



An examination of IHSA program characteristics and practices that lead to the most competitive successes



A. A. Hansen*, A. E. Oates, L. M. White

Introduction:

- The Intercollegiate Horse Showing Association (IHSA), is a competitive, collegiate, horseback riding association open to any level of rider
- Nearly 400 schools across the United States and Canada and close to 9000 students who participate
- IHSA programs provide experiential learning opportunities to college students and supplement coursework
- Because of the variety of program styles, measurement of success for certain program characteristics could be beneficial to effectively allocating resources and improve the effectiveness of instruction for both aspiring and established teams

Objective:

To identify differences in program management styles and what specific characteristics contribute to team and individual rider success to allow instructors to improve their experiential learning programs.



Materials & Methods:

- A 50 question survey with four informational categories: general information, coaching, funding and practices was deployed to all participating IHSA teams and they were asked to fill out and return the survey electronically
- A competitive "success score" based off post-season individual and team placings with more points awarded for a higher placing

Results:

- 21 surveys were returned
- The average IHSA team size: 28 students

Do Colleges have both a Western and Huntseat IHSA Team?

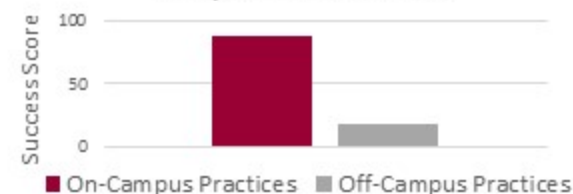


Areas of Interest from the survey	% of Colleges
Stated IHSA increased overall college enrollment	33%
IHSA team members attended their school purely because the school had an IHSA team	45.35%

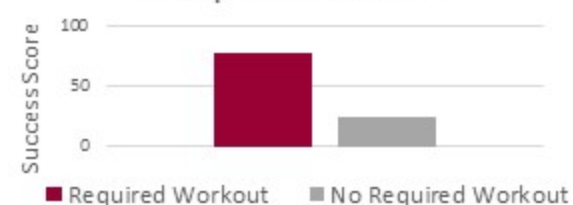
On average, where do team's yearly operating budget come from?



Practice location in relation to competitive success score



Weekly workouts or the absence of in relation to competitive success score



Conclusion:

IHSA teams are found to increase overall college involvement. Additionally, according to tabulated success scores, IHSA teams were most positively influenced by the addition of required workouts as well as holding practices on campus when considering competitive ability. It was observed that the largest portion of funding for IHSA teams comes directly from the school or university (86%). The average operating budget for IHSA teams is \$24,333 annually. Of the teams that have both a western and huntseat team, 77% of the teams have the same coach for both teams.