2010-04-01

Are All Sports Created Equal?

Tiffany Wright
Benjamin Gibbs

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/fhssconference_studentpub

Part of the Sociology Commons

The Annual Mary Lou Fulton Mentored Research Conference showcases some of the best student research from the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences. The mentored learning program encourages undergraduate students to participate in hands-on and practical research under the direction of a faculty member. Students create these posters as an aide in presenting the results of their research to the public, faculty, and their peers.

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation


This is brought to you for free and open access by the Family, Home, and Social Sciences at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in FHSS Mentored Research Conference by an authorized administrator of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
Participation in extra-curricular activities, particularly sports, has a positive impact on educational achievement. In addition, I show factor that might impact those who are involved in these sports to explore the possibility of a selection effect. Few of the other variables such as violent or deviant behavior and parent associations were also included in this phase, but none showed enough significance to be shown here.)

(For this study, I used data taken from the National Longitudinal Study of Public High Schools around the country. Sports are particularly high on the list of extra-curricular activities that are created equally. Looking at Peabody Health Scores from waves one and two, there is a positive impact that can start to be seen in selection effects of soccer with SES and basketball with African Americans. This suggests that rather than something about the sport itself that is causing the impact, it is something about those who are involved in the sport and their networking done in the sport itself, which patterns different sports resulting in either a negative or positive effects on educational achievement, showing that mere involvement in sports does not necessarily equal an interesting impact on achievement that has not yet been explained. What is found here is that different sports resulting in either a negative or positive effects on involvement in another shows a negative impact on achievement, showing that mere involvement in sports does not necessarily equal a positive impact and further study is needed to understand why this effect is occurring. Perhaps the effect is connected with the networking done in the sport itself, which patterns across SES, that those who play soccer have on average higher Vocab scores and those who play basketball have lower scores. While there is some selection effects due to race and SES, sports still have an influence that will increase scores for all those involved. Gender, although it may have different amounts of impact for differing groups,