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Dance, Gender, and Development

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Dance, Gender, and Development

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Background

Gender socialization tends to entail differential encouragement of boys and girls in different activities.^{1,2} Parents may encourage girls to pursue activities like dance, whereas boys are encouraged to pursue sports. Recent evidence has shown links between rhythmic and phonological abilities, and improving rhythmic ability may have positive effects on reading ability.³

Research Questions

1. Are girls more likely to pursue dance and music training than boys?
2. Are girls better at rhythm/beat perception than boys?
3. Do rhythm/beat perception skills predict phonological abilities?



Methods



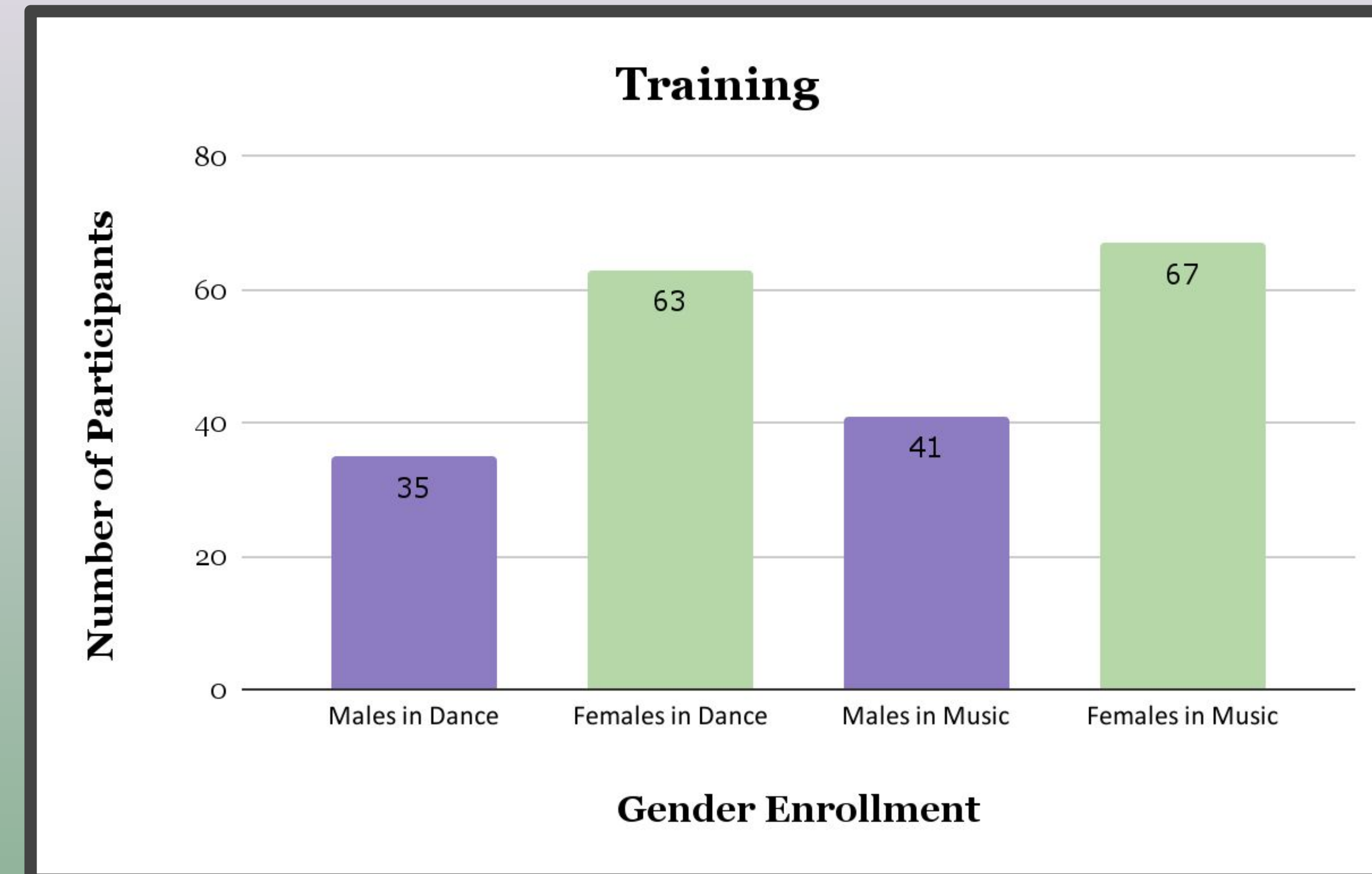
Background Questionnaire:

- ❖ Gender
- ❖ Years of Dance & Years of Music Training

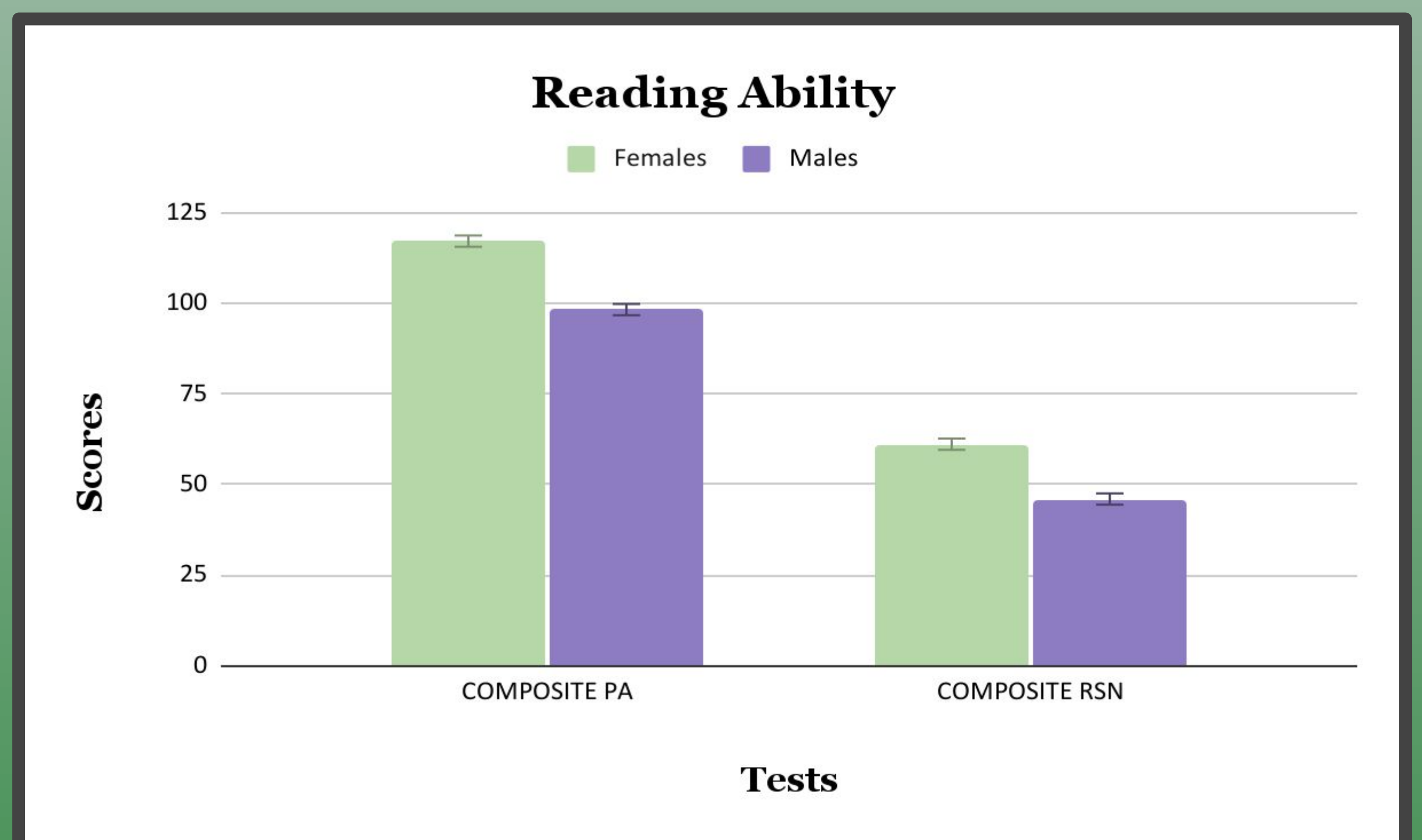
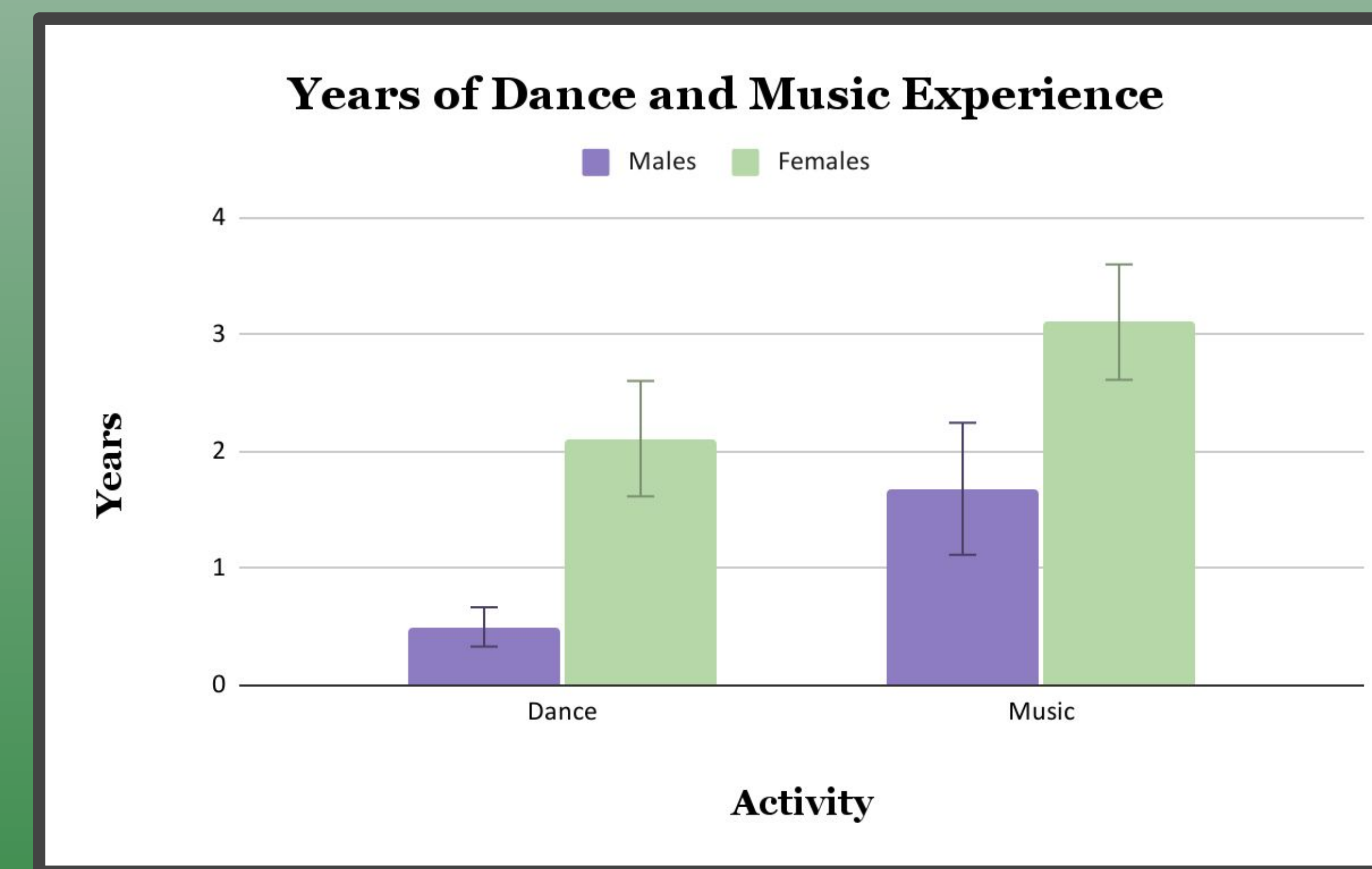
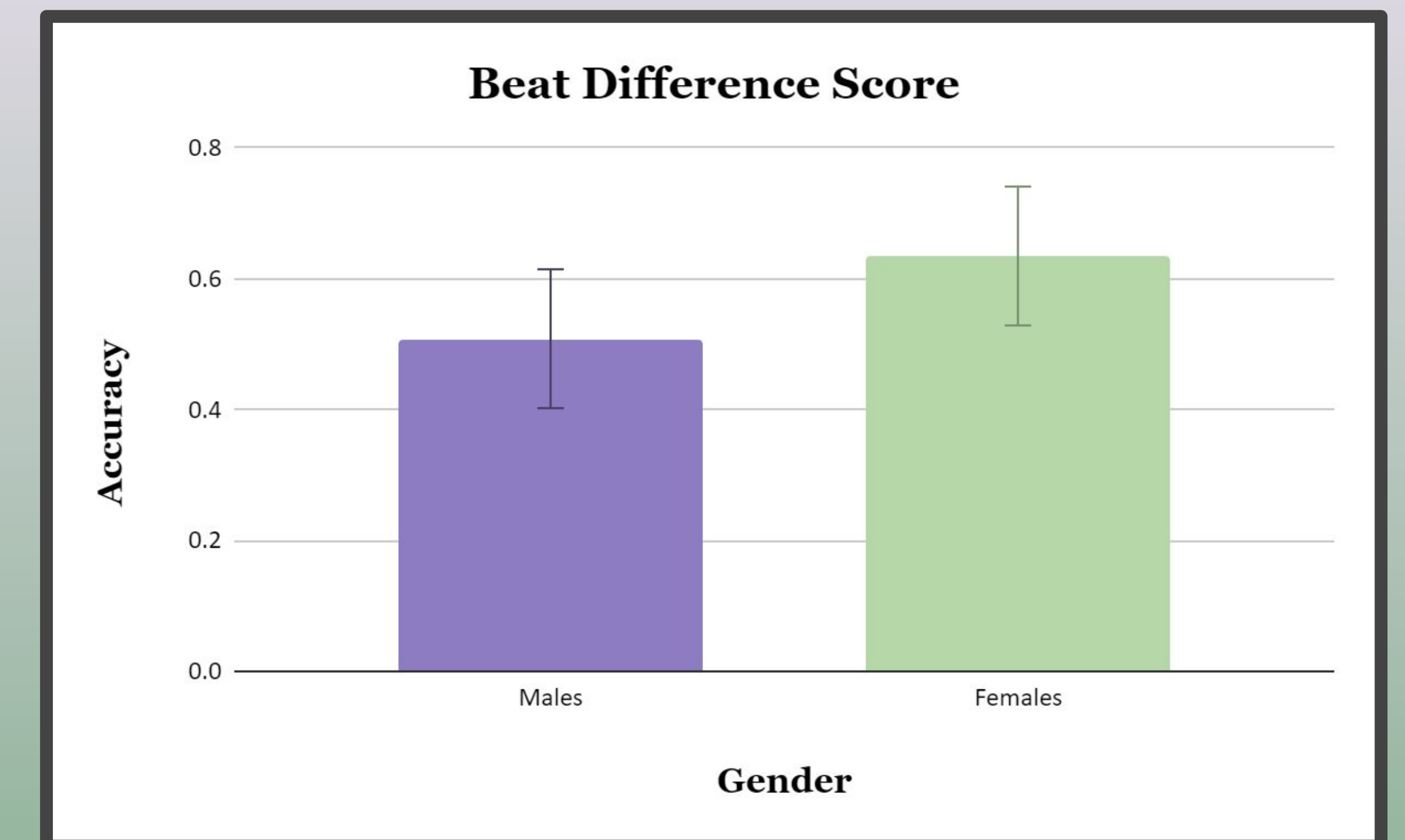
BMS and NEAM: Measures Beat Perception

CTOPP-2: Measures Phonological Ability

Results (Experience)



Results (Perception)



Next Steps

Surveying parents for gender stereotype endorsement may indicate where interventions will be effective.

Acknowledgements

Implications

Our findings suggest that –in a sample of North American children– girls tend to have more dance experience than boys, meaning boys may enjoy the benefits of this skill development less than girls.

1. Montañés, P., de Lemus, S., Bohner, G., Megías, J., Moya, M., & Garcia-Retamero, R. (2012). Intergenerational transmission of benevolent sexism from mothers to daughters and its relation to daughters' academic performance and goals. *Sex Roles*, 66, 468-478. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-011-0116-0>

2. Tennenbaum, H. R., & Leaper, C. (2002). Are parents' gender schemas related to their childrens' gender-related cognitions? A meta-analysis. *Developmental Psychology*, 38, 615-630. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0012-1649.38.4.615>

3. Nave, K. M., Snyder, J.S., & Hannon, E. (2022). Sustained musical beat perception develops into late childhood and predicts phonological abilities. <https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/djb62>