



**WINONA**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

# Using R Statistical Software to Analyze Under-Represented Minority Student Success



# About Winona State University

- Regional mid-sized (approx. 8900 headcount enrollment) University with a predominantly traditional, residential undergraduate student body.
- A campus in Rochester comprised mostly of transfer and graduate students.
- Selective admission policies







# Winona State Data Services

An IT/IR hybrid that provides:

- DBA services, Microsoft CRM and Hobson's data feed management
- Business Process (Backend) Reporting
- IR/External Survey/Program Review Reporting
- Internal Student Survey Support
- Enrollment Analytics, Forecasting and Statistical Analysis



# Goals

Highlight the strengths and weaknesses  
of R by the way of example





# The Example

## Factors Affecting Academic Success of Under-Represented Minority Students

- Cohort = Known Diverse Fall New Entering Freshmen, 2007-2011
- Success = Completed First Year with a 2.5 GPA or better



## Factors Included

- High School GPA
- High School Rank
- ACT Score
- Gender
- Declared Major (Y/N)
- Low Income
- First Generation
- Athlete (Y/N)
- Live On Campus
- SSS Program
- Used Advising
- Enrolled in Orientation
- Work On-Campus
- Registration Date
- Distance from WSU

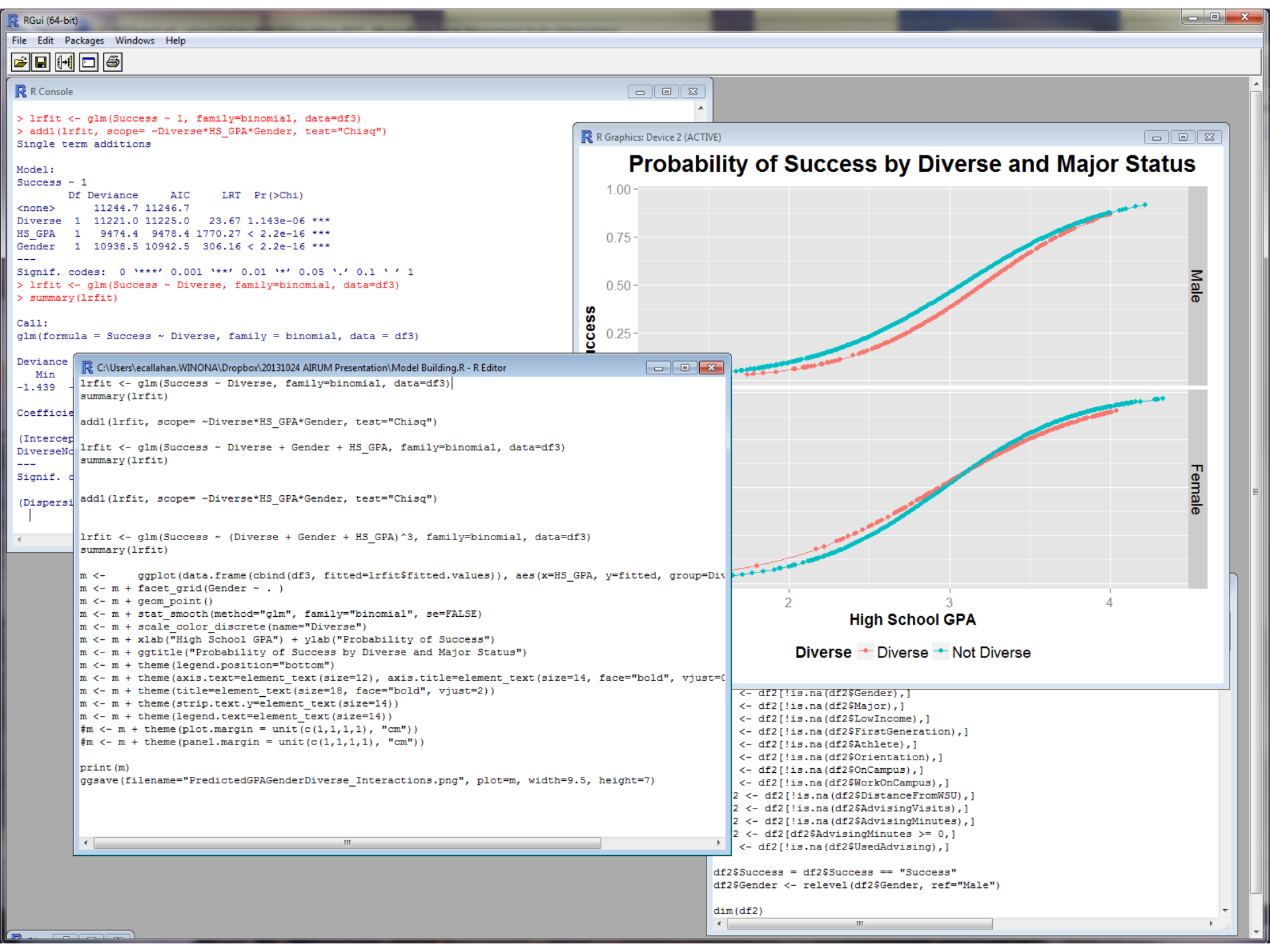


# What is R?

Free, high quality statistical software!

Really, a programming language.





```
> dim(WSU.df)
```

```
[1] 8590    19
```

```
> names(WSU.df)
```

```
[1] "HS_GPA"      "HSPercentile"  
[3] "ACTScore"    "Major"  
[5] "LowIncome"   "FirstGeneration"  
[7] "Gender"      "Diverse"  
[9] "SSS"         "Athlete"  
[11] "Orientation" "FirstReg"  
[13] "DistanceFromWSU" "AdvisingVisits"  
[15] "AdvisingMinutes" "OnCampus"  
[17] "WorkOnCampus"  "Success"  
[19] "UsedAdvising"
```

```
> mean(WSU.df$Success=="Success")
```

```
[1] 0.6380675
```

```
> table(WSU.df$Diverse, WSU.df$Success)
```

	Success	Not Success
Diverse	290	248
Not Diverse	5191	2861

```
> prop.table(table(WSU.df$Diverse, WSU.df$Success), 1)
```

	Success	Not Success
Diverse	0.5390335	0.4609665
Not Diverse	0.6446846	0.3553154

```
> ddply(WSU.df, ~Diverse+Gender, summarise,  
        SuccessRate=mean(Success=="Success"),  
        N=length(Success))
```

	Diverse	Gender	SuccessRate	N
1	Diverse	Male	0.4159664	238
2	Diverse	Female	0.6366667	300
3	Not Diverse	Male	0.5245787	2848
4	Not Diverse	Female	0.7104151	5204



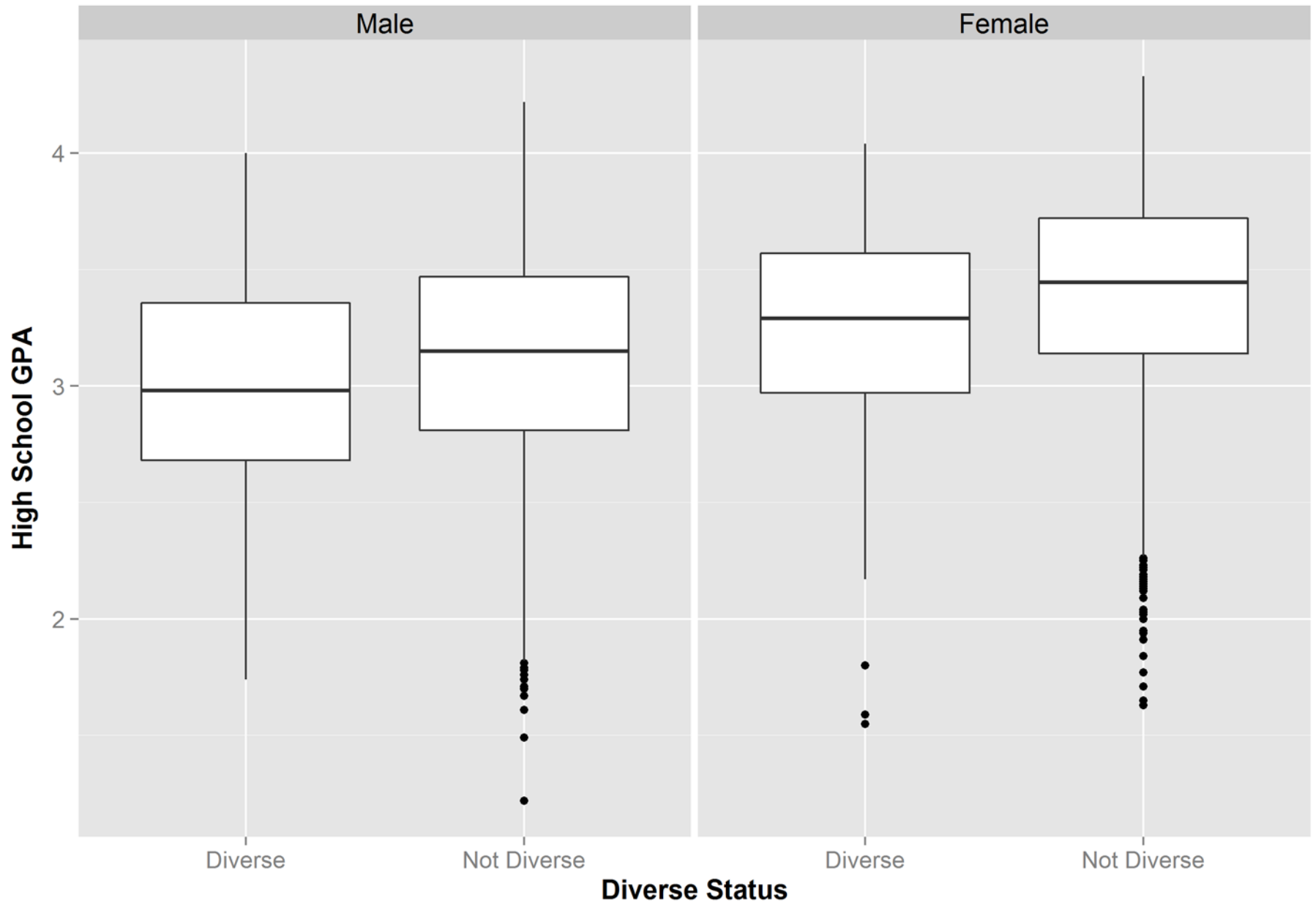
```
> ddply(WSU.df, ~Diverse+Gender+Success, summarise,
      MeanGPA=mean(HS_GPA),
      STD=sd(HS_GPA),
      N=length(Success))
```

	Diverse	Gender	Success	MeanGPA	STD	N
1	Diverse	Male	Success	3.2797	0.4286	99
2	Diverse	Male	Not Success	2.8335	0.4351	139
3	Diverse	Female	Success	3.3736	0.3853	191
4	Diverse	Female	Not Success	3.0366	0.4407	109
5	Not Diverse	Male	Success	3.3117	0.4206	1494
6	Not Diverse	Male	Not Success	2.9170	0.4388	1354
7	Not Diverse	Female	Success	3.5044	0.3507	3697
8	Not Diverse	Female	Not Success	3.1507	0.4025	1507

```
m <-      ggplot(WSU.df, aes(y=HS_GPA, x=Diverse))
m <- m + facet_grid(. ~ Gender)
m <- m + geom_boxplot()
m <- m + xlab("Diveres Status") + ylab("GPA")
m <- m + ggtitle("HS GPA by Gender and Diverse Status")
m <- m + WSU.theme

print(m)
```

# High School GPA by Diverse Status



```
> pc <- princomp(~HS_GPA+HSPercentile+ACTScore, data=WSU.df,  
                  cor=TRUE)
```

```
> pc$sdev
```

	Comp.1	Comp.2	Comp.3
	1.4105885	0.9417946	0.3510882

```
> pc$loadings
```

Loadings:

	Comp.1	Comp.2	Comp.3
HS_GPA	0.671	-0.220	0.708
HSPercentile	0.669	-0.232	-0.706
ACTScore	0.320	0.947	

```
> pc.scores <- data.frame(with(pc, scale(WSU.df[,c("HS_GPA",  
"HSPercentile", "ACTScore")] , center = center, scale = scale)  
%% loadings(pc)))
```

```
> names(pc.scores) <- c("PC1", "PC2", "PC3")
```

```
> df <- data.frame(WSU.df, pc.scores)
```



```
> lrfit <- glm(Success ~ Diverse, family=binomial,  
               data=df)  
> summary(lrfit)
```

Coefficients:

	Estimate	Std. Error	z	value	Pr(> z )	
(Intercept)	0.15611	0.09205	1.696	0.0899	.	
Diverse	0.44831	0.09530	4.704	2.55e-06	***	

```
> add1(lrfit, scope=
~Diverse*Gender*HS_GPA*ACTScore*HSPercentile*PC1*PC2*PC,
test="Chisq")
```

	Df	Deviance	AIC	LRT	Pr(>Chi)	
<none>		9986.1	9990.1			
Gender	1	9728.4	9734.4	257.72	< 2.2e-16	***
HS_GPA	1	8468.1	8474.1	1517.98	< 2.2e-16	***
ACTScore	1	9825.1	9831.1	161.03	< 2.2e-16	***
HSPercentile	1	8604.8	8610.8	1381.30	< 2.2e-16	***
PC1	1	8416.6	8422.6	1569.50	< 2.2e-16	***
PC2	1	9959.1	9965.1	27.01	2.02e-07	***
PC3	1	9976.8	9982.8	9.34	0.002243	**

```
> lrfit <- glm(Success ~ Diverse + PC1, family=binomial,  
               data=df)  
> summary(lrfit)
```

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )	
(Intercept)	0.63088	0.10427	6.051	1.44e-09	***
Diverse	0.07995	0.10719	0.746	0.456	
PC1	0.76905	0.02222	34.610	< 2e-16	***

```
> add1(lrfit, scope=
~Diverse*Gender*HS_GPA*ACTScore*HSPercentile*PC1*PC2*PC3,
test="Chisq")
```

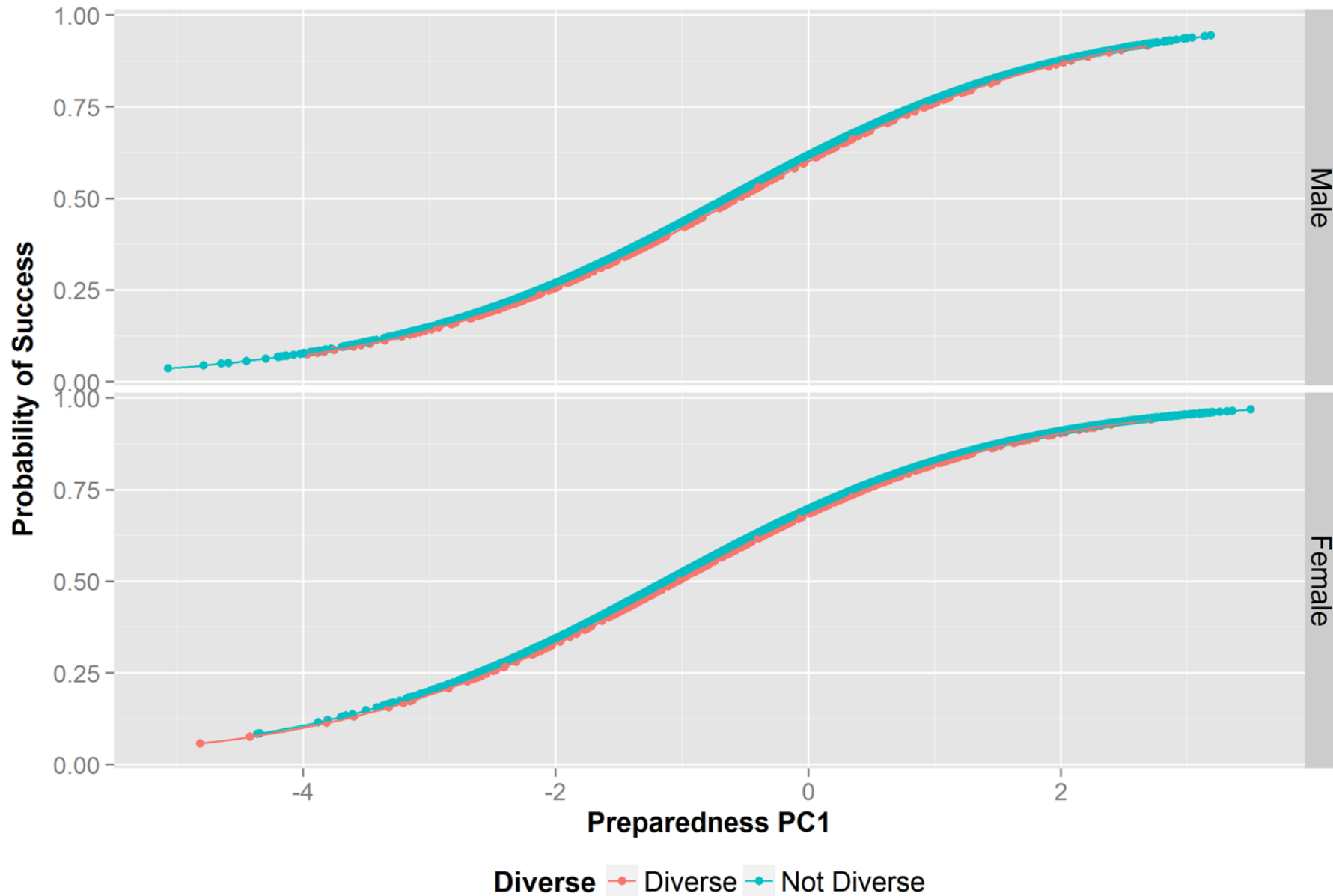
	Df	Deviance	AIC	LRT	Pr(>Chi)	
<none>		8416.6	8422.6			
Gender	1	8376.2	8384.2	40.436	2.032e-10	***
HS_GPA	1	8394.9	8402.9	21.720	3.154e-06	***
ACTScore	1	8404.6	8412.6	12.018	0.0005269	***
HSPercentile	1	8416.6	8424.6	0.034	0.8527541	
PC2	1	8404.7	8412.7	11.938	0.0005499	***
PC3	1	8407.0	8415.0	9.655	0.0018887	**
Diverse:PC1	1	8416.0	8424.0	0.573	0.4491383	



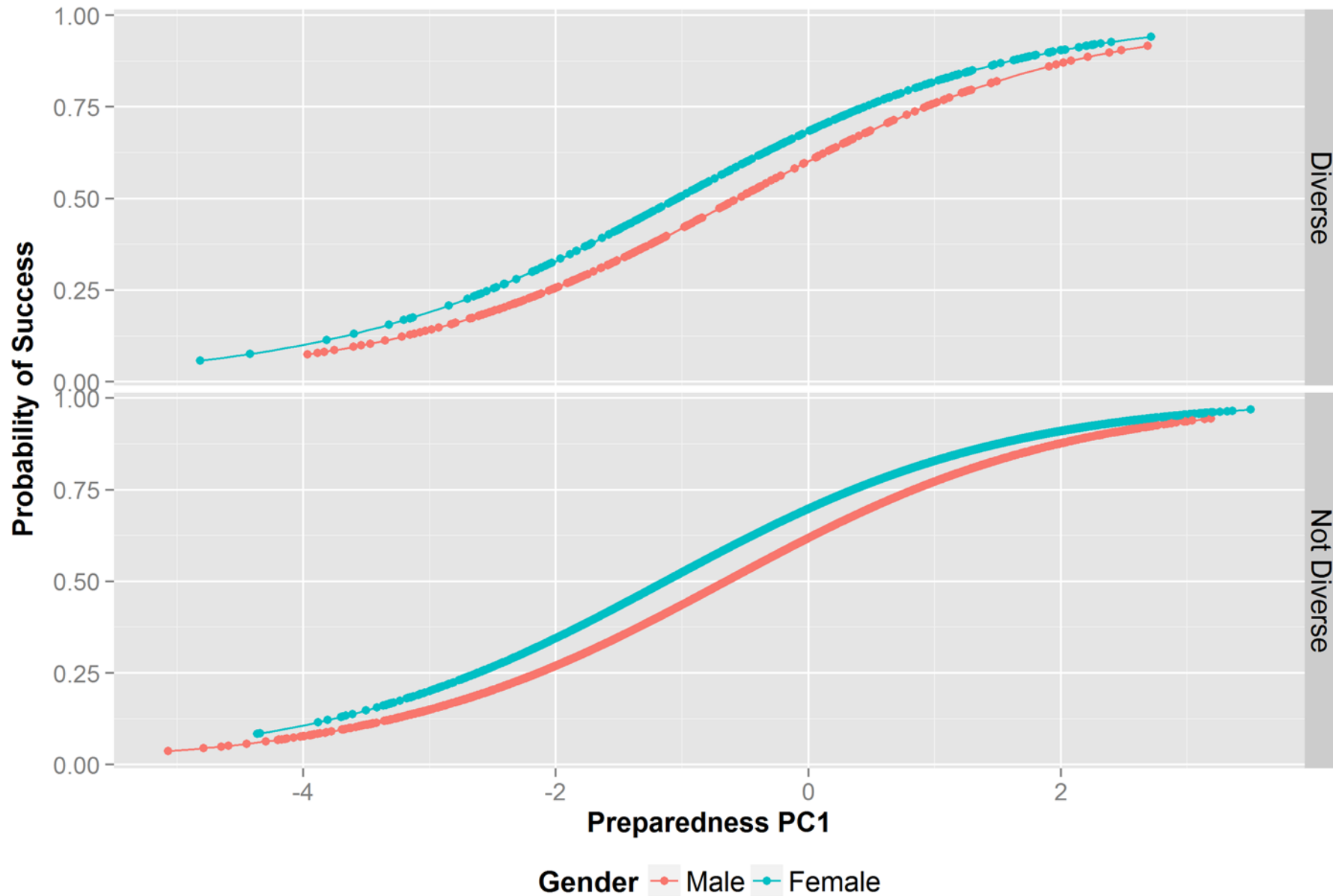
```
> lrfit <- glm(Success ~ Diverse + PC1 + Gender,  
               family=binomial, data=df)  
> summary(lrfit)
```

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z )	
(Intercept)	0.41292	0.10978	3.761	0.000169	***
Diverse	0.06869	0.10747	0.639	0.522750	
PC1	0.73893	0.02264	32.639	< 2e-16	***
Gender	0.35527	0.05563	6.386	1.7e-10	***

# Probability of Success by Diverse, Gender and Preparedness



# Probability of Success by Diverse, Gender and Preparedness





Diverse	Not Diverse	Gap
53.9%	64.5%	10.6%

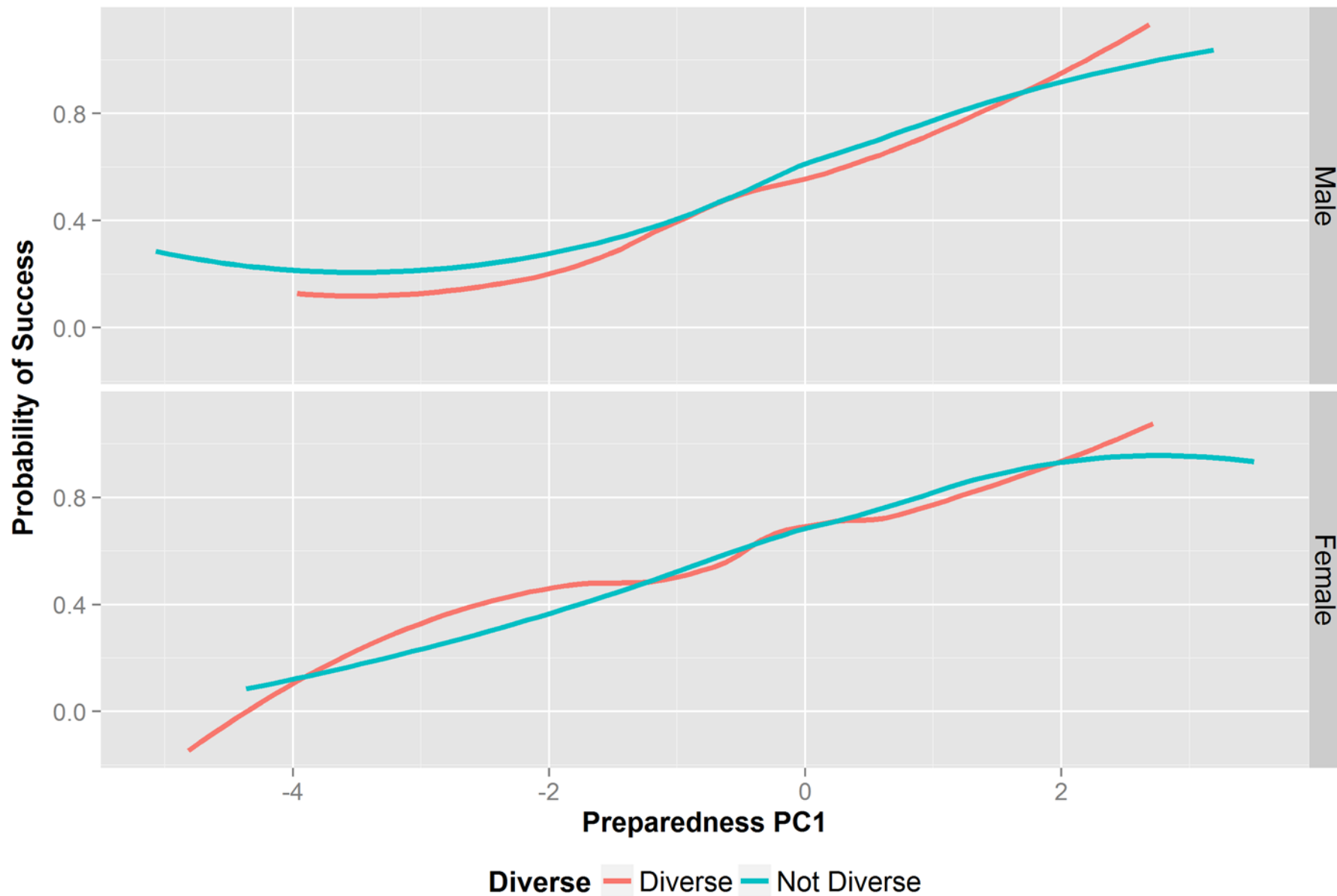
## Adjusted for Gender

	Not Diverse	Diverse	Gap
Male	52.5%	41.6%	10.9%
Female	71.0%	63.7%	7.4%
Gap	18.6%	22.1%	

## Adjusted for Gender and Preparedness

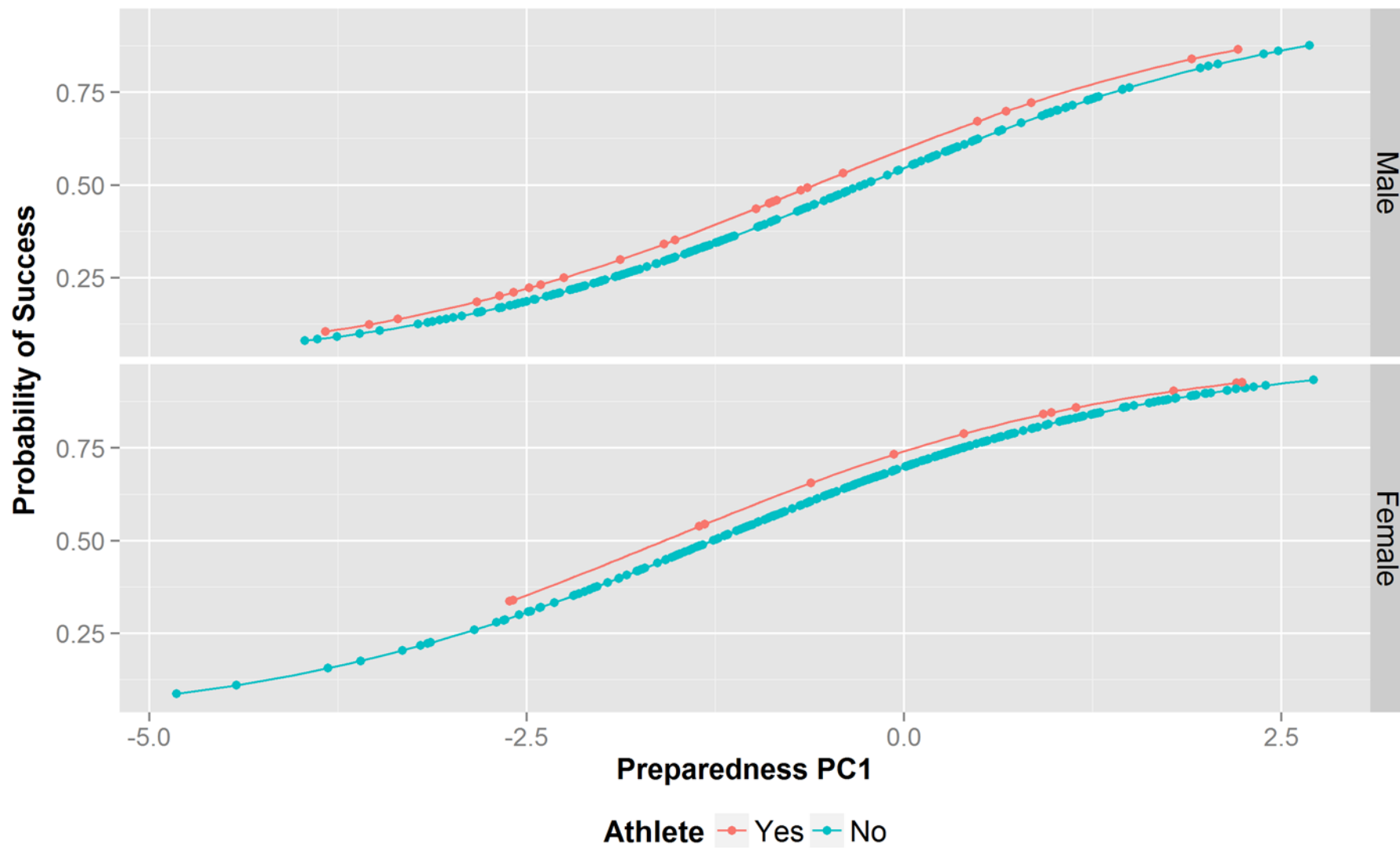
	Not Diverse	Diverse	Gap
Male	61.8%	60.2%	1.6%
Female	69.8%	68.3%	1.5%
Gap	8.0%	8.1%	

# Probability of Success by Diverse, HS GPA and Preparedness



AIC from 557 to 558.8  
p-value = 0.5989

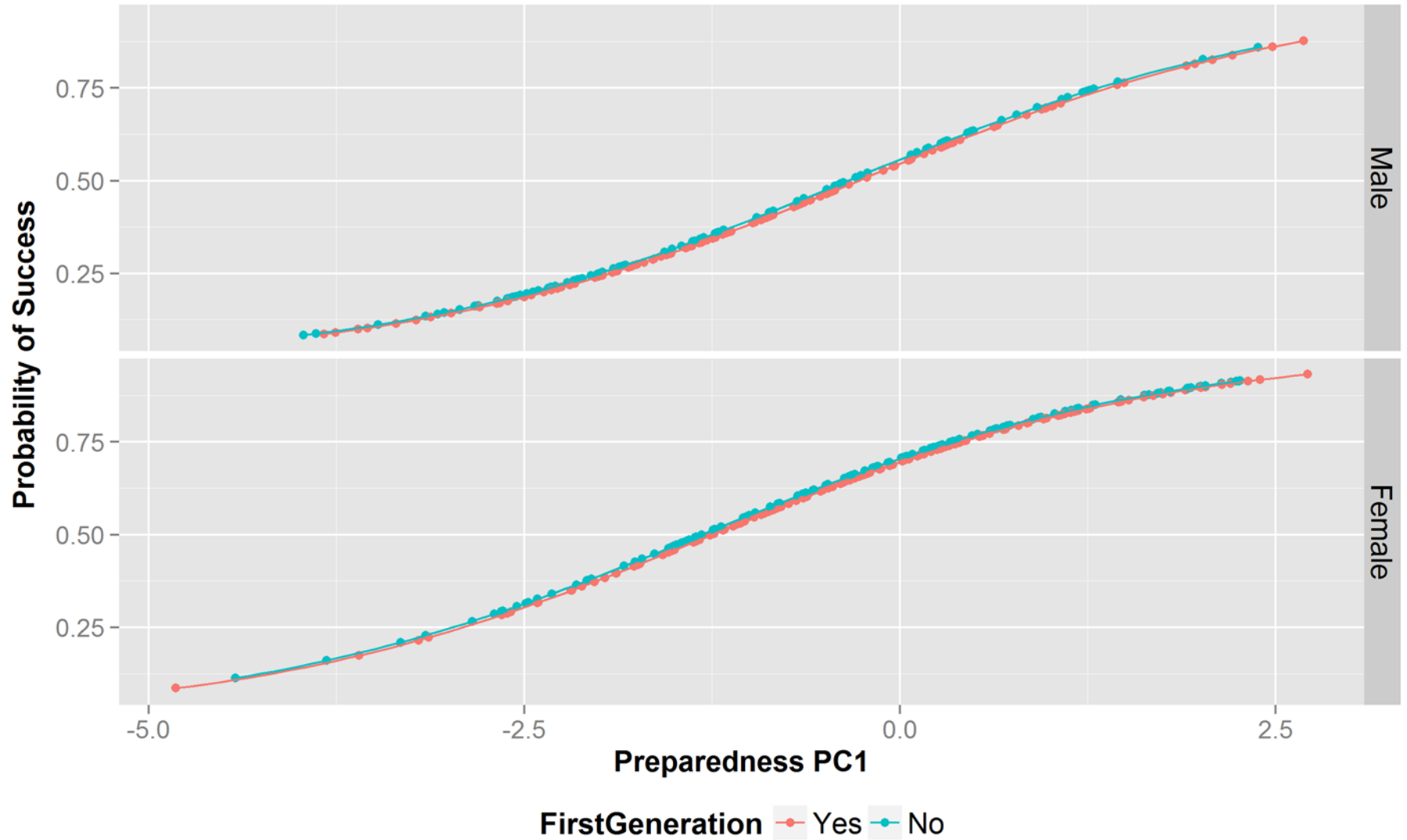
## *Probability of Success by Athlete*





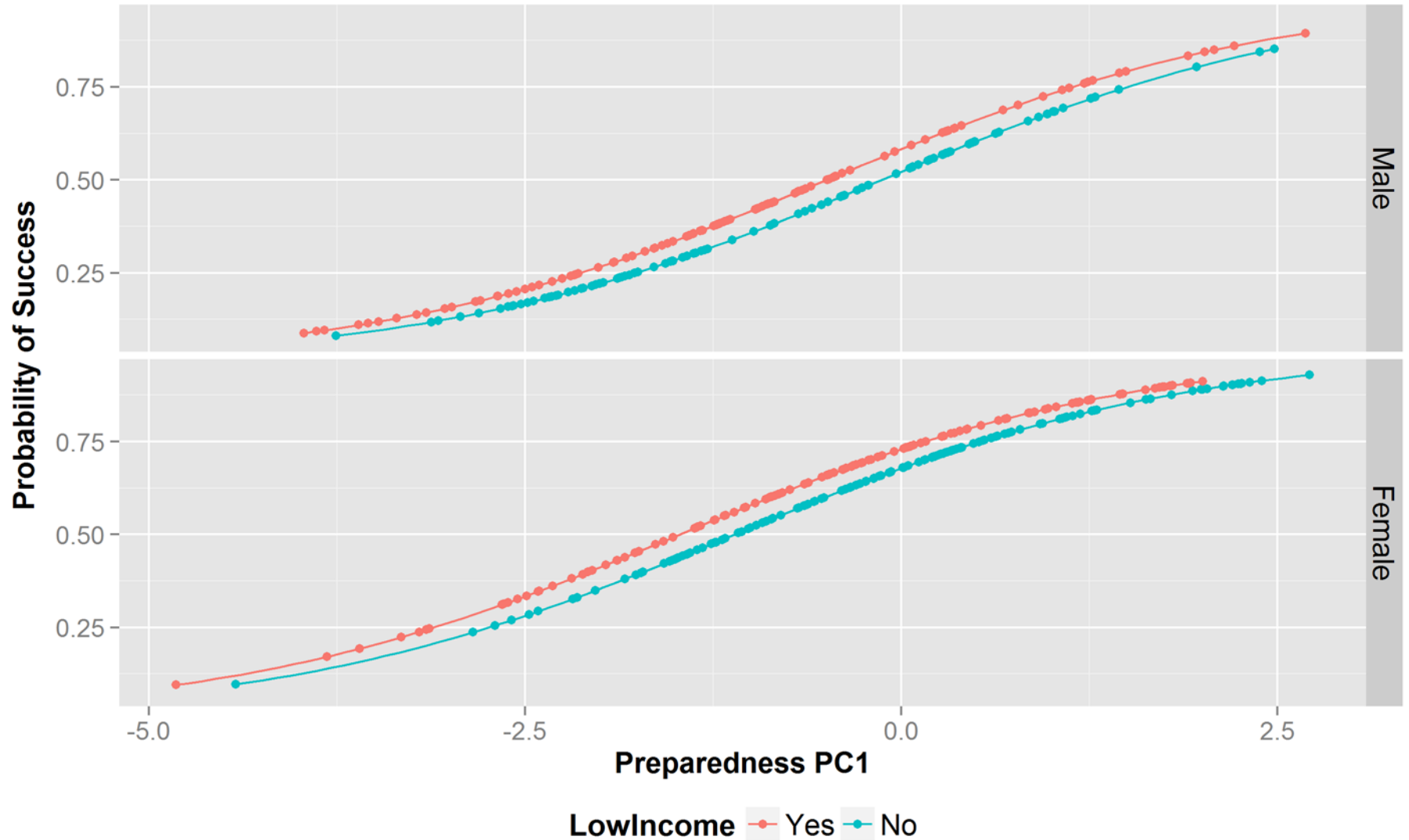
AIC from 557 to 559  
p-value = 0.823

## *Probability of Success by First Generation*



AIC from 557 to 557.7  
p-value = 0.2415

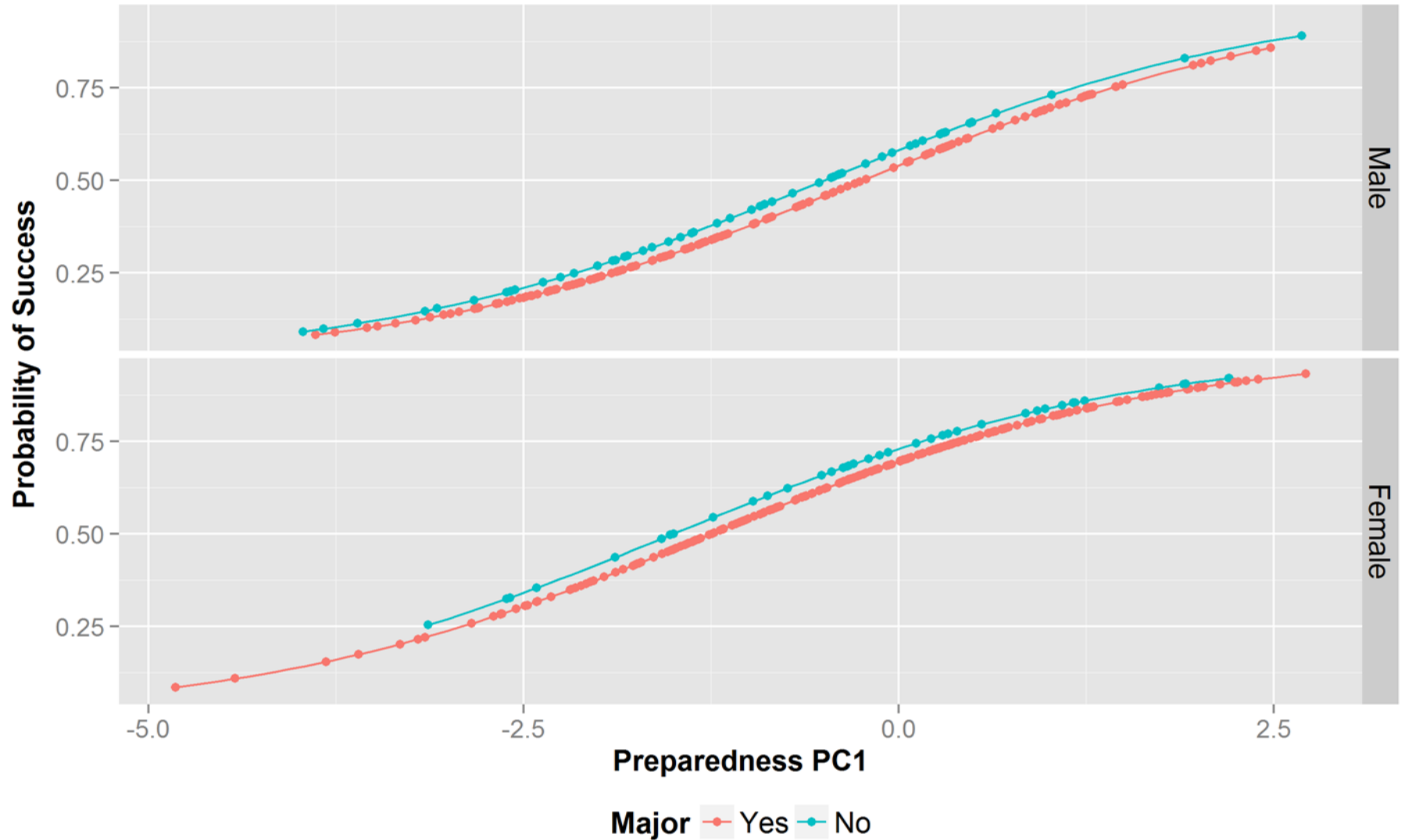
## *Probability of Success by Low Income*



AIC from 557 to 558.6

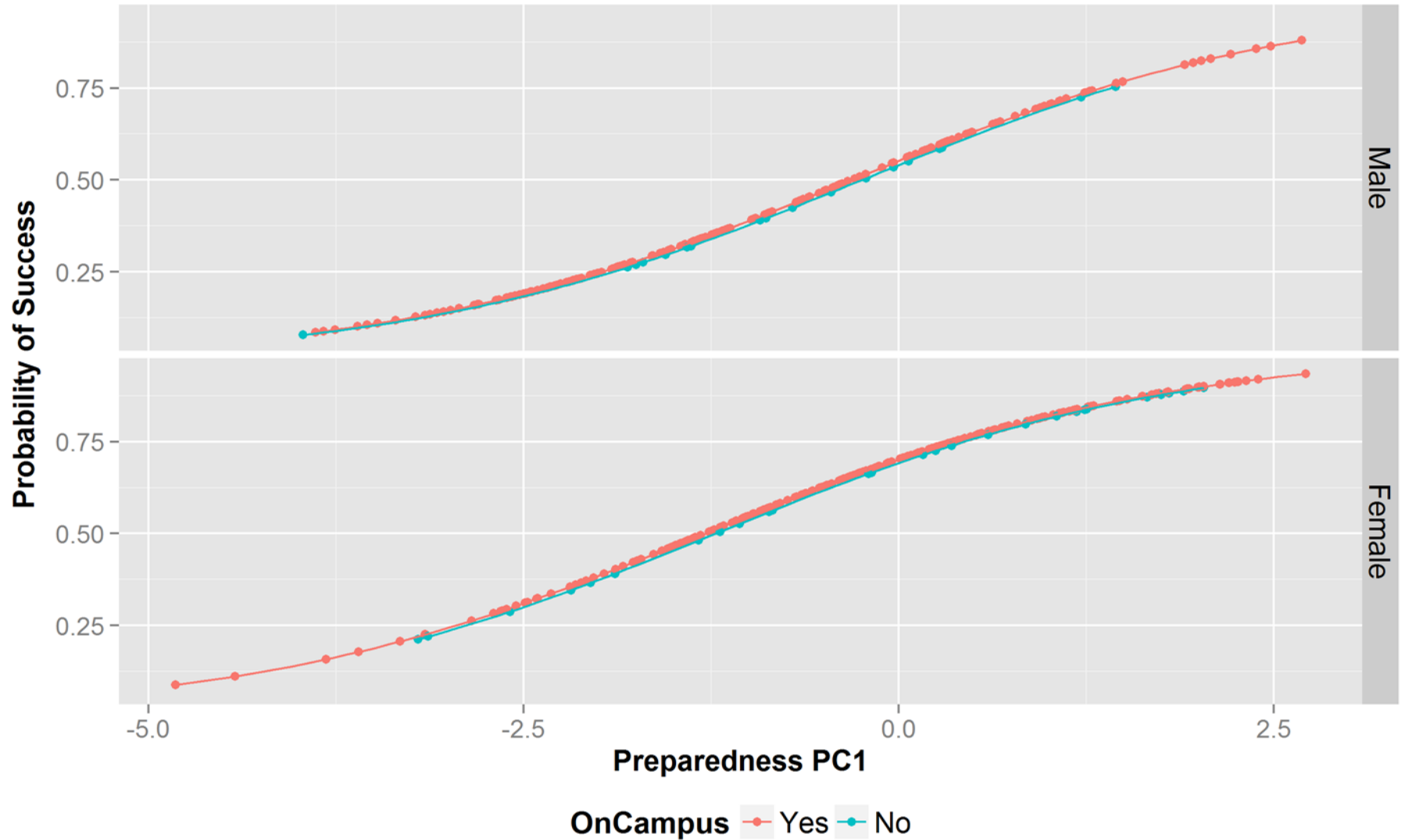
p-value = 0.5218

## *Probability of Success by Declared Major*



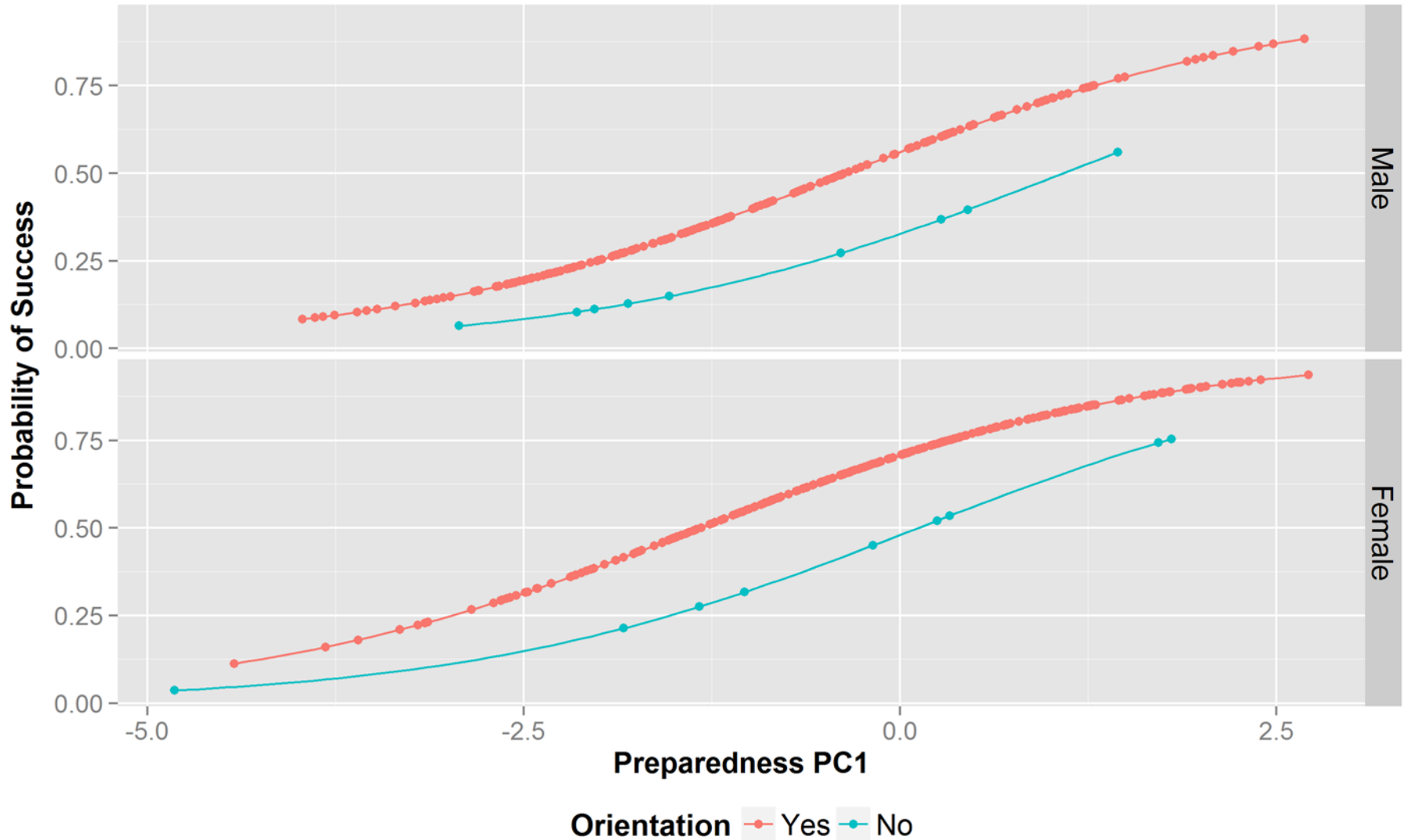
AIC from 557 to 559  
p-value = 0.8973

## *Probability of Success by Lived On Campus*



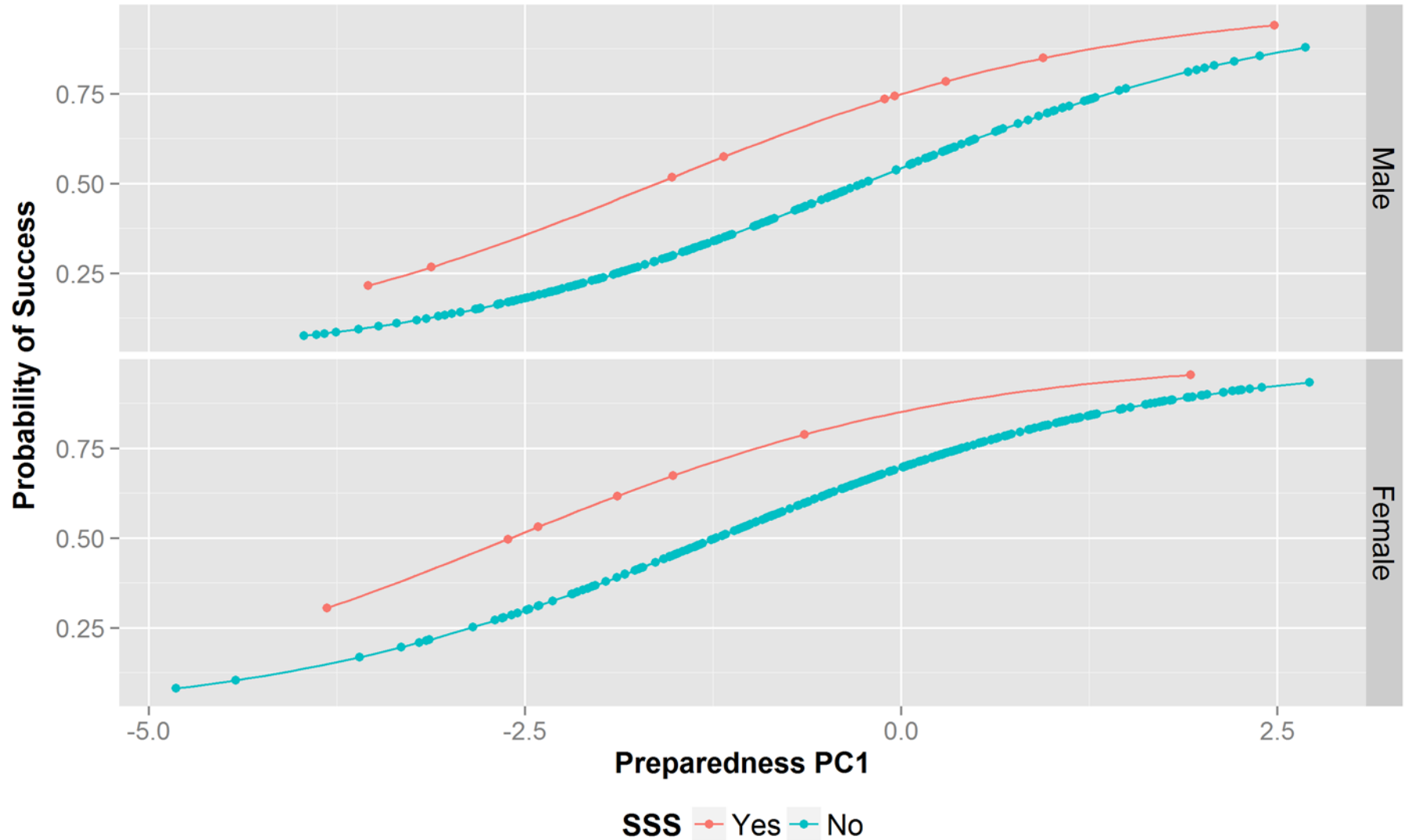
AIC from 557 to 556.1  
p-value = 0.0932

## *Probability of Success by Registered for Orientation*



AIC from 557 to 556.5  
p-value = 0.1215

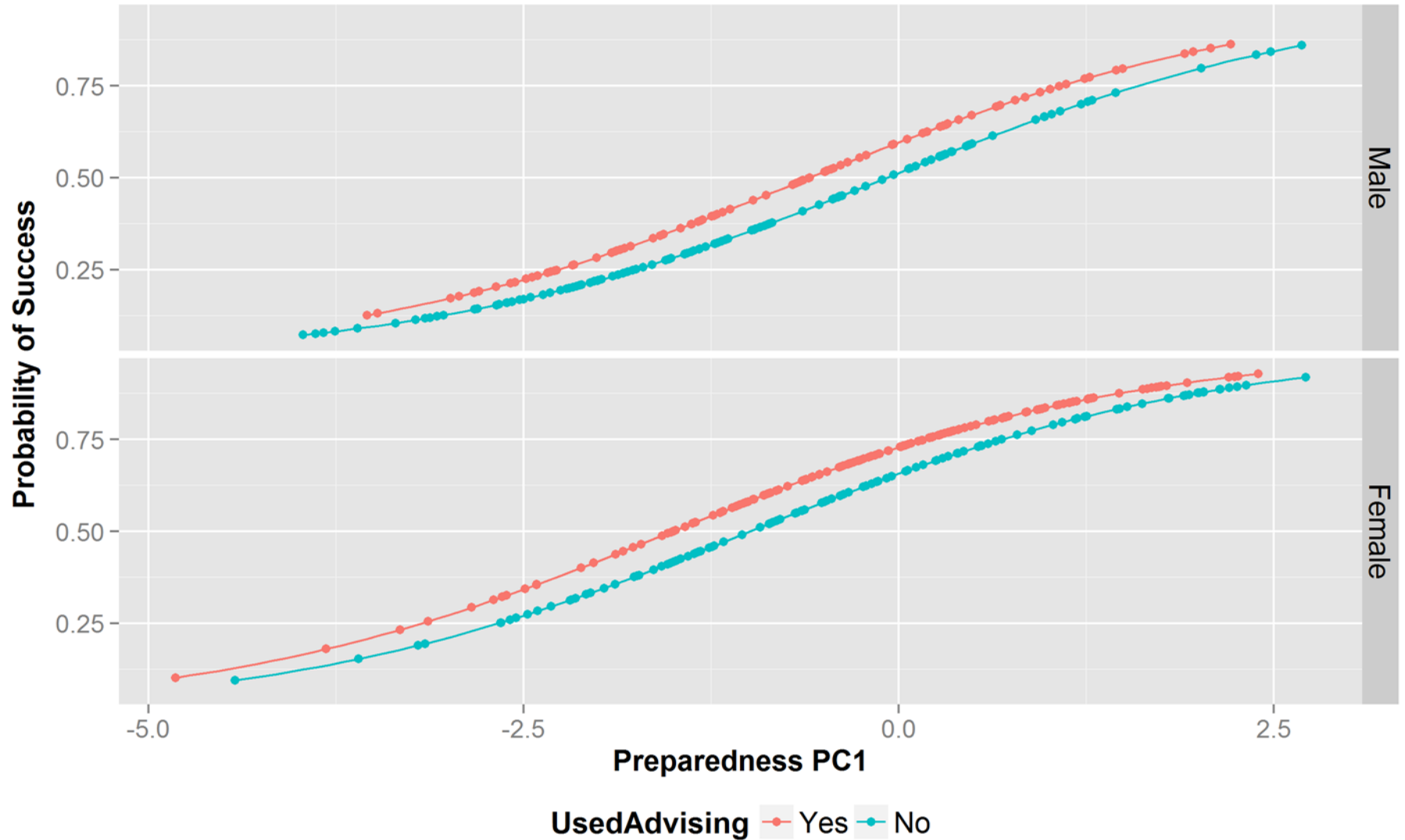
## *Probability of Success by Student Support Services*



AIC from 557 to 556.4

p-value = 0.1072

## *Probability of Success by Used Advising*



AIC from 557 to 555.9  
p-value = 0.082

## *Probability of Success by Worked On Campus*







# Conclusion

- Diversity gap is largely attributable to on-average lower incoming HS GPA, Rank and ACT Scores
- Gender gap is actually larger than our diversity gap
- After accounting for gender and preparedness, not single factors we looked at were strongly correlated with diverse student success.



# R Strength/Weakness

- It is a programming language
  - Offers incredible flexibility
  - Steep learning curve
- There are GUI add-ons (like R Commander) , but not as polished or as complete as commercial packages



# R Strengths/Weaknesses

- Great graphics capabilities
- Scripting analysis for later re-use.  
Especially graphics!
- Lots of add-on packages



# Free Comes at a Cost

- Supported by a large team of really senior programmers and statisticians, but no one to complain to
- Documentation is abundant, but scattered, and probably too abundant



# More Information

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<http://www.winona.edu/ipar/reports.asp>







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**Questions?**



# Title

Text