

Gender differences under competitive pressure: Evidence from skittles

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Abstract

Nowadays, performance in stressful situations has become essential in everyday lives. Moreover, many of these situations happen under competition. Recent literature suggests that there might be a gender gap in behavior under such competitive pressure. This paper studies this phenomenon in the previously unexplored field of skittles. We investigate whether men and women players score differently when facing better players, i.e. are put in higher competitive pressure. Based on our results, we cannot reject the hypothesis that men and women react similarly under competitive pressure. The alternative specifications provide a suitable evidence for existence of gender differences in reaction to the actual score of an opponent in the game, although the limitation of these specifications is an endogeneity problem and thus the results have to be interpreted with caution.