

# Discovering Potential for Sense of Community, Social Support, and Wellness Impacts within Interscholastic Sports Officials

OVERVIEW REPORT: JUNE 28, 2022

# Demographics

- ▶ N = 9569
- ▶ Average age: 53 years old (Range 18 – 97)
- ▶ Gender
  - ▶ Female: 10.1% (971)
  - ▶ Male: 88.5% (8471)
- ▶ Race
  - ▶ White: 86.5% (8278)
  - ▶ Black: 3.9% (375)
  - ▶ Hispanic/Latino: 1.9% (182)



# Experience and Sport Officiated

Years of Experience	%	N
Less than 1	3.2	307
2 – 5 years	14.0	1343
6 – 10 years	15.3	1463
11 – 15 years	14.7	1404
16 – 20 years	11.5	1104
Over 20 years	40.9	3917

Sport	%	N
Boys Basketball	47.6	4551
Girls Basketball	44.8	4290
Football	36.6	3502
Baseball	33.6	3219
Softball	27.8	2664
Girls Volleyball	22.3	2137
Boys Soccer	15.9	1519
Girls Soccer	15.4	1472
Girls Track & Field	6.2	597
Boys Track & Field	6.2	596

Hours per Week	%	N
1 – 10 hours	42.0	4017
11 – 20 hours	44.2	4225
21 – 30 hours	10.9	1047
31 – 40 hours	1.4	135
40+ hours	.7	63



# Motivation of Officials

Motivation Type	Mean
Competency/Mastery	4.16
Social	3.44
Intellectual	2.81
Stimulus Avoidance	2.10

- Gender—Competency Mastery
- Race—Intellectual
- Years of Experience
- Hours worked



# Interview Data--Motivation

## ▶ Competency

- ▶ With my kids and with work, I thought the way I could help would be by becoming a official and then keeping the game around and *teaching it the right way*, so I took the class I just looked online took the class and I completed my third year of officiating this year. *I dislike bad officials and I dislike bad football, so I feel if I'm involved, I can prevent both.*

## ▶ Social Motivation

- ▶ 30 year official: Part of its that now my grandkids are playing soccer—every one of the four of them—and so, again, it's a way in a sense of connecting with them.



# Sense of Community

- ▶ Phrasing of question
  - ▶ Sense of community is defined as, “a feeling that members have of belonging, a feeling that members matter to one another and to the group, and a shared faith that members’ needs will be met through their commitment to be together.”
- ▶ Mean: 7.76 (scale 1 – 10)
- ▶ Median: 8.00



# Interview Data—SOC

- ▶ So, I think there is a strong sense of community and, I think, particularly the guys who've been doing it a long, long time.
- ▶ Really, you're away from your family for awhile and they want to see who you're working with on Friday nights or Tuesday nights or whatever it is....so yeah, it all intertwines just like you're a big family.
- ▶ ...you know, a lot of just war stories, you can kind of talk about real quick and connect with quicker. So, yeah, I definitely feel there's a sense of community there.



# Sense of Community: Differences

- ▶ Gender
  - ▶ Males: 7.8, Females: 7.6
- ▶ Race
  - ▶ Only difference between “Black or African American” and “Other”
- ▶ Years of experience
  - ▶ Significant increases up to 11 - 15 year group, then leveling
    - ▶ Could indicate that once you reach that level, community is built
- ▶ Hours
  - ▶ 10 hours/week seems to be key



# Health

Health Measure	Mean	Median
General Health	3.86	4.00
Mental Health	4.18	4.00
Physical Health	3.77	4.00
Overall Health	4.16	4.00



# Health Impact

- ▶ Impact seen on mental and overall health impact by participating (OHIP) measures
- ▶ Gender
  - ▶ Mental health—Females: 4.1, Males 4.2
  - ▶ OHIP—Females: 3.9, Males 4.2
- ▶ Sexual Identity
  - ▶ Mental health—Heterosexual or Straight: 4.2, Gay or Lesbian: 3.8
  - ▶ OHIP—Heterosexual or Straight: 4.2, Gay or Lesbian: 4.0



# Health Impact, cont.

- ▶ Race
  - ▶ Mental health—White: 4.2, Black or African American: 4.3.
  - ▶ OHIP—no significant impacts
- ▶ Years of Experience
  - ▶ Mental health—increases slightly (but significantly) as years of experience are gained from 5 years onward
  - ▶ OHIP—increases in a similar way
- ▶ Hours
  - ▶ Mental health—perception increases linearly throughout until 40+ hours
    - ▶ 21-30 hours: 4.2; 31-40 hours: 4.4
  - ▶ OHIP—impact of officiating is significant from 1-10 hours to 11-20 hours and then from 11-20 to 21-30 hours.



# Interview Data—Health Impact

- ▶ 30 year official—“it certainly is not a help in terms of mental wellness.”
- ▶ It’s definitely improved my health...I work harder to get in shape. You know, I’m not in great shape, but I’m in better shape than I was when I started and I’m working towards getting into much better shape as I continue. (3 year official)
- ▶ 30 year official—Right now, the soccer season is over, I weigh about 158 pounds....in 10 months I’ll weigh 165 pounds.



# Questions and Feedback

