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DOI: 10.25778/a2ss-zv88  
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This poster is available in OUR Journal: ODU Undergraduate Research Journal: https://digitalcommons.odu.edu/ourj/vol4/iss1/8
Impact of After-School Activities on Meeting CDC Requirements in Virginia Adolescent

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Abstract

Aim: To assess the correlation between after-school program attendance and meeting the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommended 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) per day.

Background: Less than 50% of all children meet the CDC required amount of MVPA. Methods: Survey provided to 350 students in grades 6-12 describing participation in after-school programs.

Analysis: We will analyze how many students participate in the after-school programs and how long those programs dedicate to physical exercise. We will also analyze what type of exercise is performed.

Limitations: We are limited to the students who are present in the classes we pass the surveys out to. Also, our data will only be analyzed on the surveys that are turned in complete.

Methods and Materials

Sample: Convenience sampling, n=350, 6 schools (3 MS, 3 HS), 7 grades, 50 surveys per grade.

Recruitment: Visiting student homerooms for each grade level and administering a survey.

Subject selection: Subject randomly chosen by availability in the homeroom on day of survey distribution to students.

Exclusion criteria: Incomplete surveys; students who are absent.

Materials: The Physical Activity Questionnaire for Older Children (PAQ-C) and Adolescents (PAQ-A); Modified Godin Leisure Time Questionnaire.

Background and Significance

• Few children are sufficiently physically active. Studies have shown that exercise can reduce the amount of disruptive behavior by 70% on the days children exercised at school. Physical exercise has been shown to have a positive effect on academics as well as emotional behaviors.

• With childhood obesity on the rise, this will be an important study to determine if this school system is providing the CDC recommended amount of physical exercise to the selected population.

• There have not been many studies done to show if students are receiving the amount of physical exercise at school that they should be.

Expected Findings

Support and validate our hypothesis. Schools providing more physical activity programs have higher rates of children meeting the CDC recommendation of 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per day.

Results significance. Highlight importance of meeting the physical exercise recommendation and how school can facilitate this standard of health.

Comparison to previous studies.

Bezerra et al. study on the relationship between health promotion in schools and health of the students.

• Results found direct relationship between reinforcement of health promotion in schools and lower rates of obesity, hypertension, insulin resistance, and dyslipidemia.

Our study on the relationship between opportunities provided in schools for students to engage in physical activity and students meeting the CDC recommendation.

• Expected results will point to a direct relationship between increased opportunities for students to engage in physical activity and higher rates of students meeting the CDC recommendation.

Conclusion

• If adolescents in grades 6-12 in a Virginia city school system are participating in after-school physical programs, they are likely meeting the 60 minutes per day of MVPA.

• Schools that offer physical activity programs have higher rates of children that are physically active.

• More research should be done to evaluate the effectiveness of after-school programs on a child's overall health, specifically if the programs influence childhood obesity.

• Further studies need to be conducted to evaluate in-school physical programs and their impact on physical activity participation and adolescent's overall health.

Acknowledgements

Dr. James Martin, PhD, RN, School of Nursing Lecturer
Dr. Kaprea Hoque, PhD, Clinical Counseling Lecturer
Emerald Robertson, Mental Health Counseling Graduate Student