

# Collecting to the bitter end: A correlational study of hoarding, distressed personality type, hostile world assumptions and fear of death.

Maor Bitton, Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology, Ruppin Academic Center  
Ada H. Zohar, Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology, Ruppin Academic Center  
Dov Shmotkin, Herzeg Institute on Aging, Tel Aviv University

## Background

Hoarding is a dysfunctional behavior and as it becomes entrenched it is progressively more difficult to treat. The goal of the current study was to test the hypothesis that Type D personality, Hostile World Assumptions (HWA) and fear of death - all combine to predict variance in hoarding behavior.

The current study examined the role of personality traits on psychosomatic distress (PD) and tested the hypothesis that the association between perfectionism and PD would be moderated by self-compassion.

## Results

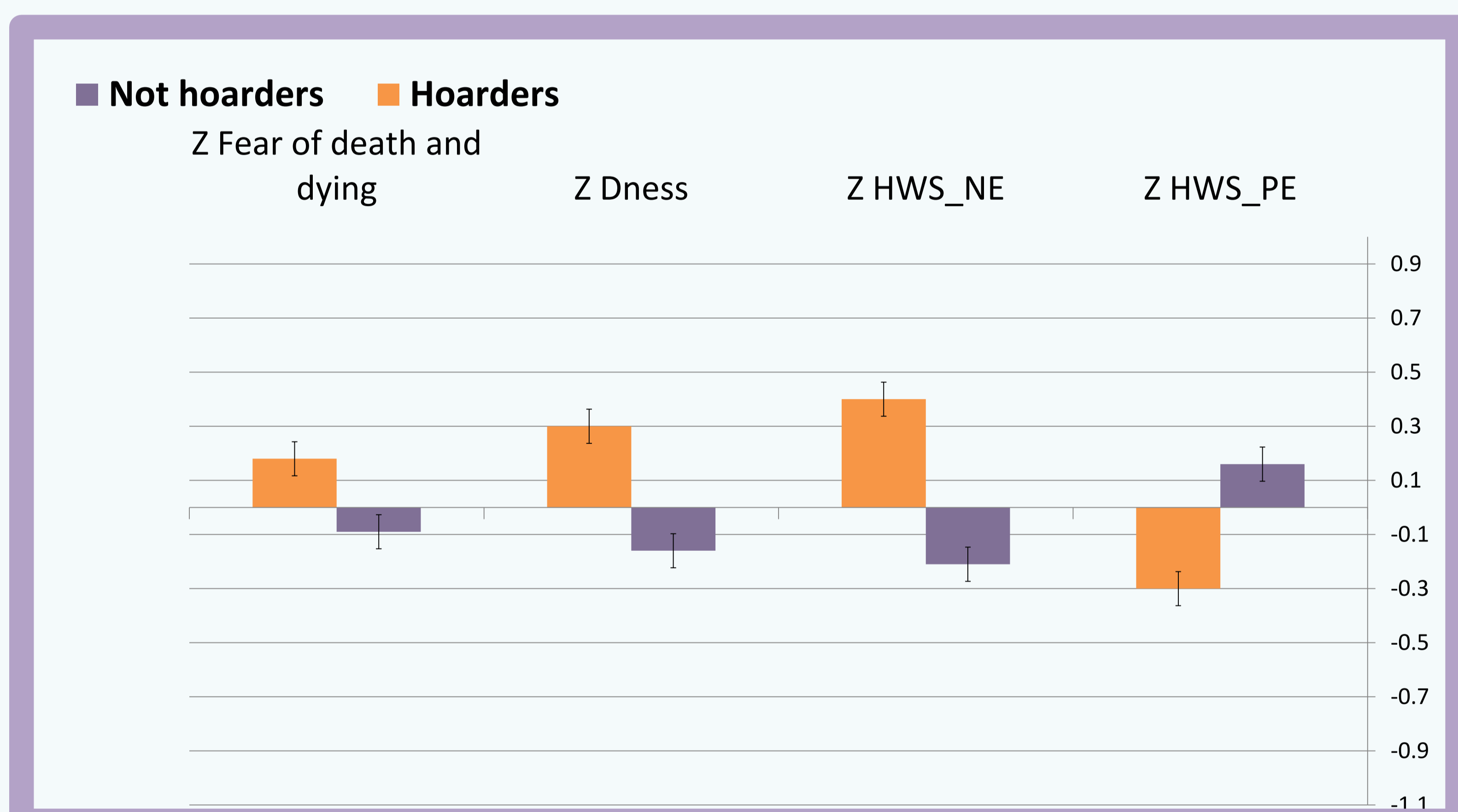
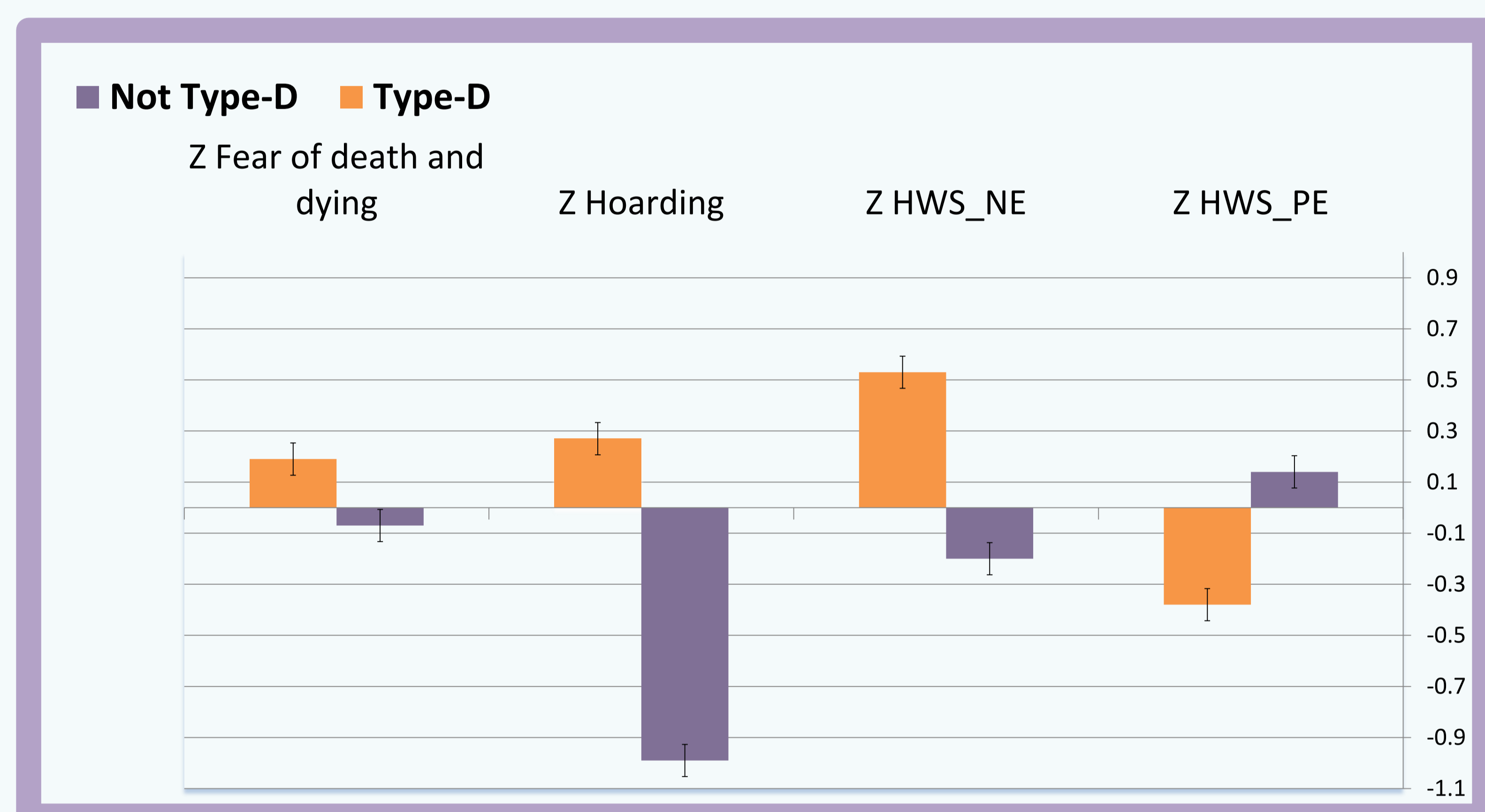
Using factor analysis with Varimax rotation we were able to discriminate within the FODQ two distinct subscales: fear of death and fear of dying, both with good psychometric qualities. Analysis of variance revealed that individuals with distressed personality were higher on hoarding, on the fear of death sub-scale, and on the negative engagement (NE) of the HWS. A complementary pattern was shown for high (HH) vs. low hoarders (LH): The HH were more likely to have Type D personality, higher NE on the HWS and more fear of death. Mediation analysis revealed that the NE of the HWS was a complete mediator between Type D personality and hoarding behavior.

## Discussion

This correlational study suggests a pathway to hoarding that stems from being fundamentally stressed as in Type D personality, developing the NE of HWS, and leading to hoarding as a defensive process. If these results are replicated then they may also suggest new approaches to the treatment or prevention of hoarding.

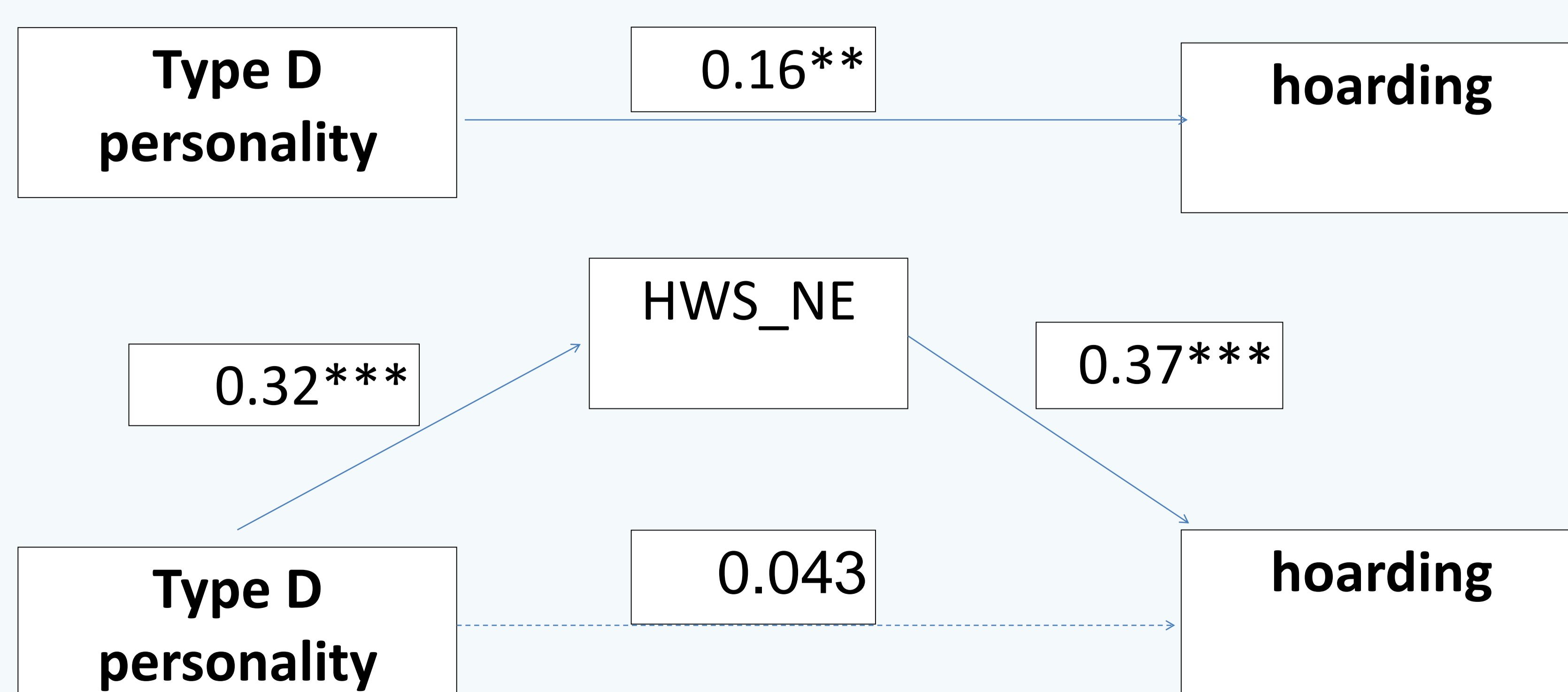
## Method

- 249 community volunteers (19% male) 20-79 years of age (mean 44.3±15.2) self-reported on:
- Hoarding measures (UHSS, HRS-I)
- Hostile-world scenario (HWS)
- Distressed personality (DS14)
- Fear of death (FODQ).



*Note.* N=249, All scores are standardized. A type-D personality is defined as a score of 10 or higher in each of the two sub-scales of the D-14 Denollet questionnaire; Dness - the product of the two sub-scales of the D-14 Denollet questionnaire, score 135 and above defines a participant as having a personality of type

## Mediation analysis



All values are standardized beta coefficients.

\* $p < .05$  \*\* $p < .01$ . \*\*\* $p < 0.001$

→ Significant

-----> Not significant



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