

Annotated Bibliography

Azzam, Amy M. "Why Students Dropout." (2007): ERIC. EBSCOhost. Iowa State of U., Ames, Iowa. 11 September 2007 <www.lib.iastate.edu >

Amy Azzam addresses the reason most students do not finish high school is because of personal reasons. She says that students wish schools would take a more active role in their education. Azzam uses results from a survey conducted by Civic Enterprises for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support the idea that the reason students drop out is for personal reasons. This study was in response to the statistics that approximately one-third of high school students fail to graduate every year. Azzam's facts are set down straightforward without any favoritism on the side of the students or schools. But schools can take into mind what she says about why students are dropping out and change policies that are unfair thus reducing the number of dropouts. Due to the recent incline of high school dropouts, Azzam's article uses a different approach as to why high school students dropout in contradiction to what Child Trends Data Bank says about graduation rates. and she does not differentiate between blacks, Hispanics, native Americans, and whites.

"High School Dropout Rate." Child Trends Data Bank. 2003. Child Trend. 15 September 2007 <www.childtrendsdatbank.org>

The Child Trends Data Bank briefly summarizes the trends concerning Hispanics, blacks, whites, and other ethnic groups and graduation rates. They also address graduation rate trends concerning gender. Azzam's "Why Students Dropout" does not include any data for the correlation between gender and graduation. Child Trends provides a very general trend for the years 1972 to 2004. From 1972, graduation rates have gradually reduced to new lows as of 2004. This article is a collection of data from various surveys concerning minorities put into a useful form. Child Trend uses data from surveys done by the U.S. Census Bureau and also the U.S. Department of Commerce. Child Trend includes information for the general public about what is being done to keep graduation completion rates on the rise.

Martin, Deanna. "States look to reduce dropout rates." Boston.com. 19 March 2006. New York Times. 15 September 2007. <http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2006/03/19/states_look_to_reduce_dropout_rates/ >

Deanna Martin looks into what is being done to reduce the number of non-graduating students. She states that some schools are bumping up legislation while other schools are backing down claiming if the students do not care then they can leave and not drag other students down. Martin says that there are problems, and using a quote from Luke Messer, representative of Indiana "We are not going to be able to legislate away this problem. It's a problem that will be solved in the classroom with teachers, parents, and students." Martin urges all involved in the education area to come together to figure out a way to reduce the number of dropouts in America's educational system. Martin's findings are not in agreement with Child Trend's dropout decrease or Amy Azzam's dropout increase,

but she does agree that there is a problem that needs to be fixed.

Mishel, Lawrence and Joydeep Roy. "Where Our High-School Dropout Crisis Really Is." Education Digest: Essential Readings Condensed for Quick Review 72(6) (Feb 2007): ERIC. EBSCOhost. Iowa State of U., Ames, Iowa. 15 September 2007 <www.lib.iastate.edu>

Lawrence Mishel and Joydeep Roy look into the idea that a third of American's children are not graduating from high school. They are striving to point out that the way data from surveys is inaccurate data thus providing erroneous statistics. Mishel and Roy claim that dropout rates are inaccurate because it does not take into account how many students are in the twelfth grade vs. the number of ninth graders. Graduation rates are only compared to how many students entered the school during the ninth grade. Despite the errors in statistics, Mishel and Roy agree with Child Trends Data Bank conclusion of graduation rates are reducing every year. Mishel and Roy point out the flaws of published works by Jay Greene and Christopher Swanson. Both Green and Swanson have artificially high non-graduation rates. Their work puts doubts into the accuracy of statistics for graduation rates, particularly those of Hispanics, blacks, and native Americans.

Stearns, Elizabeth, and Elizabeth Glennie. "When and Why Dropouts Leave High School." Youth and Society. (2006): ERIC. EBSCOhost. Iowa State of U. Ames, IA. 15 September 2007. <www.lib.iastate.edu>

Elizabeth Stearns and Elizabeth Glennie looked into the whens and whys of dropouts. As for the whys, they divide dropout groups into two theories, the "push-out theory" and the "pull-out theory". The "push-out theory" has policies that they claim if schools made the less disciplinary their students that dropout rates are reduce. Stearns and Glennie's article provide a better picture of how graduation rates are dropping than Child Trend's Data Bank. After the division into the two theories, Stearns and Glennie use statistics to show the difference in dropout rates between different genders and ethnic groups. Then they also look at each grade level for high schools in North Carolina. Their research was done in North Carolina. Using Stearns and Gleannie's finding North Carolina schools can address their dropout rates to reduce the number of "pushout" students.