



Urban youngsters and organized sport.  
The relationship between socio-demographic  
characteristics and dropout.

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# [ Drop out in organized sport: Interesting phenomenon? ]

- Promotion of organised sport participation by youth policy
  - Good for health
  - Stimulates PYD of participants
  - Duration matters
- Socially excluded population groups of particular concern (x2)

# Sport drop out: state of the art

- Reasons for drop out
- Complex cost-benefit analyses (under the surface)
- Age and gender
- Socio-economic background???
- Do young people from groups with low-participation levels also withdraw more often?
- Low SES, girls, non-mainstream religions, ethnic minorities...?

## [ From a social pedagogical perspective ]

- Relationship between youth policy, educational practices (organized sport) and divergent coming-of-age trajectories
- Study of participation and dropout in order to reflect on relevance of certain policies and educational practices for disadvantaged youth
- Do socially disadvantaged young people stay away from... AND withdraw more often?

# [ Present study ]

- Data from JOP-monitor Antwerp-Ghent (2012)
- JOP = Flemish Youth Research Platform
  - Inter-university and inter-disciplinary partnership
  - Policy Research Centre
  - Young people in Flanders
- JOP-monitor Antwerp-Ghent
  - Self-reported school survey
  - Two biggest cities in Flanders
  - 3.867 students from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade of secondary schools
  - Accounts of memberships in organizations ('I used to...')

# [ Present study ]

## ■ Variables in analysis

- Age
- Gender
- SES-indicators: work status of parents, self-reported financial strain\*
- Religion
- One parent belongs to ethnic-cultural minority
- 'Controlling for' variation between schools (multi-level modelling)

# Results: Withdrawal from organized sport

	<b>Sport associations (N=2623)</b>
<b>Intercept</b>	-1,725***
<b>Gender (ref.cat. boys)</b>	.838***
<b>Age</b>	.084***
<b>Both parents work (ref.cat. at least one parent is unemployed)</b>	-,244**
It is ('rather' to 'very') hard for my family to live well with the monthly income	.041 (n.s.)
<b>Religion: Christian</b>	-,315**
Ethnic-cultural minorities (ref.cat. no parent belongs to ECM)	
<b>At least one parent belongs to ECM, but student is not muslim</b>	,420**
At least one parent belongs to ECM and student is muslim	-,030 (n.s.)
<b>Interaction: Muslimgirls (with ECM parent)</b>	,562**

# Comparison: withdrawal from non-sport associations

	Sport associations (N=2623)	Non-sport associations (N=2680)
Intercept	-1,725***	-1,282
<b>Gender (ref.cat. boys)</b>	<b>.838***</b>	,067
<b>Age</b>	.084***	.062**
<b>Both parents work (ref.cat. at least one parent is unemployed)</b>	-,244**	,111
It is ('rather' to 'very') hard for my family to live well with the monthly income	.041 (n.s.)	,180(n.s.)
<b>Religion: Christian</b>	-,315**	-.211*
Ethnic-cultural minorities (ref.cat. no parent belongs to ECM)		
<b>At least one parent belongs to ECM, but student is not muslim</b>	,420**	-,028
At least one parent belongs to ECM and student is muslim	-,030 (n.s.)	-,505**
<b>Interaction: Muslimgirls (with ECM parent)</b>	<b>,562**</b>	<b>,802***</b>



# Discussion

- Employment status of parents, ethnicity, gender and religion (together) predict drop out in organised sport
- Indicator of financial strain?
- Dropout: sometimes/not always related to the 'sport' in the association
- Policies promoting organised (sport) participation for socially vulnerable youth act 'on the surface of things'
- Are we willing to look into the actual lives and trajectories of so-called 'non-participants'? Are policymakers willing to think about apt support of the health and (inter)personal development of these young people?