School Attendance Rates and Student Expulsions for Firearm Possession in Michigan Public Schools

A recent study found a relationship between school-wide attendance rates and expulsions for student firearm possession in Michigan public K-12 schools from 2018–2022. A total of 77 schools had such expulsions during the study period. Among those schools, higher rates of on-track attendance (i.e., the proportion of students who attended ≥90% of school days) were associated with lower odds of the school having an expulsion for student firearm possession. This association remained after adjusting for student body demographics, school building characteristics, and school rates of student interpersonal violence and discipline. The study authors concluded that efforts to improve school-wide attendance may offer a prevention strategy against student firearm possession.

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