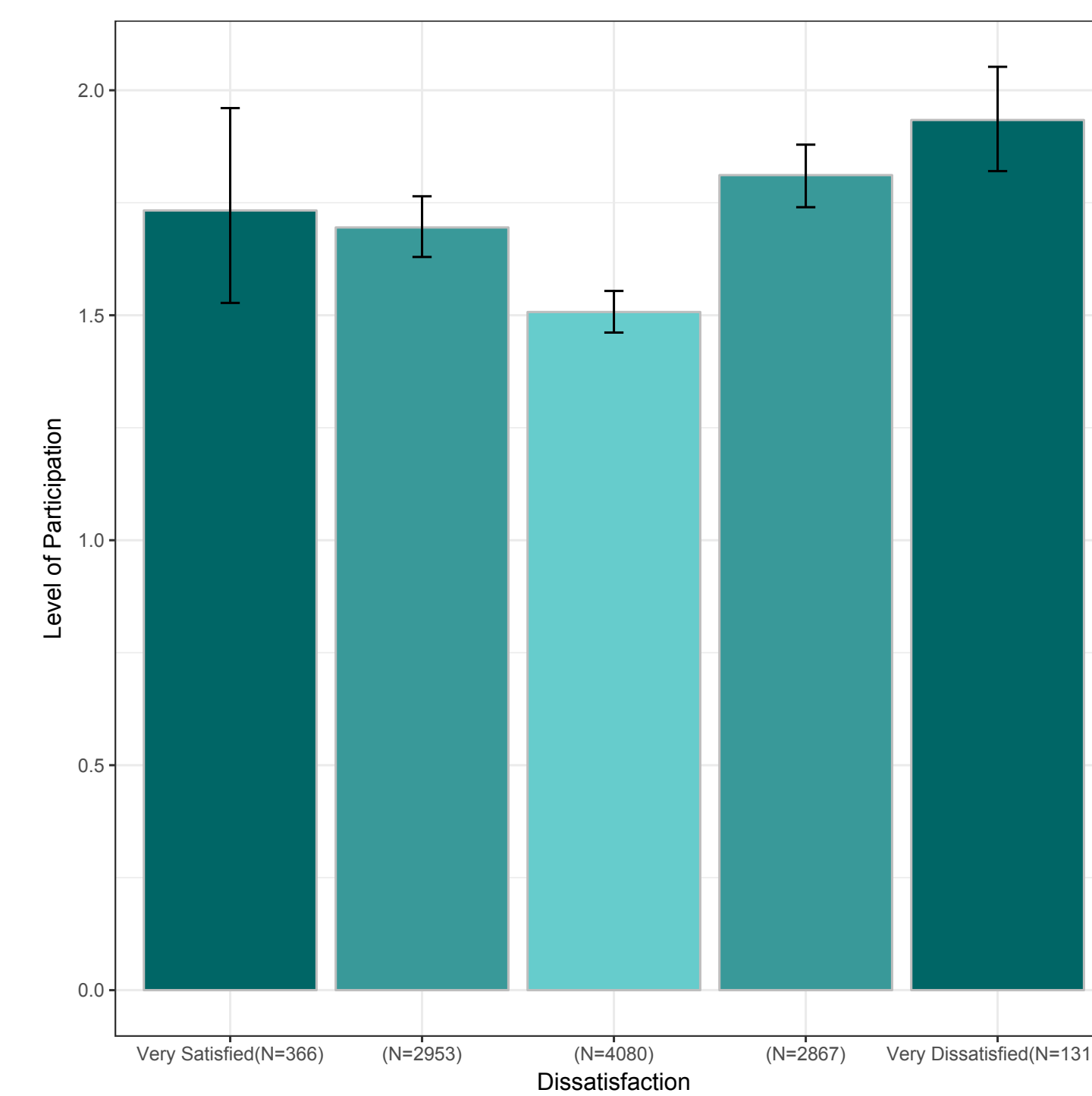


Figure 5: Protest against Dissatisfaction

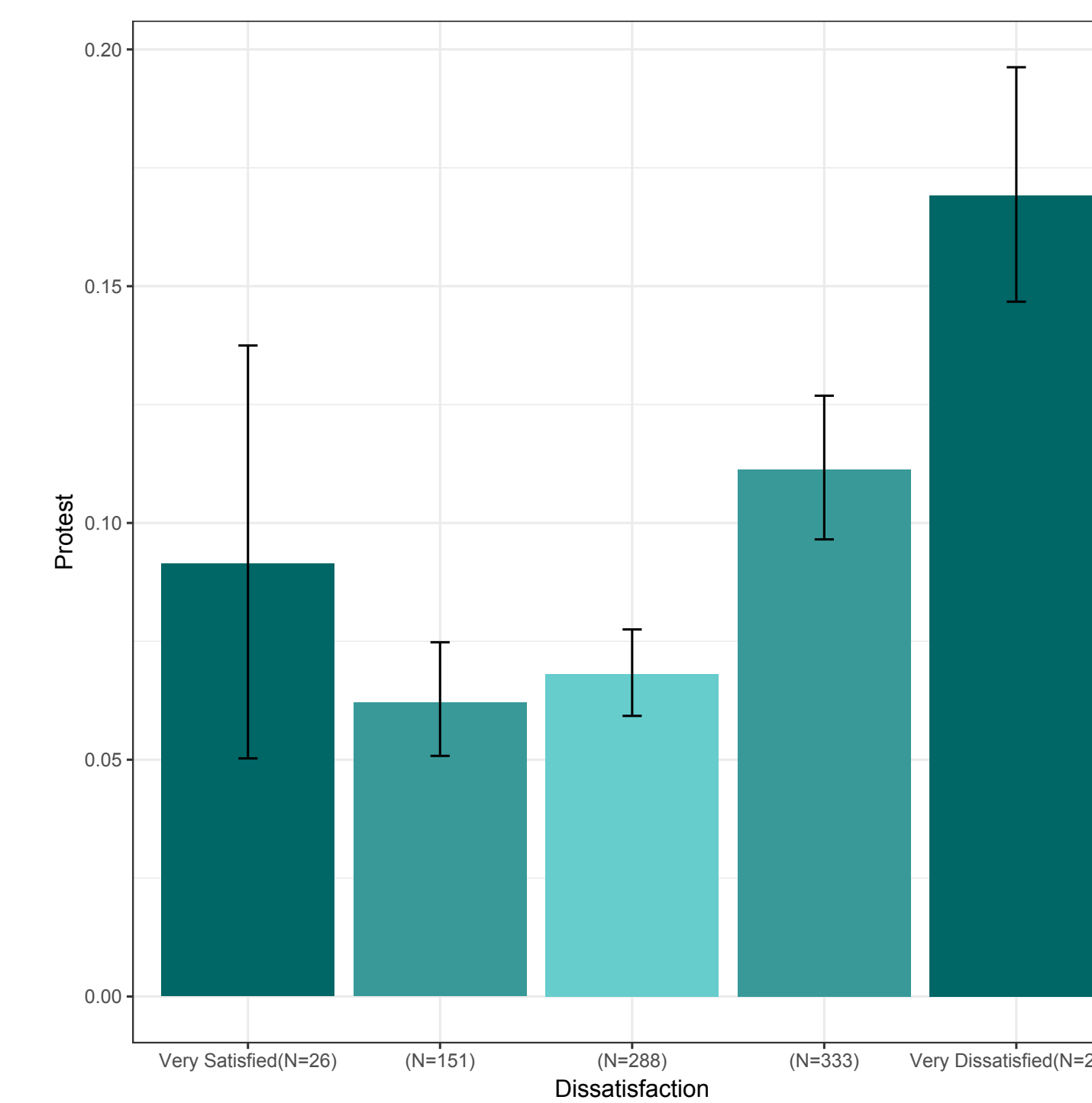
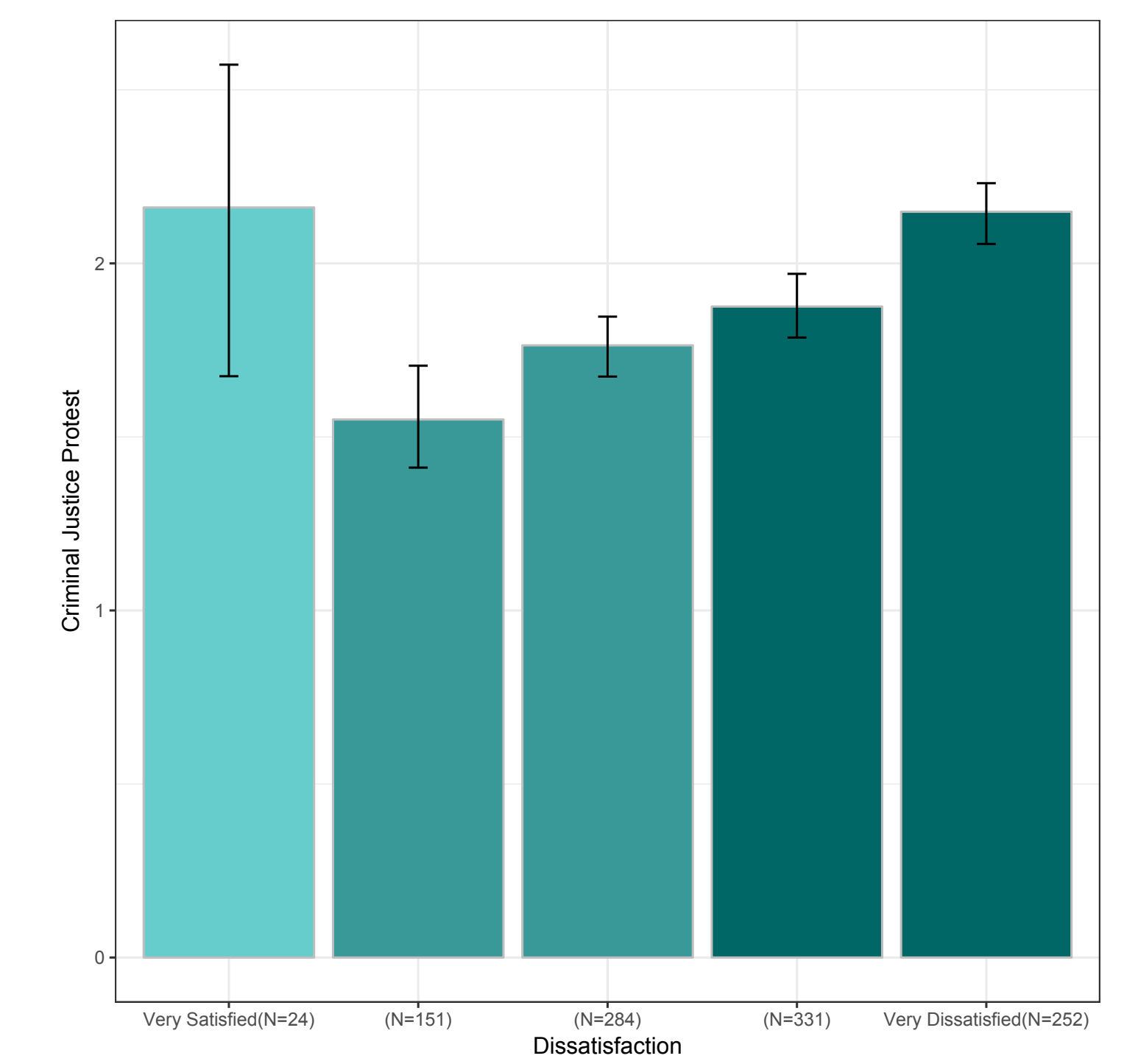


Figure 6: CJ Protest against Dissatisfaction



## FINDINGS

- We find a **curvilinear relationship** between participation and dissatisfaction as apathy produced the lowest levels of participation.
- Dissatisfaction with carceral state policies increases individuals' participation in protests, particularly protests related to criminal justice policies.
- This relationship remains robust when controlling for the factors of race, gender, income, and education.

## CONCLUSION

- High levels of dissatisfaction or satisfaction with the carceral state lead to increased rates of participation.
- Increased dissatisfaction, contrary to previous theories, does not have a strong demobilizing effect on participation.
- Race does not have a significant impact on the likelihood of participating across the range of feelings about the carceral state
- These findings for general participation maintain robustness after completing interaction models for race, proximal contact, and diversity of social networks.

## FUTURE RESEARCH

- Smaller state-level analysis
- Longitudinal study across the year
- Political outcome variance due to participation

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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