



Effect of Legislation on High School Athletic Trainers

Alexandra Grombchevsky and Tim Crilly

Laguna Beach Unified School District, School



INTRODUCTION

Legislation has contributed to advances within the athletic training profession to create a safer environment for student-athletes. However, there has been minimal research regarding the qualifications that coincide with the athletic training profession. Every state is regulated by federal laws however, it is up to the individual states to enact statutes to regulate or not regulate the requirements. California is the only state that does not have certification requirements such as an athletic training license. Areas that do not have robust legislation regarding the necessary qualifications for an athletic trainer, struggle with maintaining a safe environment for the athletes. Therefore, it is necessary to research the effects these contributing factors have on high school athletic trainers and athletes. Specific data concerning athletic trainers, both affected and not affected by legislation, will be collected to show the disparity between the two. Misleading ideas about athletic trainers that have emerged create confusion, contributing to the lack of overall knowledge of educational requirements for athletic trainers, and few legislative regulations have been put in place to support these issues. Minimal research pertaining to qualifications for high school athletic trainers has been conducted. Due to the fact that there is minimal research on the qualifications necessary to be

an athletic trainer, data will be taken from numerous high school athletic trainers with various qualifications; this will then be analyzed to look at different injury rates within the different schools and determine the correlations with the lack of legislation regarding necessary qualifications. This data will be interpreted and applied to help propose new ideas of regulations for the betterment of high school athletics and the safety of the athletes.

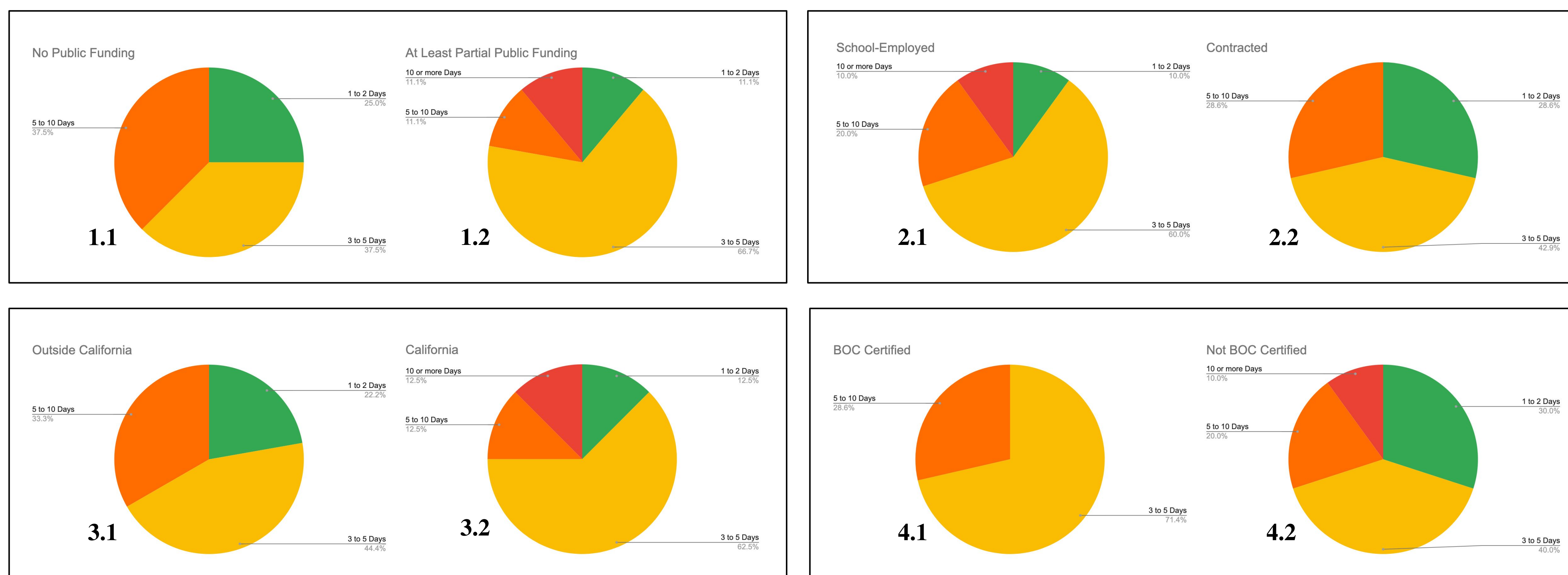
DISCUSSION, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION

- There was not a significant difference in the average recovery time between a contracted or school employed AT. There was no red (10 or more days) with a contracted AT, and a fairly quicker recovery time. From this we can infer that the schools with a contracted AT most likely have access to more resources and a more qualified athletic trainer
- Between a school with a BOC certified AT and one without there the same amount at or less than 5 days recovery time, these results are inconclusive.
- Schools with both private and public funding had the greatest percentage of quick recovery times. On average 83.4% of athletes recovered in 5 or less days, leaving only 16.6% taking longer than 5 days to recover, however, on average no one above 10 days. Schools with only private funding had relatively similar results. School with only public funding consistently had the longest recovery times. Public funded schools were the only category that an average of over 10 days to recover.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

I will be collecting and analyzing data for my research. The research will be pure research since I will be using this data for research purposes. My data will be quantitative, I will be using injury rates from a variety of schools. My research will be observational since I will be observing the injury rates. I will be collecting data from both private and public schools to see if there is a difference between the two, whether it is funding, amount of athletic trainers, access to resources, etc. I will collect my data by emailing athletic trainers across the United States and asking them to fill out a survey. I will be using connections that my mentor and high school's athletic trainer has, as well as our assistant principal who is also a registered athletic trainer. I will be asking: Average loss of days per injury, part-time or full-time employee, contracted or school employed, number of athletic trainers, highest level of education/certification, other training/experiences (EMT, RN, CES, PES, CSCS), funding the school receives insurance coverage of students, local government restrictions (county), district restrictions, and state restrictions. I will analyze my data by comparing the injury rates to other factors such as income, to see if there is a correlation between the access of a trainer and what qualifications the trainer has. I will determine if my responses are significant if they have answered all of the questions, all questions will be multiple choice.

DATA AND FINDINGS



Figures 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3: Type of funding school receives, public, private, or both.

Figures 2.1 and 2.2: School employed or contracted athletic trainer.

Figures 3.1 and 3.2: School in California or outside California

Figures 4.1 and 4.2: BOC certified AT or not BOC certified AT

***Works Cited:

***Special thanks to Tim Crilly and Jun Shen for helping make this project possible.



CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND NEXT STEPS

- The data indicated that having a BOC certified athletic trainer does not affect the outcome of the recovery time. It is also important to note that some of the AT's without a BOC certification had other certifications or training, such as; EMT, PES, RN, etc. These results came back inconclusive, this rejects my hypothesis of certification affecting the recovery time. I took from a very small sample size, this could contribute to the results.
- From this we can infer that the schools with the greatest funding, most likely had access to more resources allowing

athletes to have a quicker recovery time.

- In comparing California to other states I was hoping to see a greater variation between the states. With the small sample size it was difficult to separate the states, there are different variables that need to come into consideration. The majority of the out of state schools were private and the majority of the California schools were public, therefore it was not an equal comparison.
- Socio-economic status had the greatest impact on the recovery time, 80% of the greatest percentage of insurance coverage, had the greatest schools funds, and the quickest recovery time.



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DISCUSSION, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION

- There was not a significant difference in the average recovery time between a contracted or school employed AT. There was no red (10 or more days) with a contracted AT, and a fairly quicker recovery time. From this we can infer that the schools with a contracted AT most likely have access to more resources and a more qualified athletic trainer
- Between a school with a BOC certified AT and one without there the same amount at or less than 5 days recovery time, these results are inconclusive.
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