

Disciplinary Actions

Grade 8 /Year 9

Fast Track Project Technical Report

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May 7, 2003

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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 Unpublished Instrument.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 8 /Year 9* (Fast Track Project Technical Report). Available from the Fast Track Project Web site, <http://www.fasttrackproject.org>

Data Sources

Unscored: O9P

Scored: DIA9

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 9 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. Ninety-eight of the 463 are missing records of disciplinary events, including 71 from the normative group (14 from Durham, 21 from Washington, 13 from Pennsylvania, and 23 from Nashville), and 27 from the control group (5 from Durham, 6 from Nashville, 8 from Pennsylvania, and 8 from Washington), with overlap between normative and control groups. These measures are not included in the analyses.

Note on Year 9 Records

For some Year 9 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. One hundred seventy-one had no disciplinary events including 139 from the normative group and 32 from the control group (with overlap). Students with no disciplinary events have a score of zero for Item 5 "Any disciplinary events."

In Year 9, 273 students from the normative and control groups combined (with overlap) 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 9, Cohort 1

Type of Event or Consequence		Normative Group	Control Group
Event Occurrence	Sum	1032.00	752.00
	Mean	3.27	5.88
Fighting	Sum	114.00	98.00
	Mean	0.36	0.77
Verbal Harassment	Sum	105.00	96.00
	Mean	0.33	0.75
Non-Violent Event	Sum	837.00	577.00
	Mean	2.65	4.51
Weapons	Sum	1.00	2.00
	Mean	0.00	0.02
Vandalism / Theft	Sum	18.00	29.00
	Mean	0.06	0.23
Controlled Substance	Sum	7.00	7.00
	Mean	0.02	0.05
Violence -- Total Acts	Sum	207.00	185.00
	Mean	0.66	1.45
Type of Event/Action Missing	Sum	18.00	12.00
	Mean	0.06	0.09
Low Consequence	Sum	296.00	206.00
	Mean	0.94	1.61
High Consequence	Sum	491.00	362.00
	Mean	1.55	2.83
Suspension	Sum	229.00	167.00
	Mean	0.72	1.30
Expulsion	Sum	8.00	2.00
	Mean	0.03	0.02
Consequence Missing	Sum	27.00	28.00
	Mean	0.09	0.22

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	2.74	5.36	5.88	7.76	378	4.61	<.0001
Fighting	0.26	0.75	0.77	1.67	378	4.04	<.0001
Verbal Harassment	0.20	0.72	0.75	1.86	378	4.15	<.0001
Non-Violent Event	2.28	4.60	4.51	5.93	378	4.02	<.0001
Weapons	0.004	0.06	0.02	0.12	378	1.21	0.2260
Vandalism / Theft	0.05	0.32	0.23	0.78	378	3.15	0.0018
Controlled Substance	0.02	0.12	0.05	0.26	378	1.96	0.0505
Violence -- Total Acts	0.44	1.17	1.44	2.74	378	5.02	<.0001
Type of Event / Action Missing	0.05	0.32	0.09	0.42	378	1.08	0.2823
Low Consequence	0.85	2.26	1.61	3.89	378	2.40	0.0171
High Consequence	1.28	2.91	2.83	4.18	378	4.20	<.0001
Suspension	0.56	1.34	1.30	2.03	378	4.25	<.0001
Expulsion	0.02	0.18	0.02	0.12	378	-0.47	0.6403
Consequence Missing	0.08	0.46	0.22	0.75	378	2.29	0.0224

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:

Event Occurrence	Sample		Total
	Control	Normative	
Frequency Col Pct			
No Event Occurred (0)	32 25.00*	124 49.21	156 41.05
Event Occurred (1)	96 75.00	128 50.79	224 58.95
Total	128	252	380
Frequency Missing =83			

*Column Percentage

With χ^2 (1, N = 380) =20.55, $p < 0.01$, 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 9, 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 Low Consequences, High Consequences, and Suspension. Chi-square results for Year 9 suggest that disciplinary event records can distinguish between high-risk and 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.