CS-LISTEN - San Pasqual High School

RESEARCH QUESTION

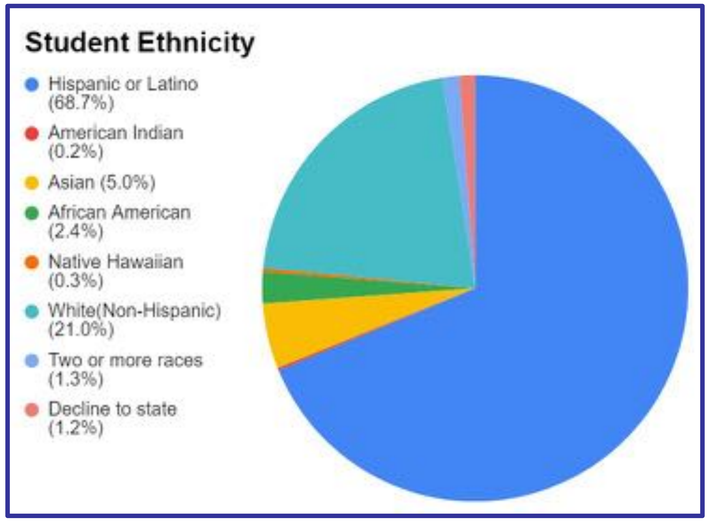
Do students' stereotypes or preconceptions about Computer Science prevent them from taking CS classes?

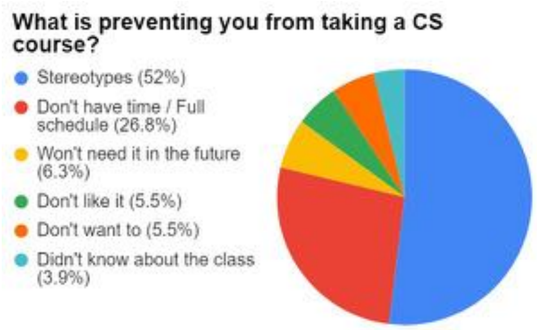
BACKGROUND

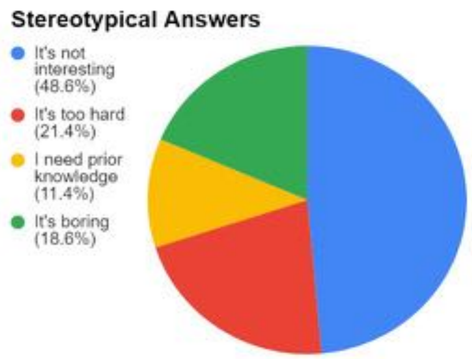
Description of San Pasqual High

We have a total of 2,097 students. Out of those students, 1090 are male and 1007 are female.

In terms of ethnicity, we have mostly Hispanic or Latino students, followed by White students and Asian students.







METHODOLOGY

Methods	We created a survey with attempts to cover as many demographics and opinions on computer science as possible in order to compare possible correlations between backgrounds and computer science enrollment.
Data	We obtained 263 responses from students. We tried to have as many students at San Pasqual take the survey regardless of background. Our data covered students who have and have not taken CS classes. Using the survey, we explored students' opinions on Computer Science classes by asking for their thoughts and beliefs on the class.

RESULTS

Out of the 66.5% of respondents who listed a reason for not taking a CS course, 52% of respondents listed a preconception about Computer Science.

The most common preconception was that Computer Science was not an interesting course to take, with the second most common preconception being that Computer Science was too hard.

Out of all of our respondents, 26.6% believed that you had to be smart to take Computer Science, representing 1/4th of our respondents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that we reduce student's stereotypes about CS prior to and during high school. We recommend designing an experience with CS before high school where students can form their own opinions about computer science before being influenced by others' stereotypes and explore it in a supportive environment.

We can start by creating summer and fall CS experiences (bootcamps & workshops) for students to have experiences prior picking classes.

To increase SPHS's CS enrollment, we recommend tabling at club rush and presenting some of the projects created during CS classes at school events (Orientation, Math Honors Presentations).

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