Scouting Makes a Difference Locally

In the spring of 2012, the United Way of Central Carolinas launched the Collective Impact for Children and Youth Initiative. The Mecklenburg County Council is one of 16 UWCC-supported agencies that provide education related services to youth. Some of the key benefits of the Collective Impact initiative for the community-at-large are 1) setting a common agenda, 2) establishing a shared measurement system, and 3) providing mutually reinforcing activities.

The focus on organizations having a common agenda and shared measurement system has led to the opportunity to quantify the effectiveness of our work with youth. The UWCC has partnered with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Urban Institute (the Institute) to facilitate the collection and analysis of data from each agency. After 2 full years (2012-2013, 2013-2014) of data collection, the results show that the Scouting Program is having an impact on youth in Mecklenburg County.

**Attendance**

Attendance is a critically important measure for UWCC-funded agency participants. Relationships have been found between poor attendance and multiple indicators including academic performance, on-time promotion, and high school graduation. This section explores average days absent and chronic absenteeism for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years. *Boy Scouts participants average absences over the two year period were lower compared to the UWCC, as well as, the comparison group.*

![Change in Student-level Chronic Absenteeism](image)

Chronic Absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more of the school year.

A higher percentage of BS participants were not chronically absent either year or experienced positive school attendance change compared to the United Way Collective or the comparison group.

![Change in Student-level Suspension](image)

Out-of-school (OSS) suspension is a disciplinary action defined as the removal of a student from the school environment.

A higher percentage of Boy Scouts participants were not suspended either year or experienced positive behavioral change compared to the United Way Collective or the comparison group.
Scouting Impacts Educational Success

The state of North Carolina administers End-of-Grade Tests in math and reading comprehension for grades 3-8. The study both aggregated among participants and separated the information by grade level. Based on the data available for this analysis, proficiency is measured by results on the EOG exam.

*112 out of the 124 Boy Scout participants eligible for graduation in 2013-2014 successfully graduated. The overall graduation rate was 90.3%.

Though these efforts provide important context, it is important to note that no causative relationship can be made. These numbers are provided to explore relationships as well as to help understand how Collective participants compare to their most closely matched peers.