



# Orleans Parish State of Youth Sports and Physical Activity

SEPTEMBER 2015

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As the New Orleans Sport for Development Coalition, fifteen organizations working in the youth sports sector have joined together to create collective impact through sport. We're thrilled to present the findings from the Orleans Parish State of Youth Sports Survey here, which include responses from over 129 local organizations and schools. This report is the first locally-driven research project dedicated to capturing and assessing the status of youth sport and physical activity in our community and the opportunities that are available for our young people. As a Coalition of fifteen organizations working to spark systems-level change in New Orleans through sport for development, it is a priority for us to understand the needs of the community and identify the reach and impact of the youth sports space that exists today. The findings presented in this report provide essential information on current gaps, challenges, and the potential for growth that will help guide our strategy. We hope that this report will serve as a baseline to assess our progress against 10 years from now, as well as a rallying cry to bring cross-sector stakeholders together to best support the young people in our community.

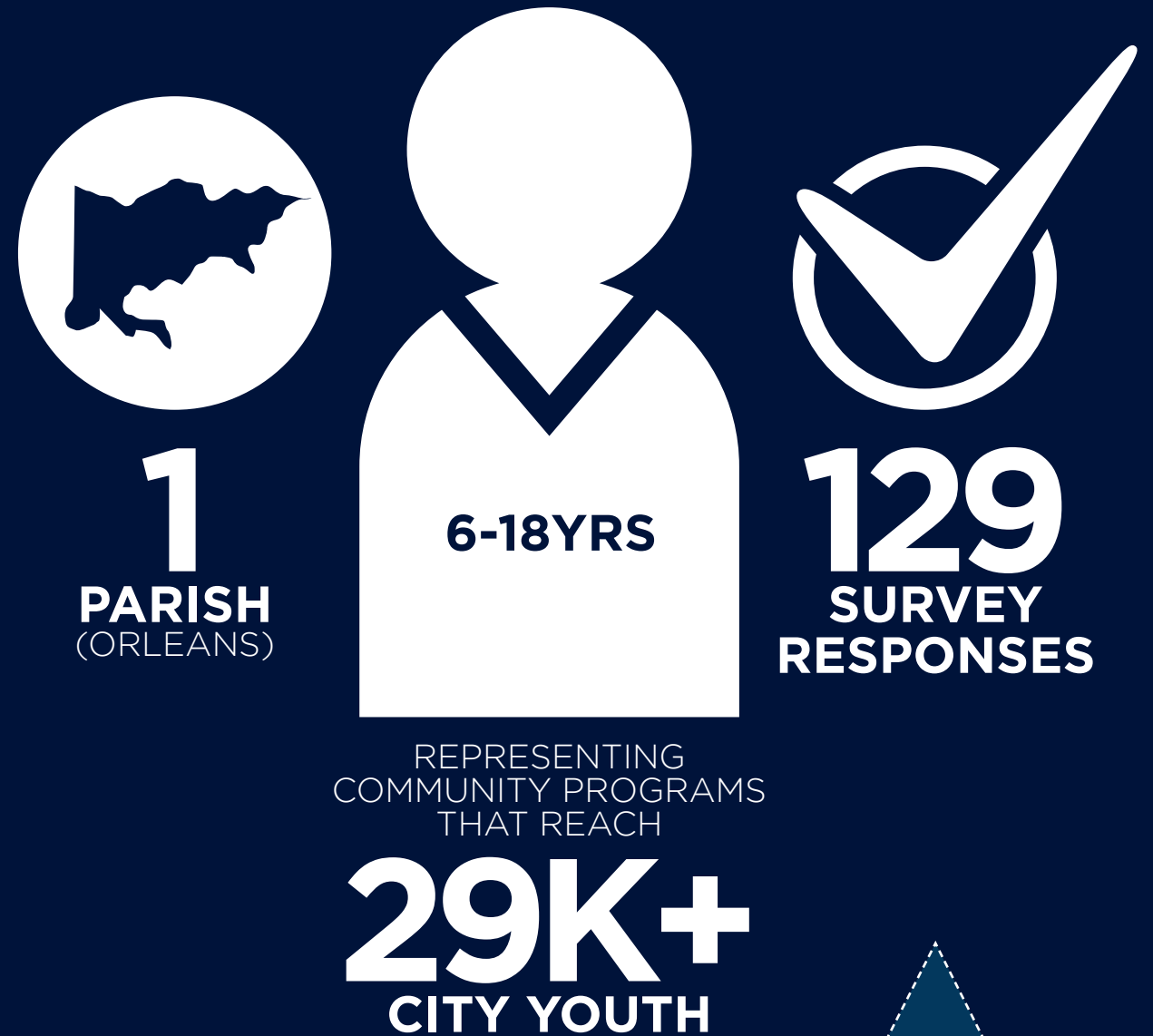
In conducting the State of Youth Sports Survey, we attempted to reach all known community programs and schools that might provide opportunities for youth to engage in sport and physical activity. Our initial contact list contained over 250 potential organizations. The survey responders included in this report are representative of the wider community based demographic and community data derived from the U.S Census Bureau and the New Orleans Data Center. We found that 69.5% of local organization and 83.8% of school respondents provide opportunities for youth sport and physical activity. Of the local organization respondents, 68.2% aim to provide youth with a range of program opportunities, offering sport as a part of a larger agenda of educational, cultural, arts, and well-being oriented programs. This survey was developed in consultation with local organizations who have previously collected community-level data and with Project Play's Sport for All, Play for Life Playbook, a report of the Aspen Institute which offers a new model for youth sports in America with eight strategies for increasing access to quality sport opportunities. In addition to data collected through the city-wide State of Youth Sports Survey, this report contains six profiles of youth from the community. Aligning to Project Play's Sport for All, Play for Life Playbook, these stories bring life and youth voice to the statistics collected through our survey and showcase continued community need for youth engagement with physical activity and sport.

September marks the one year anniversary of our collective work in New Orleans. We look to the future, now armed with the evidence we need to help us drive systems change and impact the city's youth. Now that we understand current opportunities, we'll continue to work toward improving the quality and access of youth sports programs so more kids can have organized physical activity in the city.

**COALITION STEERING GROUP MEMBERS:**  
 JODY BRAUNIG / DANA GREENUP DEAL /  
 SKY HYACINTHE / DENALI LANDER /  
 CHIP PATTERSON / RICHARD PAVLICK

# HIGHLIGHTS

This report details the findings from:

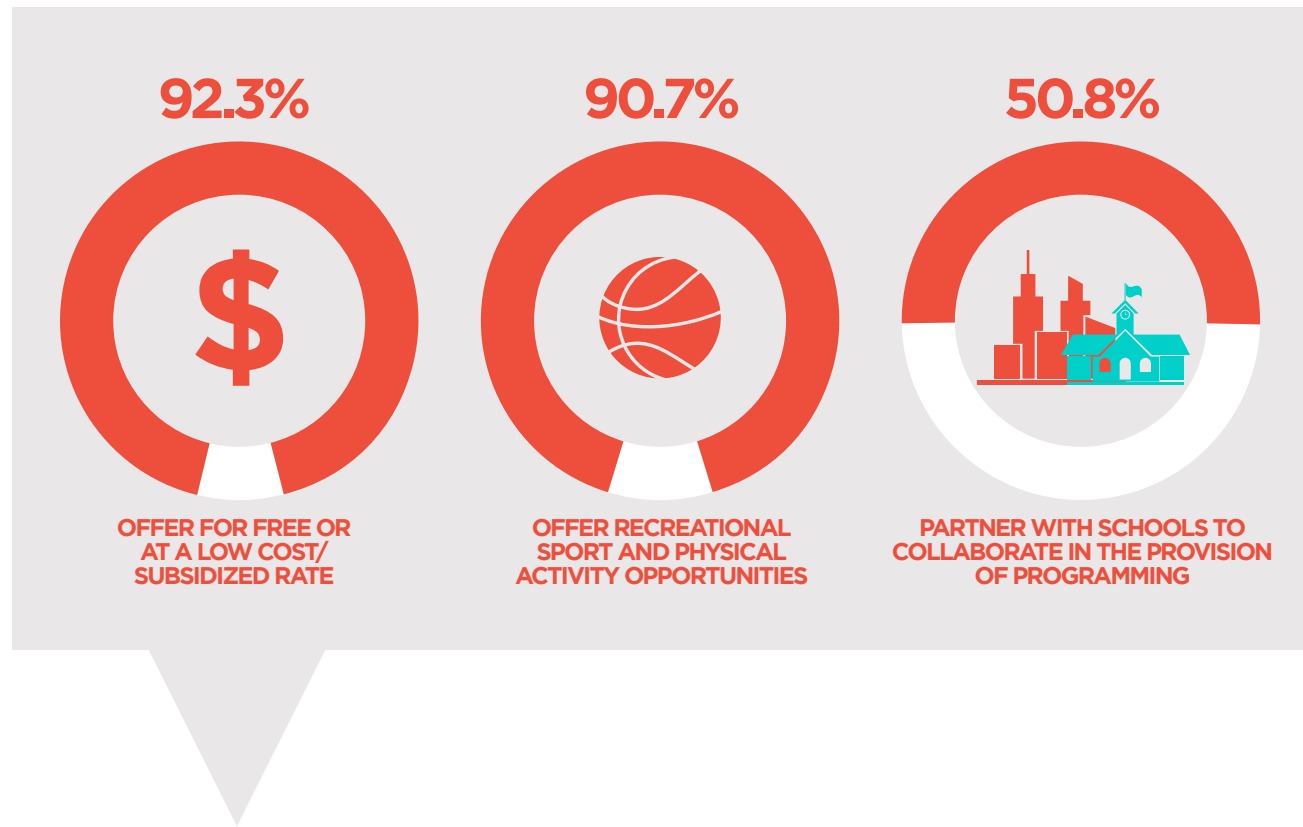


92 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

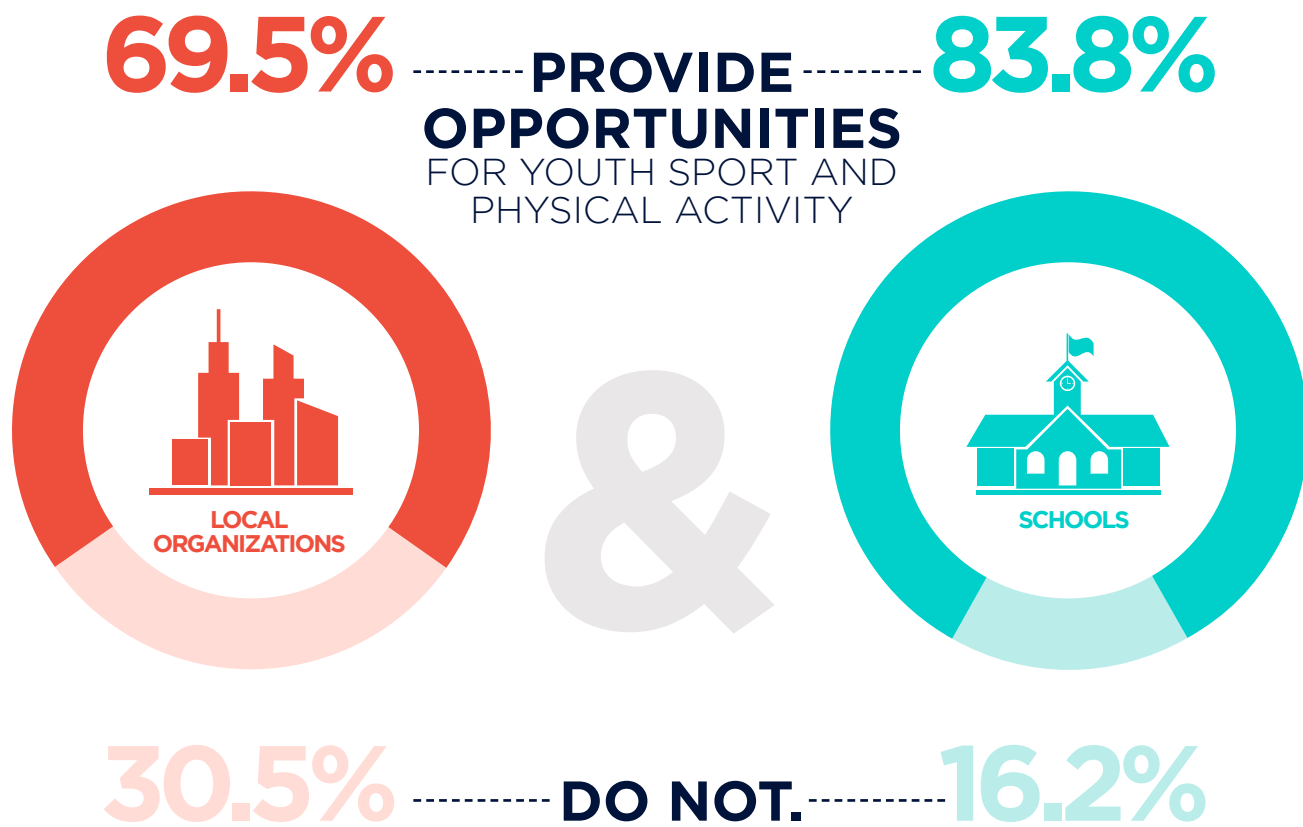
28 CHURCHES



37 SCHOOLS



Of the local organizations and schools represented in this survey:



## TYRIQ, 11



Tyriq is a sixth-grader at Schaumburg Elementary, a charter school on the east end of New Orleans whose halls and cafeteria are festooned with banners of colleges from around the country, to help the students keep their “eyes on the prize,” as the faculty puts it.

The prize for him, though, centers on basketball.

“I know I have to get good grades,” he said, “so I can play in college. I want to be in the NBA.”

Tyriq is a lanky kid of inconspicuous height, who hasn’t played outside of his neighborhood, but of an age where all dreams are still possible – even if the ceiling of possibility sits low above his head.

His father, who lives in Atlanta, has talked to him about his improbable goal, encouraged him to think of school as a means to better life, not necessarily an elevator to the sports penthouse. Still, basketball is what excites Tyriq. So it’s something to work with, an animating idea that offers hope.

He is an aloof kid, who doesn’t easily smile. He lives far off the tourist maps in the outer city, east of the Industrial Canal, a 5-mile waterway that connects the Mississippi River to Lake Pontchartrain. The canal passes through the 9th Ward, the community famously destroyed by the flooding of Hurricane Katrina when the canal’s levees failed.

The neighborhoods of New Orleans East have no official names. Almost all of the students at Schaumburg, most

of them African-American, qualify for free or reduced lunch. About one fifth of them receive some form of special-education instruction. All of them – from pre-K to 8th grade -- wear uniforms to school.

Tyriq was a kid who struggled with his emotions. “I was an angry person,” he said. “I’d get mad about stuff that wasn’t even important.”

He lives with his mother and three younger siblings. His grandmother lives nearby and also acts as a parental figure. His mother is a waitress and works six days a week.

Basketball, he said, helped him. He picked up the game three years ago at a neighborhood hoop, taking tips from a slightly older kid about defense, dribbling and shooting. Then, he played one season of “park ball,” what the residents of the area call the parent-coached recreational leagues based in neighborhood playgrounds like Joe Brown Memorial Park. He wanted to play park-ball football too, but his mother couldn’t afford the cost of equipment, she said.

Motivated by his desire to play college basketball and keep his grades up, Tyriq studied over the summer instead of playing video games. He also fastened down his behavior at school, going from discipline problems and frequent visits to the school office during his fourth-grade year, to a model student his fifth-grade year. He was one of 40 students taken on a field trip to Memphis at the end of the school year as a reward for their performance at school.

He is hoping to make the school team, a luxury afforded only to sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade boys and girls. The school only has enough uniforms and equipment to accommodate 15 boys and 15 girls. With the girls, that’s usually not a problem – typically no more than that try out for the team. The challenge there is keeping them in uniform. By the end of the season, most have quit because they hadn’t submitted the required physical exams. This year, the school has arranged for a doctor to come to Schaumburg to give exams for \$10.

With boys like Tyriq, it’s more a matter of accommodating interests. Typically about 30 boys try out, so half will be told they’re not good enough to play. Supply will not meet demand. And lives will unfold, shaped by access to a game.

**PROJECT PLAY FACT**  
 People who live closer to parks report better mental health. Time spent there has been shown to boost concentration and focus, and kids with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) experience milder symptoms when they play outside in a natural setting.

TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

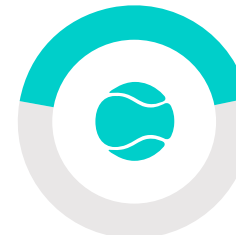


# OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVITY

AMONG SCHOOLS OFFERING YOUTH SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES



43.9%



OFFER BOTH IN SCHOOL AND OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS (3% OFFER ONLY IN SCHOOL, 53.1% OFFER ONLY OUT OF SCHOOL PROGRAMS)

90%



HAVE ACCESS TO DESIGNATED AREAS SUCH AS COURTS, FIELDS, GYMS, PLAYGROUNDS, AND OPEN SPACES

20%



PARTNER WITH AN EXTERNAL ORGANIZATION TO SUPPORT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL DAY

37.5%



OFFER INTRAMURAL OPPORTUNITIES AMONG SCHOOLS OFFERING AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

79%



OFFER COMPETITIVE INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAMS AMONG SCHOOLS OFFERING AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

32.3%



UTILIZE FREE OPEN ACCESS SPACES LIKE CITY PARKS OR RECREATION CENTERS

92.3%



OFFER FOR FREE OR AT A LOW COST/SUBSIDIZED RATE

90.7%



OFFER RECREATIONAL SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OPPORTUNITIES

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

93%

43% 5 TIMES/WEEK

57% 2-3 TIMES/WEEK

## AFTER SCHOOL

90%

70.8% ARE RUN W/ SCHOOL STAFF/HIRED COACHES

29.1% PAY FEE TO EXTERNAL PROVIDER TO HOST

92% OF PROGRAMS ARE FREE

8% CHARGE A FEE

## RECESS

83%

80% 5 TIMES/WEEK

20% 2-3 TIMES/WEEK

88% 15-30 MIN

4% >30MIN

8% <15 MIN

40% UNSTRUCTURED FREE PLAY

8% STRUCTURED

52% MIX OF STRUCTURED/UNSTRUCTURED

## YEAR-ROUND

57%

## IN-CLASS BREAKS

56%

58.8% 1 TIME/DAY

17.7% 2 TIMES/DAY

23.5% AT LEAST 3 TIMES/DAY



AVERAGE NUMBER OF KIDS REACHED BY EACH LOCAL ORGANIZATION

82%

OF THOSE THAT DON'T:

25%

33.3%

8.4%

33.3%

OFFER YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMMING



## CARLO, 16



Carlo was a freshman when the worst thing he could think of happened to a friend. Her name was Margo. She was also a freshman, at another high school.

They had met in middle school. They went to movies, to the mall, to school dances, always in groups. Their relationship never turned romantic, but it was intimate, based mostly on long, phone conversations.

“I could tell her things I couldn’t tell my parents or any of my other friends,” Carlo said. “We could easily talk on the phone for four hours. I’ve never felt that way about anyone before.”

Several months later, the two were supposed to go together to her winter dance, but Margo had acted up in class and, as punishment, was barred from attending. That week, she and Carlo talked on the phone to make alternate plans.

To Carlo, Margo seemed happy. But two days before the dance, in January, 2013, she hung herself in her bedroom.

“I thought it was the end of my world,” he said. “I even contemplated taking my own life.”

He later learned she had been the target of online bullying. His first reaction was anger, that he hadn’t been there for her the way she was always there for him. Anger, that she hadn’t confided in him about her pain. He cried himself to sleep every night for weeks. His grades dropped. He pushed people away, falling into a depression.

Almost nothing felt good to him, which is when he started to focus on the one thing that did.

“When you hit a golf ball, you have to clear your mind,” Carlo said, “and when you hit it well, it feels good.”

He was seven when his mother brought him to a practice held by The First Tee of Greater New Orleans, the local chapter of a national organization that endeavors to introduce golf and life skills to kids whose circumstances don’t allow them to simply fall into the sport. More than two-thirds of children who participate in The First Tee nationwide are racial minorities. Most First Tee kids come from families who can’t afford greens fees and clubs.

Carlo lives in a city where having a dark complexion is common, but his is hard to pin down, at least for his peers. He has thick, wavy, dark hair, and handsome, broad features, with a build more like a linebacker’s than a golfer’s. His parents were both born in the Philippines.

He is also the only non-white golfer on his team at the all-boys, Jesuit High School, the subject of some joking among teammates. Although intended to be good-natured, the ribbing doesn’t always feel good, he said.

His Filipino heritage makes him even more of an anomaly on a golf course. He admitted to not always feeling like he fits in there, the exception being when he participates in The First Tee.

“It’s still hard for me to get close to people,” said Carlo.

Last spring, Carlo was honored as the organization’s “outstanding” participant, a distinction that came with a \$20,000 college scholarship and the chance to craft a year-long service project. During his acceptance speech at a banquet in Dallas, through tears, he thought of Margo and announced that bullying was to be the focus of his project.

**PROJECT PLAY FACT**  
Golf isn’t the only sport where access to resources matters. Sport participation rates among youth living in households with the lowest incomes (\$25,000 or less) are about half that of youth from wealthier homes (\$100,000+) – 16% vs. 30%.

**SPORTS & FITNESS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION DATA PROVIDED TO ASPEN INSTITUTE, 2013**

## SHAREL, 18



A good day for Sharel meant she kept her brothers distracted, taking them outside to play or keeping a video game in their hands so they would remain blissfully unaware that their mother was upset or sick.

Sharel knew the truth. Their mother was addicted to heroin. Sharel was in middle school when she first noticed the sickness. Her father wasn’t around to help. He had been incarcerated for most of Sharel’s childhood. She and her brothers had a well-meaning stepfather who ran an auto shop. They had a comfortable if not close relationship with him, and he kept the bills paid.

So, she figured, it fell on her to look after her brothers, who were five and 10 years younger. She helped them with their homework, made them dinner, got them into bed, and made sure they did not suffer from want of a mother’s attention.

“It wasn’t hard to do,” she said. “I was not thinking about it. I just did it.”

She did not have much time for her own teenage life, and at times she wondered if she might have to drop out of school.

During her freshman year, when her mother’s addiction got particularly bad, Sharel was sent to live briefly with her father while her brothers lived with a foster family. The same year, a teacher at her high school started an after-school running club, part of a then new citywide program called Youth Run NOLA.

Sharel was no athlete. She had never participated in sports before. She was out of shape. Her eating habits were terrible.

“I was heavy, and I was lazy,” Sharel said. “I really wasn’t healthy. I didn’t care.”

She decided to do something about it and joined the running club.

“When I first started, it was actually very hard,” Sharel said. “I would complain a lot.”

She stuck with it though, because the alternative was far less appealing.

“It was a lot easier and a lot more fun to stay after school,” she said, “than deal with what was going on at home. It was the calmest thing in my life, to get away from everything else and just run and be with friends.”

She stuck with it for four years, as her mom continued to struggle with addiction and her father with staying on the right side of the law. Once too out of shape to run a mile, Sharel eventually ran four half-marathons.

“Now, if I’m mad or upset or even if I’m happy, I go for a run, just because,” she said. “Now, I also think about what I eat, and I don’t want to be lazy. Running just helps me with everything.”

This year, Sharel got into the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, about a two-hour drive from New Orleans. She received financial aid so she could afford to go. Her brothers are older and better able to look after themselves. Their mother recently completed a rehabilitation program, still trying to find her way, just as her daughter found hers.

**PROJECT PLAY FACT**  
Adolescents who play sports are eight times as likely to be active into adulthood as adolescents who do not sports.  
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, 2004

When asked to prioritize the

# TOP BARRIERS

to youth sport and physical activity participation, local organizations provided the following challenges:



TRANSPORTATION



COST



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT



LACK OF SAFE / ACCESSIBLE / FUNCTIONING SPACES AND EQUIPMENT



FEAR



LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OR UNDERSTANDING OF SPORTS



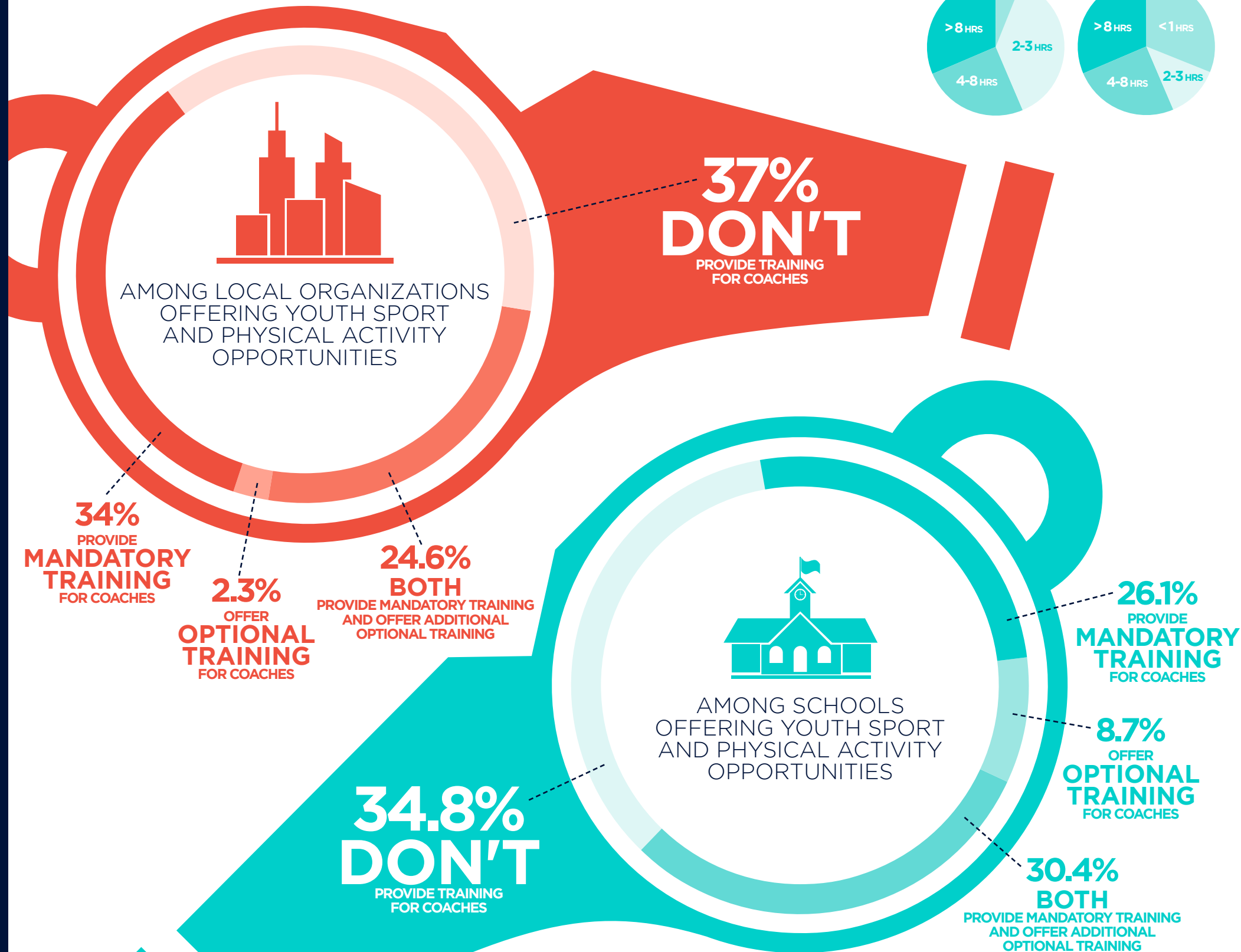
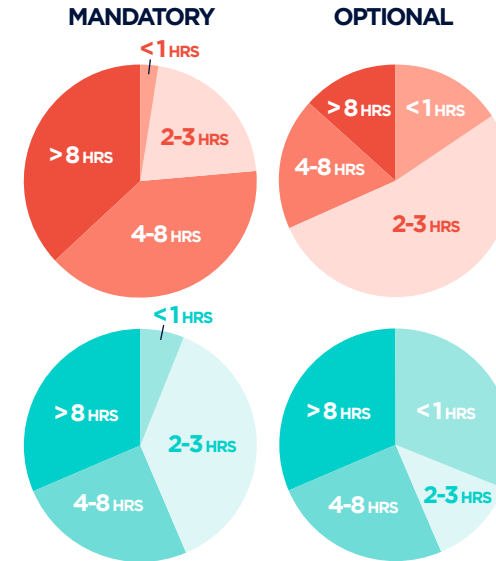
LACK OF ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRAMS



UNDERPAID COACHES AND PROGRAM STAFF

# COACH TRAINING

Training is offered for the following amount of **HOURS** among local organizations and schools that provide mandatory and optional coach training for youth sport programs:



Training is offered on the following **TOPICS** (in priority order):

1. Concussion Management
2. CPR / Basic First Aid
3. Effective Motivational Technique / Youth Development
4. General Safety and Injury Prevention
5. Health and Nutrition
6. Physical Conditioning
7. Sports Skills and Tactics

- CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT
- CPR / BASIC FIRST AID
- EFFECTIVE MOTIVATIONAL TECHNIQUE / YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
- GENERAL SAFETY AND INJURY PREVENTION
- HEALTH AND NUTRITION
- PHYSICAL CONDITIONING
- SPORTS SKILLS AND TACTICS



When asked to prioritize  
**INTERESTS**

for organizational activities and youth sport programming, local organizations indicated the following areas:

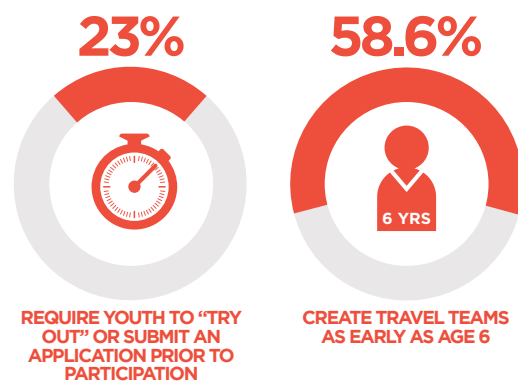
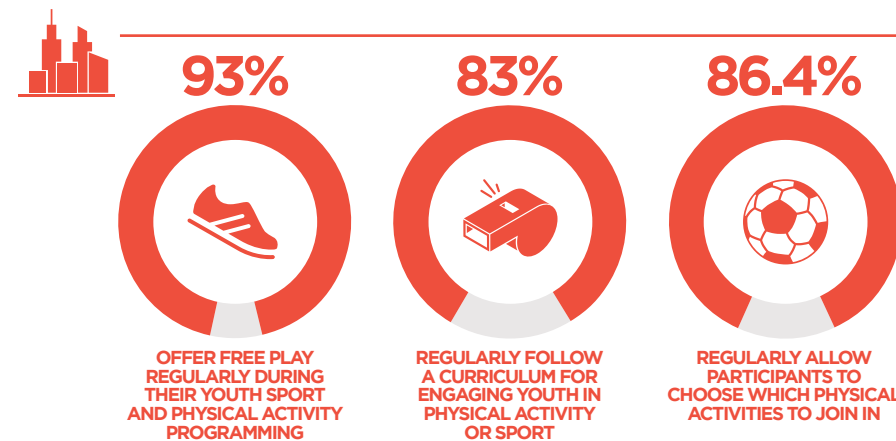
- 01 FUN
- 02 EARLY POSITIVE EXPERIENCES
- 03 AGE APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS
- 04 DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN POTENTIAL
- 05 SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH
- 06 DIVERSE ROLE MODELS
- 07 SPORT PERFORMANCE
- 08 DESIGNED TO PROVIDE UNIVERSAL ACCESS
- 09 COMPETITIVE SUCCESS

# PROGRAM QUALITY

Program quality is considered through the lens of Designed to Move's 7 Design Filters, which highlight strategies for designing early positive experiences for youth in sport. "Regularly" refers to programs that indicated "sometimes" or "always" providing activities aligned with these recommendations.

[www.designedtomove.org](http://www.designedtomove.org)

When designing youth sport and physical activity programs, local organizations prioritize the following goals:



## SOFIA, 11



As a toddler, Sofia was slow to begin talking. Her doctor mistakenly concluded she was just a late bloomer, convincing her parents to simply wait.

As Sofia got older, she continued to struggle with speech. Her parents noticed she also had trouble reading social cues and body language, and managing relationships with other children. Sofia also sometimes had trouble controlling her body movements, and her emotional impulses. While these are problems many children have to some degree, Sofia had particular difficulty with them.

In her own words, Sofia said, "I struggle with saying certain kind of words, and reading different kinds of words." With a grin, she also admitted, "I'm very, very hyper. Step one foot in our house, and you will want to leave."

In social settings, Sofia has an easy smile, is friendly, affectionate, a little restless. Her parents have turned to speech therapy, even music and art therapy, in the hopes of helping her learn the skills other kids tended to learn more easily and naturally. In 2013, when Sofia was in third grade, her parents put her in an after-school program called Girls on the Run New Orleans, in which girls aged 8 to 11 are coached to run in a non-competitive setting.

"I've seen incredible growth in her ability to read people and regulate her emotions and responses," her mother Darcie said. "She's always been a very strong-willed child with a ton of passion and energy. She needs a lot of guidance and an outlet for that energy."

Sofia worked with familiar faces – her teachers were coaches. The program came to her, at school, so her

working parents didn't have to worry about transportation or other logistic hurdles. Most important of all, the program focused on participation and personal growth, more than competition, at least the form where success is measured against the efforts of others.

Sofia's brief experience with soccer left her parents discouraged. She was only four years old, enrolled in a community league for tots. Her parents felt coaches and other parents pushed the girls to be too aggressive for the sake of winning, so Sofia and her parents bailed after two months. Sofia hasn't played soccer since.

Sofia's family – she has a younger brother – is able to make ends meet, mostly. Her father works as a law enforcement officer, her mother for the state's health department. Her working class family has decent insurance coverage for some of Sofia's therapy but just their co-payments can add up to \$300-\$400 a month.

Girls on the Run charges fees of \$220 per 10-week session, but families are required to pay only what they can. The sliding scale allowed Sofia to participate in both the fall and spring sessions, something her parents couldn't afford in full.

"It's as much about the inclusion as the physical activity," Darcie said. "I can see a huge difference in Sofia on running days. She is far less emotional, more grounded, calmer, able to focus more."

The girls on the team, usually at least seven, run at their own pace for about 45 minutes, usually tight laps so no one loses the group, in a local dog park across the street from her school in New Orleans' Lower Garden District. The culmination of a running season is a five-kilometer run that family members can also participate in.

After running, Sofia says she feels "hungry, tired, mostly tired, and happy because I've gotten some of the energy out, and I used that energy for a good reason."

Her physical confidence has grown enough that she'd consider trying a more competitive sport, basketball.

"I'm not a good dribbler," she said, "but I'm a good passer."

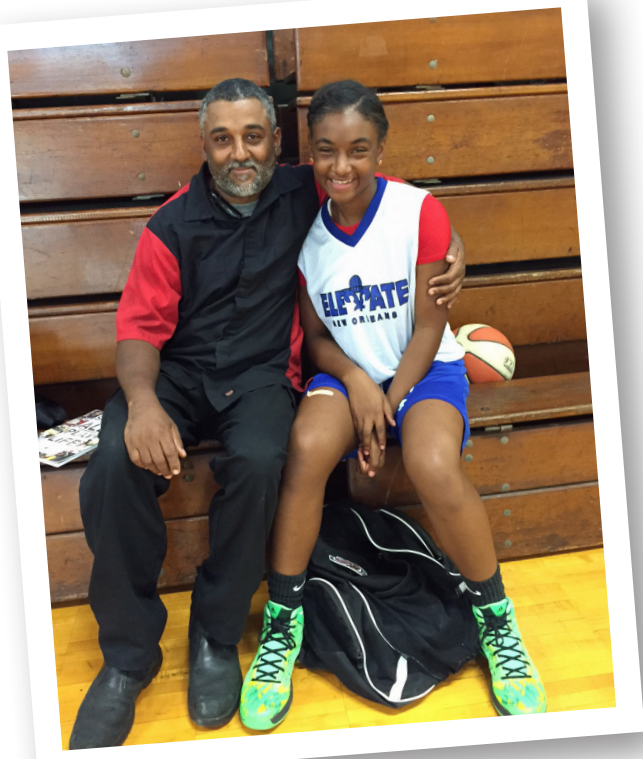
She's ready for team sports again, and ready to be a good teammate.

**PROJECT PLAY FACT**  
"Winning" means far less to children than to adults. In a survey of children playing sports at both the recreational and travel team level, 9 of 10 kids said "fun" is the main reason they participate. When asked to define fun, they offered up 81 reasons — and ranked "winning" at No. 48. Young girls gave it the lowest ratings.

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, 2014



## TIANNA, 12



Hurricane Katrina's flood separated Tianna and her father Bryan Domingue when she was a toddler. He relocated to Atlanta, Tianna and her mother to Dallas.

Tianna had come into her father's life unexpectedly. He and her mother did not stay together, and they did not have in place a formal custody agreement for their daughter when the hurricane hit.

The separation was supposed to be temporary. A year passed. Domingue's efforts to see Tianna were thwarted, he said, prompting him to argue in court for sole custody. In Oct., 2006, he won.

He agreed to let Tianna's mother keep her each summer. At the end of the summer of 2007, she didn't return Tianna, forcing Domingue to hire a lawyer and press legal action, he said. Finally, a few days before Christmas, 2007, he drove to Dallas to pick her up.

"I remember it like it was yesterday," Domingue said. "She saw me and said, 'Daddy, I was wondering when you were going to come get me. I kept looking out the window but I didn't know where you were.'"

Tianna has seen very little of her mother since.

He guided her the way he knew, nudging her into sports, softball first, at age 7, in a parks league, then basketball at age 8 through the Bidy Basketball program, an organized league for grade-school age players. She started track at age 9, with AAU. In fifth grade, she took

up volleyball for her school team. For the last two years, she has played volleyball, basketball and softball for Hynes Charter School.

He didn't know it years ago, but Domingue had given Tianna an identity and them a course for their relationship to follow.

"There are always lots of sports in the house," Tianna said. "Even when I'm not playing, we're watching sports. My dad and I, we go to high school football games, LSU games too."

The games are a bond, a place and a time to connect. To Tianna, their bond means their "twin instinct," she said, their tendency to think and then say the same thing at the same time.

Domingue works as a mechanic at an Audi dealership and drives for Uber part time. He works odd hours and weekends. It's a constant challenge getting her to practices and games. His income is inconsistent. If Tianna's shoes are too small, she might not tell him until they hurt her feet. He taught her to be self-sufficient, so she could cook for herself or wash her own clothes if he wasn't around.

"I was scared to death," Domingue said of fatherhood. "I just knew I loved her and I wanted to be in her life. I wouldn't trade it for the world. I love going to her games, watching her practice. I wanted to see her grow up."

Keeping her focused is his priority. As a single parent, he can't always be with her at every hour of the day and needs some help. Boredom is the biggest hazard to his daughter as he saw it, as it is to a lot of kids in the city. "I don't care how tired I am, how broke, she is going to stay busy," he said.

Tianna and her dad have caught good breaks along the way, finding dedicated coaches who took an interest in her. "Good coaching is hard to find, especially for girls," Domingue said. It certainly helped draw their attention that Tianna flashed athletic ability, precocious dexterity and speed. Other, more ordinary girls probably wouldn't have gotten the same attention.

In that way, Tiana and Domingue say they know they're lucky.

**PROJECT PLAY FACT**  
In low socio-economic schools, those that serve the highest percentage of kids on free or reduced-price lunches, only 24.6% of eighth graders play sports. At middle SES schools, it's 30.9%. For high SES schools, it's 36.1%.

BRIDGING THE GAP, RWJF, 2012

## BILLY, 7



Billy is a wiry kid, and not built to remain still. His neurons and synapses are always firing, usually rehearsing one sport or another, whether or not he is actually on a field.

At home, he practices his batting swing without a bat, or throws an imaginary ball from an imaginary outfield. If he must sit, he might roll onto his back so he can kick and pump his legs. Family members can be props; he is fond of tackling his mom, although his mother is less so.

His parents Jody and Gilbert are avid spectators and participants themselves and believe in the physical, emotional and intellectual value of living an active life. They are the type to always keep at least a soccer ball in the car so they can pull over and kick it around if the opportunity arises.

He is a portfolio manager for a major commercial bank; she is a social worker and director of the non-profit group Girls on the Run of New Orleans, which uses running as a platform to educate, empower, and inspire young girls in New Orleans.

Billy is the eldest of two sons – his brother Max is 4 – both born in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. The family lives near Tulane University and feels a responsibility and privilege living here as the city rebuilds after the flood.

Billy sleeps on New Orleans Saints bedding, next to a Saints rug marked with yard lines. "I like football, I like soccer, and I love baseball," Billy said. "I watch every sport...baseball is my favorite."

His parents are lucky to have the resources to keep their son active, although it has not been easy. In addition to the money, work days have to be cut short or started late, rides have to be arranged, logistics managed.

Billy's family is not poor enough to qualify for some of the programs available to more needy families, nor are they wealthy enough to join every club and let their kids play every sport. They have the means, but they have to work at it.

Like most kids in the city who attend public school, Billy attends a charter school, the Bricolage Academy. Many were created after Katrina, operated out of makeshift spaces like churches and synagogues that lack playfields or playgrounds. Eventually, his school will be moved to a state-of-the-art facility, but probably not for another three to four years.

His school has no after-school sports programs, so his parents signed him up for flag football at their local Jewish Community Center, and soccer with an organized, youth sports league called the Carrollton Boosters.

For reasons of safety, Billy's mother doesn't want him to play tackle football, which means that sport will soon end. Luckily, Billy's favorite sport is currently baseball.

Carrollton is not cheap (it and the JCC charge up to \$200 per season, plus the cost of equipment), and it provides a limited number of sports: football, baseball/softball, soccer, basketball, and lacrosse.

At summer camp, Billy discovered he loved tennis and announced he wanted to learn. Without an obvious, affordable avenue for tennis, his parents let desire fall by the wayside. Well, maybe another time, Jody thought to herself.

"We are fortunate we can afford both the money and time to expose Billy and Max to different sports, because it's a priority to us," she said. "There are families in Billy's school who aren't like that. Those parents don't know to look for those opportunities, or maybe can't afford it, are not interested in it. Those kids are missing out."

**PROJECT PLAY FACT**  
It's not just kids who are dreaming, especially in low-income areas. Parents with household incomes of less than \$50,000 are significantly more likely to say they hope their child will become a pro athlete compared to parents with household incomes of \$50,000 or more a year (39% to 20%). In addition, parents who did not go to college are more likely to say they hope their child will become a pro athlete (44%) than parents who graduated college (9%).

NPR/ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION/HARVARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEY, 2015





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We'd like to acknowledge the 129 local organizations, churches, and schools that participated in the State of Youth Sport Survey and shared their organizational information for inclusion and analysis in this work. Thank you for your transparency and for the host of youth sport and physical activity opportunities you collectively provide to the youth of this city.

This report is the collective work of the New Orleans Sport for Development Coalition, spearheaded by the State of Youth Sports working group, and would not have been possible without the quality leadership of coalition steering group member and working group lead, Denali Lander - Executive Director of Youth Run NOLA . A very special thank you to our partners at The Aspen Institute's Sport and Society Program -Tom Farrey, Risa Isard, and journalist Hugo Kugiyu for their partnership and contribution to the conceptualization, design, and execution of the youth profiles featured in this report.

### STATE OF YOUTH SPORT WORKING GROUP

Jody Braunig, Girls on the Run  
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