

Chronic Absenteeism and Discipline for Boys & Girls Club Members

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4/19/2015

Prepared for The Boys & Girls Clubs of Connecticut (BGCC)

Chronic Absenteeism and Discipline Related to Boys & Girls Club Participation

Introduction

The data match for about 14,000 BGC members yielded matches in the CSDE data base for about half of the records submitted. Some of the problems occurred because of the way clubs recorded names. Nick names and other kinds of abbreviations for first or last names lead to failed matches.

Chronic Absenteeism

In Connecticut in 2013-14, 10.7 percent of the students in grades K-12 statewide are chronically absent, that is they miss more than 10 percent of the school days. In contrast, among the children and youth attending Boys and Girls Clubs in 2013-2014, 6.9 percent are chronically absent.

Looking at the impact of poverty on chronic absenteeism, Connecticut students eligible for free lunch, have a chronic absenteeism rate of 19.9 percent. Those eligible for reduced lunch price lunch are at 9.1 percent and those not eligible for free or reduced lunch are at 6.1. (Table 1)

Table 1: Statewide Chronic Absenteeism in Related to Income

Location	Eligible for Free or Reduced-price Meals	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Connecticut	All	11.0%	11.5%	10.7%
Connecticut	Eligible for free meal	20.0%	20.9%	19.9%
Connecticut	Eligible for reduced-price meal	10.7%	10.4%	9.1%
Connecticut	Not eligible	6.7%	6.9%	6.1%

Among Boys and Girls club member (see Table 2), those with Low income (eligible for either free or reduced price lunches) had a rate of 10.7% for chronic absenteeism. Those not eligible had a 3.5% rate of chronic absenteeism. Although it is difficult to compare the statewide numbers for free and reduced price with BGC's low income level, it appears that chronic absenteeism is lower for BGC members in both income categories compared to chronic absenteeism for free, reduced and non-eligible (not low income) students statewide.

Table 2: Income and Chronic Absenteeism among Boys and Girls Club Members

		Chronically Absent		% Chronically Absent ¹	Total
		YES	NO		
Income Level	Low Income	150	1253	10.7%	1403
	Not low income	59	1604	3.5%	1663
Total		209	2857		3066

¹ Low income significantly different from not low income.

Statewide, chronic absenteeism was 8.4 across elementary and middle school. The chronic absenteeism rate rose to 15.4 for high school. (see Table 3)

Table 3: Chronic Absenteeism by School Level Among Boys and Girls Club Members

			Chronically Absent		% Chronically Absent ²	Total
			YES	NO		
	Elementary School	Count	182	3859	4.5	4041
	Middle School	Count	122	1480	7.6%	1602
	High School	Count	149	892	14.3%	1041
Total		Count	453	6231		6684

Table 4: By Elementary/Middle/High School and Income level for BGC Members

				Chronically Absent		% Chronically Absent ³	Total
				YES	NO		
Elementary School	Income Level ID	Low Income	Count	73	853	7.9%	926
		Not low income	Count	25	1124	2.2%	1149
	Total		Count	98	1977		2075
Middle School	Income Level ID	Low Income	Count	38	253	13.1%	291
		Not low income	Count	20	314	6.0%	334
	Total		Count	58	567		625
High School	Income Level ID	Low Income	Count	39	147	21.0%	186
		Not low income	Count	14	166	7.8%	180
	Total		Count	53	313		366

Considering the engagement level of club members in relation to chronic absenteeism in school (Table 5), club members that go to the club two or more times a week are significantly less likely to be chronically absent than those who attend one to two times a week or less than once weekly.

Table 5: Engagement Level by Chronic Absenteeism

		Chronically Absent		% Chronically Absent ⁴	Total
		YES	NO		
Engagement Level	Less than once weekly	131	1564	7.7%	1695
	One to two times a week	46	468	8.9%	514
	Two or more times a week	41	876	4.5%	917
Total		218	2908		3126

² Elementary and middle school percentages significantly different from high school scores.

³ Low income and not low income significantly different at each school level.

⁴ Two or more times a week absenteeism rate significantly different from the other two engagement levels.

Table 6: School Level by Engagement by Chronic Absenteeism

				Chronically Absent		# Chronically Absent	Total
				YES	NO		
Elementary School	Engagement Level	Less than once weekly	Count	44	920	4.6%	964
		One to two times a week	Count	28	344	7.5%	372
		Two or more times a week	Count	27	706	3.7%	733
	Total		Count	99	1970		2069
Middle School	Engagement Level	Less than once weekly	Count	42	354	10.6%	396
		One to two times a week	Count	10	94	9.6%	104
		Two or more times a week	Count	8	149	5.1%	157
	Total		Count	60	597		657
High School	Engagement Level	Less than once weekly	Count	45	290	13.4%	335
		One to two times a week	Count	8	30	21.1%	38
		Two or more times a week	Count	6	21	22.2%	27
	Total		Count	59	341		400

Suspensions

In regard to suspensions (in and out of school) and expulsions, the percentage of students receiving at least one suspension or expulsion in 2013-14 declined to 7.5% (approx. 41,500). The percentage of Boys and Girls Clubs members with at least one suspension or expulsion was 7.5% the same as the rate in Connecticut overall for grades K-12.

We also looked at those who had attended a club for less than 1 year, those who attended 1-2 years, and those who attended a club for more than two years. The data are below in Table 7 with a breakout by school grade in Table 8.

Table 7: Years of Membership by Disciplinary Action

			One or more disciplinary actions			Total
			No	Yes	% with 1 or more ⁵	
Years of Membership	More than 2 years	Count	355	54	13.2%	409
	1-2 years	Count	1504	109	6.8%	1613
	Less than 1 year	Count	2191	216	9.0%	2407
Total		Count	6920	563		4429

Table 8: School Level by Retention by Disciplinary Action

				One or More Disciplinary Actions			Total
				No	Yes	% with 1 or more ⁶	
Elementary School	Years of Membership	Missing	Count	1248	27	2.1%	1275
		More than 2 years	Count	146	6	3.9%	152
		1-2 years	Count	1009	25	2.4%	1034
		Less than 1 year	Count	1593	69	4.2%	1662
	Total		Count	3996	127		4123
Middle School	Years of Membership	Missing	Count	641	53	7.6%	694
		More than 2 years	Count	138	26	15.9%	164
		1-2 years	Count	315	46	12.7%	361
		Less than 1 year	Count	341	72	17.4%	413
	Total		Count	1435	197		1632
High School	Years of Membership	Missing	Count	403	53	11.6%	456
		More than 2 years	Count	71	22	23.7%	93
		1-2 years	Count	180	38	17.4%	218
		Less than 1 year	Count	257	75	22.6%	332
	Total		Count	911	188		1099

Of those with more than 2 years of club experience, 13.2% had one or more disciplinary actions. Of those with 1-2 years of club experience, 6.8%, had one or more disciplinary actions. Of those with less than a year’s club experience, 9% had one or more disciplinary actions. These data do not present a clear picture of the relationship between years of attendance and incidence of disciplinary actions.

The number of years of club attendance do not seem related to school behavior. However, the data suggest that club engagement is an important factor in relation to disciplinary actions in school (see Table 9). The group that attend the club less than once a week have the highest incidence (9.1%) of individuals with at least one disciplinary action. The group attending 1 to 2

⁵ The percentages are significantly different.

⁶ Significant differences within each school level.

times a week have the next lowest incidence (7.0%) of individuals with at least one disciplinary action. Those with the most engagement, two or more times a week at the club, have the lowest incidence (4.1%) of individuals with at least one disciplinary action. This suggest that level of engagement is strongly related to school behavior. (see Table 10 for school breakouts)

Table 9: Club Engagement by School Disciplinary Actions

			One or more disciplinary actions		% with 1 or more ⁷	Total
			No	Yes		
Engagement Level	Less than once weekly	Count	1613	162	9.1%	1775
	One to two times a week	Count	489	37	7.0%	526
	Two or more times a week	Count	880	38	4.1%	918
Total		Count	2982	237		3219

Table 10: School Level by Club Engagement by School Disciplinary Actions

				One of More Disciplinary Actions		% with 1 or more ⁸	Total
				No	Yes		
Elementary School	Engagement Level	Less than once weekly	Count	975	29	2.9%	1004
		One to two times a week	Count	371	11	2.9%	382
		Two or more times a week	Count	716	18	2.5%	734
	Total		Count	2062	58		2120
Middle School	Engagement Level	Less than once weekly	Count	351	60	14.6%	411
		One to two times a week	Count	88	18	17.0%	106
		Two or more times a week	Count	140	17	10.8%	157
	Total		Count	579	95		674

⁷ Significant difference only between “two or more times a week” and the other two level of engagement.

⁸ No significant differences.

Table 10, continued: School Level by Club Engagement by School Disciplinary Actions

High School	Engagement Level ID	Less than once weekly	Count	287	73	20.3%	360
		One to two times a week	Count	30	8	21.1%	38
		Two or more times a week	Count	24	3	11.1%	27
	Total		Count	341	84		425

Club Experience

None of the apparent differences (Tables 11 and 12) in disciplinary action or chronic absenteeism by club experience are significant.

Table 11: Club Experience by School Level for Disciplinary Action

				One of More Disciplinary Actions			Total
				No	Yes	% with 1 or More ⁹	
Elementary School	Club Experience	Insufficient	Count	120	6	4.8%	126
		Neutral	Count	107	11	9.3%	118
		Optimal	Count	101	4	3.8%	105
	Total		Count	328	21		349
Middle School	Club Experience	Insufficient	Count	58	6	9.4%	64
		Neutral	Count	70	16	18.6%	86
		Optimal	Count	65	22	25.3%	87
	Total		Count	193	44		237
High School	Club Experience	Insufficient	Count	21	6	22.2%	27
		Neutral	Count	33	5	13.2%	38
		Optimal	Count	60	20	25.0%	80
	Total		Count	114	31		145

⁹ Differences in percentages only significant for 11 to less than 14.

Table 12: Club Experience by School Level for Chronic Absenteeism

				Chronically Absent		% Chronically Absent ¹⁰	Total
				Yes	No		
Elementary School	Club Experience	Insufficient	Count	6	119	4.8%	125
		Neutral	Count	6	112	5.1%	118
		Optimal	Count	5	100	4.8%	105
	Total		Count	17	331		348
Middle School	Club Experience	Insufficient	Count	5	58	7.9%	63
		Neutral	Count	8	78	9.3%	86
		Optimal	Count	12	75	13.8%	87
	Total		Count	25	211		236
High School	Club Experience	Insufficient	Count	2	25	7.4%	27
		Neutral	Count	3	34	8.1%	37
		Optimal	Count	16	64	20.0%	80
	Total		Count	21	123		144

Summary

Overall, it appears that being a club member is related to chronic absenteeism, those who are club members have lower rates of chronic absenteeism than the average rate of students rate statewide. In particular, there is a strong relationship with level of engagement and school disciplinary behavior. The most engaged club members (those at the club two or more times a week) are the less likely than those with less intensive experience to get into trouble in school. A third finding, for the youngest cohort, those in the elementary grades, the experience in the club does not seem to affect absenteeism or school behavior (e.g., detentions, suspensions, and dismissals).

Table 13: Clubs Included in the Data Set

	Frequency	Percent
Wakeman Boys & Girls Club	2011	29.3
Ulbrich Boys & Girls Club	50	.7
Ridgefield Boys & Girls Club	18	.3
Bristol Boys & Girls Club Association	485	7.1
Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford	728	10.6
Boys and Girls Club of New Britain	264	3.9
Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley	814	11.9
Boys & Girls Club of Stamford	319	4.7
Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern Connecticut	87	1.3
Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton	241	3.5

¹⁰ No significant differences.

	Frequency	Percent
Boys & Girls Club of New Haven	213	3.1
Boys & Girls Club of Milford	155	2.3
Boys & Girls Club of Meriden	338	4.9
Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich	1087	15.9
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury	44	.6
Total	6854	100.0

Club by Club Analyses

There is a lot of missing data for individual clubs. Hartford, for example, has mostly “0” in the income field (indicating not reported according to your code book).

		Chronically Absent		
		YES		NO
		Count	Percent	Count
Wakeman Boys & Girls Club	Low Income	0	0.0%	4
	Not low income	2	1.1%	181
	Sub-total	2	1.1%	185
Ulbrich Boys & Girls Club	Low Income	3	13.6%	19
	Not low income	1	7.1%	13
	Sub-total	4	11.1%	32
Ridgefield Boys & Girls Club	Low Income	0	0.0%	0
	Not low income	0	0.0%	0
	Sub-total	0	0.0%	0
Bristol Boys & Girls Club Association	Low Income	28	13.5%	179
	Not low income	6	3.1%	189
	Sub-total	34	8.5%	368
Boys and Girls Clubs of Hartford	Low Income	0	0.0%	0
	Not low income	0	0.0%	0
	Sub-total	0	0.0%	0
Boys and Girls Club of New Haven	Low Income	0	0.0%	0
	Not low income	0	0.0%	0
	Sub-total	0	0.0%	0
Boys and Girls Club of New Britain	Low Income	0	0.0%	3
	Not low income	0	0.0%	0
	Sub-total	0	0.0%	3
Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley	Low Income	23	11.0%	186
	Not low income	15	5.7%	249

		Chronically Absent		
		YES		NO
		Count	Percent	Count
	Sub-total	38	8.0%	435
Boys & Girls Club of Stamford	Low Income	11	5.5%	190
	Not low income	0	0.0%	40
	Sub-total	11	4.6%	230
Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern Connecticut	Low Income	7	11.9%	52
	Not low income	1	11.1%	8
	Sub-total	8	11.8%	60
Boys & Girls Club of Redding-Easton	Low Income	0	0.0%	0
	Not low income	0	0.0%	0
	Sub-total	0	0.0%	0
Boys & Girls Club of New Haven	Low Income	20	15.3%	111
	Not low income	7	8.8%	73
	Sub-total	27	12.8%	184
Boys & Girls Club of Milford	Low Income	10	13.2%	66
	Not low income	2	3.0%	65
	Sub-total	12	8.4%	131
Boys & Girls Club of Meriden	Low Income	27	19.0%	115
	Not low income	11	8.2%	123
	Sub-total	38	13.8%	238
Boys & Girls Club of Greenwich	Low Income	21	6.0%	328
	Not low income	14	2.1%	663
	Sub-total	35	3.4%	991
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury	Low Income	0	0.0%	0
	Not low income	0	0.0%	0
	Sub-total	0	0.0%	0
Statewide	Low Income	150	10.7%	1253
	Not low income	59	3.5%	1604
	Sub-total	209	6.8%	2857