

U.S. Sports Involvement Patterns during Youth and Adulthood: Findings from the National Sports & Society Survey

Prof. Chris Knoester

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



Supported by:

The OSU Sports and Society Initiative

Center for Human Resource Research

College of Arts & Sciences



National Sports & Society Survey (NSASS)

- National online survey of 3,993 Adults (Wave 1); 20% reported on a focal child ages 6-17 in household
- Female, white, midwest overrepresented
- Weights to represent U.S. population
- Focus: sports involvement, accessibility, interactions, expenditures, ideologies, & the well-being and functioning of society



NSASS– Size, Timing, Format

- Draws from the American Population Panel (N = 20,000+), created by CHRR
- Internet survey: 450+ on-screen questions, 1 hr. ave.
- Respondents paid \$35
- Data collection completed in Spring 2019
 - adults ages 21-65 (N = 3,993)
 - resident focal child ages 6-17 (N = 805)



Why conduct the NSASS?

- Prominence & pervasiveness of sports
- Intersections b/t sports & societal issues
- Scarce data on sports patterns & interactions
- SSI/NSASS enable research & understanding



What is the guiding framework for the data efforts?

- Get better information about what people experience, do, and think in regards to sports
- Allow for cultural analyses and criticisms
- Consider how patterns of sports structures, cultures, and interactions matter in people's lives
- GOAL: Better understanding and improvement in how we offer and do sports



What is unique about the NSASS?

- Comprehensive sports info from a national sample
 - Accessibility
 - Dimensions & organization of sports involvement
 - Mistreatment experiences
 - Injuries
 - Attitudes and Ideologies linked to sports
- Info on predictors, mechanisms, and effects of sports interactions
- Information about two generations
- Retrospective accounts from adults



What does this offer in regards to sports?

- Public opinions
- Current patterns
- Life histories
- Life course changes
- Generational changes



Focus on intersections of sports & society in:

- Health & well-being
- Economic resources
- Cultural ideologies
- Social patterns (e.g., behavior, social connections, inequalities)



Ongoing projects:

Patterns in Youth and Adult Sports Participation

- Patterns of sports participation in childhood
- Patterns of sports participation in adulthood
- Patterns and predictors of parenting commitments to youth sports
- Youth sports expenses: Patterns, predictors, and inequalities
- How social class shapes youth sports expenditures: A mixed methods approach
- Parents' perceived values in sports participation: A mixed methods inquiry into why and how parents invest in youth sports
- (Inter) generational changes in youth sports participation experiences
- (Inter)generational changes in youth sports commitments by parents

Sports Involvement and Health

- Implications of sports participation patterns for subjective health, over the life course
- Implications of sports participation patterns for mental health, over the life course
- Implications of sports participation patterns for substance use, over the life course
- Patterns of sports injuries and their links to sports participation experiences

Sports Consumption and Fandom

- Patterns and predictors of females' sports consumption and fandom
- Patterns and predictors of the consumption and support of female sports activities
- Gender, sexuality, and sports fandom
- Gender, sexuality, and disengagement from sports participation
- Mistreatment experiences in sports: Trends, categories, and perceived effects
- Sports fans: Who are they? What do they do? How does it matter?

Public Opinions about Sports Interactions

- Patterns and predictors of public opinions about the cultural values celebrated in sports
- Patterns and predictors of public opinions about the character and social capital benefits of sports participation
- Patterns and predictors of public opinions about the social integration processes in sports
- Patterns and predictors of public opinions about the health contributions and risks of sports
- Patterns and predictors of public opinions about racial-ethnic differences in athletic performance
- Patterns and predictors of public opinions about multiculturalism in sports
- Public opinion beliefs about paying college athletes
- Public opinion beliefs about sex testing in sports



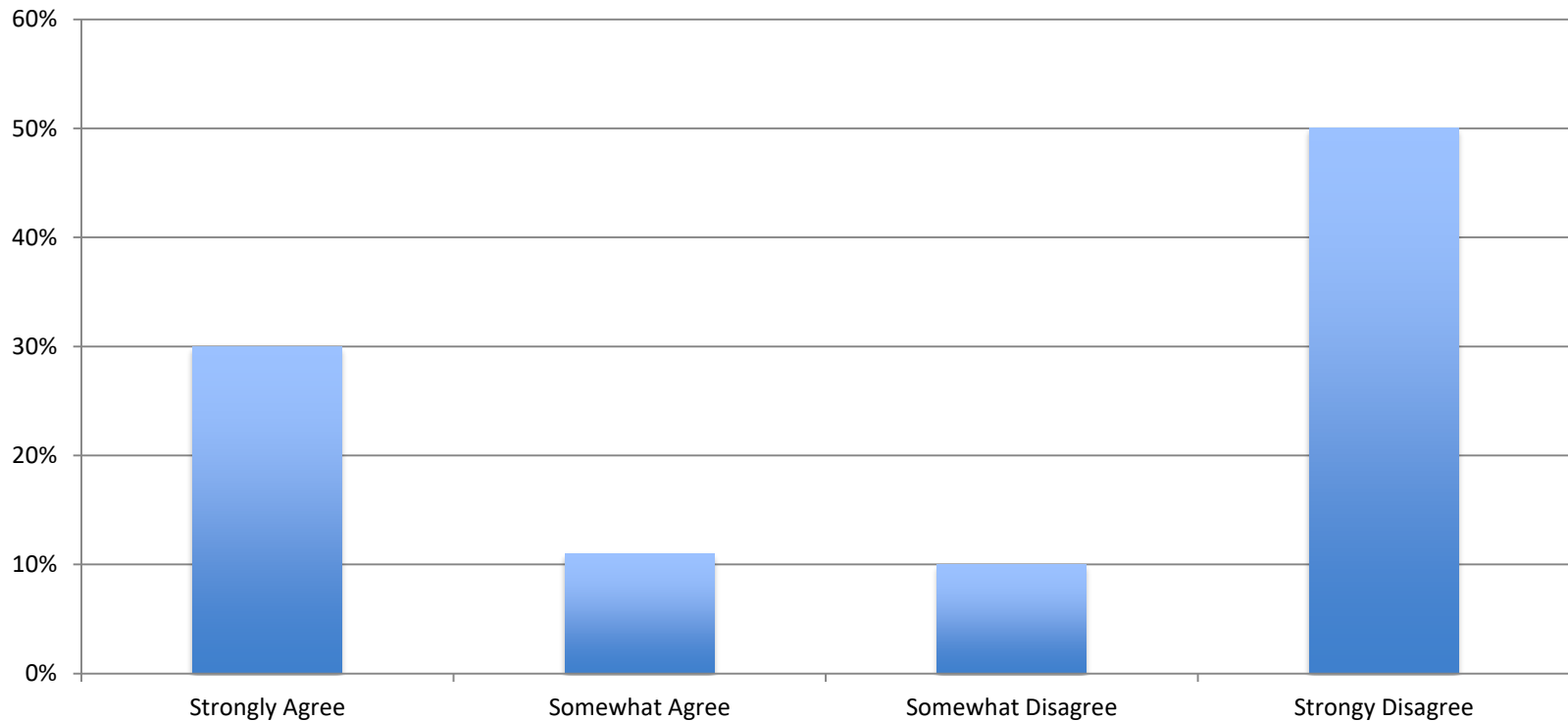
What are emerging findings?

- Links to health and well-being
- Inequalities in access/experiences/attitudes
- Salience of id's, values, group memberships



Public Opinions

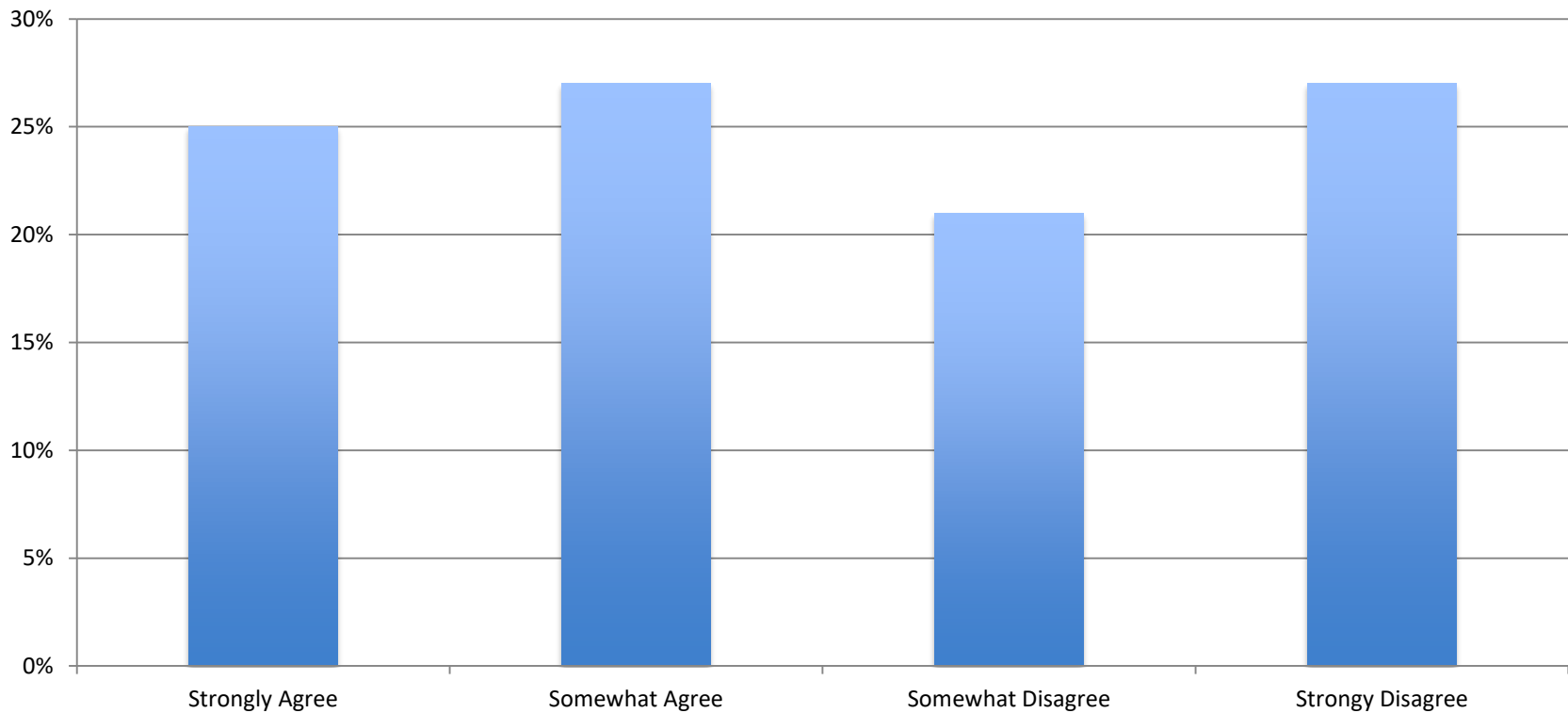
“College Athletes Should Not be Allowed to be Paid, as Athletes, More than it Costs them to Go to School”





Public Opinions

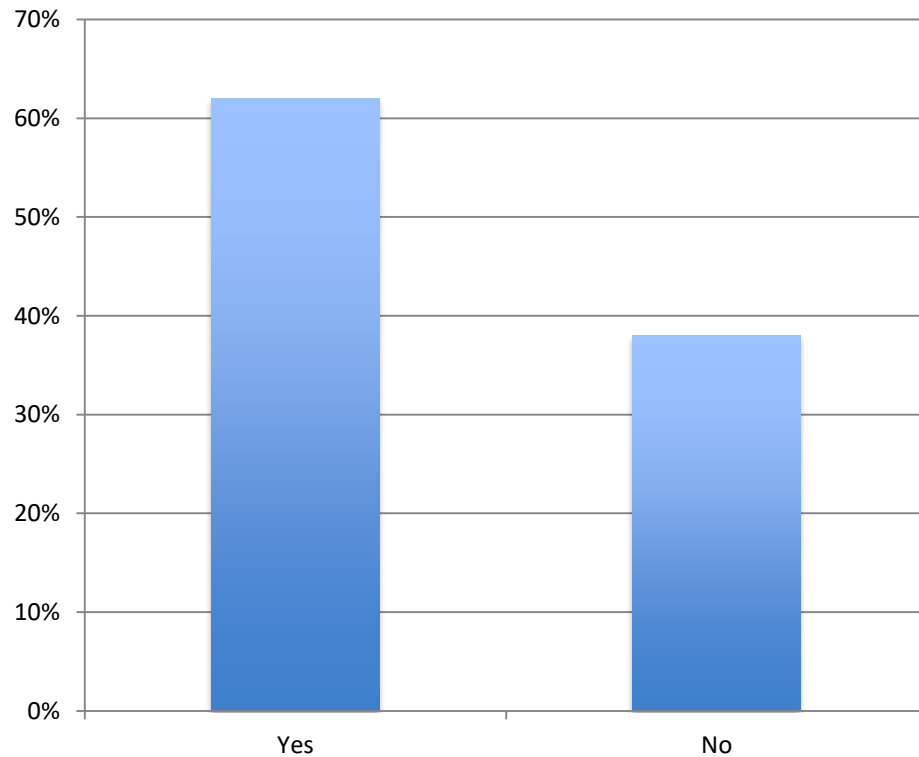
“Athletes Should Not be Allowed to Protest During the Playing of the National Anthem”



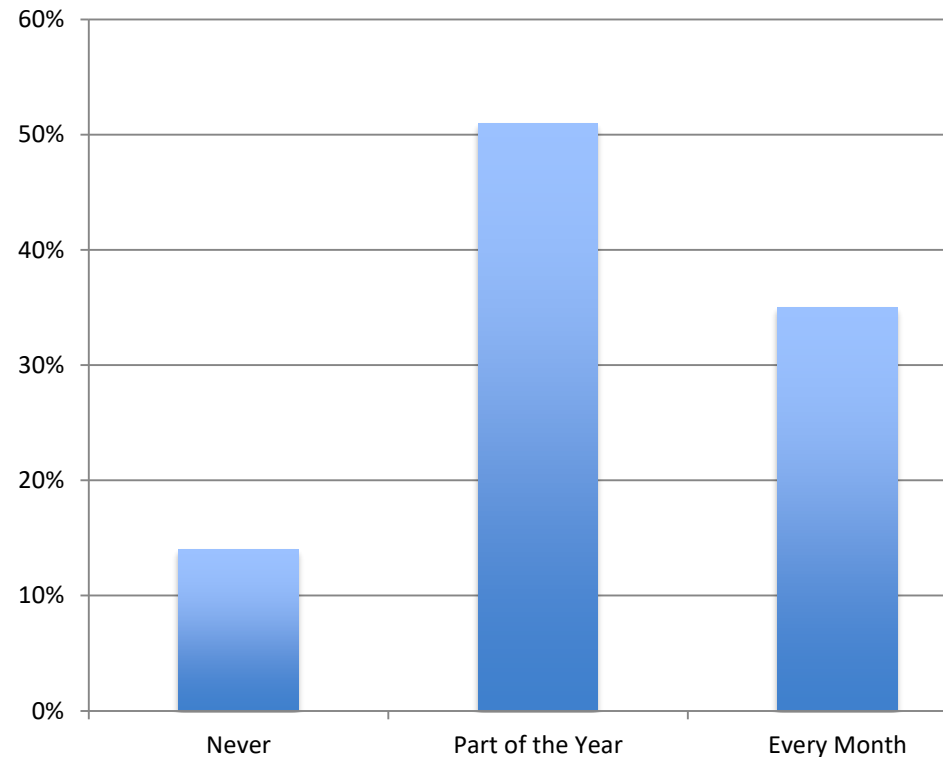


Current Patterns

% Adults Played a Sport(s) Regularly



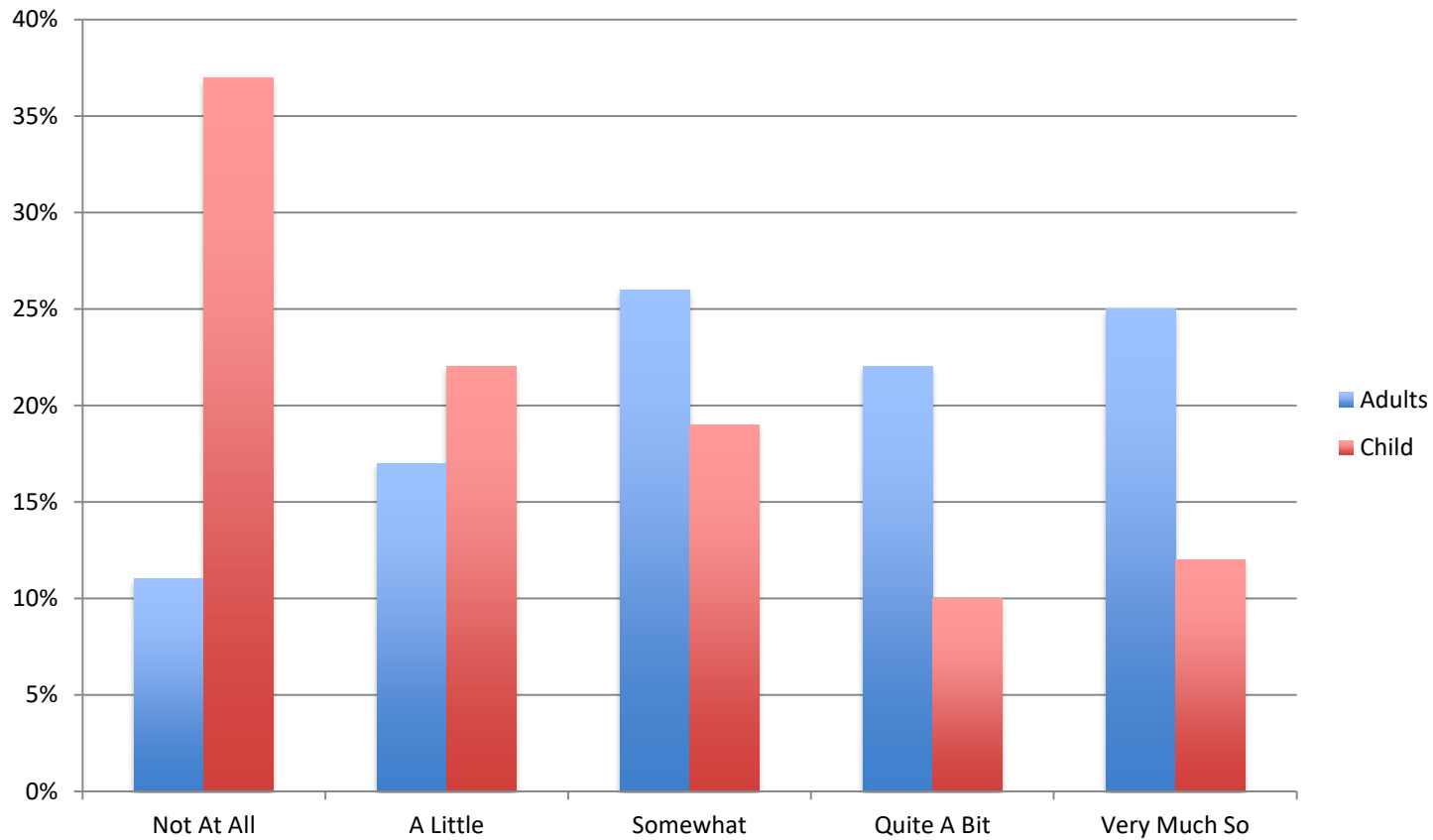
% Adults Watched/Followed a Sport(s)





Current Patterns

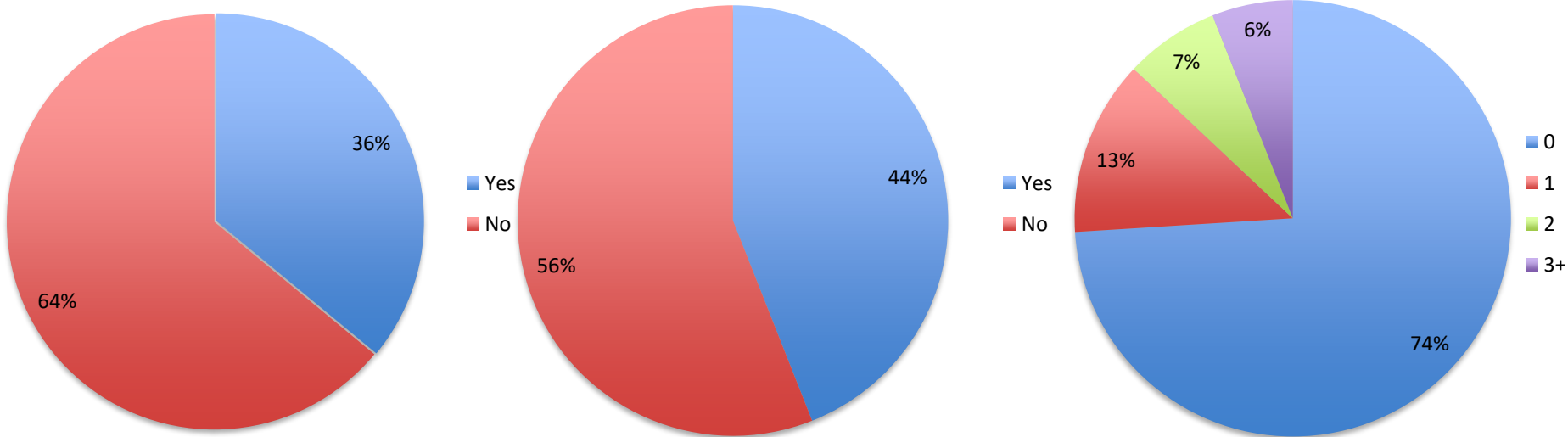
Are you a Sports Fan? (based on Adult/Parent reports)





Life Histories

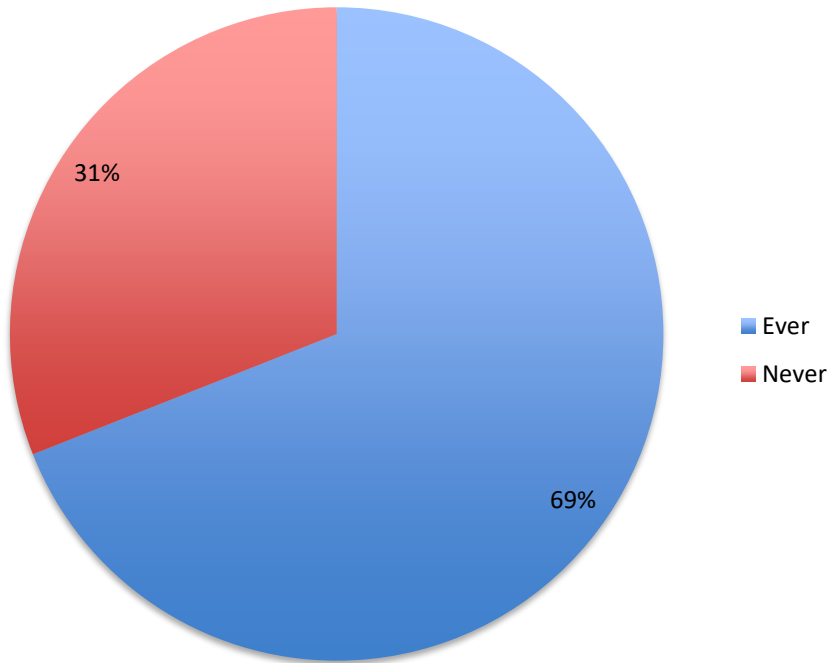
% of Adults Reporting Mistreatment, Injuries, and # of Serious Injuries in Sports



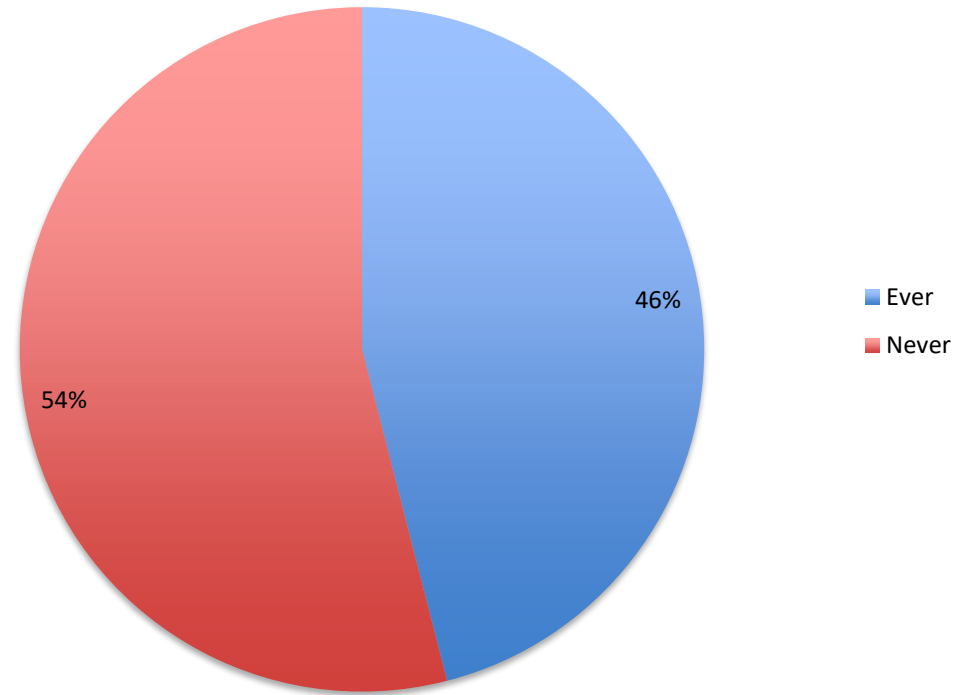


Life Histories

% Kids Ever Played a Sport(s) Regularly



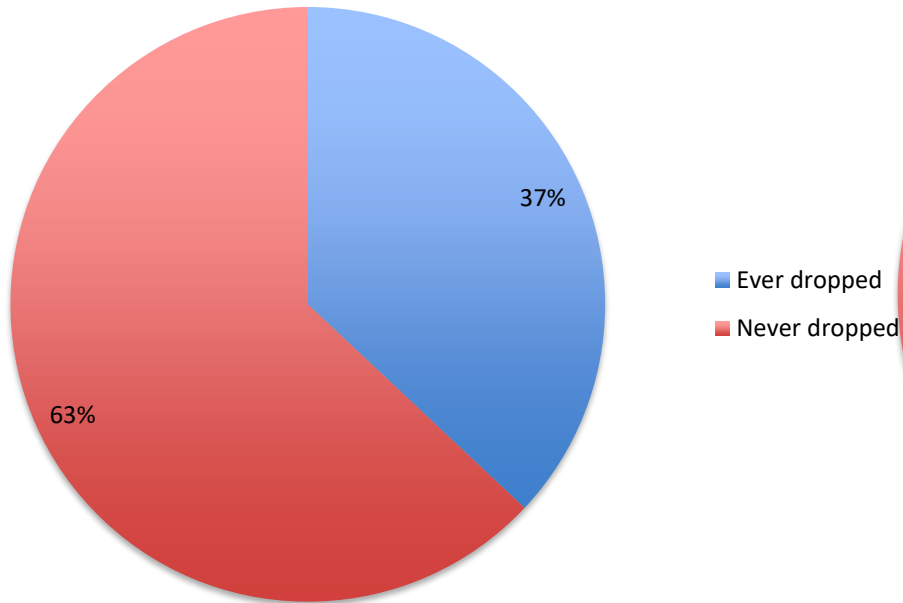
% Kids Ever Played Organized Sport(s)



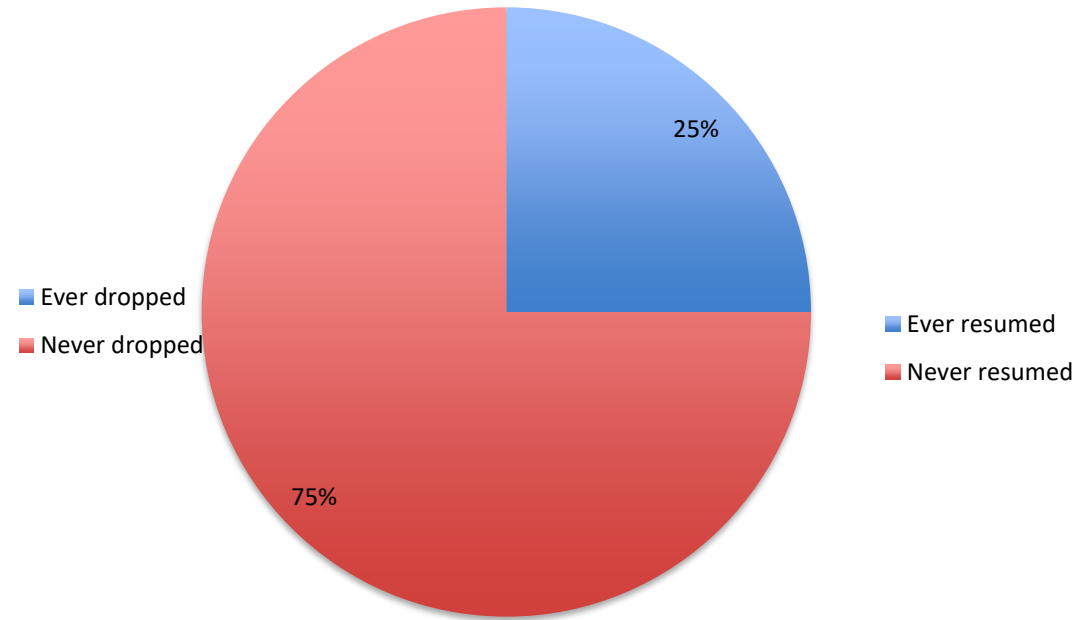


Life Histories

% Kids Dropped Out of Organized Sports



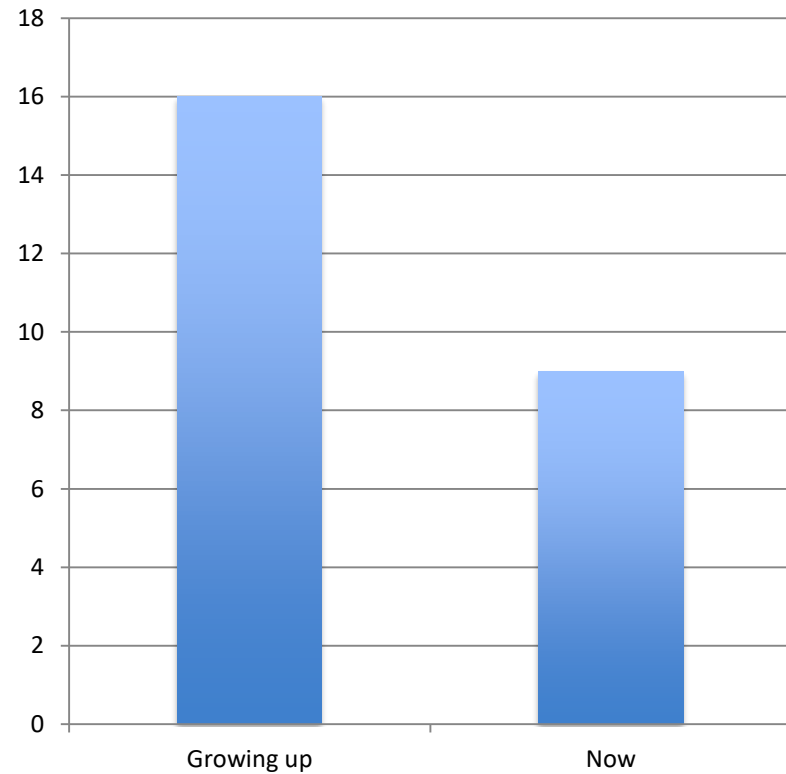
% Dropouts Resumed Organized Sport(s)



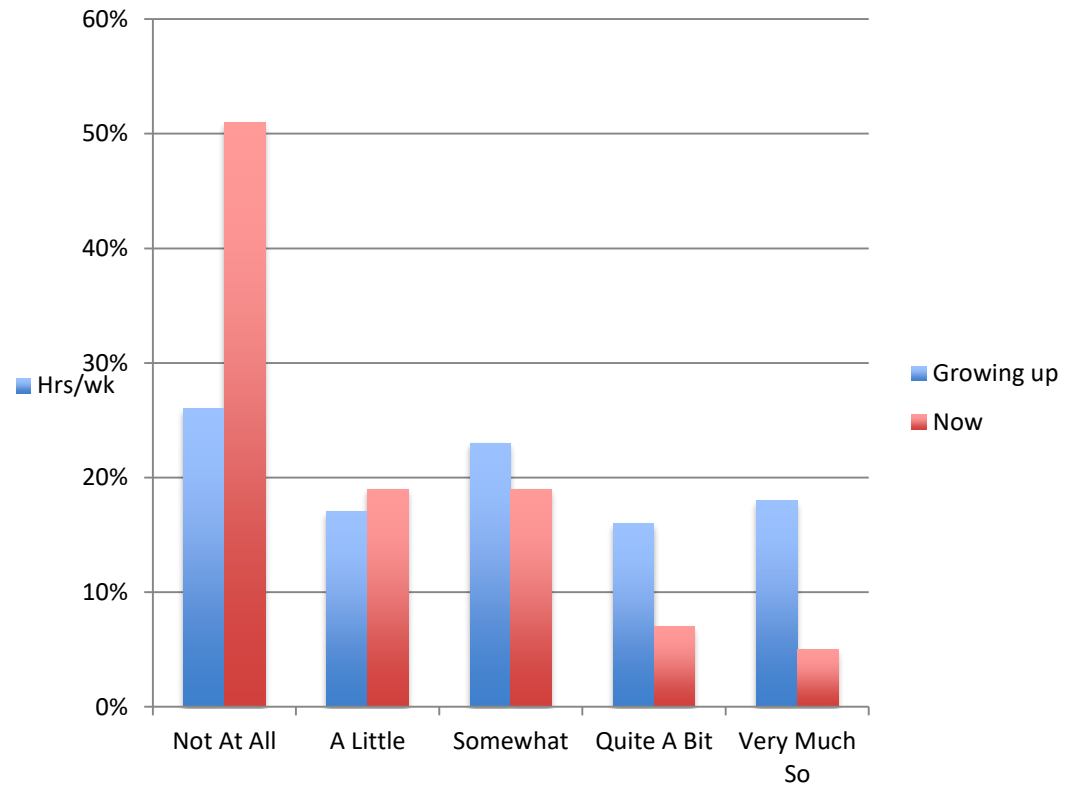


Life Course Changes

Hrs/wk Thinking about Sports



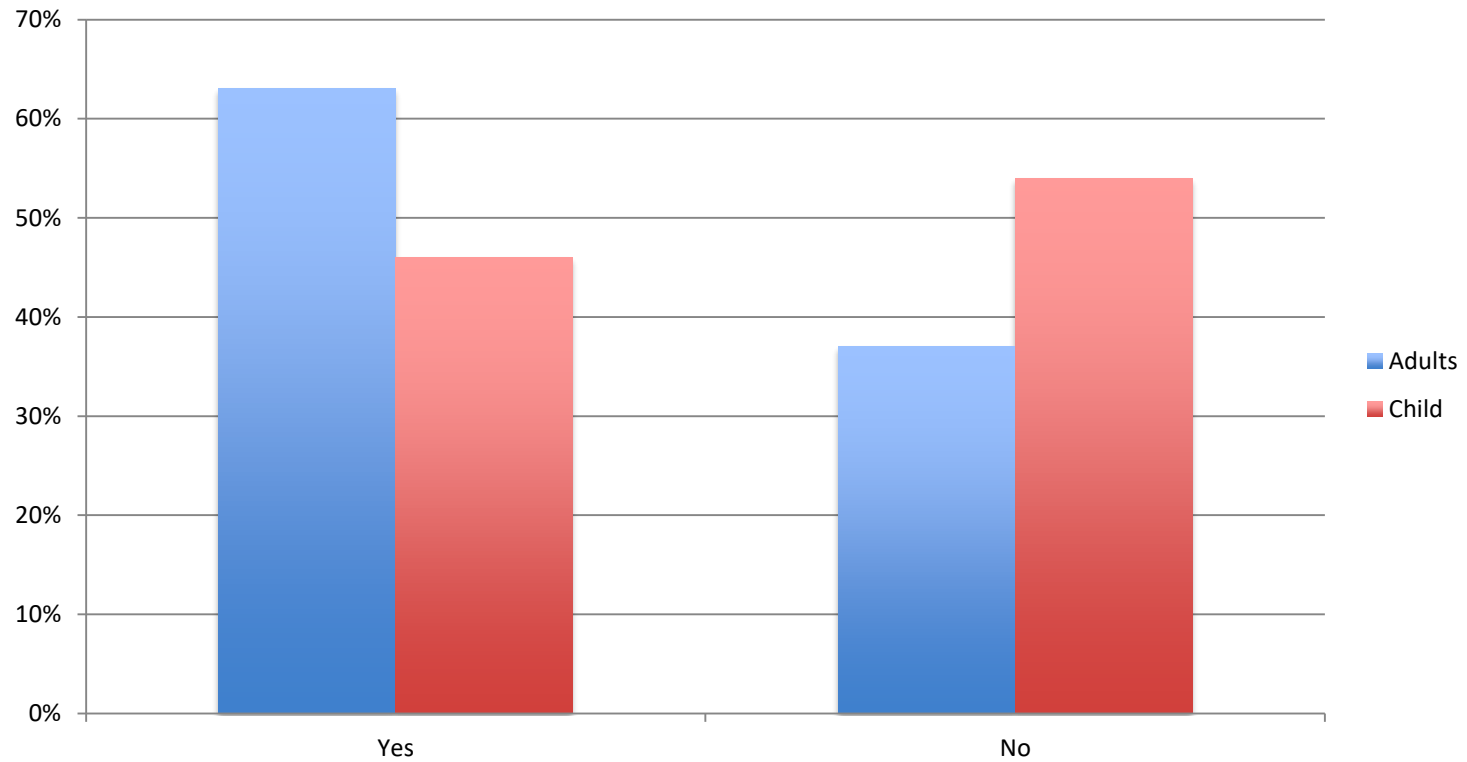
Consider yourself an Athlete?





Generational Changes

% Ever Playing a Formally Organized Sport as a Youth





To wrap up:

- Glimpse of NSASS
- Strengths/weaknesses
- Important steps forward in sports and society research
- Contact for further info & collaboration inquiries
- Knoester.1@osu.edu & nsass.org