


Youth Community Connections
Minnesota's Statewide Afterschool Alliance

Implications for Quality: Examining National and State Cost Studies

Youth Program Quality
May 1, 2009




Overview


- Overview of Quality Practice
- Review National Cost Study Findings
- Review Minnesota Cost Study Findings
- Discuss Implications for Quality



Quality is Dynamic




J. Walker, 2008



Quality is Not Neutral

- High quality programs produce positive benefits for children and youth
- Low/poor quality programs can have a negative impact on children and youth




National Study Cost Study

- The Cost of Quality Out-of-School Time Programs
 - Executive Summary
<http://www.financeproject.org/publications/CostofQualityOST-ExecSummary.pdf>
 - Full Report
<http://www.financeproject.org/publications/CostofQualityOSTPrograms.pdf>
 - PPV and The Finance Project



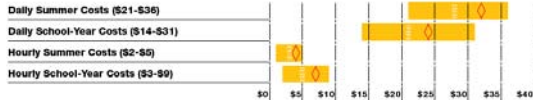

National Cost Study

- 111 programs
- 6 cities (Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Denver, New York City, Seattle)
- Screened for quality – based on local evaluations and quality checklist



Cost of OST Programs for ES/MS

Summary of Cost Per Slot Ranges for Programs Serving Elementary and Middle School Students

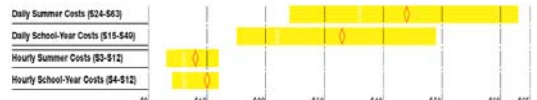


The boxes visually represent the cost ranges from the 25th percentile of program cost to the 75th percentile. (\$X-\$Y) The 25th and the 75th percentile costs are indicated in parentheses.
 Indicates the mean cost.
 Half the programs' costs fall below level (represents the median cost, or 50th percentile of program costs).



Cost of OST for Adolescents

Summary of Cost Per Slot Ranges for Programs Serving Teens



The boxes visually represent the cost ranges from the 25th percentile of program cost to the 75th percentile. (\$X-\$Y) The 25th and the 75th percentile costs are indicated in parentheses.
 Indicates the mean cost.
 Half the programs' costs fall below level (represents the median cost, or 50th percentile of program costs).



Other Cost Considerations

- There is substantial variation in the costs of afterschool and summer programs
 - Program director's choices
 - Available resources
 - Local conditions
- Staff costs were the primary cost driver

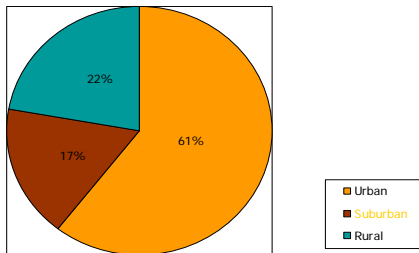


Minnesota Cost Study

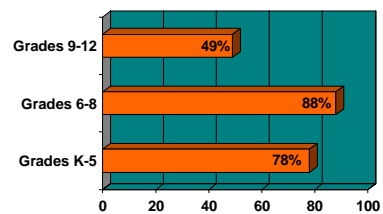
- Purpose: Generate concrete cost estimates of afterschool programs in Minnesota to inform decision-making
http://www.youthcommunityconnections.org/PDF/111308BiAnnualMeeting/ycc_costs_tudyrelease111308.pdf



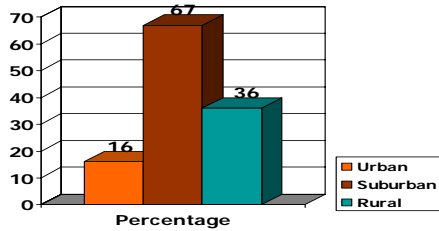
Geographic Locations



Grades Served



Program Fees



Average Cost Per Participant

- Average program costs per participant based on full costs - \$1,523
- Average cost per participant based on direct costs - \$1,350
- Per Hour Cost
 - Average cost per participant per hour, \$5.95



Program Costs

- Staff costs consume an average of 71% of program costs
- Facilities, equipment, and supplies consume 12% of total program costs
- Administration and overhead consume an additional 17% of program costs



Transportation Costs

- Average program cost for transportation services was \$9,095
 - Range \$0-\$108,406
- Average transportation cost, as percent of program cost, 3.2%
 - Range 0-24.8%
- Average transportation cost/participant, \$38
 - Range \$0-\$330.50



Volunteer Cost (Opportunity Cost)

- Support through Volunteers
 - Average of 10% of program costs
 - Ranging from 0-52% of overall program costs
- Hours of volunteer time
 - Adult volunteer hours, 2,131
 - Youth volunteer, 272



Program Income/Revenue

- Programs Receiving Public Resources
 - 25% received federal funds
 - 31% received state funds
 - 29% received local funds
- Nearly 60% of the Programs Received Private Foundations Funds
- 29% of the Programs Received United Way Funds
- 31% of the Programs Received Special Events Funds



Implications for Quality

- High quality VS Higher quality programs
 - Staffing and staff supports
- Type of program and/or program activities
- Hours of operation
- Financial management

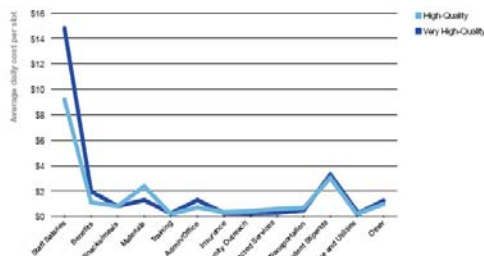


Attributes of Quality Programs

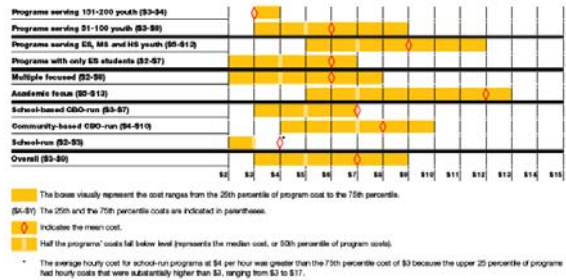
- High attendance rates
- Staff/youth ratios
- Highly qualified staff
- Staff retention rates
- Staff training requirements
- Conducted regular program assessments
- Adequate space and materials



Cost Elements of Programs Serving ES/MS Students by Quality



Cost Variation Based on Program Type



Cost Calculator

- **Purpose:** The Quality Out-of-School Time (OST) Programs Cost Calculator is an online resource for calculating the costs of quality OST programs and learning about how to develop programming and build citywide systems that support high-quality OST.
- <http://www.wallacefoundation.org/cost-of-quality/cost-calculator/Pages/cost-calculator.aspx>



Community-wide Approach

The six action elements for achieving a coordinated approach to improving OST include:

- **Committed leadership** – including top political, school, community and OST leaders, to secure funding and other resources and shape policies;
- **A public or private coordinating entity** – to manage the development of plans, link disparate OST players, build citywide attention and support for OST, and ensure that plans and performance stay on track;
- **Multi-year planning** – to set goals and priorities, develop ways to hold key players accountable for results and identify necessary resources;
- **Reliable information** – to document the needs and wishes of parents and children, track participation and identify underserved neighborhoods and families;
- **Expanding participation** – to reach more children and ensure that they attend often enough to benefit; and
- **A commitment to quality** – because quality programs are likeliest to benefit children and therefore scarce OST funding should be directed to delivering high-quality programming.



Additional Resources

- Beyond the Checkbook: A Financial Management Guide for Leaders of Small Youth-Serving Organizations
<http://www.financeproject.org/publications/BeyondtheCheckbook.pdf>
- Minnesota Out-of-School Time Funding Streams Report
http://www.youthcommunityconnections.org/PDF/MDE_Funding_Streams_Full_Report-final%204-29-09.pdf



Contact Information

Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn
Youth Community Connections
1313 – 5th St SE, Suite 321,
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 627-0160



laura@youthcommunityconnections.org
www.youthcommunityconnections.org

