AFTERSCHOOL SHARED USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN NORTH CAROLINA
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Schools offer convenient and environmentally safe places to be active

- Institute of Medicine
- American Heart Association
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Current status of shared use of school PA facilities?

- Health People 2020

- Provide Access
- Don't Provide Access

71%

29%
Current status of shared use of school PA facilities?

- Lee, Burgeson & Fulton, 2007

![Pie chart showing 40% provide access and 60% don't provide access.](image)
Current status of shared use of school PA facilities?

- Spengler, Connaughton & Maddock, 2011

![Pie chart showing 69% provide access, 31% do not provide access]
Study Purpose

- Statewide survey of shared use in public schools at all levels (elementary, middle, high)
- Common characteristics of school shared use and its barriers
- Association between shared use and school demographics
Methods

- Sample

- All public elementary, middle & high schools in North Carolina (N=2359)
- Respondents: 1,230 (52.14%)
Survey Questions

- School type (elementary, middle, high)
- Shared use?
- What facilities were shared?
- Type of use? (structured programs, casual use)
- Type of agreement?
- Perceived barriers to shared use?
Results

- Elementary: 56.1%
- Middle: 19.8%
- Middle/High: 3.8%
- High: 20.3%
School facilities used by outside groups

- Share Facilities: 89.0%
- Don't Share Facilities: 11.0%
## Most frequently shared facilities & type of agreement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>% of Schools</th>
<th>Formal Agreement (%)</th>
<th>Informal/No Agreement (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gym</td>
<td>72.4</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cafeteria</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>79.3</td>
<td>20.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball/Softball</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>65.2</td>
<td>34.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>52.6</td>
<td>47.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classrooms</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>66.8</td>
<td>32.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football Field</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>68.7</td>
<td>31.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>21.6</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>65.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Field</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>63.5</td>
<td>36.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>64.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Formal shared use agreements by school type
Barriers to shared use

- Never been asked: 50%
- Availability: 12.5%
- Facility design: 12.5%
- Maintenance $: 12.5%
- Liability: 0%
Shared use and student income
Share use and percent black students
Conclusions

1. Public schools sharing facilities more than previously reported

2. Indoor facilities and athletic fields require formal agreements

3. Playgrounds & track facilities have informal or no agreement
Conclusions

1. Liability & cost less likely to be a barrier....just ask

2. School with more low income or black students are more likely to share facilities