

Disciplinary Actions

Grade 7 /Year 8

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 Unpublished Instrument.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 7 /Year 8* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Data Sources

Unscored: O8P

Scored: DIA8

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, revised (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 8 from three sites: Durham, Nashville, and Washington. Data for each year were collected in the fall following the year of interest. For the Pennsylvania site, records in the participating school district had been purged -- no information existed for the previous year.

The data include a high-risk control sample (n=115) and a normative sample (n = 289) for a total N = 339, including overlap between groups. Of the 339, 74 are missing all data, including 55 from the normative group (15 from Durham, 17 from Washington, and 23 from Nashville), and 19 from the control group (5 from Durham, 8 from Nashville, and 6 from Washington), with overlap. None of the missing data was used in the analyses.

Note on Year 8 Records

For some Year 8 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 136 from the normative group and 43 from the control group (with overlap). Students with no disciplinary events have a score of zero for Item 5 "Any disciplinary events."

In Year 8, 151 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 8, Cohort 1

| Type of Event or Consequence | | Normative Group | Control Group |
|------------------------------|------|-----------------|---------------|
| Event Occurrence | Sum | 526.00 | 339.00 |
| | Mean | 2.25 | 3.53 |
| Fighting | Sum | 89.00 | 71.00 |
| | Mean | 0.38 | 0.74 |
| Verbal Harassment | Sum | 72.00 | 56.00 |
| | Mean | 0.31 | 0.58 |
| Non-Violent Event | Sum | 338.00 | 208.00 |
| | Mean | 1.44 | 2.17 |
| Weapons | Sum | 2.00 | 1.00 |
| | Mean | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| Vandalism / Theft | Sum | 9.00 | 8.00 |
| | Mean | 0.04 | 0.08 |
| Controlled Substance | Sum | 3.00 | 4.00 |
| | Mean | 0.01 | 0.04 |
| Violence -- Total Acts | Sum | 149.00 | 117.00 |
| | Mean | 0.64 | 1.22 |
| Type of Event/Action Missing | Sum | 54.00 | 22.00 |
| | Mean | 0.23 | 0.23 |
| Low Consequence | Sum | 108.00 | 54.00 |
| | Mean | 0.46 | 0.56 |
| High Consequence | Sum | 189.00 | 134.00 |
| | Mean | 0.81 | 1.40 |
| Suspension | Sum | 212.00 | 138.00 |
| | Mean | 0.91 | 1.44 |
| Expulsion | Sum | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| | Mean | 0.02 | 0.04 |
| Consequence Missing | Sum | 20.00 | 11.00 |
| | Mean | 0.09 | 0.11 |

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 | 1.91 | 4.11 | 3.53 | 5.65 | 275 | 2.74 | 0.0066 |
| Fighting | 0.26 | 0.88 | 0.74 | 1.71 | 275 | 3.05 | 0.0025 |
| Verbal Harassment | 0.24 | 0.77 | 0.58 | 1.55 | 275 | 2.48 | 0.0138 |
| Non-Violent Event | 1.29 | 3.03 | 2.17 | 3.88 | 275 | 2.08 | 0.0385 |
| Weapons | 0.011 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 0.10 | 275 | -0.05 | 0.9615 |
| Vandalism / Theft | 0.02 | 0.15 | 0.08 | 0.31 | 275 | 2.21 | 0.0279 |
| Controlled Substance | 0.0055 | 0.07 | 0.04 | 0.20 | 275 | 2.16 | 0.0316 |
| Violence -- Total Acts | 0.49 | 1.27 | 1.22 | 2.65 | 275 | 3.11 | 0.0021 |
| Type of Event / Action Missing | 0.20 | 0.96 | 0.23 | 0.79 | 275 | 0.27 | 0.7906 |
| Low Consequence | 0.44 | 1.17 | 0.56 | 1.42 | 275 | 0.79 | 0.4287 |
| High Consequence | 0.61 | 1.70 | 1.40 | 3.14 | 275 | 2.71 | 0.0071 |
| Suspension | 0.79 | 2.13 | 1.44 | 2.44 | 275 | 2.29 | 0.0230 |
| Expulsion | 0.011 | 0.10 | 0.04 | 0.20 | 275 | 1.67 | 0.0964 |
| Consequence Missing | 0.09 | 0.76 | 0.11 | 0.61 | 275 | 0.29 | 0.7718 |

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 | | |
| Frequency Col Pct | Control | Normative | Total |
| No Event Occurred (0) | 43 44.79 | 109 60.22 | 152 54.87 |
| Event Occurred (1) | 53 55.21 | 72 39.78 | 125 45.13 |
| Total | 96 | 181 | 277 |
| Frequency Missing = 62 | | | |

^aColumn Percentage

With $\chi^2(1, N = 277) = 6.0307$, $p < 0.0141$, 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 8, 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, Vandalism/Theft, Controlled Substance, and Total Number of Violent Events. Actions that show significant differences are those involving High Consequences and Suspension. Chi-square results for Year 8 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.