



# The Association between Parent Availability in Childhood and Feelings Pertaining to Offspring in Adulthood



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## Introduction

- There is an association between parental involvement and availability with childhood success and achievement, especially in the case of academics, (Becher, 1985).
- Children report that parental involvement correlates positively with their motivation to work hard in school, thus contributing to their overall academic success (Cheung & Pomerantz, 2012).
- Parenting practice, as well as positive parent-child relationships, correlate with cognitive development, especially in the early childhood years (Lanjekar, Joshi, Lanjekar, & Wagh, 2022).
- The goal of this study is to establish a relationship between parental availability in childhood and feelings regarding parenting and offspring in adulthood.

## Research Questions

- Does parental availability in childhood relate to feelings regarding parenting and offspring in adulthood?
- Is there a relationship between how present a child's parents are during their childhood, and how those individuals feel about parenting their own offspring as adults?

## Methods

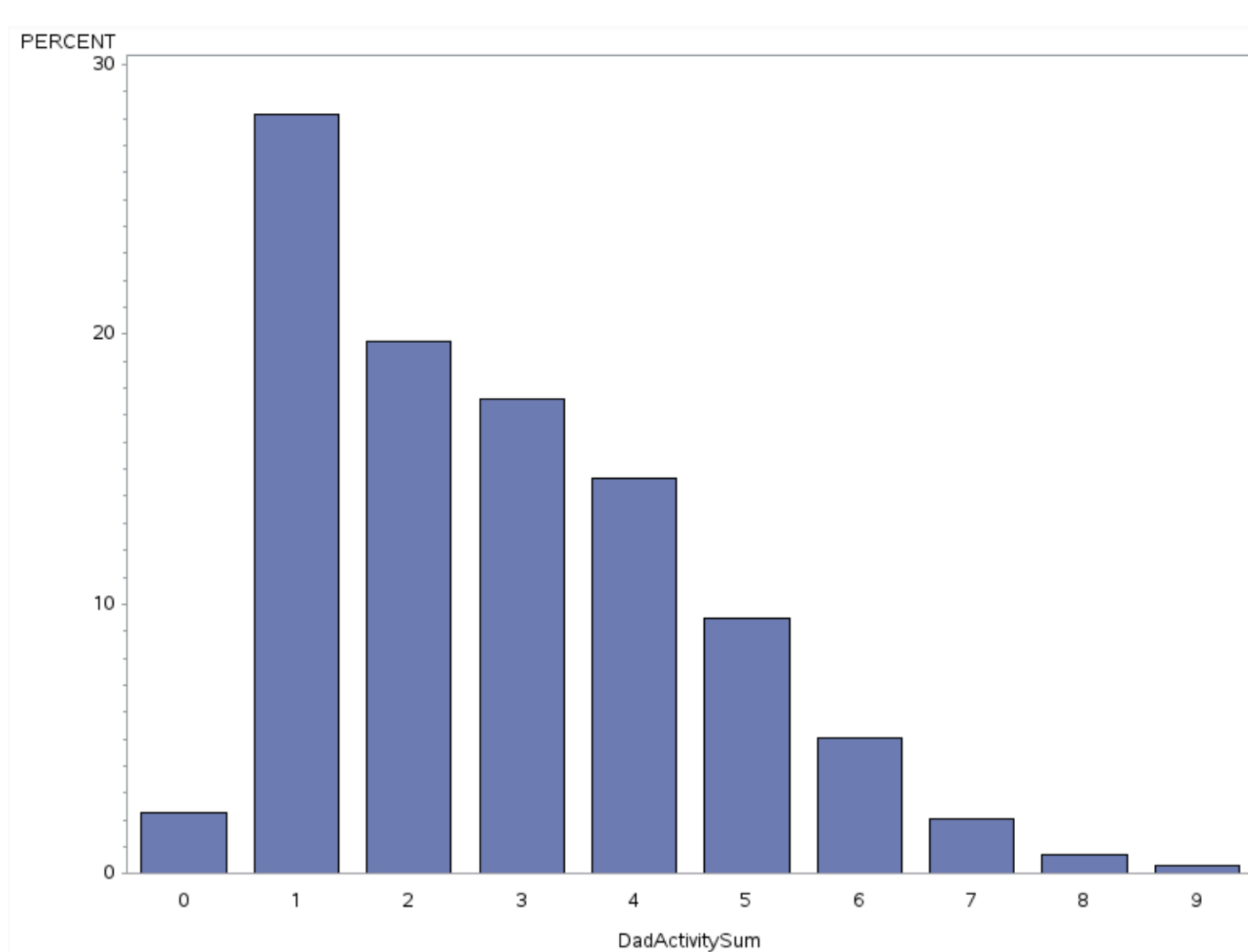
### Sample

- Data from US National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health
- Representative of US civilian population
- Participants were in 7-12 grade in wave one and in their 30s and 40s in wave 5
- The present sample was taken from male and female participants who responded indicating they had at least one child during the years 2016-2018 (sample size of 2970 participants)

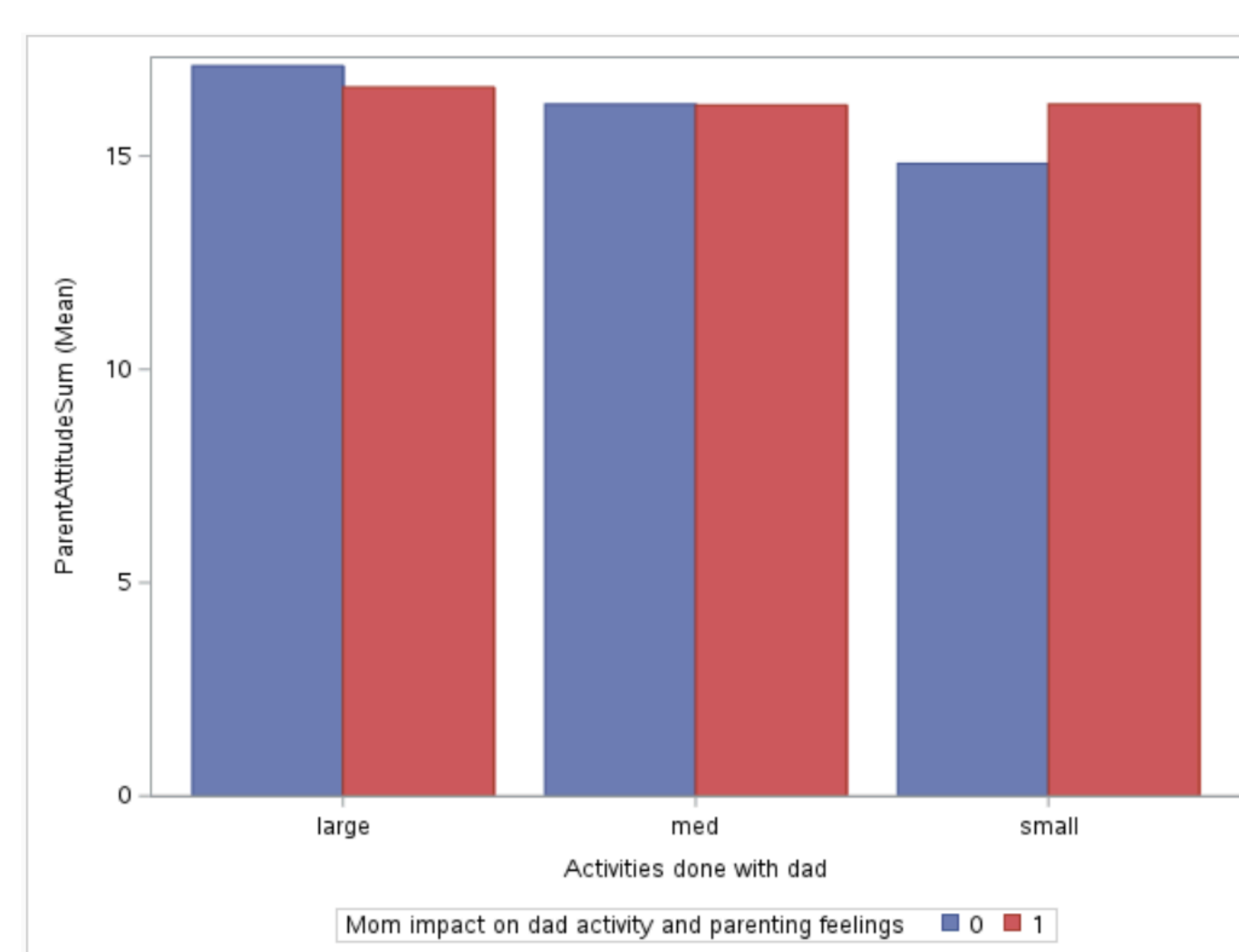
### Measures

- Explanatory variable: relations with parents' module of wave one
  - Participants responded to questions regarding the availability of their parents. Such had they "gone shopping," "played a sport," "worked on a project for school," etc with mom or dad
  - Responses were summed to create a score from 1-9, where lower numbers indicated less activities done with mom/dad and higher numbers implied more
- Response variable: parenting module of the fifth wave of the study
  - Participants with children provided their feelings about parenting and their relationships with their offspring
  - Agreed to statements such as "I am happy in my role as parent" or "I feel overwhelmed by the responsibility of being a parent." A score was created where a low number indicated unhappiness in parenting and a high number implied participants were happy with their role

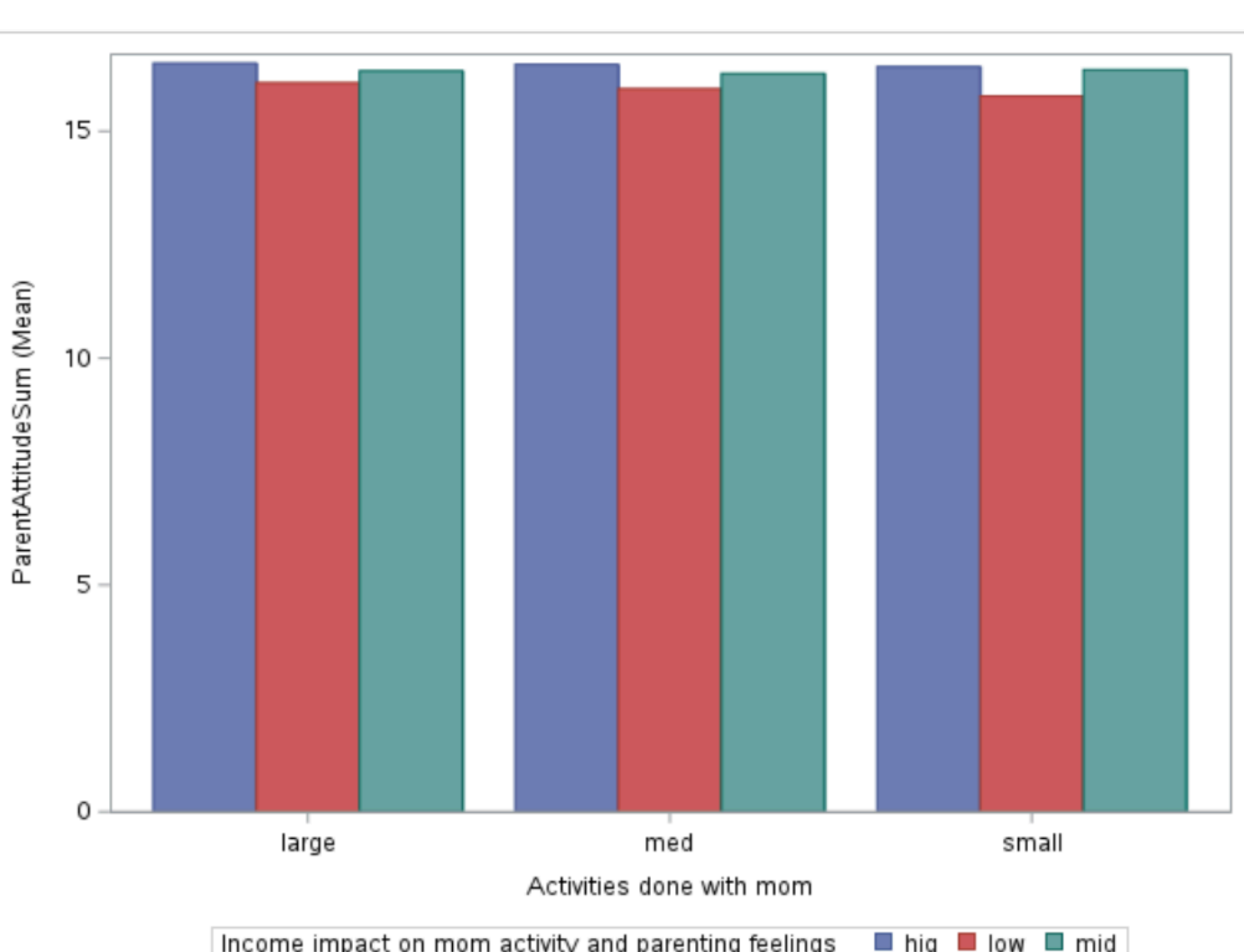
## Results



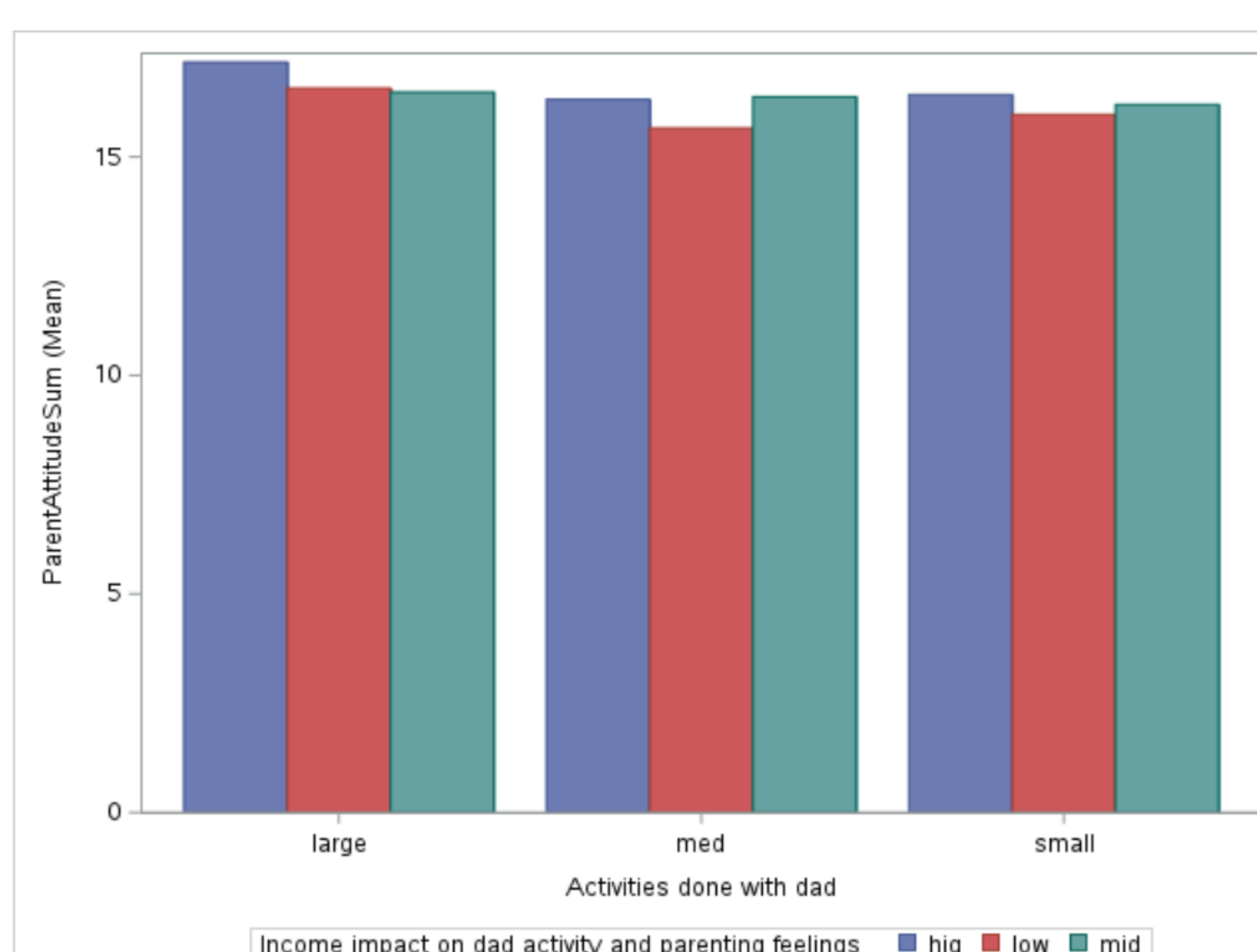
Univariate graph on activities done with dad



Activities done with dad with third variable for mom



Activities done with both parents with third variable for income



## Discussion

- Difference between activities done with participant mom versus dad. Most participants do only 1 of the 9 activities with dad, as opposed to 3 or 4 with mom
- An ANOVA determined no relationship between parental availability in childhood and feelings regarding parenting and offspring in adulthood ( $p=0.84$ )
- A third variable of income was significant with regard to the explanatory and response variables ( $p=0.014$ ). In low income households, specifically, participants experienced less parental availability and more negative emotion regarding their own offspring ( $p=0.011$ )

## References

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