

EDUCATION

FINANCE

AND POLICY

## EFP Takeaways

Can Community Crime Monitoring Reduce Student Absenteeism?

### Background

A growing body of evidence provides strong evidence to suggest that exposure to community and neighborhood violence can have negative impacts on child outcomes. Additionally, the percentage of students who report missing school due to safety concerns has grown over the past decade. Sarah Komisarow and Robert Gonzalez explore the impact of a large, school-based community crime monitoring program on student absenteeism. Their work is published in vol. 18, issue 2 of *EFP*.

### The Study

The community crime monitoring program explored in this study employed local community members to monitor and report crime on designated city blocks during times when students traveled to and from school. The authors employ a difference-in-differences approach to estimate the causal impact of the program on school-level rates of student absenteeism.

#### For more details:

- View the [full issue](#).
- See the [full article in \*Education Finance and Policy\*](#).
- [Sign up here to receive future \*EFP Takeaways\*](#).
- Summary of:  
Komisarow, S. & Gonzalez, R. (2023). Can Community Crime Monitoring Reduce Student Absenteeism? *Education Finance and Policy*, 18 (2): 319-350.

### Findings

The authors find that the program resulted in an 8.5 percent reduction in the elementary school-level absence rate in the years following initial implementation. Komisarow and Gonzalez discuss and explore several potential mechanisms that might be causing such a decrease, including an improvement among students of perceptions of safety and their mental health, and an improvement of parents'/caregivers' perceptions of safety in the neighborhood. The authors find no evidence that community monitors affected suspension rates or police notification rates, however.

**Figure.** Event-Study Results for Aggregate Absence Rates at the School Level

