

PROPOSAL: "HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF COLLEGE CONTACT SPORTS."

Ray Fair, John M. Musser Professor of Economics, Department of Economics
(ray.fair@yale.edu)

I am interested in having a student collect as much data as possible on injuries in college football and perhaps other college contact sports for roughly the past five years. These data are hard to come by because colleges and sports conferences are not eager to release them. There have been a number of studies on the health consequences, both short run and long run, of the amount of contact in football, both concussions and sub concussions. The Ivy League did a study a few years ago on some of these issues, which is a good place to start. One question, for example, is whether there are data on the long run health of students who played contact sports in college compared to those who, say, played non-contact sports.

The first phase of the study would be simply collecting as much data as possible and reviewing the studies that have been done. The second phase would be to examine the data and provide various summary measures.

There has been much written on the terrible health consequences of football players in the NFL. I am interested instead in college football, where less work has been done. My prior is that the health consequences in college football are also bad, but more data are needed.