

## **Disciplinary Actions**

*Grade 9 /Year 10*

### **Fast Track Project Technical Report**

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#### **Citation**

##### *Instrument*

Walker, H.M., Block-Pedego, A., Todis, B., and Severson, H. (1991). *School Archival Records Search (SARS): User's guide and technical manual*. Longmont, CO: Sopris West.

Sugai, G. and Tobin, T. J. (2001). *Sugai-Tobin archival review for kindergarten, elementary, and/or middle school, revised (STAR, R)*. Unpublished Instrument. Eugene, OR: University of Oregon

##### *Report*

Corrigan, A. (2003). *Disciplinary Actions, Grade 9 /Year 10* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

#### **Data Sources**

*Unscored:* O10P

*Scored:* DIA10

#### **I. Scale Description**

Disciplinary Actions is a 18-item tool used to collect information from school records about disciplinary events for a child during the previous school year. Disciplinary Actions was created for the Fast Track Project as a modification of both the *School Archival Records Search (SARS)*, Walker et al., 1991) and the *Sugai-Tobin archival review for kindergarten, elementary, and/or middle school (STAR)*, Sugai and Tobin, 2001).

Disciplinary Actions collects the date of any event requiring discipline and the corresponding reason for the disciplinary action on that date. Seven items list reason categories: Physical Fighting/Violence, Verbal Harassment, Non-Violent Activity (such as skipping class or defying authority), Weapons Possession, Vandalism/Theft, Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Reason Missing. Response choices are "yes (1)" and "no (0)."

A second group of items collect information about the consequences of the event: Low or Medium Consequence, High-Level Consequence, Suspension, Expulsion (denied entrance to school for one month or longer), and Action Missing. For suspension, the number of days is recorded.

A final item asks the person collecting data to rate the completeness of the school record. Responses are: “Clearly incomplete (1), “Possibly incomplete (2),” and “Complete (3).”

## **II. Report Sample**

This report contains school record data collected on Cohort 1, Year 10 from four sites: Durham, Nashville, Pennsylvania and Washington. Data for each year were collected in the fall following the year of interest.

The data include a high-risk control sample (n=155) and a normative sample (n = 387) for a total N = 463, including overlap. Of these , 164 are missing all data, including 113 from the normative group (17 from Durham, 22 from Washington, 60 from Nashville, and 14 from Pennsylvania), and 51 from the control group (9 from Durham, 24 from Nashville, 10 from Pennsylvania, and 8 from Washington), with overlap between the normative and control groups. None of the missing data was used in the analyses.

### **Note on Year 10 Records**

For some year 10 students, a single date record shows two or more different events; for example, verbal harassment and fighting. These records are interpreted as one disciplinary event involving two different behaviors. For other students, two records exist for the same date, each with a type of event. This case is interpreted as two separate events on the same day.

## **III. Scaling**

Disciplinary Actions contains no subscales. The students who had no disciplinary events included 140 from the normative group and 37 from the control group (with overlap). Students with no disciplinary events have a score of zero for Item 5 “Any disciplinary events.”

In Year 10, 201 students from the normative and control groups combined (with overlap between normative and control samples) had a record of one or more disciplinary events. Three items: Physical Fighting, Verbal Harassment, and Weapons were summed to create a score for total violent events. The table shows the count of events, event types, and consequence types for the normative and control groups.

**Total Events, Event Types, and Consequence Types, Year 10, Cohort 1**

Type of Event or Consequence		Normative Group	Control Group
Event Occurrence	Sum	698.00	480.00
	Mean	2.55	4.62
Fighting	Sum	50.00	40.00
	Mean	0.18	0.38
Verbal Harassment	Sum	100.00	75.00
	Mean	0.36	0.72
Non-Violent Event	Sum	588.00	398.00
	Mean	2.15	3.83
Weapons	Sum	4.00	3.00
	Mean	0.01	0.03
Vandalism / Theft	Sum	8.00	6.00
	Mean	0.03	0.06
Controlled Substance	Sum	11.00	9.00
	Mean	0.04	0.09
Violence -- Total Acts	Sum	145.00	114.00
	Mean	0.53	1.10
Type of Event/Action Missing	Sum	2.00	1.00
	Mean	0.01	0.01
Low Consequence	Sum	271.00	175.00
	Mean	0.99	1.68
High Consequence	Sum	245.00	190.00
	Mean	0.89	1.83
Suspension	Sum	157.00	122.00
	Mean	0.57	1.17
Expulsion	Sum	1.00	4.00
	Mean	0.00	0.04
Consequence Missing	Sum	42.00	19.00
	Mean	0.15	0.18

#### IV. Differences Between Groups

T-tests of means on the total number of events requiring discipline, violent events, each type of event, and each type of consequence for the normative and control samples yielded the following results:

##### T-Tests of Means for Disciplinary Event Occurrence, Event Type, and Consequence Type

Event Occurred, Event Type, Consequence Type	Normative Sample		Control Sample		DF	t Value	Pr >  t
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
Events	2.177	3.9838	4.6154	6.3127	328	4.25	<.0001
Fighting	0.1372	0.4842	0.3846	0.8162	328	3.43	0.0007
Verbal Harassment	0.2743	0.9261	0.7212	1.3897	328	3.45	0.0006
Non-Violent Event	1.854	3.4539	3.8269	5.5133	328	3.95	<.0001
Weapons	0.0088	0.0939	0.0288	0.1682	328	1.38	0.1681
Vandalism / Theft	0.0177	0.1321	0.0577	0.3364	328	1.55	0.1225
Controlled Substance	0.0398	0.2551	0.0865	0.3445	328	1.38	0.1693
Violence -- Total Acts	0.3982	1.1395	1.0962	1.8089	328	4.25	<.0001
Type of Event / Action Missing	0.0088	0.0939	0.0096	0.0981	328	0.07	0.9459
Low Consequence	0.9469	2.1862	1.6827	3.6584	328	2.27	0.0238
High Consequence	0.6416	1.697	1.8269	3.2811	328	4.32	<.0001
Suspension	0.4558	1.2997	1.1731	1.8873	328	4.01	<.0001
Expulsion	0.0044	0.0665	0.0385	0.1932	328	2.36	0.0186
Consequence Missing	0.1814	0.8783	0.1827	0.7854	328	0.01	0.9899

The frequency distribution of the occurrence of at least one disciplinary event among the high-risk control and normative samples is in the following table:

Table of Event Occurrence by Group			
Event Occurrence	Sample		Total
	Control	Normative	
Frequency			
Col Pct			
<b>No Event Occurred (0)</b>	37 35.58*	122 53.98	159 48.18
<b>Event Occurred (1)</b>	67 64.42	104 46.02	171 51.82
<b>Total</b>	104	226	330
<b>Frequency Missing = 133</b>			

\*Column Percentage

With  $\chi^2(1, N = 330) = 9.6639$ ,  $p < 0.0019$ , the hypothesis of independence between risk category (Normative or High-Risk Control) for the occurrence of a disciplinary event can be rejected.

## **V. Recommendations for Use**

For Year 10, t-tests of means of disciplinary events and consequences for the normative and control groups show significant differences for several items: the total number of disciplinary Events, Fighting, Verbal Harassment, Non-Violent Events, and Total Number of Violent Events. Actions that show significant differences are those involving Low Consequences, High Consequences, Suspension, and Expulsion. Chi-square results for Year 10 suggest that a recorded occurrence of one or more disciplinary events can distinguish high-risk from normative students. Depending on the construct under investigation, disciplinary records collected with the Disciplinary Actions tool should be useful to analysts.

## **VI. Item and Scale Means and SDs**

The Disciplinary Actions survey contains no subscales. Item means are summarized previously in the count table.

## **VII. Item and Subscale Correlations**

No correlations are available for these data.