

Student-Athletes' Parent Demographics and Student-Athletic Expectations

Shraya Blaisdell

INTRODUCTION

- In 2014 almost 8 million high school students in America played high school sports
- As sport is a prominent factor in students' lives, it is important to recognize and understand what drives high school student-athletes to perform.

¹National Federation of State High School Associations



QUESTION

How do parental characteristics, including age, education level and gender, affect parent expectations for their children in sports? Are students aware of these expectations?

DEFINITIONS

- Parent expectations categorized as:
 - Expectations for student-athlete sports performance
 - Expectations for student-athlete skills/capabilities



HYPOTHESIS

The demographic factors, parental age, gender, and education level, are predicted to influence parents' expectations for their student-athlete's sport performance and skill development.

BACKGROUND

Expectancy-Value Model¹: parents emphasize/encourage activities they value

- children's persistence and continuation influenced by what parents value and deem successful

¹More Than Just Letting Them Play: Parental Influence on Women's Lifetime Sport Involvement, Marlene A. Dixon and Stacy M. Warner, 2008

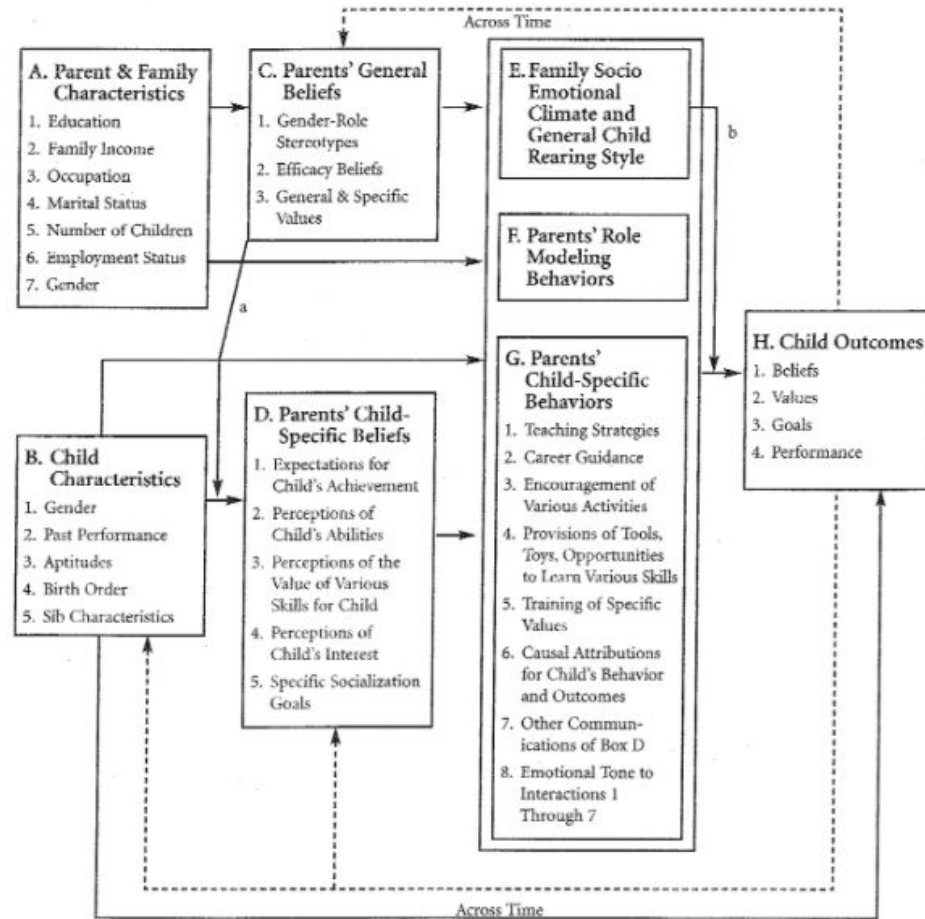
BACKGROUND

- Involved parents acted as chauffeurs, financiers, sport role models, and crowd members
- Parental expectations may lead to pressure and stress that interfere with their children's sport participation

¹Brustad, 1988; Scanlan, Stein, & Ravizza, 1991; Weiss, Weise, & Klint, 1989

Parental Influences on Youth Involvement in Sports

FIGURE 2
Model of parental influences on their children's motivation and achievement



METHODS

- 47 student respondents and 34 parent responses, totalling in 81 participants
- The student-athlete group and parent group were given separate surveys after receiving informed parental consent and student-athlete assent.
- IRB approved

METHODS

- Parent questionnaires asked: demographics, high school sports, value of academics vs. sports, involvement within student's sport, and expectations
- Student questionnaires asked: parent demographics, their sport, parent involvement in their sport, knowledge of parents' expectations

RESULTS

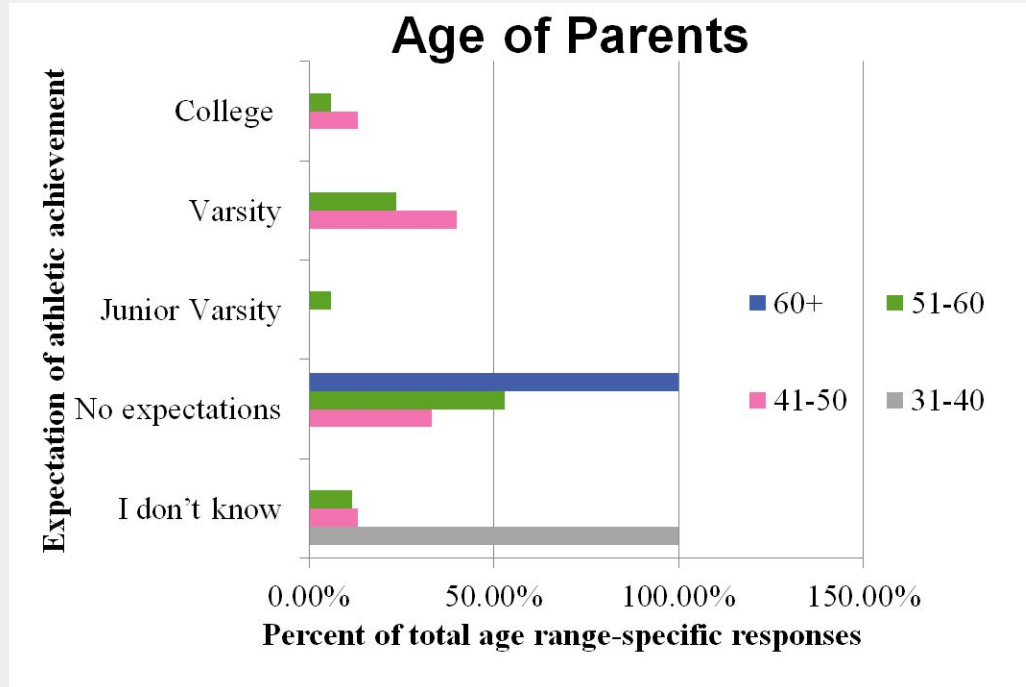




EXPECTATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE

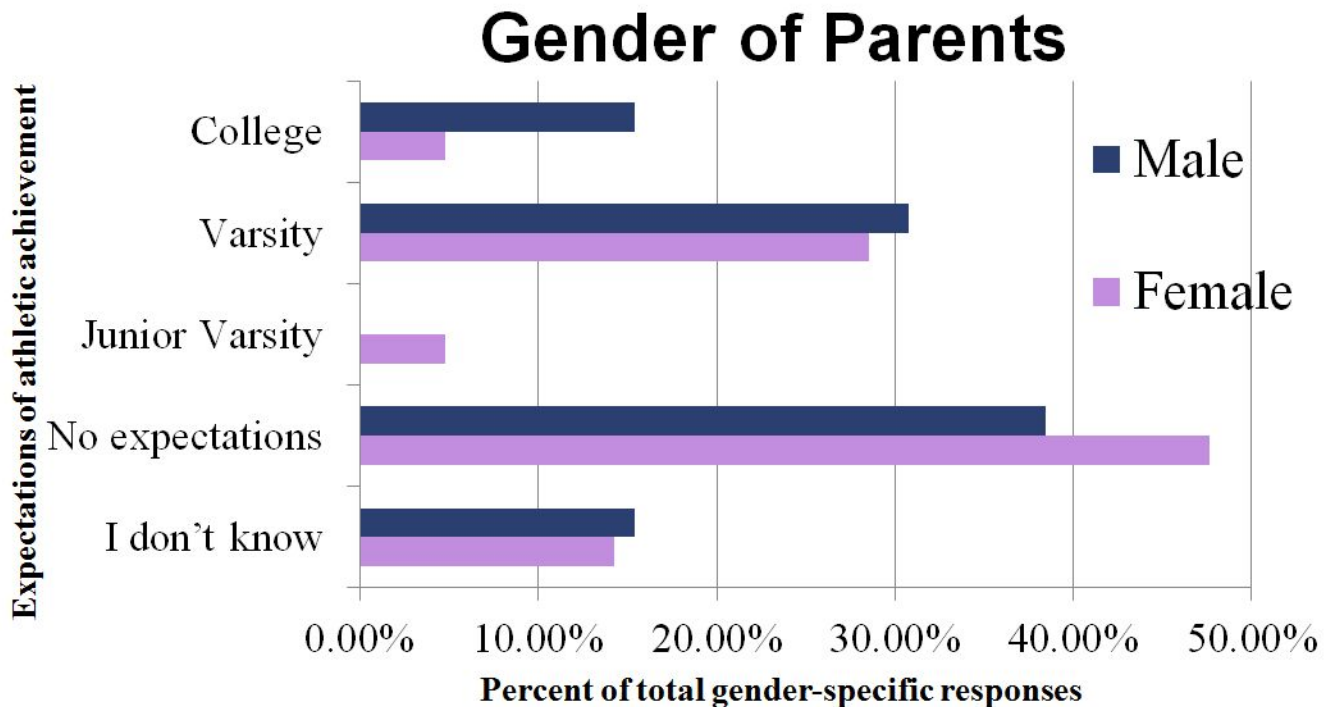
RESULTS

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE'S PERFORMANCE



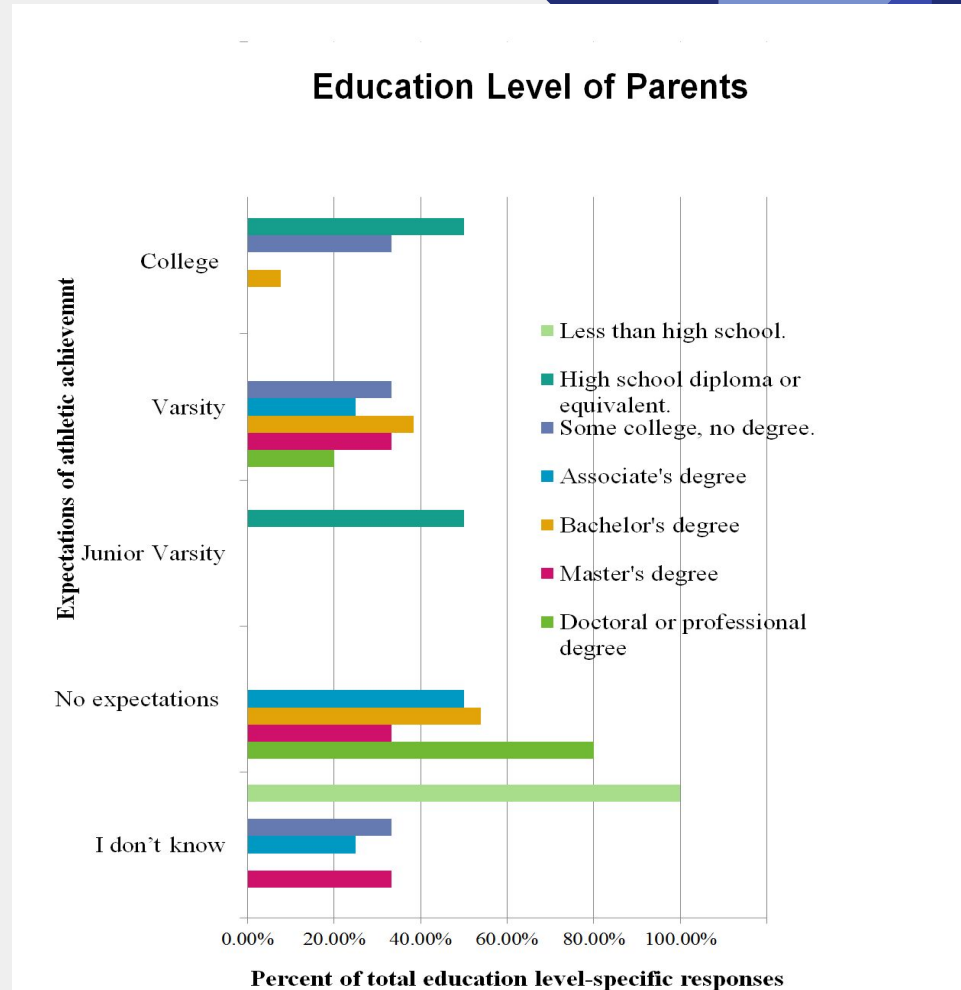
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EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE'S PERFORMANCE



RESULTS

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE'S PERFORMANCE



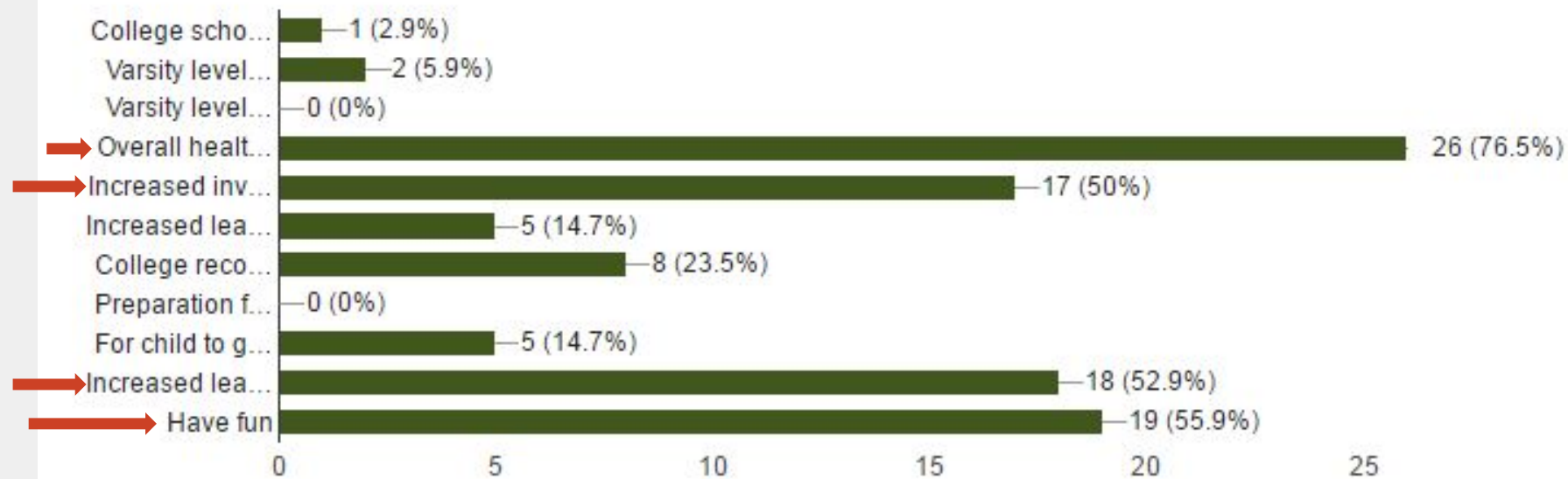


SKILL DEVELOPMENT & GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

RESULTS

Regardless of parental demographics, the top 4 expectations beyond performing well in sports:

- Increased learning of skills like discipline, goal-setting, hard work, teamwork
- Increased involvement in school
- Overall health of student
- To have fun



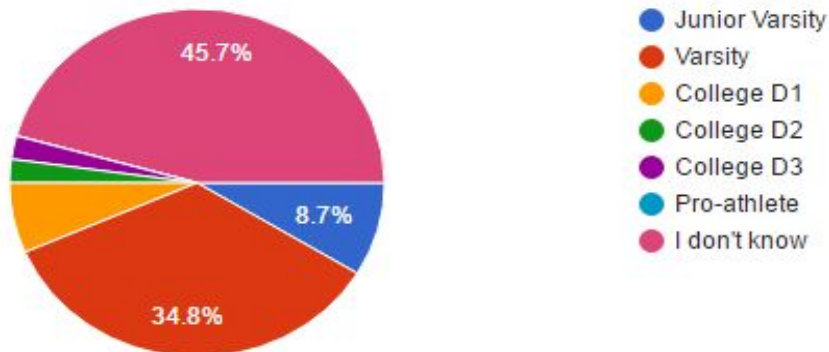


IMPLICATIONS FOR THE STUDENT-ATHLETES

ATHLETES' UNDERSTANDING OF PARENT SPORT PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

What are your parent(s)' expectations for your final team level/proficiency in your sport? [D1-3 are the divisions set by colleges to divide college sports and games. D1 is the highest of the three levels.]

(46 responses)



DISCUSSION

- Highly educated parents and older parents demonstrated less concern for student's athletic achievement.
 - **Farther away from their high school experience**
 - **Place more value on academics**
- Male parents had higher expectations of student athletic achievement than female parents
 - **Males traditionally thought of as having more active role in sports**

DISCUSSION

- Almost half of student-athletes are unaware of parent expectations for them for sport performance or skill development
 - **Parents may assume children already know**
 - **Students' busy schedule prevents time spent on communication**

DISCUSSION

- Demographics don't impact general/skill development expectations as much as performance expectations
 - **Skills influence student's well-being, rather than achievement**

WHAT NEXT?

- Future research should look at more role models besides parents that influence a child's attitudes like coaches and peers
- A wider base of data/more respondents
- Further analysis on specific comparisons between parents and students

CONCLUSION

- Parent demographics seem to play a role in their expectations for student athletic performance
- Parent demographics don't play a role in a their expectations for general skill development
- Many students unaware of parental expectations

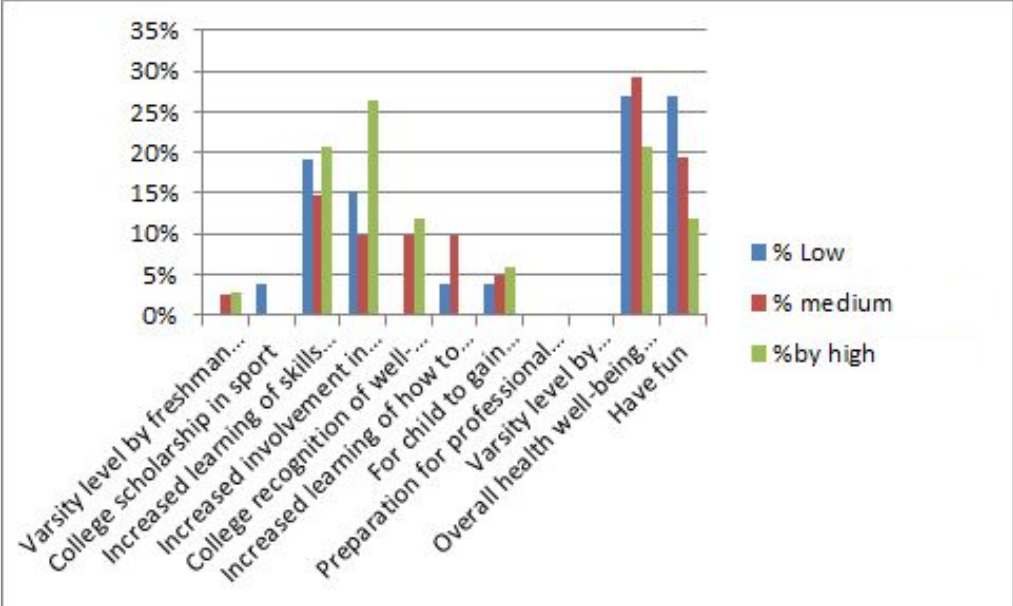


Student-Athletes' Parent Demographics and Student-Athletic Achievement Expectations

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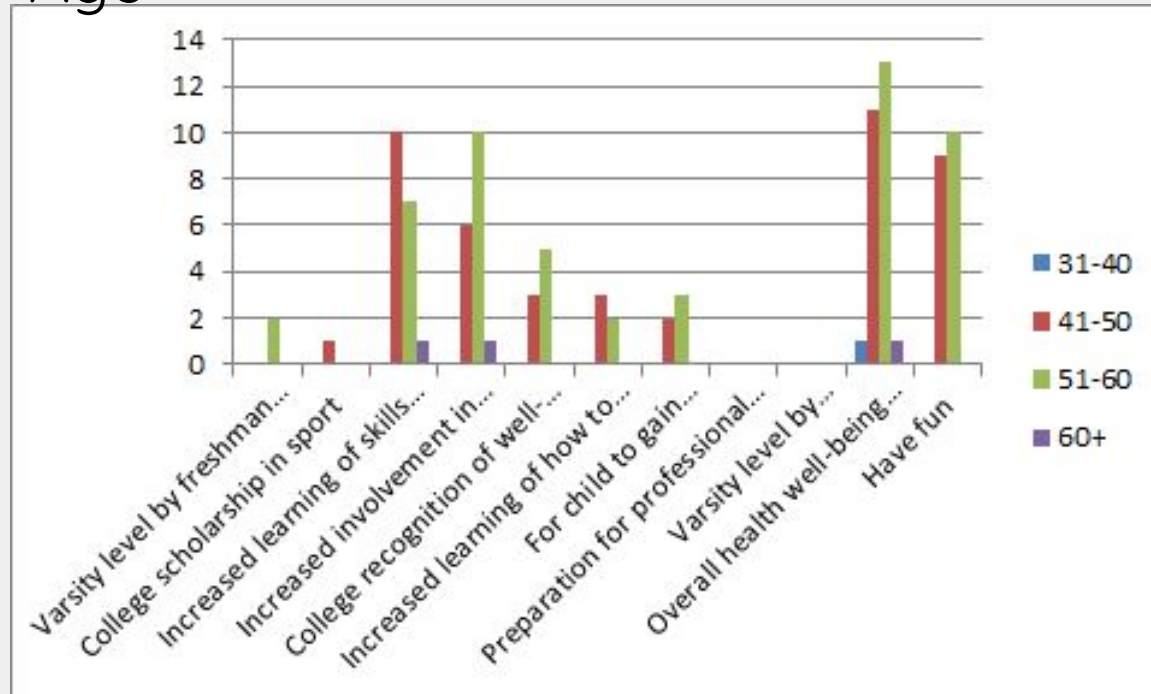
Parental expectations for student-athlete skills/capabilities

Education level of Parents

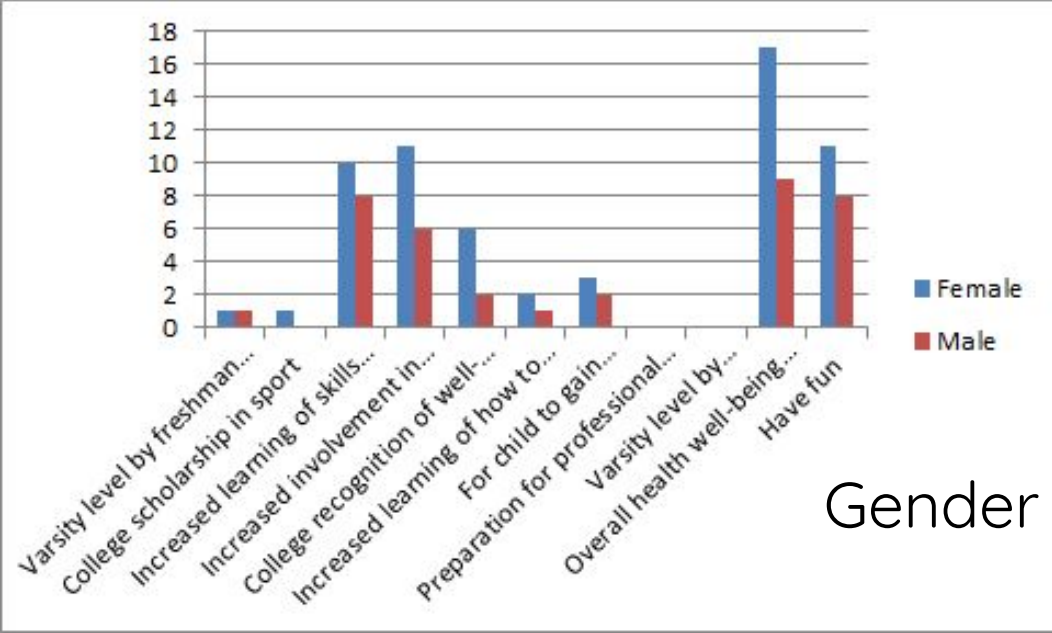


Parental expectations for student-athlete skills/capabilities

Age



Parental expectations for student-athlete skills/capabilities



Gender