

Beyond the dichotomy: A new self-report instrument to quantify Gender as a continuous construct

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Research Aims:

- Quantify gender beyond a simple dichotomy
 - Experiences, Perceptions, and Interests Questionnaire (EPIQ)**
- Compare EPIQ scores of parent to non-parent adults
- Examine whether the child influences parent self-perception

Background

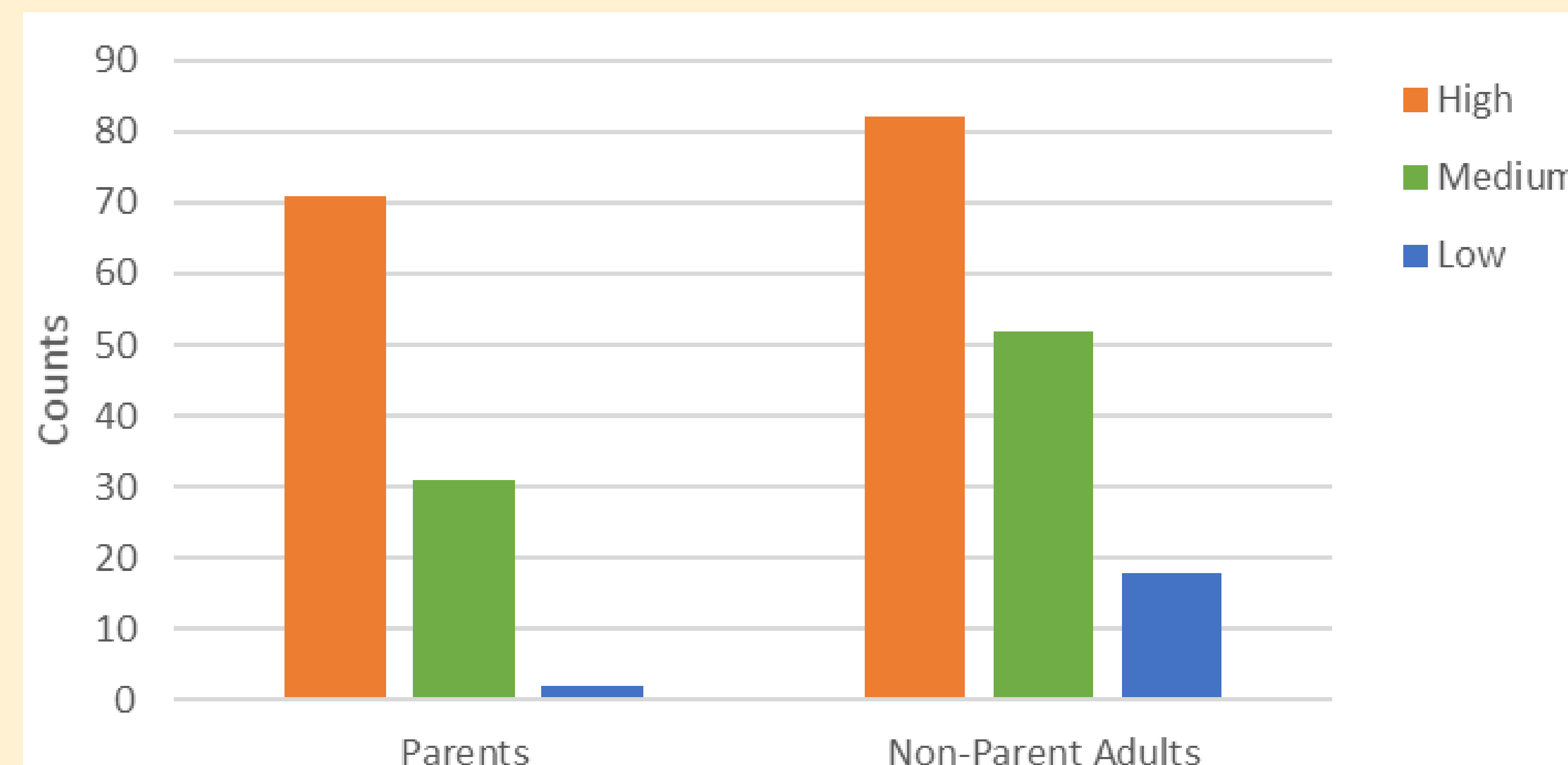
- Mothers and fathers uniquely influence child development¹
 - Differences remain understudied, but gender-perceptions seem to affect adults' interactions with children^{2,3}
- What is different between mothers and fathers?
 - Quantify gender beyond the dichotomy**

Method

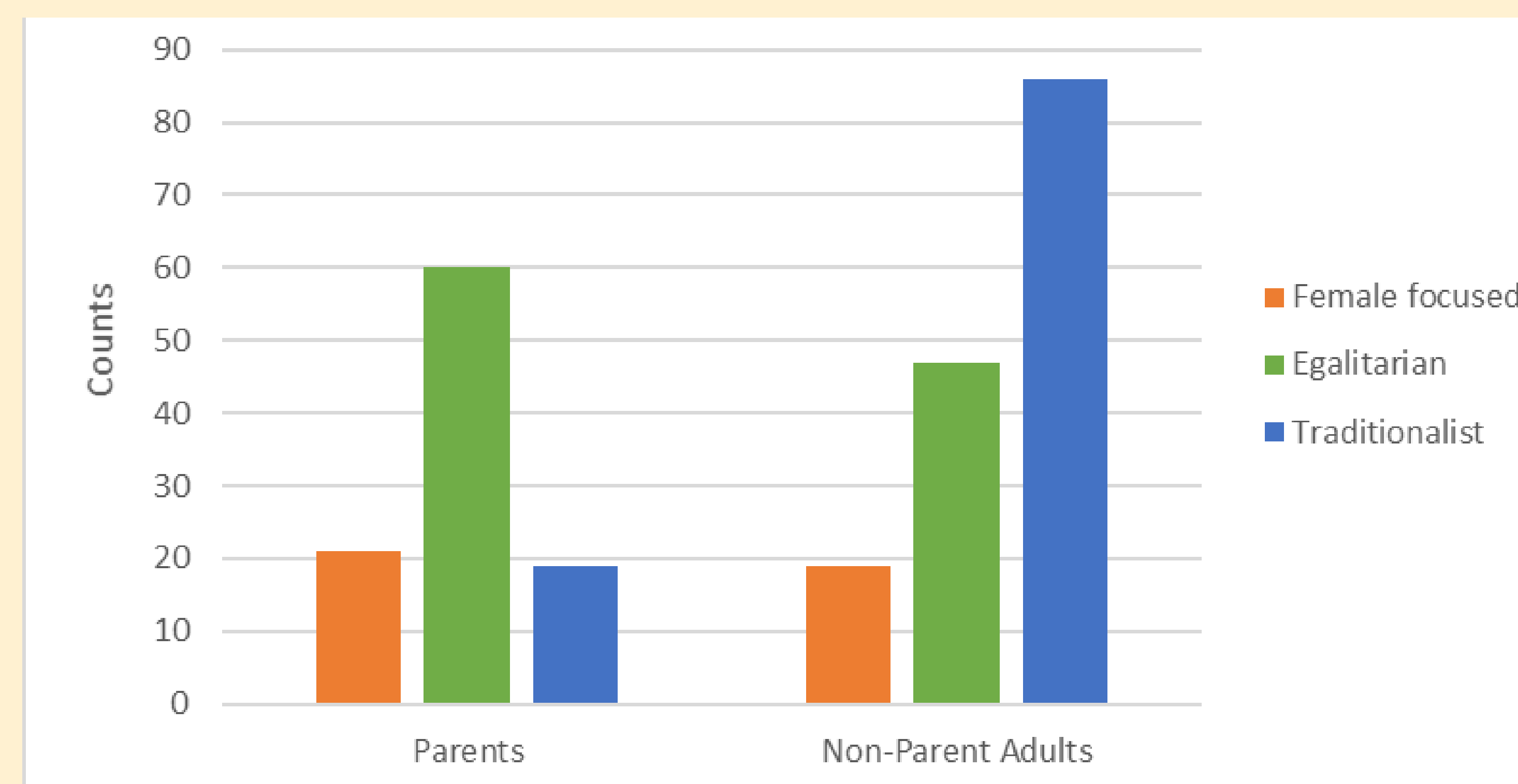
- 256 adults
 - 152 adults were **non-parent undergraduate students**
 - 104 adults were **parents of toddlers**
- EPIQ:
 - self-report measure on gender-related perceptions with 3 sub-domains:
 - Experience** with children
 - Perceptions** of gender roles
 - Interests** in traditionally gendered activities



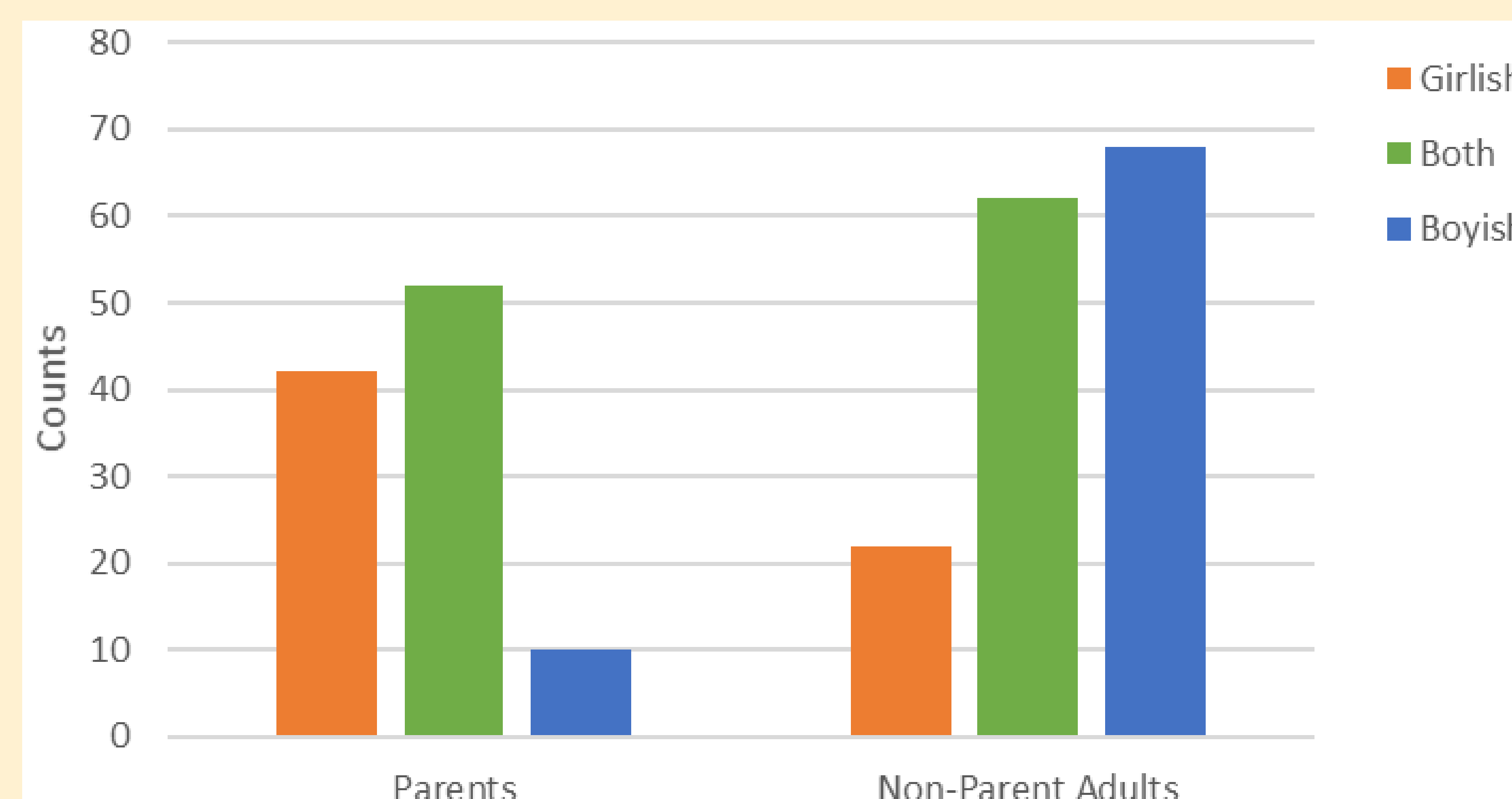
1) Parents and non-parent adults show differences in gender related perceptions and interests



Similar levels of experience with young children in parent and non-parent adults



Parents more likely to have egalitarian views of their own gender roles. Non-parents more likely to take more traditionalist views of gender roles



Parents more likely to show feminine or neutral interests, non-parent adults skew towards masculine activities

2) Children's gender impacts parent self-perceptions

- Parents of **girls** are more likely to endorse **egalitarian gender perceptions** while parents of boys endorse traditionalist perceptions at the same rate as egalitarian perceptions

Conclusions

- Parents show different gender-perceptions compared to non-parent adults
 - Influenced by gender of child**
- Longitudinal is needed
 - When during transition into parenthood do gender perceptions change?
- Future studies may use the EPIQ to compare mothers and fathers**

References

- Keown, L. J., Franke, N., & Kaur, R. (2018). The Role of Fathers in Supporting Children's Development. In M. R. Sanders & A. Morawska (Eds.), Handbook of Parenting and Child Development Across the Lifespan (pp. 121-142). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
- Cabrera, N. J., Volling, B. L., & Barr, R. (2018). Fathers Are Parents, Too! Widening the Lens on Parenting for Children's Development. Child Development Perspectives, 12(3), 152-157. doi:10.1111/cdep.12275
- Follow the QR Code below to see our previous poster on this topic: Smith, D.K., Ran, A. Thippana, J., & Libertus, K. (2019, October). Gender differences in adult-child interactions: Evidence from non-parent undergraduate students. Poster presented at the Cognitive Development Society Conference in Louisville, KY.

Please see our lab website for more information:
www.onlinebabylab.com

Full poster can be accessed via QR code.

