



Question:

Is there a relationship between student mobility and reading performance?

Answer: Yes.

There is a strong relationship between student mobility and performance on the CSAP Reading test. We looked at students who took their 3rd and 8th grade CSAP in DPS. Students who move 3 or more times start out lower and stay lower than students who move 2 or fewer times. (see caution below)*

Group	3rd Mean Scale Score	8th Mean Scale Score
<=2 moves	538.5	634.43
>=3 moves	502.85	584.82

In 3rd grade, the difference between the two groups is moderate to large (0.44 standard deviations). In 8th grade, the difference between the two groups increased to a large/very large difference (0.72 standard deviations).

***CAUTION: This relationship does not imply mobility causes reading performance to drop.** Other factors, such as those related to socioeconomic status, could be responsible for the observed performance differences. Mobility was the only factor examined in this study.

More extensive investigation would need to be conducted to determine if there is evidence for a causal relationship. Future studies should investigate the relative contribution of mobility to reading performance.

Note: The group of students who move more than 3 times includes students who moved out of district and then returned.

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