

THE BACKGROUND OF PER PEOPLE: A SURVEY

Laura McCullough

University of Wisconsin-Stout Physics Department

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

- Survey given to ~40 members of the Physics Education Research (PER) community (21 women, 18 men)
- Asked about background, experiences in traditional physics, experiences in PER

RESULTS

- PER people:
 - were more likely to choose larger research schools for their undergraduate program
 - were more likely to choose physics during undergraduate years than earlier
 - were more likely to choose larger research institutions for graduate school

GENDER ANALYSIS

- Women were more likely to attend a small school for undergraduate studies
- Women chose physics somewhat later than men (many more in undergrad than high school)
- Women were less likely than men to have a traditional physics major in undergrad
- Women were equally likely as men to go into non-traditional physics graduate programs (PER, C&I, or other)

WHAT TYPE OF COLLEGE?

Carnegie classification	Total (N=30)	W (N=16)	M (N=14)
Small 4-year	8	6	2
Medium 4-year	6	3	3
Large 4-year	16	7	9
Private	18	9	9
Public	12	7	5
Research U-Very High	14	7	7
Research U-High	4	1	3
Baccalaureate	7	5	2
Masters	4	3	1
Doctoral	1	0	1

COLLEGE TYPE VS. WHEN CHOSE PHYSICS BY GENDER

Carnegie classification	HS or earlier	Undergrad
Small 4-year	1 F, 1 M	5 F, 1 M
Medium 4-year	1 F, 1 M	2 F, 2 M
Large 4-year	1 F, 4 M	5 F, 5 M
Private	2 F, 4 M	7 F, 5 M
Public	1 F, 2 M	5 F, 3 M
Research U-Very High	1 F, 3 M	5 F, 4 M
Research U-High	0 F, 1 M	1 F, 2 M
Baccalaureate	0 F, 1 M	5 F, 1 M
Masters	2 F, 1 M	1 F, 0 M
Doctoral	0 F, 0 M	0 F, 1 M

UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR

UG Major	Women (N=19)	Men (N=18)
Physics only	9	14
Physics and other (double major)	6: 4 Math 1 English 1 Astro. Ed.	4: 2 Math 1 EE 1 Chem.
Non-physics major	4: Eng. Phys. EE Geology Bio&Chem	0

GRADUATE PROGRAM

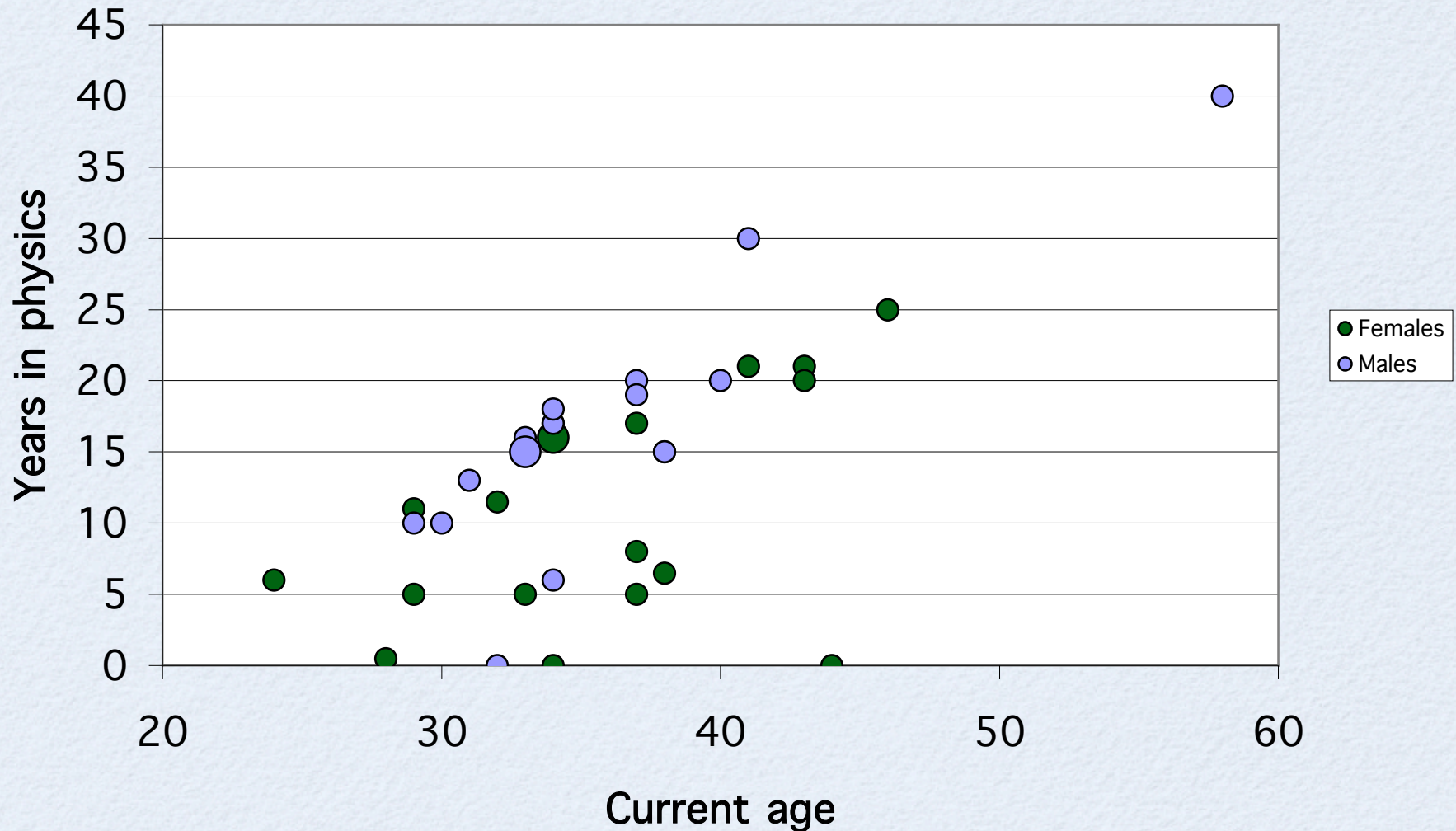
Grad. program	Women (N=21)	Men (N=18)
Physics-Traditional	8	9
Physics-PER	6	4
C&I	5	4
Other	1 (Soil Sci.)	1 (Phys./Geo./Educ.)

WHAT TYPE OF GRADUATE SCHOOL?

Carnegie classification	Total (N=30)	W (N=16)	M (N=18)
Small 4-year	0	0	0
Medium 4-year	4	2	2
Large 4-year	30	14	16
Private	6	2	4
Public	28	14	14
Research U-Very High	30	14	16
Research U-High	3	1	2
Baccalaureate	0	0	0
Masters	1	1	0
Doctoral	0	0	0

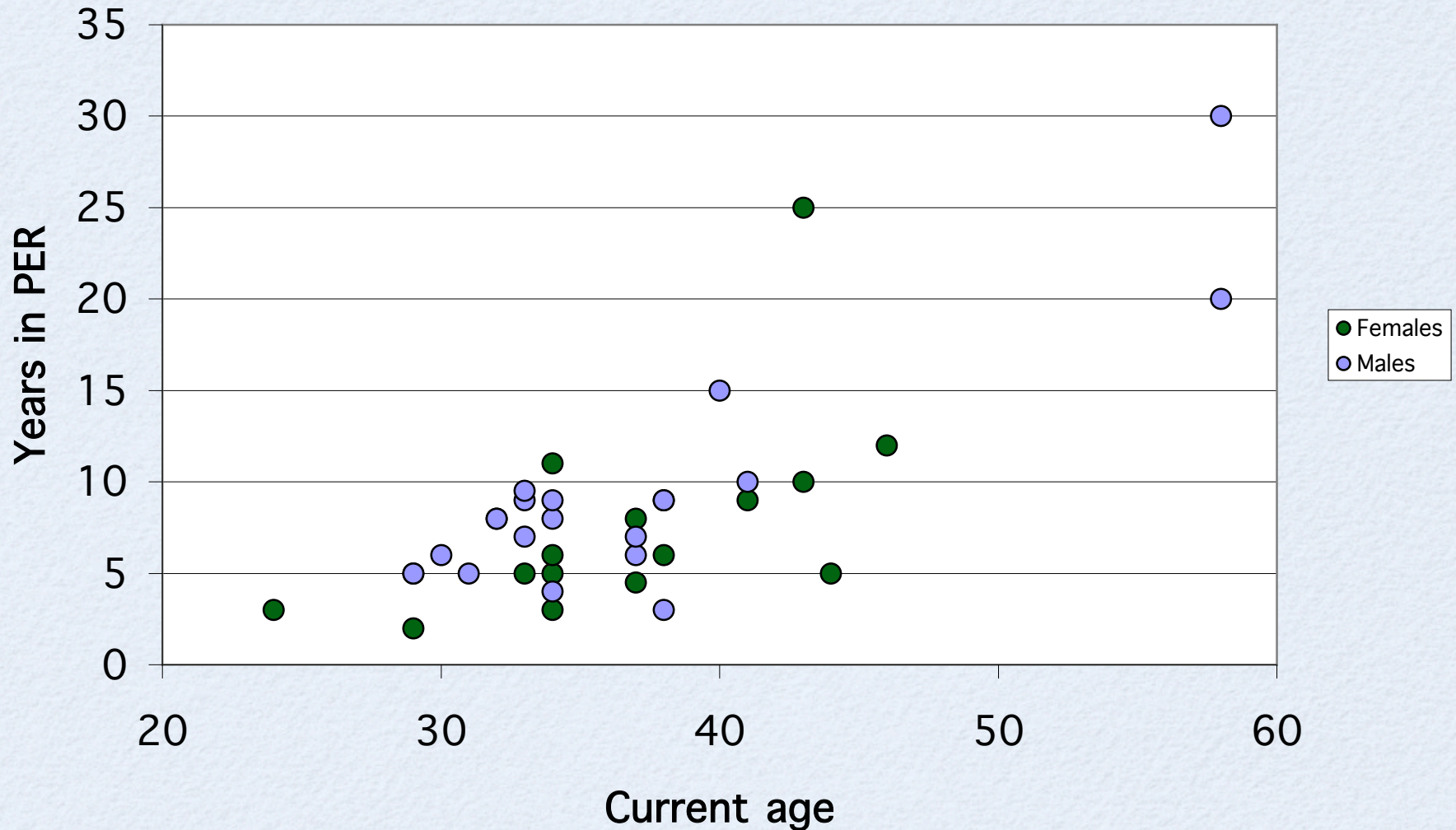
YEARS IN PHYSICS VS. CURRENT AGE

Years in physics vs. Current age



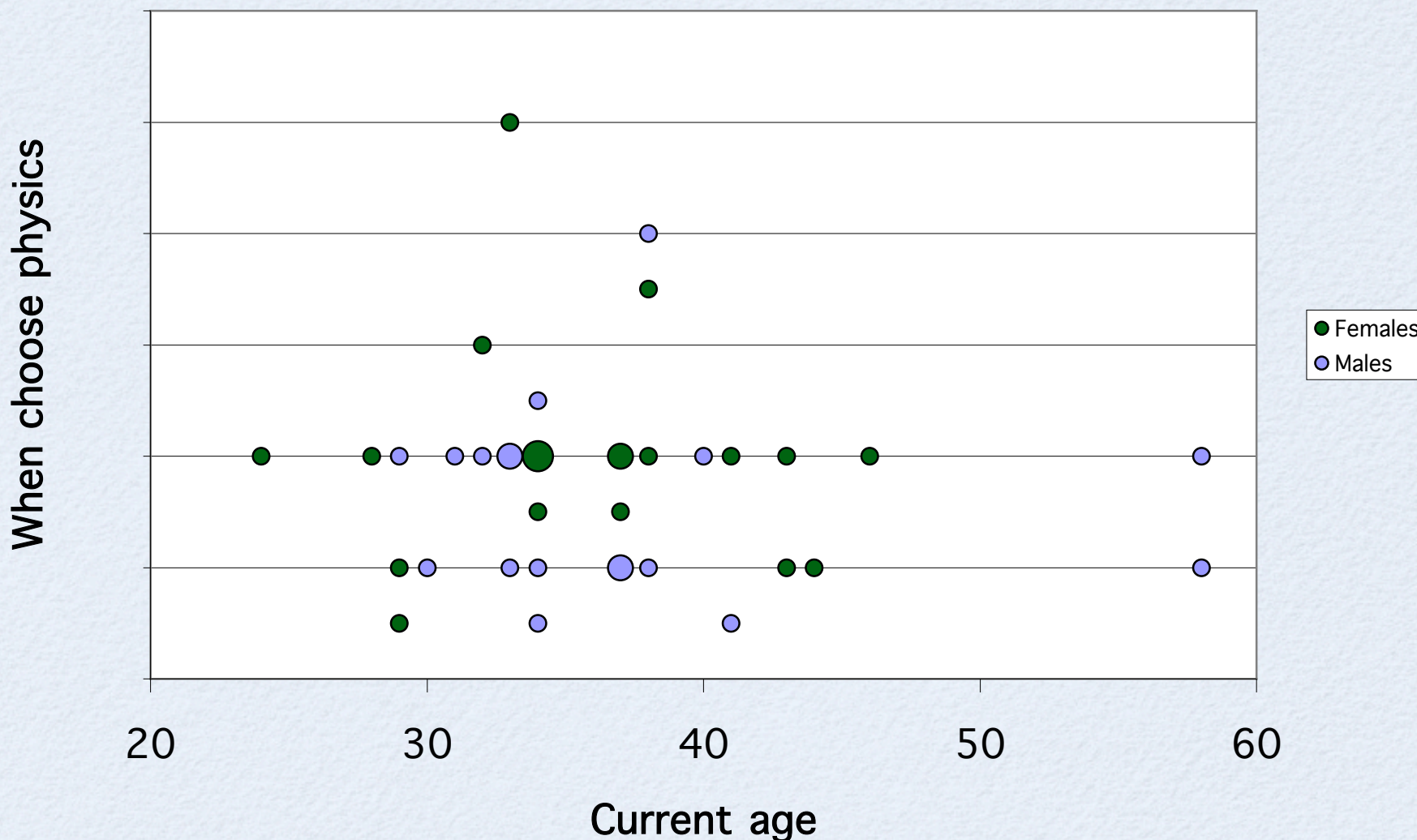
YEARS IN PER VS. CURRENT AGE

Years in PER vs. Current age



WHEN CHOSE PHYSICS VS. CURRENT AGE

When choose physics vs. Age



WHEN CHOSE PER VS. CURRENT AGE

When chose PER vs Age

