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ABSTRACT

High school students who are involved in community service work are more likely to continue such community service after graduation. Highlights of a study using data from the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988, Second Follow-up (1992) and Third Follow-up (1994), include the following: (1) in 1994, 43 percent of 1992 high school seniors reported performing community service in the previous year, with those who performed community service during the last 2 years of high school twice as likely to have performed it after high school than those who did not participate in high school community service; (2) in 1994, high school seniors who were required to perform community service during the last 2 years of high school were more likely to perform community service than all 1992 high school seniors (58 percent versus 43 percent); (3) 1992 high school seniors who had attended some college by 1994 were more likely to performed community service in the previous year than those who had not attended some postsecondary education; and (4) a lower percentage of 1992 high school seniors from public schools reported performing community service 2 years later than did seniors from Catholic or private schools. (KC)

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**Community service activities
following high school**

April 1998

There is considerable interest in involving a greater number of high school students in community service because having students perform community service is viewed as beneficial for both society and the individual. Data on community service performed by high school seniors and their participation in community service after leaving high school may help school administrators assess their current community service programs.

ED 417 307

- In 1994, 43 percent of 1992 high school seniors reported performing community service in the previous year. Those who performed community service during the last 2 years of high school were more likely to report performing community service 2 years later than those who did not (61 compared to 30 percent, respectively).
- In 1994, high school seniors who were required to perform community service during the last 2 years of high school were more likely to perform community service than all 1992 high school seniors (58 compared to 43 percent, respectively).
- Those 1992 high school seniors who had attended some college by 1994 were more likely to have reported performing community service in the previous year than those who had not attended some postsecondary education. Of those 1992 seniors who had attended some postsecondary education, those who performed community service in high school were more likely to have performed community service in the previous year than those who had not performed community service in high school.
- A lower percentage of 1992 high school seniors from public schools reported performing community service 2 years later than did seniors from Catholic schools or other private schools.

Percentage of 1992 high school seniors who in 1994 reported performing community service during the previous year, by community service in high school and selected characteristics

Selected characteristics	Total	No community service in high school ¹	Reported performing community service in high school ¹		
			Total ²	Strictly voluntary ²	Required ²
Total	43.3	29.7	60.6	63.2	57.5
Control of high school					
Public	42.1	29.1	59.9	62.5	56.4
Catholic	55.9	37.9	64.9	70.0	62.6
Private, other	55.9	33.2	71.6	71.9	64.7
Postsecondary attendance ³					
Attended	50.3	35.7	64.6	66.9	61.0
Not attended	23.8	18.5	39.0	40.9	38.0

¹ In 1992, high school seniors were asked if they had performed community service during the previous 2 years.

² Seniors were asked to give as many responses as were applicable when reporting whether the community service they performed was voluntary or required; therefore, seniors may be counted in both "strictly voluntary" and "required" categories but are only counted once in "total."

³ Students were asked if they had attended at least one postsecondary institution (university, 2- or 4-year college, or a vocational, technical, or trade school) since 1992; students may not have been enrolled in 1994, however.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988, Second Follow-up (1992) and Third Follow-up (1994).

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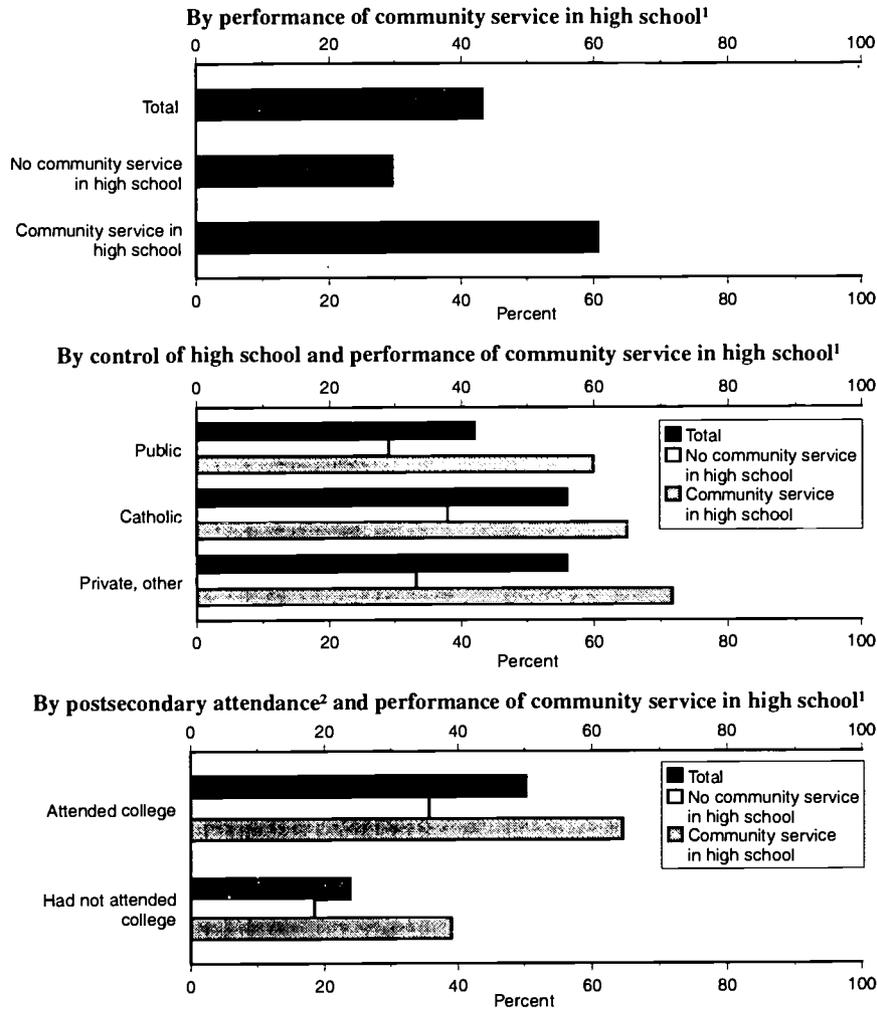
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