

Learning the Most Popular Music at Harrisburg University

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Introduction

Our group aims to determine what is the most popular music genre at HU. On the surface, this seems like a general question one might ask a person as a conversation starter, but a person’s musical taste/favorite genre could tell us a lot about them. Most people will ask this, maybe a few music-related follow-up questions, and then move on but subconsciously, the person may have a pre-judgment about how they act and think simply based on the genre of music they like the most.

Hypothesis

We hypothesized that 30% of students would choose hip-hop as their favorite genre of music.

Methods

Over the course of the past eight weeks, we conducted a survey of students attending Harrisburg University asking them several questions so we could categorize them further. We asked participants about their gender and university classification (e.g. Sophomore, Junior) along with their favorite genre of music. Our project was completed through a combination of placing flyers with QR codes linking to the online survey around campus in various places, asking people in person to scan the QR code off a phone, and emailing HU online students.

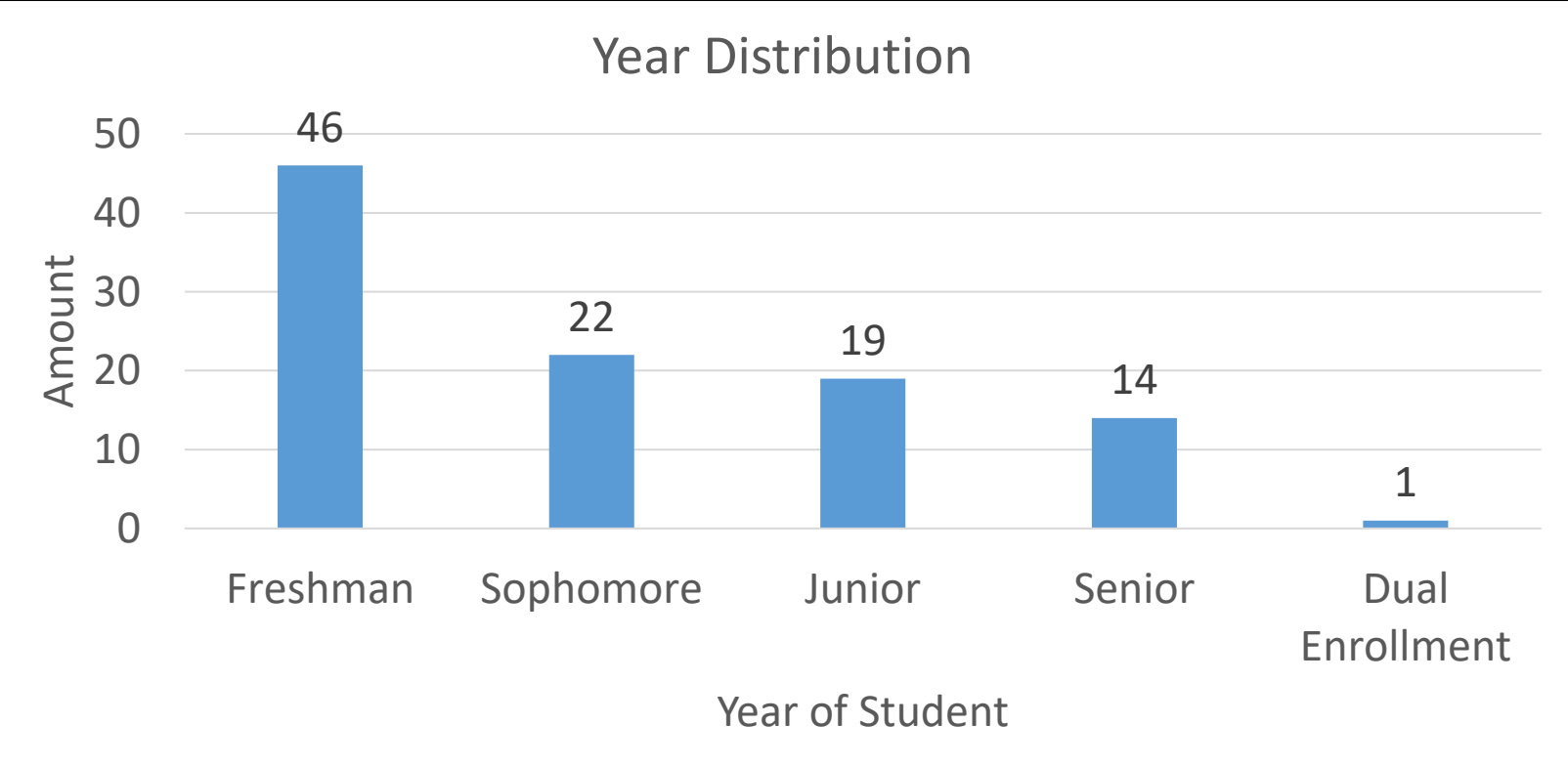


Figure 1 shows the breakdown in the number of participants we had per academic classification.

Results

Hip-hop was shown to be the most popular music genre among students at Harrisburg University with 31.4% of respondents naming it as their favorite genre (Figure 2). Knowing this information could help us determine what genre of music stimulates the mind for optimal productivity.

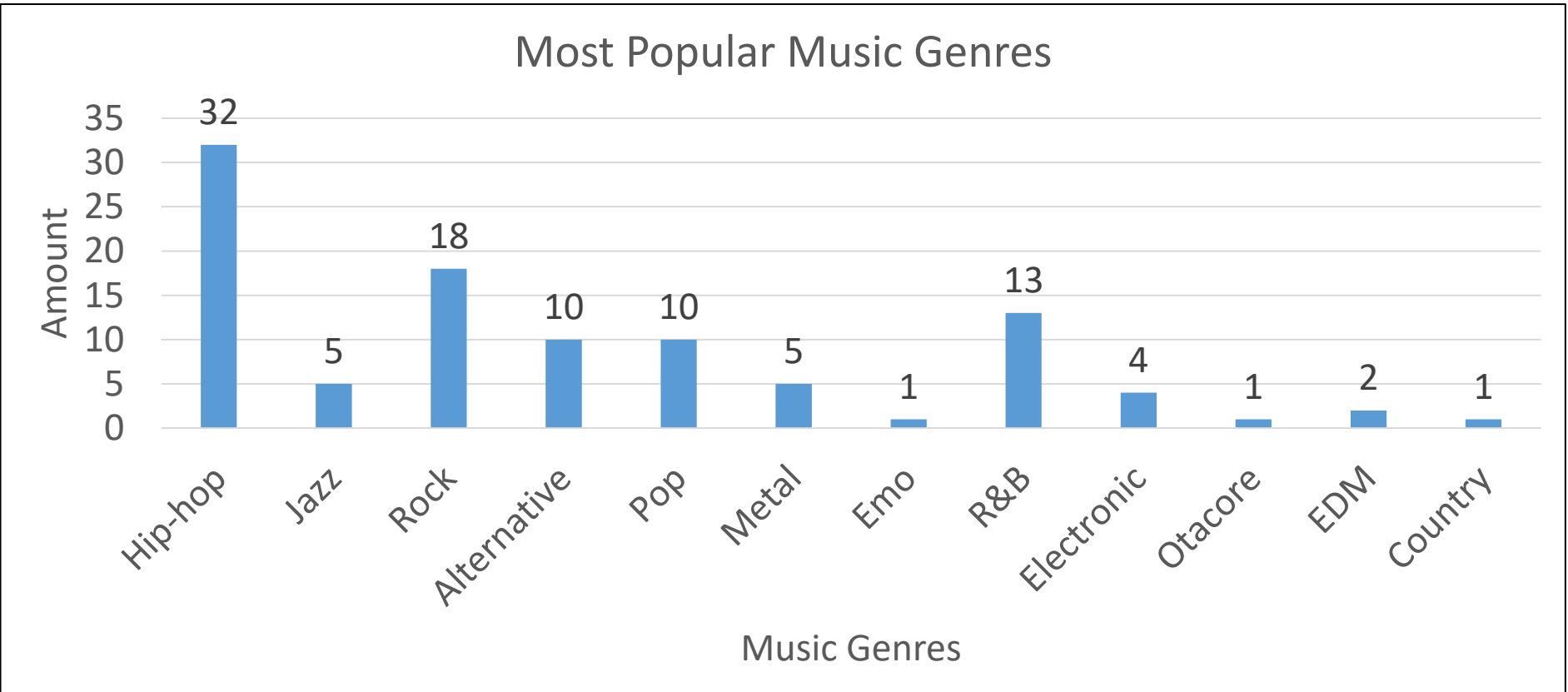


Figure 2 shows the breakdown of the music genres people chose.

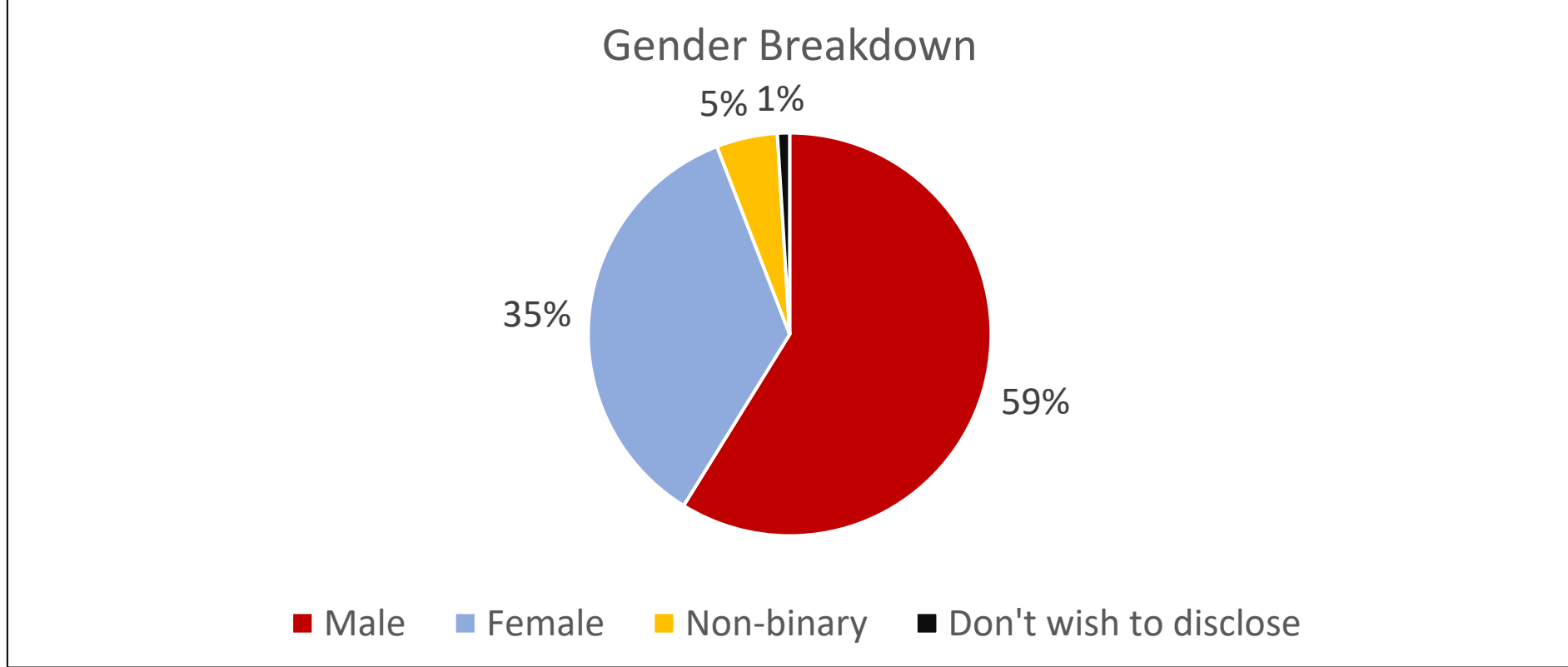


Figure 3 shows the breakdown of gender for our study.

Statistical Analysis

Our sample size of 102 had 32 people choose hip-hop as their favorite genre. This meant 31.4% of people chose hip-hop and with a margin of error of 9%. Therefore, we are 95% confident that the percentage of people who prefer hip hop falls between 22.4% and 40.4%. With our null hypothesis of $H_0 = p = .30$ and $H_1 > 0.3$, we get a test statistic of 0.3, which gives us a p-value of 0.3821. With this p-value we can not reject our null hypothesis, as it is greater than our significance level of 0.05.

Conclusion

While at first it may seem random to try and find the most popular music genre at Harrisburg University, however there is significance in trying to find this statistic. The significance lies in how people could judge someone based on what their music tastes are, with some genres having a stigma against. Adversely, this study can also show that people who like a certain genre have a better chance of meeting someone who shares their interest. As stated in our introduction we believed that 30% of students would say that hip-hop was their favorite genre. We were not able to reject our hypothesis based on the hypothesis test we conducted. Therefore, there is no significant difference between our statistic of 31.4% and 30%. If we were to redo this survey, we would add the question ‘Do you listen to music while studying and/or doing schoolwork?’ Adding this question would give us more information to further conclude if a particular genre of music is better to listen to while studying.

References

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