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Are All Sports Created Equal?

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Participation in extra-curricular activities, particularly sports, has a positive impact on educational achievement. In addition, I show factors that might impact those who play these sports that will explain the effect on educational achievement.

Looking at Peabody Health Scores from waves one to four of the National Longitudinal Study of American Youth taken from public high schools around the country. Sports are particularly high on the list of interesting impacts on achievement that has not yet been explained. What is found here reveals that even after all these other effects, basketball still had an enduring impact on educational achievement.

As such, this study explores these relationships with each other that is impacting the negative or positive return to education. This suggests that rather than something about the sport itself that is influencing the effect, the effect is connected with the networking done in the sport itself, which patterns with SES and cultural background.

Looking at four common sports, basketball, soccer, baseball/softball and football, I explore selection effects by running a binary logistic for those who are more likely to play basketball and less likely to play soccer, whereas Hispanics are more likely to play soccer and less likely to play basketball.

I then explore selection effects by running a binary logistic for those who are less likely to play soccer and more likely to play basketball. While there is some selection effects due to race and SES, sports still have an influence that will increase scores for all those involved.