

Does the impact of extracurricular activities vary by parental socioeconomic status? An analysis of adolescents' cognitive skills

SOEP User Conference

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Introduction

- Socially unequal participation in extracurricular activities & differential skill development in children
- Who benefits most from extracurricular activities? Heterogeneity by social background
- music vs sport vs both activities?
- Multiplication of advantage or compensation of disadvantage?

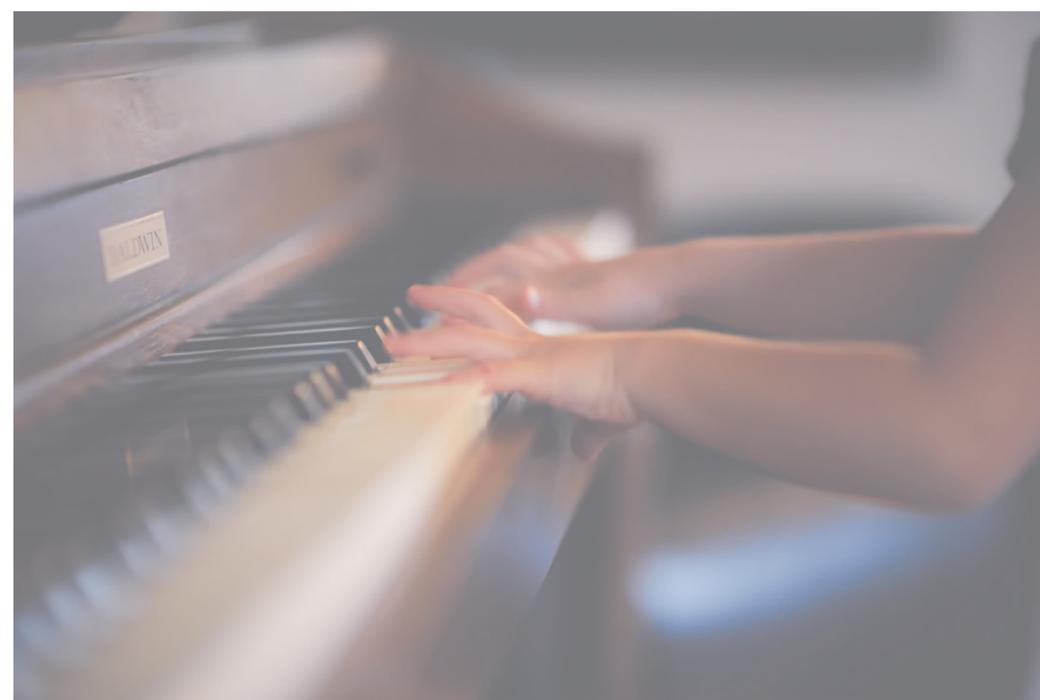
Research Questions

Does children's participation in extracurricular activities reinforce or reduce inequalities based on parental education in terms of cognitive skills in adolescence?

Do distinct types of extracurricular activities, i.e. music vs sport, differ in how they impact the cognitive skills of children from different backgrounds?

Extracurricular Activities

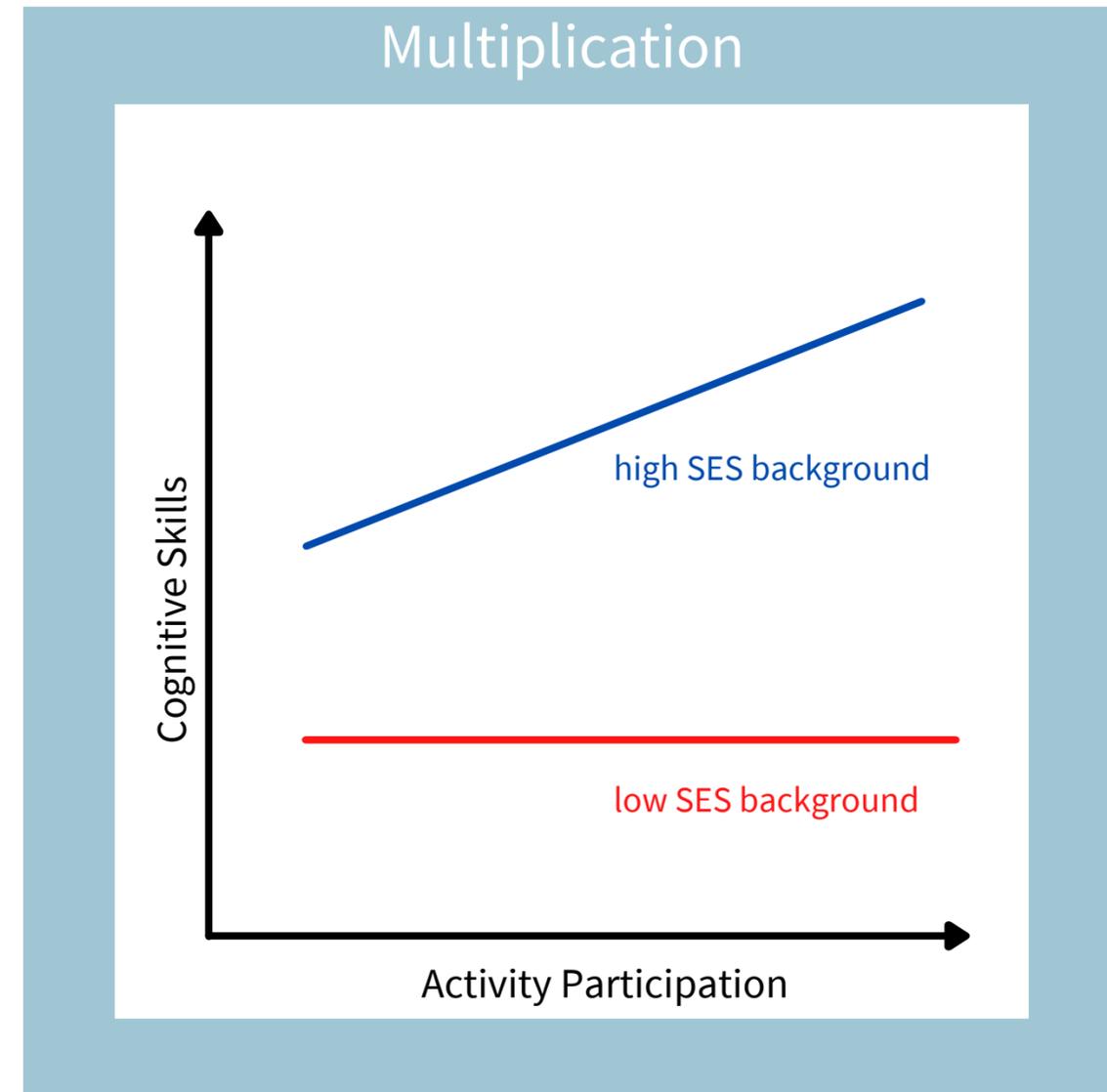
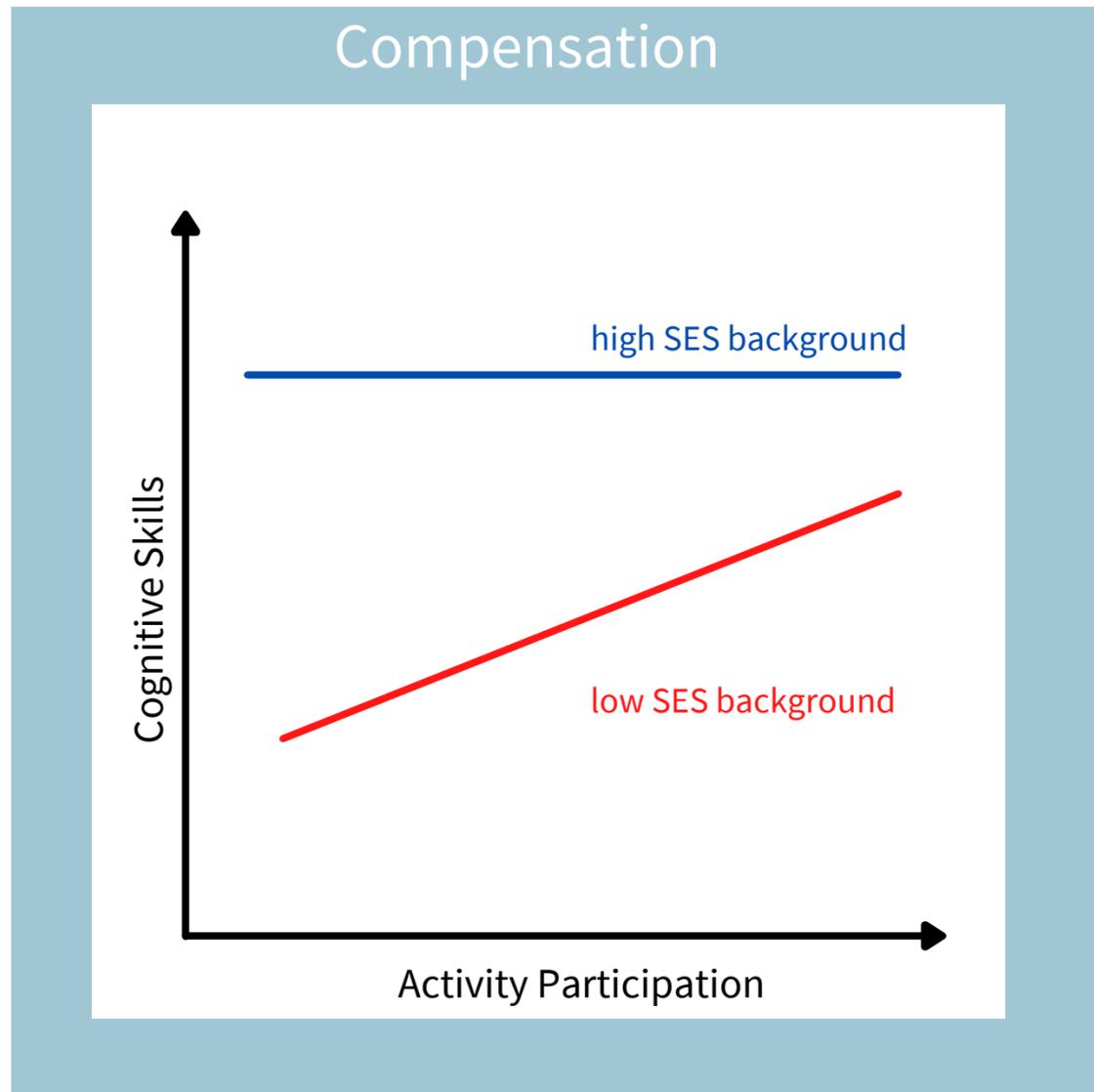
- Non-compulsory organized activities that take place outside of the official education system
- German context: no direct impact on educational attainment



Background

- 2 perspectives on the impact of extracurricular activities for social inequalities:
 - Compensation of disadvantages
 - OR
 - Multiplication of advantages

Background

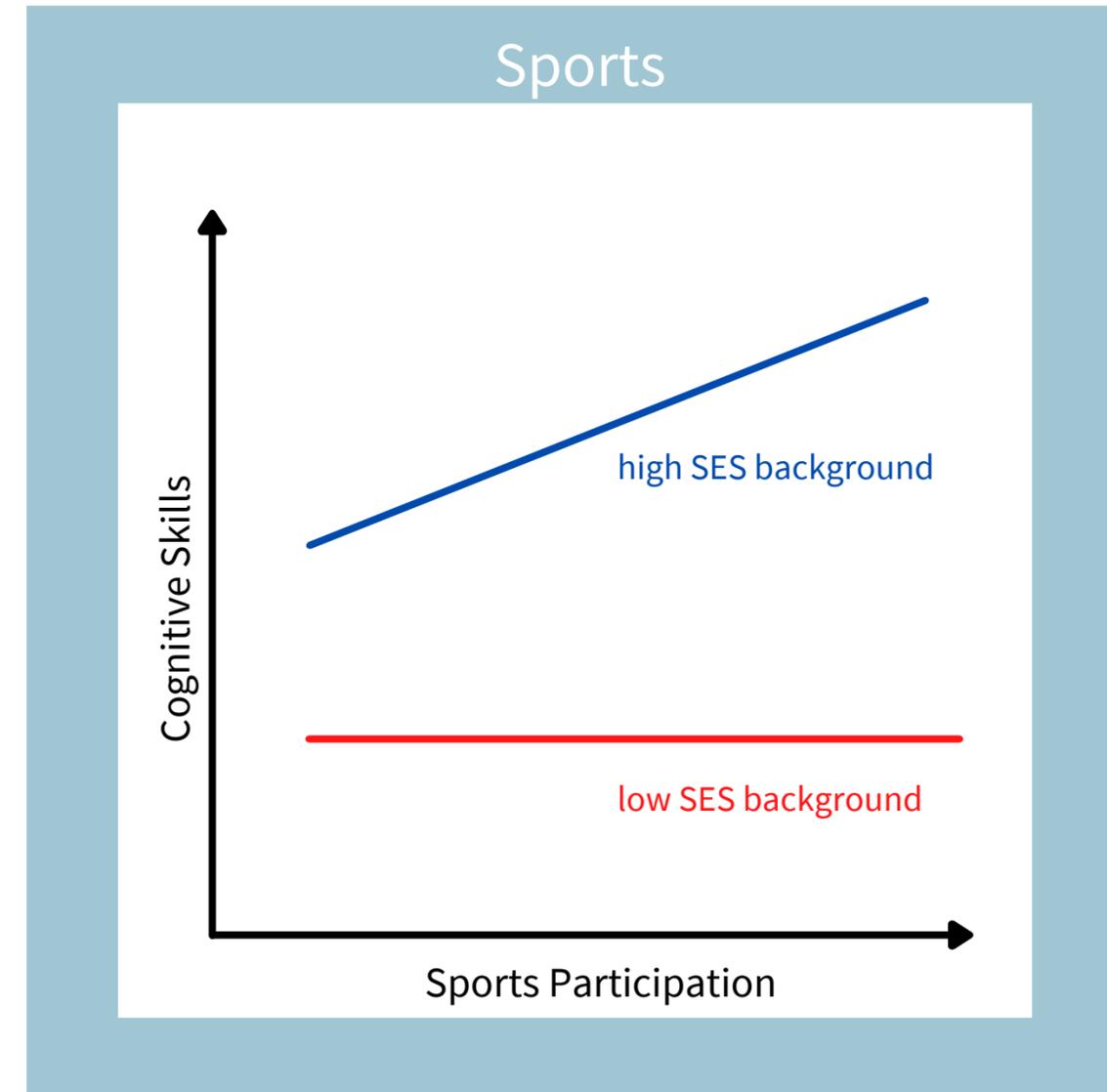
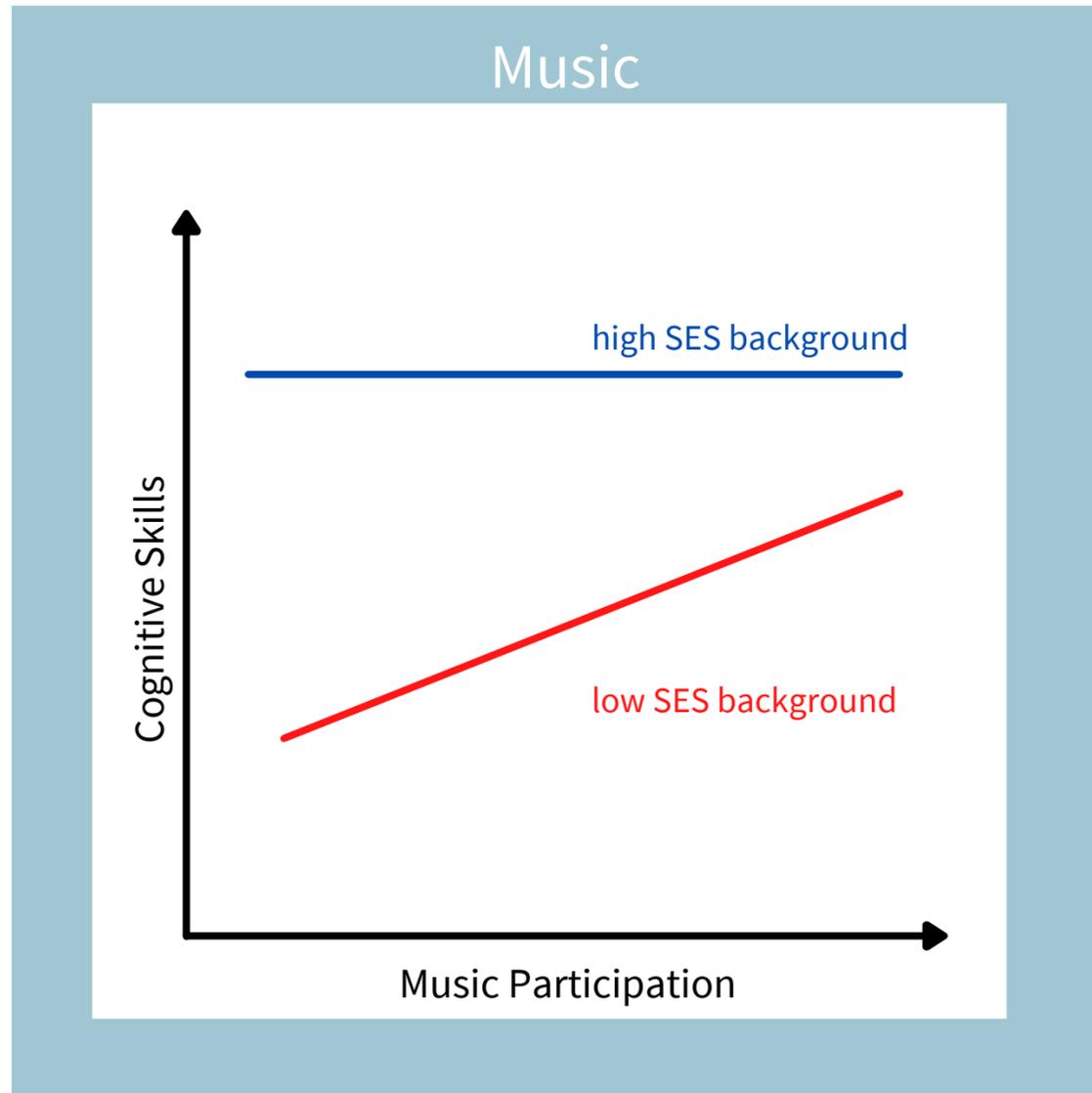


- low SES children gain skills they would otherwise not have access to (Covay and Carbonaro 2010)

- family resources necessary to benefit

Hypotheses

Variations by type of extracurricular activity



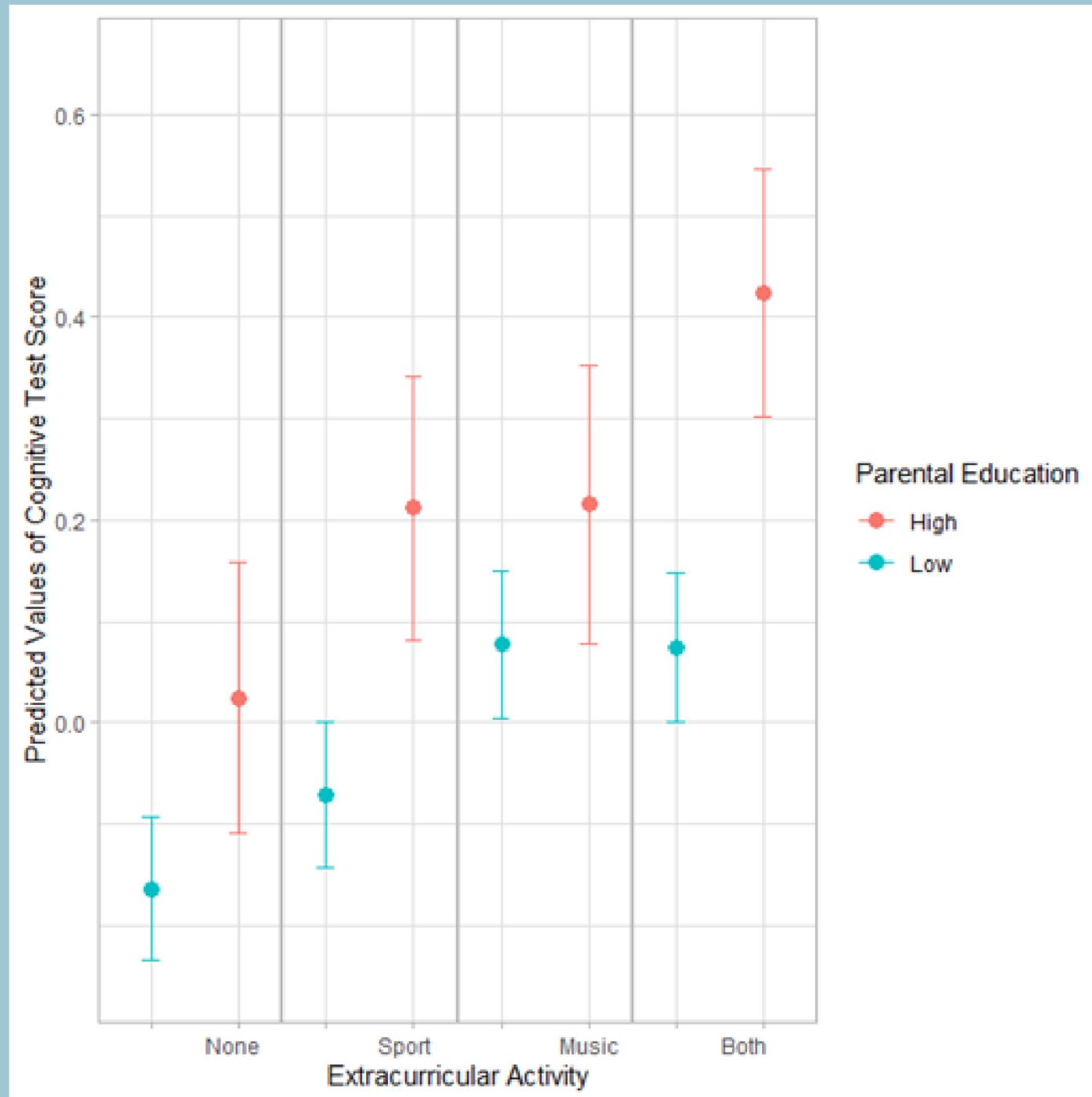
- H1: Music activities are more strongly related to cognitive skills for children from lower education backgrounds.

- H2: Sport activities are more strongly related to cognitive skills for children from higher education backgrounds.

Data & Methods

- SOEP Youth Survey (age 17)
 - participation in sports & music
 - cognitive skills
 - family background (focus on parents' level of education)
- Propensity score weighted regression

Findings



- All activities positively related to cognitive skills
- Catching-up of children from low-education backgrounds through music
- Reinforcement of skill gap through sports
- Diversification of activities more beneficial for children from high-education backgrounds

Conclusions

- Variations in the benefits of activities by children's social background & type of activity
- Compensation dynamics of music participation
- Multiplication dynamics of sports participation

Thank you for your
attention!

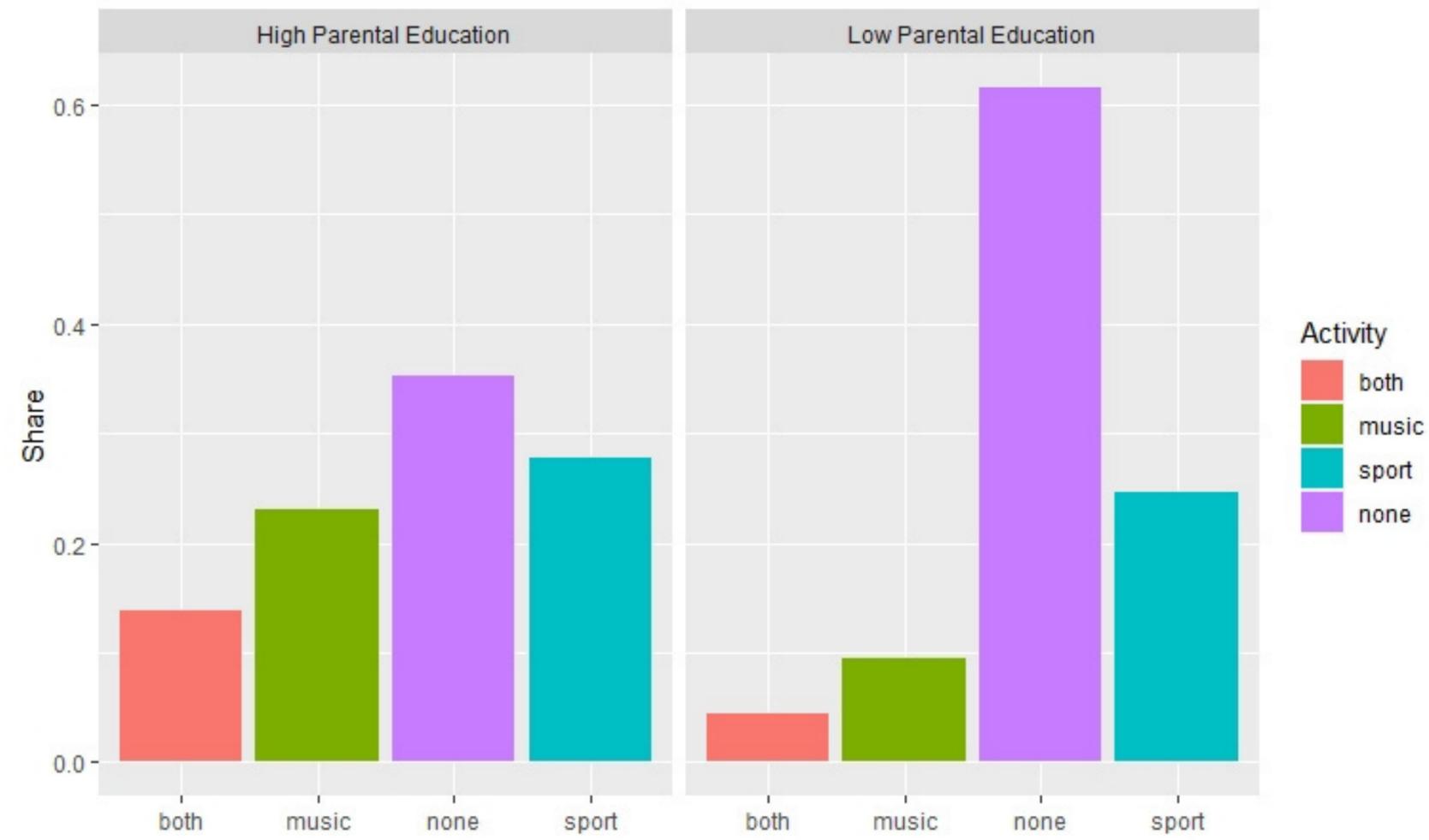
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Sources (extract):

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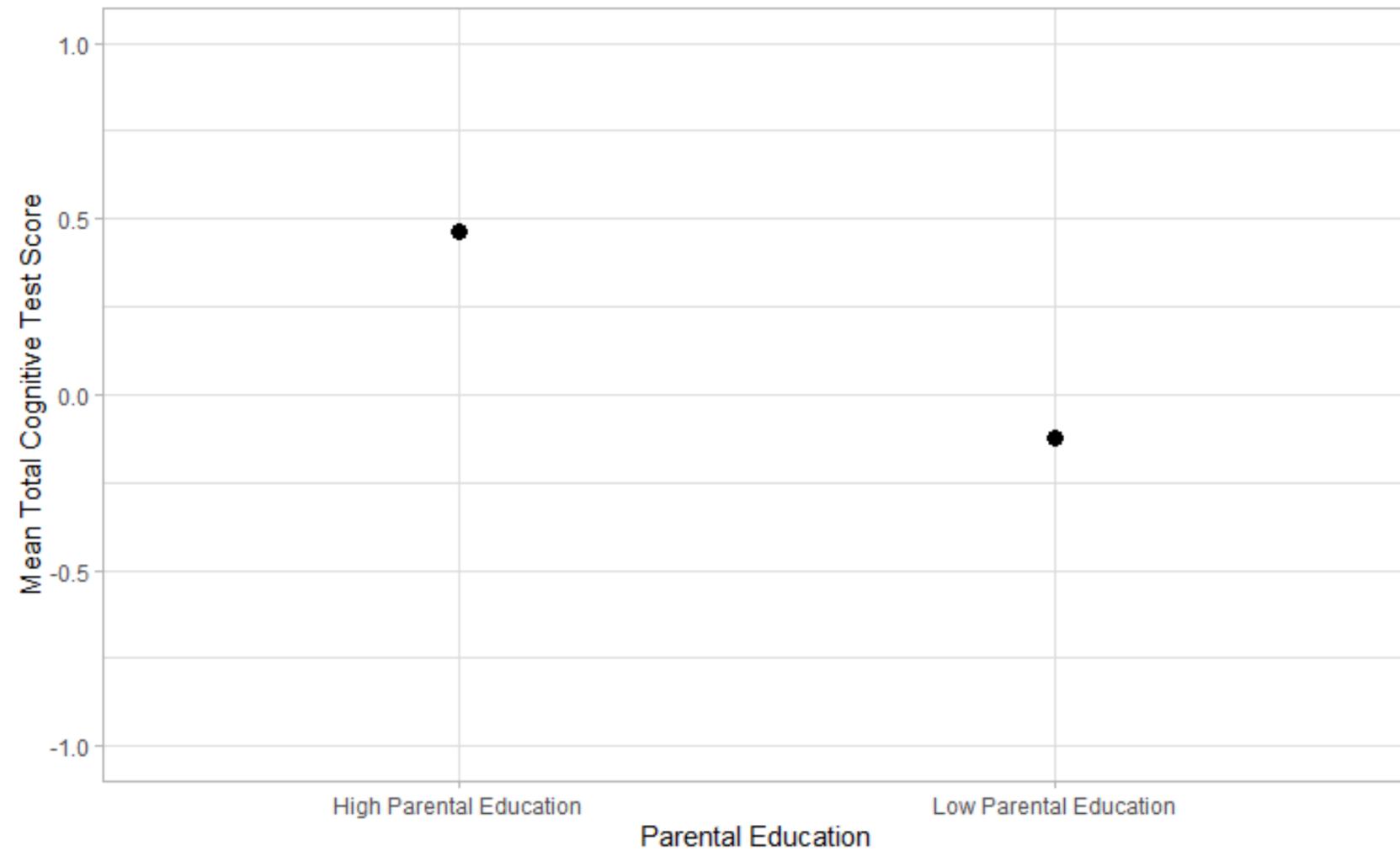
Results

- Descriptive results confirm socially stratified participation patterns & skill levels



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